

# THE ENTERPRISE

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## Proposed county budget \$14,000 in the green



Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness laid out the county's proposed spending plan for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. He estimated it is \$14,000 under budget.

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Budget Committee is reviewing a proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year that is currently estimated at \$14,000 under budget.

County Administrator Michael McGuinness, who had served in the role for 101 days as of Monday, said he has not seen entities work harder to review their budgets.

Assistant County Administrator/Human Resources Director Donna Shough and Finance Officer Lori Jones "led the charge. The Sheriff (Dan Smith), everybody cut and really did the best that they could," he said.

McGuinness said the budget committee meeting scheduled for Feb. 23 was canceled when the proposal was about \$16,000 over budget.

"I refuse to go to the supervisors and the public being over budget. To me, as a county admin-

istrator, that's your primary function," he said.

The current proposal includes the Patrick County school division's preliminary budget, which was higher than anticipated.

"The budget that we have today, with roughly \$14,000 under budget, is if the school, in fact, rates the increase that they believe that they rate, and that increase is \$575,000. There's an opportunity that perhaps that the county could be \$589,000 under budget" depending on the school budget, but "that's a big if," he said.

Because the school division and the county calculate average daily membership differently, McGuinness said he contacted Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood and expects to hear back early this week.

"This budget includes the worst-case scenario if the school does see that increase. If not, I (See Budget p. 8)

## Stuart council hears update on downtown revitalization project

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council heard an update on the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project at its Wednesday, Feb. 18, meeting.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the project is continuing into the active design phase.

"We met with Lora Mahaffey," owner of Caliope, "last week, and I think that she was sort of the last property owner that had identified wanting to be included in the facade improvement part of the downtown revitalization," he said.

Until some of the project's initial schematics and facades are created, Simmons expects the project to be quiet in the meantime.

Noting the former Beasley's building in Stuart's downtown area is for sale, Council Member Rebecca Adcock asked what happens if it is sold in the middle of the project.

Simmons replied it is part of the facade improvement program.

"So any property owner that utilizes those funds, it is a five-year forgivable loan," he said.

Adcock asked who is responsible for the loan if the new owners also want to participate.

"That is on the prior owners to pay that back. That is 100 percent part of the paperwork to be included to get the funds for the facade," Simmons said.

However, if the current owners do not want to participate in the facade improvements, but the new owners do, Simmons said the council would have to "cross that when we get to it."

"Because it is contingent on the property owner signing the agreement. My advice to them would be to buy it now," he said.

Created by Hill Studio, the downtown revitalization plan includes upgrades to the Farmers' Market area, the creation of a mega deck on (See Stuart p. 7)



The Penny House in Patrick Springs provides temporary housing for people who have experienced a natural disaster as they work to get back on their feet.

## Penny House offers refuge for disaster victims

By Taylor Boyd

After more than 25 years of renting the Penny House, the Lord's Acre Committee last year purchased the home at 42 D & W Lane in Patrick Springs.

"We purchased it from the people that we had it leased from all these years. We made the last payment on it last year, and we have the deed to it now," said Larry Vernon, vice president of the organization.

The Penny House was established

in 1996 by the Lord's Acre Committee, a collection of about 16 local churches, to provide temporary housing for residents who lose their homes and belongings to fire, flood, or other natural disasters.

"It is set up for fire victims. If somebody's waterline freezes and they need somewhere to stay the night, or something like that, we don't mind" letting them stay, Vernon said.

(See Penny House p. 8)



Volunteers with Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc. distribute approximately 1,400 food boxes each month to people in need.

## Local nonprofit awarded \$10,000 for food, supplies

By Taylor Boyd

Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc., a local nonprofit organization, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia Community Impact Fund to support its efforts to feed those in need.

Jimmy Willard, founder of the food ministry, said half of the funds will be used to purchase food, while the remaining \$5,000 will go toward essential packaging supplies for distributions.

"It's a lifesaver. We were struggling and pinching pennies," he said, adding that the funds have already been deposited into the organization's account.

Willard said the ministry's biggest expenses are the boxes used for food distributions and fuel for its mobile food pantries.

"We get the food at a reduced cost, and we can buy a lot of it. We'll get a lot of food for \$5,000, and those boxes, we'll eat those 5,000 boxes up in no time," he said.

The organization purchases its boxes from Blue Ridge Packaging in Ridgeway. Willard said the boxes have two handholds and can hold about 40 pounds of food.

"We try to put that much in there depending on what we got. We try to put at least 10 canned items in there — it's enough to sustain a family for two or three weeks to where any other food bank is open," he said.

Because of health regulations, Willard said the ministry cannot reuse boxes that are returned.

Organization Secretary Kirsten Beasley applied for the grant late last year.

"She wrote the grant for us and we were able to get it. It was a blessing," Willard said.

Willard said the grant comes at a critical time as demand continues to rise. He estimates the ministry serves about 1,400 people each month.

"I can stay at the warehouse working" to prepare for distribution days, and "I gave out maybe seven or eight boxes to people just stopping by. The need has really increased. It's just an increase every month that it seems like we get a lot of new people," he said.

The ministry is affiliated with Feeding Southwest Virginia and God's Pit Crew and receives food (See Nonprofit p. 3)

## County recognizes Primland's impact, national ranking

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County on Feb. 24 presented an award to Primland Resort in recognition of its community support and to celebrate its location in the county.

County Administrator Michael McGuinness said that when he assumed the role just over 100 days ago, he quickly recognized the value of the resort.

"They're here in Patrick County, and what a blessing. A world-class, number one continental United States resort here in Patrick County," he said.

Early in his tenure, McGuinness said he asked Economic Development and Tourism Director James Houchins whether anyone had ever thanked Primland for being in the county or told officials how proud the county is of them. Houchins responded, "No."

"I said, 'Well I want to order a plaque,' and we did," McGuinness said, adding that Primland does a great deal for the county. He said



Primland Resort General Manager Will Rentschler and Vice President Steve Helms accepted a plaque from Patrick County during a Feb. 24 award ceremony. (Contributed)

that support should not be taken for granted, just as the Patrick County Partners program recognizes residents' contributions.

In Primland's case, "don't just look at what they do for the county financially, but look at how much they help us. It's amazing, they're involved in everything," he said.

At the ceremony, McGuinness told company officials the county is proud to be home to the resort.

"We are here today to tell you congratulations on being recognized by Travel and Leisure as not only the best resort in Virginia, not the best resort in this region, but the best resort in the entire continental United States of America. We are truly proud of you, and we are thankful you are here. We value that you are in Patrick County, and we are so very proud of you," he said.

McGuinness said that when he recently attended the Virginia Local Government Management Association conference, he ar- (See Primland p. 3)

# Campground renovations complete in time for 2026 season



This season's camping season at Fairy Stone State Park begins on Friday, March 6.



Underground utilities were installed to provide new electric service and water systems to the campground.



New pavement was recently put in at the main campground of Fairy Stone State Park.

**By Taylor Boyd**

After a year of renovations, Fairy Stone State Park's campgrounds are finally refurbished and ready to accept visitors for the 2026 season.

Park Manager Adam Layman said Clark Brothers Company began construction work in early 2025 and finished a few weeks ago, just in time for the March 6 opening of the camping season.

"Our camping season is always the first Friday in March through the first Monday in December," he said.

Layman said all new underground utilities were installed to provide new electric service and water systems to its largest campground that houses 48 sites.

"Every campsite has upgraded electrical pedestals now, so we have 20-, 30-, and 50-

amp service at every site," he said.

New water hydrants, valves, and spigots were also installed.

The campground was completely repaved, and campsites 10 and 38 were combined to create a large pull-through Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible campsite. Layman said this site also includes an accessible sidewalk that leads directly to the bathhouse.

"All the sites have water and electric in the main campground, and about half the site also have tent pads. So, we can accommodate RVs or tents," he said.

The 10 campsites that are part of the equestrian campground, and the six group sites that are primitive camping only, were not part of this renovation project.

Layman believes visitors will be most excited about the new pavement.

"Before the renovations, the paving that was there had been there for quite a while, and it was beginning to break up, making some sites kind of difficult to get in and out of. Having a fresh pavement job on the entire campground, including the campsites, is going to make the campground a lot better. Folks are going to see that the second they pull into it," Layman said.

While there aren't any future renovation projects officially on the books, Layman said that could change.

"Hopefully, as time goes on, we'll have some stuff come down the line, but nothing is scheduled right now," he said.

Those wishing can reserve a site by going to [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-park/fairy-stone](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-park/fairy-stone), [reserveparks.com](http://reserveparks.com), or by calling 1 (800) 933-7275.

## Tourism Talks

Hi Patrick,

I am back. I know it has been a while since I last wrote. I fully understand the old saying, "time is flying." I missed an entire month with you all. As I have said before, please charge it to my head and not to my heart!

How many of you remember this famous line, "it's a bird, it's a plane, it's disc golf"? Well, maybe I missed Superman in the word-

ing, but I want to talk to you about disc golf. We have a nine-hole disc golf course at Dehart Park in Stuart. Alice T. DeHart Park in Stuart, located at 212 Wood Brothers Drive, offers many opportunities for fun, activities, and events. The park, which has a very large pool, hosts summer swimming programs, three softball fields, a children's playground, picnic shelters, a basketball court, a

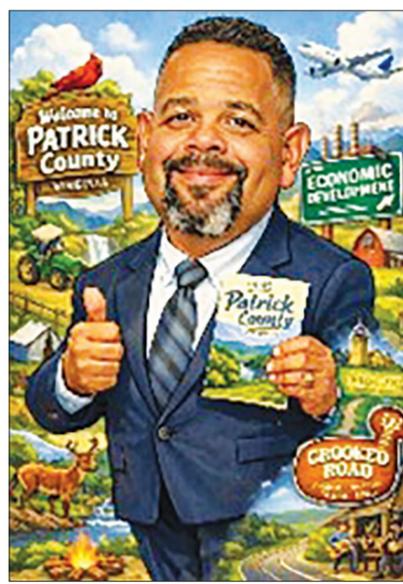
tennis court, a walking trail, and disc golf.

Yes, Disc Golf. Over 600 rounds were played in 2025 with players from 6 states! That has made it a great destination for tourists and local citizens alike. With the help of Anna Lester and a Rotary District Grant, the course was opened in 2025. The course was named the Best Disc Golf Course in the Blue Ridge by Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine.

We received an email from UDisc with some outstanding stats. 615 rounds of golf were played. Total hours played on the course from all app downloads were 499, and over 1,129,786 steps were taken.

Currently ranked as the 95th Most Played Disc Golf Course in Virginia out of 241 courses throughout the state! Avery Jenkins, who was the designer of the course, stated that he was "extremely proud of this 9-Hole course of my 75 DiscGolfPark Course Designs in 28-States & 8-Countries." Great job, Avery!!

So, Patrick, this is another great example of what attracts tourists and outdoor enthusiasts to our area. Let's support Dehart and the amazing staff and committees that make the park fun



and family-friendly. So, come, get lost, and find yourself playing some disc golf at our park.

Exciting times ahead for the DeHart DiscGolfPark!

Don't forget to check out our website: <https://visitpatrickcounty.org/> for all of the latest information on upcoming events.

All my best,  
James Houchins  
[jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)  
Director of Economic Development and Tourism

## Flagging operations set for U.S. 58 in Vesta

Weather permitting, drivers can expect flaggers controlling alternating traffic through a 1.2-mile section of U.S. 58 as part of the Vesta project in Patrick County.

The two-lane road flagging operation will be on U.S. 58 between Virginia 764 (Mountain View Drive) and Virginia 758 (Willis Road) from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day until Friday, March 6. Drivers may experience delays or seek alternate routes.

Motorists should pay attention to signs and electronic message boards that will be posted to alert

drivers to the changes.

This work will primarily consist of tree work as part of the U.S. 58 Vesta project that started in fall 2025. This \$235 million project involves widening approximately 4.5 miles of U.S. 58 in Patrick County from two lanes to four lanes. Final completion of the Vesta section of U.S. 58 is anticipated in fall 2031.

For the latest road conditions in Virginia, use VDOT's 511 free mobile app or the 511 website which can help travelers plan their routes accordingly.



Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness was among the speakers at the Feb. 24 meeting. (Contributed)

## Citizen Committee Meeting Set for March 26

The next Patrick County citizen committee interest meeting will be held Tuesday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

The session follows a Feb. 24 citizen committee interest meeting hosted by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Patrick County Administration. Thirty people attended to learn about the various county committees seeking

volunteers.

Organizers thanked those who participated and encouraged continued community involvement.

In addition, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce will host a local candidate information session at 5:30 p.m. March 31 at the Patrick & Henry Community College Stuart site. The session will outline the steps required to become a local elected official.

## Pets of the Week



Several dogs were found at the Bowling Trailer Park in Stuart. These two sweet girls are now available for adoption.



This beautiful black lab female was found on Deer Run Road in the Ferrum area.

PLEASE SAVE A LIFE! ADOPT! These are wonderful pets! All the dogs and cats are so deserving of 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](mailto:blueridgeawl@gmail.com) for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at [www.blueridgeawl.org](http://www.blueridgeawl.org).



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# Primland

(cont. from page 1)



Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness thanked officials at Primland Resort for their contributions to the community.

rived knowing he was entrusted with leadership. “Though the new kid on the block and a smaller county in the Commonwealth, I arrived with my chin high and as proud as any attendee there,” he said.

During the conference, McGuinness said another county administrator addressed the room and repeatedly mentioned his county’s five-star resort.

Upon the presentation’s completion, McGuinness said he asked a question to which he already knew the answer.

“I just had to finish my question by saying I am Michael McGuinness from Patrick County, Virginia, home of the continental United States of America’s Number One-ranked resort, Primland. I actually got choked up, as that was pride. Pure Primland Patrick County Pride,” McGuinness said.



Several members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and county staff attended the event.



Several people attended the event at Primland Resort last week.

# Nonprofit

(cont. from page 1)

from both organizations. Anyone in need may receive a food box.

“If you’re on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits it automatically qualifies you. The income guidelines I can’t really post what that is, but everybody qualifies for a box — nobody’s going to leave without a box of food. Feeding Southwest Virginia told us to make sure that nobody left without a food box,” he said.

Like many nonprofits, Willard attributes the increased demand to rising food costs.

To help meet the need, Willard said the group is discussing reopening its Patrick County distribution site at Rotary Field in Stuart.

“With this grant, it may open the opportunity to come back to Rotary Field. We’ve been talking about it, but we’ve not set anything in stone yet. We’re praying and talking about it,” he said.

Willard said the ministry is also seeking additional grants for capital improvements.

“We’re looking at doing some work on the building and stuff. We want to put a leveling load dock on there because my truck is higher than the load dock, and that makes it hard to unload and load there. We got a drop ceiling that needs to be repaired, and just some things like that going on,” he said.

The group distributes boxes at its Bassett location, 24A Governor Stanley Highway, on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Its mobile food pantry visits Smith Brother Trucking in Ararat from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and



The ministry recently received a \$10,000 grant to purchase food and essential packaging supplies for its distributions.



Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc. is located at 24A Governor Stanley Highway in Bassett.

Meadows of Dan Baptist Church from 1 to 2 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. For more information, visit [drfminc.com](http://drfminc.com), [Facebook.com/DisasterReliefFoodMinistry-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/DisasterReliefFoodMinistry-Inc), call (276) 229-6272, or email [drfm.inc@gmail.com](mailto:drfm.inc@gmail.com). Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 993, Stuart, VA 24171.

# Radford University helps address Virginia’s teacher shortage through targeted licensure support

Virginia school divisions continue to face a significant teacher shortage. Currently, more than 8,000 educators in the commonwealth hold provisional licenses, nearly 10% of the teaching workforce. While these educators are actively serving in classrooms, they have not yet completed all requirements for full professional licensure.

To help close this gap, Radford University launched a targeted scholarship initiative to support provisionally licensed teachers in completing their licensure requirements. From November through April, the university offered \$750 scholarships to teachers enrolling in required professional studies coursework.

The response exceeded expectations. Demand was so strong that available scholarship funds were fully awarded a month ahead of schedule.

“When word spread that Radford was offering scholarships, teachers and school division leaders jumped at the opportunity,” said Lea Monday, Provisional to Professional Pathway coordinator for the College of Education and Human Development at Radford University.

District leaders quickly encouraged participation.

“Lea told us about this limited-time opportunity, and I had three teachers register quickly after our Zoom meeting, one enrolling the same day,” said Lindsey Edmonds from Carroll County Public Schools.

As of Feb. 1, more than 50 teachers have enrolled in courses through the program. Many participants register for multiple classes, maximizing both the scholarship support and discounted tuition rates.

For many teachers, the financial support made a decisive difference.

“This scholarship was what I needed to finish my license, and with the cost savings, I will now earn my master’s degree as well,” said Brooke Lawson, Wythe County Public Schools kindergarten teacher.

By investing in practicing educators already serving in classrooms, Radford University is helping school divisions retain teachers, strengthen instructional quality and move more educators toward full professional licensure. Rob Graham, superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools, noted that the partnership with the Provisional to Professional Pathway helped the division begin the year fully staffed for the first time in many years.

The scholarship was so successful that the university is working to make the offering a permanent part

of its budget, to be voted on in March by the Board of Visitors.

# Public input sought for updated comprehensive plan

By Taylor Boyd

A community input session for Patrick County’s comprehensive plan is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9.

The session will be held from 4-7 p.m. in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College.

The event is sponsored by Patrick County officials, the Planning Commission, and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

Planning Commission member Sarah Wray said the comprehensive plan is Patrick County’s shared roadmap for the future.

“Input from the community is essential to making sure this plan truly reflects what residents want to see in the years ahead,” she said.

The comprehensive plan was last updated in December 2021 and approved by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in April 2022.

According to a media release, session attendees will be invited to of-

fer feedback on topics like land use, housing, economic opportunities, transportation, and other topics that will guide the development of the updated comprehensive plan.

“Participants will also be able to speak directly with local officials and planning partners to help shape the county’s strategic direction,” the release states.

Interactive stations and feedback tools will be available to allow attendees to contribute during the informal session.

Work on the comprehensive plan will continue through 2026 with additional public input sessions scheduled over the year.

A full draft of the updated plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year for review by the board of supervisors.

For more information, contact Wray at [wrayse88@vt.edu](mailto:wrayse88@vt.edu) or Joe Bonanno at [jbonanno@wppdc.org](mailto:jbonanno@wppdc.org).

## Searching for Cures

February 28 is recognized as Rare Disease Day.

Accordingly, numerous advocacy groups gather in DC to lobby lawmakers about rare disease research, treatments and potential cures.

Such rare diseases that generate advocacy interest include Lou Gehrig's Disease (also known as ALS), Huntington's Disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Individuals who are affected by these rare diseases often have no places to turn to treat their debilitating illness.

Given this reality, family members and loved ones are left feeling frustrated, saddened and hopeless.

Even before I became Health Subcommittee Chairman, I heard these heartbreaking stories.

A swimming friend of mine in the Roanoke Valley, Rob Lawson, died from his battle with ALS in 2022.

One of my mentors, former Virginia House of Delegates Republican Raymond R. Robrecht (Ray) of Salem died from ALS on Christmas Eve in 1994.

I grew up with one family that had Huntington's Disease, and subsequently I have learned of a local lawyer who is valiantly battling it as well.

Huntington's Disease is a genetic disorder where half of the family is expected to carry the debilitating gene.

Unfortunately, these diseases claim the lives of colleagues, family members and friends.

On February 19, Americans received the sad news that actor Eric Dane died from his battle with ALS.

Dane was best known for his role as Dr. Mark Sloan (also known as McSteamy) in Grey's Anatomy.

In April 2025, Dane announced his ALS diagnosis. He had struggled with symptoms for months prior to his diagnosis.



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

When Dane came to Capitol Hill in September, he brought additional attention to rare disease research.

Accordingly, I met with him to hear his story and how Congress can help. For his visit, Dane was confined to a wheelchair.

I appreciated meeting with him to discuss the importance of advancing policies that support patients who struggle with neurodegenerative diseases.

Dane knew additional research would not save him, but he hoped it could save others.

In the 117th Congress, I co-sponsored the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act. This bill authorized additional federal funds for groups to research and develop drugs to help treat ALS. It passed, but more needs to be done.

On Huntington's, in a 2024 Health Subcommittee legislative hearing, I discussed the possibility of using Adeno-associated Virus (AAV) gene-based therapies for inherited diseases.

AAV therapies use engineered, non-pathogenic viruses that are not known to result in human diseases. These viruses deliver genetic material directly into patient cells to treat genetic diseases.

Dr. Flotte of UMass Chan Medical School testified at the hearing. He confirmed to me that such gene-based therapies are potentially helpful for the purposes of RNA interference, but it

would be necessary that these therapies silence the gene carrying Huntington's.

As Health Subcommittee Chairman, I am working to advance legislation that tackles Huntington's Disease, ALS and other rare diseases.

On the same day that I met with Dane, I participated in an Energy and Commerce markup hearing. Of the bills we considered and reported, I voted to advance H.R. 1262, the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act.

This bill reauthorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program.

This program helps incentivize the development of treatments for rare pediatric diseases.

Additionally, the FDA is empowered to require pediatric cancer trials for new combinations of drug therapies.

After Committee action, the Give Kids a Chance Act was included as a part of the health extenders signed into law on February 3rd.

In early February, I was proud to support the bill and deliver the Give Kids a Chance Act to President Trump!

Later in February, the FDA issued new draft guidance to facilitate the development of individualized therapies for ultra-rare diseases!

This framework has the potential to help bring first of their kind treatments to patients with rare diseases like ALS and Huntington's Disease.

I am hopeful that this renewed push at the federal level will help in our quest to find successful treatments.

As we acknowledge Rare Disease Day, let us remember those who courageously fought against rare diseases, including Dane, Rob, Ray and countless others.

These individuals will continue to inspire policymakers, agencies and researchers as we continue the quest to find cures for rare diseases.

## Letters to the Editor

### Blood Drive time change

This month's blood drive is scheduled on Tuesday, March 10, at the John D. Hooker Building. The blood drive donation hours are 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ALERT! Donation time has changed.

\* Donors are reminded that RapidPass allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home or office. The donor can answer health history questions before arriving at the blood drive location. This can save as much as 15-20 minutes in the donation process! RapidPass must be completed the day of the drive and can be found at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass>. The donor can bring a hard copy or copy it to your cell phone.

\* The Red Cross encourages all donors to get a good night's sleep, to eat a good breakfast or lunch, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture

ID with them to the drive.

\* Donors can make an appointment up to the time of donation through the blood donor app, by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and searching 24171.

\* This month's sponsor is long-time supporter, Jessup & Associates, located in their new offices in Stuart.

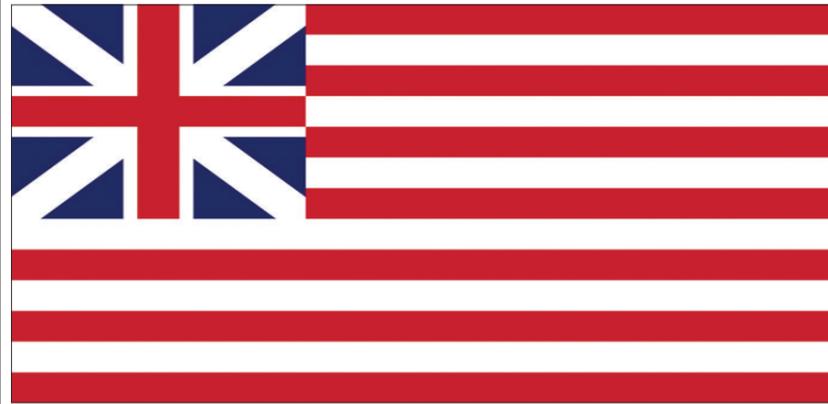
\* This month's goal is 21 whole blood units and 2 double red units.

\* The volunteers look forward to serving you and making your donation a pleasant experience.

\* Remember..... Donation time has changed to 11am to 4pm. Summer hour.

We hope to see you at the oldest blood drive in Patrick County Tuesday, March 10.

Gene Stirewalt,  
Stuart



The Grand Union Flag

## Search underway for Patrick County's oldest American Flag

A little U.S. Flag history: The Grand Union Flag, used during the American Revolutionary War, featured 13 alternating red and white stripes with the British Union Jack in the corner, symbolizing the colonies' connection to Britain while asserting their desire for independence. With America's 250th Birthday ap-

proaching the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter DAR is looking for the oldest U.S. flag in Patrick County. The flag can be a personal possession or housed in a town or county building. If you have a U.S. flag and want to share its story, please contact Ann McConnell a [nammcconnell@yahoo.com](mailto:nammcconnell@yahoo.com).

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### Part 3

## Sorry, Not Sorry

This morning, I read an intriguing passage where Paul essentially tells the entire church at Corinth sorry, but not sorry. Paul was sorry he'd needed to send a "severe letter" scolding the Corinthians about their sinful habits, but he's not sorry that the pain and shock of the letter brought about healthy change. (See 2 Corinthians 7:8-12)

In other words, the unpleasant experience of hearing just how painfully toxic their behavior was, brought them to a cross roads. Ultimately, they took that pain, knew that it came from Paul's deep love for them, and channeled it into growth.

Of course, that doesn't always happen.

Sometimes people — especially those with narcissistic tendencies — refuse to acknowledge their behavior, or refuse to accept real responsibility. They may cry, say sorry, beg forgiveness, and act emotional — but if they are pressed for commitment to change or to openly admit fault, then the attitude changes to one of blame, projection, denial, and accusation. That's when you know the repentance isn't genuine. That's the kind of sorrow Paul says "results in spiritual death."

I hear this multiple times a week from heartbroken wives who are married to narcissists, addicts, and abusers. When caught, their husbands sound exceedingly sorry. But when held accountable, they spew vitriol and hatred, or deceitfully manipulate those who are insisting on healthy change.

Trapped in these cycles, wives shoulder the burden of keeping their abuser's secrets — addiction, adultery, pornography, molestation, angry outbursts, etc. — for fear that truthful transparency will bring painful consequences

to the abuser they love. Paul's message, however, urges us to view these situations as opportunities for those very same consequences to be a catalyst for authentic change. In other words, Paul's philosophy would set free those who spend their lives covering a spouse's sins to shield them from the fallout.

Throughout the entire Bible those who tried to hide their sin were consistently exposed in order to either repent or be punished. In fact, in every story where spouses or family members covered up someone's sinful choice, those complicit in the hiding were punished equally. Think of Achan and his family, Ananias and Sapphira, etc.

Loving well doesn't include covering up sin.

It doesn't include allowing abusive behavior to continue. It never means accepting blame for someone else's choices. It means refusing to be manipulated and twisted into participation.

Loving well means speaking truth so others are not enabled to continue hurting themselves or those around them. It means mustering the courage to reject blame that isn't yours to take. It means standing strong even when your abuser tries to make you believe their consequences are all your fault.

Loving well means doing the right thing for the abuser's character — which doesn't include shrinking away in silence, or allowing them to continue behaving badly toward you or other vulnerable victims.

If ever there was an appropriate time for sorry, not sorry, it's in speaking out against abuse.

*(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Sarah McDugal. Used by permission from [www.LifeandHealth.org](http://www.LifeandHealth.org). Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)*



## Patrick Pioneers



**PASTORAL CALL**—The Rev. W. R. Livermon, pastor of Patrick Springs Charge, Danville District, generally travels by automobile, but on Sunday, December 27, he commemorated the 175th anniversary of organized Methodism in the United States by following the trail of an old-time circuit rider on horseback. Old-timers like Mrs. Lucy Grogan, 93, (left) were highly pleased with practice pastoral calls like the one pictured here at her home near Martinsville, Va.

Virginia Methodist Advocate, Jan. 28, 1960

Lucy Haynes Grogan

By Beverly Belcher Woody

When Lucy Haynes Grogan celebrated her one hundredth birthday, many wondered about the secret to her long and meaningful life.

Her answer was simple.

“Work hard, as working helps people,” she explained. “Laziness is the worst trouble anyone can have. Work just as hard as you can lay to it.”

Affectionately known as “Grannie Grogan,” she was known for her kindness and her gift for making others happy. That, she often said, was the “work” she did in her later years.

Lucy V. Haynes was born September 24, 1872, in Patrick County, Virginia, the twin daughter of Robert S. Haynes and Jemima L. Craighead Haynes. The 1880 census places the family along the Mayo River in Patrick County:

1880 Household — Dwelling 195, Mayo River District

Robert S. Haynes, 50, head  
Jemima L. Haynes, 41, wife  
William T. Haynes, 19

John B. Haynes, 17  
Mary S. Haynes, 14  
Edwin C. Haynes, 12

Lucy V. Haynes, 8  
Lelia M. Haynes, 8  
Mrs. Grogan and her twin sister, Lelia, shared a close bond from the beginning. For several years they

could not pronounce their names correctly and called each other “Lula.”

“Of course we were spoiled,” she said with a chuckle. “Father carried Lelia and me on his shoulders to the meeting house every Sunday. I never saw my mother or father go to bed without kneeling and saying a prayer.”

The twins climbed chinquapin trees together and grew up in a time when life was simple but not easy. Mrs. Grogan later reflected on the economics of the late nineteenth century: “You could get a lot more with your money then, but you had nothing to buy it with.”

She remembered walking several miles just to see her first automobile and always preferred walking to riding.

“Automobiles are all right, I guess,” she once remarked, “but do you think people who drive cars would get along better if they’d never had them? There’d be a lot more living.”

In 1895, Lucy married Philander Clayton Grogan. Their happiness was short-lived. Philander died of typhoid fever in 1903, only eight years after their marriage, leaving Mrs. Grogan a widow with three small children, ages three, five, and seven. She never remarried and would remain a widow for seventy years. Her children were Emmett Smith

Grogan, Jeter H. Grogan, and Mrs. Mable Grogan Clarke of Martinsville.

To support her family, she taught school near Spencer. Education in those days required determination and resourcefulness.

“School in those days was quite different from today,” she recalled. “The school was a one-room building, and I taught the first through the seventh grades.”

The building was heated by a large fireplace, and the pupils helped keep the fire going. Water had to be carried from a nearby spring — a task the children enjoyed because it gave them a brief break from the classroom.

Later, Mrs. Grogan moved to the Horsespasture community in Henry County, where she helped work on a farm with her brother. She was known as a good country cook and took pride in her independence.

She loved gardening, raising flowers and vegetables, and living from the land.

“I always had plenty to eat,” said Mrs. Grogan. “I always kept chicken, cows, and hogs. I never asked for five cents of credit in my life.”

Though raised Methodist and attending Meadow Methodist Church for many years, she later became active in Horsespasture Christian Church, where she attended faithfully and taught a Sunday

THE MORNING POST — TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1937 — PAGE 3

### Contest Poems

**“Oh, Hands of Mine”**

By MRS. LUCY V. GROGAN  
Ridgeway

Oh, hands of mine, you have not done  
At all times quite your best—  
In ministering to the sick  
And to the sore distressed.

Oh, feet of mine you haven't been  
Quite always swift to go  
On helpful errands for the ones  
Bowed down by grief and woe.

Oh, eyes of mine sometime you fail  
To see the chance to aid  
Which small misfortunes of true friends  
From day to day have made.

Oh, ears of mine the call for help  
You often do not hear.  
You sometimes fail to note the

sobs  
That voice the bitter tear.

Oh, heart of mine you have not loved  
Mankind quite as you ought,  
Since Christ through love with his won blood  
The whole of mankind bought.

Oh, God, grant that my hand and feet,  
My eyes and ears and heart,  
From this day on in life's great work,  
Shall do their Christian part.

**“THE TOWN OF DON'T YOU WORRY”**

By Mrs. Lucy V. Grogan,  
Ridgeway

There's a town called Don't-You-Worry  
On the banks of River Smile,  
Where the Cheer-up and the Be-Happy  
Blossoms sweetly all the while.  
Where the Never-Grumble flower  
Blooms beside the fragrant Try,  
And the Ne'er give up and Patience

Point their faces to the sky  
In the valley of Contentment,  
In the province of I-Will.  
You will find this lovely city  
At the foot of No-Fret Hill.  
There are thoroughfares delightful  
In this very charming town;  
And on every hand are shade trees  
Named the Very-Seldom-town.  
Rustic benches quite enticing,  
You'll find scattered here and there.

And to each a vine is clinging—  
Called the Frequent-Earnest-Prayer.  
Everybody here is happy,  
And so singing all the while—  
In the town of Don't-You-Worry,  
On the banks of River-Smiles.

The University of Poitiers, in western France, was founded in 1431.

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Martinsville Morning Post, 1937

school class.

When Lucy Grogan entered the Roman Eagle Memorial Home, she carried her philosophy with her. Though she admitted she had slowed down after a fall, her limitations were physical only. Her hearing and eyesight had weakened, but her mind remained sharp.

She continued to receive numerous visitors and wrote letters regularly to relatives and friends.

Her longevity brought recognition from many quarters. In celebration of her 100th birthday, Mrs. Grogan received more than 400 birthday greetings, including messages from President Richard Nixon, Governor Linwood Holton, Congressman Daniel, and others. In honor of Mrs. Grogan, Roy Stone of Martinsville purchased new pew cushions for Horsespasture Christian Church.

Until a fall injured her leg two months before her 100th birthday, she walked the halls of Roman Eagle independently, spreading cheer to residents much younger than herself.

Mrs. Grogan passed away in January 1973 only a few short months after her centennial celebration.

Through a century of change — from the days of chinquapin trees and one-room

Horsespasture, Va., July 13.—The long dry spell was getting to be alarming. Most of the early vegetables have dried up. We have had two nice showers for the last two days—will do lots of good to late crops.

We had quite an electrical storm this p. m. The lightning struck Mrs. Lucy Grogan's house. It tore some of the plastering off and frightened the occupants, is all the damage it done.

Martinsville Bulletin, 1925

Sunday May 13th the Missionary society of the Horsespasture church held a meeting at the pleasant home of Mrs. Lucy Grogan a large number attended and a pleasant time was had. After the short program dainty refreshments were served by the hostess and her daughter Mabel.

Martinsville Bulletin, 1923

schools to automobiles and modern highways — Lucy Haynes Grogan remained steady in her faith, her independence, and her belief in honest labor.

If her long life held a single lesson, it was the one she shared repeatedly:

“Work.”

And she meant it. While researching Mrs. Grogan, I found more than fifty mentions of her in local newspaper personal columns — hosting the home demonstration club, participating in the women's missionary society, visiting relatives in Mount Airy, motor-ing to Lover's Leap with her siblings, and even entering poetry contests. Hers was a

life fully lived, deeply rooted in family, church, community, and service.

Perhaps that is the true Patrick County legacy she leaves behind — not simply long years, but years filled with purpose, kindness, and quiet faithfulness.

Information about Lucy Haynes Grogan was obtained from birth, marriage, and census records, as well as the Danville Register & Bee, Martinsville Bulletin, Martinsville Morning Post, and the Virginia Methodist Advocate.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

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

**Ask Rusty – I Lost Money as a Widow and Ex-spouse by Not Knowing the Rules**

**Dear Rusty:** I just found out, as someone who was collecting widow's benefits on my second husband (a very small amount) for some time, that I was, all along, entitled to divorce benefits from my first husband which are much more. I thought I had to wait until my first husband passed before I could collect anything from him. Now I learned I have the right to collect as a divorcee. All of these years I have been missing out on a bigger benefit because I didn't know this. Please make this clear and stress it for others in my position. Signed: *Lost Benefits*

**Dear Lost Benefits:** I am truly saddened that you lost out on benefits from your first husband for such a long time. Although you could not collect an ex-spouse benefit from Husband #1 while you were married to Husband #2, as soon as your current husband died you again became eligible for ex-spouse benefits from Husband #1. Basically, the rules say you cannot collect benefits from an ex-spouse if you have remarried and remain married. In other words, you cannot be “currently married” to collect benefits from an ex-spouse. But the death of Husband #2 meant that you were now eligible to collect ex-spouse

benefits from your first husband — husband #1. I hope when you later filed for your ex-spouse benefits you asked for six months of retroactive benefits.

In your situation, when your Husband #2 died, you actually had a choice — either collect your surviving spouse benefit from your recently deceased husband #2, or to collect a regular ex-spouse benefit from your first husband if that is more than your benefit as your second husband's widow. Regular ex-spouse benefits from your first husband are available even though he is still living (and, indeed, even if he remarried) because you are no longer married to husband #2.

This, however, is not always the way things work out for someone who has had multiple marriages. It all depends on the SS benefit each former spouse was entitled to. That's because your survivor benefit as your 2nd husband's widow is based on the full (100%) amount he was receiving from Social Security when he died. In contrast, your benefit as your first husband's ex-spouse while he is still living will be based upon half (50%) of his full retirement age SS entitlement. And often, 100% of a deceased person's SS benefit is more than 50% of another living person's amount. But not always.

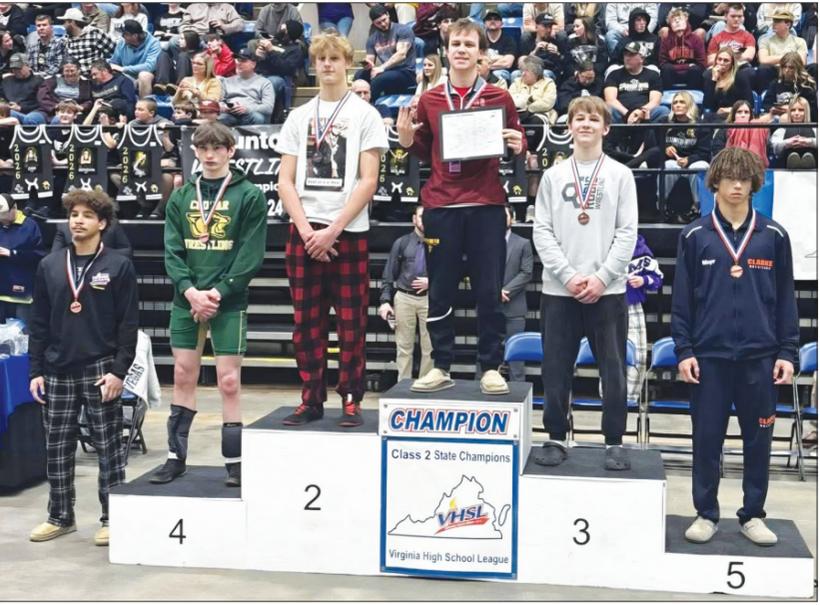
It's important to also know that if you claim any SS benefit before reaching your personal full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount

will be reduced. Benefits as a spouse (or a surviving spouse) do not reach maximum until the spouse reaches FRA, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the spouse's year of birth. It's also important to know that if a surviving spouse is working, any SS benefit received will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much can be earned before SS benefits are affected. For 2026, the earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 and, if that limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits. Note that the earnings test goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

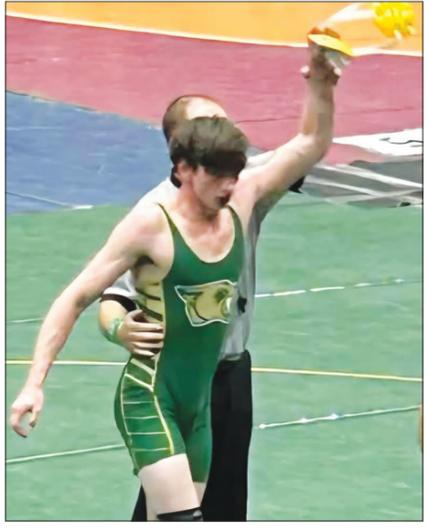
Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

*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-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

**PCHS Wrestling Team Competes In Post Season Regionals and States**



Ben Knight Podium Pic 2026 State Tournament 4th Place



Ben Knight Pic Hand Being Raised State Tournament 2026



Wheeler Helms Pic Hand Being Raised State Tournament 2026



Wheeler Helms Podium Pic 2026 State Tournament 5th Place



Tyler Cobbler Regional Pic 1st Place 175

**Contributed By Tim Lawson**  
The Patrick County High School Boys Wrestling team had eight wrestlers to place in the top 4 of the Class 2 C Regional wrestling tournament, hosted by Liberty of Bedford on February 14. Ben Knight finished 2nd at 132, Aden Frazier finished 4th at 144, Logan Rakes finished 3rd at 150, Mason Spencer finished 3rd at 157, Adin Geiger finished 4th at 165, Wheeler Helms finished 2nd at 190, and Eli Lester finished 2nd at heavyweight. Tyler Cobbler won first place honors in the 175-pound weight class. Wesley Catron and Landon Moles each finished 5th in their respective weight classes.

The regional top 4 finishers all qualified for the State Tournament that was held at the Salem Civic Center in Salem on February 20th and 21st. Ben Knight finished 4th in the 132-pound weight class and Wheeler Helms finished 5th in the 190-pound weight class. Both these guys had 30-win seasons and wrestled in tough weight classes in the State Tournament with both having returning State Champs to compete with. Logan Rakes, Eli Lester and Tyler Cobbler fell short one match from making it to the

podium awards. They finished in the top 8 in their respective weight classes.

**Patrick County State Tournament Results**  
**Ben Knight 132 lb. Weight Class**  
Champ. Round 1 - Ben Knight (Patrick County) over Cameron Deneal (Page County) (Fall 2:50)  
Quarterfinals - Ben Knight (Patrick County) over Aiden Lawson (Central) (Fall 5:30)  
Semifinals - Jared Goodson (Poquoson) over Ben Knight (Patrick County) (Fall 0:21)  
Cons. Semis - Ben Knight (Patrick County) over Cameron Deneal (Page County) (Fall 4:41)  
3rd Place Match - Nolan Adolphson (Strasburg) over Ben Knight (Patrick County) (Dec 12-5)  
**Wheeler Helms 190 lb. Weight Class**  
Champ. Round 1 - Wheeler Helms (Patrick County) over Sergio Acevedo (John S Battle) (MD 14-3)  
Quarterfinals - Nathaniel Quiroz (Poquoson) over Wheeler Helms (Patrick County) (MD 14-6)  
Cons. Round 2 - Wheeler Helms (Patrick County) over Grady Ferrell (Clarke County) (TF 22-6 4:22)  
Cons. Round 3 - Wheeler Helms

(Patrick County) over Ashton Orange (James River (Buchanan)) (Dec 8-2)  
Cons. Semis - Josh Guerrant (Union) over Wheeler Helms (Patrick County) (Fall 3:52)  
5th Place Match - Wheeler Helms (Patrick County) over Logan Powell (Windsor) (Dec 10-3)  
**Eli Lester HWT. Class**  
Champ. Round 1 - Eli Lester (Patrick County) over Anthony Galbreth (Virginia H.S.) (Fall 2:42)  
Quarterfinals - Cory McPhearson (King William) over Eli Lester (Patrick County) (Fall 3:08)  
Cons. Round 2 - Eli Lester (Patrick County) over Preston Bundy (Poquoson) (Fall 1:39)  
Cons. Round 3 - Austin Huffman (Westmoreland) over Eli Lester (Patrick County) (Fall 1:15)  
Tyler Cobbler 175 lb. Weight

Class  
Quarterfinals - Gresson Marshall (Clarke County) over Tyler Cobbler (Patrick County) (Fall 3:29)  
Cons. Round 2 - Tyler Cobbler (Patrick County) over Aiden Cline (Radford) (Fall 2:40)  
Cons. Round 3 - Adam Wimer (Fort Defiance) over Tyler Cobbler (Patrick County) (Fall 2:26)  
**Logan Rakes 150 lb. Weight Class**  
Champ. Round 1 - Logan Rakes (Patrick County) over Frank Kinzer (Fort Defiance) (Fall 1:36)  
Quarterfinals - Bryan Latta (Poquoson) over Logan Rakes (Patrick County) (MD 14-1)  
Cons. Round 2 - Logan Rakes (Patrick County) over Ethan Conway (Marion) (MD 13-2)  
Cons. Round 3 - Caden Trigg (Liberty (Bedford)) over Logan Rakes (Patrick County) (Fall 3:44)

**Heath Signs to Fish at Bryan College**

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
PCHS Senior Will Heath signed with the Bass Fishing Team at Bryan College in Dayton, TN, home of 3 national championships since 2017. Bryan College is a Christian college whose mission is educating students to become servants of Christ to make a difference in today's world.

While a member of the Patrick County High School Bass Fishing Team, Will has been a five-time state qualifier and has qualified to compete in the 2026 state tournament at Bugs Island at the end of May. He has been a John Crews All Academic and All Elite Team award recipient for the last four years where anglers must maintain above a 3.0 GPA to receive the academic award and must finish their season in the top ten in points in their conference to be a member of the Elite team.

Heath said, "I'm very blessed and excited to announce I'll be spending the next four years attending and fishing for Bryan College. And not only will I be fishing there, but I will also be getting an education in Engineering Technology Management. I'm grateful to be able pursue my passion for Bass Fishing while getting my degree. I want to say a big thank you to my family, my coaches, and God for giving me this opportunity. This was always my dream and I never thought it would happen but with hard work and determination you can accomplish anything you put your mind to."



Front row (l-r) father, Mark Heath; Will Heath; mother, Sue Heath. Back row (l-r) PCHS Athletic Director Heidi Moore, Former PCHS Fishing Coach Hylton Scott, PCHS Fishing Coach Deanna Eastridge, PCHS Fishing Coach Scott Eastridge.

# Race Report: Circuit of The Americas

Thanks to a late surge in Sunday's DuraMAX Texas Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas, Josh Berry and the No. 21 DEX team were in contention for a top-25 finish before ultimately coming home 26th.

Berry started the first road-course race of the season from 22nd and finished Stage 1 – a 20-lap green-flag run – in the same position.

Following a pit stop during the Stage break, he restarted 33rd in Stage 2 and advanced to 22nd by the end of the 25-lap segment.

After another trip down pit road for service and adjustments to the DEX Ford Mustang Dark



Horse, Berry restarted 37th and steadily worked his way up to 18th before making another stop on Lap 65. He rejoined the race in 34th and climbed back inside the top 30 before a caution flew for an incident involving Ross Chastain.

Berry made his final pit stop on Lap 76 of 95 and quickly returned to the top 30, briefly breaking into the top 25 with eight laps remaining. He slipped back one position in the closing laps to finish 26th, matching his result at the Austin, Texas, road course one year ago.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team now turn their focus to next Sunday's Straight Talk Wireless 500 at Phoenix Raceway.

## Stuart

(cont. from page 1)

the backside of most downtown buildings to connect them, new signage, facade improvements, increased walkability, and other components.

Stuart received a \$990,272 Community Development Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing for the project in early 2024.

It also received \$700,000 from the Appalachian Re-

gional Commission, with the funds earmarked specifically for the Farmers' Market portion of the project. That grant was also received in early 2024.

In other matters, the council:

- \*Created a budget committee composed of Simmons, Dalton, Adcock, and Clerk/Treasurer Misty Raines.

- \*Heard an update on the

proposed transfer of ownership of a section of Landmark Drive. Simmons said the final letter was sent after it was reviewed by Town Attorney Christopher Corbett.

"We do hope to at least hear something back regarding that letter sent," he said.

- \*Heard an update on the employee succession and hiring plan.

- \*Discussed the removal of unsafe structures within town limits.

- \*Discussed the town's owner-renter utility agreement.

- \*Discussed the town's upcoming audit.

- \*Discussed what vehicles the town would need to replace in the future.

- \*Discussed Public Services Authority rates.

- \*Approved the Jan. 21 meeting minutes.

- \*Heard public works updates.

- \*Heard policy updates.

- \*Paid the bills.

- \*Heard an update on delinquent water bills from Raines.

Vice Mayor Dave Hobbback, Council Member Erica Wade, and Corbett did not attend the meeting.

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## Two local students named to honors lists

Surry Community College recently announced the Fall Semester 2025 President's List and Dean's List.

Ethan Conner Goins, of Claudville, was

named to the President's List.

Rayshawn Lewmar Sawyers, of Ararat, was named to the Dean's List.

Students qualifying for the President's

List must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.8 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C."

Students on the President's List receive a congratulatory letter.

The Dean's List honors those students who achieve significant academic status in their classes. Students qualifying for the Dean's List must be enrolled

for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.5 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C." Students on the Dean's List will also receive a congratulatory letter.

**PATRICK COUNTY VIRGINIA**  
**April 21, 2026 Special Election Information and Deadlines**

Early voting for the upcoming April 21, 2026 Special Election will begin at the Registrar's Office on **March 6, 2026** and will continue through **April 18, 2026** during regular office hours. The office will be open on **Saturday, April 11, 2026** and **Saturday, April 18, 2026** from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for the purpose of early voting. If you need to receive a ballot by mail, a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form must be received on or before **Friday, April 10, 2026** at 5:00 pm. A request to receive a ballot by mail may be done online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Virginia law requires all voters to present an acceptable form of identification when voting early or on Election Day. Information about acceptable forms of identification can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting/>. Any registered voter who does not possess acceptable ID, may sign an ID Confirmation Statement.

The deadline to register to vote or to update your address on your existing voter registration for the upcoming April 21, 2026 Special Election will be on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**. Any citizen needing to register to vote or update their address may do so by: appearing in person at the Registrar's Office, mailing a completed application to Post Office Box 635, Stuart, VA, or going online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. The Registrar's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and is located in the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building 106 Rucker St. Room 216C Stuart VA.

For additional information, or to request a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form to be mailed to you, contact the Registrar's Office at (276) 694-7206 or [staylor@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:staylor@co.patrick.va.us) or visit the Patrick County Registrar's website at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/206/Registrar>

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**Budget**

(cont. from page 1)



The budget committee — which includes Board of Supervisors members Andrew Overby, chairman, and Clayton Kendrick, vice chairman — met on Monday, March 2, along with key county staff. From left, Kendrick and Overby are joined by County Administrator Michael McGuinness, Lori Jones, and Donna Shough.

think it's a vast difference from \$2.1 million over last year to come in at \$589,000 under budget. That's a testament to everybody that worked on it," McGuinness said.

He added there will be no increase in employee health insurance costs this year, crediting Shough's work.

"What that means is it's hard to go ahead and try to make a budget if you don't have the money. There were seven years in a row this county didn't pay employees a raise. So we were able to get that in the budget as well. As this sits, this is a two percent pay raise across the board for every employee," he said.

While the budget book shows some employees receiving a 15 percent increase, McGuinness said that reflects salary adjustments made during the previous fiscal year by a previous administrator.

"There was some increases in employees' salaries that are computed into that. So, if I give employee A two percent, he got or she got two percent from last year to this year, but during the year last year, that person already received a raise from the prior county administrator (Beth Simms) of 15 or 16 percent. So, when you see an employee on the budget that gets a 17 percent pay raise - no, every employee got a two percent pay raise, except for I believe three," he said.

McGuinness said he did not include a salary increase for himself.

"I would never put my salary increase as the county administrator in here. If the supervisors feel at the end of the day that there's money, then they will give me a pay raise and justify it. If they don't, that's just part of being the administrator," he said.

The county's advertising budget increased by \$500, and the grants communication manager position, which had a salary of \$63,654 in last year's budget, has been removed. McGuinness said the coun-

ty plans to contract with Granting Solutions LLC, a local business, for grant writing services.

"She is going to charge us an hourly rate. She's going to come in at the beginning of the month, she'll sit down, and we'll give her the grants we want her to chase, and she'll go home that night and tell us how much it will cost," he said, adding that the company's grant writer has a 95 percent success rate.

About \$50,000 has been allocated for contracted grant services.

"Not only does it save \$13,654 for the county, it also does not require us to pay benefits because this is a company that we 1099 like any other vendors. So there's a win right there for the county," he said.

McGuinness said the Commissioner of the Revenue's budget increased due to higher postage and office supply costs associated with mailing tax bills and reassessment notices.

"You look straight across the board, the first thing that jumps out is the postal service. A \$2,000 increase, a 23.53 percent increase. That's going to be the tax bills, that's going to be the reassessment team. Postage has just gone up. Office supplies have gone up because she's sending out more notices with the reassessment," he said.

Despite those increases, McGuinness said the Commissioner of the Revenue's budget is 0.85 percent lower than last year.

The Treasurer's Office budget increased because a part-time employee's hours will rise from 15 to 29 hours per week.

"That's where the salary increase is. She's currently in the system, so we really didn't hire a new individual, we're just increasing 14 hours a week at the max," he said.

The committee also heard budget requests from Smith and Emergency Management Director Scottie Cassell.

**Get native plants now for less**

It's planting season once again... and there's never been a better time to buy more natives.

Throwing Shade VA is back, the popular Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) program that offers retail customers with \$25 discounts on eligible native trees and shrubs (valued at \$50 or more). The discounts are available now through May 1 at participating nursery locations across Virginia.

This year, Throwing Shade VA has doubled in size, up to 31 locations (from 15). DOF has expanded the program to include previously underserved areas, including Locally, Puckett Greenhouses in Southwest Virginia. It is located at 1461 Green Spring Road, Ararat.

Throwing Shade VA incentivizes Virginians to plant native species of trees and shrubs, which provide water quality benefits, as well as a source of food and habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Not only can native species meet any landscaping objective, they often require less maintenance, as they are adapted to Virginia's environment and climate.

Receiving discounts is easy. Visit

a participating location and choose native trees and shrubs with the Throwing Shade VA tag. Scan the QR code on the tag, complete a short survey and show it to the clerk when you check out to receive your discount. (Paper surveys will also be available at the point of purchase.)

There are more than 125 species eligible for the program, but supplies are limited and do vary. Check with your local nursery for specific details. To learn more about Throwing Shade VA and the importance of native species, visit DOF's website.

Support for this program comes from state water quality improvement funds, which DOF uses to reimburse nurseries for the discounts. All trees planted through this program are reported as part of the state's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Customer surveys help DOF track progress towards the Commonwealth's water quality improvement goals. This also helps inform DOF of funding decisions for additional planting projects. Collected information is confidential and will not be displayed or given to outside parties.

**Alma Lou Light Willard**

Mrs. Alma Lou Light Willard, age 68 of Stuart, passed away Monday, February 23, 2026 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Patrick County on October 2, 1957 to the late Jessie Garland Light and Opal May Spence Light. In addition to her parents, (Christy) of Patrick Springs; and two nieces, Emily Light and Alyssa Light. All services will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is assisting the family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Penny House**

(cont. from page 1)

Since opening nearly 30 years ago, more than 100 families have stayed at the Penny House.

Vernon said the home was used extensively over the summer because of multiple fires in Patrick County.

The Penny House includes three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, bathroom, and a laundry room.

"We do not receive funds from the county. This is all individuals and churches," he said.

The house is currently occupied by the Henry family, who lost their mobile home in a fire in late February. The family's 3-year-old daughter died from severe burns caused by the fire.

Before the Henry family moved in, Vernon said volunteers had not had time to clean the house.

"Once people found out about it they have come in there, not just the church people. These churches and people from every which way have come to help out. The outpouring of merchandise, money, and people coming to help" has been overwhelming.

Vernon said one church donated new beds, mattresses, and linens, while others helped clean cabinets and install new blinds.

"We had a water leak behind

the house where the town water comes in — a gentleman has worked on that and got it fixed. We had a receptacle that needed to be replaced, and a guy has done that," he said.

Because so many people wanted to help, Vernon joked that parking overflowed onto Spring Road.

While he does not know how long the Henry family will remain at the Penny House, Vernon said they now have new beds and toys.

To help the family, Vernon said every donation the organization has received has been given to them.

"This was the idea behind this Penny House to start with. When there's a need, and the people know about it, they respond, and when you get the word, people find out about it, and they don't mind helping," he said.

Those wishing to donate to the Henry family may visit GoFundMe.com and search "Support for Family After Devastating House Fire."

Donations may also be mailed to Larry Vernon at 255 Vernon Drive, Stuart, VA 24171, to be delivered to the family. Those wishing to schedule a pickup may call him at (276) 692-7770.

**Free Workshops on Aging to be held in March**

The Family and Consumer Science program of the Patrick County Extension Office will offer two free educational workshops in March designed to support individuals and families with planning for the future.

**Aging in Place Workshop – March 20**

Many Americans hope to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Making that a reality requires thoughtful preparation across several areas of life. The Aging in Place workshop will guide participants in evaluating their housing, health, finances, transportation, and support networks. By planning for current and future needs, individuals can increase their ability to maintain independence and safety at home.

*Date: Friday, March 20*

*Time: 2-4 p.m.*

*Location: Patrick & Henry College, Stuart, VA*

*Registration: Call 276 694 3341.*

*Workshop is free.*

*Note: Pre registration is required; space is limited.*

**Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate™ – March 27**

The second March program focuses on making decisions about passing down non-titled personal property—items that may or may not have financial value but often carry deep sentimental or emotional significance. Without communication and planning, these belongings can become a source of tension among family members.

The Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate™ workshop presents strategies to help families talk about inheritance, understand the messages behind "who gets what," and navigate the emo-

tional and relational aspects of transferring personal property.

*Date: Friday, March 27*

*Time: 2-4 p.m.*

*Location: Patrick & Henry Community College, Stuart, VA*

*Registration: Call 276 694 3341.*

*Workshop is free.*

*Note: Pre registration is required; space is limited.*

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Terri Alt at [talt@vt.edu](mailto:talt@vt.edu) or 276-694-3341 TDD (800) 828-1120 during the business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations no later than five days prior to these events.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Michael Gutter, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; TBD Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

**OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
**MONDAY AT NOON**

# PATRICK PULPITS

## Coming to Our Senses

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Luke 15 contains the parable of the prodigal (wasteful) son. This son chooses to leave the comforts of his father's home to enjoy the excitement of the Gentile world. To fund his journey he asks for his half of the father's inheritance. Sadly the father gives it to him, and probably warns him of the dangers that lay ahead.

For a time the son enjoyed his new life of freedom and luxurious living. But because of his wasteful spending and "friends" who took advantage of him, his money soon ran out. This meant no food. In desperation he took a job caring for a farmer's pigs. The day soon came when his only food was that of the pigs.

Luke 15:17 states that this is when "he came to himself" (KJV). We would say today that "he came to his senses. He recognizes that his sinful past has left him bankrupt. He remembers his father's home where even the servants are living a comfortable life. He decides to return home and admit that he has sinned against heaven and his father. He hopes then that his father will accept him back as a hired servant.

When still at a distance from home, his father sees him and runs to welcome him with open arms. Before the son could express his desire to become a servant, the father puts the best robe on him, and a ring on

his finger, and good sandals on his feet. He then asks his servants to prepare a feast to celebrate the return of his son.

This parable well illustrates our God's welcome to us when we "come to our senses" and repent of our sinful life and accept His gracious salvation. The Father, Jesus, and the holy angels celebrate as well when a sinner chooses to "come home" (Luke 15:10).

The parable also reminds us that we have nothing to offer the Lord when we choose to come home. Our "righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). But Jesus accepts us as we are and begins the clean-up process through the power of the Holy Spirit. No life is too filthy for God to recreate into a new person.

It is needful for Christians as well to evaluate themselves regularly to see where they too may be wasting their inheritance. We are actually only stewards (managers) of what we are and have. Good stewardship includes the good management of our time, finances, talents, body, and possessions. They are given to us so that we can be a blessing to others and to bring glory to God.

Jesus certainly exemplified good stewardship in the use of His time and talents. Every morning during His prayer time with His Father, He would asked the Father how He could best spend His time and who He should meet that day. We should practice this habit ourselves. Our day will be more productive.

## Face2Face: Local Christian Band to Play at Youth Rally

By Alan Harbour

For more than two decades, Face2Face has been faithfully serving the Lord through music, ministry, and an unwavering commitment to the next generation. This powerful band has grown together not just as musicians, but as servants of Lord - devoting their lives and God-given gifts to His purpose.

Face2Face has long been a cornerstone of worship at their home church, Harvest Worship Center in Stuart, where their passion for authentic praise and heartfelt ministry has shaped countless worship experiences. Andrea Alderman serves on bass guitar, bringing a strong musical foundation and steady presence to the band. Travis Hall leads with both lead and rhythm guitar, adding depth, creativity, and energy to every song. Ian Harbour anchors the band on drums, providing precision, power, and an unmistakable drive. Alan Harbour leads vocally, delivering messages of faith and hope with clarity, passion, and heartfelt conviction. Together, their unity on and off the stage reflects years of shared ministry and a deep love for the Lord.

Each member brings extraordinary talent, depth, and anointing to the stage. They are, without question, some of the most gifted and dedicated musicians I have ever had the privilege to work with. We are thrilled to announce that Face2Face will be playing at the Xperience Youth Rally on March 21, at 6 p.m., hosted at Patrick County High School

Auditorium in Stuart. This night promises to be far more than a concert - it will be a life changing encounter.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to JW and Kim Young for inviting us back to be part of this incredible event. Their continued support and vision for reaching youth and young adults is deeply appreciated. We are also profoundly grateful to our wonderful pastors, David and Debra Coleman, for allowing us the freedom to grow, serve, and express the gifts God has placed in our lives. Their leadership, encouragement, and trust have been instrumental in shaping who we are as a band and as individuals in ministry.

The true mission of Face2Face is simple yet powerful: to draw youth and young

adults closer to the Lord and give them an experience they will never forget. In a world filled with distractions and uncertainty, our young people need genuine connection, spiritual support, and opportunities to encounter God in meaningful ways. Events like this rally help raise up our youth, strengthen their faith, and remind them that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved.

We are incredibly excited for what God is going to do through Face2Face at the Xperience Youth Rally. This is a night you don't want to miss - come expecting, come ready, and come believing for lives to be changed. We also invite all local churches, youth groups, and the community to support our youth. See you at the rally!

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Colossians (KJV) in the *Old* or *New Testament* or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month"? *Ezra, Ezekiel, Micah, Malachi*
3. From Exodus 10, what was blown out of Egypt by a strong west wind? *Rivers, Locusts, Sinners, Nightness*

4. In 1 Chronicles, who killed a seven and a half foot tall Egyptian giant? *Benaiah, Gideon, Jannes, Baruch*
5. From Genesis 28, what city was the site of Jacob's famous dream? *Lachish, Perga, Haran, Bethel*

6. In Colossians 4, what city was home to Philemon? *Berea, Shechem, Beersheba, Colossae*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ezekiel, 3) Locusts, 4) Benaiah, 5) Bethel, 6) Colossae



**Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church**  
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Meadows of Dan, Virginia  
**Rev. Tommy Gosnell**  
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Worship Services 11 am

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276.236.7814  
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**Mass Schedule**  
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Reconciliation  
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am  
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www.stuartbaptist.org

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11:00 Worship Service  
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**Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
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## Super Crossword

FUN 'N' GAMES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lack of vitality
  - 7 Neighbor of Florida
  - 14 Garlicy sauces
  - 20 In a rational manner
  - 21 Unexpired driver's license, e.g.
  - 22 Well-spoken
  - 23 Whole bunch of baby felines?
  - 25 Regions, weatherwise
  - 26 Some reddish deer
  - 27 Sex educator Shere
  - 28 Jokester Jay
  - 30 Viscous stuff
  - 31 DVD - (data holders)
  - 32 Make angry
  - 33 Dogs that hunt egrets?
  - 37 Fade away
  - 38 B.A., e.g.
  - 39 Corp. exec in charge of ads and branding
  - 41 Locale
  - 42 "Oh, gotcha"
  - 43 Snacks that help physicists build atomic bombs?
  - 47 Campus digs
  - 49 Text-scanning device: Abbr.
  - 50 French for "the king"
  - 51 Head up
  - 53 1890s veep Stevenson
  - 55 Back of an overseas ship?
  - 59 Entrepreneur Bezos who cooks sheep delicacies?
  - 63 Tan-colored
  - 64 "Ich bin — Berliner"
  - 66 Actors Momoa and Statham
  - 67 Frigid
  - 68 Ladies who use Speed Stick?
  - 72 — Newton
  - 75 Shared a living space
  - 77 Water, in Lille
  - 78 2008 documentary about the national debt
  - 80 Cover girl from a city in central Georgia?
  - 84 Fire breather's parachute descent?
  - 88 Flabbergast
  - 89 Paddy food
  - 91 — Park (Edison's home)
  - 92 Machinery wheel
  - 93 Unwell
  - 97 Package shipped to singer Dolly?
  - 102 From the top
  - 104 En — (in full court)
  - 106 Free TV spot, in brief
  - 107 "I taut I — a puddy tat!"
  - 108 Med. group
  - 109 Serenity in a rabbit colony?
  - 112 Woodsy den
  - 114 U-boats, e.g.
  - 115 Feel unwell
  - 116 Andean land
  - 117 French essayist Simone
  - 118 Singer Home
  - 119 Nag
  - 122 Answer from poet Countee?
  - 126 Greek goddess of wisdom
  - 127 Phoenician goddess of fertility
  - 128 "Could be"
  - 129 Deny
  - 130 Own
  - 131 Atlantic City hotel/casino
  - 138 Protest at which people lie down
  - 40 "Uncle" of old TV
  - 44 Whole lot
  - 45 U.S. spy gp.
  - 46 "Uncle" of the U.S.
  - 48 Singer Aimee
  - 52 "Of the day," on menus
  - 54 VIPs at raves
  - 55 DOJ agency
  - 56 Tolkien fiend
  - 57 Crooner
  - Orbison
  - 58 Often-dinged car feature
  - 60 — -o'-shanter
  - 61 Mao — -tung
  - 62 Ending for ball or bass
  - 65 DE-to-VT dir.
  - 68 Dad's mate
  - 69 Angry genre
  - 70 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
  - 71 Fishing boots
  - 72 Animal's coat
  - 73 The same: Prefix
  - 74 Hiatus
  - 75 Cartoonist Chast
  - 76 Wallet bills
  - 78 Spouse's father, e.g.
  - 79 Bad smell
  - 80 Kind of parrot
  - 81 Refrigerator brand
  - 82 Reluctant to be filmed
  - 83 Glass edge
  - 85 Latin "I love"
  - 86 Non-Jewish
  - 87 Comparable (with)
  - 90 Robin's wear
  - 94 "Son of," in Arabic
  - 95 Al who drew L'il Abner
  - 96 Patella
  - 98 Natural gifts
  - 99 England-to-France connector
  - 100 Envoy's residence
  - 101 — Angeles
  - 103 Authors
  - 105 David of "NYPD Blue"
  - 110 Justice Kagan
  - 111 Niche sects
  - 113 Buenos —
  - 114 Capital of South Korea
  - 117 Existed
  - 118 Meg Mallon's gp.
  - 119 Wok, e.g.
  - 120 Greek vowel
  - 121 Light beam
  - 123 Notes before tis
  - 124 Sis, e.g.
  - 125 Swirly letter

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

# CLASSIFIED

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

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**AUCTIONS**

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"With God All Things Are Possible." Matthew 19:26

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

**Meetings**

**Thursday, March 5**

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

**Monday, March 9**

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

**Tuesday, March 17**

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

**Wednesday, March 18**

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

**Events**

**Friday, March 6**

The community food truck will be at the SRRS from 3-4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 7**

The Meadows of Dan Women's Club will hold a BINGO night at the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. Food is available to eat in or take out.

Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad will hold its monthly community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. Plates are \$10 and dine in, carry out, and curb service are available. Orders can be called in at (276) 694-6171.

**Wednesday, March 11**

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

**Thursday, March 12**

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Shelley Roberts. The Landmark Center will be providing the lunch meal. Attendees are requested to bring their favorite desserts to share.

The DMV Connect will be inside the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 13**

The Stuart Farmers' Market, in partnership with Bull Mountain Arts and the Patrick County

Chamber of Commerce, invites the community to "Shamrockin' with Local," a festive indoor pop-up market celebrating local food, art, and handmade goods, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Calliope, Circus for the Arts, 410 Patrick Avenue in Downtown Stuart. For more information, visit [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com).

**Thursday, March 19**

The Patrick County Republican Committee will hold a mass meeting to elect a chairman at 6 p.m. at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Museum, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart. Speakers will offer a legislative update.

**Friday, March 20**

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

**Saturday, March 21**

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Patrick County Library. Lorita Daniels, one of the three Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate, will attend. The meeting is also available on Zoom by visiting <https://pcdemco.org>.

**Wednesday, March 25**

Pints for Pages, 6-8 p.m., Uptown Stagecoach. A \$5 donation at the door will support the Patrick County Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and Stagecoach will be donating \$1 per pint to the cause. Guests are encouraged to attend in theme, with a prize for the best Dolly look.

**Friday, April 3**

Cross Walk - Join churches across Patrick County to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. The Cross Walk begins at 5:30 p.m., with a service in the park to start around 6 p.m. Walkers meet at Truist Bank. Attendees will walk the cross together from Truist Bank to DeHart Park, taking turns carrying it along the way. The walk will end with a short service of music and scripture at the ballfield at DeHart Park. The PCHS Praise Band will lead worship. The Patrick County Ministerial Association invites the entire community to come together as one body in Christ to reflect, remember, and worship. To participate in carrying the cross, please arrive a few minutes before 5:30 p.m. Call (276) 694-3323 with questions.

**Ongoing**

Holy Week Mid-day Services will be held at Stuart Church of Living Water, 101 E Blue Ridge St., Stuart, from Monday, March 30, through Friday, April 3. Service begins promptly at 12 p.m. each day, featuring various speakers from the Patrick County Ministerial Association. A light lunch will be provided

following worship at 12:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Speakers include: Monday - Thomas Shepherd; Tuesday - Deb Aguilar; Wednesday - Joey McNeil; Thursday - Bob Hylton; Friday - John Franklin.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the community room at Patrick Springs Park, 2 Ballpark Road, Patrick Springs.

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](mailto:pastor@ravenrockchurch.org).

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

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group is sponsoring a June 2 - 5, 2026 trip to the eastern shore of Virginia. Trip flyers are available at the Patrick County Recreation Office (276) 694-3917 or by contacting Judy Lacks, trip coordinator, at (276) 694-4767.

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

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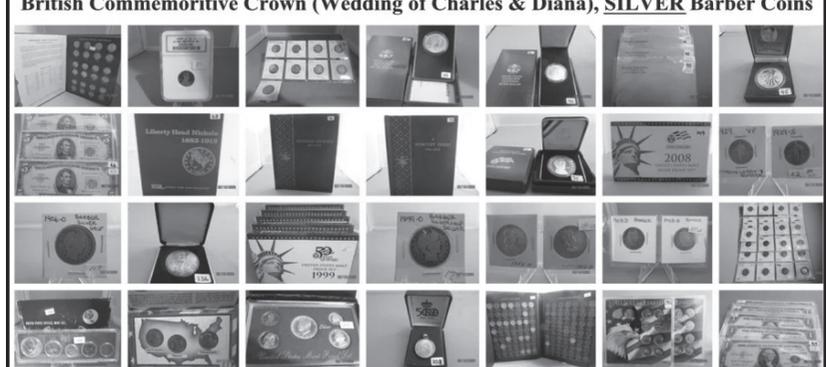
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FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

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# Girl Scout Thinking Day Event Held



Lisa Stvall is pictured with the girls. Contributed

Girl Scout Troop #1302 held its Thinking Day Event (Thinking Day is Feb. 22) at its weekly Feb. meeting. Thinking Day is a time

for the scouts to think about their sister scouts in troops all over the world. This night the girls centered in on scouts in France.

Lisa Stvall, a former Girl Scout, came and talked to the girls about her trip to France in 2024 to see some of the Olympics. She

also visited many other sights in France and talked about some of her travels with her troop when she was in scouting. Then the girls had a curling event to think about the Olympics that had just ended in Italy. They modified the event a little but enjoyed participating and winning a medal.

Many thanks to Lisa for sharing her time, information and pictures with the girls. Thanks to the leaders for the event and medals that made the evening a fun time.

Remember the girls are selling cookies at this time. They will be selling at Walmart for the next several weekends. Be sure and stop by and buy some cookies or make a donation to the troop. You can also contact one of the girls to get your order. Thanks for your support of Girl Scouts in Patrick County!

## What's in YOUR water?

Did you know that private water supplies like wells and springs are unregulated? It is the responsibility of the homeowner to regularly test water quality, maintain the water system, and address any problems. Affordable water testing and education will be offered through Virginia Cooperative Extension offices in Patrick County.

Pick up your kits on April 15 and 16 from 8:30-4:30 at the Patrick County Extension Office, and

plan to drop off your samples on April 22 from 7:30 until 9 a.m. at the Stuart Farmers Market.

Participation is voluntary.

Water samples collected by participating homeowners will be analyzed for 28 parameters, including bacteria, metals, nitrate and hardness at a cost of \$70.

Results and water system care and maintenance information will be sent to each participant either by email or mail, and a pre-recorded

video will be made available to help explain the summary results and recommendations to address problems. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Contact George Stovall at 276-694-3341 or [gstovall@vt.edu](mailto:gstovall@vt.edu) to register. For more information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program, as well as many resources relevant to private water systems, please visit [www.well-water.bse.vt.edu](http://www.well-water.bse.vt.edu).

### LEGAL

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Patrick County School Board will hold a public hearing on the 2026-2027 School Budget on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office, 132 North Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171.

## Common Raptors in Southern Virginia

By Sherry Easterbrooks  
*PC EMG Volunteer*  
Southeastern Virginia hosts a diverse array of birds of prey

(Raptors) including hawks, eagles, falcons, harriers, kites, owls, and vultures. Many of these birds can be observed year-round or seasonally near forests, and wetlands. You may also observe some of the smaller hawks and falcons swooping into your backyard bird feeding station.

Late winter and early spring are excellent times to be on the lookout for raptors who over winter in our

area. Nesting activities have already begun for the bald eagle and many hawks and owls. Falcons and osprey will begin in March and hawks in April.

Raptors share many common features including the following: hooked beaks for tearing flesh, strong legs and sharp talons for grasping, holding, and in some cases killing their prey, and keen eyesight. While owls predominately hunt at night, all other raptors

are diurnal or daytime predators.

Today, people frequently enjoy watching hawks and eagles soaring majestically overhead, it wasn't that long ago when raptors were wrongly persecuted as "varmints". Over the years many of these birds faced a variety of threats ranging from deliberate extermination campaigns in which they have been shot, poisoned, and trapped. The widespread use of DDT

following World War II further decimated populations of these top predators. The bald eagle, peregrine falcon and osprey were especially hard-hit.

In general, things are looking up for our birds of prey populations. Data indicates that populations of many species are increasing across the US. Osprey have now been de-listed and the bald eagle numbers have increased to the point  
**(See Raptors p. 13)**

### LEGAL

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Patrick County Board of Supervisors and the Patrick County Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing, Monday, March 9, 2026 on the proposed solar energy facilities 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 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 NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR A PRUDENCY REVIEW, PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:4 H OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE OF ENERGY, CAPACITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES FROM SOLAR FACILITIES THROUGH POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS CASE NO. PUR-2026-00005

On February 6, 2026, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:4 H of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a prudency determination with respect to six (6) power purchase agreements ("PPAs") that the Company seeks to add to its portfolio of renewable energy used to comply with the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards ("RPS") Program established by the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:4 H, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition within three months of the date of filing.

The Company states that the following PPAs are the subject of this Petition:

- Constitution Solar Facility PPA (5 MW, Virginia);
- Dove Valley Solar Facility PPA (5 MW, Virginia);
- Willow Solar Facility PPA (12 MW, Virginia);
- Hera Solar Facility PPA (13.33 MW, Virginia);
- Sun Chief Solar Facility PPA (100 MW, Indiana); and
- Bedington Solar Facility PPA (100 MW, West Virginia).

The Company asks that the Commission determine that the execution of the PPAs is prudent and that the PPAs will be prudent additions to the Company's RPS compliance portfolio. The Company maintains that the PPAs that are the subject of this Petition are RPS eligible resources, as they are electric-generating resources that generate electric energy derived from solar and are interconnected directly into the Commonwealth or the PJM region. The Company asserts the PPAs were selected after a competitive and robust bidding process, due diligence and contract negotiations.

According to the Petition, the PPAs would help the Company comply with its RPS requirements by producing 213,339 additional renewable energy certificates annually for the Virginia Retail Jurisdiction, and approximately double that amount if not approved in West Virginia. The Company asserts that the PPAs would also allow APCo to avoid costs it would otherwise incur as a PJM participant by helping the Company avoid purchasing energy from the PJM energy markets. APCo further asserts that the PPAs would produce carbon-free energy thereby advancing the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy.

According to the Petition, five (5) of the PPA projects are expected to go online sometime in 2026 and 2027. The Company states that these facilities are likely to be available to help meet RPS requirements during the 2026 VCEA Rate Year,<sup>1</sup> and accordingly, the Company will be seeking approval to recover the costs associated with them in its 2026 VCEA filing.

Additional details are set forth in the Company's Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting exhibits.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on April 8, 2026. On or before April 2, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on April 8, 2026, the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On April 8, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

Electronic copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Appalachian Power Company, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com).

On or before April 3, 2026, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

On or before March 24, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, Commission Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

On or before March 24, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling) any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00005.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

<sup>1</sup> The Company states that the Rate Year projected for its 2026 VCEA filing is March 2027 through February 2028. *Id.*

**APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY**

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# Raptors

(cont. from page 12)

where it is currently under consideration for federal de-listing from its current threatened status. Though there are other species whose populations continue to decline due to a variety of reasons including habitat loss, and pesticide use.

Virginia is host to several species of hawks; red-tailed, red shouldered, broad winged, Cooper's, and the Sharp-shinned. Of these, the most prevalent in Virginia, is the Red-tailed Hawk. This is a large stocky hawk with a whitish breast and a rust-colored tail. Weighs between 1.5-3.5 pounds and has a wingspan of 43-55 inches. It is highly adaptable and seems to be comfortable living in a variety of habitats. It is commonly seen perched along roads and interstate highways especially in the winter months. Its diet consists mostly of eating rodents, small mammals such as rabbits, reptiles, and smaller birds.

Another year-round resident is the Sharp-shinned Hawk. It is the smallest bird of prey in Virginia. Weighing in at 3-8 ounces with a wingspan of 16.5-26. Inches. It is incredibly athletic and acrobatic. It is a jay-sized, small, fast flying hawk with long, squared tipped tail, and short, rounded wings. Frequently seen at bird feeders, where it preys on song-birds which make-up 90% of their diet.

The Cooper's Hawk is a crow-sized hawk with a long tail and short, rounded wings. Slate gray above, finely rust-barred below. Similar to the more common, Sharp-shinned hawk but larger, with a tail that is rounded at its tip. Weight: 8-24 ounces. Wingspan: 24 ½ - 35 ½ inches. The Cooper's Hawk is typically



Red-tailed Hawk



American Kestrel "Sparrow Hawk"

found in VA woods or the edge of fields. It is known for their flying agility which can be observed while watching their high-speed chases through the tree canopy in pursuit of prey. The Cooper's Hawk has suffered a population decline similar to the Peregrine Falcon. It is now gone from large areas of the eastern deciduous forest.

The Red-shouldered Hawk is a year-round resident in Virginia. It is primarily a forest dweller. It prefers deciduous woodlands, especially where there is standing water. It is a large, long-winged hawk with rust barred underparts, reddish shoulders, and a narrowly banded tail. Weight: 1.1 - 1.9 pounds. Wingspan: 38-42 inches. This hawk has a unique hunting style. When hunting these raptors sit quietly on a low perch, dropping down to capture their prey directly from overhead rather than engaging in the high speed pursuits we often associate with birds of prey.

The Broad-winged Hawk is a crow sized bird. Unlike the other hawks mentioned this one is not a year-round resident. During the winter months it resides in tropical South America, returning to eastern US and southern Canada to breed. This hawk is best known for its spectacular migrations; thousands of birds fly by, with single flocks of

up to several hundred individuals, travelling 4,000 miles (one way) to reach their winter home. Over 19,000 were counted in one day as they passed over the lookout at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania.

Other common raptors in Virginia include the Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and the Bald Eagle.

The American Kestrel, "Sparrow Hawk" is of the Falcon family. Falcons are compact; fast flying diurnal raptors with long, pointed wings. They vary in size from small to quite large in size. They are anatomically well adapted to dashing level flights, twisting maneuvers, and high speed dives in pursuit of live prey. Falcons wingspans range from 22 inches to over 3 feet in length. Falcons have long toes with sharp talons for grasping prey, and hooked, notched beaks for killing and eating them.

The American Kestrel is the most widespread of the species and the smallest in North America. It can be found throughout all but the northern most reaches of North America. Its habitats include pastures, fields, and golf courses. It weighs in at between 2.8-5.8 ounces with a wingspan of 20-24 inches. It preys on insects, small mammals and small birds such as sparrows. It is ferocious and incredibly agile with diving speeds in excess of 200

mph!

The Bald Eagle is one of the larger members of the Eagle/Hawk family. Its weight averages between 6.5-15 pounds with a wingspan of 71-91 inches. While the Bald Eagle was once endangered its numbers rebounded after the banning of DDT and conservation efforts such as habitat restoration and monitoring programs helped these iconic and gorgeous creatures to recover from the brink of extinction. The Bald Eagle is more into fishing than hunting. It can be seen more frequently near bodies of water. Its vision is 5-8 times better than humans and can also see ultra-violet light. It has the ability to soar to incredible heights where they use their keen eyesight to stalk their prey, before diving at 100 mph to capture their next meal or food for their off-spring. They build massive and impressive nests on cliffs or in tall trees. Their nests can be 4 feet in depth and weigh up to 1 ton. The Bald Eagle like many other birds of prey mate for life.

An interesting feature common to most raptors is the fact that females are most often larger and heavier than males. Known as reverse sexual dimorphism, the disparity between the sexes increases as species' prey size and speed increases. Biologists believe this allows for greater variety of prey

to be captured by mated pairs.

Hunting strategies vary between the different raptor species. Some frequently practice the sit-and-wait style while sitting on a perch. Choosing to perch high on snags tops, and power hunt regularly on the wing. Circle-soaring in a vulture like manner; these raptors hunt while hanging in an updraft. Both Red-tailed Hawks hunt by hovering while actively flapping their wings. Others hunt insects and rodents both from perches and while in flight. Still others such as the Harriers hunt on the wing, cruising close to the ground over flat terrain, wings held in a shallow "V", face pointed toward the ground in front of them.

The foraging methods of hawks and eagles are as diverse as the species themselves, and all species are somewhat opportunistic, taking advantage of whatever prey is readily available. Many species employ a steep dive known as a "stoop" to surprise their prey. After soaring high above, the hawk simply folds its wings and plummets towards its prey. At the last second the hawk swings its feet forward and swerves to capture the prey.

True falcons are specialized for chasing and catching their prey in flight. They generally use their feet to cap-

ture prey in the air or to simply knock prey down; in both cases the large feet and long toes are an advantage, providing a powerful blow and a strong grip.

Many grim forces threaten our raptors. Besides succumbing to electrocution by utility wires and shooting, and having their numbers depleted by habitat loss, they frequently face insidious threats, including new pesticides and new, introduced wildlife diseases.

However, not all the news is bad. The Peregrine Falcon is a example of what successful conservation can accomplish. Other species such as the American Kestrel are surviving in many areas though are vulnerable locally.

If you are interested in learning more about raptors, such as Owls, Osprey, Kites, Harriers and Vultures, check out some of these websites:

- <https://birdsandwetlands.com/common-birds-of-prey-virginia>
  - <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/raptors>
  - [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cornell Lab of ornithology](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cornell-Lab-of-Ornithology)
  - Virginia Society of Ornithology
- Find us on Facebook: Patrick County Master Gardeners. Contact us at: [patrickmastergardeners.org](http://patrickmastergardeners.org). Tune in to WHEO on Tuesday morning March 24 @ 830 am for more info on Birds of Prey in VA.

MARCH						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2026	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
2		3		4		5		6		7			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Ninjas		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Youth Art Month Opening Reception 5:00-7:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00					
LEGO Club 4:00		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30*									
9		10		11		12		13		14			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Magical Creatures		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Book Bingo 10:30		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00				Castle Party 10:30			
Blind Date Book Swap 2pm		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30* Shelfie Day Pt. 2									
16		17		18		19		20		21			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 St. Patrick's Day		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00		Open Art Studio 1:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00					
Bingocize 3:00*		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30* Bingocize 3:00*		Music Trivia 6:00-7:00							
LEGO Club 4:00													
23		24		25		26		27		28			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Spring with Norma		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30*		Citizens Patrick County Learning Series 5:30		Senior Social 11:00		Crochet & Chill 11:00*			
Monograms in Bloom 1:00 at P&HCC*		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Bingocize 3:00*						Book Bedazzling 11:00			
Bingocize 3:00*													
30		31											
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Easter											
Bingocize 3:00*		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*											

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 & Wednesday mornings.

# James T. W. Clement



By Tom Perry

The battle of Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864, called "the darkest day I have seen" by one member of the 6th Virginia Cavalry resulted in the capture of thirty men from the regiment, including James T. W. Clement. J. E. B. Stuart realized that the end of Lunsford Lomax's line was a key position and rode over to the spot in the Telegraph Road to find the 5th and 6th Virginia Cavalry holding the line under the command of Henry Clay Pate, who Stuart helped rescue from John Brown with the 1st U. S. Cavalry in the Kansas Territory back in 1856 at the Battle of Black Jack.

Pate and Stuart were not on friendly terms due to politics within the army, which led to a court-martial of Pate initiated by Thomas L. Rosser. Pate, the author of two books, former editor of a Petersburg newspaper, and "fire eater," which brought him to Kansas to lock horns with Brown, now found himself face to face with Stuart, who said, "Colonel Pate, you have done all that any man could do. How long can you hold this position?" Pate replied, "Until I die, General." Stuart commended Pate for his courage. Pate, moved by this approval from his commanding officer, walked to Stuart, offered him his hand, and, as Douglas S. Freeman wrote, "effaced all differences" between them.

Pate held the line until he died leading a last stand with about sixty men of the two regiments. He shouted, "One more round, boys, and then we'll get to the hill," and fell dead on the Telegraph Road. Stuart told diarist Alexander R. Boteler, "You know that Pate and myself have had unkind feelings toward each other. I want to say that his conduct in holding in line, which was the key to our position with a small force against

overwhelming numbers, was one of the most gallant and heroic acts of the war." By this time in his life, Stuart no doubt knew of many "gallant and heroic" men, and this was surely high praise. Pate was born in Bedford County, Virginia, on April 21, 1833, and was buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery not far from Stuart's grave.

Among the men with Pate that day was James T. W. Clement of the 6th Virginia Cavalry. Americans will often travel for hours to visit a place that is not as interesting as a place right in their own neighborhood. Growing up in Ararat, Virginia, I helped mow the grass at Hunter's Chapel Church, about one mile north of Laurel Hill, the birthplace of J. E. B. Stuart. The cemetery at Hunter's Chapel contains the mortal remains of James T. W. Clement, Company E, 6th Virginia Cavalry.

Born on January 7, 1844, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the son of Thomas and Susan Ann (Graves) Clement, James T. W. Clement enlisted in the Pittsylvania Dragoons in April 1862. He witnessed many memorable events during the Civil War. On June 6, 1862, Company E was stationed on the Port Republic Road and witnessed the death of the Virginia cavalryman General Turner Ashby (October 23, 1828, to June 6, 1862).

Near Harrisonburg, Virginia, the 1st New Jersey Cavalry attacked Ashby's position at Good's Farm. Although Ashby defeated the cavalry attack, a subsequent infantry engagement left him with a wounded horse, and he charged ahead on foot. Within a few steps, he was shot through the heart, killing him instantly. His last words were "Charge, men! For God's sake. Charge!" waving his sword when a bullet pierced him in the breast and he fell dead.



**DEATHS**

**JAMES T. W. CLEMENT, SR.**

Mr James T. W. Clement, Sr., of The Hollow, Va., died last Friday at 9:30 A. M. in Martin Memorial Hospital this city where he was carried for treatment for a broken hip following a fall on the ice.

Mr Clement was a widower and a farmer, he was more than 90 years old and a native of Pittsylvania County.

The funeral took place at 2:00 P. M. Saturday from Hunters Chapel with Rev. Newton Smith officiating and interment was made in the Hunters Chapel Cemetery



Confederate Capt. Campbell Brown wrote that, "Later in the evening I saw a party of cavalry pass by with Ashby's body, crying, most of them, like children."

In fact, members of Clement's company carried the fallen "Knight of the Valley" off the battlefield that day. Union forces captured Clement that summer and exchanged him in December 1862. His record reports him absent, wounded in December 1863. After Pate's death in May 1864, Clement fell into Union hands when captured at Yellow Tavern. Clement may have been among sixty men who made a last stand during the battle, so that the Southern forces could flee the field. He was later exchanged near the end of October 1864.

After the war, James T. W. Clement moved to Patrick County. Clement was married three times. He married Anna Elizabeth Moore on November 9, 1865, in Patrick County. They apparently divorced. He then married E. M. Carter on October 29, 1882, in Patrick County. His

third wife was Jennie E. Slaughter, whom he married on September 21, 1897. His children were John S. Clement, 1863-1947, James Thomas Washington Clement, 1870-1941, William Orville Clement, 1872-1945, Anna Virginia Clement Booker, 1873-1947, Robert W. Clement, 1873-1937, and Samuel J. T. Clement, 1875-1949.

Clement died on March 23, 1934 (aged 90) in Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina. He was laid to rest at Hunter's Chapel Church in Ararat. I have often thought what it would be like to spend a few moments with Clement or other veterans of war and persuade them to speak of what they saw right before their eyes. Did he relive the war by imagining the horror and the glory he witnessed and the sadness he must have felt being present when both of these Southern cavalymen met their ends? I do not know of many men who were with both Turner Ashby and J. E. B. Stuart on the day both men received their mortal wounds in the War Between the States.

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[mountainmedianews.com/best-of/](http://mountainmedianews.com/best-of/)

Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in  
 The Enterprise on April 29, 2026  
 Henry County Enterprise on April 30, 2026

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