THE ENTERPRISE

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

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'Everything is on the table' for broadband project

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County supervisors are openly considering alternatives to the county's long-running broadband expansion plan after learning that parts of the Meadows of Dan area remain at the end of the current construction schedule.



Chairman Andrew Overby said the county is reviewing all available options to ensure broadband service reaches as many residents as possible. "To me, everything is on the table at this point," he said.

Several members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors said they support exploring whether another provider could take on portions of the project if grant funding can be reassigned, while others said they want additional information before any decisions are made.

The discussion followed the board's May 26 broadband work session, where representatives from Appalachian Power, RiverStreet Networks, Citizens, and Spectrum provided updates on ongoing projects across the county.

According to updates from Appalachian Power and RiverStreet, broadband construction in the Meadows of Dan area is among the last phases of the project. During the meeting, Chairman Andrew Overby of the Dan River District, asked Citizens CEO Donna Smith whether her company could serve the area if grant funding were shifted from RiverStreet.

Smith said Citizens could do so, noting the company already has a backbone route through Meadows of Dan and expects to have four crews available after completing work in Wythe County within the next two to three months.

Overby said the county is working with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission to better understand the broadband agreement with RiverStreet.

"I am making sure that we're looking at all options to ensure that we don't run out of grant funds and that

(See Broadband p. 3)



Stuart Family Practice opens June 1 as a rural health clinic in Stuart.

Medical practice opens in Stuart

By Taylor Boyd

The former Patrick County Urgent Care reopened June 1 as Stuart Family Practice, a rural health clinic.

The facility temporarily closed in November before undergoing the rebranding effort.

Dr. Richard Cole said schedules were kept light on the first day because staff were unsure what to expect.

"It's doing fine. Everything's up and running," he said.

Since opening, Dr. Richard Cole said schedules were kept light on the first day because the staff were unsure what to expect. Cole said he has not heard any complaints from patients.

"Everybody seems to be fine with it. One drawback, I guess, is we don't have the LabCorp draw lab here, so for venipuncture lab drawing, we have you go to the other office," he said of Patrick County Family Practice.

"We'll try to do that ahead of time, so we have the results before they come," he added.

Aside from that difference, Cole said the same services are offered at both locations.

Cole and family nurse practitioner Crystal Black will serve as providers at Stuart Family Practice.

"I'm here full time Monday through Friday, except Wednesdays. I have to go to the nursing home on Wednesdays," Cole said.

He estimates the practice's two providers will see about 40 patients each day.

"Some days will be less, and some days will be more. We can do more than that if we have to, but I would hope to see at least that much" daily, he said.

Because Stuart Family Practice is designated as a rural health clinic, Cole said it receives enhanced reimbursement through all-inclusive payment rates.

"We noticed that when we had the urgent care,

(See Medical p. 3)

Patrick Central School marker to be unveiled Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

A historical marker honoring the legacy of Patrick Central School will be unveiled Saturday, June 13.

The ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the corner of Salem Highway, or Virginia 8, and Blackjack Road.

Mary Sawyers, who led the effort to secure the marker, said the Virginia Department of Transportation has asked attendees to park on Blackjack Road rather than along the highway.

"We have a ceremony we're going to do. We'll have different speakers come in and talk, and we're going to have some of the classmates speak. Then we're going to unveil the marker," she said.

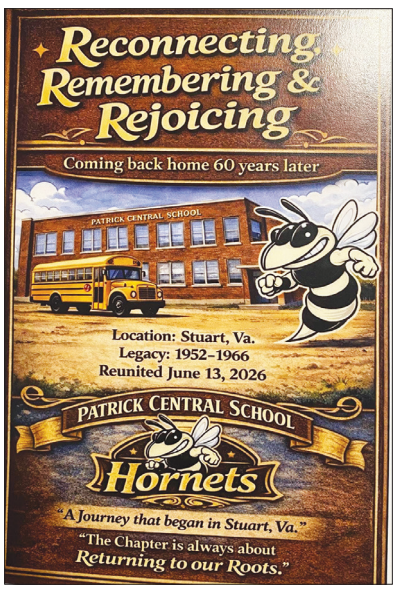
Patrick Central School was a segregated school that served African American students in Patrick County from 1952 until 1966, when desegregation took place.

Approximately 600 students attended the school during its 14 years of operation. Fourteen teachers and three principals served there during that time.

Sawyers said obtaining approval for the marker took about 18 months. The Patrick County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved supporting the historical marker during a March 2025 meeting.

She estimates about 100 people will attend the unveiling ceremony.

To commemorate the occasion, Patrick Central School memorial booklets containing information about the school's history, teachers, graduates, and more will be available for purchase for $10 each.



A historical marker honoring Patrick Central School will be unveiled Saturday, June 13, at 2 p.m. at the corner of Virginia 8 and Blackjack Road.

Following the unveiling, a reunion for former Patrick

(See Patrick p. 3)

Library, bookmobile receive funds for summer reading initiative



Town Manager Bryce Simmons awards Somer Ojodeagua, PC Library Branch Manager, $1,000 on behalf of the Town of Stuart, to go towards the new Splash and Read event. The initiative is also sponsored by Stuart Rotary, One Family Productions, and the Stuart Ruritan Club.

The Patrick County Library and Bookmobile will be using a new incentive program for the annual summer reading called 'Splash and Read.' The plan is for participants (preschool-teens) to receive punch cards, like those used in the "Book it" Pizza Hut program from the 1990s.

Participants must attend four out of the seven summer reading programs provided at the library and submit their reading time log, which should be signed by their parents. Parents will also play a role in this effort by taking their child to the events and agreeing to the reading goals. Reading goals will vary based on age. Once the child finishes the punch card, both the child and their parent will get a free pass to the pool.

The summer reading program began on June 1 and runs until July 28. This will give participants a few weeks to finish their punch cards and use their pass at the pool in Stuart before it closes in August. On July 28, the Splash and Read finale will be held at DeHart Park, with awards distributed at that time.

More than 20 named in recent indictments

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

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

Those named in the indictments are:

*Dustin Joseph Mills, 41, of Stuart, larceny of a firearm, Oct. 14.

*Kevin Wayne Woods, 52, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II. drugs, Dec. 26.

*Brenda Leigh Williams Floyd, 58, of Claudville, break and enter, Feb. 10.

*Chance Anthony Self, 29, of Axton, one count each maliciously throw missile into occupied motor vehicle, drive while intoxicated, and elude, Sept. 5.

*Travis Lee Shumate, 40, of Claudville, three counts attempt to bribe a witness and one count each abduction and malicious wounding, Dec. 27 through Jan. 11.

*Brandee Feazelle, 26, of Collinsville, one count each grand larceny and grand larceny of a motor vehicle, Sept. 17.

*Chad McCray Williams, 52, of Lawsonville, N.C., non-violent felon in possession of a firearm, Feb. 7.

*Jason Garrett Chilton, 40, of Ararat, attempted malicious wounding, Sept. 29.

*James Wayne Greer, 44, of Stuart, one count each elude and grand larceny, Jan. 6.

*Brett Lane Williams, 57, of Stuart, domestic assault and batter, Aug. 7.

*Zachary Thomas Golding, 23, of Mt. Airy, N.C., destruction of property, Jan. 12.

*Justin Lee Morris, 45, of Ararat, one count each abduction and possession of Sch. I or II drug, Dec. 22.

*Roy Melvin Davis, Jr., 69, of Patrick Springs, two counts animal cruelty, Jan. 13.

*Ashley Lynn Bogle, 42, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, Feb. 17.

*Joyce Lee Charles, 43, of Martinsville, two counts mail theft and one count credit card theft, Feb. 23 through Feb. 25.

*Jason Garrett Chilton,40, of Ararat, assault of law enforcement officer, Sept. 29.

*Joel Ray Hamm, 56, of Meadows of Dan, distribution of Sch. I or II drugs, April 30.

*Joy Grace Howard, 38, of unknown, nine counts obtain money by false pretense and eight counts each forgery, uttering, Nov. 1 through Jan. 31.

*Cynthia Marie Hughes, 43 of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, Dec. 24.

*Kody Devin Katzer, 30, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, Oct. 8.

*Dallas Wesley Thompson, 36, of Ararat, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, Oct. 28.



Landmark Center to Host Hospice Lunch and Learn June 17

The Landmark Center in Stuart will be hosting "Why Hospice? Why Now?" in its community room at noon on Wednesday, June 17, according to community relations director Lisa Martin.

"Many people have such misunderstandings about all that hospice does and can do, not just for a patient, but for families and caregivers, too," said Martin. "This program will not only dispel myths about what hospice is and who it serves, it will also shed light on many of the new benefits offered to families."

Nellie Vernatter, Senior Hospice Liaison for Amedisys Hospice, will be the featured speaker for the Lunch and Learn.

Vernatter will cover topics including the benefits of hospice, palliative vs. hospice care, compassionate family support, and she will be available to answer any questions that attendees may have.

Lunch is provided for this event, and there is no charge to attend. "Programs offered for the community are part of the Landmark's mission to be a resource of information on senior care," Martin said.

Anyone wishing to attend the June 17 program should call the Landmark at 276-694-3050 to register. "Walk-ins, of course, are welcome," said Martin, "but a heads-up that you're attending helps us plan for the delicious lunch we are preparing."

The program begins at noon.

Patrick County Chamber to celebrate Jessup & Associates milestone

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Business After Hours event for Jessup & Associates, PLC, on Thursday, June 18, at the firm's new office at 116 N. Main St. in Stuart.

The event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., with the ribbon cutting scheduled for 6 p.m.

In addition to celebrating the opening of the new office, the event will recognize Jessup & Associates' 30 years of service to the community.

Guests will have an opportunity to tour the office, network with local business leaders and join in the anniversary celebration.

"We are excited to celebrate this milestone with Jessup & Associates," the chamber wrote in a statement. "Thirty years of dedication and service is an incredible accomplishment, and we are proud to support their continued investment in our community."

The event is open to the public. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP through the chamber's website at www.patrickchamber.com.

For more information about chamber events and programs, visit www.patrickchamber.com.

Pets of the Week

This gorgeous tortoiseshell kitty is available (there are so many cats and kittens at the shelter right now).

Salem is a handsome male Great Pyrenees mix. He is very friendly.

Please save a life! Adopt! 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



Woolwine Warrior Readers announced

Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of its top readers who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack. In addition to this, students who read the most books in each grade level also received a free book. Congratulations everyone. Continue reading over the summer!

The top readers are:



Pre-K – Crawford Pilegard read 30 books.



Kindergarten – Addisyn Vipperman read 63 books.



First Grade – Isabella Johnson read 27 books.



Second Grade – Carter Hall read 87 books.



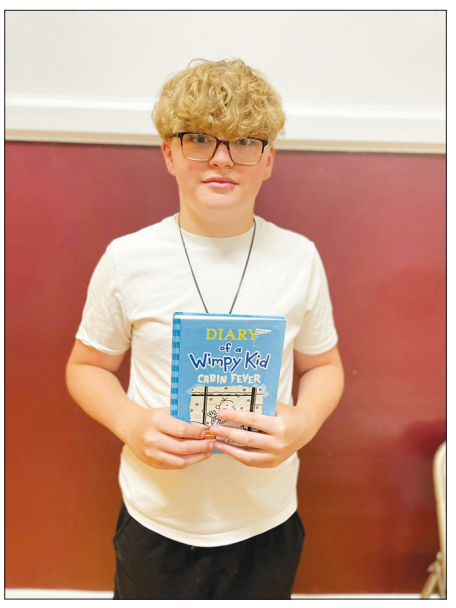
Third Grade – Sophia Stancescu read 3,936 pages.



Fourth Grade – Madilynn Shuff read 1,147 pages.



Fifth Grade – Maelynn Jones read 1,477 pages.



Sixth Grade – Joel Shaffer read 982 pages.



Seventh Grade – Wyatt Rodgers read 407 pages.



Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Dallas Wesley Thompson, 36, of Ararat, was charged May 29 with one count each grand larceny and possess child pornography. Inv. J.W. Kruse was the arresting officer.

*Chris Dewayne Simmons, 31, of Stuart, was charged May 31 with assault and batter. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Kenneth Russell Griffith, 36, of Claudville, was charged May 21 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Penny White Foley, 62, of Stuart, was charged May 22 with trespass. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Roger Ernest Hiatt, 39, of Cana, was charged May 24 with fail to appear. New River Valley Regional Jail made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Allie Nichole Moore, 33, of Collinsville, was charged May 24 with unauthorized use of vehicle. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Carlis Wayne Oliver Jr., 51, of Patrick Springs, was charged May 25 with violation of bond conditions and supervisions with HPCS. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Corey Caine Jamison, 37, of Stokesdale, N.C., was charged May 26 with two counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jamie Lynn Santillo, 32, of Martinsville, was charged May 27 with drive motor vehicle with license revoked/suspended. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Creighton Leigh Burris, 34, of Stuart, was charged May 27 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Richard Daryl Epperson, II, 24, address unavailable, was charged May 28 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy B. Fields was the arresting officer.

*Isreal Jacob Davis, 27, of Floyd, was charged May 11 with one count each fail to appear and fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*Matthew Lewis Roberts, 30, of Stuart, was charged May 11 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Elijah Charles Clarke, 20, of Bassett, was charged May 12 with assault. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Joseph Ray Walton, 37, address unavailable, was charged May 12 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Allie Nicole Moore, 33, of Bassett, was charged May 14 with one count each ID theft and conspiracy ID theft. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jamie Lee Gray, 51, of Claudville, was charged May 14 with fail to appear. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan Robert Smith, 39, of Martinsville, was charged May 14 with four counts probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Oliver Thomas Underwood, 26, of Spencer, was charged May 14 with petty larceny. Major R.S. Coleman was the arresting officer.

*Zachary Dalton Scales, 30, address unavailable, was charged May 14 with five counts probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Hannah Elizabeth Woody, 25, of Claudville, was charged May 14 with grand larceny. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Zachary Dalton Scales, 30, of Claudville, was charged May 14 with one count each grand larceny and escape without force. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*William Alfred Doss, 61, of Collinsville, was charged May 15 with drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Vernon Leon Henry Charles, 41, address unavailable, was charged May 16 with three counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*James Jonathan Turner, 46, address unavailable, was charged May 16 with five counts probation violation. Trooper J.T. Lawson was the arresting officer.

*Brad Thomas Adams, Jr., 44, of Hiwassee, was charged May 18 with probation violation. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Sarah Rose Branch, 43, of Stuart, was charged May 20 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*George Lee Bombe Jr., 62, of Claudville, was charged May 21 with one count each break and enter building and grand larceny steal. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Jessica Renee Bailey, 39, of Henry County Adult Detention Center, was charged May 2 with two counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*William Lee Haynes, 27, of Ararat, was charged May 3 with grand larceny. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Kaitlyn Nicole Hiatt, 28, of Ararat, was charged May 3 with grand larceny. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Wyatt Chase Smith, 27, of Ararat, was charged May 5 with fail to obey court order. Deputy M. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Adam Michael Polzella, 45, of Martinsville, was charged May 6 with fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

Medical

(cont. from page 1)

our collections ratio was about 55 percent of our charges, and about 65 percent at the rural health clinic. So when we decided to bring this back, it just made better financial sense to reopen it as a rural health clinic. It's just more financially viable," Cole said.

Patrick County Family Practice also plans to expand later this year with the addition of new providers.

Cole said Carolyn Hicks will join the practice once she is credentialed, and Dr. Mitchell Brown is expected to begin in mid-August.

"He graduated from Mount Airy High School," Cole said.

Future plans also include relocating Patrick County Med Spa, which currently shares the building with Stuart Family Practice, to the building's lower level.

"Sometime within the next six to 12 months, depending on how long it takes us to do the renovations downstairs," Cole said.

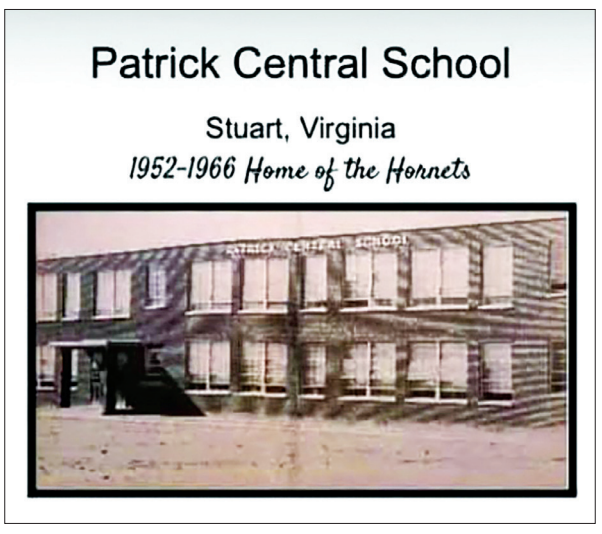
The Caring Hearts Free Clinic will remain in its current location.

Stuart Family Practice is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are accepted.

For more information, call 276-694-2199.

Patrick

(cont. from page 1)



Central School students will begin at 3 p.m. at the Rotary Building in Stuart. The cost is $20 per person.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCentralSchool-Stuart,Va.

Laurel Fork-based health group receives grant funds

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded Tri-Area Community Health, based in Laurel Fork, a $3,279,104 grant to support operations of local health centers.

"Access to local health care centers benefits rural communities in Virginia's Ninth District," U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said in a statement. "This HHS grant for more than $3.2 million helps this community health care center deliver health care access in Virginia's Ninth District."

Tri-Area Community Health administers services at locations in Laurel Fork, Ferrum, Floyd, Fries, Galax, Troutdale, Hillsville and Cana.

As a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Griffith serves as the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Broadband

(cont. from page 1)

we can cover as many people as possible. To me, everything is on the table at this point," he said.

Overby said the board is encouraging RiverStreet to work with other providers, like Citizens, on the broadband projects to deliver service to residents.

"If there's any way they can work with other companies to come to an agreement, we're all for it. At the end of the day, we just want to make sure that everybody's covered. I look at it as a divide-and-conquer kind of thing. To me, it's better to have several different avenues," he said.

He added that any changes or developments will be shared publicly.

"I don't foresee anything else, any more discussions coming about until there's some sort of change in the system we have right now," Overby said.

Vice Chairman Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he favors exploring ways to move away from the current arrangement with RiverStreet.

"I'm afraid if we keep holding onto RiverStreet we're going to lose the grants and lose it all," he said

Kendrick said Smith followed up after the work session and expressed interest in discussing possible options if the county wanted to pursue an alternative approach.

"I think Smith sent us another email back after that meeting the other night, and told us she thought about it some more, and she would really be interested in looking at it and seeing if we could come together on something. That made it look even better to me," he said.

Any shift in grant funding would likely require approval from federal officials, Kendrick said.

When attending a Virginia Association of Counties broadband committee meeting about two years ago, Kendrick said he was struck by how far Patrick County lagged behind neighboring localities.

"I told" the presenter "that we wouldn't even have that if it hadn't been for around Ararat, where Spectrum got that area. I said Floyd County is rougher than Patrick County and more rural and everything else, and here they are with 100 percent, and we got 14 percent and no idea when we're going to get the rest of it," he said.

Kendrick said reliable broadband is essential for residents, businesses, and access to services such as telehealth.

"It's stuff like people that want to work from home, old people that could use telehealth if they had fiber to where they could do it. It's just pitiful. We're a rural, low-income county, actually a poverty county, I guess, and we get left out of everything. We're always the last county to get anything, and I'm tired of it," he said.

Peters Creek District Supervisor Jonathan Wood said he also believes the county should consider every available option.

"As I said in the meeting the other night, it's kind of like Ford or Chevrolet, it doesn't matter. It's just which one is better at that particular time," Wood said. "I've owned them all, so I don't care if it's RiverStreet, I don't care if it's Citizens, I don't care if it's Xfinity, it doesn't matter as long as we can get reliable internet for all of the citizens in the county."

Wood said he would support examining whether grant funding could be transferred from RiverStreet to Citizens.

"We owe it to everybody," he said.

Wood, who lives along U.S. 58, said Starlink is currently the only high-speed internet service available at his home.

"When it pours down rain or is very overcast, I go from 123 megabytes a second down to the 20s," he said. "The 20s were as fast as I could get with any other hardwired internet."

With some of the hardwired internet he's had in the past, Wood said it would drop down to one or two megabytes per second.

"In modern society, that's not going to get it done. He said the issue affects residents who rely on internet service for work. My wife works from home, and she knows when the internet slows it down. It's not like we're playing video games and streaming three or four different things. It's her trying to actually do her work at home and not able to get it done," Wood said.

Smith River District Supervisor Richard Cox said he has not reached a firm conclusion and wants additional information before deciding how the county should proceed.

"To be truthful, what I got out of that meeting, particularly for Woolwine, is we might as well look to Starlink up here for service unless we want to wait two more years," he said. "As far as Citizens, that may be a solution for the Meadows of Dan area, and those areas where Citizens has service available."

Cox said he has asked for more information regarding the county's broadband efforts and RiverStreet's position on several issues.

"Right now, broadband is kind of up in the air," he said, adding that it is unfortunate because broadband is an immediate priority for Patrick County's economic future.

"I can't see companies coming in here without the capability of adequate communications, and that seems to be the method that's most suitable to corporations, and that's broadband," he said. "So we're at a disadvantage if we don't have broadband, but what the solution is, we've got to get that broadband — it's still questionable."

Once additional information is gathered, Cox said the board may hold another work session to discuss the issue.

"But right now, until we get the information that I think Mike (County Administrator Michael McGuinness) is trying to acquire, I think we're kind of at a standstill without that," Cox said.

Blue Ridge District Supervisor Steve Marshall did not respond to requests for comment.

Thank you for reading The Enterprise

DC



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Rural community representation is important for Virginia and the United States.

Our communities have unique needs and special interests. This applies in agriculture, health care and many other fields.

Virginia's Ninth District is overwhelmingly rural.

This contrasts with other urban and suburban parts of the Commonwealth, like Northern Virginia.

I usually hear people express their concerns that politicians in Richmond and D.C. promote the interests of Northern Virginia at the expense of the rest of the state, primarily our rural communities.

These concerns simmered during the recent Democratic Party's redistricting push in Virginia. Richmond Democrats sought to reduce Republican representation in the U.S. House from 5 seats to 1 seat.

To do so, the proposed districts would force many rural communities into districts dominated by Fairfax County.

Northern Virginia's political power would grow even more!

Fights over representation extend across the Potomac River where Democrats want to make D.C. the 51st state.

In 2021, I voted against Democrats' H.R. 1 which endorsed D.C. statehood.

I also voted against Democrats' H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which granted D.C. statehood under the name "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth."

I will continue to oppose partisan efforts that create two new seats in the U.S. Senate for the Democratic Party.

However, one proposal in Congress would impact D.C. representation and its influence on the Commonwealth.

The Make DC Square Again Act sets in motion the process for Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to retrocede to Washington, D.C.

Some argue that this move is the constitutional return of two jurisdictions back to is its rightful place.

In 1790, Congress passed the Residence Act.

This established a District of Columbia to serve as the capital seat of the national government starting in 1800.

This act had to comply with Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution, which in part stipulates that Congress has the power to:

"exercise exclusive Legislation…over such District (not exceeding ten Miles Square) as may…become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State…"

In order to establish this capital in D.C., Virginia and Maryland each consented to cede land.

The 1789 Virginia General Assembly, which composed of members like Patrick Henry, signed an act that ceded area south of the Potomac River.

As President Washington outlined in his proclamation defining the boundaries of the District of Columbia, the 10-square mile boundary would be the permanent seat for the U.S. government.

These boundary lines remained in place for many years until the 1840s, when slavery was among the matters complicating Congress.

That decade, Congress voted to abandon the 10-square mile arrangement and give the area south of the Potomac to Virginia.

While Virginia accepted the retrocession, I believe legal issues on this matter may remain.

Revival of the D.C. square concept debate today creates conflicts within Democratic circles. National Democrats continue to advocate for D.C. statehood.

I believe renewal of the D.C. square bolsters those who want D.C. statehood.

I think that is wrong and constitutionally questionable because the District of Columbia was set up to be a federal district, not a state, by the framers of the Constitution!

They specifically wanted a seat of government which owed allegiance to no state.

Thus, I think the proper solution is to retrocede the rest of the D.C. square to Maryland, reserving a small federal District of Columbia where the small number of voters would be allowed to vote in Maryland.

I have a bill that will give representation to D.C. residents without accommodating Democrats' partisan demands to create a 51st state.

My Washington, D.C. Residents Voting Act retrocedes D.C. proper to Maryland. Every D.C. resident would become a Maryland resident and have Maryland representation.

Accordingly, these residents would access voting members in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House.

Meanwhile, a new, condensed D.C. would consist of federal properties such as the White House, U.S. Capitol and U.S. Supreme Court.

My bill would unlock for Maryland a very similar process that Congress and Virginia exercised in the 1840s.

As a result, the D.C. square would be effectively buried in history.

This may turn the page on D.C. representation, but it will not change my resolve to fairly represent and protect the interests of rural communities in Virginia.

Candidate filing deadlines announced for November elections

The Patrick County Registrar's Office has announced filing deadlines for candidates seeking offices that will appear on the Nov. 3 General and Special Elections ballot.

The following offices and filing deadlines apply:

- U.S. Senate: June 16 at 7 p.m.
- Town of Stuart Town Council (three seats): June 16 at 7 p.m.
- U.S. House of Representatives: Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.
- Smith River District Board of Supervisors (special election): Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

Candidate packets are available at the Patrick County Registrar's Office or can be downloaded from the Virginia Department of Elections website at www.elections.virginia.gov.

The registrar's office is located in Room 216C of the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker St., Stuart. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call (276) 694-7206.

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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.

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Letters to the Editor

Virginia House Bill 167

As most people who follow history and historic preservation now know, the Virginia Legislature recently voted strictly along party lines to pass HB 167. This unjust bill takes effect July 1st, 2026.

This bill removes the tax exempt status for real and personal property of five long time historical organizations in Virginia, while leaving dozens of similar organizations untouched. The targeted groups are, Virginia Divisions of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Stonewall Jackson Memorial, and the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust.

There has been some misinformation concerning this bill.

The JEB Stuart Trust has lost its tax exemption on the property we own but we remain a non-profit all volunteer 501 C3 organization and all donations are still tax deductible under the IRS.

Do not be discouraged by the unfair actions of certain members of the Virginia General Assembly. In an ideal world our history and heritage would never be a political issue, but it has become increasingly clear in recent years that we cannot count on our political leaders to do the right thing concerning all of our collective history.

Today, it is up to us who study, understand the importance, and except the complexities of all our history. We are not going away and with your support the preservation efforts at Laurel Hill will continue to grow and move forward for many years to come. Visit our website at www.jebstuart.org. Thank you.

Ronnie S. Haynes,
JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust Inc.

County should provide clear broadband plan

The June 3rd article on broadband progress in Patrick County is a very frustrating read, and I am not sure attending the meeting would have been any clearer. The county should be able to provide citizens with all of the following:

- a clear plan
- a timeline
- a current and planned coverage map
- a list of any obstacles and solutions
- a single point of contact

I would specifically like to know the following:

1. Why are several companies participating in what should be a simple process in 2026?
2. How will the county address funding shortfalls to ensure universal access to broadband?
3. Which communities, if any, will be excluded, and why?

This process seems overly complicated. Residents deserve transparency on something so important.

Thanks,
Jane George,
Meadows of Dan

Photos sought for a congressional time capsule

The Virginia congressional delegation invites individuals across the Commonwealth to submit photographs to be considered for the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule.

Photographs must be submitted by Friday, June 12, 2026, to be considered.

The delegation is collecting photographs that represent the many treasures Virginia has to offer in 2026 – whether they capture everyday life, natural landscapes, historic places, community events, local traditions, work, or recreation. Selected photographs will be included in Virginia's submission to the time capsule.

"From foundational ideas of freedom and opportunity born in our cities to the sacrifices made on our battlefields, Virginia has played a central role in America's history," said the delegation. "This time capsule is a wonderful opportunity for Virginians to show off the Commonwealth 250 years into our nation's journey, and to offer those in the year 2276 a glimpse of Virginia and America during the nation's semiquincentennial."

Photos may be digitally submitted at https://ciosenus.app.box.com/f/b5f2d1e01fa6443286c-26dc90ff677c3

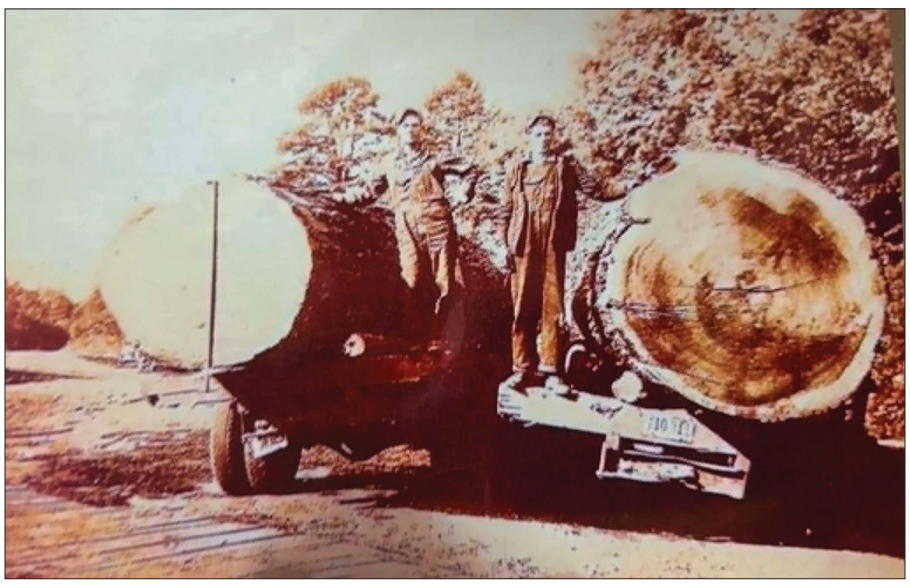
As part of Congress's efforts to celebrate the United States of America's 250th birthday, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act directs the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to create and prepare a congressional time capsule to be sealed in the Capitol Visitor Center. The capsule will serve as a snapshot in time and will be buried after preparations are complete. Each state and territory delegation is allowed one jointly decided submission. The capsule will be opened on the nation's 500th anniversary, July 4, 2276.

The photographs representing Virginia in 2026 will be jointly selected and submitted to the time capsule by U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) and U.S. Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), Jennifer Kiggans (R-VA-02), Bobby Scott (D-VA-03), Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-04), John McGuire (R-VA-05), Ben Cline (R-VA-06), Eugene Vindman (D-VA-07), Don Beyer (D-VA-08), Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09), Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA-10), and James Walkinshaw (D-VA-11).

Patrick Pioneers



Ely Thomas Lumber Company, thank you Charlie Bowman



Patrick County poplars, photo from Joanne Lang Shirley

Ely-Thomas Lumber Company

By Beverly Belcher Woody

When someone mentions the lumber plant in Stuart, they are probably referring to the International Paper plant, which used to be Masonite and originally began as Stuart Lumber Company. But did you know there was another lumber company in Stuart during the 1930s and 1940s?

That company was Ely-Thomas Lumber Company, an Appalachian timber and logging operation primarily based in Fenwick, Nicholas County, West Virginia. For a time, however, it played an important role in the life and economy of Stuart, Virginia.

It is hard to imagine today, but the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company was located in the vicinity of where Stuart Family Restaurant and the shopping center are now located. Years ago, that entire area underwent a huge metamorphosis. The lumber mill ponds were filled in to build Druthers Restaurant and the Sky City and Lowe's Foods shopping center.

Joanne Lang Shirley shared that her father, Claude Russell Lang, and her grandfather, Gilbert (Bert) Lang, came from West Virginia to Stuart in 1936 or 1937 with the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company. Joanne recalled, "There were a group of men who came from West Virginia with the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company. Some names that come to mind include Ernest Curry, Andy Gregory, Dana Haymond, J. T. Hunt, and Coy Thomas."

The arrival of the company brought men, families, work, and movement into Stuart. It also connected Patrick County to the larger Appalachian lumber industry that stretched into West Virginia and beyond.

The Enterprise, Volume 61, Number 32, dated 12 August 1937, reported the beginning of operations in Stuart:

"The Ely-Thomas Lumber Company, which has been assembling its Band Sawmill for operation for some time, began work here July 26 and began with a force of 36 men. This Company, with main office at Camden-on-Gauley, W. Va., where they also operate a Band Sawmill, is prepared to do work of the best type. When they are working on a productive basis, which they expect soon to do, will produce from twenty-five to thirty thousand feet of lumber daily. This is an asset to Stuart and surrounding community."

By the following year, the company had formalized its business presence in Virginia. The Richmond News Leader, Saturday, August 27, 1938, page 17, printed the following notice:

"Certificate of Authority—Ely Thomas Lumber Company, a West Virginia corporation. Principal office in Virginia, Stuart. H. F. Howard, agent in charge of business. Maximum capital, 1,000 shares common without par value and $150,000 preferred. To conduct a lumber business. J. Murray Hooker, attorney, Stuart."

H. F. Howard's name appears again in the newspaper accounts as the local manager and superintendent of the Stuart operation. In the Roanoke Times on April 2, 1939, he shared details of a remarkable yellow poplar felled in Patrick County. The article stated:

'We recently felled, on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge in Patrick County, a yellow poplar tree containing 14,224 board feet. The butt log measured 72 inches at the small end and 96 inches at the large end, the log being 16 feet long. We cut several boards, from this tree, 4 inches thick, 42 inches wide and 16 feet long, each containing 224 board feet.

'A short distance from where this giant stood, we felled another poplar "sprout" containing better than 10,000 board feet. At one time we had in our pond, here at the mill, 19 logs that measured, at the small end, from 42 inches to 72 inches in diameter.'"

A few weeks later, the Martinsville Bulletin of April 28, 1939, carried news that the mill was preparing to reopen after a shutdown caused in part by difficult road conditions.

"Stuart, April 28—H. F. Howard, manager of the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company, announced today that the band saw mill, located here, will resume operation May 2 after being shut down for several months, due in part to the fact that bad roads made it impossible to get logs to the mill.

There are three quarters of a million feet of logs on the yards at this time, with a steady supply coming in.

This company is the largest manufacturing industry in the county and employs a total of 200 men at the mill and in the woods.

According to Mr. Howard, $50,000 was paid in wages, $40,000 for supplies and $25,000 for transportation to and from the mill last year, and all indications are that the figures will be equally as large this year.

More laborers will not be needed at this time as positions will be filled by men who were employed at the time the mill stopped operation."

This article is especially important because it shows the size and impact of Ely-Thomas Lumber Company in Patrick County. At that time, it was described as the largest manufacturing industry in the county, employing a total of 200 men. Behind those numbers were teamsters, sawyers, and loggers who worked very hard to provide for themselves and their families.

The history of lumber work also reminds us how dangerous the industry could be. The work was hard, physical, and often risky.

The Enterprise, Friday, June 30, 1939, page 1, reported:

Funeral Saturday for Stuart Worker

"Stuart, June 30—Funeral services for Cecil David Nethken, 24, local lumber worker who died Thursday of injuries received when he was crushed between a truck and tractor last week, will be held at Mt. Zion, West Va., it was learned today.

Young Nethken succumbed to severe injuries at the Stuart hospital about 9:30 Thursday morning.

Surviving are the deceased's parents, three brothers, and three sisters. The deceased was employed by the Ely-Thomas Lumber company."

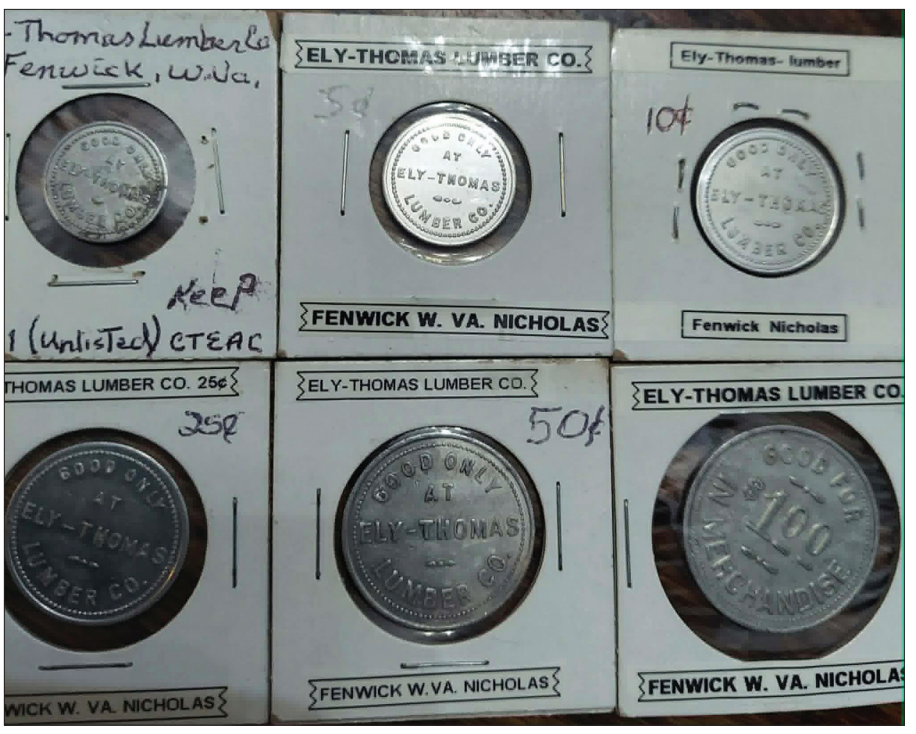
Today, little remains in the landscape to show where the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company once stood in Stuart. The mill ponds are gone. The logs, saws, and daily sounds of industry have faded into memory. But for those who know the history, that area near Stuart Family Restaurant and the shopping center holds a story of timber, work, migration, and change.

There is a wonderfully helpful Facebook group for people interested in the history of the lumber company called Ely-Thomas, Cherry River Boom & Lumber, B&O Railroads in Nicholas County WV. Mr. Dan Bragg of West Virginia shared wonderful photos of the company scrip, which is pictured above.

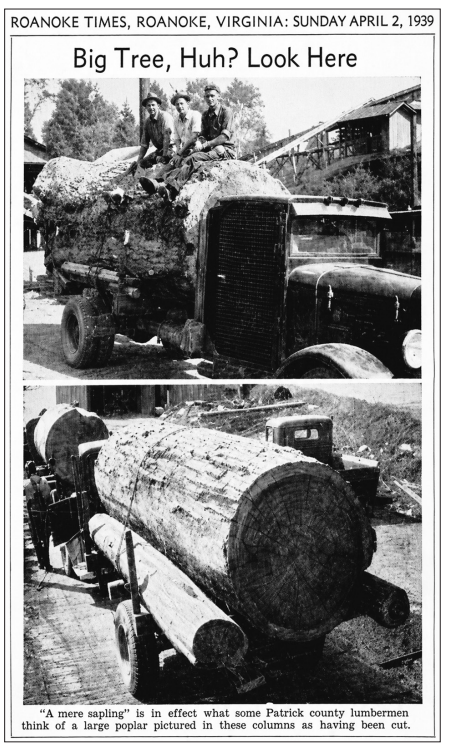
Ely-Thomas Lumber Company may have been headquartered in West Virginia, but for a time it became part of Patrick County's story. It brought workers from other mountain communities, gave employment to local men, filled mill ponds with giant timber, and helped shape the industrial life of Stuart during the 1930s and 1940s.

And though the mill is long gone, the story remains.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.



Ely Thomas scrip, photo from Dan Bragg


ROANOKE TIMES, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA: SUNDAY APRIL 2, 1939

Big Tree, Huh? Look Here

"A mere sapling" is in effect what some Patrick county lumbermen think of a large poplar pictured in these columns as having been cut.

Roanoke Times, April 2, 1939

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Why Can't I get a Lump Sum Death Benefit from my Wife?

Dear Rusty: My wife passed away in September 2025 at age 64. We had been married for 43 years and started collecting benefits when I turned 62 and she was 63. She did not have enough work credits to claim her own SS and thus collected on my record. SSA told me that I was not entitled to receive the lousy $255 death benefit because my wife was collecting on my work record. Is this correct? *Signed: Grieving Widower*

Dear Grieving: We extend our sincere condolences on your wife's passing. But I must tell you that what the SSA (Social Security Administration) told you is correct.

Although we often see assertions that the so-called "one-time lump sum death benefit" is always paid, there are specific rules for when that admittedly small SS benefit is available. And there are also specific rules regarding who is eligible to receive it.

Essentially, the lump sum death benefit is paid when the deceased person was collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). And that one-time lump sum death benefit usually goes to the deceased person's surviving spouse (more on that later). But for the death benefit to be paid, the deceased person must have been collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or was at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). In your specific case, because your wife was not eligible for her own SS retirement benefit and was, instead, just collecting a spousal benefit from your SS record, you unfortunately are not able to collect the lump-sum death benefit as your wife's surviving spouse. So, what you were told by Social Security about this special survivor benefit is, indeed, correct.

For information, here is a bit more on who can collect the SS death benefit: the one-time lump sum death benefit is normally paid to the eligible surviving spouse of a deceased person who was collecting Social Security. But if there is no surviving spouse to receive the onetime payment, the death benefit may be paid to someone else who was also a dependent of the deceased. That might be a minor surviving child or a surviving adult disabled child who was collecting dependent benefits from the deceased person's SS record. In rare cases, a dependent parent may be paid if no other surviving dependents are eligible. FYI, ex-spouses are not eligible for a death benefit from a former spouse.

The lump-sum death benefit must be applied for by contacting Social Security and the benefit must be claimed within two years of the person's death. You will need to verify your identity and confirm your eligibility for this survivor benefit, and you will need to provide other information about the deceased also (including a death certificate). There is an SSA form to apply for the lump sum death benefit (SSA-8), but calling your local SS office (or 1.800.772.1213) to make an appointment to apply for the one-time lump-sum death benefit in person is usually all that is needed.

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

An Incredible Journey To Health: Chad Geldebloem

Where He Was

The need to find an escape from the pressures, hardships and many times the cruelty of life, is something that resonates with many of us. And then, when an escape seems inconceivable, it often lends itself to the making of poor, regrettable and destructive choices.

What happens, when you come from a "previously disadvantaged community"? This is the official term used to recount individuals and communities who suffered degradation under the Apartheid Era of South African history. What do you do when most of your friends have turned to drugs and alcohol abuse? How about when it's normal for you to live surrounded by gang violence? On top of all of this, what do you do when you also have a disability of which the symptoms are consistence to that of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Down syndrome?

This was a day in the life of 27-year old Chad Geldebloem. Growing up, he struggled with difficult learning abilities, brought on by his poor sense of hearing, speaking and coordination. He always battled to adjust socially; therefore when challenges of peer pressure entered into his life, he quickly became a statistic.

Where Things Changed

Providentially however, Chad had some positive influences in his life. His sister, Fiona, would often invite him to come to church with her. Slowly, Chad began to make Christian friends in his neighborhood and discovered something he had never had: peace, hope and acceptance. He soon decided that he needed a life change. He gave up drinking alcohol instantly, but battled with smoking. He had heard that exercise could help to stop bad lifestyle habits and so he decided to do something about it.

Astonishingly and without any help, Chad decided to build his own training weights. Using 2×25-liter paint buckets filled with concrete and a pole running between them, he had a bench press facility. With a couple of large bricks, held up by some wire, he had a pair of dumbbells. Chad would often be seen running and exercising in the public park, unperturbed by the real possibility of being caught between rival gang crossfire.

Where He Is Now

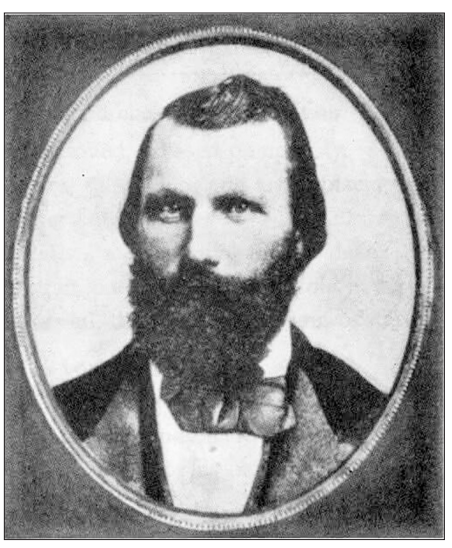
It was incredible to witness Chad's body transform. His confidence was up and he was looking and feeling great. He had met his ultimate goal of breaking his smoking habit, and now he discovered that his body only craved healthy food. Noticing his dedication to health and fitness, Chad's mother, with her small monthly budget, got him a gym membership. She's also taken steps to make positive lifestyle choices in her own life! I asked his mother what she thought of Chad's new lease on life. With a catch in her throat, she said, " I am very proud." She then jokingly added, "Hy eet my net bangkrot." (Translated from Afrikaans, this means, " He's bankrupting me with his huge appetite!)

Chad found a positive path out of destruction through health and fitness. He confesses though, that his greatest path is through his newfound faith in God. Now, he stands tall as an inspiration and role model to his peers and community at large.

His story reminds us that the journey to health is just a decision away. Health can be attained through our choices–we can either succumb to life's challenges or, like Chad, give ourselves an opportunity to live life, and live it abundantly.

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

J. E. B. Stuart in 1858



By Tom Perry

James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart has appeared in several Hollywood productions. Santa Fe Trail, the 1940 Warner Brothers Movie Release, was one of the first, starring Errol Flynn as J.E.B. Stuart, Olivia de Havilland as Kit Carson Holliday, a year after Gone With The Wind, Raymond Massey as John Brown, and Ronald Reagan as George Custer. Reagan and Stuart share the same birthday on February 6, seventy-eight years apart. Stuart appears in both Ron Maxwell's films, Gettysburg and Gods and Generals, with Broadway actor Joseph Fuqua as Patrick County's native son. Stuart recently appeared in HBO's The Good Lord Bird, with Ethan Hawke as John Brown and Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn's son, Wyatt Russell, as Stuart.

The latter, beginning in 1858, brings us back to our chronicles of Stuart in the U. S. Army. A reader might wonder how I collected all this information about Stuart before the Civil War. Many years ago, Historian Robert K. Krick told me about the materials housed at the National Archives on the antebellum army. Every month, each post in the army sent a report to the Secretary of War about who came and went from the post and any notable events. Also, letters sent between officers and the administration in Washington are in the National Archives. Many of these materials have been digitized and are available on websites such as Fold3. Still, years ago, I had to go to the building on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House. I became very familiar with the Washington Metro subway system.

In 1858, Stuart was stationed at Fort Riley in the Kansas Territory with his wife and baby daughter of the same name, Flora. He returned on January 5, 1858, from detached service guarding the mail on the Santa Fe Trail.

Over the next few months, Stuart was in command of Company G of the 1st United States Cavalry, as his commanding officer, George Bayard, was on sick leave. Stuart received a 15-day leave beginning on March 5 via Special Order #17. He did not get to leave until April 25.

On May 29, via Special Order #16, Stuart and his company were sent to Utah with John Sedgewick on an expedition with Company H to the Republican River, arriving on June 1, 1858. By June 30, the command was seven miles from Fort Laramie in what is today Wyoming.

On May 28, Major John Sedgewick appointed Stuart Assistant Adjutant General. In July 1858, the Post Returns report Companies G & H had left Fort Laramie. On July 1, 1858, the command marched to Sweetwater Valley and back to Scott's Bluff.

On August 29, 1858, Stuart returned to Fort Riley after leaving Scott's Bluff on August 1, which is in present day Nebraska. Over the course of his seven years out west in the U. S. Army, Stuart would have campaigned in present day states of Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado.

September 1858 would see Stuart on a ten day leave. He was an ambitious young officer with a young family. In January, he had written to Colonel Rush Floyd, brother

(See J.E.B. p. 14)



Race Report: Michigan International Speedway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Somewhere between the start and finish of Sunday's FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan International Speedway, Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team were finally able to outrun the bad luck that had followed them in recent weeks.

After starting from the rear of the field, Berry methodically worked his way forward throughout the 200-lap event, avoided significant damage in a multi-car incident during the final stage and gained several positions in the closing laps to secure a 15th-place finish. The result marked his best finish since scoring a 10th-place run at Martinsville Speedway in late March.

Berry was forced to start last after spinning during his qualifying lap on Saturday, but quickly began making progress once the green flag waved. He gained five positions during the opening 45-lap stage and continued his climb through the field, reaching 18th by the conclusion of Stage 2 on Lap 120.

The biggest challenge of the afternoon came on Lap 154 when a nine-car accident unfolded directly in front of him. Berry spun while trying to avoid the chaos after getting tagged from behind, but managed to escape with only minor damage to the No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse. Following repairs and a strong restart, he resumed his charge and remained inside the top 20 for the remainder of the race.

With less than 10 laps remaining, Berry picked off three more positions, crossing the finish line in 15th place.

Berry and the Wood Brothers Racing team will look to carry that momentum into next weekend's Great American Getaway 400 at the 2.5-mile triangle of Pocono Raceway.

Special election set for Smith River District representative

A Special Election will be held on November 3 to fill the vacancy that exists in the office of the Supervisor for the Smith River District of Patrick County for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The filing deadline is 5 p.m. on August 14. Candidate packets are available at the Registrar's Office or forms may be downloaded at https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/becoming-a-candidate/.

The Registrar's Office is located in the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker Street, Room 216C, Stuart, and is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Call 276-694-7206 with questions.



Federal disaster assistance available to Virginia growers impacted by ongoing drought conditions, late freeze

With recent rains, Virginia's drought-stricken growers are expressing cautious optimism that this season still can be salvaged, as state agriculture leaders are encouraging farmers affected by adverse spring weather to consider options for federal disaster assistance.

With much of the state under severe-to-extreme drought conditions, farmers in multiple Virginia localities have received drought disaster designations by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Farm Service Agency. A range of disaster assistance programs are available to eligible producers, including emergency loans and other recovery options.

Recent rains have been "a blessing," said Carl Daniel, Halifax County Farm Bureau president who grows corn, soybean and tobacco, and raises some beef cattle.

Though many Southside Virginia farmers are waiting later than usual to plant crops, "we think there is still hope," he said. "The rain has been sporadic. Some areas only got an inch-and-a-half while others up to 5 inches. But any rain is good in a drought situation!"

However, grasslands and pastures are "taking a beating," said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation state board member Bruce Slagle, who represents farmers in the region.

"Some farmers are still feeding their hay supplies from last fall, while not making more," he explained. "Normally, you're rolling hay now for next winter. What little hay is out there—they might be feeding it already. But I think the rain is going to help them out a lot."

VFBF Vice President Robert J.

(See Federal p. 14)

Wood Brothers Racing, PPG Launch 2026 Kids Color PPG Contest

Winning design, selected by Josh Berry, to be featured as pit wall banner at Indianapolis



Wood Brothers Racing, in partnership with PPG, announced the return of the Kids Color PPG contest, a fan-favorite initiative designed to engage young racing enthusiasts through creativity and racing tradition.

Now open to fans 15 and under, this year's edition of the contest invites kids to design a custom PPG pit wall banner themed around "America's Birthday Celebration" in honor of America's 250th birthday. One lucky winner will have their artwork, selected by Wood Brothers Racing driver Josh Berry, brought to life and displayed as the No. 21 team's pit wall banner during the Brickyard 400 presented by PPG at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday, July 26, where Berry will pilot the No. 21 PPG Ford Mustang Dark Horse.

In addition to seeing their design featured on pit road at one of NASCAR's crown jewel events, the winner and their family will also receive a VIP race-day experience at The Racing Capital of the World. The winning entry will additionally receive the race-used pit wall banner and the original artwork as a keepsake.

Templates are available for download at WoodBrothersRacing.com and can also be picked up at select locations, including the Wood Brothers Racing Museum, Team Penske Gift Shop and the Wood Brothers/Team Penske merchandise unit in the fan zones at Michigan International Speedway and Pocono Raceway.

To enter, participants must complete their design using markers only, take a photo holding their finished template, and post it to Facebook, X or Instagram using the hashtag #KidsColorPPG while tagging Wood Brothers Racing and PPG.

The deadline to submit entries is Monday, June 22 at 11:59 p.m. ET. The winning design will be announced the week of July 6 on Wood Brothers Racing social channels, and the winner will be contacted through the same social media platform used to submit their entry.

"The Kids Color PPG contest is always a fun program because it gives young fans a chance to feel connected to our team in a creative way," said Berry. "I'm looking forward to seeing all of the designs and having one of them featured with the No. 21 team at Indianapolis during such a big race weekend."

The complete rundown of the program details can be found below or at WoodBrothersRacing.com.

How To Enter

- Download or pick up the official template from WoodBrothersRacing.com
- Create your design on the printed template using markers only
- Have a parent or guardian take a photo of you holding your finished design
- Post the photo on Facebook, X or Instagram using the hashtag #KidsColorPPG and tag the accounts listed below:

  Facebook
  Hashtag: #KidsColorPPG
  Tags: @WoodBrothers21 / @PPGRefinish / @PPGIndustries

  X
  Hashtag: #KidsColorPPG
  Tags: @WoodBrothers21 / @PPGRefinish_NA / @PPG

  Instagram
  Hashtag: #KidsColorPPG
  Tags: @WoodBrothers21 / @PPGIndustries / @PPGRefinish

Contest Rules

- The deadline to enter is Monday, June 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- The contest is open to kids 15 years old and under with permission from a parent or guardian
- Designs must be completed using markers only to be eligible
- The winner will be notified through the same social media platform used to submit their entry
- The winning design will be publicly announced the week of July 6 on Wood Brothers Racing social media channels
- The winner must mail their original artwork to Wood Brothers Racing for banner production
- The original artwork will be returned to the winner along with the race-used banner and signed diecast

Where To Pick Up A Coloring Sheet

- Download the template at WoodBrothersRacing.com
- Wood Brothers Racing Museum – 21 Performance Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
- Team Penske Gift Shop – 200 Penske Way, Mooresville, NC 28115
- Wood Brothers Racing/Team Penske at-track merchandise hauler – Michigan International Speedway, Pocono Raceway.

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NOTICE
General and Special Elections Filing Deadlines

The following Offices will be on the Ballot in the November 3, 2026 General and Special Elections:

Office	Filing Deadline
U.S. Senate	June 16, 2026 at 7:00pm
U.S. Representative	August 4, 2026 at 7:00pm
Town of Stuart – Town Council (3 seats)	June 16, 2026 at 7:00pm
Special Election: Smith River District Board of Supervisors	August 14, 2026 @ 5:00pm

Candidate packets are available at the Registrar's Office or you may download forms at **www.elections.virginia.gov**

The Registrar's Office is located in the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker Street, Room 216C, Stuart, Virginia 24171 and is open 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday. If there are any questions, please call (276) 694-7206.

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

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SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR FOR THE SMITH RIVER DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

A Special Election will be held on November 3, 2026 for the purpose of filling the vacancy that exists in the office of the Supervisor for the Smith River District of Patrick County, Virginia for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The filing deadline for the office of the Supervisor for the Smith River District is August 14, 2026 at 5:00pm. Candidate packets are available at the Registrar's Office or you may download forms at **https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/becoming-a-candidate/**

The Registrar's Office is located in the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker Street, Room 216C, Stuart, Virginia 24171 and is open 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday. If there are any questions, please call 276-694-7206.

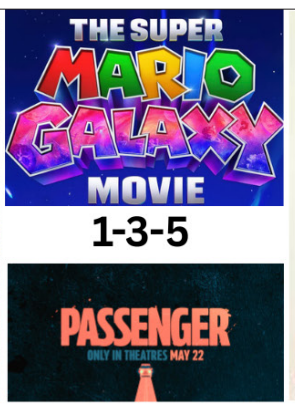
hollywoodcinema.net



1-4-7-9:15



1-4-7-9:15



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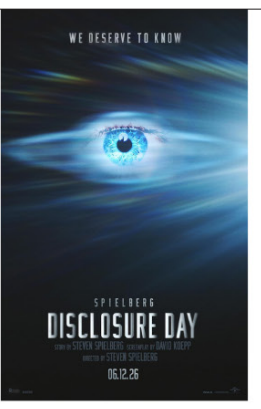

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$5 tickets
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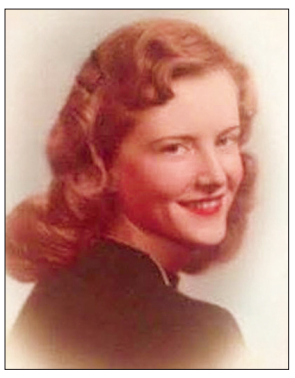
OBITUARIES

Helen Catherine Scott Dickens



Helen Catherine Scott Dickens of Radford, Virginia passed into eternal life with our glorious Savior on June 1, 2026, surrounded by loving family.

Helen was born in Stuart, Virginia to Donald Hobart Scott and Nellie Kate Gray on August 8, 1934. She was preceded in death by her husband, Luther Isaac Dickens, her sister Nellie Melba Scott Cornwell, and her brothers Donald Hobart Scott, Jr., James Reginald Scott, Warren Gray Scott, and Harold Eugene Scott. She is survived by her children, Donald Allen Dickens (Sherry), Heidi Elizabeth Dickens (Jason), and Stephen Luther Dickens (Teresa); her grandchildren, Catherine Scott Bernard, Trayanna Dickens Whiting, Elizabeth Gray Walker, Patricia Cheryl Lutes, Allen Trahin Dickens, Thomas Luther Dickens, Gabriella Teresa Dickens Lazares, and Stephanie Scott Dickens; and her great-grandchildren, Amelia Mae Lutes, Macauley Whiting IV, Major Gray Walker, Helen Coraline Whiting, Olivia Dawn Lutes, Karolina Karri Lutes, Scott Adriaan Trahin Dickens, Elouisa Antoinette Dickens, and William Nicholas Lazares II. Her tenth great-grandchild is due in July 2026.

She is both survived and preceded by her many beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews, dear cousins, and in-laws.

Helen grew up on the idyllic Homeplace farm in Patrick County, where she inherited and developed her extraordinary green thumb, and love of family, Jesus, and cats. She graduated with honors from Stuart High School in 1952 and studied Secretarial Science at Averett College in Danville, Virginia. She married Luther on August 29, 1953, at the First Baptist Church of Stuart. They resided in Hillsville, Virginia, welcoming their first child Donnie in 1954 and Luther being drafted soon after. Helen joined Luther in Heidelberg, Germany, returning to deliver their second child Heidi in Stuart. Following the military posting, Helen and her family moved to Richmond, Virginia where their third child Stephen arrived, and she also worked as a secretary for insurance companies.

Helen and her family moved to 310 Third Street in Radford in 1959 and joined the First Baptist Church, where she was a member of the Choir and served on numerous church committees. Her angelic voice and piano playing were a joy to all around her. Her garden was enormous and productive, and she was dedicated to canning and preserving the fruits of her labors. She enjoyed frequent traveling to see her family, as well as sightseeing and experiences across the United States and globe – by car, train, plane, and RV. She was a loyal Jeep driver for decades, and never without a toolbox in the back. She loved the family retreat in Floyd County that they acquired in 1974, Misty Hollow, hosting everything from campfires to Thanksgiving to anniversary parties to fishing and hiking and blackberry picking with the grandkids. She was a champion catfish catcher and endlessly competent in all manner of Appalachian farm and forest traditions. She was a grand hostess whose annual Christmas party launched the career of the famous Gregory Brothers, and who cultivated bright, interesting human beings from all backgrounds and with accomplishments ranging from musical and literary to technological and political. She met with presidents and governors and farmers and students and charmed them all.

She graduated with honors from Radford University in 1983, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in Business Administration and attending a language institute in Guatemala. She was an invaluable asset as Luther's plastics company, RADVA Corporation, became a global corporation with subsidiaries operating in Russia and the Pacific. She hosted countless international colleagues and students as RADVA and Thermasteel continued to grow around the world and organized cultural exchanges like the Virginia tour with gifted Russian elementary students performing around the commonwealth. In 1999, she endowed the Mr. Luther & Mrs. Helen Dickens International Scholarship for Radford University students with global studies.

In 1984, she founded a commercial real estate development and property management corporation, Chuckatuck Partnership, and redeveloped and managed the historic Central Depot building for residential, office, and retail use. The project, which preserved for adaptive reuse the 1891 hotel from Radford's earliest days as the central train stop between Lynchburg and Bristol, served as a cornerstone of West End Radford revitalization. She also founded Radford JazzFest, held in the building's courtyard.

She served as a board member of the Radford Chamber of Commerce, American Heart Association, Radford Main Street Program, Virginia Baptist Foundation, and the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

Helen – Mom, Mima, Grandmommy, Aunt Helen, Gigi - was brilliant, witty, full of grace, dedicated, accomplished, loving, fiery, welcoming, elegant, deeply reflective, and kind to many. Her worldview incorporated the best of cosmopolitanism and appreciation of the diversity of the human experience, along with a deep commitment to values of faith, family, honest labor, and good works. She made the world a better place with her presence.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Radford. Visitation 11am – 12pm; funeral service 12pm – 1pm. Luncheon to follow.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" 2 Timothy 4:7

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

The Dickens family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia.

Sharon Shelor Helms



Mrs. Sharon Shelor Helms, age 77 of Patrick Springs, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026 at her home. She was born in Patrick County on November 4, 1948 to the late Elroy Calvin Shelor and Erma V. Banks Shelor. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Helms was preceded in death by an infant brother and a sister, Betty Combs.

Sharon graduated from Meadows of Dan High School. She received her Bachelors degree from Radford University and a Masters degree from Virginia Tech. She taught home economics at Patrick County High School for 13 years and worked for Virginia Tech Corporate Extension as an agent for 20 years. Sharon enjoyed reading, golfing, sewing, traveling, especially to the beach, and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Helms is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert Lee Helms of the home; two sons, John Helms of Stuart and Brett Helms of Stuart; a grandson, Andrew Helms; a brother-in-law, Wayne Combs; and a niece, Cynthia Combs Allen.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

O. E. Pilson, Mentor





By Tom Perry

Webster's dictionary defines mentor as "a person who gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person, especially in a professional or academic context."

In about a month, Patrick County, Virginia, will kick off the American 250 celebration leading up to July 4. I have been thinking a lot about O. E. Pilson in anticipation of the upcoming celebration. He would have loved to be part of the weeklong events in his native Free State of Patrick.

He was a mentor to many of us because he did not hoard history; he shared it and his knowledge of it. I know this because when I was in my twenties, Mr. Pilson took me under his wing. Many Saturdays, I would meet Mr. Pilson, and he would take me around in his big blue Chevrolet.

These excursions usually included lunch at Clarence's on 220 between Martinsville and Ridgeway, where he lived. He had one house where he lived with his wife and daughter, Jane, and another house where he kept all his historical papers, which today reside in the Bassett Historical Center, in the O. E. Pilson room.

Mr. Pilson took me around to places such as all the Hairston homes he knew about, including Beaver Creek. He took me to where he thought Fort Trial and Fort Mayo were located, when George Washington visited before he became the "Father of our country."

He came to Ararat, and we walked Laurel Hill and J. E. B. Stuart's Birthplace, including a lively discussion with George Elbert "Shug" and Icy Bowman Brown. Mr. Pilson's favorite place at the site was the grave of William Letcher, where we will kick off our America 250 celebration on June 29 at 6 p.m. at the Letcher grave, the oldest marked grave in Patrick County.

I will never forget the time he took to start me on my journey into local history and all he shared about it. He lived to see Laurel Hill saved, and I think the last time I saw him was at the dedication of the marker at Letcher's grave, placed by the Sons of the American Revolution.

On June 29, I will speak on J. E. B. Stuart's great-grandfather's in the American Revolution at William Letcher's grave, coming full circle with the man who mentored me all those years ago. If we do not share our history, how can we expect the next generation to know where they came from?

Rogers joins membership of American Angus Association

Stetson Rogers, Patrick Springs, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than 21,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

Coalition for Health and Wellness awarded federal grant

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness, based in Martinsville, Virginia, a grant of $873,541. The funding supports operations of local health centers.

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said, "Connect Health + Wellness provides health care services for local communities. "This HHS grant for more than $870,000 helps this community health care center promote health care access for Martinsville City, Henry County and Patrick County communities."

Connect Health + Wellness administers services at locations in Bassett, Ridgeway, Patrick Springs and Martinsville.

Connect Health + Wellness CEO Marcus Stone was Griffith's guest at President Trump's 2026 State of the Union Address.

The awarding office of this grant is the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

As a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressman Griffith serves as the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

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Infighting Never Turns Out Good

By Van Yandell

James 4: 1-2 "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

A policeman friend once told me the cases he dreaded most were domestic disturbances. Many times the family members involved would turn on him and he ended up being the one in danger.

At times one would be armed with a deadly weapon. If the problem existed between a husband and wife, the one being abused would deny a problem and the call would be counterproductive with no problem solved.

In a few weeks, or less, he would be called back to the same residence and face the same problem all over again.

Disputes in families caused by drugs or alcohol, wills or disbursement of family properties after a death, evolve into family squabbles that last for years.

The United States is currently involved in a "family" fight that shows no sign of ever being resolved. The political left versus right; appear to be in such extreme disagreement, no peaceable solution seems possible.

Both Washington and state governments are so divided, the real needs of the nation are ignored. Representatives appear to be so consumed with destroying those of the other party no time or inclination to solve the real problems exists.

Within the church, divisions concerning beliefs and/or interpretations of scripture are deflecting from the purpose of the church. On a Sunday night a member told of attendance on business meeting night. The vote was to be on the color of new carpet for the sanctuary.

The church was packed with standing room only. The next Sunday night was a missionary speaker, there were twelve in attendance. Perhaps it is time to examine our spiritual priorities? Does the phrase "burden for the lost" no longer exist?

If there is a dinner or a professional music group performs, attendance is high. Must we be entertained 24/7? For an evangelist stating the plan for eternal salvation, attendance is less indicating another attitude.

Denominationalism is destroying the church as Jesus declared (Matthew 16: 18). If the Apostle Paul was alive today, the American church would receive a letter. If John was writing Revelation chapters two and three today there would be eight churches of the Revelation rather than seven.

What has happened to worship, praise, and leading the unchurched to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Has it become obsolete? Do "Christians" no longer believe? Is there is a reason to keep it a secret?

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive in to Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Is this so difficult or do we simply no longer have a desire to fulfill the last command of our Jesus before He ascended?

Luke 24: 47-48 "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

"Repentance and remission of sins" is a short phrase but says so much! Repentance is desire and a vow to change one's life from a non-belief to a faith based belief in Christ as Savior.

"Remission of sin" is only obtained by what Jesus did on the cross, not by anything we can possibly do other than believe by faith. Hebrews 9: 22 tells us "without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."

Jesus shed His perfect blood (1 Peter 2: 22) so we could enjoy the assurance of eternal life based on our faith based belief in Him.

We are that house divided. We are that family in constant turmoil over things temporary when only the eternal consequence is beyond this life. We come into this world with nothing and we will go out with nothing but our eternal soul. Must we continue on our present course?

Whatever the reason, it's not good enough! Our country and our world are in chaos and only a belief that teaches love, compassion and caring for our fellow humans will quell that chaos.

Why must denominations be condemning? Simply preach and teach the Holy bible and the false teachers will be revealed. Personal notions not scriptural are worthless.

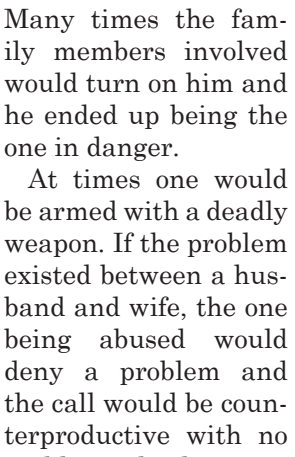
We have found the ultimate insult to another belief is to call them a cult. "Cult" has a radical, extremist connotation. With all the beliefs being taught in the world that are so opposite of Christ's teachings, shouldn't Christians be rebuking those instead of each other? Better yet, teach Jesus and the others will eventually be revealed.

Matthew 12: 25 "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

How long can Christianity survive without a joining based on scriptural teachings rather than individual thinking?

We are on a threshold of survival or destruction. Which way is our next step? These arguments and hatreds we are witnessing because of beliefs and notions not essential for eternal salvation must be laid aside. The survival of Christianity is before us!

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



BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Song of Solomon (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. In Matthew 5, what, besides salt of the earth, did Jesus compare Christians to? *Water, Bread, Light, Mountains*

3. Who became leader of the children of Israel after Moses' death? *Isaac, Joshua, Aaron, Abraham*

4. What is the biblical word of "Didymus" translated as? *Sinner, Heathen, Teacher, Twin*

5. On what island did John write the book of Revelation? *Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Patmos*

6. What was the trade skill of Paul? *Shepherd, Carpenter, Tentmaker, Tax collector*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Light (of the world), 3) Joshua, 4) Twin, 5) Patmos, 6) Tentmaker



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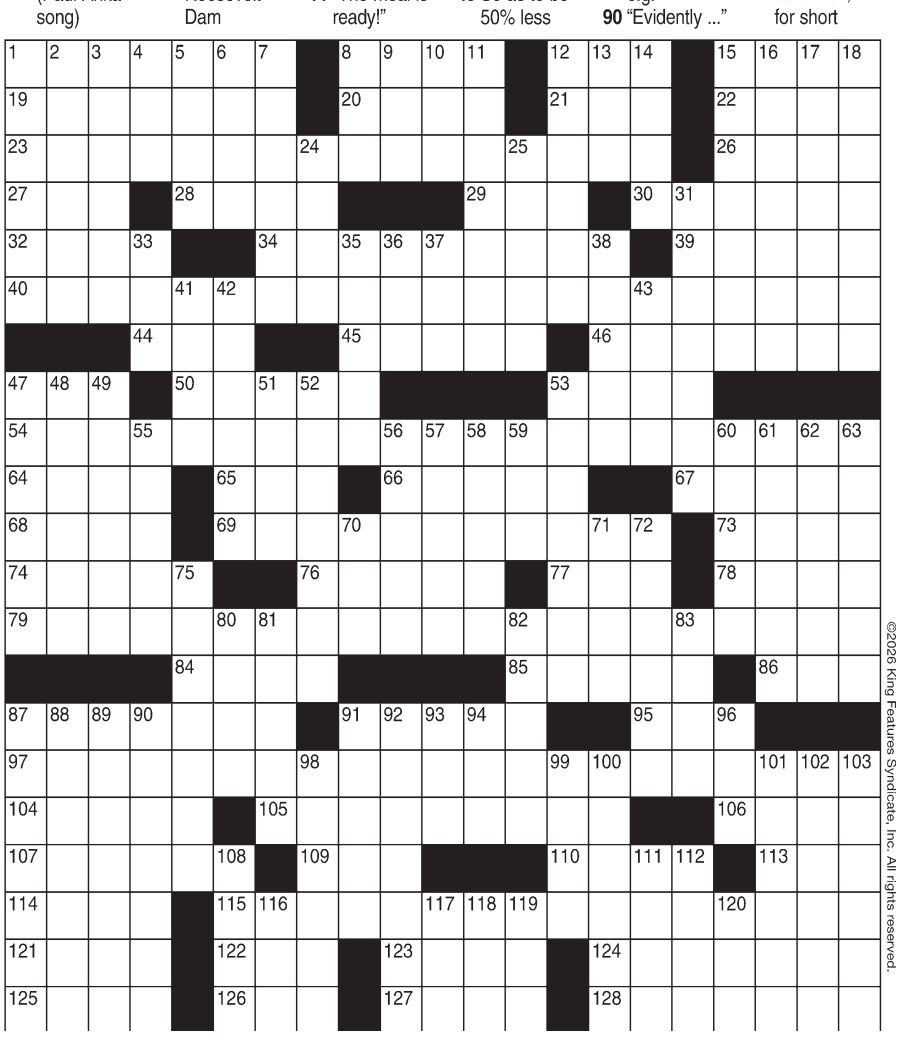
ACROSS
1 Film blooper compilation
8 Illinois and Iowa's trees
12 "Bali —"
15 Bushy hairdos, for short
19 "Stephen," in Paris
20 Cookie often twisted apart
21 Boat mover
22 Engrossed
23 Start of a riddle
26 Concerning
27 Mil. title
28 Lysol target
29 D.C. insider
30 Contribute one's share
32 Kitchen pests
34 Starts litigation
39 Stop on —
40 Riddle, part 2
44 "— Misérables"
45 Taking way too much, in brief
46 Loud weather events, for short
47 Inner city, informally
50 Leopard markings
53 "Eso —" (Paul Anka song)
54 Riddle, part 3
64 Cave effect
65 Bovine beast
66 Celebrity astrologer Sydney
67 Omit, as a vowel
68 College head
69 Acrobats' springy apparatuses
73 3/15, e.g.
74 Map book
76 Artist Dufy or film director Walsh
77 Critical hosp. area
78 Lock lips
79 Riddle, part 4
84 Tiny charged things
85 "It wouldn't — first time"
86 Poppa
87 Intraparty rifts
91 Vast South American plain
95 Football coach Parseghian
97 End of the riddle
104 Awaken
105 Arizona waterway with the Roosevelt Dam
106 Vikings' tale, perhaps
107 Novelist Hemingway
109 Original "King Kong" studio
110 Cast forth
113 Moose's kin
114 Art gallery in London
115 Riddle's answer
121 Drummer Burke or pitcher Labine
122 Iraq export
123 Full of zeal
124 Before now
125 The lady's
126 Norm: Abbr.
127 Sort
128 Lutz or axel performers

DOWN
1 Showy trinket
2 Wisdom deity
3 Behemoths
4 On Soc. Security, e.g.
5 Prefix with skeleton
6 Writer Blyton
7 Made the first move
8 "Impressive!"
9 Consist of
10 Pub barrel
11 "The meal is ready!"
12 "— at the Moon" (1951 Hank Williams song)
13 Partner of 8-Down
14 — -Z ('80s Camaro)
15 "Yep, alas"
16 More hoarse
17 Ideal condition
18 High-minded sorts?
24 Duet plus one
25 Juvenile
31 Must exist
33 Longtime NBC show inits.
35 Unconfined
36 "77 Sunset Strip" actor Byrnes
37 Biol. or anat.
38 Schlepped
41 Composer/pianist John
42 Facet
43 Actress Rae of "Vengeance"
47 Employed for the purpose of
48 Head for very quickly
49 So as to be 50% less
51 — about (around)
52 Hinders
53 Detective Phil Fish's wife on "Fish"
55 Achieved victory in
56 Sitting on — the world
57 Love, in Paris
58 "ER" actor Eriq La —
59 Prefix with cycle or state
60 "This pleases me!"
61 Cleaned a little, with "up"
62 Texas or Ukraine city
63 Owned (up)
70 Actress West
71 Genuine, in Germany
72 Of a similar kind to
75 Rustling sounds
80 Place to live
81 Tech. schools
82 Channel for hoops fans
83 Zeus' wife
87 Elongate
88 Hymn with harmonies
89 Poltergeist, e.g.
90 "Evidently ..."
91 Oompah band music
92 Coin-op cafeteria
93 Bus. bigwig
94 Letter after upsilon
96 Reactions to cute babies
98 Maude's partner in a 1971 film
99 Intrusive plant
100 Military forces
101 Edmund Spenser's "The — Queene"
102 More hideous
103 Los Angeles hoops team
108 "Terrible" time for tots
111 Writer Dinesen
112 Reid of "Sharknado"
116 #1 song, e.g.
117 Climbing vine
118 Pointer
119 Lofty poem
120 Diner sandwich, for short



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Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, June 11
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, June 15
The Patrick County School Board will hold a Special Called Meeting at 5:30 p.m., 132 North Main Street, Stuart, to discuss the potential candidate for the vacant school board position - Peters Creek District.

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

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.

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.

Saturday, June 13
Patrick Central School Historical Marker to be unveiled at 2 p.m. on Salem Highway and Blackjack Road, Stuart; Reunion at 3 p.m., Stuart Rotary, 246 Woodland Drive, Stuart.

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.

Tuesday, June 23
The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in conjunction with design-build contractor Triton Construction, Inc. will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" public information meeting for upcoming roadwork for the Vesta Project on U.S. 58 in Patrick County, 4 to 6 p.m., Meadows of Dan Elementary School Gymnasium, 3003 Jeb Stuart Highway in Meadows of Dan. Parking will be available in the upper playground parking lot.

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27
High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will hold Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Pastor Wayne Moore at 336-793-7991.

Monday, June 29
The Patrick County VA250 celebration will be held at the William Letcher Gravesite, an American Patriot of the Revolutionary War at 221 Letcher Lane at 6 p.m. Revolutionary War Reenactors will be present, a cannon will be fired, and Tom Perry will speak about Letcher.

Saturday, July 4
Bluegrass and old time music competition at the Vesta Community Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Competition categories include banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footing with three competition levels of children, teen, and adult. People should bring their own lawn chairs. Concessions will be available for sale.

Saturday, July 11
The United Daughters of the Confederacy will hold a special program form the 130th anniversary celebration of Mildred Lee Chapter 74, Virginia Division at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum, 1 East Main St., Martinsville, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Ongoing

American Legion Post 105 meets every third Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Post building at 553 American Legion Road, Stuart. All are welcome.

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.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Patrick County School Board will hold a Special Called Meeting Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at 132 North Main Street, Stuart, VA to discuss the potential candidate for the vacant school board position - Peters Creek District.

Dr. Jason A. Wood, Superintendent

USDA

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.rodriguez@usda.gov

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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PATRICK COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF

PURSUANT to 515.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Patrick County Public Service Authority hereby gives notice of a PUBLIC HEARING scheduled for 6:15 p.m. on the 25th day of June 2026, in the Community Room at the Patrick & Henry Community College Stuart Site, 212 Wood Brothers Drive, Stuart VA.

The purpose of this meeting will be to afford all users of Patrick County Public Service Authority facilities, owners, tenants, or occupants of property served by the Patrick County Public Service Authority facilities and all others interested to be heard concerning the preliminary proposed rates, fees and charges set out in the preliminary schedules below and adopted by resolution of the Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors setting forth the proposed schedules fixing and classifying the rates, fees and charges at a duly called meeting for the Patrick County Public Service Authority on the 26th day of May 2026.

SCHEDULE 1

Patrick County Public Service AuthoritySchedule of Monthly Water Rates (Preliminary)

	Customer	Current Rate
Volume Rate per 1,000 gallons for usage in excess of 2,000 gallons	Single-Family Residential Non-Profit	$7.50
	Commercial/lnstitutional	$7.50

Residential Minimum Monthly Base Rate according to Meter size

Residential Meter Size	Includes Minimum Usage of	Equivalent Residential Unit	Current Minimum Monthly Rate
5/8” or 3/4” Meter	2,000	1.00	$33.14
1” Meter	2,000	1.75	$58.00
1½” Meter	2,000	3.00	$99.43
2” Meter	2,000	4.00	$132.57

Commercial/Institutional Minimum Monthly Base Rate according to Meter size

Commercial/Institutional Meter Size	Includes Minimum Usage of	Equivalent Commercial Unit	Current Minimum Monthly Rate
5/8” or 3/4” Meter	2,000	1.00	$57.00
1” Meter	2,000	1.75	$99.75
1½” Meter	2,000	3.00	$171.01
2” Meter	2,000	4.00	$228.01
3” Meter	2,000	5.00	$285.01
4’ Meter	2,000	7.00	$399.01
Meters Larger than 4”	-	-	Charged at Contract Rate

1. Rates effective 7/1/26
2. Meters are read monthly
3. All customers are charged the minimum monthly base rate plus volume rate for all usage over 2,000 gallons
4. In accordance with Section 15.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, rate changes shall be subject to public hearing prior to adoption

SCHEDULE 2

Patrick County Public Service AuthoritySchedule of Monthly Sewer Rates (Preliminary)

	Customer	Current Rate
Volume Rate per 1,000 gallons for usage in excess of 2,000 gallons	Single-Family Residential Non-Profit	$11.13
	Commercial/lnstitutional	$11.13

Residential Minimum Monthly Base Rate according to Water Meter size

Residential Meter Size	Includes minimum usage of	Equivalent Residential Unit	Current Minimum Monthly Rate
5/8” or 3/4” Meter	2,000	1.00	$24.06
1” Meter	2,000	1.75	$42.11
1 ½” Meter	2,000	3.00	$72.19
2” Meter	2,000	4.00	$96.26

Commercial/Institutional Minimum Monthly Base Rate according to Water Meter size

Commercial/Institutional Meter Size	Includes minimum usage of	Equivalent Commercial Unit	Current Minimum Monthly Rate
5/8” or 3/4” Meter	2,000	1.00	$37.37
I” Meter	2,000	1.75	$65.64
1 ½” Meter	2,000	3.00	$112.12
2” Meter	2,000	4.00	$149.49
3” Meter	2,000	5.00	$186.86
4” Meter	2,000	7.00	$261.61

1. Rates effective 7/1/26
2. Sewer usage shall be based upon current water usage quantities for all customers who have Authority water
3. All customers are charged the minimum monthly base rate plus volume rate for any usage over 2,000 gallons
4. Usage for meters larger than 4” shall be metered by sewer metering equipment installed by customer at the point of connection with Authority lines
5. In accordance with Section 15.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, rate changes shall be subject to public hearing prior to adoption

SCHEDULE 3

Patrick County Public Service Authority Schedule of Monthly Fire Service Rates (Preliminary)

Base Monthly Rate

Fire Service Size	Current Rate
Fire Hydrant Meter	$93.50
Less than 4 Inch	$39.33
4 Inch	$80.02
6 Inch	$159.78
Larger than 6 inch	Contract Rate

1. Current rates effective 7/1/26
2. The Authority reserves the right to charge for excessive fire service water consumption at commercial water rates
3. All Fire Hydrant Meter usage shall e charged at current Temporary Water Service Rates per 1,000 gallons of usage
4. In accordance with Section 15.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, rate changes shall be subject to public hearing prior to adoption

SCHEDULE 4

Patrick County Public Service Authority Schedule of Availability, Connection & Tap Fees (Preliminary)

Water Connection Fee

Meter Size	Equivalent Residential Unit	Current Connection Charge
5/8” or 3/4” Meter	1.00	$1,200
1” Meter	1.75	$2,100
1½” Meter	3.00	$3,600
2” Meter	4.00	$4,800
3” Meter	5.00	$6,000
4” Meter	7.00	$8,400
Larger than 4”		Contract Rate

Water Tap Fee

All Customers		Current Tap Charge (See Note 4)
5/8” or 3/4” Meter		$2,550
1” Meter		$3,500
1½” Meter		$6,500
2” Meter or Larger		Actual Cost Plus 15%

Sewer Connection Fee

Meter Size	Equivalent Residential Unit	Current Connection Charge
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Residential	1.00	$1,500
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Commercial/Institutional	1.75	$2,625
1” Meter	1.75	$2,625
1½” Meter	3.00	$4,500
2” Meter	4.00	$6,000
3” and Larger Meters	300 gallons per day	$23.50/Gallon of Capacity

Sewer Tap Fee

All customers		Current Tap Charge (See Note 4)
4” Inch or 5 Inch Lateral		$1,500
Larger Sizes		Actual Cost Plus 15%

Water Availability Fee

Meter Size	Current Monthly Minimum	Current Availability Charge
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$33.14 monthly
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$57.00 monthly
1” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$58.00 monthly
1” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$99.75 monthly
1½” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$99.43 monthly
1½” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$171.01 monthly
2” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$132.57 monthly
2” Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$228.01 monthly

Sewer Availability Fee

Meter Size	Current Monthly Minimum	Current Availability Charge
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$24.06 monthly
5/8” or 3/4” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$37.37 monthly
1” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$42.11 monthly
1” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$65.64 monthly
1½” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$72.19 monthly
1½” Meter Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$112.12 monthly
2” Meter Residential	Current Monthly Minimum	$96.26 monthly
2” Commercial/Institutional	Current Monthly Minimum	$149.49 monthly

1. Rates effective 7/1/26
2. For developments constructed utilizing publicly owned sewer pumping stations, the connection fee will increase by $1,000 per residential connection
3. For water services constructed by others, meters up to 5/8 and 3/4 inch are billed at $195 each and larger meters will be billed at cost plus 10%
4. Water and sewer tap fees may be increased to cover the cost of pavement restoration and or road crossings
5. Extension Fees may apply for offsite extension projects or extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Authority’s Executive Director
6. In accordance with Section 15 2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, rate changes shall be subject to public hearing prior to adoption

SCHEDULE 5

Patrick County Public Service Authority Schedule of Miscellaneous Rates and Charges All Customers (Preliminary)

Rate or Fee Description	Rate & Fee Charges
Additional Overtime Charge (for work other than 8AM-4PM, Monday-Friday)	$25.00 per hour (1 hour minimum)
Administrative Noncompliance Fee	up to $1,500 per violation
Debt Collection Fee	up to 20% plus legal fees
Debt Set-Off Fee	$25.00
Each request for service beyond initial water service turn-on re-read of meter with no charge if misread; leak investigation; engineering field service fee including construction inspection	$25.00 per hour (1 hour minimum)
Initial Application for Service Fee	$20.00
Security Deposit Residential Property Owner, Water Only (2 months)	$66.00
Security Deposit Residential Property Owner, Sewer Only (2 months)	$48.00
Security Deposit Residential Property Owner, Water & Sewer (2 months)	$115.00
Security Deposit Commercial/Industrial Property Owner (2 months)	$190.00
Security Deposit Residential Rental Property, Tennant (3 months)	$175.00
Security Deposit Commercial/Industrial Rental Property, Tennant (3 months)	$285.00
Security Deposit Fire Hydrant Meter	$750.00
Security Deposit Temporary Water Service	$75.00
Late Payment Fee	10% of bill balance
Meter test for removable meters (no charge if defective meter)	$50.00 per test
Meter test for stationary meters (no charge if defective meter)	$300.00 per test
Returned Payment/Check Charge	$35.00
Service Disconnection Fee	$15.00
Service Reconnection Fee (to restore service before 4 PM for payments made before 2 PM)	$15.00
Same Day Service Restoration Fee (to restore service after 4 PM for payments made after	$25.00
Temporary Water or Sewer Account Set-Up Fee	$20.00
Temporary Sewer Service (per 1,000 gallons)	$13.00
Temporary Water Service (per 1,000 gallons)	$8.65

1. Rates and Fees effective 7/1/26
2. Rates and Fees are subject to change
3. In accordance with Section 15.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia, rate changes shall be subject to public hearing prior to adoption

Any rates and charges a opted by the Authority at such public hearing shall be deemed to apply to any and all existing water and sewer customers who are served by the Authority on and after July 1, 2026. Copies of Rate Schedules area available for inspection at the Authority’s office.

Patrick County Public Service Authority
106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing for Town of Stuart - Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, that the Town of Stuart will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers of the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue, to solicit public input on the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget. The proposed budget is presented below.

For additional information, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at 276-694-3811. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Town of Stuart at PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171 or information@stuartva.org until **Friday, June 12, 2026, at 4:00 PM**. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

The proposed budget has been prepared for informative and fiscal planning purposes in accordance with Section 15.2-2503 of the Code of Virginia. The budget is balanced; total appropriations in each fund equal total estimated revenues for that fund.

Current and Proposed Tax Levies

Per Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia. No changes to tax rates or fees are proposed for Fiscal Year 2027.

Levy Fee	Current	Proposed	Change
Real Estate Tax (per $100 assessed value)	$0.172	$0.172	No change
Personal Property Tax (per $100 assessed value)	$0.172	$0.172	No change
Motor Vehicle License (decal), per vehicle	$25.00	$25.00	No change

TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 2027

General Revenues	
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	$25,972
AUTO DECALS	$21,700
AUTO RENTAL TAX	$10
BUSINESS LICENSE	$200,000
CIGARETTE TAX	$15,000
FESTIVAL INCOME	$3,400
FRANCHISE TAX	$190,750
INTEREST INCOME	$45,000
MEALS TAX	$412,000
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	$13,000
PROPERTY TAXES	$238,000
RENT - INCOME	$46,563
STATE COMMUNICATIONS TAX	$1,701
STATE SALES TAX	$57,000
General Revenues Total	**$1,270,096**
General Expenses	
ADMIN RETIREMENT	$5,257
ADMIN SALARY	$105,135
ADMIN. FICA	$8,043
ADMIN. INSURANCE	$14,600
ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	$4,500
BANK CHARGES- SERVICE CHARGE	$7,500
BANK CHARGES-CREDIT CARDS	$600
BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT	$20,000
CONTRIBUTIONS	$20,000
DEBT RETIREMENT	$64,440
ELECTRICITY	$68,000
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	$1,500
FACADE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT	$10,000
FARMERS' MARKET	$2,000
FESTIVAL EXPENSE	$8,000
FIRE DEPT - MISC	$26,000
FUEL EXPENSE	$15,000
INSURANCE	$60,000
INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	$15,500
MATERIALS & SUPPLY	$40,000
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	$4,128
OFFICE EXPENSE	$22,000
POSTAGE	$5,500
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	$45,000
RENT - EXPENSE	$5,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	$35,000
SECURITY & POLICING	$1,500
STREETS - GROUP INS	$24,006
STREETS - INSURANCE	$40,850
STREETS - RETIREMENT	$3,529
STREETS FICA	$5,399
STREETS WAGES	$70,571
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	$4,000
TOWN COUNCIL FICA	$993
TOWN COUNCIL SALARY	$13,000
TOWN MANAGER	$76,000
TOWN MANAGER - FICA	$5,814
TOWN MANAGER INSURANCE	$11,350
TOWN MANAGER RETIREMENT	$3,800
TREASURER - INSURANCE	$12,850
TREASURER - RETIREMENT	$2,850
TREASURER FICA	$4,360
TREASURER SALARY	$57,000
UNIFORM EXPENSE	$20,000
VEHICLE EXPENSE	$16,000
Interfund Transfer (General -> Enterprise)	*$283,521*
General Expenses Total	**$1,270,096**
Sewer Fund - Revenues	
PSA SEWER INCOME	$39, 178
SEWER FEES IN-TOWN	$341,675
SEWER MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	$43,000
Interfund Transfer (Gen -> Sewer)	*$101,960*
Sewer Revenues Total	**$525,813**
Sewer Fund - Expenses	
DEBT RETIREMENT	$131,808
SEWER ADMIN FICA	$3,660
SEWER ADMIN GROUP INSURANCE	$8,920
SEWER ADMIN RETIREMENT	$2,392
SEWER ADMIN SALARY	$47,840
SEWER ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	$600
SEWER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	$5,000
SEWER DUES, LICENSES, & PERMITS	$5,300
SEWER ELECTRICITY	$76,000
SEWER INSURANCE	$5,500
SEWER INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	$2,200
SEWER MATERIALS & SUPPLY	$33,000
SEWER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	$1,200
SEWER OFFICE EXPENSE	$500
SEWER PROFESSIONAL SERV.	$12,000
SEWER REPAIRS & MAINTEN	$21,000
SEWER SLUDGE DISPOSAL	$20,000
SEWER SYSTEM FICA	$7,716
SEWER SYSTEM GROUP INS.	$23,000
SEWER SYSTEM RETIREMENT	$4,107
SEWER SYSTEM WAGES	$82,150
SEWER SYSTEM WAGES P/T	$18,720
SEWER TESTING FEES	$12,000
SEWER VEHICLE EXPENSE	$1,200
Sewer Expenses Total	**$525,813**
Water Fund - Revenues	
PSA WATER INCOME	$57,842
WATER FEES IN TOWN	$403,729
WATER MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	$250
Interfund Transfer (Gen -> Water)	*$147,000*
Water Revenues Total	**$608,821**
Water Fund - Expenses	
DEBT RETIREMENT	$193,580
WATER ADMIN FICA TAXES	$4,360
WATER ADMIN GROUP INSURANCE	$24,960
WATER ADMIN RETIREMENT	$2,850
WATER ADMIN WAGES	$57,000
WATER ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	$600
WATER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	$15,000
WATER DUES, PERMITS, LICENSES	$1,500
WATER ELECTRICITY	$57,000
WATER HEALTH DEPT ASSESMENT	$2,000
WATER INSURANCE	$8,000
WATER INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	$3,500
WATER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	$60,000
WATER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	$1,200
WATER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	$12,000
WATER REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	$22,000
WATER SLUDGE DISPOSAL	$2,500
WATER SYSTEM FICA TAX	$7,499
WATER SYSTEM GROUP INS	$25,000
WATER SYSTEM PART TIME	$18,980
WATER SYSTEM RETIREMENT	$3,952
WATER SYSTEM WAGES	$79,040
WATER TESTING FEES	$5,000
WATER VEHICLE EXPENSE	$1,200
Water Expenses Total	**$608,821**
Sanitation Fund - Revenues	$608,821
GARBAGE FEES	$240,759
Interfund Transfer (Gen -> Sanitation)	*$34.561*
Sanitation Revenues Total	**$275,320**
Sanitation Fund - Expenses	$275,320
INSURANCE	$10,000
SANITATION DUMPSTER EXPENSE	$11,000
SANITATION FICA	$8,549
SANITATION GROUP INS	$25,500
SANITATION LANDFILL FEES	$51,000
SANITATION MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	$5,000
SANITATION MISCELLANEOUS	$1,200
SANITATION RETIREMENT	$3,337
SANITATION VEHICLE	$48,000
SANITATION WAGES	$66,744
SANITATION-PART TIME	$44,990
Sanitation Expenses Total	**$275,320**
All Local Funds - Summary	
General Revenues	$1,270,096
Enterprise & Utility Revenues	$1,126,433
Total Revenues	**$2,396,529**
General Operating Expenses	$986,575
Sewer Expenses	$525,813
Water Expenses	$608,821
Sanitation Expenses	$275,320
Total Expenses	**$2,396,529**

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing for Town of Stuart - Fiscal Year 2027 Utility Rates

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, that the Town of Stuart will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers of the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue, to solicit public input on proposed changes to water, sewer, and sanitation utility rates in support of the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget. The proposed rates are presented below.

For additional information, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at 276-694-3811. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Town of Stuart at PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171 or information@stuartva.org until **Friday, June 12, 2026, at 4:00 PM**. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

If approved by Town Council following the public hearing, the rates shown below will take effect **July 1, 2026**.

Water Rates

Rate Class	Current Base	Proposed Base	Current /1,000 gal	Proposed /1,000 gal
In-Town Residential	$21.11	$22.50	$4.22	$5.75
Out-of-Town Residential	$30.13	$35.00	$5.85	$6.00
In-Town Commercial	$35.00	$40.00	$4.22	$6.28
Out-of-Town Commercial	$50.00	$50.00	$4.22	$6.28

Base rate includes the first 2,000 gallons of water consumed per month; usage above 2,000 gallons is billed at the per-1,000-gallon rate.

Sewer Rates

Rate Class	Current Base	Proposed Base	Current/1,000 gal	Proposed/1,000 gal
In-Town Residential	$21.11	$22.50	$5.58	$7.50
Out-of-Town Residential	$30.13	$35.00	$5.58	$8.00
In-Town Commercial	$35.00	$40.00	$5.58	$8.50
Out-of-Town Commercial	$50.00	$50.00	$5.58	$8.50
Industrial (Flat - United Elastic)	$3,250/mo	$3,250/mo	N/A	N/A

Base rate includes the first 2, 000 gallons of metered water consumption per month; usage above 2,000 gallons is billed at the per-1,000-gallon rate.

Sanitation (Garbage) Rates

Service Tier	Current Monthly	Proposed Monthly
Residential	$11.04	$20.00
Small Commercial	$20.14	$40.00
6-yard Dumpster - 1x per week	$138.01	$155.00
6-yard Dumpster - 2x per week	$276.02	$310.00
6-yard Dumpster - 4x per week	$552.04	$620.00
Other Dumpster Tiers	varies	+12.3% from current

Notes

Rate Caps. Water and sewer per-1,000-gallon usage rates are capped at the Patrick County Public Service Authority wholesale rate ($6.28 per 1,000 gallons for water, $8.52 per 1,000 gallons for sewer).

6-yard Dumpster Cap. The proposed monthly rate for 6-yard dumpster service at one pickup per week is capped at $155.00.

Effective Date. If approved by Town Council, the rates shown above will take effect July 1, 2026 and will appear on utility bills issued on or after that date.

Public Comment. All interested citizens are invited to attend the public hearing and to be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Town Manager in advance of the hearing at the contact information listed above.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing on **June 23, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Martinsville City Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. The purpose of the public hearing shall be to hear public comment regarding the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on **June 23, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Water and Sewer Fund budget to recognize additional grant funding, loan proceeds, and related capital project expenditures; and

WHEREAS, these adjustments are necessary to properly account for revenues received and to appropriate funds for approved capital infrastructure improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA, that the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

The Water and Sewer Fund budget is hereby amended to recognize additional revenues and to appropriate an equal amount of expenditures. All appropriations are fully supported by the funding sources identified below as follows:

Water - Grants (State DEQ)..... $9,169,600.00
Water - Loan Proceeds $7,502,400.00
TOTAL REVENUES $16,672,000.00

The above revenues are hereby appropriated for the following expenditure. This expenditure is fully supported by the identified grant revenues and loan proceeds.

Water/Sewer - Buildings & Building Improvements $16,672,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE(S) $16,672,000.00

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye **Nay**

Abstain **Absent**

ATTEST:

_____
Mayor

_____
Deputy City Clerk

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL26000144-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104
PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
RAS TRUSTEE SERVICES LLC v. THE ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL, ET AL

The object of this suit is to:
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO HEIRS WITH UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS

It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN HEIRS OF, ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL AND JULIA HUTCHENS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 10, 2026.

MAY 26, 2026

Clerk

LEGAL

Meeting Notice
Patrick County Public Service Authority

The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold a Called Business Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Patrick & Henry Community College Stuart site, 212 Wood Brothers Drive, Stuart,VA. The purpose of the meeting will be to hold a Public Hearing on Preliminary Rates, Fees, and Charges for FY27 and adoption of same, or as amended.

Petitions and requests from the public to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.

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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 l, 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 l, 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 Orlans Law Group PLLC P.O. Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.orlans.com

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

LEGAL

ABC NOTICE

Lilesperry LLC trading as Longfin Grill, 329 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Patrick County, Stuart, Virginia 24171-1530.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant Beer, Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverage On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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J.E.B

(cont. from page 6)





of Virginia Governor John Floyd, asking him to intercede with the Governor on Stuart's behalf for a promotion to Captain. He also wrote to Oliver Otis Howard, a friend from his West Point days and future Union General, to enlist support for his promotion. Stuart asked Howard about his attempts to secure a position at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Howard is the namesake of Howard University.

Here is a letter from William H. Emory to William J. Hardee dated September 14, 1858, about Stuart.

Dear Hardee,

Lt. Stuart is anxious to go to West Point as an Asst. Instructor of Cav Tactics, and I know of no one better qualified than Stuart in personal deportment or skill as a drill officer of horse. If an appointment presents itself to get him ordered to West Point, I think you will have every reason to congratulate yourself upon the acquisition of a zealous and able assistant.

Very Truly Yours

W. H. Emory

While at Fort Riley, Stuart studied and passed the bar exam. He invented a horse hitcher and a brass belt attachment for a saber/scabbard. He still wrote poetry.

In October 1858, 1st Lieutenant Stuart of Company G of the 1st United States Cavalry rejoined his command on October 3 at Fort Riley, where he would remain the rest of 1858. The clouds of war began to show on the horizon, and the year 1859 would be memorable in the life of Patrick County's James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart and in the history of the United States of America.

Federal

(cont. from page 6)

Mills Jr. has mowed some hay this season at Briar View Farms in Pittsylvania County.

"But our first cutting is less than 30% of our usual yield," he said. "The rest dried up."

Parched pasture conditions have backed others into a financial corner.

"We have cattle farmers in Halifax selling young calves, so there's enough pasture for the others to have," Daniel added. "And people are already looking for hay to feed."

But farmers hedge their bets when Mother Nature deals bad hands. Mills said tobacco plantings can be postponed, depending on variety.

"This is the first time in our career that we've ever planted tobacco in June," he said. "If we have more rain and crop progresses throughout the season, we'll be OK. But if we have another drought mid-season, it's going to stall the crop. Delayed maturity puts it in the frost window."

Mills said only about 25% of corn has been planted in the county because of drought, including just 12 acres of their 200-acre cornfield, while late frost pushed some farmers to re-plant their corn and soybean crops altogether.

Growers impacted by the late April freeze may be eligible for FSA physical loss loans to help repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property. The farmers.gov Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Loan Assistance Tool can help determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or call Virginia FSA at 804-287-1500.

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Stuart, VA
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Join Us - June 18, 2026

Ribbon CUTTING

6.18.2026

Patrick County CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Join us as we celebrate the open house and new office space for Jessup & Associates
Celebrating 30 years of business!

5 pm to 7pm~ Open House & Business
After Hours
6pm ~ Ribbon Cutting

116 North Main Street, Stuart

Jessup & ASSOCIATES PLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Everyone Welcome