THE ENTERPRISE

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

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Joint meeting scheduled for Sept. 28

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission on Sept. 28 to consider changes to the county's subdivision ordinance, including increasing the maximum lot size from two acres to five acres.

The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

The board approved scheduling the hearing by a 3-1 vote at its Aug. 31 special called meeting. Chairman Andrew Overby of the Dan River District, Jonathan Wood of the Peters Creek District and Richard Cox of the Smith River District voted in favor.

(See Meeting p. 12)

Tractor-trailer, school bus collide on U.S. 58

By Taylor Boyd

A tractor-trailer driver was injured Sept. 1 after the vehicle struck a Patrick County Public Schools bus on U.S. 58 at Trot Valley Road.

Virginia State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Richard Garletts said the crash was reported at 8:09 a.m. and involved a tractor-trailer and a school bus.

"The tractor-trailer claims the loss of brakes and struck the bus. The driver of the TT (tractor-trailer) was injured," he said.

The tractor-trailer driver was charged following the crash, Garletts said. A Virginia State Police trooper went to the hospital to interview the driver.

The Virginia Department of Transportation also set up traffic control while the tractor-trailer was recovered.

"The driver of the bus was not injured, and there were no kids on the bus," Garletts said.

Patrick County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood said the bus driver went to Stuart Community Hospital to be checked out and

(See U.S. 58 p. 8)

Missing Stuart woman found deceased

A Stuart woman reported missing Wednesday morning was found deceased later that evening, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Jeanette Moxley, 72, left her residence on Salem Highway on foot earlier Wednesday and had not returned, Smith said. A call was made to the Patrick County 911 Communications Center at approximately 10 a.m. from the residence at 128 Salem Highway.

Smith said Moxley had serious underlying health issues.

Deputies immediately began searching for Moxley. Volunteers and public safety agencies from Patrick and Stokes counties assisted with the search, while the Virginia Department of Emergency Management was called in to help coordinate the effort.

"Sadly, just before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Ms. Moxley was found deceased approximately three-tenths of a mile from where she was last seen," Smith said in a Thursday news release.

Smith said the investigation remains active and no further details would be released at this time.

Lts. Steve Austin and Oscar Tejeda and Investigator Dustin Dillon are leading the investigation. The Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the state medical examiner's office also are assisting, Smith said.

Smith expressed his gratitude to the volunteers and supporting agencies who assisted in locating Moxley in near 100-degree temperatures.



The midway at last year's Patrick County Agricultural Fair featured rides and games.

72nd Agricultural Fair to begin Tuesday

By Taylor Boyd

The 72nd annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15, through Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Rotary Club Fairgrounds in Stuart.

The event is sponsored by Patrick County Tourism, the Rotary Club of Stuart, Clark Gas & Oil, ValleyStar Credit Union, and Autos by Nelson.

In addition to animals, booths and exhibits, Keith Gunter, Rotary Club of Stuart member and fair chairman, said there will be nine rides set up at the fair.

"It's more rides than last year, and it's a really good mix between adult and children's rides," he said.

Gunter said there will also be multiple food options available, including five fair food vendors, the Patrick County High School Band, the Rotary Club of Stuart, and others selling a variety of goods, including ice cream, fried fish, and coffee.

In the exhibition hall, more than 100 exhibitors will be set up to promote their organizations and talk to visitors.

Gunter said he was told by staff with Cole

(See Fair p. 13)

Blue Ridge Mountain Inn under new management

By Taylor Boyd

The Blue Ridge Mountain Inn, formerly the Blue Ridge Motel, in Meadows of Dan is under new management.

James and Anita Watts purchased the 18-room motel just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in January.

James Watts said an adjacent property, which his wife's family owns, helped put the motel on their radar when it came up for sale.

"There's a piece of property that's adjacent to it, and that's in my wife's family, so that's what really got the property itself on our radar when it came up for sale," he said.

Originally from Texas, Watts met Anita while attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

"We are just so attracted to the Appalachian Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains, so we've spent quite a bit of time out here. Her mom specifically has origins back to the house that's next door to the motel," he said.

Watts said the couple does not have ties to the motel's previous owners.

The motel's first 10 rooms were built in 1963, followed by



The 18-room Blue Ridge Mountain Inn is located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Meadows of Dan.

four rooms in 1973 and another four in 1983, Watts said.

"So we've got a little bit of a collage of decor and construction items, which is all new, with the renovations we've done have been made consistent, at least on the interior. We have not really done any exterior renovations yet," he said.

The renovations have included general cleanup, facility maintenance, a new fire pit, and new hardwood flooring in all 18 rooms. The rooms also received new paint and fresh trim.

"We have 30 beds in the motel, and all 30 beds have been replaced with steel-enclosed bedframes and new mattresses," Watts said.

The bathrooms have not yet been renovated.

"The bathrooms have been deep-cleaned, but we've got plans to renovate and update all of the bathrooms in each of the rooms," he said.

Because he expects fall to be the motel's busiest season,

(See Blue Ridge p. 14)



Chamber Chat

August

By Rebecca Adcock, Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Director

August flew by in a blur of humidity, but it also brought that familiar feeling of transition as we welcomed a new school year and looked toward the end of harvest and the start of the "ber" months.

At the Chamber, we've been busy preparing for the end of the year. We wrapped up editing the Fall Patrick County Magazine, which will be available for distribution in September. We're also excited to share that the magazine was once again named Magazine of the Year by Friends of Southwest Virginia's Tourism Awards—our fourth year in a row! This is truly a team effort between the Chamber, Patrick County Tourism and SilverLining Design, and a great example of what can happen when organizations work together.

We also hosted a ribbon cutting for the Disaster Relief Food Ministry and an Employee Handbook & Workforce Laws seminar, in partnership with Longwood University Small Business Development Center and guest attorneys from Woods Rogers PLC of Roanoke, Virginia. Both were great opportunities to support and provide resources to our local business community.

August also included our annual Virginia Association of Chamber Executives retreat, where chamber directors from across the state shared ideas and discussed issues affecting our businesses, including energy, healthcare, and workforce legislation. Members can expect more information from us soon regarding the new workforce laws—another benefit of Chamber membership!

We're continuing to work on our Patrick County Nonprofit Organization Summit coming up in November. Registration is open, and we're excited about the speakers and sponsors joining us, including Patrick County Economic Development as our title sponsor.

Finally, following the recent passing of Dolly Parton, I wanted to highlight the impact of the Patrick County Imagination Library. The Chamber, Step Inc., One Family Productions, and the Rotary Club of Stuart work together to make this program available locally. We currently have about 400 children enrolled, and enrollment continues to grow. Thank you to everyone who has donated to help put books into the hands of Patrick County children. If you'd like to support the program, please contact the Chamber or visit our website.



As always, thank you for supporting the Chamber and the work we do to strengthen our local business community!

Harvest season for wild ginseng underway

Virginia's wild ginseng harvest season officially opened on September 1 and runs through December 31. Because wild American ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) is listed as a threatened species in Virginia, and protected by international treaty, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) urges all harvesters to be aware of and follow state laws designed to protect this valuable native plant.

American ginseng is a native slow-growing, shade-loving perennial that grows wild in Virginia's forests, particularly in the western and southwestern parts of the state. The root of the American ginseng plant is valued as a medicinal herb for a wide range of ailments. Anyone planning to harvest ginseng should be aware of the harvest regulations protecting this plant.

Wild ginseng cannot be harvested outside of the designated season, which begins on Sept. 1 and ends on Dec. 31 of each year. Wild ginseng that is younger than five years old, has fewer than four stem scars present on its rhizome, or has fewer than three prongs cannot be harvested. Any person who harvests wild ginseng must plant the seeds of the harvested plant at the harvest site at the time of harvest.

Ginseng collection is prohibited on most public lands in Virginia, to include state and national parks and forests. On public lands where ginseng harvesting is allowed, diggers must obtain a permit from the appropriate office or agency before harvesting any ginseng. Collecting any portion of the plant, including the berries, for personal or commercial use from federal land is strictly prohibited. Anyone caught removing ginseng from federal lands may face a fine of up to $5,000, six months in jail, or both. Violation of Virginia's wild ginseng harvest regulations is punishable by imprisonment for up to 12 months, up to a $2,500 fine, or both.

Ginseng harvest regulations do not apply to individuals harvesting wild ginseng from their own land. Individuals harvesting ginseng from private property must obtain permission from the property owner prior to plants being removed. Permission should be in writing and kept with the individual harvester at the time of harvest. Landowners are encouraged to observe the same size and age restrictions and seed planting guidelines to help ensure the continued, long-term viability of wild ginseng when ginseng digging occurs on their property.

Individuals shipping or transporting ginseng from Virginia in amounts of eight ounces or greater per calendar year must have the ginseng certified by VDACS. Wild ginseng is often exported to Asia and Europe, with market interest also occurring within the Commonwealth. Individuals buying or accepting ginseng to sell must obtain a license from VDACS.

During the 2025 season, approximately 1,080 pounds of wild ginseng roots were harvested in Virginia, with a value of approximately $700,000. It takes between 250 and 300 roots to acquire one pound of wild ginseng.

Visit the VDACS Ginseng Harvest webpage for more information or contact Keith Tignor at 804-786-8938 or keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Patrick County Library Branch Manager Report

August 2026 Edition

Colin Powell said, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." I know the key to success at the Patrick County Library is our team and amazing patrons. I must start this month's report by thanking my amazing staff. I am so grateful for each and every one of them. The energy and creativity that is part of the Patrick County Library team is top tier. Lucia Gullatt, our new children's programming/assistant branch manager, is rocking her new role and coming up with new fun ideas for future programming. Also, this month, we have a new part-time circulation assistant to join our team, Alicia Tiller. She is positive and enthusiastic and those are two necessary qualities to have when working with the public.

This month we only had two patrons attend our technology class entitled, "Basic Internet Q&A". The goal was for patrons to come and ask questions on how to navigate the internet; however, it ended up being two sweet ladies who came and needed a tutorial on Microsoft Word and some Excel on how to make a table or chart to keep records. I figured why not and they caught on pretty fast. This program made me think of the Friends episode where Ross and Chandler had to "PIVOT!!!" getting the sofa up the stairs. Sometimes doing these kinds of programs, one must pivot and that is okay.

Storytime and Lego Club went great this month. Lucia is finding her own way of doing Storytime and I am so proud of her. Preschoolers learned about butterflies and first days of school, among other things. Thank you all for attending those programs and for your patience as we get back into our groove, post summer reading.

Ann McConnell and other DAR members came to the library every Thursday this month and set up for their "Finding Your Patriot" program. The goal for this program was to help women in the area to learn how to start or continue a genealogy search on whether they had ancestors who were part of the Revolutionary War. I am so happy Ann came to me with this idea and we were able to provide the marketing, location and some reference resources for them to have such a successful program.

Cindy Howe came back on August 8th to continue her "Fantasy Flower" series and those who attended her prior class were able to keep learning techniques on how to paint one stroke flowers. Also, that day on the other side of the library, we had our first official CCC meeting. The Crafty Chapter Club is an opportunity for bookish people to come to the library and craft something bookish and continue bedazzling their previous month's item. It is also a time for junk journal enthusiasts to bring their collection of items and work on their own projects. Sheri Fink said, "Every day is a great day to give love, spread joy, and sparkle!", so that motivated me to make bedazzling a part of our CCC monthly meeting, in case someone only wants to play with sparkly jewels and do nothing else for two joyful hours. Eleven came to this month's meeting and we made acrylic book marks and bedazzled books. One person brought her plastic tote of "junk" to work on her junk journal and then she decided to add some sparkle it resulting in a blingy journal. I think to say between Cindy and the CCC, that Saturday was as artistic as we could get at the library.

Speaking of junk journaling, this month I was invited to be the August speaker at this month's Stuart Book Club Meeting and I introduced them to Junk Journaling. Scrapbooking, if you will, on a smaller, much less structured scale. We used stickers, old magazines, washi tape and decorative items to start our new journals. I love having the opportunity to bring the library out into the community and appreciate the invite. It was a fun afternoon.

Leandio's "Wings at the Window" class was full and guests left raving about the cute little bird feeders and the food. Thank you, Leandio! We already have The Bee Suite class at the Fab Lab full! I am so excited to hear about that fun event. Joni's yoga classes keep on keeping on. She is amazing and I have people signing up for waiting list all the time.

Our biggest event of the month was Once Upon a Blue Ridge's production, "Girl of the Holler" performed by the girl herself, Christina Boyd Holland. This memoir performance was attended by forty-three people who all enjoyed her story so

(See Library p. 3)

Pets of the Week



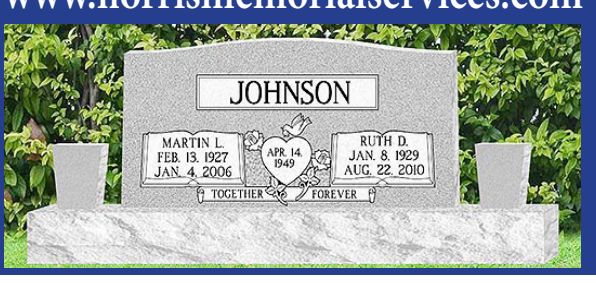


Let's not forget about long-time residents Halo (tan lab mix) and Harper (red tick). They don't need to be adopted together, but it would be extra sweet if they were. They were owner surrendered due to family moving. These young girls are wonderful dogs!

Please save a life by adopting your next pet. 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 check out their Facebook page for 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 league's Facebook page for new videos at https://www.facebook.com/blueridgeawl/.

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Suspected hemorrhagic disease of deer reported in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has recently received several reliable reports of sporadic deer mortalities consistent with hemorrhagic disease.

Hemorrhagic disease (HD), caused by a group of related viruses, often results in annual outbreaks in white-tailed deer in the Southeastern U.S., including Virginia. Historically, HD has been more common east of the Blue Ridge than west. Acute HD outbreaks are often characterized by clusters of otherwise healthy-looking deer being found deceased near water sources, as they seek these areas to cool themselves from fever. A typical case of HD would present as a deceased deer in good body condition found floating in a pond or creek in late summer or early fall, but the spectrum of clinical signs in an individual deer can vary from mild fever to swollen head and neck to difficulty breathing and finally death. Affected deer also often show significant lameness. The disease is transmitted by biting gnats or midges, resulting in seasonal activity beginning in the late summer and continuing until the first frost kills the insects. Localized outbreaks can result in dozens of deceased deer being found in one area over a short period of time. This can decrease deer numbers in affected areas; however, populations impacted by HD typically bounce back within a few years.

The disease poses no threat to humans or domestic pets; however, ruminant livestock species can contract the viruses. Clinical signs are often mild or absent and widespread production losses have not been reported in Virginia. Hunters are not at risk from handling or eating venison from infected deer. Even so, deer that act or look obviously sick, either as a result of HD or some other cause, should not be consumed.

If you have observed sick or deceased deer in your area and suspect HD may be the cause, do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal. Please report the approximate location of the animal to the Wildlife Helpline at (855) 571-9003 or vawildlifeconflict@usda.gov. If you send an email, please list the county, the community or area, and the number of deer involved (e.g., six deceased deer along the Big Otter River in the Lowry community of Bedford County). The department annually maintains records of HD mortality reports documenting the location and approximate number of animals involved. Please be advised that the report will not always result in an on-site visit by department staff.

At present, there is nothing that can be done to prevent or control HD. Although deer die-offs due to HD often cause alarm, past experiences have shown that mortality will not decimate local deer populations and the outbreak will be curtailed by the onset of cold weather.

Visit the Department webpage for more information.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Marlin Bradley Dehart, 59, of Woolwine, was charged Aug. 29 with one count each monument: intentional damage and assault. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Kevin Ray Belcher, 42, no address available, was charged Aug. 30 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license revoked or suspended, disregard law enforcement command and continue to drive - endanger, and operate ATV on public highway/public property. Sgt. J. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*William Edward Roberts, 46, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 30 with two counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*David Edmond Kuser, 71, no address available, was charged Aug. 31 with trespass. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr. was the arresting officer.

*Karson William Foley, 30, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 31 with two counts probation violation. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Kobie Miller, 28, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 1 with two counts probation violation. Sgt. T. Dalton made the arrest for Henry County.

*Jordan Anthony Capps, 25, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 21 with one count each suffocation, assault, prevent/delay communication, and make bomb threat. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe made the arrest for Carroll County.

*Timothy Dean Midkiff, 55, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 22 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Bryant Lee Perkins, 46, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 24 with one count each assault and violation of protective order. Senior Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

*Barry Thomas Lawless, 63, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Aug. 24 with drive while intoxicated. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Tyrone Cornelious Scales, 34, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 25 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Kenneth Ray Hayden Jr., 45, no address available, was charged Aug. 26 with probation violation. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer.

*April Marie Sepeda, 33, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Aug. 26 with assault. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Juan Cruz Manzotti, 40, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 26 with assault. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Sheena Williams Fitzgerald, 41, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 27 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Keyona Tyshell Redd, 24, of Axton, was charged Aug. 27 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

USDA approves Emergency Conservation Assistance for Patrick County

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Patrick County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from drought that occurred May 5, 2026 through July 14, 2026. ECP provides cost-share and technical assistance to producers to restore farmland to pre-disaster conditions following a qualifying natural disaster. ECP signup begins on September 8, 2026, and ends on November 9, 2026.

Approved ECP applicants can receive up to 75% of the cost of the approved restoration activity with a maximum cost share of $500,000 per natural disaster event.

Approved ECP practices include:

- Drought emergency measures
- Field Windbreak and farmstead shelterbelt restoration

Check with FSA before beginning work to ensure required compliance measures are complete to be eligible for cost share payment.

ECP cost-share assistance can provide advance payments for up to 25% of the total allowable cost for all ECP practices before the restoration is carried out. The advance payment must be spent within 60 days.

Producers who lease federally owned or managed lands, including tribal trust land, as well as state land, are eligible to participate in ECP.

Conservation concerns present on the land prior to the qualifying natural disaster event are not eligible for ECP assistance.

Eligibility and Environmental Requirements

Producers with damage from qualifying natural disaster events must apply for ECP assistance before beginning reconstructive work. FSA's environmental compliance review process is required to be completed before any actions are taken. A waiver can be requested for necessary activities that are taken as emergency action to prevent further loss. Producers who apply after reconstructive work has been completed are at risk of not qualifying for ECP.

FSA county committees will evaluate applications based on an on-site inspection of the damaged land, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. An on-site inspection does not guarantee that cost-share funding will be provided.

To learn more about ECP, producers can contact the Patrick County FSA Office at 276-694-3121 x.2.

July unemployment, labor force participation rates decreased

Virginia Works – the Commonwealth's Department of Workforce Development and Advancement – last week announced that, according to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.7 percent, which is 0.4 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. This rate is 0.4 percentage points below the national unemployment rate, which decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.1 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 63 percent in July. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

Month-over-month industry

In July's Current Employment Statistics Survey, Virginia's nonagricultural employment decreased by 9,600 to 4,232,200. June's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, decreased by 1,900 to 4,241,800. In July, private sector employment decreased by 3,000 to 3,474,500 while government employment decreased by 6,600 to 757,700. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 600 to 169,900, state government employment decreased by 200 to 168,200, and local government decreased by 5,800 to 419,600 over the month.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In July, four experienced over-the-month job gains, and seven experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+2,500) to 423,300. The second largest job gain occurred in Financial Activities (+1,300) to 221,500. The third largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+600) to 629,600. The other gain was in Manufacturing (+400) to 229,000.

The largest job loss occurred in Government (-6,600) to 757,700. The second largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-3,400) to 784,700. The third largest job loss occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,400) to 692,800. The other losses were in Construction (-1,300) to 224,800; Miscellaneous Services (-1,300) to 197,300; Information (-300) to 65,100; and Mining and Logging (-100) to 6,400.

Warner, Kaine introduce bill to repeal Trump tariffs

U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both D-Va., have joined 12 Senate colleagues in introducing legislation that would repeal and refund President Donald Trump's newest tariffs and limit presidential authority to impose tariffs.

The End Trump's Tariff Tax Act would apply to Trump's newest global tariffs of 10% to 12.5% and a 50% tariff on $20 billion worth of imports from Canada, according to the senators' office.

Warner and Kaine said the tariffs have increased costs for American families, small businesses and farmers.

"From escalating trade wars to costly conflicts abroad, the president's reckless policies are driving up costs and making it harder for Virginians to make ends meet," the senators said. "The data is clear: American families, small businesses, and farmers are footing the bill for Trump's chaotic tariffs."

The bill also would repeal the authorities Trump has used to impose tariffs.

Warner and Kaine previously introduced legislation requiring refunds, with interest, of tariffs they described as illegal after the U.S. Supreme Court struck them down. They also led bipartisan legislation to repeal tariffs on Canada imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. That measure passed the Senate and a version later passed the House, according to the senators.

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War Drones



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Technological innovation in warfare fuels American strength.

The American Civil War introduced numerous innovations in warfare, including tethered gas balloons for aerial reconnaissance as well as ironclad gunboats.

Throughout the history of our country, perhaps no weapon was more impactful than the atom bomb. The bomb helped the United States force Japan's surrender and end World War II.

Later, during the Cold War, the United States deployed the world's first-of-its-kind fleet of nuclear-powered ships, including submarines. This advantage cemented the status of American naval power in the world.

The evolution of modern military technologies continues to reverberate in the 21st century.

A central component of this evolution is the proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as drones.

The drone universe is incredibly diverse and the settings for their uses continue to grow.

The range of these technologies extends from niche surveillance tools to critical features of modern military power. They support counterterrorism missions, maritime security, and rapid-response scenarios.

Further, many cheap, commercially adapted drones now perform reconnaissance, artillery spotting, electronic warfare and kamikaze strikes.

Meanwhile, advanced militaries deploy stealthy combat drones, swarming systems capable of overwhelming defenses, and counter-drone technologies such as directed-energy weapons and electronic jamming.

Collectively, these advancements have reshaped battlefield dynamics. Persistent surveillance, precision strikes, and smaller actors who historically lacked access to advanced airpower represent the dramatic rise in drone activity for combat.

Modern conflicts and military strategies now reflect the reliance on drone technologies.

Exhibit A? The Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The power of drones was on display during the early weeks of the conflict when Ukrainian drones substantially halted a Russian convoy of Russia's best tanks.

Further, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky remarked that Russia fired nearly 1,500 drones at Ukraine during a recent four-day period in August.

Russian drone incursions into Eastern Europe are unsettling our European allies. Germany recently accused Russia of trying to launch a drone attack on a German airport.

Meanwhile, Iran's drone program, propped up by Russian interests, continues to target American military assets and threaten stability in the Middle East.

Further, Iran helped supply the Maduro regime in Venezuela with UAV capabilities that put American shores within striking distance.

This growing industry shows that numerous militaries, namely America's adversaries, view drones as a vital technology for success.

Accordingly, the Trump Administration and Republican Congress are working to support American military adjustments to this new reality.

President Trump's "Unleashing American Drone Dominance" Executive Order calls for measures that support American leadership in the drone space.

This summer, President Trump introduced a drone tariff program. This program is meant to reduce our reliance on foreign countries for drone components and parts, bolster American drone production and protect U.S. national security.

Further, in the 2025 reconciliation package, I voted for the Working Families Tax Cuts which invested $1.4 billion to expand the American unmanned aerial system (UAS) industrial base!

Hundreds of millions in additional federal funds from the bill will support the development, procurement and integration of UAS technologies.

The federal demands to increase our understanding and development of drone technologies has the attention of leading institutions, including Virginia Tech.

In late August, I attended a ribbon-cutting for the new Virginia Tech Counter-UAS Testing & Research Center.

This Center is one of only nine UAS test sites designated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Other speakers at the program included President Tim Sands, Dr. Eric Paterson of the Virginia Tech National Security Institute, Senator Mark Warner and Mr. Tombo Jones of the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership.

Jones noted the sophisticated technologies that strengthen the stealth of drones. Thanks to advances, these UAVs can fly undetected by radio frequency detection systems and at extremely high speeds.

This shows the urgent need to develop counter-UAS technologies.

Further, the event featured a live swarm demonstration, a drone library and a radar system platform.

The Center will operate an indoor lab and an outdoor range as part of its initiatives.

With the Center up and running, we are excited that Virginia Tech will provide key insights into counter-UAS technologies, help U.S. national security and project American strength.

The projection of American strength requires an integration of next generation systems.

As military weapons and technologies transform, it is vital that America not only keep pace, but stay ahead.

We recognize that letting our adversaries have the upper hand in advanced weaponry threatens American interests and freedom around the world.

I will continue to support policies that strengthen American military readiness, facilitate American technological progress and accelerate American drone power.

Letter to the Editor

Letter questions Griffith's record

Representative Griffith publishes a column every week in The Enterprise, and I am still waiting for him to tell me what he has done to make my (and your) life better. I have had relatives say "I don't care what they do as long as they don't raise MY taxes" or "I don't care what they do as long as it does not affect ME personally." Guess what? His actions and votes do those things to you every day.

When he is pushing against birthright citizenship he is damaging our economy and our morality. When he votes to reduce food and medical care he is hurting all of us (to include those people who vote for him).He has no interest in his constituency except to create enough unfounded racial, social, and economic anxiety to get you to vote in fear of the "other" instead of demanding that he help the people he is supposed to represent. What is he doing and what has he done to help you with gas prices and grocery prices? What is he doing to preserve law and order, protect civil liberties, and control the unlawful and inhumane ICE practices? What is he doing to help you with medical bills? Housing? Education? Infrastructure?

Who is he talking to in these weekly columns? Apparently he sees himself on the national stage and not as the representative of the Ninth District of Virginia. We deserve better.

Tom George,
Meadows of Dan

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How Humble Legumes Can Prevent Chronic Disease

I grew up being taught to understand the nutritional benefits of the foods I ate. I was fortunate to be able to understand why I didn't eat meat or dairy products, outside of the occasional cheese pizza that our family would order on a busy day, or when dad cooked for us. My parents always explained why we had a plant-based diet and as we became older, they also left the decision open to us and told us that if we ever were curious to try meat-based dishes, we could. We made the personal choice to refrain because at that point, we didn't have any propensity for meat dishes.

Our decision was not because our parents taught us a certain lifestyle but as we became older, our decision became based on a knowledge and understanding of the topic. The sole reason for our diet and lifestyle choices was based upon the effect it would have on our present and future life as adults. As we matured and entered adulthood, we began to witness our family members experience medical issues that largely happened because of their lifestyle. Chronic diseases were becoming the new trend in our friends and family.

Seeing this tragic turn of health in close friends and family not only encouraged me to continue my plant-based lifestyle, but it gave me a strong passion for sharing with others the benefits of a plant-based diet. Fortunately, the plant-based diet is not just a fad that will come and go; but is steadily becoming a lifestyle of the future. My burden is for the children that will be the next generation in our world. We need to help prepare for their future by investing in their physical, mental, and spiritual health. These are all strengthened by healthy lifestyle practices.

Let's talk beans

Let's talk about the plant-based diet and the benefits of eating foods high in fiber and rich in plant protein. Growing up, I noticed that there were main staples in our diet that were included in most meals, making them "high priority foods." Legumes were one of these high priority foods that were a big part of our childhood diet.

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes (beans), nuts, and seeds in the diet lowers the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. Even though research shows the benefit of legume consumption, only about 8% of U.S. adults eat legumes daily. The nutritional benefits of legumes are exponential and we must make legumes a high priority food in the everyday diet.

Beans are nutritious seeds in the form of pods. These pods fall within the legume family. There is a wide variety of legumes such as "pulses," which include the following common varieties: kidney beans, cannellini beans, Great Northern beans, navy beans, fava beans, cranberry beans, black beans, pinto beans, soybeans, black-eyed peas, chickpeas, and lentils. Legumes are a powerhouse of nutrients, containing not only fiber and protein, but also carbohydrates, vitamin B, iron, copper, magnesium, manganese, zinc, and phosphorous. Legumes are also low in fat, free of saturated fat, and cholesterol free. The glycemic index for legumes is low, ranging from 10 to 40. Not only are legumes highly nutritious, they're also important in the prevention of many chronic health conditions.

How legumes help prevent chronic disease

Three chronic conditions that can be prevented or managed by a well-balanced diet that includes legumes are type 2 diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. A study of patients with type 2 diabetes showed that patients who consumed more legumes had significant decreases in cholesterol, triglycerides, systolic, and diastolic blood pressures. Follow-up studies indicated reductions in A1C and blood glucose levels.

For hyperlipidemia, a condition in which one has an abnormally high concentration of fats or lipids in the blood, eating legumes consistently can lower total and LDL cholesterol levels.

Finally, hypertension. Because legumes are high in potassium, magnesium, and fiber, they have a beneficial effect on a patient's blood pressure management. In one study, obese patients were given two servings of legumes and four servings of whole grains each day for 18 months, replacing refined carbohydrate foods. The results showed that blood pressure, triglycerides, weight, and waist circumference were reduced.

Good nutrition for disease prevention or management

Nutrition is not only a preventative measure, but it is also a disease management tool. "One bite at a time" can change the future of the next generation. Start by making small changes, then gradually make those changes habits. Soon those habits will become habits that heal your body.

Healthy nutrition can be incorporated into the clinic routine for healthcare providers as well. Nutritious eating is not just a journey that should be started alone, but the health care system needs to be an educational guide to help us reach our lifestyle goals.

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

Patrick Pioneers

D. W. Scott's History of Meadows of Dan-Part II

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we began a journey back into the early history of Meadows of Dan through the words of Daniel Webster "D. W." Scott, who recorded his memories and knowledge of the mountain community in 1949, when he was eighty-four years old.

The manuscript, recently shared with me by Charlie Bowman, is much more than a collection of names and places. Each name Scott recorded represents a real person—a person who lived, worked, raised a family, endured hardships, celebrated joys, and left a mark upon the Meadows of Dan community.

That is why, as we continue through Scott's history, I want to stop along the way and learn something about the people he mentions. With the help of birth, marriage, and death records, census records, family histories, and other surviving documents, we can put families around those names and, in some cases, rediscover remarkable stories that might otherwise have been forgotten.

Here is the second installment of Daniel Webster (D. W.) Scott's History of Meadows of Dan in his own words.....

This section (Meadows of Dan) was first settled about 175 years ago. Among the first settlers were such sturdy, hardy men as Spencer Cockram who settled about one mile south of Meadows of Dan post-office; Peter Wood who settled about one mile east of Meadows of Dan post-office; Thomas Scott, father of Rev. T. D. Scott who lived about seven miles southwest of Meadows of Dan post-office near the Pinnacles of Dan, and who was the grandfather of Luther G. Scott, a prominent lawyer now located in Bluefield, W. Va., great grandfather of Eugene Dickson, a noted attorney now located in Roanoke, Va., and also great-grandfather of Rev. Carlyle T. Scott, a noted evangelist.

We will stop here with Scott's history and break down all the powerful information in this paragraph. One of the men Scott mentioned in this portion of his history was Spencer Cockram.

Spencer Cockram was born in 1799 to Nathaniel Cockram and Bathsheba Pedigo.

Nathaniel was the son of Revolutionary War veteran Edward Cockram, also recorded as Cochran, and Mary "Polly" Edwards.

Nathaniel Cockram married Bathsheba Pedigo in January 1798. Evidence of that marriage survives in the marriage bond between Nathaniel and Bathsheba's father, Elijah Pedigo, witnessed by Patrick County Clerk Samuel Staples.

Those old marriage bonds are treasures in themselves. More than two centuries later, the names written upon them allow us to reach back into Patrick County's earliest years and place another generation onto the family tree.

Their son Spencer married Miss Nancy Adeline Boyd on May 29, 1817, in Patrick County.

Spencer and Nancy had the following children:

William Nathan Cockran, 1818–1861
Sarah Nancy Cockram Boyd, 1819–1881
Keziah Cockram Lawson, 1819–1885
John Bishop Cockram, 1822–1891
Delila Cockram Rakes, 1827–1871
William Andrew Cockram, 1835–1864
Elizabeth Cockram West, 1837–1868
Bashaba Cockran Edens, 1838–1911

It is through their son John Bishop Cockram that we come to one of the most heartbreaking family stories I have encountered in researching Patrick County.

John Bishop Cockram married Mahalia Nannie Cruise, and together they suffered a tragedy that is almost unimaginable today.



Daniel Shelor Furnace, Floyd County West Fork Furnace, VLR online

During the diphtheria epidemic of 1862, John and Mahalia lost nine children.

Nine.

The names and dates preserved in the records tell the terrible story:

John C. Cockram, 1849–October 18, 1862
Martha Cockram, 1850–October 2, 1862
Lucinda Cockram, 1852–October 10, 1862
James S. Cockram, 1853–October 15, 1862
Mazy Ellen Cockram, 1854–October 30, 1862
Mary Ann Cockram, 1856–October 2, 1862
Sarah Jane Cockram, 1859–October 20, 1862
Nancy Alice Cockram, 1859–October 2, 1862
An unnamed baby girl Cockram, 1862–1862

Just look at those dates.

Martha, Mary Ann, and Nancy Alice all died on October 2. Lucinda followed on October 10. James died October 15. John died October 18. Sarah Jane died October 20. Mazy Ellen died October 30.

Within the span of a single October, John and Mahalia watched child after child disappear from their family.

And all of this was happening in 1862, while the Civil War was raging across Virginia and the nation.

It is difficult to comprehend the grief inside that Patrick County home.

Yet somehow, life continued.

John Bishop and Mahalia Cockram had two more children following that terrible year: Henry Boyd Cockram, 1863–1911, and Elizabeth Cockram Belcher, 1865–1888.

Mahalia died in 1866.

One can only imagine the grief she carried during the remaining years of her short life. Records can tell us when someone was born, married, or died, but they cannot tell us what was in a mother's heart after burying nine of her children.

Perhaps that is one reason it is so important to say their names again today.

Peter Wood

D. W. Scott again mentioned Peter Wood in this portion of his history.

Readers may remember Peter from Part I. Scott told the wonderful story of a cold, snowy night when the Wood family was frying fresh meat and a hungry bear, attracted by the smell, attempted to break through their door.

Peter and his family were forced to bar the door from the inside to keep the bear out.

For additional information on Peter Wood and his family, please see Patrick Pioneers—D. W. Scott's History of Meadows of Dan—Part I.

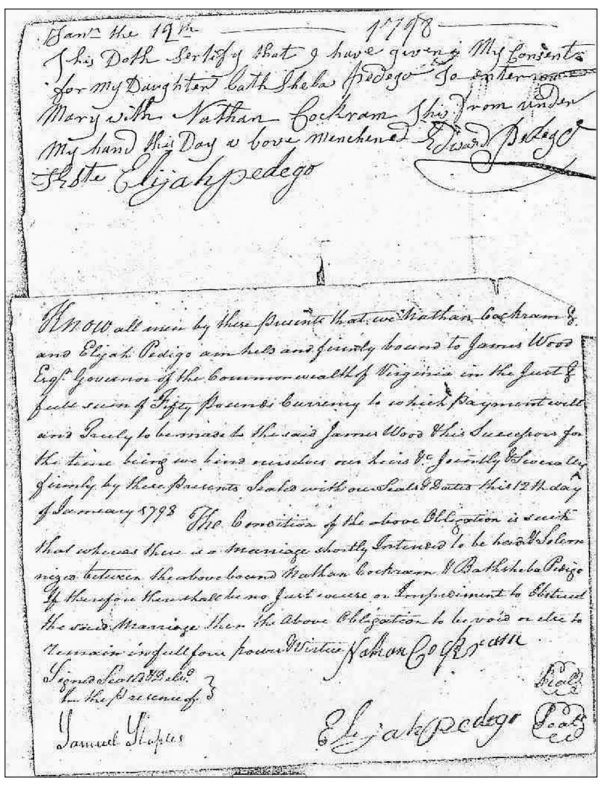
Thomas Scott and Sarah "Sallie" Shelor Scott

The next person mentioned by D. W. Scott brings us directly into Scott's own family.

Thomas Scott was D. W. Scott's grandfather.

Thomas married Miss Sarah "Sallie" Shelor on March 7, 1805, in Montgomery County, Virginia.

Sallie was the daughter of Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shelor and Mary Wick-



Nathaniel Cockram and Elijah Pedigo 1798 Marriage Bond Patrick Co. Circuit Court

ham Shelor, 1756–1834, who were married in 1784.

And Captain Daniel Shelor had quite a story of his own.

Captain Daniel Shelor

Captain Daniel Shelor came from Maryland to the banks of Furnace Stack Creek in what is now Floyd County. In the early 1790s, he opened an iron mine and smelter.

Shelor mined the ore, refined it, and fashioned cooking utensils from the iron. He then loaded those wares onto a wagon and hauled them to Lynchburg, the nearest town, hoping to sell them.

According to a story preserved in Floyd County history, his first sales trip did not begin particularly well.

Shelor reportedly arrived in Lynchburg with his load of pots and pans only to discover that he could not find buyers.

Out of sheer frustration—or perhaps in a moment of exceptionally good salesmanship—he picked up one of his pots and threw it against a rock in the unpaved street.

Those watching must have expected it to shatter.

It didn't.

Much of the cast iron of the period was brittle, but the ore Captain Shelor was mining apparently contained just enough copper to create an alloy that made his wares more durable than many others then available.

Once the merchants and townspeople of Lynchburg saw that Shelor's pot had survived being thrown against a rock, he quickly sold his entire load.

Captain Shelor returned to Floyd County and continued operating his mine and smelter.

But his story was not finished.

Years later, the nation he had fought to help create once again needed volunteers. Captain Shelor was already in his sixties when the War of 1812 began, but according to the Floyd County history, he walked to Norfolk, Virginia, to offer his assistance.

From Revolutionary War soldier to mountain ironworker and businessman to an aging patriot willing to walk across Virginia to volunteer once again, Captain Daniel Shelor certainly left his mark upon the generations that followed him.

The Family of Thomas and Sallie Shelor

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Why change Social Security now? It's a working "Ponzi Scam"

Dear Rusty: Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency. I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its Inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam. In all reality, this began with Babylon. I'm sure that if you searched the meaning of the words "Babylonian money magic," you would understand what I'm talking about. If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency? *Signed: Skeptical Senior*

Dear Skeptical Senior: You touch on an item that the AMAC Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme. Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency, with its financial status, formulas, and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented, and reported to the President and Congress annually. Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there's a taxpaying workforce. Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce (and their dependents) recover their Social Security contributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud. Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades. We sometimes hear well intended (but sometimes uninformed) comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency. And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (https://socialsecurityreport.org/) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

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 (http://amacfoundation.org/services) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Cougars fall to North Surry, 44-23

By David Morrison

Patrick County traveled to Toast N.C. to take on the North Surry Greyhounds on Friday night. Despite a fast start the Cougars fell to the Greyhounds by a score of 23-44.

Defensively the Cougars were led by Wheeler Helms and Josiah Shelor with 7 tackles each, Andrew Miller and Logan Brown added 6 tackles each, and Jayden Corns, Jaxon Handy, Noah Becker, added 5 tackles each, Ethan Errichetti and Brayden Hylton added 3 tackles each and one pass break up a piece. Also recording tackles for the Cougars on the night were Noah Cain, Briar Branch, Jacob Spencer, Mason Spencer, Ernesto Ponce, and Josh Ayers. Jacob Spencer and Andrew Miller forced a safety after a bad snap.

Offensively the Cougars were led by Noah Cain on the ground carrying the ball 11 times for 98 yards and a touchdown followed by Josiah Shelor who had 9 carries for 51 yards and a 2 point conversion. Jaxon Handy added 5 carries for 23 yards, Brayden Hylton had 1 carry for 4 yards, and Jayden Corns had 4 carries for 1 yard.

Corns led the Cougars in passing on the night going 4 of 5 for 82 yards and a touchdown. Jaxon Handy went 3 for 10 for 31 yards and 4 Int's.

Brayden Hylton led all Cougar receivers with 4 catches for 74 yards followed by Ethan Errichetti with 2 catches for 30 yards and a Touchdown, and Josiah Shelor with 1 catch for 9 yards.

Hylton led all returners with 80 return yards on the night.

Ivan Ortega went 1-2 on PAT's for the Cougars.

The Cougars next home game will be against North Stokes at home on Friday, Sept. 11.

Sports Briefs

Lady Cougars defeat North Stokes

The Patrick County volleyball team defeated North Stokes, 3-1, on Thursday.

The Lady Cougars won the first two sets, 25-23 and 25-16, before North Stokes took the third set, 25-23. Patrick County closed out the match with a 25-16 victory in the fourth set.

Kendra Penn led the way with 12 kills, 11 digs and three aces. Brooklyn Barner added 10 kills, while Chloe Hubbard had nine kills and eight digs.

Mariah Scott and Jenna Woods each recorded 11 digs, with Woods adding three aces. Meredith Wood finished with 30 assists, six digs and six aces in the win.

Lady Cougars fall to Mount Airy

The Patrick County volleyball team fell to Mount Airy, 3-0, Thursday.

Mount Airy won the first set, 21-15, followed by a 25-16 victory in the second set and a 29-27 win in the third.

Allison Clark led Patrick County with four kills. Reese Horton added two kills, seven digs and five aces.

Jenna Woods and Mariah Scott each recorded six digs, while Meredith Wood and Kendra Penn had seven assists apiece.

Lady Cougars sweep Bassett

The Patrick County volleyball team swept Bassett, 3-0, Wednesday to improve to 2-1 on the season.

The Lady Cougars won the first set, 25-24, followed by a 25-16 victory in the second set and a 26-24 win in the third.

Brooklyn Barner led Patrick County with seven kills and four blocks. Chloe Hubbard, Allison Clark and Kendra Penn each added four kills.

Kaylene Garcia recorded 11 digs, while Mariah Scott had nine digs and six aces. Meredith Wood finished with 25 assists and five aces.

JV Cougars split two matches

The Patrick County High School junior varsity volleyball team split two matches this week.

The Cougars fell to Mount Airy on Wednesday, 25-16, 25-15. Avery Hubbard led Patrick County with four kills and four digs, while Addy Foley had 10 assists.

Patrick County bounced back Thursday with a 2-1 victory over North Stokes, winning 24-26, 25-22, 15-11.

Hubbard led the Cougars with 10 kills and seven digs. Kinsleigh Harris added six digs and two aces, while Foley finished with 23 assists.

JV volleyball earns three-set victory

The junior varsity volleyball team picked up a three-set victory Wednesday, winning 27-29, 25-17, 15-4.

Addy Foley led the team with 13 assists and four aces, while Gabby Reynolds recorded seven kills. Milli Foley added six aces.

Keep heat safety in mind when working outdoors



Fall may be on the horizon, but lingering summer heat can still pose serious risks for farmers and agricultural workers.

While the days are getting shorter, blistering temperatures and muggy weather persist, with temperatures remaining in the upper 80s and into the 90s. Research has found that agricultural workers are at the greatest risk of heat exposure, and are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related illness compared to workers in other industries. AgriSafe Network also reports that the highest percentage of heat-related deaths occurred among people 55-64 years old.

Hot temperatures, humidity and direct sunlight combined with physically demanding work can cause dehydration, fatigue, nausea, weakness, irritability, muscle cramps, heat rash and heat exhaustion. Additionally, heavy sweating causes the body to lose fluids and valuable nutrients. Those working outdoors on hot days should take regular breaks in the shade, and rehydrate with water and sports drinks to replenish electrolytes like potassium, magnesium and sodium.

"Along with being physically dangerous, heat can affect your focus and decision-making, increasing the risk for accidents," said Matt Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's farm safety coordinator. "When you start feeling the effects of extreme heat, don't try to push through it. Slow down and take some time to cool off before continuing."

The most serious heat-related illness is heatstroke, which occurs when the body fails to cool itself, and core temperatures can rise to 106 degrees or higher within minutes.

Anyone showing heatstroke symptoms like confusion, altered mental state, slurred speech, hot, dry skin, or profuse sweating should be moved to a cooler area and given ice packs or cold water. Call 911 for emergency medical care.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration notes that even temperatures below 80 degrees can pose risks when people are engaging in strenuous work like carrying, shoveling, walking a fast pace and pushing heavy loads.

Tips to prevent heat-related illness:

Rest and take breaks in the shade to cool down.

Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty.

Combine drinking water with electrolyte drinks to replace sodium, potassium and magnesium lost through sweating.

Wear breathable, lightweight and light-colored clothing, sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat.

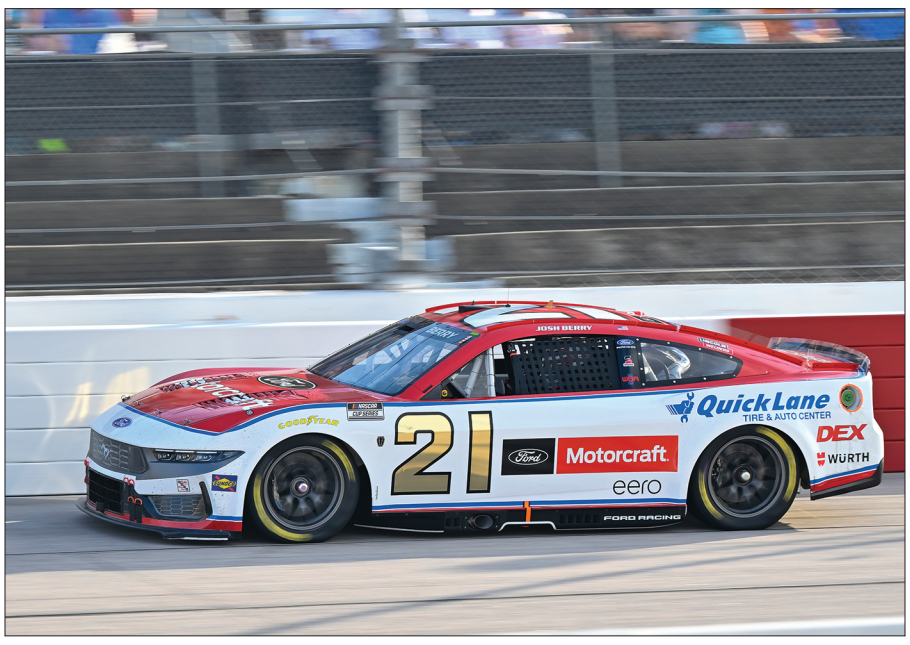
Any exposed skin should be covered with sweat- and water-resistant sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher, and reapply every 2 hours.

Avoid caffeine, alcohol and drugs, and limit sugar and salt intake because they can accelerate dehydration.

Save strenuous work for early mornings or evenings when temperatures are cooler.

Know the signs of heat illness and what to do during an emergency.

Keep an eye on fellow workers.



Race Report: Darlington Raceway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team earned their sixth consecutive top-10 finish with a seventh-place result in Sunday night's Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway.

The finish continued an impressive stretch for Berry and the Wood Brothers Racing team, which has now recorded six straight top-10s dating back to Indianapolis Motor Speedway in late July.

With practice and qualifying cancelled due to weather, Berry lined up 14th based on NASCAR's metric and steadily worked his way forward throughout the 500-mile event.

Berry spent much of the opening stage inside the top 15 before finishing the segment in 11th. The Motorcraft/Quick Lane Mustang Dark Horse continued to improve as the race progressed, with Berry moving into the top 10 during Stage 2 and earning four stage points with a seventh-place finish.

The No. 21 became an even bigger factor during the final segment as Berry raced his way into the top five and remained there for much of the closing portion of the race.

A brief rain delay set up the final round of pit stops, with Berry coming to pit road from inside the top five for fresh tires. Several competitors elected to remain on track, putting Berry eighth for the ensuing restart.

After briefly falling outside the top 10, Berry began working his way back through the field. He moved into seventh with 12 laps remaining and held the position through the finish, giving the Motorcraft/Quick Lane team another strong result on one of the NASCAR Cup Series' most demanding nights.

"It was a lot of fun," Berry told reporters at the track. "There were a couple of runs where I thought we were super, super good. I just struggled a little bit firing off, but the trade-off of that was we were kind of always moving forward throughout the runs and then just how the race played out at the end."

Berry felt taking tires following the rain delay was the right decision, although the restart didn't unfold quite as he had hoped.

"I probably should have picked the top, but all-in-all the guys did a really good job. We had a really solid car for no practice. That's all you can ask for."

Berry's seventh-place finish made him the highest-finishing driver outside the Chase field in the opening race of the 10-race championship stretch. While pleased to keep the team's top-10 streak intact, he felt the strength of the No. 21 throughout the night left an opportunity for an even better result.

"But I feel like there was more out there tonight," he said.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team will look to carry their momentum to World Wide Technology Raceway near St. Louis for Sunday's Enjoy Illinois 300 on the 1.25-mile oval.

Shoe Drive to support Alzheimer's Research continues

The shoe drive fundraiser hosted by the Rotary Club of Stuart runs through Oct. 31. The Rotary Club of Stuart will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will directly benefit CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Trust).

Collection boxes are currently set up in Stuart at:

- Town Office of Stuart, 100 Patrick Avenue
- Patrick County Library, 116 W. Blue Ridge Street
- Tony's Pizza & Pub, 402 Patrick Avenue

A new collection site will be the upcoming Patrick County Agricultural Fair which runs Sept. 15-19. Collection boxes will be at the front gate so please be sure to bring any unwanted shoes and drop them off as you enter the fairgrounds.

Rotary is an international network of over 1.4 million people who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe. The Stuart Rotary Club is one of 46,000 clubs worldwide and we are very active group of community members and business leaders who focus on service above self by making a positive difference in our community. CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1995 by fellow Rotarian, Roger Ackerman. Every penny raised goes directly to research on Alzheimer's Disease.

For more information, contact Amy L. Nash, president nominee of the Rotary Club of Stuart, at 602-740-7276 or email Amynash1631@gmail.com.

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.

Written by Ann Robertson McConnell

It is believed that approximately 200,000 to 250,000 Americans served in the military during the American Revolutionary War. Of these, about 80,000 served in the Continental Army at various times, while tens of thousands more served in state militias, naval forces, or as privateers. At any given moment, the active Continental Army rarely exceeded 20,000 soldiers, as enlistments were short and resources were limited.

Militias were made up of ordinary citizens who trained like soldiers and fought in emergencies, but they were not part of the official, full-time professional army. A member of a state militia left his daily job, like farming, to serve when called. Towns needed protection against sudden attacks before regular armies could arrive. Militia units used local knowledge to ambush enemy supply lines and patrols. Captain Daniel Shelor, patriot ancestor of DAR member Catheryn Vaughan, was a member of the 2nd Battalion, Frederick County Militia, Maryland Militia. His combat experience consisted of serving as a lieutenant in a skirmish in Quibbletown, New Jersey in 1777 and returning to active duty as a Captain in 1778 to a three-month tour commanding his militia company to guard British prisoners of war held at the barracks in Frederick town, Maryland.

Daniel Shelor was born c. 1744/1750 in Germany and immigrated with his family to Maryland. Captain Shelor married Mary Wickham in 1784. They had at least eight children. Captain Shelor received a land warrant dated July 12,1788 for at least twelve hundred acres of land on Little River and Pine Creek in Floyd County. In the late 1880s or early 1890s they moved to the area of Furnace Stack Creek in Floyd County. Shelor opened an iron mine and smelter. From the ore he mined and refined he made cooking utensils which sold well because they were more durable than others available. He operated the mine well into his sixties when once again he answered the call to serve his country in the War of 1812.

Captain Shelor died in 1847 and is buried in Pine Creek Cemetery, Floyd with Mary who died in 1834.

Information for this article is from "The American Revolutionary War Project," Virginia, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1607-1890, Ancestry.com, Shelor Family History – A Touch of Heaven, 2nd edition., Encyclopedia Britannica (online).

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 women's service organization. Help researching and proving your lineage can be provided by the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter by contacting Ann Robertson McConnell at nammcconnell@yahoo.com.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

Scott

Thomas Scott and Sarah "Sallie" Shelor Scott had the following children:

Margaret "Peggy" Scott Monday, 1807–1887
Lucinda Eliza Scott Barnard, 1809–1888
Highland Mary "Helen" Scott Smith, 1811–1897
Lucretia Laura Scott Spangler, 1816–1899
Mary Wickum Scott Banks, 1820–1890
Daniel S. Scott, 1821–1900
Jehu Scott, 1822–1899
Thomas Delaplane Scott, 1825–1910
Wolford Scott, 1827–1908

Their son Daniel S. Scott was the father of D. W. Scott, whose family was discussed in Part I of this series.

Another son, the Reverend Thomas Delaplane "T. D." Scott, also appeared in D. W. Scott's history.

Reverend Thomas Delaplane Scott

The Reverend T. D. Scott mentioned by D. W. Scott was his uncle, Thomas Delaplane Scott.

Thomas Delaplane Scott married Miss Lucinda Ellen Sandifer, 1842–1928.

They had the following children:

Martha Ann Scott Bolt, 1856–1940
Simon Peter Scott, 1857–1944
Sarah E. Scott Dickerson, 1859–1952
Samuel Cephas Scott, 1863–1926
Stephen Matthew Scott, 1869–1954
Susan Mary Scott, 1869–1939
James Rufus Scott, 1874–1944
Unah R. Scott, 1877–1879

One of those children, Susan Mary Scott, would become D. W. Scott's wife.

And once again we see just how intertwined these old mountain families were. Following one name in an old manuscript can lead us through several generations and into families whose descendants remain scattered throughout Patrick County and far beyond today.

I think we will stop here for now. There is quite a bit of information to absorb in this installment, and there is still much more of D. W. Scott's History of Meadows of Dan waiting for us.

But before we leave these families, I keep thinking about those nine Cockram children.

Had D. W. Scott not mentioned Spencer Cockram, perhaps there would have been no reason for me to follow Spencer's family forward to his son John Bishop Cockram. And had I not followed that trail through the old records, those nine little lives might have remained nothing more than names and dates tucked away in a death register.

That is why I believe it is important to stop and learn something about each person Scott mentions.

History does not belong only to governors, generals, presidents, and famous men and women. It also belongs to a mountain blacksmith, a schoolteacher, an ironworker hauling pots to Lynchburg, a family barricading a door against a hungry bear, and a Patrick County mother and father who somehow endured the unimaginable loss of nine children.

Their stories matter, too.

Next week, we will continue with Part III of D. W. Scott's History of Meadows of Dan. As we travel farther through Scott's memories, I hope readers will discover connections to their own ancestors—or perhaps remember a story once told by a parent or grandparent about one of these early residents of the Meadows of Dan community.

Sometimes all it takes is one familiar name to bring an old story back to life.

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

Blue Ridge Regional Airport gets $5M for terminal

Blue Ridge Regional Airport in Martinsville will receive more than $5 million for terminal construction as part of nearly $40 million in new Commonwealth Aviation Fund investments announced by Gov. Abigail Spanberger.

The funding, awarded by the Virginia Aviation Board, will support projects at 65 public-use airports across Virginia. Blue Ridge Regional Airport is among the largest recipients, with more than $5 million designated for its terminal project.

The investments follow legislation signed by Spanberger earlier this year that updated the allocation formula for the Commonwealth Aviation Fund for the first time since its creation in 1986.

Virginia's airport system generates an estimated $42 billion in economic output, supports nearly 220,000 jobs and produces $15.2 billion in wages, according to the Virginia Department of Aviation.

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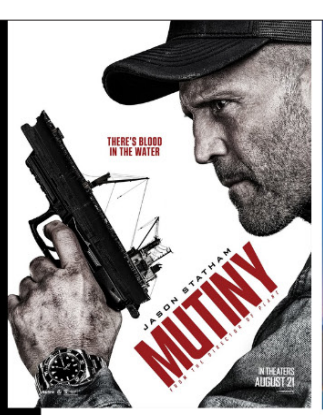
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OBITUARIES

Linda Collins Williams



Mrs. Linda Collins Williams, age 76 of Stuart, Virginia, passed away peacefully at Lewis Gale Medical Center on Sunday, August 30, 2026. She was born in Patrick County on April 10, 1950, to the late Lee Collins and Katie Hooker Collins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Wade Edward Williams; and a sister, Shirley Collins. Linda was a member of New Hope Community Church. She enjoyed traveling, especially traveling to Tennessee and to go see her family in Alabama. She loved babies, playing rook, Elvis, and Angels. She was a very loving Mom, adoring Nana, devoted wife, caring sister, aunt, and friend.

Left to cherish the memories of Linda are her son, Eddie Williams (Angela); one stepson, Duane Williams; one stepdaughter, Revonda Morse (Johnny); nine grandchildren, Isaac Williams, Isabella Williams, Ashleigh Williams, Jake Williams, Jill Williams, Brent Morse, Morgan Morse, Lexy Cummings, and Laurel Wagoner; one brother, Jerry Collins; two sisters, Sue Hanks and Ervie Stevens; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral for Mrs. Williams will be held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at New Hope Community Church with Pastor Mark Collins officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:30 at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Road, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralsservices.com.

U.S. 58

(cont. from page 1)

was discharged that morning.

"So everyone is okay. Our driver is not at fault nor got a ticket, and that is about all we know right now," he said.

Wood said the bus driver had already completed his route, which was local to the Meadows of Dan area, and was taking the bus to the bus garage in Stuart for service.

"We are very thankful that no children were on the bus," he said.

Wood said the bus appears to be totaled, but the school division is waiting for an insurance adjuster to inspect it before making that determination. He expects the inspection to take place sometime this week.

Wood said the division does not have funds earmarked to replace the bus during the current budget cycle.

"We hope insurance will help offset that cost, and with some additional savings, we will look at replacing it because I would hope the other vehicle's insurance would definitely cover, and we'll use our insurance, maybe legal assistance, to help try and replace the bus," Wood said.

The division has seven spare buses that it rotates for monthly maintenance, Wood said, so student pick-up and drop-off will not be affected.

"They put a sticker magnet over the bus number so that the bus number now reflects the same bus number that had completed that route prior to the accident," he said.

Library

(cont. from page 2)





much. Her focus is on mental health and all that comes along with it. To let people know, they are not alone. There is no shame in it. There were several laugh out loud moments, some shocking parts and I even teared up at one point. I feel like we all left the library that evening, loving one another more and being more appreciative to everyone's situation. You don't know the struggles some people have gone through or are going through, so we should be more empathetic and give grace to our neighbors. That was my feeling anyways as I left the library that night. A good reminder for us all. Christina and Peter Holland-- you are both amazing and I am so appreciative for all you do.

Book Bingo this month was packed. I had announced it on our local radio station, WHEO, the day prior and apparently people heard about a program that really liked. I had to set up additional tables and chairs and the meeting room was full. Kaye did an incredible job and even had to create a roster to keep tabs on winning games for book prizes at the end.

Our monthly quilters came out and continued working on their current projects and teaching beginners some tips and tricks. Sit and Stitch was attended by our regulars, who are working on rugs and crochet (I think).

August's Homeschool Bookworm theme was Board Game Day. It was a hit. During summer reading I met several new homeschooling families to the area and told them about the HB program that we offer each month. They told some other people and we ended up going from maybe four people each month to in August, having 21 people. I was blown away. I discussed with the parents, whether they would be interested in doing "board game day" monthly and they were all for it. Later in the week, I discussed a possible one Wednesday a month, board game day for another group of older homeschoolers with some other homeschool moms and they were so positive about it. So, look for that program to start to become a regular again twice a month. How fun!

Trivia night was another success that came out of August. We had six teams answering general knowledge fifth grade level questions for 90 minutes. It was loud and entertaining and the winning team "The Average Joe's" showed they were above average, scoring 93 points. One family came for the first time, after hearing about it at the Homeschool Bookworm program. Everyone seemed to have had a wonderful time and I look forward to the next one, which will be Sitcom September Trivia.

We finished out the month with our Senior Social. This month's event was a Finger Food Picnic. Essentially a potluck except with finger foods. Guests brought pimento cheese croissants, turkey Hawaiian rolls, fruit salad, tomato-basil-mozzarella bites, oatmeal bar cookies, mini cheesecakes, sausage balls, antipasti salad, blueberry muffins, chocolate chip cheesecake bites, chips and salsa, chips and pickle dip, pumpkin rolls lemonade, sweet tea, coffee and water. I told guests in my welcome speech, that if they left the library hungry, then it was their own fault. It was a good day and a great way to end the month.



What does September have in store for us here at the Patrick County Library? Lucia will be delivering a program on how to navigate the catalog and use our website to its potential and the Caring Hearts Free Clinic will be coming at the end of September to do free blood pressure checks to anyone who wants that service. There is always something to do here at the Patrick County Library for all ages. Thank you for your continued support and, as always, happy reading!

*Don't forget on the second Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., I will be revealing three free trivia answers on WHEO. 92.7 FM or go to the website and listen to it streaming. WHEO Radio - Lightning Stream Player

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns—please email me or call during normal business hours. 276-694-3352, press 1.

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Patrick Pulpits

The Day Our World Changed Forever: 9/11, 2001

By Van Yandell

We arrived in Hamburg, Germany just after dark from Amsterdam. Walking a street a few blocks from the train station, we passed by a group of Middle-Eastern men. One was heard saying "Americans!"

Later my traveling friend told me they followed us. This was a little over a year before the 9/11 terrorist attack on America. We later learned that the terrorist staged in Hamburg and I will always wonder if those men we passed on the street and followed us were some of those hijackers.

Had they attacked us the possibility of their plans being discovered was extreme. That may have been what prevented trouble with those six men. We'll never know for sure.

The morning of September 11, I had been to a local hardware store. When I pulled into the driveway, wife Margie came running out telling me "America is being attacked!"

We sat at the TV watching the disaster unfold and I remember thinking "I'm sure glad we're here in our Western Kentucky home and not in New York." A year before to the day we had been in New York with another couple.

The size of the World Trade Towers was overwhelming to this country boy. A work of architectural design, engineering and construction expertise, the towers were an impressive work of artistic design.

Early in the morning of September 12th, we received a call from our Disaster Relief team leader. Our team was headed to New York "tonight" and we were needed.

We loaded up our gear, which we kept packed for immediate call-outs, and left home bound for New York. We were to meet the DR convoy in Ashland, Kentucky but by the time we arrived they had already left.

We drove through the night but never caught up with them. We discovered at Raritan Valley church in New Jersey the next morning, they had stopped on the interstate to sleep and we had passed them. The DR convoy arrived a few hours later.

Total confusion was the perfect descriptor for the next few days. Finally on Friday of that week, national DR found us a place to set up, under the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side of the East River.

The following is an excerpt from my article published September 2022:

"We crossed the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in the middle of the night, after one a.m. As we crossed the bridge, to the left, the Statue of Liberty was visible. Beyond her, we could see the smoke blowing out over the water from the destroyed twin towers. I remember saying to wife Margie, "Our world is changed forever." Little did I know how accurate that statement actually was.

We arrived in the city about two in the morning. The streets were not deserted at that time of night as I would have expected. Several people standing and talking waved at us as we approached our destination.

A silence existed in the city that was surreal. There were no sirens, horns, people chattering or construction noises as we had heard on previous trips. A pall of death, fear and apprehension hung over Manhattan like a dense cloud.

America, once again, went to war. Retaliation seemed logical, but the terrorists thought their attack was retaliation. They saw America as the invading force when we attacked Saddam Hussain's Republican Guard in Kuwait in 1991. By invading their sacred land, the fight was on.

It is not my place to say if that was right or wrong but it started a fight that would last for generations. Actually, I should say it continued a fight that began 4000 years ago between Sarah and Hagar (Genesis 21: 10). Always remember, everyone is a terrorist to someone."

Once in New York City, we set up the mobile kitchen unit to be ready to prepare breakfast for first responders by morning. The unit was capable of preparing 15,000 meals per day. Later, intelligence determined the Brooklyn Bridge was considered for a second New York target.

We camped out in a warehouse under the bridge. It was full of supplies sent in by civic groups, churches, fire departments, school children and many others. We were told there were seven such warehouses around the city.

We had gone to New York in our Nissan pickup. We were drafted to haul supplies to Ground Zero. There was a fireman from Louisville with us. The three of us crammed into the front of the Nissan. Most loads were taken between midnight and dawn. We hauled gloves, coffee, lip balm, side grinders, sledge hammers, cheese crackers, peanut butter and anything else the site workers needed.

Near Ground Zero, even after a week or more, there was a smell in the air. Several times we smelled human flesh burning. We had grit in our teeth and probably in our lungs. Walking down a street near the site, even at night, we could see thick layers of gray, powdery concrete dust through store windows.

The on-site workers to whom we delivered supplies did not talk. When I asked where to put supplies, they usually just pointed. The only response I remember was a statement of appreciation when we delivered coffee pots and coffee.

We had little rest time during the days. During the day, barricades were blocking the site several blocks out from Ground Zero."

All in all, our experience could be described as horrible, yet we saw a building of American patriotism and resolve not seen in many years. "United we stand, divided we fall."

Since then I have been accused of promoting Christian Nationalism for America. While that is not my intention, we must understand one of our most precious freedoms is freedom of religion. Lest we forget our experiences on 9/11, we must not forget the religion America was founded on was Christianity.

Christians should promote freedom from the penalty of sin as a faith based belief in Christ Jesus, crucified and resurrected.

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 Labour (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. From Ecclesiastes 4, how many are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor? *1, 3, 5, 7*

3. In 1 Kings 5, how many thousand men comprised the labor force that King Solomon raised? *1, 5, 10, 30*

4. Which son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor in David's kingdom? ***Baal, Adoniram, Cyrenius, Phaneul***

5. From Exodus 20, how many days shalt thou labor and do all thy work? *2, 4, 6, 7*

6. Proverbs 14:23 states, "In all labor there is ..." *Love, Hope, Light, Profit*



ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Two, 3) Thirty, 4) Adoniram, 5) Six, 6) Profit

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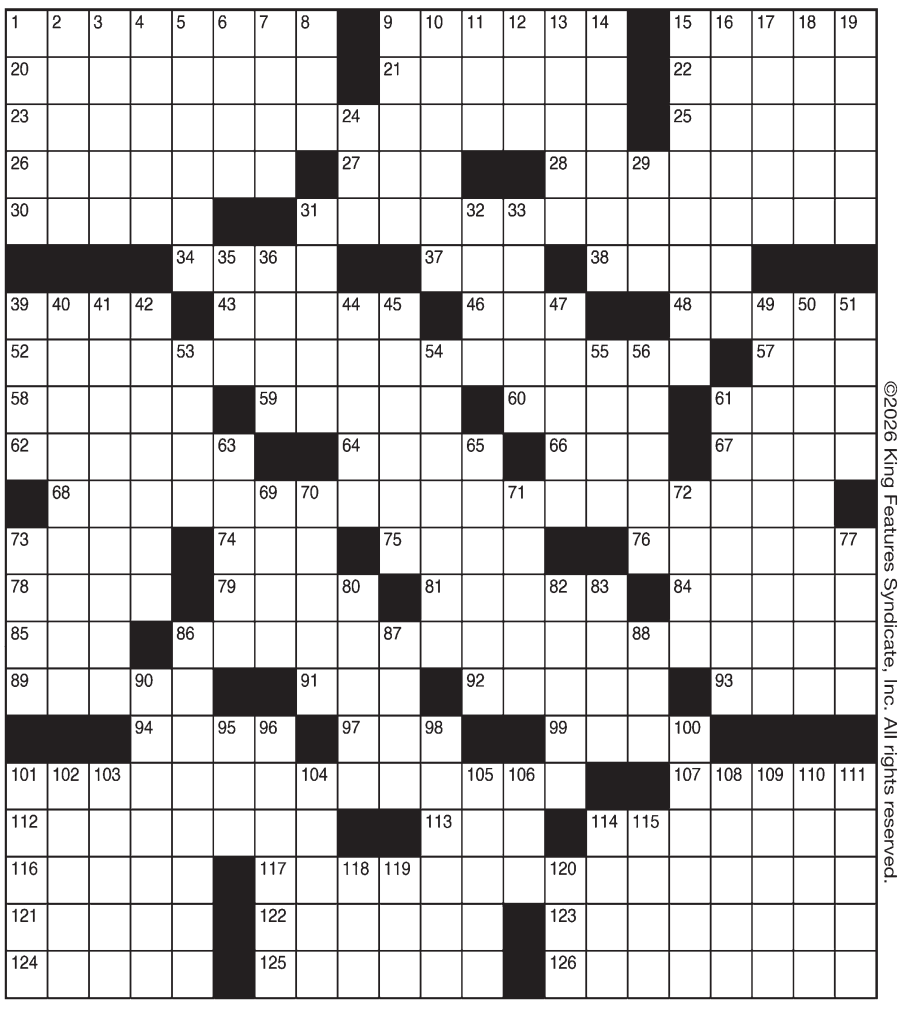
TWO-BY-FOURS

ACROSS

1 Device causing a machine to operate
9 Hindu religious retreat
15 Mini-plateaus
20 Regatta event
21 Cry before "No hands!"
22 Best of the lot
23 Long-running showbiz news program
25 New Jersey's — Hall University
26 Evening galas
27 Tiny bit
28 Some med. X-rays
30 Stay home for a meal
31 Single-session legislative group
34 The Old West's Wyatt
37 Slimy gunk
38 Injury vestige
39 French gal pal
43 — cake (ring-shaped dessert)
46 Olive in comics
48 Break out of an egg
52 "A Streetcar Named Desire" dramatist
57 Hair hider
58 Milkshake alternatives
59 Was wearing
60 Certain fitness ctr.
61 Coconut tree, e.g.
62 Hurricanes, e.g.
64 "3022" co-star Omar
66 Diner fave
67 "— cost ya!"
68 Pleasant feeling after winning
73 Wizard, in fantasy fiction
74 "Presence" co-star Lucy
75 Where the Clintons met
76 Windbag's output
78 Litigates
79 Plus-size supermodel
81 Tepee-shaped
84 Ship wastewater
85 Color TV pioneer
86 Creamy vinaigrette with little crunchy bits
89 Great risk
91 Big blue body
92 More urgent
93 Chaotic state
94 Supermarket vehicle
97 A, in Spain
99 Brain product
101 Starts of some flashy combo shots in hoops
107 Reins in
112 1990s subcompact car model
113 See 11-Down
114 Embark on a voyage
116 Stoked
117 Super-rare basketball feat ... or what each of six long answers in this puzzle contains
121 Food fish
122 Beyond belief
123 Open (to)
124 Tortellini topper
125 Ford bombs
126 Menu section with reds and whites

DOWN

1 Humiliate
2 Fireside drink
3 Implied but not stated
4 Prenatal chambers
5 Gentleman thief Lupin of fiction
6 Subdue with a stun gun
7 Phil of folk
8 1910s-'20s auto
9 God of Islam
10 Certain vegan frank
11 With 113-Across, DIYers' guides
12 "Gunga Din" studio
13 BP's merger partner
14 Sirs' counterparts
15 Awaited saviors
16 "Mourning Becomes —"
17 Occupy, as a table
18 Make up (for)
19 Have a hunch
24 Kin of "Inc."
29 Cable inits. for film buffs
31 Sleep clinic diagnosis
32 "Neat!"
33 In a demure way
35 Tummy muscles
36 Hurry along
39 After-hours $$$ sources
40 Ragú product
41 Like many vehicles on steep hills
42 Main dishes
44 Pfeiffer of "Cybill"
45 Like some thickish paper towels
47 An arm and a leg
49 "Not true!"
50 Radio or TV station identifiers
51 Code for WWW pages
53 Squalor of Lemony Snicket books
54 Situated
55 Human rights org.
56 Tennis event
61 Old Lutheran movement
63 Fifth-cen. pope
65 Sang alone
69 Be overly doting, in slang
70 Childhood malady
71 Prada rival
72 Corn cores
73 Fig. on a new car sticker
77 Rules, in brief
80 Give a visual once-over to
82 "Beast" star Elba
83 Street rep
86 Performed for
87 Yemen's capital
88 Prior to
90 Salt for wintry roads
95 Decay
96 Twisting force
98 Star-related
100 Opening opera section
101 Audibly stunned
102 "I wanna try!"
103 Runs easily
104 Scale unit
105 Psyches
106 Seer's "gift"
108 Typical
109 Shul official
110 Products of 39-Down
111 Hard rain
114 Highway rig
115 Perfect spot
118 Skill, in Latin
119 Inferior grade
120 Statute



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Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, Sept. 10
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Sept. 14
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
The Patrick County Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Saturday, Sept. 12
A memorial service for David Lusk, who served as vice president of the Stuart Birthplace, will be held at the birthplace at 2 p.m. Tom Perry's new book, Volume Two of Laurel Hill's Many Histories, will be available at the annual encampment in October. The book is dedicated to Lusk, who died recently.

Sunday, Sept. 13
The 50th Hughes Family Reunion will be held at the Hughes Family Shelter on Trot Valley Road. A covered dish lunch will be served at 1 p.m. following a brief business meeting. Paper products and drinks will be provided. For more information call Danny R. Hughes at 336 648 2860.

Monday, September 14
A Five-Star Stay For Bees, 1 p.m., at Patrick & Henry Community College Fab Lab, 212 Wood Brothers Dr, Stuart. Help create a welcoming habitat for native bees and other pollinators. Build your own bee hotel and learn simple ways to support the pollinators that help our gardens, flowers, and communities thrive. A $10 supply fee is required at the time of registration. In-person registration required at Patrick County Branch Library.

Tuesday, Sept. 15-Saturday, Sept. 19
Patrick County Agricultural Fair will be held at Rotary Field in Stuart, with rides, midway, prizes, games, fair food, exhibits, livestock, music and more. For more, visit www.patrickcountyfair.com.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food boxes from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Stuart site, from 8-10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat, and beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, Sept. 18
The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

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

Saturday, Sept. 26
The Genealogical Society of Rockingham & Stokes counties will hold its semi-annual Genealogy Fair at the Madison-Mayodan Library. Doors open at 10 a.m., and activities will run until 3 p.m.

Ongoing

American Legion Post 105 meets the 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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Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.

Phone: 276-629-2582

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
3165 AYERS ORCHARD RD
STUART, VA 24171

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $170,000.00, dated June 22, 2022, and recorded as Instrument Number 220001163 in Patrick County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171-0148 on October 08, 2026 at 2:30 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE TOWN/CITY OF STUART, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE MAYO RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:
CONTAINING 4.746 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "R. KENNON CLARK AND RUBY V. CLARK," PREPARED BY R. CLEVE LAWSON, LS, DATED MARCH 18, 2008, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 10002108.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind. TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee
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Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
(844) 442-2150
(470) 321-7112

LEGAL

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission for public comment on the proposed subdivision ordinance on September 28, 2026 at 6 PM in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171.

THANK YOU FOR READING

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL26000157-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
PATRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
SHAVONDA REDD TEAGUE v. THOMAS B. TEAGUE
The object of this suit is to:
TO PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO THE DEFENDANT
It is ORDERED that THOMAS B. TEAGUE
appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before
September 25, 2026
8/20/2026
Clerk

Red Bank club meets



The Red Bank Ruritans held their monthly meeting September 1, with guests from the Every American Wellness Center, located at 4591 Claudville Highway in Claudville. Candice and Amy spoke on four different services they provide: Red Light Therapy, Nutrition, Microcurrent, and Lymphatic Drainage.

The club will be doing a spaghetti supper on September 26 at 5 p.m. Tickets are $12 for adults and $5 for children.

On November 7 at 9 a.m., the club will host a veterans breakfast for veterans and spouses.

Marriage Licenses

Issued in August

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the following marriage licenses were issued in August:

Tyler M. Richard – Katharine G. Arnold

Michael L. Martin Jr.- Kellie T. Dalton

Robert W. Osborne - Brianna M. McIver

Benny D. Adams- Shelby L. Reavis

ADVERTISE WITH US

Meeting

(cont. from page 1)



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors scheduled a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission to consider a modification to the existing subdivision ordinance for September 28.

Clayton Kendrick of the Mayo River District abstained, saying he was not prepared and did not have all the information he needed. Steve Marshall of the Blue Ridge District was absent from the meeting due to health reasons.

Overby said the proposed change was prompted by concerns that some large parcels were being divided in ways that appeared intended to avoid the county's subdivision ordinance.

"Earlier this year, it was brought to the attention of staff and several supervisors that a few large parcels of land were being subdivided with the apparent attempt to evade the subdivision ordinance," he said. "After further review, we have determined that multiple parcels have been divided and subsequently sold or marketed as build-ready lots that may not meet requirements for the installation of wells and septic systems due to their size, location, and/or design."

Overby said some of the lots are larger than the size currently regulated by the subdivision ordinance but appear to have been created in an effort to fall outside the ordinance's requirements.

He said increasing the maximum lot size would provide better oversight of subdivided lots and protection for potential buyers.

As the board's liaison to the Planning Commission, Overby said he asked the commission in April to review the existing ordinance, which was adopted in 2006, as well as another version that the commission previously recommended for approval in 2014.

He also asked the commission to identify other updates that may be needed.

"As of today, the Planning Commission has been unable to provide the board with an updated ordinance due to the very laborious and time-constrained task of updating our comprehensive plan," Overby said. "In the interim, I'm asking the board to consider modifying our existing subdivision ordinance to increase the maximum lot size, requiring Planning Commission review, from two acres to five acres, and any other immediate changes the board deems necessary to ensure the subdivision of property within Patrick County is regulated in the best interest of its citizens, future potential citizens, and the county."

When the Planning Commission and Building Inspections have no say-so over a development, Wood said the worst-case scenario is emergency services not being able to access properties because the roads weren't built up to standard in order to save money.

"I have two young stepchildren that are around the age of looking for houses or buying property to build on. I'm not doing this to make it harder on them at all, I promise you," Wood said. "I'm doing it specifically because I don't want No Business Mountain, I don't want Bull Mountain to look like Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge."

Noting that some people say the county has a housing issue, Wood said much of that issue won't be solved by this.

"This is houses that are second houses, third houses. These are mountain homes for people in Greensboro or New Jersey to come to maybe once a year to put a camper on, to not even put a permanent structure on," he said. "So, these are things I am trying to prevent so we don't end up looking like the Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg areas."

Cox said he supports Wood's position but is concerned about the issue from a health and environmental perspective.

"What I'm afraid of is if we have small lots and we have no public sewer and no public water in the rural area, it's going to require wells and septic services," Cox said. "In order for a septic service the land's got to perk. So in the interest of the potential buyer, if he buys a lot of land that's two acres and he can't find water on it and he can't perk the land for the septic service, what's he going to do? He's stuck."

Cox said having five acres provides a greater potential for supporting a septic system and obtaining suitable drinking water.

Kendrick said he was unsure about the proposed change.

"If there was someone that you could regulate to where the subdivisions" are, if it was a subdivision that should be five acres "I can see it," Kendrick said. "But if it's an individual, if I wanted to let one of my kids have two acres, and two acres in the right place, you're going to get water and a septic tank on it. It kind of makes it hard to set an opinion on it."

Overby said the county already has an exemption allowing property owners to subdivide specifically for family members.

Kendrick said he would prefer to give the Planning Commission more time to make recommendations.

"I wish if we had time, that the Planning Commission could come up with some recommendations to us," he said.

Overby said the proposed change is intended as an interim measure while the Planning Commission continues its review of the 21-year-old ordinance.

"The intent is to allow the Planning Commission to continue working on the ordinance," Overby said. "It is a 21-year-old ordinance, and it needs to be updated, but this is going to be a preliminary measure to put a halt to the subdivision that's been going on."

Overby also said changing the acreage requirement would not eliminate the Planning Commission's ability to grant variances, including for properties outside the family-member exemption.

"So nothing is going to be concrete no matter what we do, but the Planning Commission still has the ability to grant a variance as long as it's in the best interest of the county and the personal property," Overby said.

Cox said he believes the proposed change is intended to prevent accelerated development rather than harm smaller landowners.

"That creates a health problem for the people that live in there who depend on water and sewer from the ground," Cox said. "I think if I read this correctly there is an exemption for single-family structures that is not applicable by the use of this ordinance, so the intent of it is simply for development."

Overby said the goal is to provide greater oversight.

"That's pretty much all it is," he said.

Fair

(cont. from page 1)



More rides for children and adults will be part of this year's Patrick County Agricultural Fair.



Livestock exhibits, including cattle, will return for this year's fair, which also will feature horses.



The Patrick County Historical Society & Museum was among the exhibitors at last year's fair.

Shows Amusement Company, which provides the fair's rides, that Patrick County is one of the few agricultural fairs left in Virginia with this level of exhibitor participation.

"Patrick County's blessed in two ways that I can say — our exhibitors, and the agricultural exhibits that we have between the quilting, the canning. He (Cole staff) pretty much says we blow everybody away, even the big cities, on that one," he said.

Gunter estimates that 10,000 to 12,000 people will enter the fairgrounds over the five-day event.

Live music will be performed nightly in the Hooker Building from 6 to 9 p.m.

On Tuesday, admission is free for those ages 6 to 18, with the Little Caesars Pizza Eating Contest starting at 7:30 p.m.

Horses will be among the exhibits in the animal barn, and there will be a horseshoeing demonstration.

Musical performers include Herbert & Tina Conner, Borrowed Earth, Trinity Church with Burgie Penn and Mike Hall.

On Wednesday, the Beef Cattle and Hogs Youth Livestock Competition will start at 6 p.m. at the animal barn. The exhibitors' costume contest will follow.

Gary Collins, Doc & Bob Ashcraft, Barry Collins, The Comptons and The Country Boys will take the stage.

Thursday is senior night, with free admission for those 60 and older, active-duty military members, and veterans.

The animal barn will hold its Sheep and Goats Livestock Shows starting at 5 p.m. Sue Nester, Phillip Adams, Shelly Roberts, and the Joyful Noise will perform in the Hooker Building.

Friday's entertainment includes Bruce Trent, JT Morrison and The Foothill Country Boys. Students will compete in the Poultry, Rabbits and Cavy Livestock Show starting at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, a hay toss contest will award prizes for the longest toss in youth through adult age groups.

Debbie Bennett, Snow Creek Old Time Band with Charles Bowman, and the Snow Creek Old Time Band & Old Dominion Cloggers will perform. The clogging and flatfooting competition will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The night will finish with a fireworks display sponsored by the Honey Pot on Main beginning at approximately 10 p.m.

Gates open nightly at 5:30 p.m., with rides starting at 6 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults 19 and older, $3 for those ages 6 to 18, and free for children 5 and younger.

Wristbands are $30 for unlimited rides, or individual ride tickets can be purchased for $1.25 each.

For more information, visit patrickcountyfair.com or the Patrick County Fair-Stuart, VA Rotary Club Facebook page.

SEPTEMBER — PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY — 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*	2 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30*	3 The Digital Door to Your Library- How to use the BRRL catalog. 11am and 4pm	4 Sit & Stitch 11:00 Board Games Between the Stacks 10:30-12:00	5
7 CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	8 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 No Storytime Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*	9 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Book Bingo 10:30 Gentle Yoga 12:30*	10 Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00	11 Homeschool Bookworms 10:30 Show and Tell	12
14 Barre Yoga 10:00* The Bee Suite at the Fab Lab*	15 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*	16 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30* Board Games Between the Stacks 2:30	17 Open Art Studio 1:00 Trivia 6:00	18 Sit & Stitch 11:00	19 Crafty Chapters Club 11-1 (with Book Bedazzling)
21 Barre Yoga 10:00* LEGO Club 4:00	22 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 3:45*	23 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30*	24 Caring Hearts Blood Pressure Screening 11am	25 Senior Social 11:00 Fall Craft Day	26
28 Barre Yoga 10:00*	29 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*	30 Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30*	Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration required. Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. Find us at the Patrick County Fair!		

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Philip St George Cooke: J. E. B. Stuart's Father-in-Law

By Tom Perry

"He will regret it but once, and that will be continuously." J. E. B. Stuart said this of his father-in-law, Philip St. George Cooke, when the latter did not resign his commission in the U. S. Army and join Virginia and the Confederate States of America.

The man, noted for his authorship of an Army cavalry manual and sometimes called the "Father of the U.S. Cavalry," was born near Leesburg, Virginia, on June 13, 1809. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1827.

Cooke married Rachel Hertzog in late 1830. They had one son, John Rogers Cooke, and three daughters: Flora, who married Stuart; Maria, who married Charles Brewer; and Julia, who married Jacob Sharpe.

During Cooke's time in the West, he encountered many notable persons, including "Col. Henry Dodge, Gen. Henry Leavenworth, Artist George Catlin, Lt. Col. Stephen W. Kearny, and captains Edwin V. "Bull" Sumner, David Hunter and Nathan Boone, the youngest son of Daniel Boone. Young first lieutenant Jefferson Davis, the future president of the Confederate States of America, also enlisted in the expedition, as did guide and interpreter Jesse Chisholm, the namesake of the Texas-Kansas cattle trail. Kit Carson praised Cooke 'as efficient an Indian fighter as I have ever accompanied; that he is brave and gallant everyone knows.' "

He served in the West and fought in the Black Hawk War in 1832. In 1833, the year his future son-in-law was born at Laurel Hill, in Ararat, Patrick County, Virginia, Cooke was promoted to first lieutenant in the newly formed 1st U.S. Dragoons.

Before the Civil War, served in the Mormon Battalion; developed a southern route to California, called Cooke's Wagon Road, before the Gold Rush. Cooke knew Brigham Young. Cooke took part in the Utah expedition of 1857–1858. Cooke observed the U.S. Army during the Crimean War in what is now Ukraine and commanded the Department of Utah from 1860 to 1861.

In 1858, wrote a two-volume manual on cavalry tactics, published in 1862. "It was a controversial work at the time, and the War Department chose not to make it the basis for official doctrine. Cooke espoused the value of mounted attacks as the primary purpose for cavalry forces; others, more sensibly, realized that the emergence of the rifled musket as an infantry weapon made the classic cavalry charge essentially obsolete and recommended a mission emphasis on reconnaissance and screening."

Cooke was the author of a variety of memoirs of his service: Notes of a Military Reconnaissance, from Fort Leavenworth, in Missouri, to San Diego, in California (1848), Scenes and Adventures in the Army: or, Romance of Military Life (1857), Cavalry Tactics (1862), Handy Book for United States Cavalry (1863), and The Conquest of New Mexico and California (1878).

Cooke's son, John Rogers Cooke, joined the Confederate States, along with his son-in-law, J. E. B. Stuart. Flora Cooke married Stuart in 1855 in Kansas Territory, and they had one son, Philip St George Cooke Stuart, born June 26, 1860. When her father did not join Virginia, the Stuarts changed their son's name to J. E. B. Stuart Jr. We are now up to J. E. B. Stuart VII.

Cooke chose to stay with the Union, writing, "I owe Virginia little; my country much. She has entrusted me with a distant command; and I shall remain under her flag as long as it waves the sign of the National Constitutional Government." Cooke wrote, "At fourteen years of age I was severed from Virginia; the National Government adopted me as its pupil and future defender; it gave me education and a profession; and I then made a solemn oath to bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and to 'serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever.' This oath and honor alike forbid me to abandon their standard at the first hour of danger. In the national service, I have been, for thirty-four years, a Western man, and, if my citizenship be localized, a citizen of Missouri. … To cut this Gordian knot of horrors my sword had instinctively turned against the usurping 'majesty' of cotton. I owe Virginia little; my country much. She has entrusted me with a distant command; and I shall remain under her flag as long as it waves the sign of the National Constitutional Government."

Cooke encountered his son-in-law, Stuart, when the latter made his first "Ride Around McClellan," embarrassing Cooke. He led a controversial cavalry charge at Gaines's Mill (1862) and eventually left the Army of the Potomac. After that, Cooke spent the war on various desk jobs within the U. S. Army.



After the war, "Cooke commanded the Department of the Platte from 1866 to 1867, the Department of the Cumberland from 1869 to 1870, and the Department of the Lakes. claiming its commanders were inept. Following the war, his involvement in a massacre by Lakota Sioux further tarnished his reputation. He retired from the Army with almost 50 years of service on October 29, 1873, as a brigadier general."

In the 1880s, he reconciled with his son. In a poignant scene, Flora Cooke Stuart wrote of visiting her parents in Michigan after years apart, accompanied by her children. In a letter I found years ago, she wrote that it was raining on the train platform when she saw her father again, and she thought it was rain, but it was tears streaming down his cheeks as he saw his daughter and his two grandchildren. Philip St George Cooke died on March 20, 1895, in Detroit, Michigan, and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Blue Ridge

(cont. from page 1)

Watts said he anticipates beginning the bathroom renovations in December or early 2027.

The Blue Ridge Mountain Inn remained open throughout the renovation process.

"Once all of the permitting was issued … that's really when we started the renovation process. It's continually been operated, and I would say we have seen an increase in occupancy with the improvement activities that have gone on," he said.

Watts said many guests are visiting the Blue Ridge Parkway, traveling along the U.S. 58 corridor or visiting family members in the area.

As part of the motel's transformation, Watts said the couple plans to give each room a theme based on national parks or local points of interest in Meadows of Dan and Southwest Virginia.

Potential themes include the Blue Ridge Parkway and Lover's Leap Overlook, he said.

"We're working with the designers on that, and it's something that might help set us apart a little bit and make us a place people want to come back to and enjoy the time here with the tranquility of the Blue Ridge Mountains," he said.

While seeing the motel's transformation has been gratifying, Watts said he also appreciates the support from the Meadows of Dan community.

"They've been great. I mean, every other business owner and person in the Meadows of Dan area have been extremely supportive of what we're doing, so that's been very gratifying as well and very reassuring," Watts said.



James and Anita Watts purchased the property in January.

For more information or to book a room, visit www.blueridgemountaininn.com or call 276-952-2244.



