THE ENTERPRISE

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

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

DEQ issues corrective action request to Faith Mulch

By Taylor Boyd

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a request for corrective action to Faith Mulch after an accidental dye spill discolored Campbell Branch, a tributary of the Mayo River, earlier this month.

The request follows the July 18 spill of blue-green dyed hydroseeding mulch, which prompted a response from local officials after a resident reported the discolored water.

According to the DEQ, the spilled material is a nontoxic, blue-green dyed hydroseeding mulch.

DEQ Pollution Response Team Coordinator Allen Linkenhoker, who is also serving as the case manager, said he sent the request for corrective action on July 19.

"I said just in general they need to take steps to prevent future discharge, and they're already doing some work in that regard. Faith Mulch have done a considerable amount of clean up and they are implementing measures. They already got some measures in place to prevent things like that in the future," he said.

Linkenhoker said the company is also working to create a system to filter and contain runoff, working to prevent any discharges in the future from the equipment that failed, and planning out what to do if it does happen again.

"How to contain what's released," he said.

Linkenhoker said he came to Stuart on July 22 to take samples of Campbell Branch's water.

"Unfortunately, I arrived right in the middle" of significant rainfall. "It was all floodwater at that point. The little creek was full to the top of the banks with muddy floodwater, and the South Mayo was the same," he said.

Linkenhoker said he also looked around the site.

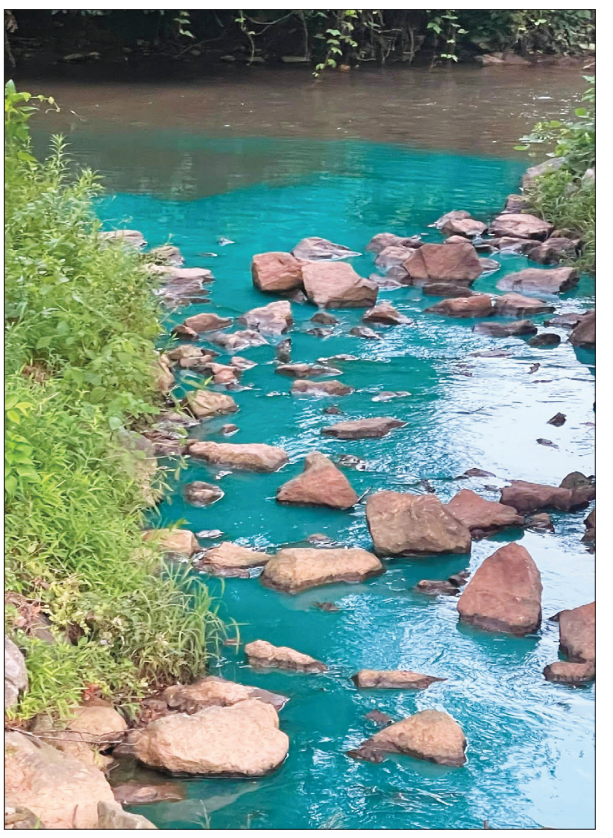
Since this is still an open investigation, Linkenhoker said the DEQ will monitor Faith Mulch and evaluate its options in terms of with what the appropriate response will be.

"There's a whole array of options that we have, everything from a notice of violation — which that's an enforcement process — to telling them they need to obtain a permit from us and come up with some kind of more formalized plan and do periodic monitoring themselves," he said, adding the DEQ could also fine the company for the dye spill.

"There's more work to be done, and there's more oversight and more involvement to come," he said.

Noting there's a process underway, Linkenhoker said "We're working through that, and they are being responsive."

Representatives with Faith Mulch did not respond to requests for comment.



The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing corrective actions after dyed hydroseeding mulch entered Campbell Branch. (Photo by Carol Ragsdale.)

Council discusses potential mobile food vendor ordinance

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council discussed a potential mobile food vendor ordinance at its July 15 meeting.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said he believes creating the ordinance would help capture the mobile food merchants the council's talked about during previous meetings.

The proposed ordinance would include food vendors set up in trailers, carts, tents, trucks, and other mobile apparatuses.

Under the proposed ordinance, mobile food vendors would pay a $300 annual fee or $25 per event.

"That does not exclude them from paying meals tax as well," Simmons said.

Noting that some of the mobile units enter and leave the town quickly, Vice-mayor Dave Hoback asked if the town has the horsepower to effectively enforce the proposed ordinance.

"It ultimately comes down to this is a step in the right direction. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that we have not been enforcing it, and I think that is because we don't have the mechanisms in place to really enforce it as we were going along," Simmons said.

While the town might not be able to get every single mobile food vendor, Simmons said the proposed ordinance is an attempt to be more fair to Stuart's brick-and-mortar businesses.

"There's a disparity that we are putting all of the emphasis and all of the burden on brick-and-mortar buildings, and this is effectively a step in the direction of trying to capture and enforce these mechanisms. The ones that commonly do business in town, I don't think are going to have a problem with it. I think that, and I do foresee that, there will be some rogue ones that want to set up," he said.

Simmons said the proposed ordinance also includes provisions and

(See Council p. 12)

Primary voting scheduled Aug. 4 in Patrick County

Patrick County voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, August 4 for the Primary Election. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

This election is a dual primary. When checking in to vote, each voter will be asked whether they wish to vote in the Democratic Party Primary or the Republican Party Primary. Officers of Election are required by law to determine which primary ballot the voter wishes to receive.

Any qualified voter may choose to vote in either party's primary; however, a voter may not vote in both primaries. Choosing to vote in a party's primary does not register the voter with that political party. Virginia does not have party registration.

A sample ballot listing the candidates in each primary is published in this newspaper.

Voters are reminded to bring an acceptable form of identification when voting. Virginia law requires voters to present an acceptable form of ID at the polls. Any voter who does not have acceptable identification may complete and sign an ID Confirmation Statement and vote a regular ballot.

Registered voters who wish to vote early may do so in person at the Patrick County Registrar's Office, located in the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building, 106

(See Primary p. 2)

Sheriff's Office to host National Night Out

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office will host its annual National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at DeHart Park.

The free, family-friendly event begins at 5 p.m. and offers residents an opportunity to meet sheriff's deputies and other first responders in an informal setting while enjoying food and community activities.

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said the event provides time for officers and the community to come together and fellowship.

He and his office encourage families, friends and community members of all ages to attend and get to know local law enforcement.

National Night Out is an annual event held in communities across the country to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the public while promoting crime prevention and neighborhood partnerships.



Roanoke muralist Jon Murrill recently completed a mural on the water tank overlooking the Mayo River Rail Trail in Stuart.

New mural brightens Mayo River Rail Trail

By Taylor Boyd

A colorful new mural on a water tank overlooking the Mayo River Rail Trail has become the trail's newest piece of public art.

The project, proposed and supported by Bull Mountain Arts (BMA), was completed earlier this month by Roanoke muralist Jon Murrill. The mural features a child's hand reaching into the Mayo River toward a trout, along with a dragonfly, wildflowers, grasses and other natural elements.

Bull Mountain Arts President Lora Mahaffey said the idea began about two years ago during a conversation with Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Adcock.

"We were looking at the tower and she said, 'Ah, I just want to do something with the tower, like paint it.' I was like, 'Yeah, I was thinking about murals and how cool that would be,'" Mahaffey said.

Although early discussions with the property's owner stalled, Mahaffey never let go of the idea.

"It was always in my head, and I just never forgot about it because I walk on the trail a lot," she said.

The project moved forward after a longtime BMA supporter agreed to fund it and encouraged Mahaffey to contact Murrill, who previously painted the goddess mural on the side of Pickle & Ash in Patrick Springs.

"I loved it and I wanted him to do it," Mahaffey said.

Before work began, BMA members and Town of Stuart officials met with Murrill to discuss ideas for the design.

Murrill "went away with all of these notes and ideas and a lot of questions and came back with his original designs and got feedback from us as well at that point. We just loved what he did," Mahaffey said.

Mahaffey said the organization also viewed the project as a learning opportunity.

"I wanted to raise the bar for us so that we could do it here in the future and do it well. He came and talked to us and did a demonstration, and he was incredibly generous with his time, and everybody got really excited," she said.

The finished mural reflects the

(See Mural p. 13)

Primary

(cont. from page 1)

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Patrick

Democratic Party Primary Election
Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:



If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

Member
House of Representatives
9th District
Vote for only one

- ○ **Joy A. Powers**
- ○ **Adam Grayson Murphy**
- ○ **Douglas E. Crockett**

END OF BALLOT

DEM

SAMPLE

Statement Heading: Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-956 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Patrick

Republican Party Primary Election
Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:



If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks besides filling in the oval, your vote may not be counted.

Member
United States Senate
Vote for only one

- ○ **Bert Mizusawa**
- ○ **Kim Farington**
- ○ **David E. Williams**

END OF BALLOT

REP

SAMPLE

Statement Heading: Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-956 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Yellow Democratic Party Primary

Rucker Street, Room 216C, Stuart, Virginia.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day for early voting is Saturday, August 1, at 5 p.m.

For additional information, please contact the Patrick County Registrar's Office at (276) 694-7206.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

Dan River District
- Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.
- Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Rd
- Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Rd.

Peters Creek District
- Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.
- Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Rd.
- Russell Creek – New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Rd

Mayo River District
- Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Rd.
- Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Rd.

Blue Ridge District
- Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy
- Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.
- Stuart Community - Stuart Community Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Brothers Dr.

Smith River District
- Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687
- Fairystone Park Hwy. Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.

Yellow Republican Party Primary

Red Cross declares national blood crisis

The American Red Cross is urging people to donate blood immediately after declaring a national blood crisis for only the second time in its history.

The organization said blood donations have fallen to a four-year summer low, with supplies unable to keep pace with hospital demand. All blood types are needed, but type O blood is in especially short supply. The supply of O-positive blood has fallen below a one-day supply, forcing the Red Cross to limit distributions to hospitals.

The Red Cross said extreme heat, poor air quality and widespread foodborne illnesses have contributed to lower donor turnout this summer.

"This summer has brought a number of unique challenges that have placed additional strain on our blood supply, creating growing concerns for hospitals and the patients who rely on lifesaving transfusions," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president of donor services for the American Red Cross.

The organization estimates that if three additional people donated at each blood drive this summer, it would help stabilize the blood supply.

Appointments can be made through the Red Cross Blood Donor App, at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As an incentive, donors who give through July 31 will receive a Fandango movie ticket by email (up to a $15 value), while those who donate Aug. 1-31 will receive a $20 Amazon gift card by email. Terms and conditions are available at RedCrossBlood.org.

Eligible donors generally must be in good health, meet minimum age and weight requirements, and present acceptable identification at their appointment. The Red Cross recommends completing the online RapidPass health questionnaire before arriving to reduce wait times.

Stuart Rotary, Ruritan clubs partner on new initiative

The Rotary Club of Stuart and the Stuart Ruritan Club are partnering to launch a new community initiative, "Pints for Patrick County Partnerships," a service-driven pitch night designed to support the growth of local businesses and nonprofits. The event will take place on Thursday, August 27, from 6–8 p.m. at Pickle & Ash.

"Pints for Patrick County Partnerships" invites local businesses and nonprofits to present a 3 to 5 minute pitch outlining a project that would help them grow or better serve the community. Projects may include painting, organizing a workspace, sprucing up an outdoor area, or any task that requires volunteer hands and a modest budget. Each participating business will also have the opportunity to set up a small display and speak with attendees throughout the evening.

Attendees will enjoy the atmosphere at Pickle & Ash while listening to the presentations and then vote for the project they believe will make the greatest impact. A $5 donation will be collected at the door, with 100% of funds going directly toward supplies and materials for the winning project. If the project exceeds the amount raised, the business will simply cover the remaining cost.

The winning business will receive a day of volunteer service from both clubs to complete their project as well as the money raised at the event.

This event is all about lifting up local businesses and nonprofits in a hands-on, meaningful way, Rotary is excited to partner with the Ruritans and bring a fresh, community-focused idea to Patrick County.

Local businesses and nonprofits interested in participating can apply online at https://form.jotform.com/262024365232044

For questions or additional information, please contact Liz at LPierceStuartRotary@pm.me.

Norris
Memorial Services
1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778
Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com



Pets of the Week



This black lab mix was found on Jeb Stuart Hwy in Medows of Dan. He is such a sweet dog.



This handsome male cat (ear tipped, neutered) was found at Spoon Creek Estates. 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.

email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

Farmer-led safety campaign urges Route 58 drivers to slow down



After too many close calls and crashes involving farm equipment on one of Southside Virginia's busiest highways, Greensville County farmers are taking their safety message directly to motorists.

The Greensville County Farm Bureau board, with support from its Women's Leadership Committee, recently placed a series of five large safety banners along U.S. Route 58 and U.S. Route 301. Mounted on peanut trailers for high visibility, the signs ask drivers to slow down, give farm equipment room and be patient when sharing public roads.

"Greensville County has had a lot of issues with accidents involving farm equipment along 58," said Nick Moody, district field services director for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "They wanted to reach drivers passing through, to make them aware of farm equipment in the area. They ordered five large banners from VFB's print shop to share the message."

The campaign is personal for Greensville County Farm Bureau president Joey Doyle, a lifelong farmer who grows peanuts, cotton, soybeans and corn. Both of his sons have been hit while moving sprayers along Route 58.

"There's a lot of traffic on 58, especially truck traffic," Doyle said. "When one son got hit on the sprayer—it was one of two accidents that day."

The crashes happened about a decade apart, despite flashing lights and slow-moving vehicle markings being in place.

"We decided we need to do something to help slow the folks down," he continued. "And we have no plans to take the signs down anytime soon!"

The banners are posted at both sides of Emporia and county lines. Doyle said the signs have generated positive comments locally, and neighboring Farm Bureau leaders in North Carolina have taken notice.

The farmer-led effort follows heightened concern about safety along the route. Large tractors, sprayers, combines and other equipment often travel far below highway speeds, and can be wider than a single lane.

Farm safety advocates urge motorists to slow down as soon as they see equipment ahead, leave plenty of stopping distance, avoid crowding the operator's blind spots and pass only when it is legal and clearly safe.

Most farm equipment is traveling only a short distance between fields. For drivers, that may mean waiting a few extra minutes. For farmers, it can mean getting home safely.

The stretch of U.S. 58 between Emporia and Courtland has a grim history as a "two-lane killer" before four-lane expansion in the 1990s.

"With enough speeding tickets given out over the years, you would think drivers would slow down, but they don't," Doyle said. "We're hoping these signs will remind them to slow down some."

Cost-share funds available for cover crops

By Patrick County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Patrick County Soil & Water Conservation District can help you qualify for funds that decrease the cost of planting cover crops on your farm, which can boost your bottom line by increasing moisture retention and drought resistance, reducing soil erosion caused by wind and water and improving soil structure and tilth.

Funds come from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Voluntary Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Planting a system of continuous, year-round cover reduces nonpoint source pollution by slowing runoff and taking up excess nitrogen that otherwise would leach into the water table. Cover crops also prevent soil erosion caused by wind and rain. Choosing the right cover for your crop rotation is important. Planting early in the season generally produces the best economic and environmental results. No-till practices further enhance cover crop benefits by allowing biomass to accumulate and enrich the soil.

The Virginia Cost-Share reimburses for small grain cover crop planted for nutrient and residue management. This is the most popular best management practice related to cover crops. Participating farmers can qualify also for early planting and/or for rye cultivars. Cover crop cost-share rates change annually. Additional bottom-line benefits depend on the type of cover you plant and your soil conditions. District staff can help you identify the cover crop practice that best fits your farm operation.

Please contact the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District office which serves the County of Patrick, at 276-694-2911 or stop by the office at 104 Via Avenue, Stuart, Va.

The district can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help implement cover crop best management practices.

Applications accepted for large animal veterinary grants

Grant funding applications are now open for large animal veterinarians looking for financial support to serve livestock owners in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) opened the VDACS Large Animal Veterinary Grant Program application period on July 15 for applications from large animal veterinarians who provide veterinary services for livestock, poultry, or equines. This is the second year of the program.

VDACS will provide four recipients with up to $110,000, disbursed over three years to support large animal veterinary services across the Commonwealth. The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) is working alongside VDACS to further extend large animal veterinarian incentives in Southern and Southwest Virginia. Up to three applicants from the pool will be awarded Tobacco Commission grants up to $150,000 over five years to practice in TRRC service areas. The deadline for applications to be considered for all grants is Sept. 1, 2026.

"We're proud of the positive impact the VDACS Large Animal Veterinary Grant Program is already having in the Commonwealth's rural communities," said Dr. Charlie Broaddus, State Veterinarian. "We saw in the first year of the program in 2025 how many deserving candidates we have who are committed to practicing large animal veterinary care in the Commonwealth, and we're pleased the General Assembly has approved these funds for a second year."

There is a national shortage of large animal veterinarians, who face financial sustainability challenges like education and practice start-up costs, staff retention, equipment and medication, and travel costs across rural areas. In 2025, four large animal veterinarians in Luray, Galax, Rockbridge Baths, and Suffolk, Va., received funds from VDACS. Three veterinarians in Scott County, Galax, and Gretna, were awarded funds from TRRC.

The Large Animal Veterinary Grant was established by the General Assembly in 2025 in response to a multi-year effort from stakeholders like VDACS, TRRC, the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Virginia Tech, and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, to assess potential solutions to stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth. With agriculture being Virginia's largest private industry, the availability of large animal veterinarians in agri-

(See Applications p. 8)



Help stop the spread of invasive plants in Virginia

New legislation establishes penalties for invasive plants sold in Virginia.

Retailers, landscapers and contractors who fail to provide written notification to property owners when installing invasive plants are guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and face civil penalties.

Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed into law a bill that establishes escalating civil penalties for businessmen who install plants the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation lists as invasive. Penalties range from $250 for a first violation, $500 for a second one, and up to $1,000 for each subsequent violation.

Invasive species can spread beyond private landscapes and into natural and agricultural areas—disrupting ecosystems, harming farmland and economies.

According to the Virginia Invasive Species Working Group, they cost Virginians over $1 billion annually in crop losses, forest damage, control efforts and impacts to recreation and infrastructure.

But state organizations, task forces and local groups are fighting back. Residents can join the cause by reporting sightings that help limit their spread.

When spotting a potential invader, Kevin Heffernan, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage invasive species coordinator, said to look for organisms that "don't play nice with others.

"When you see one species taking over an area and pushing everything else out, that's a strong sign it's invasive," he noted.

Heffernan explained that invasive plants like wavyleaf grass, Japanese stiltgrass, fountain grass and Callery pear—commonly known as Bradford pear—are expanding rapidly and overwhelming landscapes.

"Invasive plants are creating monocultures with little value and nutrition for pollinators and birds," he explained.

Japanese stiltgrass thrives in disturbed soils and forest understories, forming dense mats that suppress native plants and wildlife habitat while wavyleaf grass spreads along roadsides and forest edges, displacing grasses and seedlings. Callery, or Bradford, pear and fountain grass were originally introduced as ornamentals and escaped cultivation to dominate roadsides and landscapes.

Aquatic invasive plants also are spreading, Heffernan added. Steadily proliferating in ponds, lakes and streams, two-horned trapa disrupts aquatic ecosystems and inhibits boating, fishing and other recreation.

"The first ingredient to managing invasive species is commitment," he commented. "We like to say, 'Pull invasive weeds, plant native seeds.'"

The DCR recommends the following methods to help control invasive plants:

- Regularly mow or pull invasive plants before they produce seed.
- For large infestations, apply herbicides carefully according to label instructions.
- Report sightings of two-horned trapa.
- Wear gloves when handling two-horned trapa due to barbs.
- Choose native plants and grasses when landscaping and gardening.
- Explore tree exchange programs. The Virginia Department of Forestry facilitates replacing Bradford pears with native varieties.

Read more in Virginia Farm Bureau's spring issue of Cultivate magazine.

Legislative Momentum on Health Care



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Lawmakers take actions on various issues to make a difference.

In the health care space, it often seems I work around the clock to assess federal policy, hear perspectives from the medical community as well as patients and explore ways to help lower health care costs.

One way I do this is by looking at the health care landscape in our region.

Accordingly, I am a leader of H.R. 2191, the Physician Led and Rural Access to Quality Care Act. This bill is one way for us to empower independent physicians and help address medical deserts in rural communities.

To begin 2026, I attended the ribbon cutting for the Stuart Community Hospital in Patrick County.

Thanks to the efforts of a company, led by physician Dr. Beau Braden, and with careful monitoring, Dr. Braden's team has been able to get around the so-called Affordable Care Act prohibitions against physician-owned hospitals.

Patrick County's hospital is not physician-owned, but it is certainly physician-led.

Historically, many hospitals in Virginia's Ninth District actually started as physician-owned hospitals.

But in some areas that are not served or underserved, Dr. Braden's model has shown that it can work to bring competition to hospital care.

His company has hospitals in Tennessee and North Carolina.

For these reasons, his company launched the Stuart facility to facilitate local emergency and in patient care.

This positive development shows physicians can create a path towards health care access and opportunity for rural communities.

As the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, good ideas like physician-led hospitals come across my desk. In some cases, I can promote these ideas toward a finishing line: the President's desk.

Right now, some good health care bills are on this track after recently securing House passage. The following bills show a collective effort on both sides of the aisle to address illnesses with no known cure.

One bill is H.R. 3747 – the Accelerating Access to Dementia and Alzheimer's Provider Training (AADAPT) Act.

The AADAPT Act reauthorizes a program that provides primary care providers with Alzheimer's and dementia training to help improve detection and promote early diagnosis in rural and underserved areas.

With millions of Alzheimer's disease cases and other forms of dementia in the United States, it is necessary that we continue to work to better identify these devastating diseases.

As our population grows older and more seniors occupy our health care system, so comes the rise in Alzheimer's and dementia cases.

In May of 2026, Virginia Tech received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for more than $642,000! They will use this federal funding to develop more aging research on these types of dementia diseases.

I am hopeful that H.R. 3747 will create more opportunities for Virginia Tech and others to better understand dementia-related illnesses.

A second bill to secure House passage is H.R. 4348 – To reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act.

This legislation helps bolster federal programs that provide research into tickborne illnesses such as Lyme disease.

Lyme disease cases are rising in the U.S. This April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that visits to the Emergency Room for tick bites are higher than normal in many parts of the country.

This issue is not alien to Virginia communities.

According to the CDC, Virginia is one of the five U.S. States most impacted by alpha-gal syndrome, a tickborne illness that makes the body allergic to red meat consumption.

As someone who lives with a mild form of alpha-gal, I understand the severity of tickborne illnesses.

With a renewed federal focus on prevention and treatment efforts, I participated in an HHS roundtable with HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Secretary Kennedy outlined his support for policies, including the Kay Hagan Tick Act, that tackle the challenges of tickborne diseases.

I am glad to be a leader for House action on the Kay Hagan Tick Act.

Research on the above diseases presents meaningful opportunities for finding better treatments.

Accordingly, these health care actions are capable of making a difference in the lives of our loved ones, our neighbors and our communities.

My Health Subcommittee believes in making a difference.

Whether I discuss potential health care solutions in DC or in our region, I will continue to work for policies that make a difference in the lives of Central, Southside and Southwest Virginia.

Opinion Editorial

U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, penned a new op-ed that details the potential advances of health care through artificial intelligence (AI). An embrace of AI applications presents challenges, which is why Chairman Griffith stresses the importance of human supervision to complement the AI transition.

Smart use of AI can improve American healthcare

Revolutionary ideas and technologies continue to fuel success stories in health care.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, I regularly hear perspectives on medical advances that bring newfound hope to patients, families and communities.

Telehealth is one such technological breakthrough. By saving patients time, money and peace of mind, many Americans enjoy more convenient and accessible care.

While the demand for health care convenience and access soars, so too does the demand for new cures and treatments.

The Health Subcommittee has championed policies to help create new classes of treatments for rare diseases.

The Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act which became law in February strengthens federal efforts to review and approve therapies for rare diseases like pediatric cancer.

The ACT for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026 which I reported out of the Health Subcommittee directs millions of dollars to research for ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Congressional actions like these, among others, to support American patients are meaningful steps to strengthen the future of the American health care landscape.

What else bears fruit for our medical future?

I believe much of our health care success will hinge on the blossoming potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

This Congress, I led a Health Subcommittee hearing to explore ways our American health care system can keep pace with the speed of science through applications of AI and ML.

AI presents new opportunities to detect disease sooner, deploy improved medical guidance and deliver more precise care to patients. The sooner that the patient receives care, the lesser the risk of severe illness or death that the patient faces.

Not only does this approach prevent delays in care; it also helps prevent future cost increases that impact patients, government programs and health care providers.

In addition to benefitting our health care system, a boost in early detection efforts will ease the burdens on health care providers!

Additional resources are made available, thanks to AI advances.

Medical device companies analyze how their products can better administer care. Insurance companies process claims to help patients access more timely care. Doctors and health care professionals streamline operations to complete required medical paperwork at a faster clip.

The recently passed Virginia State budget reflects the building momentum for AI in health care. The legislative blueprint directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to strengthen call center operations through the application of AI technologies.

Even with the potential to achieve an abundance of favorable health outcomes through AI, we must be cautious about the current challenges facing AI application.

AI is not perfect. A blanketed embrace of AI technologies without appropriate guardrails would be irresponsible policy and grounded in fantasy.

What reality shows is unlocking AI's full potential in health care requires human supervision. We need responsible administration and active oversight of AI tools, while also placing an emphasis on safety. A human component working with these technologies ensures safer success and allows the patient-physician relationship to truly thrive.

Where patients rely on AI chatbots for mental health resources, a medical professional should review the conversations.

Where a patient request for treatment is denied coverage, a human must oversee that decision.

Congress has a moral obligation to ensure these AI tools are used to assist — not replace — the clinical workforce of today.

Therefore, a balanced embrace of AI applications can lower health care costs, save finite taxpayer dollars and provide breakthrough treatments to American patients.

Taken together, AI promises a new wave of success stories. Human judgment will preserve these stories for generations to come.

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Resource information available for farmers impacted by ongoing drought

Much of the Commonwealth is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions due to the extended lack of rain and dropping water tables. The drought continues to disrupt planting schedules, reduce crop yields, devastating pastures and forcing emergency hay feeding. Governor Abigail Spanberger encourages all Virginians to practice voluntary water conservation and has detailed potential actions for some of the most impacted areas of the state. This includes a possible drought emergency for the Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region if conditions do not immediately improve.

To date, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued drought disaster designations for 77 Virginia localities. A USDA disaster designation allows emergency loans to be available to producers suffering losses in the primary designated locality as well as the localities that are contiguous to a primary locality. Provided eligibility requirements are met, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will assess each emergency loan application individually to consider specific circumstances and needs. Farmers in eligible localities have eight months from the date of disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. For more information and to verify exact filing deadlines, farmers should contact their local USDA FSA office.

To help farmers determine if their locality has been issued a disaster designation and to provide other critical resource information, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has created a Disaster Recovery Resources for Farmers webpage. The new webpage also contains information on the recent USDA disaster designations for localities impacted by the late spring severe frost and freeze events.

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

Farmers should contact their local USDA FSA office for more information and to verify their exact filing date based on their locality's date of disaster designation. Application rules can be complex when navigating multiple designations. For more information on available assistance programs and the application process, please visit the Virginia FSA State Office website at www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Virginia.

FSA also has a variety of other disaster recovery programming available for impacted producers. Please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs?assistance_type%5B0%5D=13 or contact your local FSA office for more information.

Patrick Pioneers

Randolph Cannaday
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Browsing through the archives of The Enterprise, one particular article from March 1, 1945, immediately caught my attention. It mentioned that Patrick County had produced a man who had been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not! That surprised me because I had always believed there was only one Patrick Countian to earn that distinction—Dickey Wood, the fascinating mountain man buried in the center of his four wives high along the Patrick-Floyd County line.

As it turns out, there were two.

The second was Randolph Cannaday, a Patrick County native whose remarkable life carried him from the hills of Patrick County to Dickenson County, where he lived to celebrate his 101st birthday. His longevity, Civil War service, extraordinary memory, and fascinating life story earned him a place in Ripley's Believe It or Not! joining Dickey Wood as one of Patrick County's most unusual and memorable citizens.

The deeper I researched Randolph Cannaday, the more I realized that I didn't need to tell his story for him. Mr. Cannaday had already done that.

Through newspaper interviews and a rare autobiographical account written in his own words, he preserved his memories of growing up in Patrick County, serving in the Civil War, raising a family, and building a new life in Dickenson County. Rather than rewrite his remarkable story, I believe it is best told by the man himself.

So, for this week's Patrick Pioneers, let's allow Randolph Cannaday to tell his own story.

From the Stuart Enterprise, March 1, 1945

PATRICK MAN FAMOUS

Some years ago in Ripley's "Believe It or Not," the following account of Randolph Cannaday of Patrick County, was given:

"Randolph Cannady, Patrick County, Va., born 1827, died 1928, was born with a full set of teeth, and died with the same set of teeth at the age of 101."

Some, who felt they would have known of this man, had he existed, scoffed at this story, so an investigation was instituted and the following facts are established and should be of interest to many Patrick people, especially to those living in the Charity community, since the fact is well established that such a man lived there.

There is no mention of his teeth, or age at the time of his death, but Ripley, as we know, is supposed to be able to substantiate any claim he makes.

Randolph Cannaday was the son of old Billie Cannaday, who had 24 children.

Old Billie Cannaday lived and owned the Charity farm, now owned by the late Hon. C. P. Nolen.

Billie Cannaday, the father of Randolph, gave the lot on which Charity church now stands, hence the name "Charity," because of the gift.

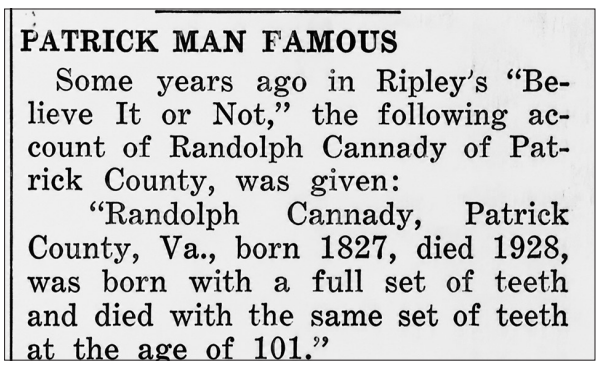
Personal Interview with Randolph Cannaday, June 20, 1923 (Transcriber Unknown)

I was born December 27, 1827, in Patrick County, Virginia. My parents were William and Patsy (Wright) Cannady. My grandfather Wright came from Ireland. He lived in Rockingham County, North Carolina. My grandfather Cannady was named Pleasant Cannady and his wife was an Edwards. He lived in Buckingham County, Virginia, about 100 miles below Lynchburg. (The handwritten note identifies Patsy as "Patsy (Wright) Kennedy.")

I think he was born in Virginia, and was of English ancestry. My parent's children were:

Polly Cannady married Reuben Ratcliff and lived in Texas.

Betsey Cannady married Anderson Taylor and lived in Middle Tennessee.


PATRICK MAN FAMOUS

Some years ago in Ripley's "Believe It or Not," the following account of Randolph Cannady of Patrick County, was given:

"Randolph Cannady, Patrick County, Va., born 1827, died 1928, was born with a full set of teeth and died with the same set of teeth at the age of 101."

Enterprise March 1, 1945

Nancy Cannady married a Taylor and lived in Middle Tennessee.

James Cannady married Charity Agee and lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

William Cannady married a Hylton and lived in Floyd County, Virginia.

Fleming Cannady married Susan Thomas and lived in Raleigh County, West Virginia.

Joshua Cannady married a Short and lived in Gallipolis, Ohio.

Constant Cannady married Sallie Hall and lived in Danville, Virginia.

Susan Cannady married Lewis Burnette and lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

Jacob Burl Cannady married Cannady and lived in Raleigh County, West Virginia.

Pleasant Cannady married Debbie Hall and lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

Stephen Cannady married a Lemons and lived in Floyd County, Virginia. .

Marshall Parerson Cannady married Anne Sumpter and lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

Greenville Cannady died young, unmarried.

Thomas Cannady died young, unmarried.

Ira Cannady died young, unmarried.

Mahala Cannady died at age of 14 years.

Hessie Cannady died young, unmarried.

Delilah Cannady married James Moran and lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

Martha Cannady married John Moran and lived in Floyd County, Virginia.

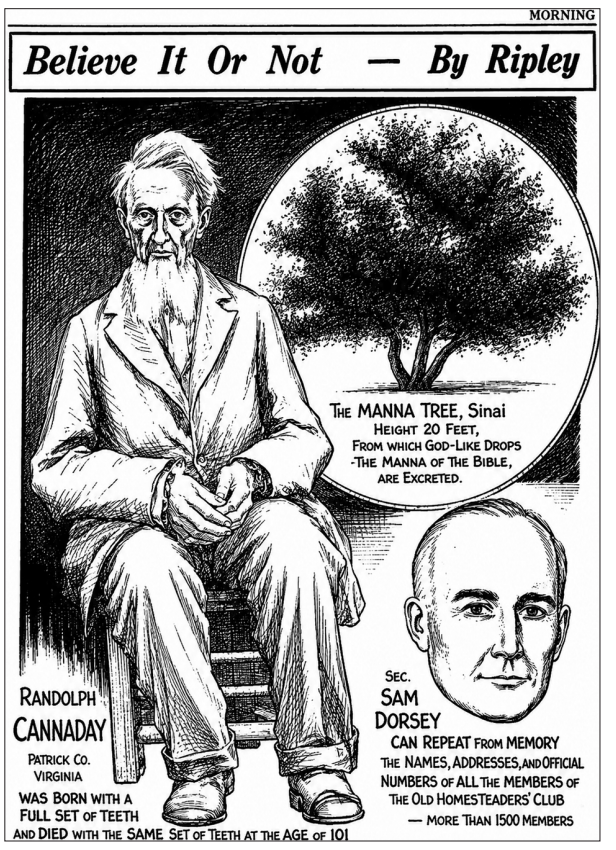
There were three others, whose names have slipped my mind. My parents had 24 children, and somehow, I always liked the one called "Rannel" best. It's been a long time since I saw my brothers or sisters. None of them moved out in this section with me.

I had no schooling and have been a farmer all my life. I enlisted in the Confederate Army near the beginning of the Civil War and served four years. My outfit was Co. D, 51st Virginia Regiment. It was raised in Patrick County, Virginia. I was at Fort Donelson and escaped with General Floyd. I was also in the battle at Bowling Green and other engagements.

I cast my first vote for Archibald Stuart, grandfather of Governor Henry C. Stuart, for State Senate. My next vote was for General Taylor for President.

In January 1852, I married Mary Jane Viers (Via), a daughter of Samuel and Hetty (Edwards) Viers in Patrick County, Virginia. She was born in 1830 and died in 1914. We lived on a farm in Patrick County until after the Civil War. In April 1867, we moved to the Sand Lick community in Dickenson County, Virginia. There were four of us. We hauled our household goods in a cart drawn by a little yoke of cattle—our thorough French County-boy Jackson's Ferry on New River—by Wytheville, by Tazewell and Richlands and down Levisa River to two and one-half miles above Grundy, Virginia, at the mouth of Little Prater, where John Yates (father of Major. Yates) lived; then by sheep-path up Little Prater and down Russell Prater, we went to housekeeping at the Clifton House on Tilda Anderson Branch. In the same year—1867—I sold my yoke of oxen for $75.00 and paid Lewis Edwards $100.00 for a tract of land on Backbone Ridge. They deed called for 100 acres, more or less, but when it was poured later, it amounted to 159 3/4 acres.

Twenty-seven people were in the group that



Randolph Cannaday of Patrick County

came when we moved to Sand Lick. It took us 18 days to make the trip. Besides my family, James Turner, John Gillenwaters, and Isaac Viers brought their families.

When I came to Sand Lick in 1867, I found the following people in that community:

Jim Colley — where Tom Colley now lives.
Lewis Viers — at the Larkin Viers place.
John Colley — at Morgan Anderson's.
Jonathan Sifers — near Haysi.
Lewis Edwards — on Backbone Ridge.
Noah Sykes — on Backbone Ridge.
Jackie Arlington — on Road Branch.
Jake Arlington — at Joe Viers' place.
Andy Edwards — in Uncle Jeff Anderson Viers'.
David Deel — at Dick Deel's on Viers Ridge.
Jonathan Wright — at Moss (Clinchco).
Arch Rose — on Mill Creek.
Ab Taylor — on Mill Creek.
Charles Anderson — at Tilda Anderson Branch.
John Hay — on Backbone Ridge.
Ambrose Hay — on Backbone Ridge.

My wife and I had the following children:

Louisa Cannady married John Barton and lives in this county.

Elijah Cannady married Delia Turner and lives in Buchanan County, Virginia.

Rachel Cannady married S. J. Turner and lived at this place.

Peter Marion Cannady died young, unmarried.

Nancy Cannady married Albert Owens and lived near Russell Prater.

Polly Cannady married Larkin Viers and lives near Sand Lick.

Susan Cannady died young.

From the Danville Bee, November 29, 1927

Voter, 100, Rode to Polls in Downpour

In the person of Randolph Cannaday, of Martha Gap, who will be one hundred years old on December 27th, Dickenson County believes it has produced the oldest voter in Virginia in the recent elections.

Mr. Cannaday rode on horseback more than a mile to the Turner polling place, through a steady rain, to cast his vote for the Democratic candidates, most of whom were successful.

From Roanoke Times, December 30, 1927

Clintwood, Dec. 29. (Special)—Remarkably well preserved, and in the midst of more than two hundred admiring friends and relatives, Randolph Cannaday, Martha Gap, Dickenson

(See Patrick Pioneers p. 7)

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty: I Was Cheated; I Delayed Claiming SS but Didn't Get My Full Benefits

Dear Rusty: I'm 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68. Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was "not an option;" they said I could take it only the way "they said." That's our illegal government. *Signed: Feeling Cheated*

Dear Feeling Cheated: Regarding your comment that SS "would not allow" you to take all of your "increased percentage," I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023), and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn't have been credited to you until January 2025. Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule. Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn't personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn't dissuade you from "feeling cheated," but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn't personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.

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).

Patrick County anglers compete in Bassmaster Junior Championship







Two Patrick County anglers are competing this week in the 2026 Tackle Warehouse Bassmaster Junior Championship at Kentucky Lake in Paris, Tennessee.

Kipton Vipperman and Trenton Miller, both 11, qualified for the national tournament after finishing third at the Virginia state tournament at Buggs Island on May 29-30. The championship is being held July 19-25.

The team, along with boat captain Joe Hylton, caught nine fish over two days at the state tournament for a combined weight of 22.98 pounds.

After ending the first day in 16th place with 5.78 pounds, the team rallied on the second day with a full bag weighing 17.2 pounds. One bass weighed 5.14 pounds, earning the Big Fish Award for the day.

Earlier in the season, the team also placed:

- First at Buggs Island on Oct. 4, 2025.
- First at Buggs Island on Oct. 5, 2025.
- Fourth at Smith Mountain Lake on Nov. 8, 2025.
- Fifth at Philpott on March 21, while also earning the Big Fish Award.

Live coverage of the tournament weigh-ins is available Friday and Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. at bassmaster.com/tournament/2026-bassmaster-junior-championship.

Anyone interested in joining the Patrick County High School fishing team or volunteering as a boat captain may contact team sponsors Scott and Deanna Eastridge. A registration meeting is planned for August.

Hughes named P&HCC Head Softball Coach



Joe Hughes

Joe Hughes has been named Head Coach of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Patriots Softball program for the 2025–2026 season. Hughes, who has coached local high school and travel baseball and softball for the past six years, will lead the program as it continues its tradition of success on and off the field.

"I'm a big advocate for hard work and I know that the Lady Pats are as well. I'm excited to continue the legacy of excellence that has been built at P&H alongside this group of stellar athletes," said Hughes.

"We are excited to have Coach Hughes join our PHamily," said Brandon Johnson, Director of Athletics and Student Engagement at Patrick & Henry. "He has been dedicated to the development of local student athletes for some time now and his expertise and enthusiasm will help guide our Lady Pats to further success."

This transition comes as Head Coach Robbi Campbell departs Patrick & Henry to join Ferrum College's softball staff.

New Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program grant round open

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is now accepting submissions for parks and outdoor recreation grants through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program.

The National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, or ORLP, provides 50–50% matching reimbursement grants for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of parks in qualifying urban and tribal areas. It is a national competition with up to $120 million available.

The minimum ORLP grant award is $300,000, with a minimum total project cost of $600,000. The maximum grant award is $15 million.

All funded projects must be maintained and kept open as public outdoor recreation areas in perpetuity. Applicants must be able to fund 100% of project costs while seeking periodic reimbursements.

ORLP is part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program, or LWCF.

As the LWCF state lead agency, DCR accepts pre-application proposals on behalf of eligible subrecipients, including cities, counties and park authorities, and submits selected projects to NPS, which will choose the projects to move forward. Federally recognized Indian Tribes may apply either directly or through DCR.

To qualify, park projects must be located in:

*Urban areas with a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census,

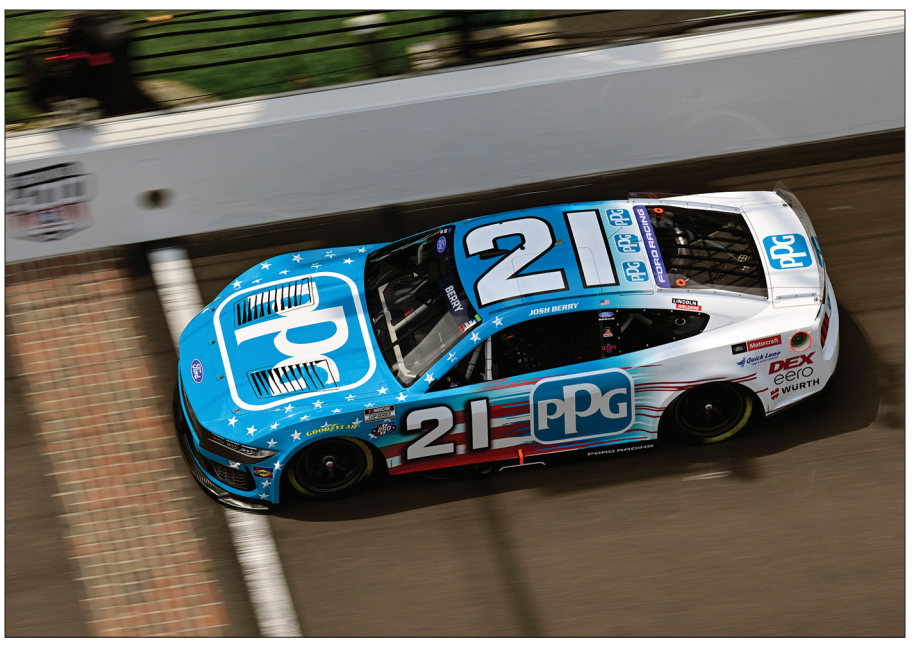
*Two or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of 25,000 or more, or

*Areas administered by federally recognized Indian Tribes.

A map of all census -designated urban areas is available through the U.S. Census Bureau's TIGERWeb platform and population tables for urban areas can be found on the agency's Urban and Rural webpage.

Program information, a guide and additional resources are available at: https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/orlp.

Pre-applications are due Sept. 10 by 4 p.m. and must be emailed to recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.



Race Report: Indianapolis Motor Speedway

By Wood Brothers Racing

In a season that has seen Josh Berry and the No. 21 team battle through their share of adversity, they delivered a much-needed breakthrough Sunday with a season-best seventh-place finish in the Brickyard 400 Presented by PPG at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

With the iconic No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse carrying the colors of race sponsor PPG, Berry and the team combined speed, strategy and solid execution to secure a top-10 finish in one of NASCAR's crown jewel events.

Berry started 26th and the team elected to stretch its opening fuel run, making its first pit stop on Lap 44 before finishing the opening stage in 18th.

The PPG team stuck with the strategy in Stage 2, cycling to the lead on Lap 93 before making a pit stop with six laps remaining in the stage. Berry crossed the Stage 2 finish line in 21st place.

The team's final pit stop came under a debris caution on Lap 116. By taking two tires and fuel, Berry gained valuable track position and lined up ninth for the ensuing restart.

Berry capitalized with another strong restart, advancing to eighth shortly after the green flag before moving into seventh with 33 laps remaining. From there, he maintained the position to the checkered flag, earning his best finish since a 10th-place run at Martinsville in March and the team's strongest result of the 2026 season.

"It was a really good day," Berry said. "I thought we did a really good job…executed a really good race.

"It wasn't perfect, but we had some really good restarts the second half of the race and made some progress and had some really good long-run pace.

"Overall, it was a really solid day that we needed. I'm just happy to finally get a good finish."

Berry and the No. 21 team now head into the off week before returning to action at Iowa Speedway for the Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol on August 8.

Little historians invited to programs at the Reynolds Homestead

On the fourth Friday of each month, Reynolds Homestead invites learners ages 0-5 and their families to the historic home for a special activity, craft, and story time.

The Aug. 28 event brings lessons on clothing care in the Victorian era. Learners will explore mending, patchwork, and creative reuse of clothing. They will learn how clothes were washed and maintained before machinery, read a short book, and complete a craft based on the learning.

The program begins at 10 a.m. Contact Melanie Gilbert to learn more at mtgilbert68@vt.edu.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

My Patriot Ancestor

Editor's Note: The Enterprise is pleased to partner with the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to present My Patriot Ancestor, an ongoing series highlighting Revolutionary War patriots through the stories of local DAR members and their families.

By Betty Cassell Banks and Ann Robertson McConnell

The American Revolutionary War was fought primarily across the thirteen North American colonies, extending into Canada, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic Ocean. A soldier in this war faced many hardships, including chronic starvation, freezing exposure due to inadequate clothing and uncontrolled outbreaks of deadly diseases like smallpox and dysentery from crowded camps. Add to that, they suffered from unpaid or worthless wages and grueling physical labor, all the while fighting highly trained British soldiers. One of these soldiers is Betty Cassell Banks' patriot ancestor, Edward Cochran.

Edward Elliot Cochran, Sr. was born in Charles County, Maryland in 1748. His family moved to the area that is now Franklin/Henry County, Virginia when he was a young child. He married Mary Edwards in 1760 and they had at least twelve children. Like most of the early settlers in this region of Virginia, his lifelong livelihood was farming. He maintained a homestead, grew crops, managed livestock, and passed down substantial farming acreage to his many children.

On January 29,1779 when Cochran was thirty-one years old, he enlisted in the 1st Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army. This regiment was among the original Continental Army units formed in 1775 taking part in major actions like the defense of Charleston and the Philadelphia Campaign before shifting focus to the western frontier. Cochran joined the regiment when it was under Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark and fought in the Northwest Campaign to secure the frontier from the British. This campaign is often underestimated when thinking of the overall war, but its importance becomes clear in the land claimed at the end of the Revolution. It allowed the United States to successfully claim the vast region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River during the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

Edward Cochran was discharged from the army on August 22, 1780. He received the equivalent of $4,170 and he was issued a land warrant for fifty acres of land in Montgomery County, VA. Cochran died July 1, 1816 in Rocky Mount, Virginia one year after the death of his wife, Mary. They are buried in the Cochran-Rakes-Via Cemetery in Patrick County.

Note: Land warrants....the Continental Congress lacked the power to tax and relied on printing "continental dollars" that rapidly became useless. With the national government essentially bankrupt and burdened by massive war debt, officials offered veterans "bounty land warrants to incentivize enlistments. Many veterans returned home impoverished. Selling their warrants to land speculators provided immediate necessary cash. Unfortunately, the warrants were sold much lower than their issued value.

Information for this article is from Wikipedia, the Library of Virginia, Find A Grave, Wilderness Road Regional Museum, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the authors' records.

Everyone has a story. Let us help you tell yours. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. Help researching and proving your lineage can be provided by the Colonel Abram Pen Chapter by contacting Ann Robertson McConnell at nammcconnell@yahoo.com.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

County, Virginia, celebrated his one hundred and first birthday on December 27.

It has been over twenty-five years since Mr. Cannaday saw either of his brothers or sisters, all of whom are dead now. He hardly remembers some of the oldest brothers and sisters who married young and migrated to many states for homes. His two youngest sisters, Delilah and Martha, who married Morans and settled in Patrick and Floyd counties, had sixteen children each, he states.

Four of Mr. Cannaday's five living children—two others died in infancy—were present for his centennial celebration. These were Mrs. Louisa Barton and Mrs. Rachel Turner, of Martha Gap, Mrs. Polly Viers, of Viers, Dickenson County, and Elijah, of nearby Grundy, Buchanan County. The other daughter, Mrs. Albert Owens, lives in Buchanan County at Prater.

Many of Mr. Cannaday's thirty-six grandchildren, two hundred thirty great-grandchildren, and sixty great-great-grandchildren were also present.

Receiving his many guests from all parts of the county, Mr. Cannaday exhibited keen interest in each one, although his failing eyesight hindered him in quick recognition of those he knew. Only by loud speaking could his questioners make him understand their inquiries, which were then firmly and definitely answered in remarkably clear, pure English, considering that he had no schooling and cannot read or write.

Aided by a keen memory of events covering more than eighty years, he prefers to discuss reminiscences of his early life and the Civil War days, during which he served four years in Company D, 51st Virginia Regiment. At Fort Donelson and Bowling Green and in other engagements he had his part.

He assigns the same reason for his long life as for his preservation in the war activities of his young manhood—"the will of God."

After lifting his cup of coffee, without the slightest sign of nervousness, to complete a hearty lunch, Mr. Cannaday began to comment on the Scriptures, always quoting his Bible text in support.

The conflict of opinions as to the correct Gospel version or interpretation, resulting in hundreds of denominations, he would reduce to: "The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation."

Stating that God, and not man, can only save and preserve, and that our sorrows result solely from our refusal to obey God, the religious philosophy of Dickenson's first centenarian is:

"Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

From Patrick, where he states he worked "four months out of three" on his father's tobacco farm as a lad, he came to Sand Lick, in Dickenson County, in 1867.

Bearing his eighty-five pounds with steadiness, and making only slight use of his cane, Mr. Cannaday went into the yard after lunch to pose for several pictures.

Including those to face the Kodaks with Mr. Cannaday was his oldest guest, John T. Edwards, 78, of Sand Lick.

Asserting that he had never turned away any traveler, or charged for his hospitality, Mr. Cannaday opined that society's troubles are due chiefly to our greed for money and the pleasures money buys, quoting again his answer from the Bible:

"The love of money is the root of all evil."

From the Danville Bee, February 28, 1928

Virginian, 101 Years Old, Died

Randolph Cannaday, Martha Gap, Dickenson County, who celebrated his one hundred first birthday on last December 27, died after a week's illness at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Rachel Turner, on February 14.

Mr. Cannaday had been remarkably alert for his age up until a week before his death, when he fell as he was on his way to dinner. A day after the fall he began to feel ill and gradually got weaker. He was buried near his old home.

Long after the crowds dispersed from his 101st birthday celebration and the newspaper reporters laid down their pencils, Randolph Cannaday's greatest legacy was never his remarkable age.

It was his faith.

He survived war, endured hardship, helped settle a new community, raised generations of descendants, and welcomed strangers into his home. Yet when asked to explain his extraordinary life, he pointed not to himself, but to God. Perhaps that is why his story still resonates nearly one hundred years later.

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

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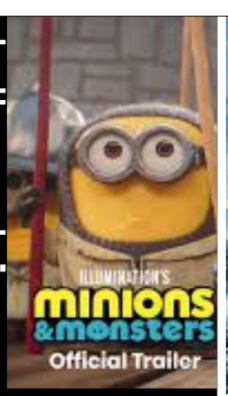
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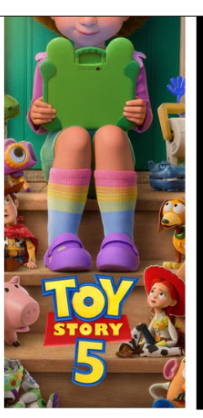
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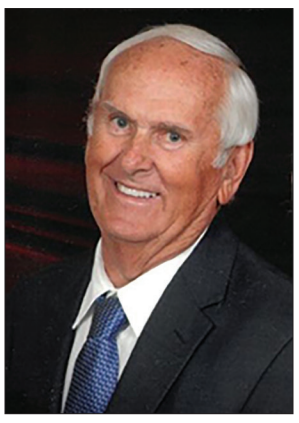
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OBITUARIES

Larry Vernon Brown



Larry Vernon Brown, 82, of Stuart, Virginia, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. Larry was born on December 31, 1943, in Stuart, Virginia, to Kermit Lee "Johnny" Brown and Doris Vernon Brown. He was the owner and operator of Brown's Automotive for many years, where he was known for his hard work, honesty, and dedication to his customers. Larry is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Dena Sheppard Brown; three sons, Barry (Anna), Garry (Shannon), and Dale (Angie); five grandchildren, Tucker (Carlyn), Parker (Gracen), Daniel, Zachary, Amelia; three great-grandchildren, Hallie, Banks, and Auburn; his sister, Judy Knight; his brother, Michael Brown; several nieces, nephews, extended family members; and a special friend, Ashley Bowman. In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Isaac and Frances Sheppard; his brother-in-law, Donald Knight; and his sister-in-law, Rebecca Brown. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 22, from 12:00 noon until 1:45 PM at Norris Funeral Services. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 PM with Pastor Mike Sands officiating. Interment will follow at Patrick Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Oak Ridge Baptist Church at 4128 NC 704 Hwy E, Sandy Ridge, NC 27046.

The family would like to express its sincere gratitude for the prayers, love, and support shown during this time. *"Well done, good and faithful servant."* — Matthew 25:23. Norris Funeral Services Stuart Chapel is handling the arrangements for the Brown family. Online condolences can be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Tommy Estel Alley



Mr. Tommy Estel Alley, age 65 of Trinity, North Carolina passed away on Friday, July 24, 2026, at Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center. He was born in Patrick County on July 12, 1961. He was preceded in death by his father, Junior Estel Alley. Tommy enjoyed fishing and was the type of man who could easily make friends everywhere he went. He dearly loved his family, but his greatest treasure was his granddaughters. He loved being their Pawpaw.

From his granddaughter, Porsche: "My Papaw meant a lot to me and my family. He always saw the good in people no matter what, had a very caring heart, he was very trustworthy, and you could count on him. He was so friendly he would talk to anyone and everyone. He also loved old cars. Every time we passed an old car he would tell me the year and model of the car. Sometimes when I was out and he was not with me and I saw an old car I would take a picture and send it to him. He loved to fish. He would tell me stories about how he and his brother, Ronnie, always went fishing after work. One time they went fishing and caught 75 fish. He took me fishing and I was not as patient as him. He could sit all day, and I could only sit for 10 minutes. I wish to be as patient, understanding, and forgiving as he was. Papaw was my home and he made me feel safe. It didn't matter where I was as long as I was with him, I was okay. I would run to him when I had nightmares, or a loud storm came along he was always there to make me feel safe. He was constantly there for me. He attended all of my volleyball games. He showed up for me when no one else did. He took good care of me and my sisters, my mom, his mom, his brother, and everyone around him. He did everything in his power to make me happy. He will be missed and loved forever. He will always have a special place in my heart."

Left to treasure the memory of Tommy Alley is his mother, Almeda Greer Alley of Trinity; one daughter, Jessica Nicole Alley of Trinity; three granddaughters, Porsche Nicole Palidwar of Trinity, Mercedes Renee Palidwar of Lexington, SC, and Lexus Dove Palidwar of Lexington, SC; brother, Ronnie Samuel Alley (Amy) of Stone Mountain, NC; two nephews, Joshua Samuel Alley (Stacey) of Ramseur, NC and Matthew Orin Alley (Kendall) of Wilkesboro, NC; and one uncle, Alfred Glen Greer of Woolwine, VA.

The funeral for Mr. Alley will be held on Friday, July 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. Burial will immediately follow in the Greer Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services on Friday at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

George Oliver Griffith



George Oliver Griffith, 88, passed away on July 12, 2026, in Fort Washington Adventist Hospital in Fort Washington, Maryland. He departed this life in the presence of family.

George was born on March 10, 1938, in Stuart, Virginia, to Edward Griffith and Grace Griffith (Staples). He received his earliest education in Stuart, Virginia, but then relocated to Newark, New Jersey, where he completed high school at Southside High School (now Malcolm X Shabazz High School). George served faithfully in the United States Army; during his tenure, he was one of the many military police assigned to protect James Meredith at the University of Mississippi. He worked many decades as a skilled journeyman carpenter in the New Jersey Carpenters Union Local 620. After losing his right leg in a tragic boating accident in 1985, he reinvented himself and became a Senior Code Enforcement Officer in the city of Newark until his retirement. George had a passion for community service and local politics.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Grace Griffith, his wife, Julia Frances Sturgis Griffith, and siblings Barbara Griffith Nowlin, William Griffith, and Lawrence Griffith. He is survived by his son, Gregory Griffith, daughter Kimberly Middleton, son-in-law Theodore Middleton Jr., grandchildren Dion Griffith, Theodore Middleton III, and Jeremy Middleton, nieces and nephews Russell Griffith, Michael Griffith (Denise), Patricia G. Foley (David), Gail Griffith, Elizabeth Griffith, Denise Brown (Kelvin), and Sharon Griffith. He also leaves to cherish his memory beloved cousins Ollie Mae Spencer, Judy Rucker, Lucy Moore (Michael), Marjorie Nowlin-Hairston (Sonny), and Reginald Griffith, and a host of loving friends and relatives.

George was known for his engaging personality and boisterous humor. This served him well in the pursuit of his passions for community service and local politics; he was a charter member of the Optimist Club of Newark, and he was a key grassroots supporter in many campaigns in the City of Newark, New Jersey. These passions were only rivaled by his love for music, fishing, and gardening. George was an accomplished guitarist, and also skilled at playing the piano and harmonica. Fishing was his cherished pastime and source of connection with dear family and friends. His garden was a source of pride and connection as he always shared the bounty with friends and neighbors.

Funeral services for George will take place in his hometown of Stuart, Virginia on August 6, 2026. The wake is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home, and the graveside service and internment will take place at 11:00 a.m. in the Loggins-Johnson-Clark-Griffith Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

George was always willing to help those he cared for when they were in need. He will be remembered for his service, kindness, laughter, and love for his family and friends.

Ervin "Tony" Lassie Wimbish

Mr. Ervin "Tony" Lassie Wimbish, age 72 of Stuart, Virginia passed away Friday, July 10, 2026, at Stuart Community Hospital. He was born in Henry County, Virginia on April 30, 1954, to the late Tony Wimbish and Hallie Lee Shelton Wimbish. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Jason Dale Wimbish. Tony enjoyed making people laugh, even on his hardest days. He loved his family dearly and truly enjoyed his grandchildren. Although he is gone, he will never be forgotten.

Left to cherish the memories of Tony Wimbish are his wife of 50 years, Janice Clifton Wimbish; four children, Ervin Lassie Wimbish, Jr. (Donna) of Locust, NC, Anthony Wimbish (Janet) of High Point, NC, Andy Wimbish of Asheville, NC, and Amber Wimbish (Brandon) of Stuart, VA; six grandchildren, Lauren, Colt, Camden, Nylah, Pepper, and Poppy; three great-grandchildren; three siblings, Russell Dale Wimbish of Patrick Springs, VA, Rachel Spaulding of Martinsville, VA, and Robert Wimbish (Karen) of Patrick Springs, VA; several nieces and nephews; and beloved dog, Bentley.

All services for Tony Wimbish will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Applications

(cont. from page 3)

cultural and rural regions is critical to the economy, farm operations, food safety, and animal health.

The grants can be used for a wide range of practice needs, including but not limited to equipment purchase, staff salary, student loan repayment, and service area travel expenses. Application requirements and other details can be found at https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-large-animal-veterinary-grant.shtml.

Grant recipients will be chosen by a panel of industry representatives using a standardized scoring rubric. The judging panel will include the State Veterinarian as well as representatives from TRRC, the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners, and Virginia Veterinary Medical Association.

Both grant programs are assisted by the Virginia Large Animal Veterinary Workforce Coordinator, a new position at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech that is being jointly funded by Virginia Cooperative Extension and TRRC. Serving in this new role is Dr. Thach Winslow, who will work across the state to grow and sustain the community of veterinarians in large animal practice.

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Why America

By Van Yandell

Over the years a theory has been that the United States of America was another of God's chosen nations. Just as Israel was God's chosen nation and people to provide the world with a Savior, the USA may have been chosen to evangelize the world.

Considering such a possibility, in this 250th year as a nation, it's time we realized this very precious and unique assignment given to us by our Creator.

America has been blessed with the ability to "preach this Gospel to all nations" (Matthew 24: 14). America has the financial resources, communication and transportation methods, the physical abilities and knowledge to do so.

We have been given a special gift in this land. God must have a specific purpose. The old world had existed for centuries without the knowledge of the existence of the western hemisphere. Why does America exist as it does?

In a brief survey of the history of the Western Hemisphere, the world as the Europeans and Asians knew it; this side of the planet did not exist until about 500 years ago.

Here we are approaching the 2000 year point since Jesus ascended into Heaven. Time wise and chronologically, it is time for something to happen. With the geo-political conditions and prophesies happening, it appears many of the "end of the age" predictions are occurring.

Wars are on many fronts. The world population is so out of control, prophesy of famines and pestilences (Matthew 24: 7) are a certainty. Knowledge has increased (Daniel 12: 4) and the characteristics of mankind (2 Timothy 3: 2-5) are witnessed daily all around the world.

Many believe the return of Jesus is imminent but people have been thinking this since He ascended. So the question remains: Is the USA a specified nation to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world?

The early settlers (1600's) found a land rich in resources. After their existence in Europe this new found continent must have seemed like Heaven.

The heavily forested land provided wood/lumber to build everything from a baby cradle to sailing ships. The abundant woodlands provided fuel for heating and cooking. Trees provided maple syrup and homes for the abundant wildlife that provided food.

Bernhard Eduard Fernow, a German American forester, is credited with saying "Civilization is built on wood from the cradle to the coffin."

Resources such as iron, copper, lime, coal, wood, cotton and wool provided the raw materials necessary for manufacturing. In later years Eli Whitney developed the system of interchangeable parts (1798), which was a forerunner of the moving assembly line (Henry Ford 1913) and the stage was set for the greatest manufacturing economy the world had ever known.

With the many lakes and rivers, the inland of the new world was conveniently traversed. Water as a resource but also a method of transporting products and people became a lifeline for the new nation.

A large part of the USA is in a temperate climate zone. The warm humid summers make the growing of crops in abundance a reality. From Illinois to Colorado, millions of acres of farm land feed the American people and a part of the rest of the world.

Conditions in the south-eastern U.S. are perfect for growing crops from peanuts to cotton to sugar cane. Many areas are favorable for rice, wheat and barley. For this new nation to feed itself wasn't easy but was possible for an industrious and inventive people.

Those migrating from Europe were not expecting the climatic and natural resource conditions that existed here. But what they found was a paradise for the hard working, freedom loving people they were. They came here expecting to work, not looking for an easy life.

They also came here with an intention of bringing Christianity to this new land. Missionaries came with the knowledge of Savior Jesus and the desire to spread His gospel.

One of the early missionaries was Jacques Marquette, a Frenchman determined to teach the indigenous peoples the saving power of Jesus Christ.

The study of Marquette reminds me of the Apostle Paul. Life would have been so much easier to stay home, sit back and watch the flowers grow. But no! Those believer-followers of our Jesus felt so strongly about the truth and authenticity of God Jesus (John 1: 1-3), they were compelled to share that knowledge.

Can Christians in the twenty-first century feel that compassion? Jesus' last words before ascending were Acts 1: 8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." This new world became to them "the uttermost parts."

Could Christians in today's busy world have that passion? Fortunately, some do but it takes more than a few in our world of over eight-billion people. "Urgent" is a word that greatly applies in this case.

Without a belief in our Jesus and the teachings of the Holy Bible the world will continue to degrade into a Sodom and Gomorrah condition.

Perhaps the United States of America IS God's chosen nation to evangelize the world. It takes time, money and a burden for the spiritually lost. Every Christian has a personal testimony and the knowledge of the Christian plan of salvation.

We must realize we are all sinners (Romans 3: 23), that we must confess to God we are sinners (1 John 1: 9). We must repent of our sins (Acts 3: 19), and ask God to save us.

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

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. When he had a vision, who said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean"? *Adam, Reuben, Samson, Peter*

3. From Acts 7, who was the first person martyred for his belief in Jesus Christ? *Apollos, John the Baptist, Jehu, Stephen*

4. Besides Jonah, which other prophet ministered in Nineveh? *Nathan, Paul, Nahum, Philip*

5. From 1 Kings 11, what was the number of wives of King Solomon? *3, 50, 100, 700*

6. What is Yiddish for a small package or parcel? *Mishna, Pesach, Peckel, Shiva*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Peter, 3) Stephen, 4) Nahum, 5) 700, 6) Peckel

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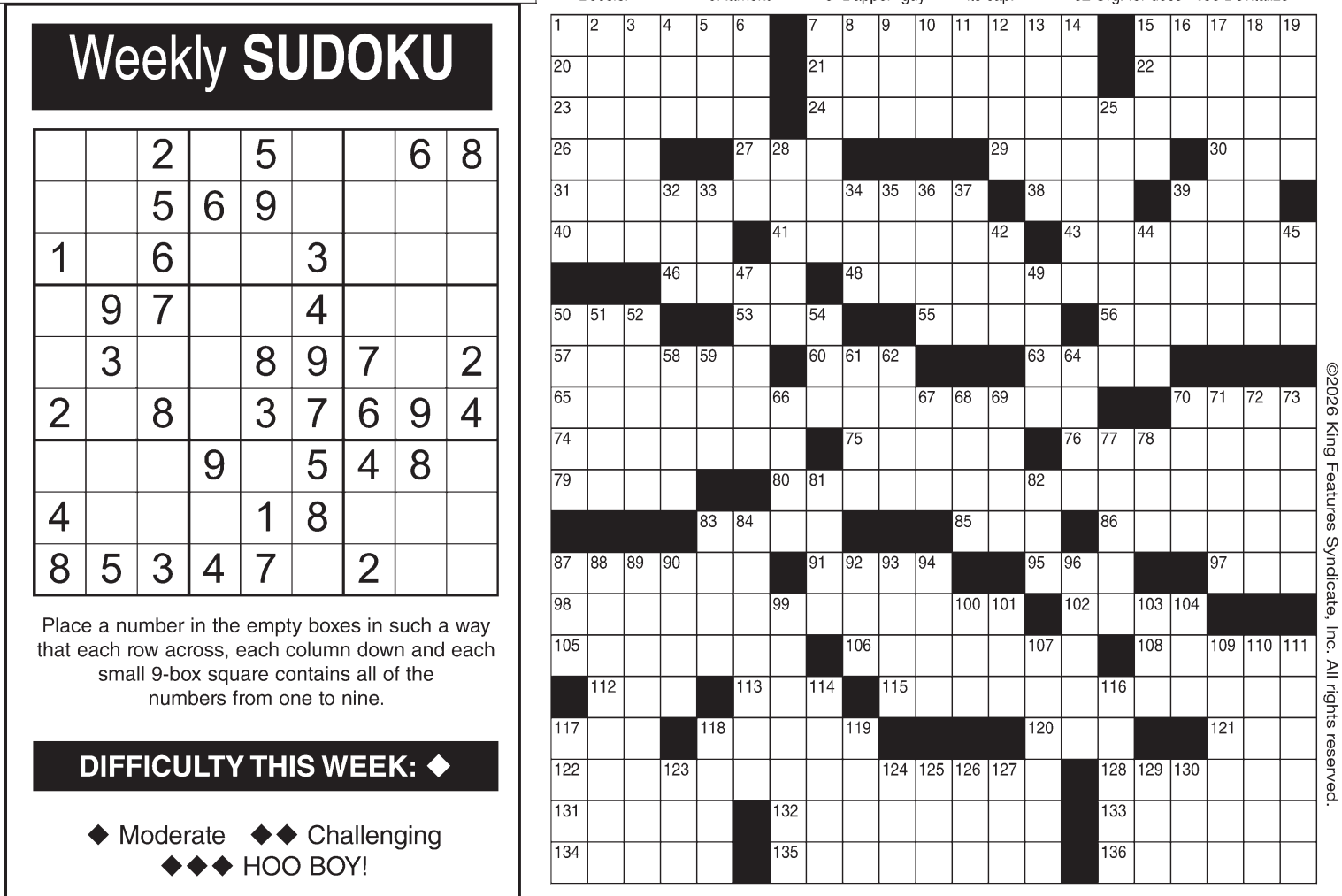
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Super Crossword

LEAVE AT THE END

ACROSS
1 Lambastes
7 Poppycock
15 Earth model
20 Larynx locale
21 Tango cousin
22 "Whoopee!"
23 Altered totally
24 For an extended period of time
26 Angry feeling
27 Prefix with chic or tour
29 Papas' mates
30 Grafton's "— for Evidence"
31 Video game in which players ride in skateparks and splash color around
38 Use a pew
39 "Dino" star Mineo
40 Filmmaker Perry
41 Feature of a carrot-top
43 Views more text, perhaps
46 Salamander
48 Make distress less painful
50 Hype (up)
53 Volcanic stuff
55 Large couch
56 Funnywoman Boosler
57 Whigs' rivals
60 Wane
63 "Devil Inside" rock band
65 Is completely harmless
70 Volcanic stuff
74 Enlarged
75 On terra —
76 Neighbor of Peru
79 Some dark breads
80 Exactly even division
83 Brilliant feat
85 Med. scan in a large tube
86 Pesto herbs
87 Mythical twin of Pollux
91 They go with oohs
95 Two after uno
97 Cove's cousin
98 Portable boat engine
102 Literary Leon
105 Covert movement
106 Like fatty tissue
108 New, in Italy
112 Atop, to bards
113 Yiddish cries of lament
115 Appetizer made with vegetable "hearts"
117 81-Down download
118 Guy who's a spin doc
120 Ring great Muhammad
121 Sinus-probing doc
122 Having paid to be freed from custody
128 Old dog star
131 Not reactive
132 Luminosity
133 Expunges
134 Pack-carrying beasts
135 Stopped from wobbling
136 What the last words of eight key answers in this puzzle are slangy synonyms of

DOWN
1 Not lenient
2 Sundae topper
3 Difficult experience
4 Bathroom, in Bristol
5 "Dapper" guy
6 Blade metal
7 Make a pick
8 Bathroom, in Bristol
9 "Honest" prez
10 Golfing goal
11 Stuff making a big bang
12 Former NPR talk show host Diane
13 Domains
14 Hand-reading fortuneteller
15 Ob- — (delivery docs)
16 Time delay
17 "No kidding?"
18 Broth made by stewing
19 Vast periods
25 Old breakfast cereal brand
28 Things rolling in the aisle
32 Hankering
33 Mine find
34 IRA choices
35 "So that's your game!"
36 Lummoxes
37 Mambo great Puente
39 Japanese noodle
42 Match arbiter
44 Kinfolk: Abbr.
45 Stockholm is its cap.
47 Failed to be
49 Toe feature
50 In battle
51 Given to sulking
52 Puritanical type
54 Sly chuckle
58 Bits of land in la mer
59 Fielder Roush
61 Well-muscled
62 "I say!" sayer
64 Russian "no"
66 Cubes in miso soup
67 Give it a whirl
68 Dual radio designation
69 Decent
70 Indy circuits
71 Off-the-cuff
72 "Ta-da!"
73 Dilettantish
77 Prefix with pet or punk
78 D.C.'s home
81 Apple tablet
82 In shape
83 Trendy
84 Speechifiers
87 Bus. entities
88 Devices reproducing signatures
89 Spires
90 Ski lift type
92 Org. for docs
93 "Today" co-host Kotb
94 Move slightly
96 "The Fisher King" actress Mercedes
99 Rappers and poets, e.g.
100 Make a pick
101 French for "king"
103 Squid's squirt
104 Act litigiously
107 Climbed up
109 City in west Texas
110 Having more climbing plants
111 Best-suited
114 Anwar with a Peace Nobel
116 Greased up
117 Opera tune
118 Butter slices
119 Lymph bump
123 Sooner than, in poetry
124 Actress Vardalos
125 Sinful
126 Folk rocker DiFranco
127 Cola cubes
129 Exist
130 Devitalize



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Weekly SUDOKU

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8	5	3	4	7		2		

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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Puzzle answers page 11

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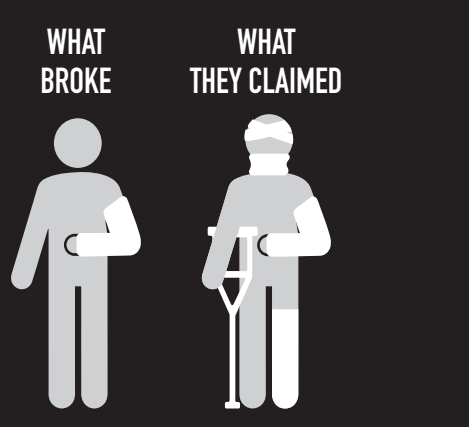
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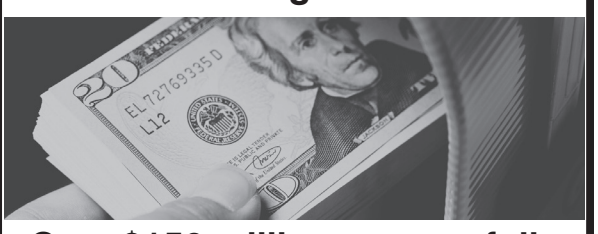
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(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

Monday, Aug. 10
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, Aug. 13
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Wednesday, Aug. 19
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Thursday, July 30
Friends of the Moorefield Store Community are hosting a reorganizational meeting for the Virginia-Carolian Ruritan Club at 7 p.m. at Dominion Valley Park. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, Aug. 1
The Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a golf tournament fundraiser registration starts at 8:30 for 18 holes of golf at Gordon Trent Golf Course. Four person captains choice, $65 per person or $260 per team, $25,000 hole in one prize, cash prizes for the top three teams. The rain date is Aug. 8.

Tuesday, Aug. 4
The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5-7 p.m. Swing by after work and pick up some great local produce, soaps , hand crafted items , peanut butter, fresh eggs , & baked goods. This week is National Farmers Market Week.

Tuesday, Aug. 4 – Friday, Aug. 7
Stuart Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School nightly, 6 to 8 p.m., at the church, 108 W. Blue Ridge St., Stuart.

Friday, Aug. 7

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

Friday Morning Market is open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with a great selection of local grown crops and hand made items. The Patrick County Master Gardeners will be on site sharing great gardening tips and a Knife & Blade sharpener will be on site to sharpen all your dull blades.

The First Friday Jam Series starts at 6 p.m. at the Stuart Farmers Market. This month the band will be Striking Copper. Pickle & Ash food truck will be serving fresh farm to table favorites. Blue Ridge Beverage will offer a selection of beer. Daring Wine & Cider Company will be serving up deliciously crafted cider & wine.

Sunday, Aug. 9
The family of Thomas and Susella Collins Goard will hold their annual reunion at the Peters Creek Community Building, 2130 Dry Pond Highway, Stuart, VA 24171. Lunch will be at 1 p.m. All are welcome.

Wednesday, Aug. 12
The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute boxes at its Stuart location from 8:30-11 a.m., and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m., and starting at 5:30 p.m. at the community building in Meadows of Dan.

Thursday, Aug. 13
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its August monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Charles Bowman. Beverages will be provided to all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring salads and/or desserts to share. Due to the Patrick County Agricultural Fair, there will be NO monthly senior meeting in September.

Friday, Aug. 21
The community food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Ongoing

The Patrick County High School Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2026 until July 31. Nominations can be made at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/147g76X_3A_FezM1OXKGz-0BqHem1wiWnL_lV2iIxhah0/edit.

American Legion Post 105 meets every third Friday of the month at 6 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 6 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.

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STUART FARMERS' MARKET
August Market Events
Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

Aug. 4th: The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5pm - 7pm. Swing by after work and pick up some great local produce, soaps , hand crafted items , peanut butter, fresh eggs , & baked goods. This week is National Farmers Market Week !

Aug 7th: Friday Morning Market is open 8 am - 12 pm. Come check out a great selection of local grown crops and hand made items . The Patrick County Master Gardeners will be on site sharing great gardening tips. Also our Knife & Blade sharpener will be on site ready to sharpen all your dull blades.

Aug 11th: The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5 pm- 7pm. Come out on your way home and pick up some baked goods, fresh eggs, local peanut butter, local vegetables, hand crafted items , soaps.

Aug 14th: Friday Morning Market is open 8 am - 12 pm. Same great selection of local grown produce and hand made items. The Caring Hearts Free Health Clinic will be on hand to offer free Blood Pressure checks.

Aug 18th: Tuesday Evening Market will be open 5pm-7pm. Swing by after work and pick up some great local produce, soaps, hand crafted items, peanut butter, fresh eggs, & baked goods.

Aug 21st: Friday Morning Market is open 8 am - 12 pm. Featuring a great selection and variety from fresh produce, fresh eggs, hand crafted items, coffee, peanut butter, birdhouses, baked goods, & handmade soaps.

Aug 25th: The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5pm - 7pm. Swing by after work and pick up some great local produce, soaps, hand crafted items, peanut butter, fresh eggs, & baked goods.

Aug 28th: Friday Morning Market is open 8 am - 12 pm. Featuring a great selection and variety from fresh produce, fresh eggs, hand crafted items, coffee, peanut butter, birdhouses, baked goods, & handmade soaps. The Landmark Center will be on site offer free blood pressure checks .

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Super Crossword

Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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LEGAL

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

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $180,606.00 dated August 16, 2017 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on August 24, 2017 as Instrument Number: 170001526, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on September 3, 2026 at 11:30 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract of land, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in Peters Creek Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, containing 1.000 acre. Tax ID: 4609-112-A.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of $10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 26-006245)

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE BY SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to a Decree and Order of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia, entered on June 24, 2026, in case No. CL26000428-00, the appointed Special Commissioner, John R. Griffin, will offer for sale at public auction on August 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the main entrance to the Circuit Court for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171, the following described real property:

Lying and being in the Dan River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Containing 5-1/2 acres, more or less, and being in all respects the same tract or parcel of land that is described in that certain deed of trust of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Deed Book 190, at page 101, to which deed of trust and any deed or deeds therein mentioned, express reference is made for a further and more accurate description of the tract or parcel of land, and known as 976 Wards Gap Road, Cana, Virginia 24317.

The property will be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS," with no warranties, express or implied. The successful bidder shall be required to deposit $4,500.00 or ten percent (10%) of the bid price, whichever is lower, in cash or certified funds on the day of sale, with the balance due within fifteen (15) days of the Court's confirmation of the sale, or as otherwise directed by the Court. In the event the successful bidder fails to complete the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be re-offered for sale at the risk and expense of the defaulting bidder.

The Special Commissioner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to continue or postpone the sale without further notice. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia.

John R. Griffin, Esq.
Special Commissioner
John R. Griffin, PLLC
(571) 308-5820 P.O. Box 1295
Culpeper, VA 22701

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
28 Buck Run Drive, Critz, VA 24082

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated July 27, 2022 and recorded at July 28, 2022 in Instrument Number 220001353 in the Clerk's Office for the Patrick County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally $109,122.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps of the Circuit Court for Patrick County located at 101 W Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171.

August 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

All that certain tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

"Lot 2," Containing 2.006 acres, in Log Cabin Estates Subdivision, as shown on Plat of Survey entitled "ROBERT L. DEAL," prepared by Larry G. Rakes, LLS, dated August 13, 2001, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet I, Slide 207-J; and

BEING that same tract or parcel of land conveyed to Grantor herein by Deed from James Matthew Dalton, dated July 27, 2022, and recorded immediately prior hereto in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, to which deed and map reference is here made for a more particular description of the property herein conveyed.

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of $20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of $470.00 for review of the settlement documents.

Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

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Council

(cont. from page 1)

exemptions for churches, nonprofit organizations and fundraisers.

"I think that a lot of these events that we haven't been capturing are going to fall into that exemption anyway. I think it's when we look at events that whether it be at the Farmers' Market" the annual agricultural fair, "or any of those other sort of events that we know that they should be paying their fair share and they've just not because we don't have it in writing to say, 'You need to do this,'" Simmons said.

"Well, I think it's definitely a step in the right direction, and at least at this point we'll have a structure," Hoback said.

Enforcement actions must be able to reference the statute being enforce, Simmons said.

"Maybe if it's approved all the way, we can just make sure that it gets to all the event coordinators," Council member Erica Wade said.

"There is also that mechanism of we're holding them accountable for bringing in a food truck," Simmons said.

Council member Rebecca Adcock said she agrees that if passed, the ordinance should be presented to event organizers to ensure they know of it.

"And I did like how in the mobile food ordinance that, if they're setting up on private property they have to have written permission," Adcock said.

In other matters, the council:

*Heard an update on the Downtown Revitalization project.

*Heard an update on the Star Theatre.

*Discussed the removal of derelict properties.

*Approved the June 17 meeting minutes.

*Paid the bills.

Membership drive underway at Stuart club

By Pamela Smith

The Stuart Ruritan Club recently celebrated three years of being a club and is currently conducting a Membership Drive.

There have been many Ruritan clubs in and around Stuart for the last several years. The Stuart club has the fewest members and would like to grow its club by extending a unique opportunity for businesses. An advertising sponsorship, which could be tax-deductible, would benefit not only the club, but also the community. A business sponsor would receive a plaque from Ruritan National and a window cling from the local club to showcase their support of the Stuart Ruritan Club.

Kevin Smith, along with his wife Pamela (formerly of Stuart), helped to form the Stuart Ruritan Club in 2023, and is currently serving as treasurer of this club. Smith said the club has given three scholarships and will be presenting another one during its July meeting. "This is a great outreach to our younger generation (and their family) to try to get more interest in Ruritan." Smith added, "We now give our scholarship recipients a free membership, so they can get the information of what is going on in the Stuart Ruritan club, along with the quarterly National Magazine."

"We are excited to bring Bingo back to the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, by hosting the fundraiser in October," said Stuart Ruritan Club President Jennifer Sink. "We also have a HUGE concert planned for December at the high school."

Pamela Smith, who is serving as the Dan River District Governor explained how Ruritan helps its communities. "All money raised in Ruritan is funneled back into the community at the club's discretion. Each club has its own fundraisers and community service projects. On the district level, we're there to support each club with training, membership, fundraising and fellowship, and that is just the short list."

Everyone has a "Why Story", and this is a blurb from Stephanie Keith, who just initiated her husband and daughter into the Stuart Ruritan Club.

Stuart Ruritan Club Why Statement

"The Stuart Ruritan Club was formed from a simple truth. When people come together, the real needs of a community reveal themselves. Our club did not begin with a traditional blueprint. Instead, we picked up the mantle of a former club and rebuilt it through connection, listening, and a shared desire to serve. As members gathered, many of us entering new seasons of life, we discovered how deeply our community needed a place where neighbors could support one another, grow together, and strengthen the fabric of Stuart.

We believed a Ruritan club mattered here because it offered something rare. It offered a way to be immersed in your community, to know its people, and to respond with heart. Even as a small club, we quickly saw that our size did not limit our impact. It amplified it. We learned that when you show up consistently, you become a trusted presence, and trust opens doors to meaningful service.

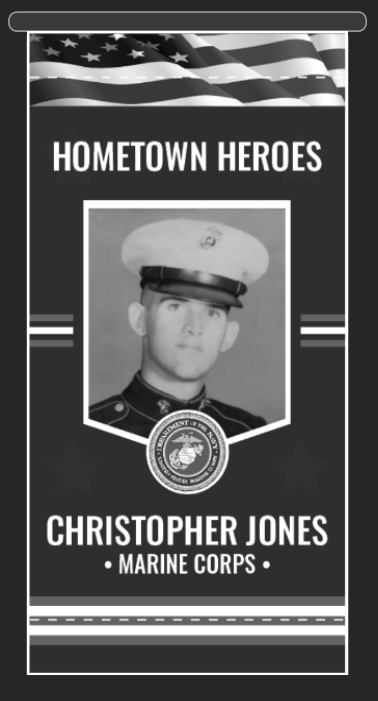
Today, our club provides quarterly meals for the Celebrate Recovery group, supports local students and schools, honors veterans, sends care packages to military members, partners with youth organizations, visits nursing homes, sponsors ball teams, promotes mental health and Alzheimer's awareness, and keeps our roadsides clean. Through scholarships and hands-on collaboration with Patrick County High School students, we are helping shape the next generation of leaders who will carry this work forward.

We were able to grow because a sponsoring club invested in us with financial support, administrative guidance, and personal encouragement. Their support gave us confidence, stability, and a sense of belonging within the larger Ruritan family. In turn, we have supported their projects and are now paying that blessing forward by helping another emerging club find its footing.

Our experience has taught us that starting a new Ruritan club does more than strengthen a community. It transforms it. It expands service, builds leadership, and creates partnerships that multiply impact."

With that, it is our hope that businesses and individuals will invest in our club and our community. For more information on the Stuart Ruritan Club, contact any club member, email StuartRuritans@gmail.com, or via Facebook Messenger www.facebook.com/Stuart.Ruritans.

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., with a covered dish meal at Patrick & Henry Community College.



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TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA

Hometown
Hero Banners

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$135 PER BANNER — Checks payable to the Town of Stuart
Aug 28, 2026 DEADLINE — Firm — please plan accordingly
5 Yrs ON DISPLAY — Banner remains Town property

To apply, pick up a form at the Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue. A high-resolution photo of your hero is required.

APPLY OR LEARN MORE
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276.694.3811 · 100 Patrick Ave., Stuart

email us DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

Conservation camp offers hands-on learning



A group photo of students participating in the 48th Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Youth Conservation Camp held at Virginia Tech.



Gavin Smith and other campers learned fishery management, how to delineate watersheds and more at the July camp.



Gavin Smith, a Patrick County High School student, was among those to attend the 48th Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Youth Conservation Camp. (Contributed photos)



Campers toured tour Virginia Tech's Vet School while attending the camp.

By Sandra Heath

Sixty students from across Virginia attended the 48th Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech July 12-18. Throughout the week, participants learned about conservation through beekeeping demonstrations, fishery management with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, forestry hikes, tours of Virginia Tech and Kentland Dairy Farm, soil conservation demonstrations, hiking the Cascades, float/tubing down the New River at New River Junction, tour Virginia Tech's Vet School, turfgrass management focused tour of Lane Stadium, learned about some Virginia critters, topography, and how to delineate watersheds and more.

Patrick SWCD was proud to be part of this year's camp by sponsoring a local student to attend, Gavin Smith from Patrick County High School (PCHS).

Thank you to the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) for making this opportunity possible!

For over 40 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has coordinated the week-long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students (currently enrolled in grades 9th-12th) on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors.

Scholarship funding to cover the registration fee for students from Patrick County High School may be available from your local Soil & Water Conservation District, the Patrick SWCD. Contact Sandra Heath at 276-694-2911 for more information.

Mural

(cont. from page 1)

community's vision of the Mayo River and its connection to local families.

"He embraced a lot of what we wanted this to stand for … the kids in the river and the community feeling that we have here, and he turned it into this magic thing. I feel like we're just incredibly lucky to have a guy who has such skills do it for us," Mahaffey said.

Mahaffey said Murrill's original design had a crawdad in the water instead of a trout.

"But the scale is so huge that he thought it might be really creepy and scary to have a 10-foot-tall crawdad in the bottom of the tower, so he put a trout in there instead. I kind of agree with him on that. I can see kids being terrified of it," Mahaffey said.

Completing the mural required cooperation from several local organizations.

Bull Mountain Arts rented an 80-foot lift to reach the top of the tank. Patrick County Public Schools loaned its 50-foot lift for the middle section, and the Town of Stuart provided its 35-foot lift for work closer to the ground.

Mahaffey said the different lifts were needed because of the terrain surrounding the tank.

Murrill said the project took about 10 working days to complete.

"I guess in terms of the logistics of the project, this particular piece wasn't necessarily a challenge vertically, but it was more a challenge navigating the surface as a cylinder. This was my first water tank or cylinder mural, and so to navigate that, it was really interesting. It definitely stretched me not just in terms of physically creating the mural, but how to design it in a functional way," he said.

Although he hopes to paint more murals in Patrick County, Murrill said he wants the community to enjoy this one first.

"I think I waited two years in between each of these murals, so trying to give this one the time to really be celebrated by the community and enjoyed and then at some point in time I would love to return to Patrick County. Everybody there was amazingly kind, and painting there on the Mayo River Rail Trail, it was just amazing to interact with so many different people," he said.

The mural is the latest enhancement to the Mayo River Rail Trail. A 300-pound sculpture was installed earlier this year, and another mural was added to the back of a trail kiosk last year. The trail also features a Little Free Library, River Ranger boxes, a monarch waystation pollinator garden, luminaries and other community projects.

"So that whole thing is kind of the beginning of what's becoming this kind of art walk, and we're all really excited about how it sort of organically began to grow that way," Mahaffey said.

More of Murrill's work can be viewed at www.jonmurrill.com.



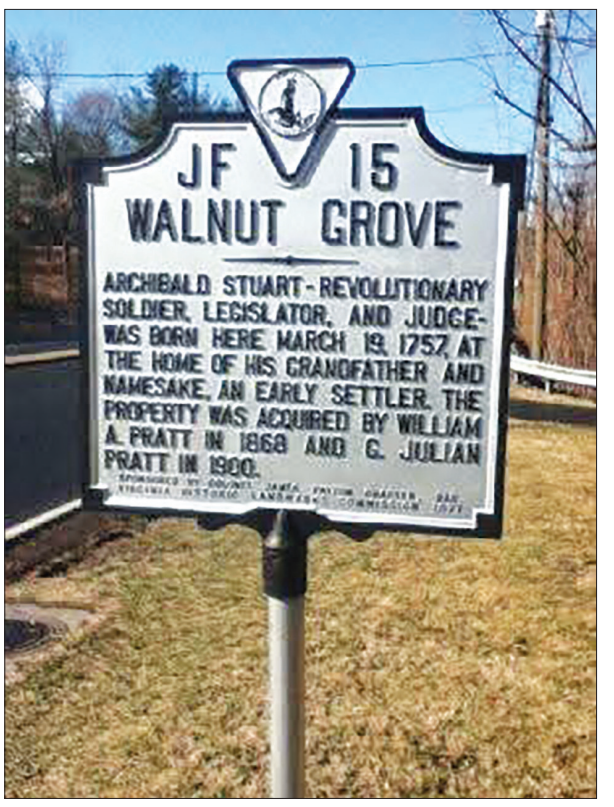
The new mural depicts a child's hand reaching into the Mayo River toward a trout and incorporates native plants and wildlife inspired by the surrounding landscape.

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Major Alexander Stuart



Stuart house in Staunton, Virginia.



Stuart house in Staunton, Virginia.

By Tom Perry

Born circa 1733 in Pennsylvania to Archibald "The Immigrant" and Janet Brown Stuart, Major Alexander Stuart came of age in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the years preceding the American Revolution. He married Robert and Ann Patterson's daughter, Mary, and produced seven children. Besides J. E. B. Stuart, Alexander's descendants were prominent in Virginia for many decades, leaving their mark in the "daughter of the stars," the Shenandoah Valley.

The oldest son of Major Alexander Stuart was another Archibald (1757 – 1832), who lived a prominent life in the Commonwealth. He attended the College of William and Mary, studied law under Thomas Jefferson, and accompanied his father to Guilford Courthouse. Judge Archibald Stuart was a member of both houses of the General Assembly, delegate to the Convention of 1788, and judge of the General Court. Stuart and Jefferson exchanged nearly a hundred letters between the early 1780s and Jefferson's death in 1826. Judge Archibald Stuart was born at Walnut Grove in Waynesboro, Virginia, and is buried in Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton beside his half-brother and J. E. B. Stuart's grandfather, Judge Alexander Stuart. Judge Archibald's home still stands in Staunton, Virginia, not too far from Stuart Hall, the Episcopal School for girls that was run by J. E. B. Stuart's widow, Flora, after the Civil War.

Archibald and Eleanor Briscoe Stuart's son, Alexander Hugh Holmes Stuart, was born on April 2, 1807, in Staunton. "He was a member of the House of Delegates (1836–1839, 1873–1877) and the U.S. House of Representatives (1841–1843), secretary of the interior in the administration of Millard Fillmore (1850–1853), a member of the Senate of Virginia (1857–1861) and the Convention of 1861, and a principal member of the Committee of Nine, which negotiated with the federal government for an end to Reconstruction in Virginia in 1869. He studied law at the University of Virginia before going into politics. In the General Assembly and then in Congress, Stuart was a typical Whig, supporting internal improvements and moderating on slavery. After John Brown raided Harpers Ferry in 1859, he helped pen a government report condemning Northern abolitionist agitation. Stuart voted against secession in 1861 but signed the Ordinance of Secession. Stuart did not serve in government or the military during the American Civil War (1861–1865), but in 1867, amidst controversy over a new state constitution, he helped to form the Conservative Party. He and eight other men, the so-called Committee of Nine, successfully negotiated a plan with the federal government to present an acceptable constitution to Virginia voters and so end Reconstruction in the state. He also served as rector of the University of Virginia (1876–1882, 1886–1887) and president of the Virginia Historical Society (1881–1891). He died in 1891."

Major Alexander Stuart married for the second time in 1766 to Mary Moore Paxton, widow of Samuel Paxton. This marriage produced four children: Alexander (Grandfather of J. E. B. Stuart), James, Priscilla, and Benjamin. They lived in Rockbridge County, Virginia, near Brownsburg.

At the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Alexander Stuart was one of 140 missing from Stevens' Virginia Brigade. Family tradition holds that Major Stuart had two horses shot from under him during the battle, with the latter pinning him to the ground, resulting in capture, and that Lord Cornwallis, commander of the British army, returned his sword and released him due to his bravery in battle. There is no doubt of Stuart's courage, but this story sounds apocryphal through the prism of his famous great-grandson's exploits, Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart. This author believes Stuart's capture occurred in Greensboro Country Park, near Forest Lawn Cemetery, adjacent to Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Alexander Stuart's role in the battle was covered in an article last year.

After the battle, the British took many of the prisoners to the nearby Quaker settlement of New Garden, where the British left those too grievously wounded to move on March 18. The British marched the remainder of the captured Patriots to Wilmington and placed them on prison ships until exchanged. Known lists of prisoners from Guilford Courthouse do not list Alexander Stuart. The British may have left Stuart with the Friends, and he returned to Virginia. His service gained him land grants in Monroe, Giles, Mercer, and Tazewell counties of Virginia.



Alexander H. H. Stuart

Major Alexander Stuart married for a third time to Ann Miller Reid in 1796. He lived until October 13, 1823, ten years before his future famous great-grandson, James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, was born in Patrick County. Alexander Stuart worked with the Mount Pleasant Academy, which became Liberty Hall, the predecessor to Washington and Lee University. It is appropriate that a school associated with Robert E. Lee, in a town dominated by the spirit of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, had an ancestor of J. E. B. Stuart at its founding. Major Alexander Stuart is buried at the Old Hall Farm, near Brownsburg, in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Nine students complete SCC's Blacksmithing Course



Nine students have graduated from Surry Community College's Basic Blacksmithing course. L to R: Instructor James Myers, Jason Arispe, Gauge Hodges, Joseph Johnson, Wade Marion, Jarred Marsh, Stacy Smith, Travis Smith, Haward Tharpe, and Jacob Tharpe. They are holding their certificates along with items made in class.

Nine students have recently completed Surry Community College's Basic Blacksmithing course.

The students include Jason Arispe, Gauge Hodges, Joseph Johnson, Wade Marion, Jarred Marsh, Stacy Smith, Travis Smith, Haward Tharpe, and Jacob Tharpe.

The Basic Blacksmithing course is designed for beginner students to gain a solid foundation in blacksmithing fundamentals.

Surry Community College will be offering another section of Basic Blacksmithing this fall. The classes will run on Saturdays from October 3 to October 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Dr. Doug Underwood, Director of Yadkin Center, at (336) 386-3584 or underwoodd@surry.edu. You may also register online at workforce.surry.edu.

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