THE ENTERPRISE

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

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BRAWL provides free spay/neuter services through grant



The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League (BRAWL) leveraged grant proceeds to send a load of 20 cats and 14 dogs to a free Angels of Assisi spay/neuter clinic via a shuttle on September 22.



BRAWL President Dana Jones said the free event was possible because of a Jason Heigl Foundation grant as part of its Spay and Neuter Initiative.

By Taylor Boyd

Thanks to a Jason Heigl Foundation grant as part of its Spay and Neuter Initiative, the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League (BRAWL) was able to facilitate the spay/neuter of 34 animals at no charge to pet owners during its Sept. 22 Angels of Assisi shuttle.

BRAWL President Dana Jones said the group typically holds a spay/neuter shuttle every few months.

"It's a huge benefit to the community, they only pay a small subsidy and we pay the rest. But this event is super exciting because the Jason Heigl Foundation awarded us a grant to cover their portion, so everybody is getting a free spay/neuter," she said.

Because a lot of people are struggling economically, Jones said it's hard for them to afford anything, let alone sterilization for their pets.

"This is kind of low on their priority list for getting their pets spayed/neutered, but that doesn't stop them from having babies," she said.

Jones said 20 cats and 14 dogs participated in the free program.

"The shuttle goes to Roanoke, they do the surgeries at the Angels of Assisi clinic in Roanoke, and then they'll come home later tonight with the animals. Then these people will come back and pick their pets up," Jones said.

Starting in 2027, Jones said BRAWL plans to hold a spay/neuter shuttle every other month.

"It's so great because the biggest obstacle for a lot of these people is transportation. We don't really have a low-cost clinic here. We have

(See BRAWL p. 13)

Election information, deadlines for November elections

Early voting for the upcoming General and Special Elections on November 3 is underway at the Registrar's Office and will continue through Oct. 31 during regular office hours.

The office will also be open on the following dates and times for the purpose of early voting:

- Sunday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you need to receive a ballot by mail, a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form must be received on or before Friday, October 23,

(See Election p. 4)

Sweet beginnings: Local bakers turn passion into business

Home bakery offers gourmet cookies, sweet treats

Buttercream & Blessings Bakehouse



Megan Hall typically bakes 100 to 150 gourmet cookies a week.

By Taylor Boyd

Buttercream & Blessings Bakehouse, a new home bakery, is offering gourmet cookies and other chocolate treats for those with a sweet tooth.

Megan Hall said she started the venture in April because of her love for baking.

"I've always enjoyed baking and cooking and creating things, and it was just something I decided to do after many years of people telling me to do it," she said.

While she primarily creates gourmet cookies, Hall said she also bakes brownies, cupcakes and other treats.

"The gourmet cookies are the main thing," she said, adding they are similar to Crumbl Cookies. "Basically, they're not typical cookies, they're stuffed. Like I have a caramel stuffed Twix cookie, and it's stuffed with caramel, chunks of Twix candy, with a melted chocolate ganache on top," she said.

So far, Hall said she has 20 different flavors of cookies that are either stuffed or covered with extra toppings, including strawberry cheesecake, Fruity Pebbles, Biscoff, brown butter chocolate chip and more.

In addition to her standard 3.5-ounce cookies, Hall also offers 2-ounce mini cookies.

"The 3.5 ounce is almost the size of my hand, so they're bigger cookies. I've had people tell me they would probably eat half, like no one can really sit and eat a full one at a time," she said.

While her customers' favorites seem to be her banana pudding and cosmic brownie cookies, Hall said her favorite to make are Biscoff cookies.

"It's a white chocolate chip Biscoff with a Biscoff drizzle, and it's got chunks of the Biscoff cookies that you get at the store in it and it's topped with

(See Buttercream p. 14)

New home business offers sweet treats

Sweets by Rachel

By Taylor Boyd

Starting in February, Sweets by Rachel, Patrick County's new home-based business, began offering a variety of homemade cakes, cupcakes, cookies and iced coffee jugs to satisfy any sweet tooth.

Owner Rachel Gates said she was inspired to start her business because of her love of baking.

"I've always enjoyed baking and creating new things with baking cakes and other goodies and decorating them. I'm all self-taught, like I've never taken any classes or anything, it's just something I've always enjoyed doing," she said.

Noting that people would always

(See Sweets by Rachel p. 13)



Sweets by Rachel offers a variety of cakes, cupcakes, cake pops and other treats.

Sunday incident results in arrest of Collinsville man

A Collinsville man has been arrested and charged with multiple felonies in connection with an alleged Sunday morning assault, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Daniel Travis Light, 36, of Collinsville, was charged with strangulation, abduction and attempted murder.

At approximately 6:08 a.m., deputies encountered Light and a female subject in a vehicle on the side of U.S. 58 near Howell Bottom Lane in Stuart, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

The investigation revealed that Light had allegedly assaulted the female by beating and choking her inside of the vehicle until she was unconscious, authorities alleged in the release.

The female victim was also allegedly physically held against her will, preventing her from leaving the vehicle.

The victim was hospitalized and later released, Smith said.

Light was arrested at the scene and is being held without bond in the Patrick County Jail, Smith said.

Investigator Robert Haynes is leading the investigation.



STEP has openings for Patrick County Head Start

By Taylor Boyd

STEP Inc. is continuing to accept applications for its Early Head Start and Head Start programs for the 2026-27 academic year, with limited openings remaining in Patrick County.

Tanya Huff, STEP's early childhood education director, said the organization operates Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Patrick and Franklin counties.

"Early Head Start covers children that are under the age of three as of September 30. Head Start covers children that are over the age of three as of September 30. We collaborate with pre-K school systems in those counties, and we also have children that are dually enrolled in those programs as well as Head Start," she said.

In Patrick County, STEP has 16 Early Head Start slots and 17 slots in each of its two Head Start classrooms, one at STEP and one at Patrick Springs Primary School.

Huff said there currently are two openings, in addition to the collaborative slots with Patrick Springs.

"We are partnering with Patrick Springs Primary, so in addition to our classrooms, the Head Start classrooms, we are trying to enroll children within the pre-K classroom, and then we also have the same partnership with Stuart Elementary," she said.

In addition to educational opportunities, Huff said STEP provides support for children and their families.

"We are a needs-based program, so we look at income as well as risk factors that the family encounters throughout the different things that happen in their lives. For the children, all of our kids regardless of their age, undergo education screening, and depending on the results of the screening will determine whether or not referrals to either early intervention or the school system are needed in order to provide the child with extra support," she said.

If a child qualifies for services and it is determined that additional support is needed, Huff said an Individual Accommodation Plan would follow the child to the school system.

"We're getting things identified early in order to better help the child and the family when they do go to the schools. So we're getting the family ready for school as well as the children," she said.

STEP also conducts health screenings, including height and weight measurements used to determine body mass index, as well as vision and hearing screenings.

"All of our Head Start children are screened for speech through a partnership with those schools, so a speech therapist that's employed from the school system actually comes and conducts our speech screening. Depending on those results, it could end up in a referral for speech or additional services," Huff said.

Huff said STEP's work with parents is an important part of helping families navigate the school system and referral process.

"We help support the families throughout that process to make sure that they understand what's going to be happening because it can be extremely intimidating for families that are not familiar with the process," she said.

STEP also offers a parenting class for parents of children enrolled in its programs.

The organization offers subsidized care for before- and after-school hours. Huff said the hours are 7 to 8 a.m. and 3 to 5:30 p.m., while general Head Start and Early Head Start hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

STEP also has a family advocate who works with families to connect them with resources that could benefit them.

"So if you had a family that was struggling with food insecurity for whatever reason, the family advocate could find a local food bank to ensure that they're able to get food for their families," she said.

The organization also operates a diaper bank and clothing closet that are open to the public. Huff said the diaper bank provides both children's and adult diapers.

Early Head Start and Head Start are free for enrolled children. The programs also provide breakfast, lunch and snacks.

"If a child is enrolled in our subsidy program, they receive an additional snack during those items. We also provide for our Early Head Start children formula if it's an infant and baby food when they graduate to that menu. In addition we use the baby wipes and provide the diapers for the children enrolled in our program," she said.

Huff said applications are accepted on a rolling basis through April.

"If we have a child that drops that's currently enrolled then we go to our wait list, and we want to have a healthy wait list in order to be able to pull from it in the event that we have a child that drops throughout the year," she said.

For more information or to apply, visit www.stepincva.com or www.smart2start.org.

Portion of road to close for bridge work, paving

Weather permitting, beginning October 5, at 8 a.m., a portion of Virginia 631 (River Road) in the Patrick County community of Ararat will be closed to traffic for bridge milling and paving.

A three-mile detour will be in place. Westbound traffic will use Virginia 735 (Boyd Hollow Road) to Virginia 823 (Spring Branch Road) to Virginia 631 (Doe Run Road) and return to River Road. Eastbound traffic will use Virginia 631 (Doe Run Road) to Virginia 823 (Spring Branch Road) to Virginia 735 (Boyd Hollow Road) and return to River Road.

Work is expected to be completed by 5 p.m. Friday, October 9, weather permitting.

Rock Spring Art Show opens with awards reception



Award recipients in attendance at the opening reception on Sept.11, 2026. Photos by Kristin Hylton for Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead and Bull Mountain Arts announced the winners of the annual Rock Spring Art Show on Sept. 11. The art show is open to participants in Patrick County and the surrounding counties in both Virginia and North Carolina, as well as any member of Bull Mountain Arts, regardless of residence.

With nearly 80 people in attendance for the presentations, awards were announced in eight categories, along with several community awards and Best in Show.

Best in Show was awarded to Karen Towns, a member of Bull Mountain Arts, for her textile piece, "Tobacco Barn." The award was sponsored by Calliope, Circus of the Arts. Other awards were financially supported by Edd Martin & Associates Real Estate, First Community Bank, Patrick County Eye Associates and several anonymous donors.

Oil

3rd Lisa Garrett Cow Girl's Dream - Dogs and Horses
2nd Joan Norman Chief Red Cloud
1st Donald Towns Wagon Iron
Honorable Mention
Donald Towns
Eternal Grassland

Acrylic

3rd Debbie Culler Yesterday
2nd Sarah Booze Mt. Mitchell
1st Mavel Vinova Muse Me!
Honorable Mention Carla Krietsch - Woolwine Autumn
Honorable Mention
Debbie Culler My Favorite Vase

Watercolor

3rd Rosalynn Arnold - Beyond the Sea (Turtle)
2nd Julie Gammons Highway 601
1st Susan Huskey Sun Rising - October 8th
Honorable Mention
Joan Norman Cowboy
Honorable Mention
Rosalynn Arnold
Vivienne's Orchid

Drawing

3rd Karen Sigmon Hello
2nd Karen Sigmon Iris
1st Linda Park Trumpet Vine
2D Mixed Media
3rd Celeste Tsaklis - The Psychology of Wood

Chalk, and Wax

2nd Madison Freitag Cuttlefish
1st Jan Atkins No Child's Play
Honorable Mention
Celeste Tsaklis
Fourteen Two

3D

3rd Maura Meggs Sic Semper Tyrannis
(Thus Always to Tyrants)



A guest enjoys the exhibit on opening night.



Textile artist Leslie Marsh discusses her entry "Reynolds Homestead Rug" with opening attendees.

2nd Laura Mahaffey Summer Afternoon in Main
1st Karen Eggleston Swan Egg "Treasures"

Textiles

(See Rock Spring p. 3)

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



Pets of the Week



This friendly handsome boy was found on Gunny Sack Trail in Patrick County and is now at the shelter.



This sweet, beautiful pittie female was found at the Stuart Community Hospital and is now at the shelter.

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/.

Spanberger unveils new data center accountability plan

Gov. Abigail Spanberger announced a new framework Thursday aimed at increasing oversight of data centers in Virginia and signed an executive order directing state agencies to immediately implement several of the proposed measures.

The Data Center Accountability Framework focuses on data center transparency, environmental protections, energy costs, clean energy, grid reliability and workforce development. Spanberger also signed Executive Order 22, which includes a ban on non-disclosure agreements for data center projects involving state agencies and establishes a new artificial intelligence task force.

"My Administration is committed to supporting and strengthening the industries that power economic growth in local communities across our Commonwealth," Spanberger said. "These strategic investments reflect that focus: fostering innovation and building durable pathways to good jobs that support long-term economic security for Virginia families."

Under the framework, Spanberger is proposing to ban non-disclosure agreements for commercial data center projects and require local approval for data centers using more than 25 megawatts of power. The framework also calls for ending state subsidies for data centers through Virginia's site development programs and removing future large data centers from the state's fast-track permitting process.

The framework calls for new standards addressing data center energy efficiency, water use, land impacts and backup generation. It also would require reviews of the cumulative impacts of diesel backup generators and establish water-use standards for data centers.

On energy, the framework proposes requiring utilities to allocate a greater share of electric transmission and generation costs to data centers and other large-load customers. It also calls for stronger financial commitments from developers and would direct costs associated with PJM Interconnection processes for rising energy demand to the data centers driving that demand.

The plan also calls for measures to strengthen grid reliability, limit electricity generated by data centers using on-site natural gas or behind-the-meter gas generation, and make it easier for data centers to use their own clean energy.

Workforce provisions include prioritizing local hiring, encouraging workforce training goals, prioritizing Virginia businesses in procurement and contracting, and supporting apprenticeship programs and project labor agreements where possible.

Through Executive Order 22, Spanberger directed state agencies to begin implementing several portions of the framework. The order prohibits executive branch agencies and other entities under the governor's supervision from entering into or requiring non-disclosure agreements for data center projects.

The order also directs the creation of a Data Center Planning and Community Engagement Toolkit for local governments, expedites development of state noise regulations for data centers and calls for a review of diesel and other backup-generation operations.

The order creates Virginia's Artificial Intelligence Task Force, which will examine issues associated with the development of artificial intelligence, including workforce displacement, data privacy and cybersecurity.

"My administration is also taking action to respond to the risks being posed to Virginians by the rapid development of AI technology," Spanberger said. "Today's Executive Order will create a new AI Task Force to address several of the top concerns I've heard across the Commonwealth."

Additional measures in the framework would require legislation from the General Assembly during its 2027 session.

Spanberger said the framework builds on actions taken earlier this year involving data center energy costs, transmission infrastructure, backup generators and water use.

The governor's office said the framework is intended to give local communities more information and a greater role in data center development while addressing potential effects on energy, water, land and air.

Two dead following crash on Spring Road

By Taylor Boyd

Two lives were lost following a Monday, September 14 motor vehicle crash on Spring Road near Foxtrot Lane.

In a media release, Virginia State Police Public Information Office Sgt. Rick Garletts said the accident occurred at 6:20 p.m.

"A 2004 Kia Spectra was traveling south on Spring Road when the vehicle crossed the center line and struck a 2007 Ford truck head-on. The driver of the Kia, 55-year-old David McAdams, and the passenger 54-year-old Dovie Maye Niten, both of Ararat, were wearing their seatbelts and died at the scene," the release states.

The driver of the Ford was not wearing his seatbelt and sustained life-threatening injuries.

Patrick County Emergency Management Director Scottie Hylton said the driver of the Ford was airlifted from Patrick Springs Primary School and flown to Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

"His wife posted on Facebook that he was home. I think she said he had a concussion and something else," Cassell said.

Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad, and the Stuart Community Hospital ambulance responded to the accident.

The Virginia State Police are still investigating the crash.

Twelve people named in recent round of indictments

Grand jurors seated in Patrick County handed down more than 40 indictments on Sept. 8. according to records in the Patrick County Court Clerk's Office.

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

Those named in the indictments are:

*James Raymond Reel, 46, of Martinsville, six counts larceny of a firearm, and one count each burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary, Feb. 7.

*David Keith Willard, 26, of Bassett, six counts larceny of a firearm, and one count each burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, and destruction of property, Feb. 7.

*Wyatt Chase Smith, 28, of Ararat, one count each possession with intent to sell or distribute Sch. I or II drugs and possession of Sch. I or II drugs while possessing a firearm, Dec. 10.

*Michael Cody Soloman, 30, of Martinsville, one count each attempted robbery, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and malicious wounding, Jan. 24.

*Summer Nicole Collins, 39, of Stuart, assault on LEO, April 16.

*Steven Lawrence Hancock, 41, of Mt. Airy, NC, one count each possession of firearm by violent felon and possession of ammunition by felon, Dec. 21.

*Kevin Billy Lacky, 35, of Stuart, two counts possess child porn and one count transmit child porn.

*Lawarren Gregory Dillard, 31, of Martinsville, one count each attempted robbery, use of a firearm in commission of a felony, possession of firearm by non-violent felon, and malicious wounding, Jan. 24.

*Allie Nichole Moore, 33, of Collinsville, one count each identity fraud, conspiracy to commit identity fraud, and unauthorized use of vehicle, on or about March 11 to May 23.

*Ronnie Dale Morris, 70, of Ararat, one count each assault and battery and intimidation of a witness, March 17.

*William Tyler Pearson, 22, of Stuart, two counts grand larceny and one count burglary, on or about March 28 to March 29.

*Joshua Aaron Petty, 38, of Stuart, two counts credit card theft, April 10.

Rock Spring

(cont. from page 2)

3rd Leslie Marsh Reynolds Homestead Rug
2nd Norma Bozenmayer Metamorphosis
1st Karen Towns Tobacco Barn

Glass

3rd John Erickson Land Before Immigrants
2nd Susan Kanode Motherhood
1st Steve Eanes Then and Now

The work was judged by two regional artists and art enthusiasts. Nell Fredericksen is a Virginia-based artist whose work is informed by both the natural world and her extensive exploration of artistic media, including metal, clay, glass, and jewelry design. She brings a unique perspective to art evaluation through a combination of artistic practice and a scientific background, which influences her understanding of form, materials, and creativity. Fredericksen is affiliated with professional arts organizations including the Artisan Center of Virginia, the Blue Ridge Potters Guild, Round the Mountain, and the Society of North American Goldsmiths. The second judge, who prefers to remain anonymous, studied art and art history in Europe and has been a practicing artist in multiple mediums for more than 30 years.

The Rock Spring Art exhibit will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through Oct. 30. In addition, voting is open for the 2026 Rock Spring Art Show People's Choice award.

Information about the exhibit can be found at reynoldshomestead.vt.edu.

P&HCC Foundation welcomes 2026 Patrick & Henry Scholars

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Foundation has welcomed five P&HCC freshmen as the 2026 cohort of Patrick & Henry Scholars.

In addition to the 125 scholarships the Foundation awards to students annually, P&HCC Foundation recognizes local scholars who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, community involvement and leadership potential with full tuition scholarships each year. Patrick & Henry Scholars also receive free books and fees for up to two years.

"We are honored to support these scholars as they pursue their studies," said Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood, adding, "Their focus and passion will ensure they continue to achieve great things as they work toward their educational and career goals."

This year's award recipients are graduates of Bassett High School, Magna Vista High School, and Patrick County High School.



(From L to R) Meagan Durham, Chloe Wood, Madison Scott, Kendra Worley, and Johnathan Harbour

- Meagan Durham will pursue an Associate's Degree in Nursing.
- Johnathan Harbour will pursue an Associate's Degree in Science.
- Madison Scott will pursue an Associate's Degree in Science.
- Chloe Wood will pursue an Associate's Degree in General Studies.
- Kendra Worley will pursue an Associate's Degree in Business Administration.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation Scholars program, please contact the P&HCC Foundation at 276-656-0250.

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Helene Revisited



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Two years ago, Southwest Virginia communities faced some of the most adverse weather conditions in recent memory.

Hurricane Helene damaged homes, businesses, infrastructure, farms, among other properties and items. Hundreds of thousands of people in Virginia's Ninth District were affected by other losses, including a loss of cellular telephone service in much of the District.

Preparing for danger, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin took decisive steps.

The Wednesday before the storm hit, Youngkin called. He advised me that Virginia's Ninth District would be severely impacted by the incoming storm.

During this time, Youngkin and his team were consulting with the National Weather Service in Blacksburg about the imminent threat.

To help the region prepare for the impending crisis, Youngkin declared a State of Emergency. This action mobilized emergency response resources into our region. Youngkin did so to coordinate agency communications and prepare our communities for the worst, including deploying statewide assets like swift water rescue teams and additional State police.

The deployment of statewide swift water rescue teams included the Bristol, Virginia, Swift Water Rescue Team, the only such team based in Virginia's Ninth District at that time.

Youngkin prepared the region so well that Virginia delivered assistance to Tennessee as well.

Unicoi County Hospital, operated by Ballad Health, was completely flooded during the disaster. More than 50 people were stranded and stuck on the roof of the hospital.

With the help of rescue helicopter crews from Abingdon and the Virginia State Police, those on the hospital roof were saved.

Surviving the storm, however, was just the first test.

In the aftermath, I traveled to the impacted areas with Youngkin and surveyed the damages.

From our borders with North Carolina and Tennessee to our borders with West Virginia, we saw homes lifted off foundations, infrastructure decimated and storm debris throughout the region.

Accordingly, Youngkin submitted a request for a federal Major Disaster Declaration. I pushed for federal authorities to approve his request and helped secure federal approval.

In addition to Youngkin's Declaration request, I voted for a government funding package that included Helene relief.

Money and federal relief resources from this package continue to flow into Ninth District communities. These funds have been used to support various projects, including extensive repairs in Damascus and wastewater treatment system repairs in Wytheville.

Thanks to Youngkin's actions, lives were saved and relief resources are available.

More work is underway in Congress to promote life-saving measures in times of emergency.

The impact of Hurricane Helene left many without access to power, cell phone signal and public communications systems. Friends, neighbors and loved ones could not get in touch with local authorities, missed critical alerts and faced persistent danger.

When surveying damages in our region with Josh Hess, my then-district director, we planned to meet in Independence. However, Josh failed to show up. Due to the mobile signal outage, I could not contact Josh to learn that his vehicle had gone into a sinkhole.

While I later learned that Josh and his car were okay, it illustrated the distressing situations many endured from the lack of communications support.

In Asheville, North Carolina, where Hurricane Helene hit hardest, communities struggled with this reality.

How could they contact people to make sure they were okay?

Fortunately, a local AM radio station came to the rescue.

CBS News detailed how WWNC host Mart Starling and producer Tank Spencer served as a lifeline for North Carolina residents. The station received scores of messages from residents who could deliver news and updates during the damaging storms.

Faced with a natural disaster, AM radio provided life-saving communications access.

This story is a testament to the power, value and reliability of AM radio technologies, particularly for those who live in or drive through rural areas.

AM radio is a trusted and reliable technology than can serve folks in real-time with real emergencies.

Accordingly, I supported a bill requiring AM radio technology for new cars.

As a co-sponsor of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, I voted in favor of the bill during a House Energy and Commerce Committee markup. Following the hearing, I pushed for House leadership to consider a vote on the bill.

In September, the House overwhelmingly passed the measure. I believe that the Senate should follow suit to support a life-saving technology that helps those in rural areas.

As your federal representative, I will continue to advocate for Ninth District access to natural disaster relief, community recovery resources and mitigation measures.

Election

(cont. from page 1)

at 5 p.m. A request to receive a ballot by mail may be done online at https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation.

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

The deadline to register to vote or to update your address on your existing voter registration for the upcoming November elections will be Friday, October 23, 2026.

Any citizen needing to register to vote or update their address may do so by appearing in person at the Registrar's Office, mailing a completed application to Post Office Box 635, Stuart, VA, or going online at https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation.

The Registrar's Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and is in the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart.

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

New online system streamlines Virginia Tech soil submissions



Farmers, gardeners and professionals who rely on soil testing can now submit samples and manage their results through a new online system.

The Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab has modernized its submission process, streamlining how users provide sample information, pay testing fees and access results while improving recordkeeping. The new Agriculture and Natural Resources Laboratory Information System creates a centralized record for soil testing where users can input, view and track submitted samples and results from a single dashboard.

"For three years we've been working with the University of Tennessee to develop a new online system for submitting and managing soil test samples," said Courtney McCombs, manager of the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab. "Now users will not need to fill out paper soil information sheets, and we can accept credit card payments. They will still receive an email with their test results, but now those results will also be stored in their online account."

Users can create an account, enter information about their soil samples and track their submission through the online dashboard. Additionally, information about gardens, fields and other properties will be saved in the system.

"The new system will be a helpful tool to anyone managing a large volume of soil analyses data," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau. "The digital platform's ability to save and recall field data will provide farmers a time savings when submitting soil sample information and provide historic field data for comparison."

The VT Soil Testing Laboratory tests around 50,000 soil samples annually, and the process is an important tool for managing crops, lawns, gardens and other landscapes. The analysis measures nutrients available to plants as well as soil pH while providing recommendations for fertilizer and lime applications.

Test results help farmers, gardeners and other professionals make strategic decisions for nutrient planning and avoid excessive fertilizer applications. Applying too many inputs can be costly and can contribute to runoff and other environmental problems.

While the change improves how samples are submitted, McCombs noted that it doesn't change the testing process—the lab will still conduct the same tests and results will remain confidential.

Virginia Tech noted that soil sample boxes will still be available through local Virginia Cooperative Extension offices. After entering sample information online, users print a packing list to mail with the samples. The lab will continue accepting paper forms and check, money order or cash payment.

For more information on Virginia Tech's Soil Testing Laboratory, visit soiltest.vt.edu.

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PUBLISHER
Michael Showell
EDITOR
Debbie Hall
ADVERTISING
Wendi Craig
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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Patrick Pioneers

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

By Beverly Belcher Woody

This week, we continue Daniel Webster (D. W.) Scott's history of Meadows of Dan with our fifth installment. Scott turns his attention to the land itself—its topography and climate—and mentions only a few people along the way. Their names offer an opportunity to revisit stories that have appeared in Patrick Pioneers.

On August 23, 2023, I shared the story of Andrew and Martha Jane Boyd Clifton in The Enterprise. Later, in "Seasons of Lover's Leap (Part I)," published January 22, 2025, I wrote about the tragedies associated with that overlook. As Lover's Leap became more accessible, it also became the scene of heartbreaking losses. On January 19, 1930, Harvey Bryant Williams fell from the overlook and did not survive. He was 29 years old and the father of five children. Thirty years later, in March 1960, the body of his son, Harvey Dickerson Williams, was found near the base of Lover's Leap. News reports said he was found only feet from where his father's body had been found.

Scott also refers to the old Tinsley home. It belonged to Dr. Spotswood Tinsley, who had a cabin at the top of Rock Castle Gorge and was known for healing with herbal remedies. His name lives on in Tinsley Knob, which appears on some old maps of Patrick County.

Now, let us return to Scott's own words. Writing in 1949, the octogenarian recalled the Meadows of Dan landscape he had known since his childhood in Patrick County.

"Land was the object which enticed many of the first settlers to this section. At the time when the first settlers came, land could be had by building a cabin and raising a crop of any kind of grain, entitling the occupant to four hundred acres of land and a preemption right on one thousand acres more adjoining, to be secured by a land office warrant. This right was to take effect if there happened to be so much vacant land, or any part thereof, adjoining the tract secured by the settlement right.

At an early period, the government of Virginia appointed three Commissioners to give certificates of settlement rights. These certificates, with the surveyor's plats, were sent to the land office of the state, where they laid six months to await caveat, which means let the buyer beware, or were sold without guarantee if no objection was offered. The patent was then issued.

There were but a few roads at that time. The West Spur Road which started down the mountain near Andrew Clifton's (now Bob Clifton), thence down the mountain and Poor House Creek to Stuart; the Branch Spur Road starting down the mountain near the old Tinsley home and intersecting the Rock Castle Road; the Mayberry Road starting near Meadows of Dan Church, leading by Mayberry and Bell's Spur Church, thence followed the mountain to Mt. Airy, N. C.;

The Floyd Road starting at Meadows of Dan Church and leading to Floyd Courthouse; and another old road leading from Stuart to Hillsville, Virginia.

These were the principal roads in this section after the first settlers came. They were not graded, almost straight up and down hills, and too narrow for wagons to pass each other.

Most of the early settlers considered land of little value. They thought after a few years' cultivation it would lose its fertility for a long time to come. They would look at a strip of land and say "This Land Will Bear So Many Crops."

TOPOGRAPHY

The surface is generally rolling, and in sections hilly. Along the river and creek banks there is a considerable amount of nearly level land. The elevation of this section is from 3,000 to 3,500 feet above the level of the sea.

The scenery of this section is grand and beautiful. Beginning at the Rock Wall there is a series of mountain views unsurpassed in grandeur by any part of the Mississippi River. As you climb to the top of the Blue Ridge Mountain from the east on Highway 58 you first come to the Rock Wall or Rock Cuts. Here Highway 58 was built, for quite a distance, on the side of the mountain, near the top, through almost solid rock. On the south is the rock cliff through which Highway 58 was built, and on the north is the rock wall built to protect the road and tourist.

Standing on the rock wall you look down a precipice almost perpendicular for a distance of two hundred yards or more, with a mountain on each side. It is said that a man by the name of Mr. Harvey Williams fell from the top of the Rock Wall and said when his body was reached, he had scarcely a bone in his body that was not broken. Far beyond the precipice you can see a beautiful farming country; and at an infinite distance beyond you can see the smooth, blue horizons.

About 1/4 mile farther west, 200 yards north of Highway 58, is the celebrated Lovers Leap. Here, according to tradition, two young Indians, a boy and a girl, who were madly in love with each other and for some reason could not marry, committed suicide by jumping down this precipice—hence its name. Thousands of people visit



Harvey Bryant Williams, photo from Kelly Davis

this place every year. The scenery here is similar to that of the Rock Wall, only not quite so steep and farther to the foot of the mountain. But, beyond the foot of the mountain, to the northeast, there is a very different picture; it is as placid and delightful as the scenes on the mountain sides are wild and rugged. Here too, as at the Rock Wall, standing on top of Lovers Leap looking northeast, you see a beautiful farming country, and at an infinite distance beyond you see the smooth, blue horizon.

About 1/2 mile northeast of Lovers Leap is the Smith River Waterfalls. Here, unlike either the Rock Wall or Lovers Leap, you see only a small stream of water rushing east and pouring over a solid rock for quite a distance, with the rugged mountains on either side and in front.

Thence, continuing in a northeasterly direction to the Floyd County line, there is a series of mountain views grand and beautiful. At the Floyd County line there is a motor shed running in a southerly direction, which is the dividing line between Patrick County on the east and Floyd and Carroll Counties on the west. This dividing line is about twelve miles in length and terminates on the brink of the Blue Ridge Mountain.

About four or five miles east of the Carroll County line is the celebrated Pinnacles of Dan. Here, standing on top of the Blue Ridge Mountain, you can see the Dan River, and other smaller streams, pouring over and down the mountain by leaps and bounds, uniting about 1/2 mile above the Pinnacles, where it continues rushing and roaring down the mountain until it reaches and almost surrounds the Pinnacles near the foot of the mountain. Here is a mountain peak rising abruptly to the top of the mountain. Its only



Andrew Martin Clifton, from Fred Clifton collection

approach is from the west side where it is very difficult to climb, and when you reach the top there is only room enough for 6 or 8 people to stand. The city of Danville has built a power plant here, which supplies it with electricity, at a cost of $5,000,000.

Here, standing on top of the Pinnacles looking north, is a view which, once seen, is never forgotten—two big power dams up the river only a short distance, Dan River coming down the mountain by leaps and bounds, and two smaller streams, one on each side, uniting with the river about one mile above the Pinnacles. These together with the rugged mountains and cliffs on each side, make this scene grand... and awe inspiring.

CLIMATE

The climate is invigorating and delightful. The summers are cool and pleasant, yet hot enough for the crops, and the winters are not severe nor unpleasant. In healthfulness Meadows of Dan will compare favorable with any part of the United States.

In summer as soon as you reach the top of the Blue Ridge Mountain you will meet a gentle, cool, pure, invigorating breeze which seems to put new life in you. This, together with its many cool springs with their clear, pure, cool, sparkling water, and the many different kinds of wild flowers and shrubbery, such as the Mountain Laurel, Ivy, Rhododendron, Azalea, and many other shrubs which grow wild here, add to the advantages of this area. Also, Highway 58 runs East

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty- Mom Worries Daughter Making Bad Social Security Decision

Dear Rusty: My question is not for me, but for my daughter who 62 years is old. She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else. I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned. My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then. Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long? *Signed: Worried Mom*

Dear Worried Mom: Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced (by approximately 20+%) from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction. And, if she works (which you imply she does) she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS full retirement age (her "FRA," which is age 67). The earnings limit for 2026 is $24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away $1 of benefits for every $2 she is over the annual limit. For example, if she is $25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to $12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money). FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBB) which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test (AET) described above. The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received. The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra $6,000 deduction per person (on the tax return filed with the IRS) for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset (either totally or partially) any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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).



Race Report: Kansas Speedway

For the past nine races, Josh Berry and the No. 21 Menards/Dutch Boy team have regularly found themselves in contention for top-five and top-10 finishes, including a strong stretch since the start of the NASCAR Cup Series Chase.

But that momentum was interrupted Sunday at Kansas Speedway, where Berry was collected in a multi-car accident during the Hollywood Casino 400 and ultimately finished 35th, 10 laps down.

Thanks in part to their recent strong performances, Berry and the Menards/Dutch Boy team earned a top-10 starting position after rain washed out Saturday's practice and qualifying sessions and the field was set per the NASCAR Rulebook.

Starting 10th for Sunday's 267-lap race, Berry kept the No. 21 Mustang Dark Horse inside the top 10 until the competition caution at Lap 35. After making a pit stop under the yellow, Berry returned to the track just outside the top 10 and remained there through the end of Stage 1, taking the green-and-white checkered flag in 11th.

Berry continued to race just outside the top 10 during Stage 2 before the caution came out at Lap 115 for Noah Gragson's engine failure. The No. 21 team took the opportunity to pit for tires and fuel, with Berry lining up 15th for the ensuing restart.

Shortly after the field returned to green, a multi-car accident developed on the inside line before the contact spread across the track and into the outside lane where Berry was running. With nowhere to escape the incident, the No. 21 Menards/Dutch Boy Mustang sustained substantial damage.

Berry fell to 35th in the running order and two laps down as the team went to work making repairs. He returned to the track and continued to battle through the remainder of the afternoon, but the damage took its toll as Berry lost additional laps before taking the checkered flag in 35th, 10 laps down.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team will look to rebound and return to their recent form next weekend in the South Point 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Grants accepted for blue catfish processing, flash freezing

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is currently accepting grant funding applications for projects that will help expand the commercial fishing and processing of blue catfish in the Commonwealth. Applications for the Governor's Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program will be accepted today through 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2026.

The Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program awards reimbursable grants of up to $250,000 to support infrastructure development projects that directly support local food production, enhance environmental sustainability, and demonstrate a broad community benefit. Grant funds should be used primarily for capital expenditures. Grant priority will be given to the following project types:

- Projects that create processing, flash freezing, and infrastructure capacity in proximity to small-scale blue catfish watermen.
- Processing facilities that are primarily locally owned, including packaging, freezing, and labeling facilities that are used for processing blue catfish.
- Projects that involve or incorporate existing seafood processors and businesses.
- Projects located in the localities of the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority or in Planning District 23.

Introduced several decades ago as a recreational trophy fish, blue catfish is an invasive species and aggressive predator that has thriving populations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Blue Catfish pose a significant threat to the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay as it eats native species including shad, herring, striped bass, menhaden, clams and blue crabs.

Additional information and the application for this grant opportunity are available on the Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program webpage.

Completed grant funding applications should be emailed prior to the due date to Rachel Meyers, Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development, at rachel.meyers@vdacs.virginia.gov or postmarked by Oct. 30 and sent by postal mail to VDACS Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development, 102 Governor Street, Richmond, Va., 23219.



Patrick County 6, Carroll County 38

By David Morrison

Patrick County lost to Carroll County on Friday night at John D. Hooker Field in Stuart by a score of 38-6. The loss moves the Cougars to 2-3 on the season. Offensively the Cougars were led by Jayden Corns who had 95 yards rushing with one touchdown on the ground and went 3-12 through the air for 69 yards. Aedan Frazier ran for 22 yards on 4 carries with Noah Cain adding 17 yards on 4 carries. Josiah Shelor added 9 yards on the ground and 50 yards receiving on 2 catches. Carlie Tabor had19 yards receiving on 1 reception.

Defensively the Cougars were led by Wheeler Helms who had 20 tackles and a fumble recovery, Jaxon Handy added 6 tackles with Josiah Shelor, Michael Rucker, and Jacob Spencer added 5 tackles a piece. Ernesto Ponce, Briar Branch, Logan Brown, Andrew Miller and Brayden Hylton had 4 tackles each with Hylton picking up his 4th interception of the season. Also recording tackles for the Cougars were Jayden Corns, Noah Becker, Perry Hicks, Ethan Errichetti, and Ethan Gibson.

The Cougars will be back in action this coming Friday night when they travel to Floyd County.

PCHS JV volleyball tops Glenvar

PCHS' junior varsity volleyball team defeated Glenvar in straight sets Monday at home, 25-19 and 25-12.

Trinitee Penn had six digs and five kills. Milli Foley recorded four aces, and Addy Foley had 13 assists.

Tri-Area welcomes Behavioral Health Director

Tri-Area Community Health welcomes Jennifer Graham, MEd, LPC, as the Behavioral Health Director.

She was previously with Mount Rogers Community Services for 21 years and held various positions serving both youth and adults. Beginning in 2005, she worked as a Qualified Mental Health Professional as a mental health skill builder, case manager, and Therapeutic Day Treatment counselor before returning to Lindsey Wilson College to earn an MEd in Counseling and Human Development and a Licensed Professional Counselor license in 2020.


Jennifer Graham

Jennifer takes a compassionate, individualized approach to therapy, recognizing each person's unique strengths, experiences, and capacity for growth. Her work focuses on helping clients develop resilience and effective ways of navigating life's challenges. With a broad and integrative perspective, she draws from various therapeutic approaches to meet each person's needs and support lasting well-being. She views the therapeutic relationship as a space where insight, connection, and meaningful change can emerge.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Graham as our Behavioral Health Director," said Dr. James Werth, Jr., CEO. "Her clinical expertise, dedication, and commitment to supporting mental health and well-being will be a valuable asset to our team and the individuals and families we have the privilege of serving."

"I'm excited to be joining Tri-Area Community Health and to have the opportunity to support the mental health and well-being of the people in our communities," she said. "I hope to provide a safe, compassionate space where people feel heard and supported as they work through life's challenges and move toward healing and personal growth."

VEC launches interactive dashboard to track unemployment claims

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has launched a new interactive Unemployment Insurance Claims Dashboard, giving Virginians, employers, policymakers and other stakeholders an easier way to track unemployment claims activity and identify trends across the Commonwealth.

The new dashboard provides direct access to Virginia's initial claims, continued weeks claimed and all weeks compensated data reported to the U.S. Department of Labor. Users can explore week-over-week, month-over-month and year-over-year changes, compare trends across three reporting years, and see how Virginia compares with other states and national trends.

"Unemployment insurance claims data are an important economic indicator, providing timely insight into labor market conditions and workforce trends across Virginia," said VEC Commissioner Melissa Smith. "This dashboard takes complex data and makes it easier for anyone to see what the numbers are telling us, whether it's looking at changes from one week to the next, identifying longer-term trends or comparing Virginia with other states and the nation."

The dashboard is available at: https://www.vec.virginia.gov/virginia-unemployment-claims-activity.

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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

During the American Revolution, members of the local militias spent more time in non-combat support roles and local defensive logistics than they did in pitched battles. Because the Continental Army handled most long-term strategic campaigns, local county militias functioned as the primary infrastructure for home-front security enforcement, and supply management. Militias served in guarding prisoners of war, supplying logistics and foraging, home-front patrolling, frontier security, labor, construction and civil support. An army cannot move without food and materials, and the militia acted as the regional logistical network. Jennings Thompson, patriot ancestor of DAR members Joan Thompson Conway and the late Carolyn Thompson Williams, served as an orderly sergeant, a non-commissioned officer with the Virginia militia.

Jennings Thompson was born on December 19, 1761, in Amelia County, Virginia, In April 1781 he was drafted into the Virginia militia where he served under Captain John Knight and Lieutenant Presley Jeter. The regiment marched from Richmond to Williamsburg under the command of General Lafayette. Procedure and protocol duties of orderly sergeants were strictly administrative: maintaining the orderly book, relaying orders, and enforcing discipline. An orderly sergeant possessed the rank and authority to lead small details of men (often four to twelve privates) out into the countryside. It can be assumed that Thompson was educated because orderly sergeants were literate and highly organized. Officers trusted them to handle the sensitive task of "procuring" cattle from local civilians. They had to accurately record what was taken and issue receipts to the farmers so the state or Congress could later reimburse them. Thompson notes in his pension statement: "I acted as orderly Sergeant and with four other men by order of Colonel Booker were detailed and instructed to procure Beef Cattle and drive them in for the use of the Army."

After Thompson's discharge in late 1781 he returned to Amelia County but shortly after, he moved to Pittsylvania County where he became a local property owner and businessman. In 1790 he married Elizabeth Street from Pittsylvania County, and they had at least four sons and at least five daughters. Thompson died in 1844 and is likely buried on private homestead land rather than in a municipal or church cemetery.

Information for this article is from DAR Genealogical Research Databases (online), Family Search and Revolutionary War Journal.

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 woman'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)

and West through the center of this section, and the Scenic Highway runs North and South, crossing Highway 58 in one-mile West of Meadows of Dan Post Office over an overhead bridge. There are also good hard-surfaced roads convenient to almost every home. Here in spring and summer with the birds singing, flowers blooming, pastures green, the many acres of woodland, the hospitable people, educational and other advantages this part of Patrick County is a most desirable place to live; and for those seeking a pleasant, quiet place to spend their vacation there is none better.

The headspring of Dan River and also of Smith River is in this area, about four miles Northeast of Meadows of Dan Post Office. Dan River starts flowing West, then South and Southeast, and Smith River flows East uniting with the Dan River at Leaksville, N. C. There are also several smaller streams all well stocked with trout, bass and other fish. Hundreds of residents licensed and non-resident anglers' fish here every year. Also, the world-famous Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, passes through this section. This carefully marked trail enters this section on the Blue Ridge Mountain near the Floyd County line, thence in a southerly direction on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountain, by Lovers Leap and the Pinnacles of Dan, and then veers slightly Westward to the North Carolina line."

As I read Mr. Scott's words from 1949, I cannot help wondering what he would think if he could see Lover's Leap and Meadows of Dan today. The Appalachian Trail has since been rerouted farther west, taking it out of Patrick County. Meadows of Dan Church burned, but the congregation quickly rebuilt it. And Concord Church remains alive and well, thanks to the devoted people who continue to care for it.

The landscape has changed since Scott's day, but the places he remembered—and the people who cherish them—remain part of the story of Meadows of Dan.

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

State of emergency declared to help farmers affected by a statewide hay shortage

Farmers facing a shortage of critical hay to feed their livestock got some relief when Gov. Abigail Spanberger declared a state of emergency Sept. 16.

Spanberger's Executive Order 21 allows hay to be transported quickly and efficiently to farms across the commonwealth by granting over-width exemption waivers to carriers transporting essential agricultural supplies of hay in any part of Virginia—accelerating feed delivery to farms and livestock producers. These waivers will help make sure farms can maintain operations and protect livestock health as persistent drought conditions have caused a statewide hay shortfall of 500,000 tons—or approximately 1 billion pounds. The declaration also provides access to emergency funding, activates price gouging protections, and authorizes additional measures if necessary.

"This waiver will be instrumental in helping producers transport as much hay as possible in a timely manner to address the ongoing shortages due to severe drought conditions," said Virginia Farm Bureau President Scott Sink. "We are grateful for the governor's attention to this critical matter that is causing significant economic harm to Virginia's farmers."

Spanberger said she took the measure because "the drought has placed real pressure on livestock producers across Virginia. While we have seen improvement in drought conditions in some areas of the commonwealth in recent weeks, the impacts of this prolonged dry period are still being felt by producers across Virginia."

Persistent dry conditions have strained pastures, reduced forage yields and forced some farmers to begin feeding winter hay months ahead of schedule. In September, Virginia Cooperative Extension estimated statewide hay yields were down 35%, with some losses reaching 70%. By early summer, some farmers had already fed hay for at least 30 of the first 90 grazing-season days because pasture growth had stalled.

Augusta County sheep farmer Morgan Slaven told the story of this fall's hay season in numbers. She said 2024's first cutting was 305 rounds bales, in 2025 it was 155 and this year in July, the first cutting was only 31 round bales.

"There are a few variables this year, like more sheep and about 10 fewer acres in hay production—mostly because it wasn't worth the cost to run equipment over it," Slaven said. "But to have a crop be only 10% of what it was two years ago is scary."



Farmers need supplemental deliveries of hay in preparation for the winter feeding season to prevent further losses. While the temporary emergency allowance will allow for over-width loads, gross and axle weight limits remain strictly in effect.

The Virginia Emergency Support Team and Drought Monitoring Task Force, which includes the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other state agencies and state and national weather-related groups, continues to actively monitor statewide drought conditions, and coordinate with affected localities and stakeholders. The state of emergency declaration allows state agencies to streamline support, implement emergency plans, and issue temporary regulatory waivers needed to expedite relief.

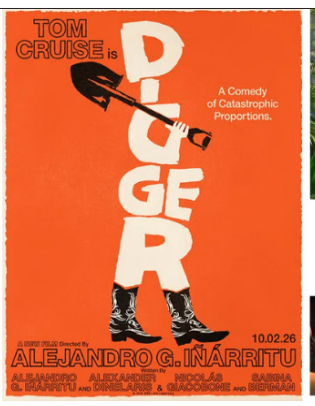
The executive order remains in force for 45 days unless amended or rescinded. The over-width waiver will go into effect on Oct. 1 and will remain in force for 30 days. The 15-day period between the start of the executive order and the beginning of the over-width waiver will allow farmers time to source hay and transportation in order to maximize their use of the state-issued emergency waiver, which federal regulations limit to 30 days.

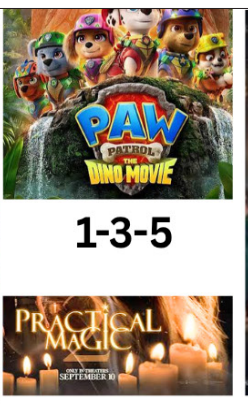
For updates on hay resources and waiver-related information, visit the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services webpage for Disaster Recovery Resources for Virginia Farmers.

For drought-related resources for farmers, visit Farm Bureau's drought-related hay resources page.

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OBITUARIES

Evelyn Martin Hazelwood



Evelyn Martin Hazelwood, age 84 of Stuart, passed away Friday, September 25, 2026, at her home. She was born in Patrick County on January 29, 1942, to the late William Beamer Martin and Virginia Otra Roberts Martin. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Hazelwood was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Hazelwood; special friend, Manard Manning; two brothers, Elbert Martin and Edward Martin; one sister, Eva Martin Cassady Thomas; and several half-brothers and half-sisters.

Mrs. Hazelwood is survived by two sisters, Ellen Fulcher and Edna Smart; and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Hazelwood was a lifetime educator, retiring from Patrick County High School after 35 years of service. Mrs. Hazelwood dedicated her life to improving the outcomes of those she loved. She was a mentor and motivator to her students and her family members, and she will be remembered as an inspiration by all those who knew and loved her.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 945 Zephyr Road, Dobson, North Carolina 27017. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Alice Lawson Shough

Mrs. Alice Lawson Shough, age 93 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully at Stuart Community Hospital on Monday, September 21, 2026. She was born Patrick County on August 21, 1933, to the late James Cleveland Lawson and Catherine Lewis Lawson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Ray Noel Shough; six siblings, Henry Lawson, Jessie Lawson, Elmer Lawson, Amos Lawson, Nellie L. Foley, and Mary L. White. Alice was a faithful and devoted member of New Hope Church of the Brethren, where her love for God and her faith were an important parts of her life. She retired from Bassett Furniture after many years of dedicated and hardworking service.

Alice was the true definition of a Southern lady—gracious, kind, hardworking, and trustworthy. She had a gentle spirit and a heart full of love for her family and those around her. She found joy in the simple things in life, especially tending to her garden and filling her home with the wonderful aroma of something she had lovingly baked.

Her faith was strong, her family was her greatest treasure, and she gave of herself freely to those she loved. Alice leaves behind a legacy of love, devotion, kindness, and cherished memories that will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed, but her love and the beautiful life she shared with her family will never be forgotten.

Left to cherish the memories of Mrs. Shough are her devoted husband, James C. Ferguson; grandson, Seth Ferguson; one brother, Edd Lawson; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral for Mrs. Shough will be held on Monday, September 28, 2026, at New Hope Church of the Brethren at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. Burial will follow in the Lawson Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday morning. Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Patrick County Chapter, P.O. Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services and online condolences may by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Paul "Papa Paul" Holt



Paul "Papa Paul" Holt, age 80 of Stuart, passed away Saturday, September 26, 2026, at his home. He was born in Patrick County on February 11, 1946, to the late Edd and Delcie Holt. In addition to his parents, Mr. Holt was preceded in death by an infant son, Steven Paul Holt; a sister, Helen Shelton; and a brother, Willie Holt. He worked for JP Stevens for over 30 years. He was also a tobacco farmer and raised beef cows. He had been a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Westfield, North Carolina since 1979 where he served as a deacon, choir director, Sunday School teacher, and treasurer. He was a loving husband, father, "Papa," brother, and uncle.

Mr. Holt is survived by his wife of 57 years, Janet Marie Hancock Holt of the home; a son, Matthew Holt (Stacey) of Stuart; six grandchildren, Zachary Holt (Addi) of Stuart, Mckenzie Holt (Corby) of Bassett, D'asia Ross of Stuart, Kelon Penn (Jasmine) of Fieldale, Caleb Gregory of Patrick Springs, and Aleah Gregory (Cody) of Patrick Springs; three great-grandchildren, Madelyn Gregory, Dawson Wyatt and Mallorie Gregory; three brothers, Jimmy Holt (Nancy), James Holt, Walter Holt, all of Stuart; two sisters, Patsy Baliles (Benny) of Stuart and Linda Fain (Randall) of Ararat; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Holt will be held Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Tommy Nichols officiating. Burial will follow in Trinity Baptist Church Cemetery in Westfield, North Carolina. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service at the funeral home on Sunday and at other times at the home. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to Mount Valley Hospice and Palliative Care for all their kindness given to Paul.

Principles of Healthy Eating: Whole Grains

Part 1

In the last several years, many new diets have been introduced, most if not all of which claim to be the solution to one (e.g. obesity), many, or even all of the health problems inflicting Americans. Most of these diets differ radically and yet each one declares that it is the most suitable for the human race. The promoters of each of these diets promise unbelievable results as a consequence of adopting their dietary principles. It seems that never in the past have we had to choose between so many conflicting messages. The Flat Belly diet, Paleo diet, Cabbage Soup diet, Raw Food diet, Gandhi's diet, Hollywood diet, Russian Air Force diet, Hallelujah diet, Beverly Hills diet, Jerusalem diet, Metabolic diet, Zone diet, Atkins diet, Optimal diet, the Seventh Day diet, Brain diet, and the Leptin diet are just a few examples of many more diets available for those who are willing to adopt them. Which diet is the best: a low or high carbohydrate diet, low or high protein diet? Are products cooked in a microwave fit for human consumption? Should we eat only organic products? Are soy products healthy? What about genetically modified products? Should we consume dietary supplements? If so, which ones? What principles truly constitute healthy eating?

A healthy diet can be described in simple principles. The first of them is: eat a variety of whole grain products. The importance of grains in the human diet has been known for thousands of years. For example, Biblical manuscripts and writings found in Egyptian tombs clearly indicate that grains constituted a staple food in ancient Palestine and Egypt. In the Bible we find records of individual grains and a bread recipe. For example, in the fifth book of the Bible entitled Deuteronomy, we read in the description of the Promised Land that God led the Israelites to "a land of wheat, barley, (…) a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, (…)" Similarly, in the book of Ezekiel we read the injunction of God to the prophet Ezekiel: "take for yourself wheat, barley, (…) millet, and spelt; put them into one vessel, and make bread of them for yourself." Bread made with the above formula can be purchased in American grocery stores today. Archaeologists found round flat loaves in the tombs of Egyptian officials. On the walls of tombs in Luxor and in other locations archaeologists also found paintings that illustrate the process of making bread. In making bread the Egyptians used whole grain flour, which they produced using stone which was slid across the floor. The finished product resembled today's multigrain bread. The importance of grain consumption in ancient Egypt illustrates the biblical story of Joseph, the son of Israel, recorded in the Book of Genesis. It describes a seven-year period of drought, which both the Egyptians and people living in neighboring countries, survived thanks to the grain stocks accumulated by Joseph in the years prior to the period of drought.

Consuming of a variety of products is a fundamental principle of healthy eating. In the case of grains, a variety means consumption of products made of wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, millet and other grains. Of course this does not mean that all of these products should be consumed at each meal. This means having different grain products over a period of several days or a week.

(This article will continue in a future edition of The Enterprise. Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Roman Pawlak, PH.D, RD. Used by permission from www.Lifeand-Health.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Former correctional officer arrested in assault case

The Virginia Department of Corrections' Office of Law Enforcement Services arrested a former Greensville Correctional Center sergeant on an assault and battery charge stemming from an incident involving an incarcerated person.

Greensville County Commonwealth's Attorney Robin Quinn authorized an arrest warrant for Cortraez Terry on Sept. 15, 2026. The following day, the Office of Law Enforcement Services served Terry with the warrant at the Greensville County Sheriff's Office.

According to the Virginia Department of Corrections, the charge stems from a May 25 incident in which Terry was witnessed by staff repeatedly punching a restrained inmate.

The department said Terry admitted to the assault when questioned and was immediately terminated.

"The men and women of the VADOC do a great job daily providing public safety in our facilities," VADOC Director Joseph W. Walters said. "The VADOC does not condone any abuse or excessive use of force and will hold any staff member accountable for acting in ways that are not in alignment with the values and principles of the VADOC."

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

FEMA announces Region 3 funding for disaster mitigation

Last week, FEMA announced more than $24 million in grant funding to Region 3. This funding will empower community leaders to take decisive steps to protect infrastructure and people from future disasters. This funding aligns with President Donald J. Trump's America First Resilience Strategy, which calls for a new, risk-informed approach that treats resilience as an investment opportunity. It also delivers on the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mullin's commitment to empowering state and local officials to manage their own disaster preparedness—with FEMA supporting only if needed.

The funding announced on Sept. 18 includes:

- More than $23 million through FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.to fund disaster mitigation projects in five states (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia). Congress directed that these funds be distributed in the Fiscal Year 2026 Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act. Most projects focus on improving infrastructure to reduce flood risk, while others address hazards such as earthquakes and wildfires. To view the list of Congressional Directed Spending projects, visit this link on FEMA.gov.
- More than $1 million through FEMA's Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element to fund floodplain management practices. This competitive grant program is designed to empower states and territories to support local jurisdictions with flood reduction efforts. When done correctly, this can save lives and reduce the cost of future disasters. A list of these floodplain management awards by state and territory is available on FEMA.gov.

For more information about these grant obligations and awards, visit the following FEMA webpages: Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region 3 Office of External Affairs at (215) 931-5597 or at femar3newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov.

Patrick Pulpits

Invisible but Effective Forces

By Bryan Golden

Just because you can't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist or is ineffective. You are surrounded by invisible, yet potent natural forces. Gravity, temperature, wind, and electricity are some examples. Although invisible, the evidence of their power is indisputable.

When properly harnessed, these forces produce awesome results. Hydroelectric dams utilize gravity to produce electricity. Boiling water powers steam engines. Wind propels ships. And electricity drives virtually every aspect of technology.

There are also amazingly powerful invisible forces within you which produce incredible results when properly tapped. Willpower, determination, drive, discipline, persistence, attitude, and positive thoughts are all examples of your internal natural resources.

Willpower provides the mental energy needed to move forward. It's a commitment to accomplish your objective. Rather than trying to get something done, make a commitment to yourself that you will be successful.

Willpower gives you determination to do whatever is necessary to reach your destination. Determination is needed to solve problems and overcomes obstacles. Determination prevents you from giving up. Since you only fail when you give up, determination averts failure.

Discipline enables you to make progress even when you don't feel like it. Discipline powers you to keep at your task, one step at a time, regardless of how far you have to go. Discipline is the fuel that prevents you from quitting even when your progress is slower than expected.

Persistence is the relentless force which keeps you getting up each time you stumble or fall, no matter how many times you falter. Persistence transforms setbacks into comebacks. Persistence is unstoppable.

The people and circumstances you attract in life are determined by your attitude. A positive, can-do attitude attracts what you want and need. Your attitude is a powerful force which impacts every aspect of your life. Attitude is what differentiates the successful from those who give up.

Your thoughts emanate from your attitude. Positive thoughts generate a positive dialogue you use when speaking to yourself. Your self-talk programs your mind to either succeed or fail. Your mind works constantly to bring your thoughts to reality. Tell your mind what you can and will do and it looks for ways to succeed. Conversely, a mind fed with excuses for failure actually seeks to sabotage success.

Invisible forces must be harnessed in order to have a positive impact. A waterfall generates nothing until a dam is put into place. A sailboat without sails drifts aimlessly. Raw electricity in the form of lightning will not power anything. Uncontained steam produced by a boiling pot of water disperses ineffectually into the air.

Similarly, your internal forces accomplish nothing unless consciously channeled by you. Possessing an unused asset is no different than not having it at all. A person who says, "I have willpower but I never use it," is in the same position as the person who doesn't have any willpower at all.

This principle also applies to determination, drive, discipline, persistence, attitude, and positive thoughts; if you don't use them, they provide no benefit. For something invisible to be effective, its energy must be applied to accomplish something specific.

Your internal forces exist regardless of whether or not you believe in them. There are many people who dismiss the power they hold as nonsense. They claim to have tried all that "positive motivational stuff" but it just doesn't work.

Pay no attention to these detractors. There are countless examples of the outstanding results achieved when people tap into and use their internal forces. You can and will experience wonderful outcomes when you utilize your invisible but effective forces.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2026 Bryan Golden. Used with permission.



Read Local

Keep up with your community!

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. From Acts 10, who said, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean"? *Herod, Peter, Thomas, John the Baptist*

3. In 1 Corinthians 11, because of "what" did Paul say women should have a "symbol of authority"? *Life, Trust, Love, Angels*

4. From Hebrews 7, which king was said to have neither mother nor father? *Solomon, David, Melchizedek, Sargon*

5. Whose four daughters were considered prophetesses? *Gad's, Philip's, Jonah's, Noah's*

6. What biblical name meant "God has helped"? *Solomon, Paul, Lazarus, Amos*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Angels, 4) Melchizedek, 5) Philip's, 6) Lazarus

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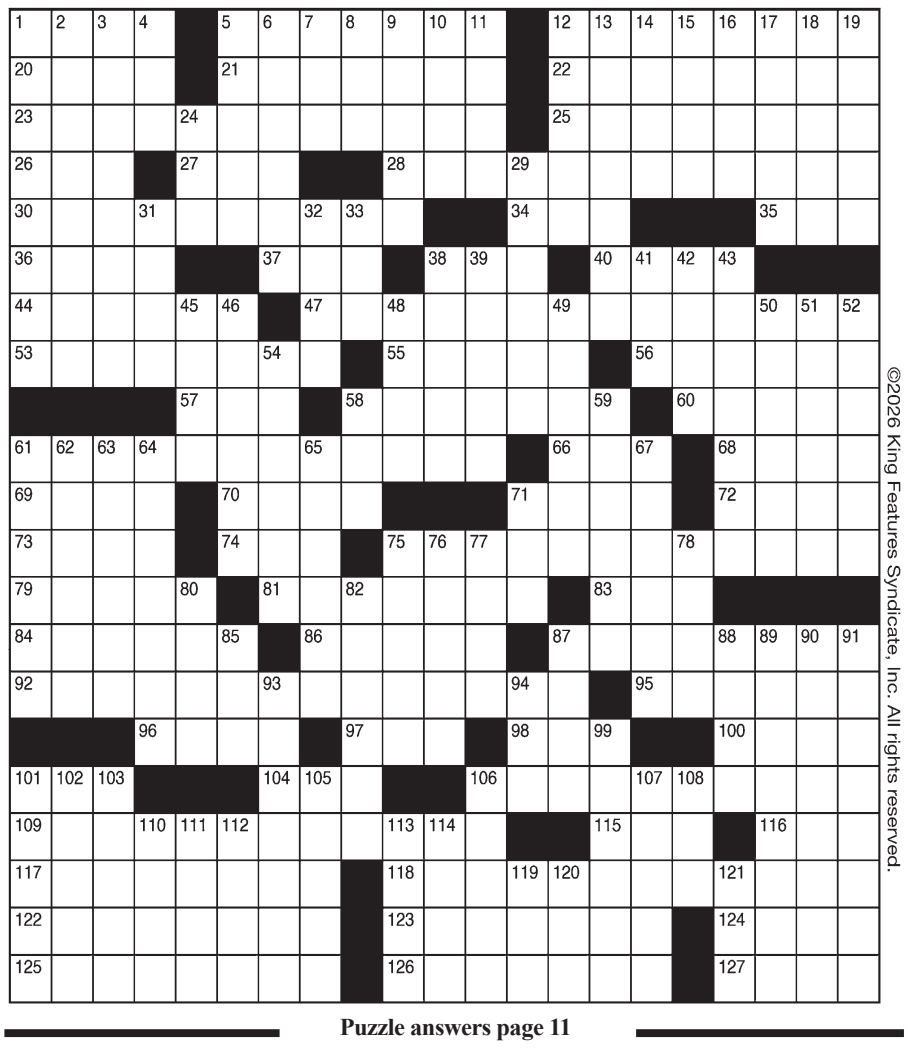
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Super Crossword

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ACROSS
1 "Eat — eaten" (law of the jungle)
5 One prayed to during a drought
12 Laboratory substance
20 Schnitzel meat
21 Redenbacher of popcorn
22 Chevron motor oil brand
23 Manage to avoid the introductory music?
25 Cousin of a musical
26 Cousin of a mouse
27 Look at
28 These fast musical passages, in Spain?
30 Customary actions of a World War II coalition?
34 Agnus — (Mass prayer)
35 Potential picnic pest
36 Potential picnic pest
37 Politician DeSantis
38 Expected
40 Revise copy
44 Catch by luring
47 Advancement made by a ferocious female?
53 "Don't panic!"
55 Like a 30-pound cat, say
56 Impel forcibly
57 Former rival of Pan Am
58 With life, musically
60 Divining deck
61 Fill a bishop with joy?
66 Blasting stuff
68 Film director Gus Van —
69 Peru's capital
70 "— that the truth!"
71 Fishnet stuff
72 Previously
73 Let off steam
74 Father
75 Bury Johannes Gutenberg?
79 Homer epic
81 High schoolers, e.g., slangily
83 Long period
84 Apartment sharer, e.g.
86 — -Detoo (sci-fi droid)
87 School-related
92 Fishing for large shrimps from atop a rooflike shelter?
95 2006 Olympics host in Italia
96 Hershey's toffee bar
97 Mariner's "Mayday!"
98 "Of course!"
100 Potential picnic pest
101 Vardalos of film
104 Poem variety
106 Give novelist Marcel the boot?
109 Goading person who's stranger?
115 Tic-tac-toe win
116 Pekoe, e.g.
117 Marine stuff with a hard, pinkish skeleton
118 The process of deciding how much the frosting should cost?
122 Many a pre-toast tale
123 Band tour follower
124 Allay
125 Emphasized
126 Baskers may acquire them
127 Some jeans, familiarly

DOWN
1 Really astonishes
2 Drug reducing muscle strain
3 "Guardians of the Galaxy" co-star Dave
4 Antiquity, archaically
5 Cow catcher
6 Amount of money owed
7 "— had it!"
8 Nothing at all
9 Epoxies, e.g.
10 Car make until '04
11 Bug spray ingredient
12 Selected
13 Less sad
14 At all times
15 "Encore!"
16 Dots in la mer
17 Big town, in Italian
18 Writer Chekhov
19 Minimum
24 Psychic skill
29 Port south of Kiev
31 Nimble
32 Motorola tablet introduced in 2011
33 Gerund suffix
38 Alternative to cash or credit
39 "I volunteer to help"
41 ER worker
42 "— Rhythm"
43 Crime of some traitors
45 Entr'—
46 Cat's "toe bean," e.g.
48 Novelist Jaffe
49 One stroking a cat, say
50 Off-target
51 Wall bracket for candles
52 "English" or "Irish" dog
54 Cow catcher
58 — -rock (music genre)
59 How many freelancers work
61 "Mistress of the Dark" of TV and film
62 Hide out, as a criminal
63 Membrane enclosing an embryo
64 Japanese floor mats
65 Make lovable
67 Part of ENT
71 Spanish for "month"
75 Bisected
76 Glowing signs
77 Sci-fi empath Deanna
78 — -Chinese
80 Rinky- —
82 Wiped away
85 Psyche part
87 Matures
88 Therefore
89 Trivial details
90 Kind of
91 Small, simple houses
93 Divide into fair shares
94 Sch. in Manhattan
99 Visit for a bit
101 Dunn and Ephron
102 Birth cert., e.g.
103 Sum finder
105 Meted (out)
106 Stellar hunter
107 Sweat outlets
108 King, in Caen
110 Cicero's "Lo!"
111 Cones' counterparts
112 Cons' counterparts
113 Likes, slangily
114 Light beige
119 Trail mix bit
120 H.S. transcript stat
121 Toon frame



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Puzzle answers page 11

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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(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

Wednesday, Oct. 14
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Events
Friday, Oct. 2
The community food truck will be at the SRRS in Woolwine from 3-4 p.m.

The Stuart Farmers' Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with local beef, poultry, fresh ground coffee, baked goods, fall plants and crafts: jewelry, birdhouses and other wood products.

Saturday, Oct. 3
The Woolwine Methodist Church will have a yard sale in the social hall beginning at 8 a.m. and make apple butter.

The Meadows of Dan Women's Club will hold a bingo night at the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. There will be food available and raffle drawings.

Sunday, Oct. 4
The Bassett Ruritan Club will host an open mic/jam session from 2-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Tuesday, Oct. 6
The Southern Area Agency on Aging in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension will host a workshop called "Creating a Dementia-Friendly Home" where attendees can learn practical ways to make homes safe, more supportive, and easier to navigate for people living with dementia. The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 1075 Spruce Street, Martinsville. Pre-registration is required by calling 276-632-6442.

Thursday, Oct. 8
SELECT @ Stuart will be held inside Patrick & Henry Community College, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Patrick County Seniors Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Johnny Joyce and Friends. Pizza, salads, and beverages will be provided for lunch. Attendees are requested to bring their favorite desserts to share with the group and are reminded to bring used shoes that will be donated to Alzheimer's research.

Saturday, Oct. 10
Native Plant Sale, 12 -2 p.m., Stuart Farmer's Market on Patrick and Chestnut streets, sponsored by Patrick County Master Gardeners. For info or to donate plants call 336-721-0916.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold its distribution day at its Stuart location from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at the Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m. and starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, Oct. 16
The community food trick will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17
The Patrick County High School Class of 1986 will hold its 40th class reunion at Tin Pin Alley. For ticket information, reunion updates, and all the event details, join the Patrick County High School Class of 1986 Facebook group or email Lyn at hillstl1681@gmail.com or Derrick at dericklanderson@gmail.com.

Saturday, Oct. 24
Haunted Hikes at 'Scary Stone' State Park – guided hikes with ghost stories at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. at Fairy Stone State Park, $7 parking fee. Don't forget your flashlight. Register at the front office or call 276-930-2424.

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 are 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.

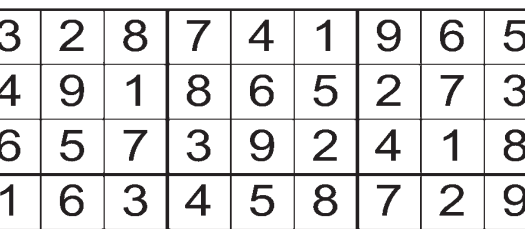
Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

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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Terri S. Wood, Manager

Black lung cases rise in Southwest Virginia as mine safety rules stall



The Federal Black Lung Program provides compensation to coal miners who are totally disabled by pneumoconiosis arising out of coal mine employment and to survivors of coal miners whose deaths are attributable to the disease. (Adobe Stock)

By Danielle Smith
Virginia News Connection

New data show cases of black lung disease are rising among Appalachian coal miners, especially in southwestern Virginia.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported nearly one in three working underground coal miners, with a quarter of a century of experience working underground, now has the disease.

Brendan Muckian-Bates, policy and advocacy associate at the Appalachian Citizens Law Center, said cases they have worked on include testimony from miners who reported being told by their employers to move or change the dust sampling equipment. He warned silica dust exposure limits and action levels are only effective if there is strong federal enforcement through mine inspections.

"Our most recent report on MSHA sampling has signaled that the amount of dust sampling that's taking place is below where it had been in years past," Muckian-Bates explained.

Black lung is a serious, incurable disease that

(See Black Lung p. 13)

Super Crossword

Answers

O	R	B	E	■	R	A	I	N	G	O	D	■	C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L
V	E	A	L	■	O	R	V	I	L	L	E	■	H	A	V	O	L	I	N	E
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, October 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM to hear comment on amending the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget with an increase of to $36,384,648.30 as follows:

- $441,961.05: carryover balance-capital projects-completion of multi-purpose buildings at PCHS.
- $40,990.00: VA Foundation for Healthy Youth (Tobacco Use Prevention Grant) this is the final year of a three-year grant.
- $74,092.00: DCJS School Safety Personnel and Programming Grant for Behavior Interventionist/Specialist.
- $150,000.00: 1% Sales Tax Fund - these funds will be utilized for the completion of the multipurpose buildings at PCHS.

The Patrick County School Board is requesting $707,043.05 to be added to the budget.

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. A vote will be taken at the meeting. Anyone wishing to view the proposed budget amendments may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: 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 October 19, 2026 at 6 PM in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart VA 24171.

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom on the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia.

Anyone wishing to view the proposed subdivision ordinance may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

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SAT., OCT. 3rd, 2026 - 10:00 AM

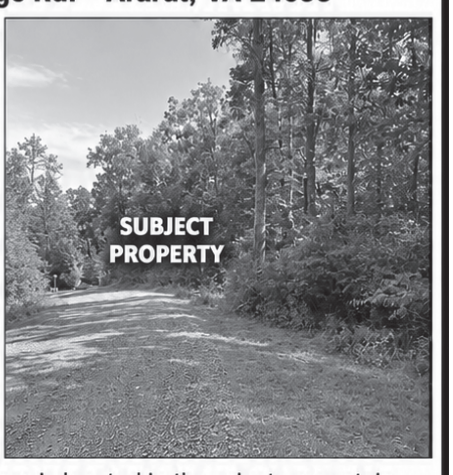
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Seven Springs

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Terms: $2,000 earnest money deposit day of auction, balance within 30 days at closing.

Inspection: Call our office anytime to see this property. It is a gated community.

Directions: In Fancy Gap, Va at int. of Rt.# 52 and Blue Ridge Parkway go N on the Blue Ridge Parkway for 7.2 mi. to Rt.# 771 (Willis Gap Rd.), turn R & go 2.8 mi. to Seven Springs Parkway (gated on right) go 4/10 mi. to prop. on left.

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MIKE DALTON 276-733-5614
BRIAN HALL 276-237-1419

LEGAL

Public Notice - Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow impacts to wetlands, stream channel, and open water in Patrick County, Virginia.

PERMIT COMMENT PERIOD: 9/23/2026 - 10/23/2026

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Triton Construction, Inc.; P.O. Box 1360, Saint Albans, WV 25177; VWPP Permit Application No. 26-0835

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant has applied for a new permit for the Route 58 Improvements - Vesta Section project. The project is an approximately an approximately 4.4-mile roadway construction project located between Meadows of Dan Bypass and Lover's Leap Section in Patrick County, Virginia. The proposed activity would affect 2.39 acres of wetlands, 0.29 acres open water, and 6603 linear feet of stream channel. The proposed activity would affect waterbodies in the Roanoke River watershed. To compensate for the surface waters affected, the applicant would purchase 3.50 wetland mitigation credit(s) and 7,650 USM stream mitigation credits DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts written comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. SHAWN CRIST; Blue Ridge Regional Office; 901 Russell Drive Salem, VA 24153; Phone: 434-316-4031; Email: shawn.crist@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE SALE
103 Old Orchard Loop, Claudville, VA 24076
Patrick County

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of **$177,721.00**, dated **October 31, 2024** recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the **Patrick County, Virginia**, in **Document No. 240001759**, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Trustee and will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the **Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart,** on **November 5, 2026 at 12:00 PM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Containing 1 acre, more or less, and being more particularly described as follows, to- wit: BEGINNING at a point in the center of the bridge over Brown Dan Creek in State Road #645; thence with the said State Road #645, S. 770 E. 80 feet to a point, S. 580 E. 51 feet to a point in the middle of the said road at Russell L. Martin's line; thence leaving the said road and Appalachian Title Company, Inc. with the Martin line, N. 360 E. 240 feet to a driven iron stake in the said Martin line; thence leaving the Martin line and a new dividing line, N. 680 W. 234 feet to a point in the center of Brown Dan Creek; thence with the creek S. 100 30 min. W. 240 feet to the point of beginning, with any improvements thereon.

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of **$20,000.00** or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than $9,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL 1. WHITE, P.c., Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
SAMUEL 1. WHITE, P.C. **(97042)**
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Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-457-1460 - **Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpc.net**

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY

MARIE C. LANTRIP,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	**CASE NO. CL26-653**
MICHAEL LEE MARSHALL,	)	
MELANIE MARSHALL-PARK,	)	
WILLIAM CRAIG MARSHALL, JR.,	)	
and	)	
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WILLIAM	)	
CRAIG MARSHALL, DECEASED,	)	
Defendants.	)	

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to obtain a partition of property interests, in kind, as proposed by the Plaintiff, against the Defendants, concerning real property situated in Patrick County, Virginia, as more fully set out in the Complaint.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that Defendants Unknown Heirs of Sallie Gillis Reyes, Deceased, and Defendants Unknown Heirs of William Craig Marshall, Deceased, are set out in the pleading as persons, as defendants by the general description of "parties unknown;" are deemed interested in the subject to be divided or disposed of; and the nature of such interest is described as possible ownership interest in the subject real properties should such individuals exist.

It is hereby ORDERED that the Defendants, set out in the pleading as persons, as defendants by the general description of "parties unknown", to wit:

Unknown Heirs of William Craig Marshall, Deceased, should any such individuals exist, be served through the Order of Publication pursuant to 8.01-316 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to appear in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia within **fifty (50) days** after the date of this Order of Publication and do what is necessary to protect his or her interests in this case;

It is further ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this Order be published once a week for four successive weeks in The Enterprise, a newspaper published in Stuart, Virginia, having a general circulation in the Patrick County, Virginia.

A copy teste:

By: _____ Deputy Clerk

Morgan Boothe, Clerk
Patrick Circuit Court

Counsel:

Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, Esq. (VSB #94215)
DANIEL, MEDLEY & KIRBY, P.C.
P. O. Box 720
Danville, VA 24543-0720
(434) 792-3911 Telephone
(434) 793-5724 Facsimile
pck@dmklawfkirm.com
Counsel for the Plaintiff

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

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BRAWL

(cont. from page 1)







One nervous dog had to be carried into the shuttle.



Dozens of pet owners brought their animals to the free spay/neuter shuttle.



BRAWL volunteers smile after loading the shuttle.



Other pets were carried onto the shuttle in crates.

Christiansburg, we have Roanoke, and we have Rocky Mount, so this just kind of checks all the boxes. People can come here to Rotary Field, everybody knows where Rotary Field is, and they can drop their pets off and come back later. They don't have to take a full day off work to travel and wait for their pets to be done," Jones said.

Unless BRAWL gets grant funding, the shuttles in 2027 won't be free for pet owners. Instead, Jones said pet owners will pay $50 for cats and $75 for dogs for the low-cost shuttle.

"You go to a vet and they're going to quote you $300-$400. That's their subsidy and we pay the rest, so it works out that we pay about two-thirds of it and they pay one-third of it," Jones said. "We're certainly going to work for grants because we've realized how much of a tremendous response we get when it's free."

Jones said BRAWL was inspired to hold the low-cost sterilization shuttle every other month because of the large waiting list of interested pet owners.

"We were doing them about quarterly, but we just have a huge waitlist. We have about 65 cats and 50 dogs on our waiting list right now. We can't do them fast enough," she said.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/BlueRidgeAnimalWelfareLeague. To donate online, click the "Donate" button on the website. By mail, send checks to P.O. Box 184, Woolwine, VA 24185. Pet food donations can be dropped off at Pet Provisions in downtown Stuart.

Sweets by Rachel

(cont. from page 1)

compliment her baking while others would ask her to bake for special events, Gates said some of her friends encouraged her to start a home baking business.

"So, I figured, 'why not give it a try because it's something I enjoy.' I was skeptical at first just because I enjoy it, and sometimes when you start doing things for a profit and get into the business side of it, it takes the joy out of it," she said.

As it turns out, Gates had nothing to worry about, as the complete opposite occurred.

"So far, I love it because I get to create and try new things. I just do it because I enjoy it," she said.

While she primarily bakes cakes, cupcakes, cookie cakes and cake pops in a variety of flavors, Gates said she's constantly adding new things to her menu.

Gates said her customers' favorite treat is her chocolate chip cookie cake.

"The biggest thing that people compliment is my cream cheese icing. I don't know, they just say that I make it differently, and it just makes my cakes and cupcakes" taste better, she said.

Gates said she also recently started selling 32-ounce jugs of iced coffee.

"They look like a miniature milk jug, and I make a variety of flavors of coffee. Those have been a big hit," she said.

Gates said she also recently booked her first wedding to cater this summer.

"They're doing a dessert bar, so I'm doing a variety of things. I'm doing tiramisu, coffee-punch, as well as the cake, and I think banana pudding was on the menu," she said.

Gates also plans to have a booth at the upcoming 25th annual Apple Dumpling Festival.



Gates said chocolate chip cookie cake is her customers' favorite treat.



Rachel Gates prepares sweet treats for her customers.

"I've not done a booth yet, so this will be my first one. It's nerve-wracking… but everybody has been so supportive in saying that I'm going to do really well," Gates said.

In addition to accepting orders, Gates said she also posts what she has available for purchase on her Facebook page.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/SweetsbyRachel. To place an order, contact Gates at 661-208-5700 or rlgates15@gmail.com.

Black Lung

(cont. from page 11)

gets worse over time and is caused by breathing in coal and silica dust for many years.

A 2024 Biden-era dust rule remains tied up in court after mining industry groups sued a key federal agency. The Trump administration, which is pursuing its own rules, declined to defend it, leaving miners under the old standard, which allows silica exposure up to 100 micrograms per cubic meter.

Muckian-Bates pointed out through Biden administration efforts, the Mine Safety and Health Administration formed stricter safety standards by lowering exposure limits for workers.

"The amount of silica dust exposure would be reduced in half, meaning that a coal miner, typically the exposure limit in a coal mine would be a hundred micrograms per cubic meter, and under the Biden-era rule, it would be cut in half," Muckian-Bates emphasized.

He noted miners with as few as 15 years underground are now experiencing black lung rates not seen in almost 40 years, adding workers leaving their families every day for a dangerous job are protected by the agency tasked with looking after their well-being.

"In order to best protect miners, we need to ensure that the 2024 silica rule is going into effect, ensuring that miners are not needlessly exposed to higher rates of silica dust," Muckian-Bates urged.

He stressed it is crucial miners have the necessary sampling required to hold operators accountable when they go over this limit, including instituting all the necessary engineering and ventilation controls meant to create the safest working environment possible.

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J. E. B. Stuart at Fort Wise











By Tom Perry

Twenty years ago, I made a trip to eastern Colorado to visit the site of Fort Wise/Fort Lyon. Since then, the folks who promote the Santa Fe Trail have added interpretation and directional signage. I came to this place again because this was James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart's last post in the First United States Cavalry. It was here that he made the decision to return to Virginia and offer his military services to his native state. He went from Captain in the U. S. Army to Major General in the Confederate States Army.

It is easy today to call him a traitor to his country, but he did not view it that way. He grew up on a farm in Ararat, Virginia, seeing every day the grave of his great-grandfather, William Letcher, who had fought against the British and losing his own life at the age of thirty. Members of Stuart's family had been in Virginia since the 1600s, nearly three hundred years before there was a United States. Virginia was their country. This goes back to a recurring theme in my writing that when you apply modern views to people who lived hundreds of years ago you show a lack of empathy and knowledge of history. History should be looking at their lives in the context of their time, not looking back from our time to judge them with ideas that they never imagined.

Stuart came to Fort Wise in 1860 and helped build the post. "Fort Wise (1852-1867) - A trading post first established in 1852 as Bents New Fort by William Bent in Bent County, Colorado. The post was leased to the U.S. Army in 1859 and renamed Fort Fauntleroy after Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy, 1st U.S. Dragoons. Colonel Fauntleroy joined the Confederacy in 1861 and the post was renamed Fort Wise after Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia. Wise also joined the Confederacy and the post was renamed Fort Lyon after the deceased Union General Nathaniel Lyon, who was the first Union general killed in the U.S. Civil War. The post was abandoned in 1867 for a newly constructed Fort Lyon. Commonly known as Bents New Fort and Fort Wise."

On January 11, 1861, Stuart wrote from Fort Wise in Kansas Territory, "For my part I have had no hesitancy from the first that, right or wrong, alone, or otherwise, I go with Virginia, and I know very well where to find you. Of course, every true patriot deplores even the possibility of disunion, yet let his blessings not be purchased at too great a price. Put equality and independence in one scale and Union in the other, and if the latter outweigh the former, I for one would, like Brennus, throw my sabre in the scale consecrated by the principles and blood of our forefathers—our constitutional rights without which the Union is a mere mockery… I am anxious to be nearer the scene of operations. I do not believe there is harmony enough of feeling to bind up the wounds already inflicted. When Virginia takes her step, though reluctant, it will be sudden and irrevocable."



A week later, on January 18 he wrote his brother, William Alexander Stuart, "Events are transpiring so rapidly that furnish no little hope of perpetuating the Union, that I feel it incumbent upon me to tell you my course of conduct in such a contingency. Of course, I go with Virginia whether she be alone or otherwise… As I cannot be on the spot till after Virginia's leaving the Union, I will have to get you to get up or assist in getting up such a corps."

Stuart left Fort Wise and began his way east waiting to see what Virginia was going to do. He did resign his commission until he was sure that Virginia would leave the Union. When he arrived at Cairo, Illinois where the Ohio River empties into the Mississippi River, J. E. B. Stuart had come to his Rubicon River, and he made his decision.

TO COLONEL L. THOMAS Cairo, Illinois, May 3rd, 1861

Colonel:

From a sense of duty to my native State Virginia, I hereby resign my position as an officer in the Army of the United States.

Most respectfully, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. E. B. Stuart

Twenty years ago, I remember standing at Fort Wise/Fort Lyon thinking about the momentous decision Stuart made here that changed his life and eventually cost him his life. That day, I looked over and there stood a road runner. I never saw such a strange looking animal in my life. I waited but no coyotes showed up.

Buttercream

(cont. from page 1)

it too," Hall said.

Hall estimates she makes anywhere from 100 to 150 cookies a week.

In addition to taking orders, Hall also sets up a booth at Fairy Stone State Park's Monday Market and at the Sunset Market in Meadows of Dan. She is also looking at setting up at other markets and events in the county.

"I'm definitely learning as I go, but the farmers' markets have been awesome," she said.

Noting that she homeschools her three children, Hall said her goal is to make Buttercream & Blessings her full-time job.

"I do it regularly, but I'm hoping it will be more than a size hustle thing. The goal is eventually for it to be a full-time business," she said.

To help with this, Hall said she's looking to expand her operation out of her home's kitchen and into a commercial kitchen.

"That is hopefully going to be the goal. I have been looking for an industrial-sized kitchen to rent occasionally, but it's kind of limited around here," she said.

Buttercream & Blessings is also a Christian-based business.

Hall said Buttercream & Blessings is also a Christian-based business.

"Most of the time I give out little cards and things with Bible verses, and I do pray over every cookie that goes out," she said.

For more information or to place an order, go to Facebook.com/Buttercream&Blessings-Bakehouse or email buttercream.blessings.bakehouse@gmail.com.



Buttercream & Blessings Bakehouse sells a variety of gourmet cookies, brownies, cupcakes and other treats.

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Wendi Craig
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&
FOR EDITORIAL OR CALENDAR
Debbie Hall
276-692-8005
or email dhall@theenterprise.net