



# THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar	11
Church	9
Classified	10
Family Album	5
Obituaries	8
Sports	6
Viewpoints	4

Vol. 150 No. 21 Website: [www.theenterprise.net](http://www.theenterprise.net) STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 USPS 523-500 \$1.50

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

## PCHS graduates told commencement marks 'end of the prologue'



The 165 graduates of Patrick County High School's Class of 2026 celebrated graduation with a cap toss, glitter bombs, and balloons.

By Taylor Boyd

The 165 graduates of the 56th Patrick County High School (PCHS) Commencement Exercise on Friday, May 22 were told that graduation was the final sentence in the prologue of their lives.

The words of wisdom were delivered to the Class of 2026 in the gymnasium where the ceremony was held due to inclement weather.

Student Government Association Vice President Callie Elizabeth Wood said, "When deciding what to say to you all tonight, I did what I've done so regrettably often - I froze. I sat unsure in front of the computer the night of the deadline like we've done thanks to JT completely paralyzed by this decision."

Because she was afraid of choosing the wrong words, Wood said she found herself unable to choose any.

"But that's when I realized we've all struggled with choice, indecision, and fears of regrets. We all face uncertainty, and some of us might be facing it right now," she said.

Quoting Joyce Sullivan's poem "Culpable," Wood said, "No matter which road you take, it will be both glorious and unbearable. Every road is lonely. Every road, holy. The only error is not walking forth."

Graduation, Wood said, feels both glorious and **(See PCHS Graduates p. 7)**



Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood's contract was renewed for four years at the May 14 school board meeting.

## Superintendent's contract renewed for four years

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board unanimously approved renewing Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood's contract at its Thursday, May 14 meeting.

Wood's contract was renewed for four years, the maximum amount of time allowed, starting July 1, 2026 until June 30, 2030.

Wood has served as superintendent since December 2021.

During his five-year tenure on the school board, Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, said Wood has always praised the people that work below him at the School Board Office and the work they do.

"You drive buses when we're in need of people. You care about the kids as much as I see the teachers and staff in the schools that we're blessed to have. I think we are very blessed," he said.

Before he came onto the board, Martin said he was concerned that the board members before him would jump and make the incorrect choice of the new superintendent. However, he believes they made the correct choice.

"You have been tremendously positive I believe for the school system, for our students, and staff. You take constructive criticism very well, and when we have questions you're very knowledgeable helping us to understand those problems too.

"I know we'll have problems in the future, we've had them in the past, and I'm just happy to see you leading our school division," Martin said, adding that with Wood at the helm the school system has been in the top 10 in the state for academics for the last five years.

Wood said he's blessed to be with the school system and to be surrounded by likeminded people.

"We are blessed to be in Patrick County. I wouldn't think of another place to work, to live, and raise my family, or for my kids to attend," Wood said.

## School Board Bids Farewell to Vice Chairman Lester Harrell

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board reluctantly accepted Vice-chairman Lester Harrell's resignation at the Thursday, May 14 meeting.

Harrell's resignation will be effective May 31. He served on the board for two years.

Chairman Amy Walker, of the Mayo River District, read Harrell's resignation letter before the board accepted his resignation.

"It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Patrick County in this role. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside fellow board members, administrators, and staff in support of our students, schools, and community. This decision comes as I transition into a new professional role that will require my full attention and commitment. While stepping away from the board is not easy, I believe it's the right decision to ensure

that both roles receive the dedication that they deserve.

"I sincerely appreciate the support, collaboration, and relationships I built during my time on the board. I remain committed to the continued success of Patrick County Public Schools, and I wish the board the very best moving forward," Walker said, reading Harrell's letter.

Harrell, of the Peters Creek District, said he came on the board reluctantly in 2024.

"The opportunity to serve has also helped me to grow professionally and individually as a person. I've developed some great professional relationships and also on the personal sides some great friendships," he said.

Noting that "all good things must end," Harrell said he's been offered a position that will take him outside the county.

"I just want to thank you all



Lester Harrell, of the Peters Creek District, resigned from the Patrick County School Board effective May 31. Harrell served on the school board for two years.

for putting up with me and I wish you all the best," Harrell said.

When former Peters Creek District representative Ryan Lawson left the board, Rob **(See Harrell p. 4)**

## Patrick County declares drought watch amid ongoing dry conditions

Patrick County officials declared a drought watch last week following prolonged dry weather conditions that have affected regional water supplies.

County Administrator Michael McGuinness issued the declaration on Thursday, May 21, under the county's Drought and Water Emergencies Ordinance after reviewing streamflow conditions, water levels, available storage capacity,

drawdown rates and projected water supply capabilities in coordination with the Patrick County Public Service Authority.

According to the declaration, officials determined that "moderate but limited supplies of water are currently available," meeting the criteria for a drought watch under the county's Drought Response and Contingency Plan. **(See Drought p. 4 and See Related Story on p. 3)**

## Fourth annual Summer Showdown set for May 30

By Taylor Boyd

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold its fourth annual Summer Showdown on Saturday, May 30, at the Stuart Rotary Memorial Building in Stuart.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bell for the first match rings at 7 p.m.

Scheduled matches include:

\*NICW World Heavyweight Championship: "The Gremlin" Larry Cooter vs. Jeff Paul.

\*NICW Cruiserweight Championship: Big Bite vs. Dixon Badd.

\*NICW World Tag Team Championship: Team USA "The Dragon" Scott Lee and "USA" Tony Ray vs. "The Mid-Atlantic Aces" Layne Cali and Joe Brody.

Other wrestlers scheduled to appear include "The Renegade Cowboy" Daniel Craig, Josh Tart,

Daniel Ocean, Douglas J. Wentworth, III, Esquire, Ace Englund, Shanghai Pierce, Jr., Adam Hex, and others.

The 7'3" "American Giant" Buck Brezner will also make his debut.

Concession sales from the show will go to benefit American Veterans Post 25 Riders.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door for adults; \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door for children under 12. Children under five are admitted for free.

Advance tickets are available at Little Caesars, Stagecoach on Main, and Rutter's Martial Arts.

The event is sponsored by Rutter's Martial Arts, Lawless Welding & Fabrications, Inc., and Impressive Prints & Designs.

For more information, go to [Facebook.com/NationalIndependentChampionshipWrestling](https://www.facebook.com/NationalIndependentChampionshipWrestling).

# Ruritan clubs celebrate re-opening of Stuart Community Hospital

Members from the Ruritan clubs in Patrick County participated in a "Rudy Bear Drop" last week at Stuart Community Hospital.



"Rudy" is the official mascot of Ruritan, and the teddy bear can bring joy to patients who need some comfort during a difficult time, such as in a hospital setting. 35 bears were donated to Stuart Community Hospital during National Hospital Week. The Stuart Ruritan club also donated some 'goodies' to the staff to show appreciation for their dedication. Staff was celebrating 'decades day' when Ruritan swept thru and pictured is HR Director Shannon Wagoner with Stuart Ruritan member Stephanie Keith.



SCH RN Brooke Hylton, Pamela Smith, representing Ararat Ruritan Club, SCH RN Amber Smith and Kevin Smith, representing Woolwine Community Ruritan Club displaying Rudy Bears.



Meadows of Dan President Aaron Shelor posed with Kevin Smith and Shannon Wagoner



## Supervisors recognize service of local Ruritan clubs

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors proclaimed Ruritan Month Awareness in Patrick County at a May 5 meeting. The proclamation coincides with Ruritan Month, which is also in May.

Pictured are members of Woolwine Community Ruritan Club: President David Belcher, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Belcher, Barry Morrison, Zone Governor Kevin Smith (also representing Stuart and Ararat), Director

John Stultz, Bennett Shuff.

Also in attendance were Woolwine Community Director Sandra Anglin, Woolwine Community member Dustin Foley, Ararat members Mike and Jane Fulk (also members of Red Bank) Red Bank Vice-President Patsy Shouse, Andrew Overby, associate member of Ararat, and Dan River District Governor Pamela Smith (also representing Stuart and Ararat).



David Ford (Strada Educational Foundation), Tonya Hall (InsideTrack), Kevin Logan (NACCE), Rebecca Corbin (NACCE), Chancellor David Dore, Dr. Greg Hodges, Mrs. Renee Hodges, and Tiffani Underwood celebrate NACCE's award.

## Virginia Foundation for Community College Education honors philanthropists at annual luncheon

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) has received the 20th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The organization was nominated for the award by Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and honored at Virginia Foundation for Community College Education's (VFCCE) 20th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy Luncheon.

The event honored more than two dozen individuals, families, and businesses from all 23 of Virginia's Community Colleges, as well as the VFCCE itself. Award recipients were nominated in recognition of their exceptional commitment

to the growth and development of Virginia's community colleges and their respective foundations.

In his welcoming remarks, Chancellor David Doré saluted and thanked the donors for their unwavering commitment to students whose potential might otherwise go unrealized. "The individuals and organizations we honor in this room represent an extraordinary \$27 million in lifetime giving to Virginia's community colleges," he said.

The sentiment was echoed by Secretary of Education, Jeffery Smith, who underscored the importance of philanthropy and its ability to remove barriers that could impede or even block the way

forward for students short on resources. "Every Virginian deserves a pathway to economic opportunity," he said.

In addition to Secretary Smith, distinguished guests in attendance included State Board members as well as members of the VFCCE Board of Directors. Author, philanthropist, and educator Brent L. Kendrick, Ph.D., whose career reflects a lifelong commitment to teaching and community college education, delivered the keynote address.

Included among the 2026 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy recipients is Patrick & Henry Community College, National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship.

## Pets of the Week



This cute yellow lab mix boy was found on Central Academy Road in Stuart. We are calling him Buddy because he is super friendly.

Precious is a very sweet small young blond girl, who is feeling shy and sad at the shelter.

Please save a life! Adopt! The shelter is FULL this week! All dogs and cats at the shelter deserve a permanent, loving home. Call the Patrick County Public



Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and vaccinations.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food and spay/neuter assistance. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page to see our videos of these amazing pets!

**Norris**  
Memorial Services

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

Visit our website for pricing:  
[www.norrismemorialservices.com](http://www.norrismemorialservices.com)



## Gift Cards are for Gifts

Gift cards are popular and convenient for consumers—and for criminals who favor them as easy and hard-to-trace forms of payment.

They may claim the fastest way to fix an urgent financial problem is to go to a store, load a specific amount of money onto one or more gift cards (sometimes called electronic vouchers), and then share the activation numbers from the back of the card. No legitimate government agency or business will ever accept payment this way.

If you or someone you love has

experienced this financial crime, turn the card over and call the issuer at the number provided; they may be able to freeze the card before some or all of the funds are drained. You should also report this crime to law enforcement to document what happened should there be a means of restitution down the road.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

# Patrick County, Martinsville added to USDA drought disaster designation

An additional 24 Virginia localities have received drought disaster designations by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins. Farmers in the primary designated counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Henry, Nelson, Pittsylvania, and Sussex are eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Farmers in Albermarle, Augusta, Bedford, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Prince Edward, Prince George, Rockbridge, Scott, Southampton, and Surry counties, and the cities of Bristol, Danville, Lynchburg, and Martinsville are also eligible for FSA drought emergency assistance as they are contiguous to

primary drought designated localities in Virginia and Tennessee.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, these localities suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Drought disaster assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Provided eligibility requirements are met, FSA will assess each emergency loan application individually to consider specific circumstances and needs. Farmers in eligible localities have eight months from the date of disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans.

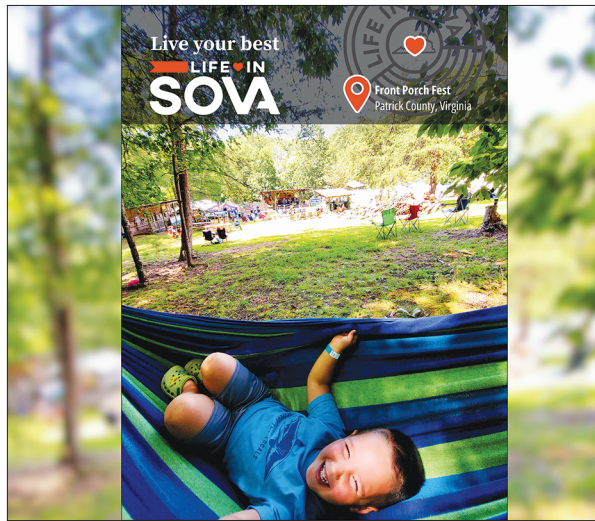
The counties of Arlington, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Franklin,

Grayson, Greensville, Halifax, Isle of Wight, King George, Loudoun, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Prince William, Southampton, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Washington, and Westmoreland, and the cities of Alexandria, Emporia and Suffolk had previously received drought disaster designations. Farmers in these localities should contact their local USDA FSA office for more information and to verify their exact filing date, as application rules can be complex when navigating multiple designations.

For more information on available assistance programs and the application process, please visit the Virginia FSA State Office website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Virginia](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Virginia).

(See Related Story on p. 1)

## WPPDC receives grant for tourism marketing



Live your best Life in SOVA - Front Porch Fest

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) received a \$20,000 grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)'s Marketing Leverage Program for its Life in SOVA initiative.

The WPPDC will use this funding to strengthen the Life in SOVA initiative through a strategic marketing & development plan, website enhancements, new content and creative assets, and targeted advertising to promote the region's tourism destinations. Life in SOVA is a regional branding initiative that highlights the cities of Danville and Martinsville, the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania, and the Town of Rocky Mount. At the core of this project is [www.lifeinsova.com](http://www.lifeinsova.com), a comprehensive digital hub that features the region's businesses, events, outdoor attractions, and community life.

"We are excited to receive the \$20,000 grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation to support and enhance our Life in SOVA initiative," said Amada Gray, Tourism and Marketing Specialist for WPPDC. "Southern Virginia offers outstanding tourism destinations and unique opportunities, and this funding will allow us to further promote our region's many assets. We welcome everyone to come 'Live their best Life in SOVA' and enjoy our friendly communities, outdoor adventures, and rich experiences that Southern Virginia has to offer."

In celebration of National Travel & Tourism Week, Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) awarded more than \$2.2 million in matching grant and sponsorship funds to 143 tourism programs across the Commonwealth. These awards are funded through VTC's Marketing Leverage and Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Marketing Programs.



Life in SOVA - Sounds on the Square

These programs pair local marketing investments with matching state funds to increase visitation, extend overnight stays, and grow traveler spending across the Commonwealth. This funding cycle, local partners will commit more than \$4.3 million to match the VTC grant funds, generating more than \$6.5 million in new marketing and event production initiatives focused on increasing overnight visitation to Virginia across all nine GO Virginia regions. In total, the awards will support 143 marketing programs and impact 858 tourism partners statewide.

"Tourism is a powerful engine for economic development in Southern Virginia," said Michael Armbrister, executive director of the agency. "Since the inception of our tourism program in 2022, we've witnessed the positive ripple effects that tourism investments have on job creation, small businesses, and overall community vitality. This grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation will help us to strengthen collaborations with regional partners, amplify the Life in SOVA initiative, attract more visitors, and help drive sustainable economic growth throughout our footprint."

"Effective tourism marketing is key to turning interest into visitation and visitation into economic impact," said Rita McClenny, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "These programs give our partners the tools to tell more compelling stories about their destinations, connect with travelers in meaningful ways, and inspire deeper exploration across Virginia."

The VTC's tourism marketing and sponsorship programs are designed to maximize limited marketing dollars through public-private partnerships, stimulate new tourism promotion initiatives, and extend the iconic



Life in SOVA - Sounds on the Square

Virginia is for Lovers brand to drive visitation and increase visitor spending. Using the hub-and-spoke tourism partnership model, Virginia entities partner to apply for funding. Partners may include cities, towns, counties, convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, local or regional destination marketing organizations, museums, attractions, cultural events, and other tourism-related non-profits and private businesses.

These grant programs assist tourism-oriented applicants by matching their marketing commitment with additional funding to reach new markets and engage both new and repeat visitors:

- The Marketing Leverage Program is a reimbursable grant program that helps Virginia travel industry partners—including small businesses, DMOs, attractions, accommodations, and events—expand their marketing efforts.

- The Virginia DMO Marketing Program provides funding to destination marketing organizations for initiatives that demonstrate measurable economic impact and are designed to drive visitation to Virginia.

The VTC will open a Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program grant round in summer 2026, which is designed to assist small tourism-oriented businesses and organizations with fall and winter marketing initiatives. The Virginia Special Events and Festivals Program will open in late 2026 for events occurring between January 1 and December 31, 2027.

The next round of the Marketing Leverage Program and the Virginia DMO Marketing Program will open in February 2027. Organizations and businesses interested in applying for these grant opportunities may visit [vatc.org/grants](http://vatc.org/grants) for more information.

## Tubers: Underground Garden Treasures



Sweet potato slips

By Kristine Adel

If you've ever dug up potatoes with dirt under your nails and sunshine on your back, you already understand the magic of tubers. These underground storage organs have fed civilizations, survived famines, inspired exploration, and continue to be some of the easiest and most satisfying crops for home gardeners to grow.

**What Is a Tuber?**

A tuber is a swollen underground plant structure that stores nutrients and energy. Unlike roots, tubers contain buds or "eyes" capable of growing into new plants.

The most familiar example? The humble potato. But tubers come in many forms, flavors, and colors.



**Common Tubers you may already be familiar with include:**

- Potatoes

The classic tuber crop. Potatoes originated in the Andes Mountains of South America and became one of the world's most important food sources.

Popular varieties for Virginia gardens include:

- Yukon Gold
- Red Pontiac
- Kennebec
- Purple Majesty
- German Butterball
- Sweet Potatoes

Technically a tuberous root rather than a true tuber, but often grouped together in gardening



Sweet potato storage

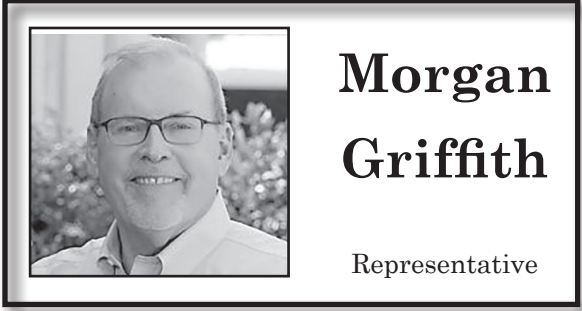
discussions.

Sweet potatoes thrive in warm summers and do very well in southern Virginia.

Favorites include:

(See Tubers p. 12)

# Finding a Cure for ALS aka Lou Gehrig's Disease



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

"I AM ALS."  
That was the message promoted by a May public service announcement in support of ALS research and treatments.  
The minute-long video in honor of ALS Awareness Month features several celebrities and includes a posthumous message from the late Eric Dane. In February 2026, Dane passed away due to his struggles with ALS.  
Dane, the beloved actor from the Grey's Anatomy TV series who played Dr. Mark Sloan (also known as McSteamy), became a fierce ALS advocate following his April 2025 diagnosis.  
After his diagnosis, Dane connected with I AM ALS.  
I AM ALS is an ALS patient advocacy group that connects the ALS community with resources to promote policy action.  
The group's co-founders, Brian Wallach and his wife Sandra Abrevaya, are acutely familiar with ALS. Wallach received his ALS diagnosis the day his newborn daughter came home from the hospital.  
Such heartbreaking stories help raise awareness about the ALS movement. Dane was ready to serve the movement with a purpose.  
As part of his advocacy, Dane visited Capitol Hill to share his ALS story with lawmakers.  
In September 2025, I had the opportunity to

meet with Dane and discuss the federal path forward to help the ALS community.  
Remarks from our meeting, together with Dane's other lawmaker meetings, are featured in the now-released documentary Ring Every Bell: Eric Dane's Final Act.  
The 20-minute documentary chronicles Dane's ALS advocacy journey, shares his personal perspective on the debilitating illness and activates enthusiasm for the I AM ALS movement.  
In the documentary, I mentioned to Dane that I come from an ALS hotspot in the Roanoke Valley. Friends, family friends and others in our community know of someone impacted by ALS.  
Personal stories like these and too many others have helped shape the I AM ALS movement as well as the federal response to this rare disease.  
In April 2026, Wallach and Abrevaya testified before the Health Subcommittee that I chair. They expressed support for the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act.  
Five years ago, both of them testified in front of the Health Subcommittee as well when this legislation was first introduced. At the time, Wallach was able to deliver his testimony with the support of his wife.  
Wallach's ALS condition is so debilitating, at the time of his second appearance before my Subcommittee, he was unable to speak or move. But his appearance at the hearing beside his strong wife sent an incredibly powerful message.  
Despite receiving news, when first diagnosed, that he had six months to live, Wallach has lived with ALS for more than eight years.  
Further, aided by technology, Wallach testified that the ACT for ALS bill is our best chance at finding a cure.  
This bill reauthorizes critical federal funds for ALS research. This research supports the development of investigational drugs and clinical trials.

Additionally, the bill helps support funding for other neurodegenerative diseases, like Huntington's Disease.  
Later that day, I attended an "ACT for ALS" press conference. The bill's sponsor, Democrat Mike Quigley, as well as Wallach and Abrevaya were a part of the event to address the ALS bill.  
As one of the speakers, I reaffirmed my commitment as Health Subcommittee Chairman to help deliver hope for ALS-impacted Americans through this health care policy.  
Accordingly, in May, my Health Subcommittee reported the bill to the full Energy and Commerce Committee.  
Our full Committee debated the bill, and I look forward to continued opportunities to help get this to the House floor.  
The week following the release of the Dane documentary and public service announcement, I was proud to vote with the Committee to advance the ALS bill promoted by the likes of Dane, Wallach and Abrevaya, among others.  
As we continue to build off the legislative momentum on this critical solution, so too does the ALS awareness campaign.  
Raising awareness on ALS makes me think of those we lose in our community to the devastating illness.  
A political mentor of mine, former Virginia Delegate Raymond R. Robrecht of Salem, died on Christmas Eve in 1994.  
There is also my Roanoke Valley swimming friend Rob Lawson, who passed away in 2022.  
These are only two of the people I have known who succumbed to ALS.  
They are among countless others that help light the fuse for the I AM ALS Movement.  
For those who endure, treat and advocate on behalf of the cause, I stand with you.  
I AM ALS.

# Getting Kids to Drink More Water

Occasionally, my children come to the hospital with me while I round on patients. This morning, they sat in the nurses lounge and happily colored. When I came to collect them, I noticed a Coca Cola truck parked along side the hospital entrance. My son immediately spotted it as well, "Momma," he said in a loud, clear voice. "That's really naughty juice!"  
"Aha, yes son," I whispered. "But not everyone knows that."  
"But momma," he loudly insisted. "We need to TELL them!"  
So yes, my children have been indoctrinated that coke, cola, and sweetened beverages in general, are "naughty juice!" Now we just need to work some societal cues for when this information can be properly shared...  
Seriously though, I'm thankful they have already started assimilating this information. With the average American consuming over 400 Coca Cola products every year we really do "need to tell them."  
It is true that liquid is of vital importance to every bodily function. However, WATER is the liquid craved and needed by the body. While soda can supply the body's demand for water, they come with added caffeine, sugar, and other substances.

Frankly, these added substances make coke an excellent floor/toilet/furniture cleaner but a lousy drink.  
The average child above age 2 years needs from 40 to 64 ounces of water every day to maintain adequate hydration. Obviously this varies a bit depending on activity, outdoor humidity, and temperature. Water doesn't have to come in "free form" from a tap. All fruits and vegetables contain water. Beverages and other food items also contain water. But plain, unadulterated water is what children need most.  
Water is important for the body: 60% of the body is made up of just water. Your heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, liver, and even your digestive system depend on water to function properly. One common complaint I get in my practice is constipation. Amazingly, simply drinking more water can help your gut work better and both treat and prevent constipation.  
So how do you know how much water to give your child? Here's a simple test—monitor the urine frequency and color. If your child is urinating less than once every 4-6 hours while awake—your child likely needs more water. If the urine is a very dark color—your child likely needs more water. You want the urine to be almost a light yellow/straw color.

If your child isn't used to drinking much water, add it in slowly. One way to help get kids to drink more water is to get them a personalized water bottle. Even a simple \$1 plastic water bottle can be decorated with stickers and reused multiple times. Have it always full and available. My children each have their own cup. I have stools placed by several sinks so they can easily fill their own glass. During the summer, we sometimes make "water popsicles" that the kids can suck on. This really helps cut the heat on a blistering summer day. Sticker charts, check lists, or phone reminders can also be utilized to help incentivize water intake.  
In most cities, tap water is actually superior to bottled water. Check your local county and township for information on your water quality. If your water has a mild distaste, try adding a touch of lemon juice or refrigerating it.  
As we walked out of the hospital past the offending Coca-Cola truck, my son grasped my hand. "Mommy," he whispered, "I hope people stop drinking that someday and drink water instead!" "Me too son," I murmured. "Me too."  
*(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Rachel Nelson, MD. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)*

## Harrell

(cont. from page 1)

Martin, of the Dan River District, said he wondered how he could ever be replaced.  
"Then, I got to meet the honorable Lester

Harrell, and it's been a great honor. You've enlightened me tremendously, and I formed a new friendship.  
In addition to thanking Harrell for his military service, Martin thanked him for being on the school board and for trying to keep him straight and not talking so much.  
"Yeah, it was hard," Harrell replied.  
Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood also thanked Harrell for his military service and for his professional career for families in Patrick County.  
"But most importantly in our relationship, thank you for serving Patrick County Public Schools and our families and students and staff. You will be tremendously missed," Wood said.  
Walter Scott, of the Smith River District, and Walker echoed similar sentiments.  
"You've given us a great perspective on things that we don't necessarily see every day, and we

appreciate that. I appreciate the work that you do in helping families, I know that that's not something that everybody can just step into and do, so I appreciate your humble heart and your servanthood," Walker said.  
Following Harrell's departure on May 31, the board will have 45 days to find someone to serve as the Peter Creek District's interim representative until the November election, when a special election will be held to determine who will serve the remainder of Harrell's four-year term.  
In other matters, the board:  
\*Approved the consent agenda.  
\*Approved the personnel report as amended.  
\*Approved certificated personnel report lists 1-5.  
\*Approved support staff recommendations lists 1-3.  
\*Approved the religious exemptions.  
\*Heard the superintendent's report.

**THE ENTERPRISE**  
Established in 1876  
USPS 523-500  
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901  
Phone (304) 647-5724 *Mountain Media*  
www.theenterprise.net

**PUBLISHER**  
Michael Showell

**EDITOR**  
Debbie Hall

**ADVERTISING**  
Wendi Craig

advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

**The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County**  
*Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.*

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

*Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: \$37 per year in Patrick County; \$50 per year in state; \$50 per year out of state. Single copies \$1.50.*

## Drought

(cont. from page 1)

The declaration does not impose mandatory restrictions, but county residents are being strongly encouraged to voluntarily conserve water to reduce strain on the system.  
Recommended conservation measures include repairing leaking faucets and toilets, limiting showers to five minutes, turning off faucets while brushing teeth or shaving, and operating dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.  
Residents also are encouraged to limit lawn watering to the minimum necessary for plant survival, avoid washing vehicles and outdoor surfaces, and delay new landscaping projects.  
County officials also requested that industri-

al, manufacturing and commercial operations reduce water consumption "to any degree feasible," with a target goal of a 10 percent reduction.  
Under the ordinance, future restrictions or escalations would not apply to any government activity, business or industry deemed necessary for public health and safety or to prevent severe economic hardship or substantial job loss.  
The drought watch will remain in effect until conditions improve and county officials, in consultation with the Patrick County Public Service Authority and the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, determine the water shortage has ended.

## Patrick Pioneers

*Deputy Sheriff Walter William "W. W." Willis*  
**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

This week, we continue our remembrance of Patrick County law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty. Last week, we remembered Constable Robert "Bunyan" Sheppard, who was shot and killed on December 11, 1932. This week, we honor Deputy Sheriff Walter William "W. W." Willis, a hard-working officer from The Hollow community who gave his life in service to Patrick County on December 2, 1939.

Walter William "W. W." Willis was born on the 11th of July 1875 to Christopher Columbus Willis and Sallie Jane Gunnell. Christopher's death record lists his parents as John Willis and Sarah Childress of The Hollow in the western part of Patrick County. Sallie Jane's parents were James Alexander Gunnell and Sarah Jane Puckett of Ararat, Virginia.

Christopher and Sallie Jane had three sons, W. W., Charles Robert, and Martin Murray, before Sallie's untimely passing at the age of thirty-two in 1881.

W. W. Willis married Miss Mary Evelyn Willis on the 2nd of December 1900 in Patrick County. Mary was the daughter of Joseph H. Willis and Frances Jane Martin of Carroll County, Virginia.

W. W. and Mary Evelyn would have the following children:

Luther Everett Willis, 1902–1969

Corbett McClelland Willis, 1903–1917, whose death certificate states mitral insufficiency, age 13

Joseph Columbus Willis, 1905–1992

Curtis Lawrence Willis, 1908–1933, whose death certificate states pulmonary tuberculosis, age 25

Alpha Alice Willis Hiatt, 1910–2005

Wilcher Kyle Willis, 1916–1988

Asa Hoke Willis, 1917–2002

Jessie Elizabeth Willis Wellborn, 1925–2015

The newspaper pages of The Enterprise show W. W. Willis as a steady, hard-working officer who did the difficult, often dangerous work expected of a constable in the mountain communities of Patrick County. His duties took him into rough country, along back roads, and into places where illegal stills and liquor operations were being hidden.

On October 18, 1928, The Enterprise, Stuart, Virginia, reported:

40 Gallon Still Captured

"W. W. Willis, Constable of Dan River District, while raiding in the Hollow Section October 10th, captured a 40 gallon still, cap and worm. The still was not in operation, but he destroyed 200 gallons of pummies."

Writer's note: A pummie, also spelled "pumice" or "pomace," is the pulpy, mashed-up solid residue that remains after pressing fruits such as grapes, apples, or plums to extract their juice. In moon-shining, this fermented fruit byproduct could be used as the base ingredient to distill fruit brandies.

A few months later, on February 7, 1929, The Enterprise carried another report:

Buried Beer Found and Destroyed

"W. W. Willis and A. E. Boyd, while raiding near The Hollow last Sunday, found and destroyed 100 gallons of beer, which had been buried to prevent freezing. The beer was in two 50-gallon kegs."

Again, on November 19, 1929, The Enterprise reported:

"Nov. 10 Constable W. W. Willis and Mr. E. E. Boyd destroyed a lot of beer and the following night captured a still near Elk branch. Nov. 12th Constable W. W. Willis while riding along the road met a man with a still and he threw it down. Mr. Willis tracked him back and destroyed about two hundred gallons of beer."

These short reports tell us much about the kind of work Constable Willis performed. He was persistent, watchful, and willing to go where duty called. His service was not glamorous. It was hard, dangerous, and often deadly work.

On April 24, 1930, The Enterprise included news from The Hollow:

"The Hollow, April 15, 1930—Luther Willis of Wilco, W. Va. has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Willis.



Constable W. W. Willis destroyed 1600 gallons of beer and 40 gallons of liquor near the Tabernacle April 13.

Curtis Willis, who has been at Blue Ridge Sanatorium, is at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Willis."

In this small community note, we see both the public and private life of W. W. Willis. He was the constable who destroyed 1600 gallons of beer and 40 gallons of liquor, but he was also a husband and father, welcoming children home and carrying family burdens like so many others in Patrick County.

On October 15, 1931, The Enterprise printed his notice to the voters of Dan River District:

To The Voters of Dan River District

"This is to give notice that I am a candidate for re-election to the office of Constable. I want to assure you of my deep appreciation for any assistance that you may give me in the next general election. I have conscientiously performed all of the duties of the said office to the very best of my ability and trust that I have given general satisfaction. Thanking you for your help and trusting that I may serve you. I am,

W. W. Willis C.P.C."

Tragically, on the day of W. W. and Mary's 39th wedding anniversary, Deputy Willis was murdered in the line of duty.

According to the United States Officer Down Memorials, 1791–2022, Walter W. Willis, age 64, of the Patrick County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed on December 2, 1939, while raiding a still near Willis Gap. The record states that he was approaching the still when he was shot in the back by a suspect armed with a .22 caliber rifle. Deputy Willis crawled one-half mile to a nearby house, where he died a short time later. Before passing away, he was able to identify the suspect. The man was arrested a short time later, convicted of Deputy Willis' murder, and sentenced to life in prison.

The December 7, 1939, the Enterprise account headlined "Sentenced, Life Term, For Murder of Deputy" and "Deputy Sheriff W. W. Willis Slain Saturday" reported that W.M.C. was tried for the murder of W. W. Willis and found guilty of murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to life in the penitentiary.

Writer's note: Out of respect for living descendants and family members who may still feel the pain of this tragedy, I have chosen to use only the initials of those responsible for Deputy Willis' death. This story is not meant to give attention to the men who took his life, but to honor the service, sacrifice, and memory of Deputy Sheriff Walter William "W. W." Willis.

The article reported that W.M.C. and V.E. had been indicted jointly, but the Commonwealth elected to sever the cases and try W.M.C. first. The case was heard by Judge J. T. Clements. The prosecution established its case through the testimony of Dr. A. M. Gates, Dewey Inscore, Sheriff F. D. Mays, and Trooper L. E. Thomas. W.M.C. took the stand and acknowledged that he had shot Willis but denied that it was intentionally done. He stated that he recognized Willis and shot to frighten him. When asked why he did not administer aid, he replied that he guessed he was too excited. He also claimed that a boy later came to his home and told him Willis was seriously wounded, after which he dressed and went to Mount Airy, where he was arrested.

The Court deliberated only a few minutes after hearing the case before rendering the decision. The prosecution was represented by Will Joyce and Commonwealth's Attorney F. P. Burton, while J. D. Hooker was appointed by the Court to represent the defense.

Another account, dated Wednesday, December 5, reported that W.M.C. and V.E. were being held

in jail in connection with the fatal shooting of Walter W. Willis, Deputy Sheriff, the previous Saturday morning. Mr. Willis, described as 64 and "one of the most highly respected officers in the county," was fatally wounded when shot with a .22 rifle in the left side of the back while conducting a raid on a huge two-flue still in the western part of the county near the Willis Gap Road.

The shooting took place at about 9:00 o'clock. According to Sheriff F. D. Mays, Trooper L. E. Thomas, Commonwealth's Attorney F. P. Burton, and Sgt. M. A. Clark, who conducted the investigation, Willis walked and crawled to Mr. Inman's home about one-half mile away after he was shot. He lived only a short while afterward. It appears that he was able to tell whom he suspected, which led to the arrest of W.M.C. in Mount Airy a few hours later.

Sheriff Mays related that W.M.C. had confessed. According to the sheriff, W.M.C. said that when Willis appeared at the still, W.M.C. was a short distance away, while another man, V.E., was at the still and ran when the officer was sighted. W.M.C. said that when V.E. ran, Deputy Willis called on him to halt and fired once in the direction of the fleeing man. Sheriff Mays said W.M.C. declared he ran toward the still, saw the officer, fired several shots at him, and then fled.

The special grand jury indicted both W.M.C. and V.E. on the charge of murder.

The Martinsville Daily Bulletin, dated Saturday, December 2, 1939, page 1, column 3, and December 4, 1939, page 1, column 3, also reported on the tragedy. Sheriff Frank E. Mays of Patrick County was notified by telephone from Mount Airy, North Carolina, about noon that Walter Willis, Patrick County deputy sheriff, had been fatally shot near there in the line of his official duty. The shooting occurred in The Hollow community, near Willis Gap Road. The deputy lived only a few minutes after being shot while raiding a still, apparently alone.

Surviving was his father; his wife, Mrs. Mary Willis; four sons, Luther of Wilco, West Virginia; Columbus of Bassett; Kyle of Mount Airy; and Hoke Willis of The Hollow; two daughters, Mrs. Edd Hiatt of Bassett and Miss Jessie Willis of The Hollow. One brother, Bobby Willis of Powhatan, also remained. Funeral services were conducted Monday at Chestnut Grove Church by Rev. Milton Wilson and Rev. Granville Guynn, with burial in the nearby cemetery.

After his death, the Willis family published a card of thanks:

"We, the family of Walter Willis wish to express our appreciation to our friends and neighbors of their kindness and sympathy shown in our recent bereavement and for the beautiful floral offerings, and to the officers of this County and Mt. Airy, N. C. in the capture of the guilty parties.

Mrs. Walter Willis & family"

Those simple words of thanks, written in the midst of grief, speak to the strength of a family and a community bound together by sorrow, duty, and remembrance.

As we remember Deputy Sheriff Walter William "W. W." Willis, may we also remember the family who loved him, the community that mourned him, and the hills of The Hollow where he spent his life. His story is part of Patrick County's history, written not only in courthouse records and newspaper columns, but in sacrifice, service, and the quiet courage of a man who did his duty.

And so, nearly a century later, we speak his name with gratitude. Deputy Sheriff Walter William "W. W." Willis served his county faithfully, and Patrick County should not forget him.

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

## Social Security Matters

**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor**

*Association of Mature American Citizens*

**Ask Rusty – Help! SSA Says I'm Not Eligible for Benefits**

**Dear Rusty:** Help!! The Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes. What can I do?"  
*Signed: Self-employed American*

**Dear Self-employed:** For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone (including the self-employed) must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings, including your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year. As a self-em-

ployed business owner, only your net earnings are counted (e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken). The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years. If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and determine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits. For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year, or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create you online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security, and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security. If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web address [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf)

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

# SNHU releases Spring 2026 President's List

The following students were named to the Southern New Hampshire University Spring 2026 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Kimberly Stegall of Stuart, William Mitchem of Stuart, and Karleigh Wilkinson, of Critz.

# Lady Cougar Softball Wins District

**By Ashlee Mullis**

The Patrick County Varsity Softball Team traveled to Glenvar on Wednesday, May 20, getting a 16-5 win over the Lady Highlanders. This win secured the title of Three Rivers District champions for the Lady Cougars. Jenna Woods went the distance striking out 10. Lauren Hazelwood had a clutch grand slam in the 6th to stretch out the lead. She added a double as well. Hayden Lawless, Taylor Lawless, Aubreigh Large, and Journey Moore had 2 hits each. Lacey Sutphin, Woods, and Ava Hiatt each had hits in the win.

The Lady Cougars finished the regular season with a 18-3 record and will host a first-round regional game on May 29th at 6 at Cougar Field.



# Race Report: Charlotte Motor Speedway

**By Wood Brothers Racing**

Josh Berry and the No. 21 eero Ford Mustang Dark Horse battled through a challenging night Sunday in the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, getting caught up in a late-race accident that left the team with a 29th-place finish in the rain-shortened race.

After rain washed out qualifying and set the starting lineup by the rulebook, Berry rolled off 34th but quickly showed improved speed during Saturday's practice session by posting top-10 times on the speed charts.

Early in Sunday's race, Berry brought out the event's first caution flag with a spin on Lap 35, but the No. 21 team rebounded well from the setback. Berry methodically worked his way forward through the opening 100-lap segment and finished Stage 1 in 17th place.

With the eero team electing to pit prior to the conclusion of Stage 1, Berry inherited the 15th position for the start of Stage 2 and immediately climbed into the top 10. He remained a fixture inside the top 15 throughout much of the segment before taking the green-and-white checkered flag in 12th place.

Berry continued to battle inside the top 15 during Stage 3 as the No. 21 team utilized strategy during a round of green-flag pit stops to maintain track position and stay on the lead lap heading into the final 100-lap run.

As threatening weather closed in around the speedway and the intensity increased late in the event, Berry was collected in a multi-car accident on Lap 329. The Wood Brothers Racing crew completed repairs and returned the No. 21 Ford to the track multiple laps down before Berry ultimately crossed the finish line in 29th place after the race was called due to rain at Lap 373.

Throughout the Memorial Day weekend event, Berry carried the name of U.S. Army medic John Calvin Morgan on the windshield of the No. 21 Ford as part of NASCAR's 600 Miles of Remembrance program. Morgan was killed during fighting on Leyte Island in World War II and was honored alongside fallen service members throughout the Coca-Cola 600 weekend.

Berry and the No. 21 team will now turn their attention to next weekend's NASCAR Cup Series race at Nashville Superspeedway, which also serves as Berry's home track.

# Girl Scout recognition ceremony held



Girls that attended Girl Scout Troop 1302's Recognition Ceremony.

Girl Scout Troop Providence United Girl Scout Promise. 1302 held its yearly Methodist Church. Recognition Cere- The night began with mony on May 11, at the Pledge and the

for delicious food) enjoyed by all. This was followed by recognition of the girls who sold over 100 boxes of cookies: Hope, Jazzmin, Kaylin, Kay-Cee, Mackenzie, Paisley, Rebecca, Rylan. Taylor also sold 1,000 boxes. Between the girls and the cookie booths, the troop sold almost 5,000 boxes of cookies. Many thanks to all those who supported the girls with buying boxes of cookies or making a donation. The troop money from these sales goes to help with purchasing badges, patches, items for events and savings for their next big trip.

Leaders were recognized for all their hard work of organizing meetings and other events throughout the year. These great ladies are Daisies: Marcia, Pepper; Brownies: Kaitlyn, Amanda; Juniors: Dee, Mary; Cadettes, Seniors: Olivia; County Girl Scout Manager, Cathy.

The girls were then presented with the prizes they earned from nuts/candy sales and all the patches and badges they earned throughout the year. The girls have worked hard throughout the year to do the work and earn many badges and patches.

Many thanks to

parents and friends who support the girls in all that they do in Girl Scouts. The group works hard to learn many new things as well as having a good time together.

**Max Kendall Lumber & Tin**  
**Price Reduced**  
**Metal Roofing**

**Now Made In Axton, Va.**  
**276-650-2825**  
Free call 1-888-434-2825

**Lynchburg, Va.**  
**434-821-3251**  
Free Call 1-833-593-3251

**Reidsville, NC**  
**336-348-1600**  
Free call 1-833-205-1600

**20 COLORS**  
Classic Rib - PBR Panel  
Standing Seam - 5V

# Youth sports, park support among Ruritan club's projects



David Clement presents a donation to Brad Holt for the elementary girls softball team.



Wilbur Walker presents his grandson Clay Walker with a membership pin.



Ruritan members serve delicious food at the Poor Man's Supper.

for the girls softball team for grades 3 through 5 at Patrick Springs and Hardin Reynolds Elementary Schools. A check for \$200 was presented to coach Brad Holt and members of the team to help purchase uniforms for the players.

President David Clement then presented Clay Walker with his membership pin, placed on him by his grandfather and longtime member, Wilbur Walker.

A Poor Man's Supper was held on March 27th at Patrick Springs Park where members served up delicious meals of pinto beans, ham, and all the fixings to help raise money for the park. The club was able to donate \$800 to the park to help with the cost of new playground equipment.

The club also provided lunch for the faculty and staff at Patrick Springs Primary School in April to thank them for all they do for our community's children.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club met Thursday, April 9th, for their monthly meeting. The first order of business included discussion of a sponsorship

**Buy Direct and Save!**

**American Made Top Quality Low Prices Made Same Day 40 Year Warranty**

**WE FINANCE METAL ROOFS ON YOUR HOME**

**Snow Guards Lumber**  
Rough - Dressed - Treated  
PACKAGE BUILDINGS  
Contractors Welcome

maxkendalllumber.com  
8261 Mountain Valley Rd



# PCHS Graduates

(cont. from page 1)



The Class of 2026



Class of 2026 graduates wait to cross the stage and receive their diplomas.



Staff Sgt. Lindsay Hundley presented the first ever Senior to Soldier award to Khristoper Huerta Dominguez, who joined the U.S. National Guard.

unbearable. "We will forth any way," she said.

Wood said Sullivan ended her poem by describing a friend offering her two options of directions: a trail towards tall pines or a turn towards a valley of poppies. When Sullivan asks what path to choose, her friend simply shrugs and says, "either way, it's all heaven."

"That feels like graduation. We're all standing at the same intersection, but we will not take the same road. Some of us are moving away, and some of us are staying close. Some of us have had a plan for years, and some of us are still figuring things out.

"That uncertainty of what's next can be paralyzing, but we find comfort in knowing that no

matter which path we take, it can still be meaningful, it can still be beautiful, and above all, it can still be ours," Wood said.

PCHS Principal Hope Perry said the graduates have accomplished outstanding academic achievements during their time at PCHS. "Their future looks incredibly bright, and we could not be prouder of their hard work, their dedication, and success," she said.

Perry said eight students received a letter and emblem for a 4.0 GPA for the first time and seven students received it for their second year. Five students received it for a third time, and 26 students received it for their fourth year.

While earning their high school

diplomas, Perry said nine graduates also earned their associates degrees from Patrick & Henry Community College, and two earned graduates also earned their Applied Mechatronics Career Studies Certificates.

Perry noted two members of the Class of 2026 also plan to enter the U.S. military.

"I want to recognize these two remarkable members of this class whose courage, discipline, and willingness to serve leave me, and the entire staff, incredibly proud. These students have chosen a path of service by committing themselves to our nation's military in a world that constantly asks, 'What's in it for me?' They

chose something bigger than themselves: responsibility, sacrifice, purpose, and service to others. That decision deserves recognition and respect. We are proud of them beyond words," Perry said.

One of those students, Khristoper Huerta Dominguez, received the first ever Senior to Soldier Award from Staff Sergeant Lindsay Hundley.

The Class of 2026's class colors were Cougar green and gold. The class flower is a lily and the class song is "Iris" by Goo Goo Dolls. The class motto is "Things change and friends leave. And life doesn't stop for nobody," from the "Perks of being a Wallflower."

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

**Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church**  
59 Wayside Road, Stuart, VA





**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 8, 2026 - June 12, 2026**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Nightly**

**For More Information Contact: Lori Morrison - VBS Assistant**  
276-694-0153 • mlmorrison1996@gmail.com

Your relationships are why Ashbrook Audiology has corrected hearing issues for 20 years. Your relationships are more important than anything else in your life. Correcting your hearing issues positively improves every relationship you have. People just like you regain and strengthen their relationships with their family and friends everyday because they discovered Ashbrook Audiology. Come in today and experience first-hand the incredible and affordable increase in your quality of life these communication systems can bring you, and from professionals who wear hearing instruments themselves.

**WE TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SERIOUSLY! DO YOU!**



  
Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

1111 Spruce Street  
MARTINSVILLE, VA  
(276) 666-0401

4500 Riverside Drive  
DANVILLE, VA  
(434) 792-2182

**1-877-610-HEAR (4327)**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a need to lease 2,990 Rentable Square Feet, yielding approximately 2,492 -2,617 Usable Square Feet of office space in Stuart, VA. Find more information by searching for Solicitation No. 57-51141-26-FA on SAM.gov. You may also contact USDA's Lease Contracting officer via [Antonio.rodriquez@usda.gov](mailto:Antonio.rodriquez@usda.gov)

**"We Feed What We Sell"**  
Economically priced and more feed value for your money.

**AVAILABLE IN BAG OR BULK**

- Horse Feed
- Chicken Feed
- Beef Grower Feeds
- Corn Gluten Pellets
- Sheep & Goat Feed
- Hay Stretcher
- Calf Feed
- Soyhull Pellets

**Whole Beef Hamburger \$5.75/lb.**  
HAMBURGER PATTIES \$6.00 LB.

**We buy Corn, Oats, Wheat & Barley. Call for price.**

  
Mark Pendleton

**Call for prices today!**  
**888-777-5912**

Jason Pendleton

hollywoodcinema.net

  
1-3-5-7-9

  
1-4-7-9:15

  
1-3-5-7-9

  
1-3-5-7-9

  
1-3-5-7-9

  
9PM  
**tickets \$5**  
near Walmart Martinsville  
276-656-3456

**Essie Elna Hubbard Hughes**



board of directors for R.J. Reynolds Memorial Hospital, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, and as treasurer for the JEB Stuart Rescue Squad. In May 1990, she was honored as Mother of the Year by the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club. Essie found great joy in traveling and treasured moments spent with her grandchildren and family, who were most dear to her heart. Her proudest accomplishments were her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who will carry forward her legacy of kindness and dedication.

Mrs. Hughes is survived by a daughter, Kathy Dalton (Gary) of Stuart; a son, Perry Hughes (Dianne) of Stuart; five grandchild-

dren, Corey Meador (Brad) of Vinton, Sarah Sawyers (Justin) of Brentwood, Tennessee, Erica Nowlin (Chris) of Summerfield, North Carolina, Kara Pilson (Elliot) of Stuart, and Morgan Morrison (Preston) of Stuart, Virginia; and eight great-grandchildren, Cale Meador, Jace Meador, Emmett Nowlin, Elizabeth Sawyers, Jacob Sawyers, Wesley Pilson, Wyatt Pilson and Archer Morrison.

A funeral service for Mrs. Hughes will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 2:00 PM in Critz Baptist Church with Pastor Michael Morrison and Pastor Allan Vass officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Critz Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 99, Critz, Virginia 24082, or to Conners View Primitive Baptist Church, c/o Barry Fain, 459 Woodland Drive, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with arrangements, and online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Norma Ann Roman Sehen**



rett), and David Robert Burton (Olivia), and 7 great grandchildren, Jack, Wyatt, George William, Lucy, Emerson and Summer. Sibling survivors are Mary Jane Jones, Rebecca Quesinberry, Patti Clark, Mike Roman (Donna), and Tony Roman.

Norma was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to not only her own children but other children in the community and through her work with the children of her church. She loved Jesus and sharing his story and love through service in several churches over

the years, including 30+ years as a part of Meadows of Dan Baptist Church where she and Carl faithfully served in many areas.

Norma was a gifted cook, seamstress, bird lover, and master gardener. A truly nurturing person to people, plants and animals all around her. She was deeply loved by all and will be missed greatly.

Funeral services for Norma will be held on Sunday, May 24 at 2 p.m. at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Burial will immediately follow in Knowles - Eden Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, gifts to the Meadows of Dan Fire Department, Box 830, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120 would be a great way to honor her service. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Gary Earl Plaster**



for everybody to enjoy.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Debbie Martin Plaster of the home; a sister, Marsha Hylton of Woolwine; sister-in-law, Carolyn Handy (Wendell) of Stuart; nieces, Kasi Thompson (Lance) of Bassett

and Lori Haden of Stuart.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. at Peters Creek Baptist Church Cemetery with Anthony Davis and Allen Caudle officiating. Military honors will be provided by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Memorial donations may be made in Garys memory to Peters Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 6561 NC-8 Highway N, Lawsonville, NC 27022. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Manuel Enfestan Tayko**



Manuel Enfestan Tayko, age 93, of Venice, Florida, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2026. He was surrounded by family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Rosario T. Tayko. Dr. Tayko was born in the Philippines on December 7, 1932. He completed his high school and pre-medical studies at Silliman University and obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1957 from the University of Santo Tomas. In 1958 he emigrated to the United States. He was accepted into a five-year general surgery residency at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., culminating in his appointment as Chief Resident in his fifth year. During his tenure as chief resident, he undertook research in umbilical catheterization as a tool for diagnosing liver disease, which earned him first prize amongst the scientific papers presented to the Washington, D.C. Medical Society. Dr. Tayko joined a general surgery partnership in Stuart, Virginia, where he spent his career. At the local hospital (then R.J. Reynolds Memorial Hospital) he served in various positions: chief of the medical staff, member

of the hospital's Board of Trustees, and president of the medical society. He became Chief of Surgery in 1984, a position he held until his retirement. As Chief of Surgery at R.J. Reynolds, he established the Department of Ambulatory Surgery and pioneered the evolving technology of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery. He became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, and the Society of Abdominal Surgeons. He was also a member of the Stuart Medical Society, Virginia Medical Society, Southern Medical Society and the AMA. After practicing medicine for 27 years, he received recognition for his dedicated service to the citizens of Patrick County by the governor of the state. Despite his busy practice and full family life, Dr. Tayko joined several medical missions

to the Philippines to perform surgery and provide medical care for the needy, a cause he was passionate about. What became for him the most relaxing break from the rigors of medical life was raising Angus and Charolais beef cattle. He enjoyed caring for and tending to the animals' "veterinary needs." Dr. Tayko is survived by daughter Gail Tayko (Chuck), daughter Marissa Barnes (David), son Chris (Alexandra), and his beloved granddaughters, Rachel Barnes and Olivia Barnes. A celebratory mass will be held on June 12, 2026, at 10:00am at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Venice, Florida. A Committal Service will follow at Venice Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Dr. Tayko's memory can be made to a medical mission scheduled for January 2027 in his hometown of Dumagete, Philippines. Checks can be made to: Support and Advocacy Network for Dumagete, c/o Linda McGloin, Treasurer, 2 Old Hope Creek Path, Durham, NC 27707. Farley Funeral Home in Venice, Florida is handling the arrangements. To send a condolence or memory please visit [www.farleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.farleyfuneralhome.com).

**Steven Dwayne Peal**



Mr. Steven Dwayne Peal, age 59 of Stuart, passed away Sunday, May 24, 2026, at SOVAH-Martinsville Hospital. He was born in Henry County on July 27, 1966. Mr. Peal was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Sue Rorrer Peal; his maternal grandparents, Harold O. Rorrer and Mozell Chaney Rorrer; his paternal grandparents, Howard Peal and Myrtle Guynn Peal; two aunts, Barbara R. Wood and Sissy Rorrer; and three uncles, Elwood Rorrer, Kenneth Peal, and Clifford Peal.

Mr. Peal was a 1984 graduate of Patrick County High School and a member of New Hope Church of the Brethren. He was adored as the first grandchild in the family and loved the Rorrer homeplace. He enjoyed men's night

out at the cabin and playing pool. Due to his love of helping others, he was very active with fire departments. He served for 20 years with the Woolwine Fire Department and the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, where he held the title of Fire Chief. He earned numerous awards during his years as a fireman, including the Fireman of the Year Award in 2025.

Mr. Peal is survived

by his father, William Eldridge Peal; three aunts, Sue Carter, Verna Shepherd (Ernie), and Alma Dowell; an uncle, Larry Rorrer; several cousins; and his beloved dog, Tucker.

Funeral services for Mr. Peal will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. at New Hope Church of the Brethren with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. Burial will follow in the Rorrer Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6687 Fairystone Park Highway, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).



**MOODY**   
*Funeral Services, Inc.*



*"We appreciate the confidence you have shown in us for over 60 years."*

202 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA  
Phone 276-694-3145  
[www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com)  
Terri S. Wood, Manager

# PATRICK PULPITS

## Twenty five hundred years with no rules?

By Van Yandell

1 John 5: 3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

From the creation of Adam (Genesis 2: 7) until Moses came down from Mt. Saini with the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34: 29), twenty-five hundred years had passed.

Mankind had existed for those 2500 years with no rules with which to govern or control themselves.

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden had only one commandment and that was to not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; and they broke that rule.

During that 2500 years God stated He regretted creating man. Genesis 6: 6 KJV "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

We cannot imagine God doing anything He would regret; Him being omniscient. The only feasible explanation is that man was such a disastrous creation, God could not fathom humanity becoming so evil and depraved.

During those 2500 years, Noah built an ark and a global cataclysmic flood destroyed all life except those on the ark (Genesis 7: 11-12).

Also soon after that time, God established a special race of people (the Jews) to provide the world with a Savior (Genesis 12: 1-3).

The Patriarch Jacob's eleventh son, Joseph, was sold into slavery into Egypt. The Hebrew people were subjected to a famine that caused the King of Egypt (Pharaoh) and Joseph to move Jacob and his family of sixty-seven people to Egypt to survive (Genesis 46: 6).

In Egypt the Jews were enslaved for which a rescuer Moses was sent to deliver them (Exodus 3: 4). They were sentenced to a wilderness for forty years before being allowed to re-enter their promised land.

In the entire scheme of things, the Hebrew people had to be in Canaan for the Savior to be born so their deliverance and homecoming had an extended and very special purpose.

All in all, the 2500 years were very eventful and Jewish history was written during a time of two and one half millennia in which they had no confirmed set of rules to live by.

Interestingly enough, after the giving of the Ten Commandments, mankind made it obvious to God that "he" had no intention of following those rules.

The prophecy of the scriptures (those today's Christian calls the Old Testament)

had to be fulfilled in order for mankind to be reconciled to God for eternal life.

Only 1500 years elapsed between the giving of the commandments and Jesus' coming. Second Peter 3: 8b "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." That time period to us is a long time but to our eternal God, it is not.

Are there connections we can make to the 4000 years between Adam and Christ to our lives and America today? Absolutely!

We have been given a beautiful and once firmly established nation. At one time I believed The United States of America was God's chosen nation just as much as was Israel.

That choosing was for the purpose of evangelizing the world. We were given the financial resources, the incentive/motivation, the transportation and communication abilities to reach "the uttermost parts" (Acts 1: 8) for our Jesus.

Powerful, bold and vocal evangelists were called by God to deliver that imperative to the world. Writers, speakers and other courageous Christians were empowered with the spirit and the Holy Bible's directive to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The internet gives us an ability to evangelize the world in a faster and more efficient way than ever before. So, what's the problem? The rules listed in Exodus twenty (Ten Commandments) have been relegated by the masses as unimportant.

With that, the proclivity to disregard God has become a mostly unconscious mindset! Even among Christians, to consider the Ten Commandments as "suggestions" is apparent.

When humanity designates the Word of God as politically incorrect, divisive and

prejudiced, mankind's right to choose and have an opinion has been drastically perverted.

Where are we today? Are we in the next 2500 years of depravity even with God's rules published in Exodus and available to all? Sodom was destroyed (Genesis 19) for less than the level of decadence observed in America today.

The prophetic characteristics of mankind listed in 2 Timothy 3: 1-5 are all around us and casually practiced by many including Christians.

We are being warned by history and Bible prophecies. While we may heed the warnings on posted signs, why do we ignore the future actions of our Creator? We have seen His revelations happen before our very eyes, so "obvious" and "certain" are the applicable words.

Perhaps this developing series of all so observable conditions and events in our world are a warning of which we can take heed. As we read in Daniel 5: 5-6, as Belshazzar saw "the writing on the wall," are we there today?

Is there a solution? As we witness chaos developing at an unprecedented rate do Christians hold a solution for the problem? Of course we do! Perhaps we could begin to obey God's commandments and the Jesus commandment of telling the world about Him.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Simeon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In which book's 13:12 does Jesus predict children rebelling against their parents to be a sign of end times? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
3. As found in 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? *Five, Thirteen, Twenty-two, Forty*

4. From 2 Samuel 4, what 5-year-old boy was dropped by his nurse and lamed for life? *Moses, Mephibosheth, Peter, Andronicus*
5. What prophet was the son of Elkanah and Hannah? *Samuel, Huldah, Daniel, Nathan*
6. How many times in the Bible do the words "Christian" or "Christians" appear? *3, 13, 30, 300*

ANSWERS: 1) *Neither*, 2) *Mark*, 3) *Forty*, 4) *Mephibosheth*, 5) *Samuel*, 6) *Three*



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

**Risen Lord Catholic Church**  
59 Mountain View Loop  
Stuart  
(actually in Patrick Springs)  
276.236.7814  
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am-3 pm)

**Mass Schedule**  
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation  
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

**Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness**  
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357

Sunday Worship 10:45 am  
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am  
Wednesdays  
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm  
Food Distribution Ministry:  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

**Stuart Baptist Church**  
*Bringing the World to Christ*

108 W. Blue Ridge St. 9:45 Sunday School  
276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service  
www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

**Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171  
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org

**SATURDAY SERVICES:**  
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Come visit our Bible-believing church

**Join the Church Page**  
Call (276)340-2445 today!

## Super Crossword

D-PARTING

- ACROSS**
- 1 PlayStation 3 competitor
  - 4 Prefix for "bird"
  - 7 Man-to-man term of endearment
  - 13 Luau skirt
  - 19 Native (to)
  - 21 Modern way to shop
  - 22 Neckwear clasp
  - 23 Noteworthy septet of piers?
  - 25 Spanish fleet
  - 26 Worship
  - 27 Publicly revealing Edison's secret?
  - 29 Bottom-row PC key
  - 30 Recipe qty.
  - 32 Overly
  - 33 Eggs' shapes
  - 34 Successfully trap a moray?
  - 41 Shrek is one
  - 43 "There oughta be —!"
  - 44 Dozing
  - 47 Spellbound
  - 51 "This works like a charm!"
  - 55 Up-to-the-minute
  - 57 Director Ang
  - 58 Like family-friendly films
  - 59 Pres. after FDR
  - 62 Bring a Ferris wheel to a complete stop?
  - 65 Scrape (by)
  - 66 Charlotte —, Virgin Islands
  - 69 Internet ID
  - 70 TV host Philbin
  - 71 Like a king who has wild mood swings?
  - 76 Burns a little
  - 77 Army NCO
  - 78 Teensy bit
  - 79 Noted period
  - 81 Ruling eagle sitting in her high nest?
  - 84 Org. giving towels
  - 85 Iridescent button materials
  - 88 Architect I.M. from China
  - 89 "Avengers: Age of —" (2015 Marvel film)
  - 91 Government revenue sources
  - 93 Ukraine port
  - 96 Basketry willows
  - 99 Shout
  - 100 Mask
  - 102 Wish you had never met the star of "Firestarter"?
  - 107 Curved (restaurant)
  - 113 Bank acct. amount
  - 114 Uncooked
  - 115 Response to a question about "Swan Lake"?
  - 119 1996 #1 hit for Los del Rio
  - 124 Funnel-shaped bloom
  - 125 People with unorthodox opinions about a girl in Wonderland?
  - 127 Quick raids
  - 128 Cringed
  - 129 Sugar alcohol used as a sweetener
  - 130 Tiny amounts
  - 131 Goes hastily
  - 132 From — Z
  - 133 Pop/soul singer Des'—
  - 2 Suffering, figuratively
  - 3 — -Kit (police face-maker)
  - 4 Part of ACLU: Abbr.
  - 5 — voce
  - 6 "High Rollers" rapper
  - 7 See 109-Down
  - 8 With the wish (of)
  - 9 Actress Summer of "Serenity"
  - 10 Encircled with a band
  - 11 Not suitable
  - 12 Like many simple questions
  - 13 TDs or RBI
  - 14 Loud warning device
  - 15 Eliminator
  - 16 Former first lady Michelle
  - 17 Rafael of tennis
  - 18 Lawn surface
  - 20 Suffix of nationalities
  - 24 Amsterdam is its cap.
  - 28 Sticky gunk
  - 31 Island setting
  - 35 Appellation
  - 36 Dressed
  - 37 Bible book before Zechariah
  - 38 Prefix with light
  - 39 Pipe joint
  - 40 Foliage unit
  - 42 Stan of jazz
  - 45 Region of pre-Roman Italy
  - 46 Viewed intently
  - 48 Some wheel adjusters
  - 49 Animal's "family tree"
  - 50 Golf pegs
  - 51 Deep anger
  - 52 Pay attention
  - 53 Sault —, Mich.
  - 54 Replace with
  - 56 Bud of Cooperstown
  - 60 Some roofing specialists
  - 61 Up to, in brief
  - 63 Suffix with southwest
  - 64 Outdoor gear retailer
  - 67 Large city in Iraq
  - 68 Raised RRs
  - 72 "Either he goes — go!"
  - 73 Mao — -tung
  - 74 Diva Sumac
  - 75 Boomer's kid
  - 76 Mafia chief
  - 80 Horse cousin
  - 82 Campus area
  - 83 Film genre
  - 86 Skillfully
  - 87 Tranquil
  - 90 Modern, in Munich
  - 92 Scottish port
  - 94 Varnish resin
  - 95 Judge's glance
  - 97 Make more offspring
  - 98 Govt. loan agency
  - 101 LAX guess
  - 103 — mater
  - 104 Collier's tram
  - 105 Really bug
  - 106 Discarded PCs or TVs
  - 107 At the stern
  - 108 Barber's tool
  - 109 With 7-Down, the original "It" girl
  - 111 Chews on
  - 112 Town on Long Island's South Shore
  - 116 Russian news agency
  - 117 Chablis, e.g. goes — go!"
  - 118 Ovid's "Lo!"
  - 120 Brand of athletic shoes
  - 121 "— la vie"
  - 122 Slangy suffix with buck
  - 123 Cup edge
  - 126 ER staffers

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

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.

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON**  
Call (276) 694-3101

**SERVICES**

**KENDRICK PAVING & TRUCKING, PAVING,** Sealing, Line Striping, Gravel Hauling and Mulch. Rodney Kendrick 276-629-3913 or 276-340-7786. Email at kendrickpaving@gmail.com Carrying on the tradition of quality.

**CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING** (Original Kendrick Paving) Gravel hauling and spreading, grading, mulch, dirt, pavement maintenance and striping. 42 years experience. Reasonable prices. Call (276) 694-7786 (office) or (276)-340-8786 (cell) Email: ckendrick@embarqmail.com or claytonk81@gmail.com

**WOODWRX** Est. since 1988 Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County-References Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

**HYDRO AIR SYSTEMS** Heating, Cooling & Electrical Contractors, SALES & SERVICES, Licensed in VA & NC, 276-694-7308

**CUSTOM CARPENTRY,** fencing, decks, roofing, siding, gutter cleaning and guard installation, tree removal, painting, cleanouts, chimney cleaning and repair. Free local estimates 276-224-4623.

**STEVE'S MOWER REPAIR** Service and repair for all makes of lawn mowers. Pick up and delivery for a reasonable charge based on your location. We offer disposal of old mowers with free pick up and sell used mowers and other power equipment. Call 276-694-3748. If no answer, leave your name and number. We'll call you back.

**FOR SALE**

2 Hoyer Lifts for Sale One Brand New Hoyer Advance 346 Electric Hydraulic Best Lift. Never been used, paid \$2500, asking \$2000 One Like New Hoyer Electric Hydraulic Best Lift, Asking \$1800 Call 276-229-9373

John Deere zero turn 48" cutting deck, like new with only 25 hours. Asking \$3200 or best offer. Call 276-229-9373

**JOB OPENING**

**The County of Patrick is accepting applications for the position of GIS Mapping Coordinator.**

This is a full-time position with benefits exceeding \$15,000 annually, which include vacation and sick leave, life and health insurance, and retirement. Annual salary range is \$40,000 – \$50,000. Office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Evening, weekend, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required.

A detailed job description and application link are available on the Patrick County website at www.co.patrick.va.us. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026, to be considered.

The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

**The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a Solid Waste Transfer Station Attendant.**

A high school diploma or GED is preferred. Completion of training and testing to obtain the DPOR Waste Management Operator license is required following hire. Applicants must be willing to submit to a drug screen and background check.

Duties of the position will include, but are not limited to, customer assistance, operation of scales, loading trailers, and facility maintenance. The preferred candidate must be capable of performing manual labor, possess good interpersonal skills, and be able to communicate effectively with the public. Basic math, computer, and clerical skills to prepare customer tickets and perform record keeping are required.

This is a full-time position with an annual salary range of \$32,000 to \$35,000 and benefits in excess of \$15,000 annually, which include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with rotating Saturday hours. Evening, weekend, holiday, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required.

A Patrick County employment application must be completed to be

considered for the position. The application is available on the Patrick County website at www.co.patrick.va.us. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen.

The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.



**AUCTIONS**

**ATTN. AUCTIONEERS:** Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7570, advertising@commonwealthmediasolutions.com

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-844-746-2332

**SERVICES**

**DIVORCE**-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$86.00 court cost. **WILLS**-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated



completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

**JOB LISTINGS**

**MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE** Virginia Press Association / Commonwealth Media Solutions seeks a high-energy sales professional for an in-office position in Glen Allen, VA. Responsibilities include developing print/digital advertising accounts, client outreach, proposal development, and account management. 5+ years B2B sales experience preferred; media/advertising background a plus. Competitive salary + commission, benefits, and 401(k). Send resume to steve@vpa.net. For full job description, visit vpa.net/job/.



**LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS**  
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at (540) 297-1707.

*We appreciate your business!*  
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

**Jamie's Recycling Center**



**BUYING: CANS, COPPER, BATTERIES, ALUMINUM, AUTOMOBILES, CONVERTERS, WHEELS, STAINLESS STEEL, ELECTRONICS (NO TVS), AND MORE.**  
CALL 276-694-5692 FOR PRICES

**We offer Roll Off Services**   
**Home Clean Out or Construction?**  
Call 276-694-5692 for Pricing & Details

**Jamie's Recycling Center**

3609 S Mayo Dr. | Stuart, VA 24171  
276-694-5692

HOURS: M-F | 8A - 4:45P | LUNCH: 11:45A - 1P  
"With God All Things Are Possible." Matthew 19:26

**200% OF BUSINESSES** using commuter benefits to save money say it's a good idea

*If this stat is surprising, just see what else free commuter support can do for your team!*

ConnectingVA.org

connectingVA BY DRPT

**11 out of 10 BOSSES** agree that commuter benefits help attract new talent

*This math may not add up, but offering your employees commuter benefits makes perfect sense.*

ConnectingVA.org

connectingVA BY DRPT

**WHERE THEY FELL** **WHAT THEY CLAIMED**



Their lies come out of your wallet. Insurance fraud costs everyone in Virginia \$1,000 per year. Learn how to spot it and report it at TheCostOfFraud.com

**STAMP OUT FRAUD**  
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

**email us** 

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

**WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET**

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE**

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

**Meetings**

**Monday, June 8**

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

**Thursday, June 11**

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

**Wednesday, June 17**

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

**Thursday, June 18**

The Patrick County Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) will meet at 6 p.m. at the Tourism Office.

**Events**

**Friday, May 29**

The Stuart Farmers Market, 320 Chestnut Ave., Stuart, will be open from 8 a.m.-noon. The Reynolds Homestead will be onsite to help shoppers create pressed flower bookmarks with pre-pressed flowers and herbs. The Landmark Center will also offer free blood pressure checks. Check out the fresh vegetables, eggs, coffee, soaps, knitted items, bread, baked goods, and other goods available at the market.

Wayside Community Church invites everyone to come and hear an encouraging message from Pastor Mark Collins and music by Levi Head and Elijah Smith. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. A light meal and refreshments will be served after. The church is located at 3520 Wayside Road in Stuart.

**Monday, June 1 - Thursday, June 4**

Snowball Mountain Challenge at Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m. A meal will be provided. All ages welcome.

Vacation Bible School, Emerald Crossing, an Irish adventure through Psalm 23, for 4-13 year olds at Stuart Church of Living Water. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Bible school is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pre-registration is appreciated at [www.stuartlivingwater.com](http://www.stuartlivingwater.com) or by calling 276-694-3322.

**Wednesday, June 3**

The Lodge at Primland will hold a hiring event at the Patrick County Library from 2-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 3 - Thursday, June 4**

A Lady Cougar Basketball Camp for girls in K-8th grades will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 per camper.

**Friday, June 5**

The Community Food Truck will be at the SRRS from 3-4 p.m.

**Saturday, June 6**

The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) hosts the Songwriter's Circle Series at the VA Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium. Doors open at 5 p.m., with music starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at The Coffee Break, Quilted Colors, and the Patrick

County Tourism Office.

The Meadows of Dan Women's Club Bingo at the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the games start at 6 p.m. There will be raffle drawings and food available for eat in or take out. For more information, call 404-401-0064.

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will host a Barbecue Meal, 5-7 p.m. Each plate is \$10, take out only. Pulled pork barbecue, barbecue sauce, baked beans, slaw, roll, cookie, and a drink. Chicken barbecue and vegetarian beans are a substitute option. For take-out only, call 276-930-1030.

**Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12**

Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church, 59 Wayside Road, Stuart, will hold an Illumination Station VBS each day from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Morrison at 276-694-0153 or [mlmorrison1996@gmail.com](mailto:mlmorrison1996@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, June 10**

The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food boxes at its Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m., and starting at 5:30 p.m. at the community building in Meadows of Dan.

**Thursday, June 11**

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its June monthly meeting at 11 a.m., in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Philip Adams. Subway sandwiches, chips, baked beans, condiments, and beverages will be provided to all attendees. Attendees are asked to bring desserts to share.

**Sunday, June 14**

The General Joseph Martin Chapter and the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a flag day program at 3 p.m. in the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society in the old courtroom. Everyone who attends will receive a handheld American Flag.

**Friday, June 19**

The Community Food Truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

**Ongoing**

VFW Post 7800 meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Premeeting meal starts at 6 p.m.; meeting starts at 7 p.m., 939 VFW Road, Patrick Springs. Qualified new members welcome.

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.

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.

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.

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday of 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.

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.

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.

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group is sponsoring two separate day trips, with each trip featuring charter bus transportation, an exceptional show performance, and a special luncheon meal. Trip 1, Thursday, August 20, to see "The Classic Country Jubilee" at the historic Rudy Theatre in Selma, N.C. Trip 2, Thursday, December 3, to see "An Appalachian Christmas" at The Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre in Wytheville, Va. A limited number of seats are still available for either trip. Trip flyers are available at the Patrick County Recreation Office (276) 694-3917 or by contacting Judy Lacks, trip coordinator, at (276) 694-4767.

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

W	I	I	A	V	I	B	I	G	G	U	Y	S	A	R	O	N	G		
E	N	D	E	M	I	C	O	N	L	I	N	E	T	I	E	B	A	R	
T	H	E	S	E	V	E	N	W	H	A	R	F	S	A	R	M	A	D	
V	E	N	E	R	A	T	E	O	U	T	I	N	G	T	H	O	M	A	S
A	L	T	N	C	H	T	H	E	E	L	O	G	R	E					
C	L	I	N	C	H	T	H	E	E	L	O	G	R	E					
I	T	S	M	A	G	I	C	L	A	T	E	S	T	L	E	E			
R	A	T	E	D	G	H	S	T	F	R	E	E	Z	E	R	I	D	E	
E	K	E	A	M	A	L	I	E	U	R	L	R	E	G	I	S			
E	M	O	T	I	O	N	A	L	L	Y	R	E	I	G	N	I	N	G	
C	H	A	R	S	S	G	T	S	M	I	D	G	E	E	R	A			
A	E	R	I	E	Q	U	E	E	N	A	A	A	N	A	C	R	E	S	
P	E	I	U	L	T	R	O	N	T	A	X	B	A	S	E	S			
O	D	E	S	S	A	O	S	I	E	R	S	Y	E	L	L				
A	R	C	E	D	T	G	I	B	A	L	R	A	Y						
B	A	L	L	E	T	A	N	S	W	E	R	M	A	C	A	R	E	N	A
A	Z	A	L	E	A	A	L	I	C	E	M	A	V	E	R	I	C	K	S
F	O	R	A	Y	S	W	I	N	C	E	D	I	S	O	M	A	L	T	
T	R	A	C	E	S	S	P	E	E	D	S	A	T	O	R	E			

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

**Tired of driving to the landfill?** **We'll pick it up at your curb!**

Household pickup once a week - \$36 month  
Dumpsters for residential and business use available.

**WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.**  
Please call for pricing. **276-251-1303**

**RURAL SERVICES**  
Residential & Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.  
[ruralservicesinc@swva.net](mailto:ruralservicesinc@swva.net)

**Firewater SERVICE CENTER**  
1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171  
(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580  
Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:30, Sat 8:00 to 2:00  
**VALVOLINE AND SCHAEFFER OIL PRODUCTS**

*Now Offering*  
**TIRES & FRONT END ALIGNMENT**

- State Inspections
- Oil Changes using Amsoil, Valvoline & Schaeffer Oil Products
- Full Brake Service for Disc and Drum Brakes
- Replacement of Belts and Hoses
- Tune Ups
- Tire Rotations
- Starter and Alternator Replacement
- Battery Replacement

**10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS**

**WHEO**

**92.7 FM**  
Classic Hits

[wheoradio.com](http://wheoradio.com)

"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

# LEGAL

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2025 TOWN OF STUART PWSID 5141640

### INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2025 is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). If you have questions about this report or want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

**Mr. Tony Boothe, Water Plant Manager  
(276) 694-3902**

The time and location of the regularly scheduled council meeting is as follows:

**Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Town Office**

*Please note: To responsibly manage Town resources, this report will not be mailed directly to individual customers. A copy of the CCR will be published in the local newspaper and is available to the public upon request at the Town Office.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### SOURCE(S) AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Our water supply is from surface water. The primary raw water source is the South Mayo River. An auxiliary source of water is available from Carter Mountain Reservoirs.

Treatment of the surface water consists of chemical addition, coagulation, flocculation, settling, filtration, fluoridation and chlorination. All of these processes work together to remove the physical, chemical and biological contaminants to make the water safe for drinking.

A source water assessment of our system was conducted in 2001 by the Virginia Department of Health. The river source was determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination while the reservoir sources were determined to be of moderate susceptibility to contamination. These determinations were based upon criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program.

The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years. The report is available by contacting your water system representative at the phone number given elsewhere in this drinking water report.

### WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

### DEFINITIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to federal and state regulations. The table on the next page shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1 st through December 31 st, 2025. In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

**Non-detects (ND)** - lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not detectable, based on the limits of the analytical equipment used.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on health considerations.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG)** - the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Not Applicable (NA)** - The standard does not apply or no standard has been established for this contaminant.

**Running Annual Average (RAA)** - The average of sample analytical results taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### WATER QUALITY RESULTS

*We routinely monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The tables below list only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.*

Contaminant/ Unit of Measurement	Violation Y/N	Level Detected/ Range	Sample Date	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	N	0.090 (highest level) 100%<0.3	Daily	NA	TT=Max 0.3 in 95% of monthly samples	Soil runoff
Lead (ppb)	N	< 2 (90th percentile) Range: All=ND (0 of 10 samples exceeded the AL	2024	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	N	0.042 (90th percentile) Range: All=ND (0 of 10 samples exceeded the AL	2024	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) (Split Samples)	N	Average=072 Range: 0.63-0.84	Monthly 2025	4	4	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) (Entry Point)	N	Average=0.74 Range= 0.66-0.88	Daily 2025	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Chlorine (ppm)	N	Average = 1.2 Range= 0.5-1.6	Monthly at two sample sites	4 (MRDLG)	4 (MRDL)	Chlorine is added to ensure that water is disinfected
TTHM [Total trihalo- methanes] (ppb)	N	RRA=42 Range= 34-60	Quarterly 2025	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	N	RAA=19 Range= 14-27	Quarterly 2025	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N	Removal Ratio=1.0 Range= 1.0 to 1.0	Quarterly 2025	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

*Monitoring for unregulated contaminants helps the EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.*

Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	Level Detected	Sample Date	EPA Recommended Level / Health Guideline
Sodium (mg/L)	8.32	Nov. 2025	20 mg/L
Combined Radium (-226 & -228, pCi/L)	0.2	Nov. 2025	5 pCi/L

### Additional Water Quality Information & Special Notices:

- **Total Coliform Bacteria:** We monitored for Total Coliform Bacteria monthly at two sample sites throughout 2025. We are pleased to report that no samples indicated the presence of total coliform.
- **Sodium Notice:** Compliance sampling in November 2025 showed the Sodium concentration to be 8.32 mg/L, which is below the maximum recommended level of 20 mg/L set by the EPA. The recommended level is established for those individuals on a sodium-restricted diet. If you have any concerns about the Sodium level in your drinking water, you may wish to consult with your physician.
- **Nitrate/Nitrite:** We are pleased to report that testing yielded no detectable levels of Nitrate + Nitrite
- **Combined Radium:** Compliance sampling in November 2025 showed the Combined Radium concentration to be 0.2 pCi/L, which is below the maximum recommended level of 5 pCi/L set by the EPA.
- **Special Notice of the Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Results:** Any resident wishing to obtain further information regarding the unregulated contaminant monitoring results may contact Mr. Tony Boothe, Water Plant Manager, at (276) 694-3902.

*Note: The results in these tables are from testing done in 2025. However, the State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Other contaminants were either not present or below the detection limits of the laboratory equipment. Some of our results, though representative, are more than one year old. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets MCLs at very stringent levels. In developing the standards EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.*

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In accordance with 40 CFR 5141.84(a), the Town of Stuart contracted services to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory for all connections to our public water system. We are pleased to report that NO LEAD SERVICE LINES were found. This information is available to residents upon request at the Town Office (276-694-3811).

### Additional information on Lead:

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Stuart is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Stuart Water Treatment Plant at (276) 694-3902. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**VIOLATIONS:** The Town of Stuart had no violations in 2025.

### AWARDS:

The Town of Stuart has earned a 2025 "Silver" Excellence in Waterworks Operations/ Performance Award. The Town of Stuart Water Plant has received a VOP award every year since the award program was implemented in 2005.

This Drinking Water Quality Report was presented by:  
Mr. Tony Boothe, Water Plant Manager  
Town of Stuart  
P.O. Box 422  
Stuart, Virginia 24171  
(276) 694-3902

# Tubers

(cont. from page 3)

- Beauregard
- Georgia Jet
- Covington
- *Jerusalem Artichokes (Sunchokes)*

These sunflower relatives produce knobby edible tubers with a nutty flavor. Extremely hardy and productive — sometimes too productive.

### Dahlias

Though grown mostly for flowers, dahlias form tubers underground that can be divided and replanted each year.

### Yams

True yams are tropical and less common in American gardens, though they are staple foods in many African and Caribbean cultures.

### A Brief History of Tubers

Tubers changed human history. Potatoes were first cultivated over 7,000 years ago in Peru and Bolivia. Spanish explorers brought them to Europe in the 1500s, where they gradually became essential food crops for many reasons. They produce heavily in small spaces. They store well. They provide excellent nutrition.

The Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s showed both the importance — and danger — of relying too heavily on a single crop variety. Today, there are thousands of varieties to choose from.

Sweet potatoes have an equally fascinating history, traveling across the Pacific, through Polynesia and the Americas long before modern global trade routes developed.

Today, tubers remain some of the world's most important staple foods.

### Best Growing Conditions

- Tubers generally prefer:
- loose, well-drained soil,
- consistent moisture,
- full sun,

- and good airflow
- Heavy clay soil can cause misshapen tubers or rot. Raised beds or amended soil help tremendously.

### Planting Potatoes

- Plant seed potatoes in early spring, typically March through early April.
- Soil temperatures should ideally be above 45°F.
- Cut seed potatoes into chunks with at least one "eye" each and allow them to dry for a day before planting.
- Plant 4–6 inches deep, 12 inches apart, in rows about 2–3 feet apart.

### Hilling

As potato plants grow, mound soil around the stems ("hilling"). This prevents the potatoes from greening and increases yield.

### Sweet Potato Slips and Tips

Sweet potatoes love heat. Plant slips (young plants) after danger of frost passes. Mulch can be used to warm your soil early. Do not cut, dry, and plant sweet potato tubers the same as ordinary white potatoes. They won't grow nearly as many new tubers as slips can produce.

### Slips

To grow your own potato slips, set a sweet potato in a tray on top of a layer of dirt, in a warm sunny place. Wait for the potato to grow new shoots. Twist and pinch the new shoots (slips) at the base, and put them into a glass of water to develop roots. When the roots have developed, plant them in small pots to grow until the weather and the soil are above 65° to 70°. Then transplant them into your garden. Harvest before the first hard frost in October.

### Storage

Proper curing and storage can dramatically ex-

tend shelf life.

Store white potatoes in cool, dark, humid conditions. Avoid refrigeration, which converts starches into sugars.

Sweet Potatoes need to be cured before storing. Curing sweetens the vegetables and toughens the skins. To cure, leave the sweet potatoes in a consistently warm place like an upstairs room or warm attic, approximately 80–85°F for about 7–10 days. Then wrap in brown paper and store in a cool, dry, and dark place until needed.

### Fun Tuber Facts

- White potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams are not biologically related to one another. Potatoes, from the plant family Solanaceae, are related to tomatoes and peppers. Sweet potatoes, from the plant family Convolvulaceae, are related to morning glories. And, yams, which belong to the Dioscoreaceae plant family, are related to grasses and lilies.
- One potato plant can yield 5–10 potatoes or more.
- Purple potatoes contain antioxidants similar to blueberries.
- Dahlias were once grown as food crops.
- Tubers truly are underground garden treasures. They rest underground through darkness and cold, storing life quietly until conditions are right to emerge again. Another reminder that growth often begins unseen.

Happy digging!

Don't forget to tune into WHEO Tuesday morning May 26, 8:30 to 9 a.m. with Patrick County Master Gardeners for more on Potatoes and Tubers. Find us on Facebook or contact us at <https://patrickmastergardeners.org/>.

# LEGAL

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S JUDICIAL SALE OF 6733 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Meadows Of Dan, VA 24120

In execution of the Circuit Court for Patrick County Order entered on February 19, 2026 in Case No. CL25668 and Recorded among the land records of Patrick County (the "Land Records") as Instrument Number 26000384 on March 3, 2026 (the "Order"), ALG Trustee LLC, the appointed Special Commissioner, will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on July 8, 2026 at 11:00 AM the property described in the Order, located at the above address and briefly described as:

**PARCEL I**  
All those certain lots or parcels of land, with improvements thereon located and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, situated in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being known as Parcels 1, 2 and 3 containing 3.0 acres, more or less, 2.0 acres, more or less, and 10.1 acres, more or less, respectively, situated on the north side of U.S. Highway 58, as shown on Plat of Survey for Kenneth D. Hopkins, prepared by Larry G. Rakes, CLS, dated June 2, 1988, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Map Book 19, page 210.

**LESS AND EXCEPT** that certain parcel of land containing 0.08 acre, more or less, conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia by Deed dated July 14, 2004, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument Number 040002294.

**PARCEL II**  
All that certain tract or parcel of land, together with all the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, situated on the Northeast side of U.S. Route 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway), in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being designated as Tract "X 1" containing 0.819 acre, more or less, as more particularly shown on Plat of Survey for Piedmont Community Services, prepared by Terry A. Waller, L.L.S., dated September 5, 2000, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 190G.

**PARCEL III**  
All that certain tract or parcel of land, situated in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District, Patrick County, Virginia, being designated as Tract "Y", containing 1.000 acre, more or less, as more particularly shown on that plat of survey for Piedmont Community Services and Richard C. Hill and Lisa P. Hill, prepared by Terry A. Waller, L.L.S., dated September 5, 2000, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 190G. Tax ID: 4514-214; 4514-168; 4514-169-A; 4514-215; 4514-213.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A bidder's deposit of \$13,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (30) days of the Courts Order ratifying the sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Additional or Amended terms may be announced by the Special Commissioner at his sole discretion at time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-010227)  
Special Commissioner: ALG Trustee, LLC c/o Orleans Law Group PLLC P.O. Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.orleans.com

# LEGAL

## TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY

58 Steele Farm Lane, Patrick Springs, VA 24133  
Tax Map No. 4912-20(-)8-A

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated June 26, 2017, in the principal amount of \$76,032.54, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 170001241, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Patrick County Circuit Court, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, on **June 11, 2026 at 12:00 noon**, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in the County of Patrick, Virginia, and more fully described as follows:-

All that certain tract of land, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, containing 1.0313 acres as shown on that survey entitled "Michelle Smith", prepared by Fork Mountain Surveying, and Mapping Inc., dated March 9, 2017, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 170000551.

Pursuant to Section 8.9A-604 of the Virginia Code, a 2017 Giles Manufactured Home, Serial No. SGI016903TN will be sold with the real property.

**TERMS:** Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale.  
**WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC**  
Substitute Trustee  
**For Information Contact:** Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

# LEGAL

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY FIRST BUSINESS SPECIALTY FINANCE, INC.

401 Charmany Drive,  
Madison, WI 53719  
Plaintiff,

v.  
**CF TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC** Case No. 26CV657  
4223 Hunt Club Cir., Case Code: 30301  
Apt. 914,  
Fairfax, VA 22033

and  
**JULIO BAZAN**  
10281 Cedar Ridge Drive,  
Manassas, VA 20110  
Defendant.

### AMENDED PUBLICATION SUMMONS

#### THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE DEFENDANT NAMED ABOVE:

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also hereby served upon you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after May 20th, 2026 (which is the first day that this Summons was published), you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Dane County Courthouse, 215 S. Hamilton Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703 and to the plaintiff's attorney, Josh C. Kopp, whose address is 10 East Doty Street, Suite 900, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.  
Dated this 8th day of May, 2026.

von BRIESEN & ROPER, s.c.  
By: Electronically signed by  
Attorney Josh C. Kopp  
Josh C. Kopp  
State Bar No. 1041791  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**Mailing Address:**  
10 East Doty Street, Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703  
T: 608-661-3967  
F: 608-238-6449  
josh.kopp@vonbriesen.com  
**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE**

# LEGAL

## PATRICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Food Services Department

P.O. Box 346 • 132 North Main Street • Stuart, Virginia 24171  
Phone (276) 694-3836 • Fax (276) 694-3170

Request for Proposal (RFP - Foodservice)

Milk/Dairy Supplies #06-03-2026

May 13, 2026

Patrick County Public Schools is seeking proposals to furnish school milk/dairy products to six elementary schools and one high school for the 2026-2027 school year. Patrick County is located in south/central Virginia, west of Martinsville. The district has approximately 2,000 students. School nutrition programs serve an average of 1450 lunch meals and 1200 breakfast meals per day at seven (7) sites.

If your company is interested, please contact Darlene Rogers to receive a RFP packet.

darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us

The RFP is also available at www.patrick.k12.va.us - (Select News Tab)

All RFPs must be mailed or delivered to:

<b>MAILED:</b>	<b>DELIVERED:</b>
Patrick County Public Schools	Patrick County Public Schools
ATTN: Darlene Rogers	ATTN: Darlene Rogers
School Nutrition Program	School Nutrition Program
P.O. Box 346	132 N. Main Street
Stuart, VA 24171	Stuart, VA 24171

RFPs will be accepted until June 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. There will not be a pre-proposal meeting. The RFPs will be opened and tabulated at the School Nutrition Office, 132 N. Main St, Stuart, Va. on June 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

In the event that the selected business, to which this proposal has been awarded, fails to meet the division's Dairy needs promptly and in accordance with the specifications and prices of the proposal item or items, Patrick County Public Schools reserves the right to cancel the award and purchase elsewhere.

Thank you,

Darlene Rogers

Darlene Rogers  
Director of Food Service  
Telephone: 276-694-3836  
Fax: 276-694-3863

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

# First Saturday Outing paddle set for June

Enjoy a late-spring outing with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) during a First Saturday Outing paddle on the beautiful Mayo River. Participants will float approximately six miles from Anglin Mill's Mayo Beach to NC 770 near Stoneville, North Carolina.

Participants are asked to meet by 9:00 a.m. at Old Anglin Mill Road, downstream from Anglin Mill Bridge. During the outing, the group will float past portions of the Mayo River State Park. Coordinating the trip is Lucas Conkle, an avid paddler and river enthusiast.

"Beginning paddlers are invited to launch below Mayo Beach for a fairly easy float through mostly Class I waters," said Conkle. "There's one tricky rapid just upstream of the put-in that can be avoided by launching downstream from it."

Expert paddlers looking for more excitement will have the option of running the famous "Boiling Hole" and the "S-Turn" (also known as "Blender") before continuing with the remainder of the trip. Helmets are strongly recommended for anyone choosing to paddle the "Boiling Hole" section.

Otherwise, much of the excitement comes from navigating small rapids through several 1,000-year-old fish weirs created in the river by Native Americans and used by local residents until about 1900. These V-shaped stone fish weirs concentrated migrating fish at the point of the "V," making it possible to collect them in nets or baskets. Great spawning runs once came from the Atlantic Ocean, up the Roanoke and Dan Rivers, into the Mayo River and its tributaries, where fish laid their eggs before heading back downstream. For centuries, before dams halted the migrations, people living along the river made huge catches that fed communities and supported local livelihoods. Today, the fish weirs provide routes through shallow water and add to the uniqueness of the float.

Paddlers may also have the opportunity to observe habitat associated with the recent reintroduction efforts of the Roanoke logperch, a rare native fish species once thought to be disappearing from portions of the Dan and Mayo River systems. Conservation and restoration work in the Mayo River has helped support the return of this unique species and highlights the ecological importance of protecting clean, free-flowing waterways throughout the basin.

Portions of the land along this section of the river are part of North Carolina's Mayo River State Park. The Mayo River remains one of the region's greatest natural assets. Paddlers can enjoy the river's unspoiled beauty, forested banks, wildlife, birds, and few signs of civilization. Watch the riv-



Photo by DRBA

erbanks for blooming wildflowers along the water's edge. Layers of azalea, mountain laurel, and rhododendron climb the banks beneath a thick forest canopy. Songbirds migrating through the area or establishing nesting territory join waterfowl such as ducks, herons, and kingfishers along the route.

Participants are asked to bring:  
\*A boat suitable for river paddling  
\*A properly fitting life jacket  
\*Lunch and drinking water  
\*Clothing made of wool or quick-drying synthetic materials  
\*A willingness to get wet

**NOTE:** All participants will be required to sign DRBA's waiver prior to the event. If you have attended one of our FSO's in the past, you will be asked to initial your waiver on file.

**Directions to the Put-In**  
From US 220 north of Stoneville, take the Smith Road (SR 1360) exit and turn west. Travel approximately four miles to the T-intersection with Anglin Mill Road (SR 1358). Turn left onto Anglin Mill Road and continue about one-half mile to within less than a mile of the Anglin Mill Bridge over the Mayo River. Turn left onto unpaved Old

Anglin Mill Road (SR 1385). Continue one-half mile to the T-intersection with Mayo Beach Road (SR 1359).

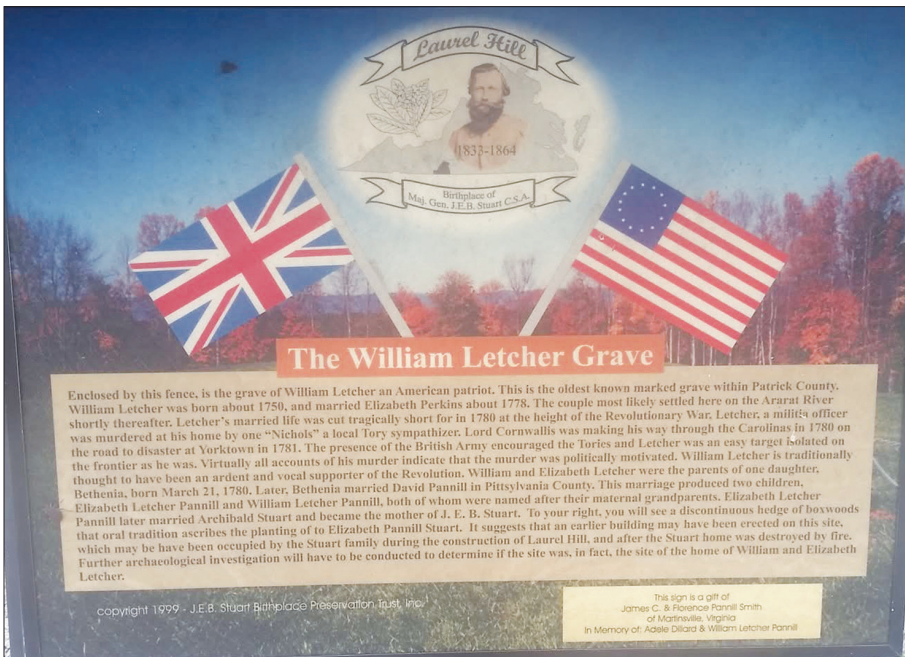
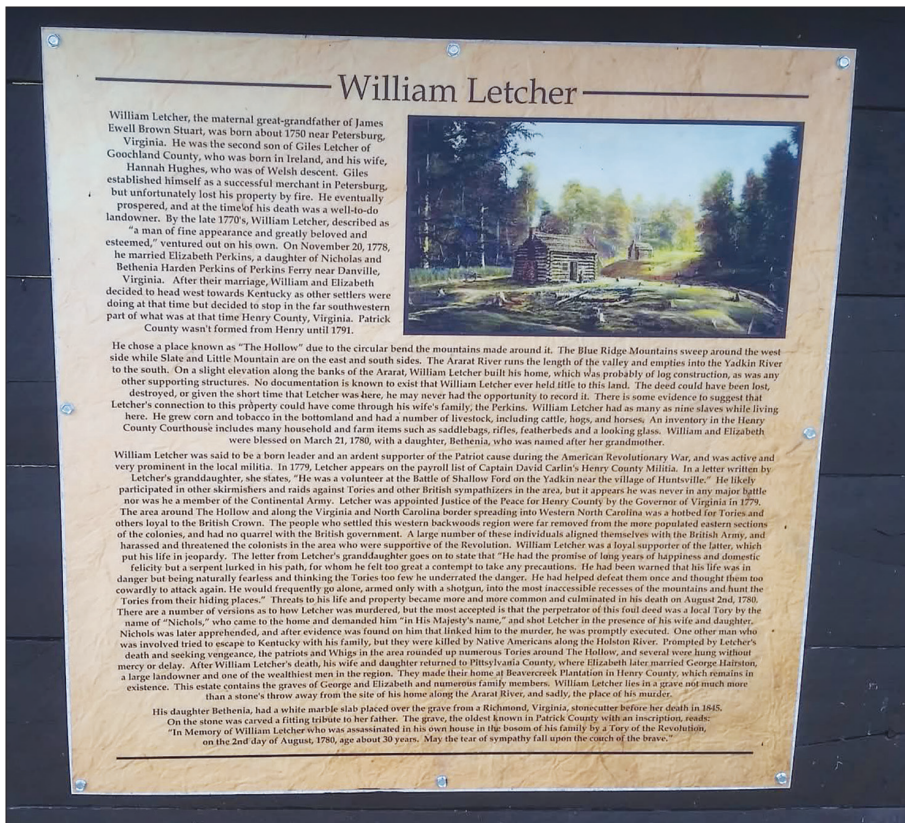
GPS Coordinates: 36.528463, -79.989540  
For more information about the outing, Trip Coordinator: Lucas Conkle / Email: l\_conkle@hotmail.com.

## Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs  
Standing Timber or Timberland  
Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at  
**(276) 694-4432**

# Remembering William Letcher On Memorial Day



**By Tom Perry**

On Memorial Day, we remember those who gave their lives in defense of this nation. Corporal William Letcher was a member of David Carlin's Henry County Militia. Patrick County did not exist during the American Revolution. He was a friend of George Hairston and married to Elizabeth Perkins. He was one of the first from our county to give his life in military service, as noted today on the Wall of Honor in the Patrick County Administration Building.

On June 29 at 6 p.m., Patrick County will kick off its America 250 celebration, a weeklong celebration of the history of our country and our county. The first event will be held at the grave of William Letcher at the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace in Ararat, Virginia, where I will speak on Stuart's great-grandfathers in the American Revolution.

Letcher lost his life to a pro-British "Tory" during the summer of 1780 in the presence of his wife, Elizabeth Perkins Letcher, and their daughter Bethenia, who was born in March 1780. It was Bethenia who would bring Archibald and his wife, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill, the daughter of Bethenia, to Laurel Hill in the mid-1820s. Their youngest son, James Ewell

Brown Stuart, was born here on February 6, 1833.

In 1780, Thomas Jefferson was the Governor of Virginia. George Washington at Morristown, New Jersey, would suffer a blow when, a month after Letcher's death, Benedict Arnold betrayed the Patriot cause and joined the British.

In May 1780, Lord Charles Cornwallis took Charleston, South Carolina. He began moving up through the Carolinas, enabling those who were pro-British, the Tories, to become active, which I believe led to the death of William Letcher in Henry County, Virginia. It did not become Patrick County until a decade later.

On August 16, 1780, the Patriots lost the Battle of Camden in South Carolina, led "by General Horatio Gates and a British force led by General Lord Charles Cornwallis; the engagement resulted in a British victory. In the aftermath, Congress removed Gates as the commander of the Southern Army, and General George Washington replaced him with General Nathanael Greene."

Things began to turn on October 7, 1780, when a "Patriot militia from the Carolinas, Virginia, and present-day Tennessee" surrounded and defeated a loyalist force under Major Patrick Ferguson at



Kings Mountain, South Carolina. Indicating the deep divisions within America, Ferguson is the only British soldier on the field. Kings Mountain is truly a battle among Americans about their future."

The Patriot cause continued an upward trend with the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781, when "Continental soldiers and patriot militia under General Daniel Morgan defeated a British force under Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens in South Carolina. Coming on the heels of the victory at Kings Mountain, Cowpens helps convince worried patriots that the British southern strategy can be countered. Many historians believe that the colonies were divided with 1/3 for the Patriots, 1/3 pro-British, and 1/3 on the fence waiting to see what happened."

J. E. B. Stuart's great-grandfather, Alexander Stuart, fought at Guilford Courthouse near present day Greensboro, North Carolina, on March 15, 1781. "British troops win a costly victory over Continen-

tals and militia at Guilford Courthouse, N.C. The battle is part of General Nathanael Greene's strategy of engaging the British on ground of his choosing. Without winning a single clear-cut victory, he will succeed in wearing down the British army through hit-and-run tactics and set-piece battles."

The following year, 1781, Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Patriot and French forces at Yorktown, Virginia. Two years later, the American Revolution ended with the Treaty of Paris.

Elizabeth Perkins Letcher and her baby daughter, Bethenia, would leave the banks of the Ararat River and end up at Beaver Creek near Martinsville, Virginia, when Mrs. Letcher married George Hairston. Before she died in 1845, Bethenia Letcher Pannill would place the white marble gravestone over her father's final resting place. It came from a Richmond stone cutter named Montjoy and is the oldest marked grave in Patrick County.