

ZiTEL outlines plans, deadlines for broadband expansion

By Taylor Boyd
ZiTEL plans to build 594 miles of fiber in Patrick County as the company works to complete broadband projects previously handled by RiverStreet Networks under deadlines extending through the end of 2027.

ZiTEL Chief Operating Officer Rodney Gray and Appalachian Power (AEP) External Affairs Manager Rob Mann updated the Patrick County Board of Supervisors on broadband construction during its Sept. 28 meeting.

ZiTEL formally took over the West broadband project covering Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties from RiverStreet Networks in August.

Gray said 353 miles of fiber associated with the 2022 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) project must be constructed by June 30, 2027. Another 241 miles associated with the 2023 VATI project must be constructed by Dec. 31, 2027.

“Those are hard deadlines to get what we call substantial completion, so the state can verify the project is completed and it still continues to get American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the federal government,” Gray said.

(See ZiTEL p. 3)



Appalachian Power External Affairs Manager Rob Mann discusses fiber construction and permitting during the Sept. 28 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.



ZiTEL Chief Operating Officer Rodney Gray outlines the company's plans and construction deadlines for broadband expansion in Patrick County.

Two seek Smith River seat in special election

Harris seeks to return to Smith River seat

Cox seeks to continue serving Smith River District

By Taylor Boyd
After five years away from local politics, Crystal Harris is seeking to return to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors as the Smith River District representative.

Harris, 81, previously represented the district for 21 years. She will face interim Supervisor Richard Cox in the Nov. 3 special election to fill the remainder of the term, which expires Dec. 31, 2029.

Harris said the county's economic situation is its most important challenge.

“I would like to see us work closely with the businesses that are here to try and keep them in the county. I know that” the county's economic development department “is reaching out to people



Crystal Harris is seeking to return to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors as the Smith River District representative in the Nov. 3 special election.

and I hope that they would reach out a little further, to try and get more businesses to come in. We're not going to get large businesses in,” she said.

Harris said the county needs infrastructure and incentives to attract businesses while help-

(See Harris p. 9)

By Taylor Boyd
Richard Cox hopes to continue representing the Smith River District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors after the Nov. 3 special election.

Cox, 83, has served as the district's interim supervisor since March. He will face Crystal Harris in the election to fill the remainder of the term, which expires Dec. 31, 2029.

Cox said economic issues, including attracting businesses and industry and improving housing availability, are among the biggest challenges facing Patrick County.

He said the county should recognize that some industries may not be appropriate for a rural area and focus on attracting small businesses while help-

ing existing businesses expand.

“Probably we need to make a concentration on attracting small businesses, but at the same time we need to develop better coordination with our local businesses so that they can expand. That would make a better situation for the employment of our citizens

(See Cox p. 8)

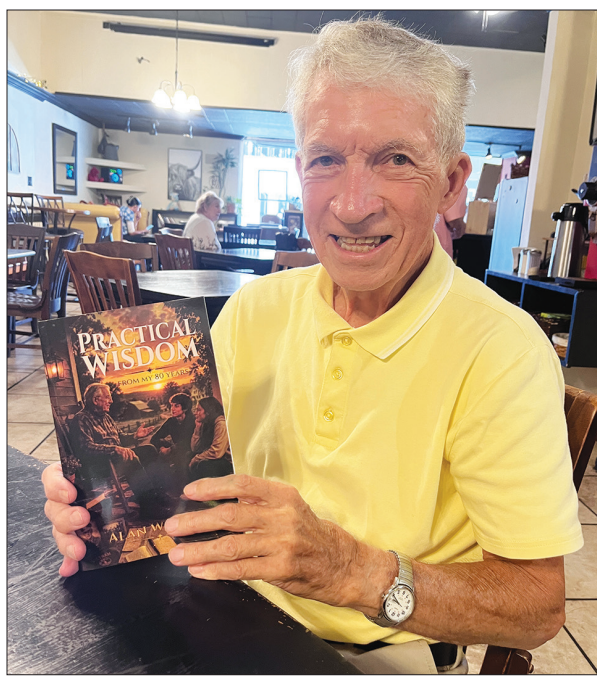


Richard Cox is seeking to continue representing the Smith River District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the Nov. 3 special election.

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(See Cox p. 8)



Retired Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Alan Dean is pictured with his second book, titled “Practical Wisdom – From My 80 Years.”

Retired pastor publishes second book

By Taylor Boyd
Retired Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Alan Dean's second book, “Practical Wisdom – From My 80 Years,” was released last month.

Dean said he decided to write the book as he wanted to share and pass on the knowledge he's learned throughout his life to younger people.

“I am now 84 and feel I've learned quite a bit in my life that I'd like to pass onto young people before they've reached marriage or the essence of life,” he said.

Dean said he believes his book could serve as a helping aid to readers as life is getting harder, especially for young people.

“I think they need more support than the home is giving them. Marriages are being torn apart, families aren't together anymore, so where does a child growing up get support for what he's going to be facing? That was my concern, I guess, in writing the book,” he said.

The book is divided into 17 chapters that focus on important milestones that Dean's had in his life, like marriage, raising children, his post high-school years, retirement, and notable life lessons like the importance and value of gardening, a higher calling, and the making of healthy churches.

The 67-page long book is in chronological order of Dean's life.

“I kind of go through my personal life - how I was raised, how I raised my children, how I dealt with my teenagers, some tips on how you can deal with your teenagers, what to expect out

(See Pastor p. 7)

Earle-Sears to speak at Stuart symposium on constitutional amendments

Former Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears will be among the featured speakers at the first Hearts and Minds Symposium, an event organizers said is intended to provide information about constitutional amendments appearing on Virginia's November ballot.

The free event will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Rotary Field in Stuart. Those attending are encouraged to bring chairs.

Earle-Sears, who was the Republican nominee for governor in 2025, will be joined by Michael Morisi, vice president of The Family Foundation, a faith-based organization.

Virginia voters will consider three proposed constitutional amendments in the Nov. 3 election.

They concern automatic restoration of voting rights for people convicted of felonies upon release from incarceration; a right to make decisions related to reproductive health care, including abortion; and equal treatment under the law of lawful marriages between two adults regardless of sex, gender or race.

Organizer Billy Curren described the symposium as an informal, informational event rather than a political event.

“We're not trying to make it political; we just want people to understand what the amendments mean before they go and vote. Hopefully they'll come with an open mind and listen to

(See Earle-Sears p. 11)

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P&HCC awarded \$196,269 for HVAC training expansion

Patrick & Henry Community College will receive \$196,269 to expand its heating, ventilation and air conditioning training program, including development of a mobile training unit that can take instruction to locations throughout the college’s service region.

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission approved the grant during its Sept. 30 meeting in Greensville County as part of a series of investments in workforce education across Southern and Southwest Virginia.

The grant will help P&HCC respond to enrollment growth and employer demand for trained HVAC workers.

Commission funding will be used to purchase HVAC equipment for the college’s newly renovated skilled trades lab on its main campus and to equip a mobile training trailer.

The mobile unit will allow P&HCC to provide HVAC instruction at locations throughout its service area, including satellite campuses and partnering detention centers, where training can be provided to incarcerated individuals.

The college also plans to add ad-

vanced certification levels to its HVAC program. The expansion is intended to increase the number of industry credentials awarded each year and prepare more students for jobs in the skilled trades.

The commission also awarded \$113,013.71 to the Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, or GRASP, to expand postsecondary advising services into 11 additional high schools in Southwest Virginia.

GRASP advisors work with high school counseling departments to help students and their families navigate financial aid and identify affordable paths to college degrees and career credentials.

The three-year expansion is expected to help an estimated 333 students and families. Commission funding will cover 50% of advisor compensation as well as supplies and equipment associated with the expansion.

The program is intended to help students access postsecondary education while minimizing student debt and to encourage graduates to pursue careers in the region.

Both grants were approved through the commission’s Competitive Education Program, which

supports workforce development and education projects intended to prepare residents for in-demand jobs and meet employers’ workforce needs.

“Building a robust economy for Southern and Southwest Virginia requires long-term commitment and I am pleased that at our meetings here in Emporia the Commission has underscored its support for workforce education as well as helping our farmers and producers continue to grow and innovate,” commission Chairman Del. Will Morefield said.

The commission met at Golden Leaf Commons in Greensville

County, a multiuse facility focused in part on workforce education. The Tobacco Commission provided funding between 2005 and 2010 to support development of the Southside Virginia Education Center and Golden Leaf Commons.

Commission grants helped fund site acquisition and preparation as well as design, construction and equipment for the facilities.

The commission also approved other projects during the meeting, including a loan supporting redevelopment of the John Randolph Hotel in South Boston and the launch of AgVision, a new agricultural cost-share program.

Subdivision ordinance hearing reset after notice error

A public hearing on Patrick County’s proposed subdivision ordinance has been rescheduled for Oct. 19 after required information was omitted from the public notice advertising the hearing.

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to reschedule the hearing, which will be held at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

The public notice did not state where members of the public could examine the proposed ordinance.

County Administrator Michael McGuinness apologized to supervisors and county residents for the

error.

“I just want to say I’m sorry. I made a mistake, so I want to make sure we don’t do it again,” McGuinness said.

Chairman Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District; Vice Chairman Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District; Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District; and Richard Cox, of the Smith River District voted to reschedule the hearing.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, voted against the motion.

The draft subdivision ordinance is available on Patrick County’s website.

Chamber Chat for September

By **Rebecca Adcock**, Director, Patrick County Chamber of Commerce

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” — Oscar Wilde

That was certainly how fall announced itself this year! On the first official day of fall, we welcomed rain and cooler temperatures, and September proved to be a whirlwind that kept the Chamber busy.

Reynolds Homestead kicked off the month with our Patrick County Leadership group beginning its journey of learning more about our county while developing the skills and connections needed to become our next generation of community leaders.

The 72nd Patrick County Agricultural Fair enjoyed another successful year filled with family fun and



community spirit.

Throughout September, the chamber also spent time meeting with local businesses and distributing the new fall edition of the Patrick County Magazine. I hope you’ll pick up a copy while you’re out and about and take some time to enjoy the stories and articles highlighting our community.

The chamber partnered with Stagecoach Coffee on Main Street to host a “Cup of Ambition” – a fundraiser benefiting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, on September 25. We had a wonderful day greeting customers, enjoying Storytime, and supporting this important program that helps put books into the hands of local children.

We are also excited to announce that the chamber has partnered with WiseChoice, a product of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. This program is available to chamber-member small businesses looking for additional health care options for their employees.

We continue to participate in meetings surrounding the downtown revitalization project in Stuart, as well as regional meetings focused on addressing transpor-

tation and economic development needs throughout our area.

Behind the scenes, there have been some changes in the chamber office as well. We have migrated our chamber email server. Our email addresses have not changed—only the technology behind them. This is the first step toward upgrading our membership database software, which will give members greater access to their online business listings while making it easier for the chamber office to manage events, programs, communications, and membership renewals. Look for more announcements as we move toward the end of the year.

October is not slowing down, with two events the chamber is helping to present, along with our community partners. First is the Apple Dumping Festival 5K on Saturday, Oct. 17. It’s always a great opportunity for runners and walkers to enjoy the Mayo River Rail Trail before the festival gets underway.

Planning is also underway for Stuart Spooktacular held on October 3, 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Uptown Stuart, with registra-

(See Chat p. 4)

Pets of the Week



Phoebe is an 11-month-old Border Collie mix. She is full of puppy energy and so much fun!



This sweet female is one of many, many kittens and cats 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/>.

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ZITEL

(cont. from page 1)

ZiTEL plans to activate customers as portions of the network are completed rather than waiting until construction throughout an entire area is finished, Gray said.

“We don’t do like other providers that build an entire area, wait for the fiber to get built, get it turned over to us, get it lit up, and then start activating customers. We don’t operate that way,” he said.

ZiTEL plans to establish a central office in Stuart that can serve Patrick County and neighboring localities.

Gray said the company also is lining up 20 to 25 crews to work in Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties, with underground fiber construction expected to begin as permitting is completed.

“Most of what we’re doing now is we’re taking the high-level engineering documents that RiverStreet turned over to us of what they designed, and we’re trying to take that and turn that into low-level engineering designs and get it submitted to VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) to get permitting for us to do the work,” Gray said.

He said the company hoped to have the first permitting submitted within about three weeks.

ZiTEL plans to build outward from Stuart in several directions, and north and south from Franklin County.

“We have a plan, and if my employees don’t revolt on me from standing behind them with a whip making them work six days a week, 14 hours a day, we will get this done. This is one

of those projects where we have told everybody that this is a project where everybody does their part to cross the finish line and everybody has to put in everything they’ve got to get this project done,” Gray said.

Gray said ZiTEL will lease fiber from Appalachian Power to provide middle-mile and distribution coverage to Patrick County residents.

Mann said AEP has completed most of its make-ready routes and replaced 234 poles throughout the county.

Fiber has been installed from Stella to Elamsville, with splicing and testing continuing. Mann said testing has been completed on the Stella route in the Stuart-Floyd area.

“As far as fiber actual construction and having the fiber hung on the poles from Stella down to Elamsville, we do have fiber in the air currently. We are continuing work on the tail splicing and our tail testing, so we have completed the Stella route in Stuart-Floyd as far as testing,” Mann said.

The Stuart-Willis Gap area is expected to be the next area completed for testing within three months, Mann said.

AEP expects testing on the Dobyns route to be completed during the second quarter of 2027, with Elamsville and Pole Ridge expected during the third quarter.

In Meadows of Dan, AEP is targeting the third quarter of 2027 to complete fiber installation and testing.

“We’ve got 13.5 miles to construct in Mead-

ows of Dan, and we’re still currently working with VDOT on a final permit that’s needed. We were able to get the Blue Ridge Parkway permit, which did take a long time, however we have completed that effort,” Mann said.

AEP is working with VDOT and Triton representatives on traffic management plans along U.S. 58 toward Meadows of Dan.

Mann said the permitting process has taken longer than anticipated. AEP had hoped to have the permit in hand and begin construction by Sept. 1.

AEP also has been working with ZiTEL as it assumes responsibility for work previously handled by RiverStreet.

“We have been sharing documents and going through the necessary steps to get the contracts in place and understand who to utilize the work that’s already been done and work that into their plan too,” Mann said.

Following the presentations, Steve Terry, chairman of the former Broadband Committee, said he was encouraged by what he heard.

“What I heard tonight excites me, and it’s different than what I have heard before. I had talked to” County Administrator Michael “McGuinness on a number of occasions, and he was very hot on ZiTEL. I know why now. I have looked on the internet and seen really excellent comments about the work you all have done in Spartanburg, Bedford, and other places, but hearing you tonight puts a whole new dimension on it,” Terry said.

Patrick among counties served by veteran suicide prevention grant

Patrick County is among several Southwest Virginia localities that will be served through a \$357,782 federal grant aimed at strengthening community-based veteran suicide prevention efforts.

U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine announced the grant last week as part of more than \$4.1 million awarded to eight organizations providing suicide prevention and other support services to veterans and their families across Virginia.

Mountain Valor Veteran Services will receive \$357,782 to serve veterans in Patrick, Floyd, Franklin, Carroll, Montgomery, Pulaski and Wythe counties and the city of Radford.

The funding is being awarded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program. The program provides funding to community organizations that offer or coordinate services including outreach, suicide risk screening and prevention education, case management, peer support and assistance connecting veterans and their families with VA and other benefits.

“Veterans deserve to know that help is there when they need it. It is our responsibility as lawmakers to make sure that those who have sacri-

ficed for our country are not left to suffer silently and have the support and resources that they’ve earned and are owed,” Warner and Kaine said in a joint statement.

The senators said the funding will help community organizations reach veterans who may not otherwise be connected with VA services.

Statewide, eight organizations received a combined \$4,144,835 through the program. Awards ranged from \$100,000 to \$750,000 and will support services in communities across Virginia.

The grant program was established as part of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which became law in 2020. It is named for Army Staff Sgt. Parker Gordon Fox, who died by suicide in 2020 at age 25.

The VA also announced that nearly \$112 million was awarded to 191 community organizations nationwide through the program. The grants are for services during fiscal 2027.

Veterans experiencing a crisis, or those concerned about a veteran, may contact the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 988 and pressing 1 or by texting 838255. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and veterans do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to use it.



Gift Basket winners at the 2026 Ag Fair

The winners of the Patrick County Master Gardeners Association Gift Baskets are Lorine Hubbard of Patrick Springs and Richard “Shotgun” Spencer of Horsepasture (pictured).

The gift baskets, displayed during the Patrick County Agricultural Fair, were filled with gifts for the home gardener, their produce, skin care and reference manuals.

The Patrick County Master Gardeners Association wishes to thank everyone who stopped by their booth to chat, ask insightful questions and make inquiries about training programs.

PCRTA auction raises funds for community projects



Dean Gilbert served as auctioneer during the Sept. 21 auction.

From a Claude Monet painting to a food chopper, from a Lenox ceramic spoon rest to a variety of books, the Patrick County Retired Teachers’ auction held Sept. 21 at Landmark Center was a success! Proceeds from the sale will go toward the scholarship fund for a 2027 graduating senior who plans to enter the field of education.

Donations were also collected for pizzas to



PCHS students register to vote

By Ashlee Mullis

Patrick County High School students were given the opportunity to register to vote on National Voter Registration Day which was

Sept. 15. Patrick County Registrar Susan Taylor was on site to register or preregister any student who will turn 18 this school year.

serve PARC Workshop clients on Oct. 15 and for Christmas bag items for clients at Developmental Center on Dec. 7.

The retired teachers support PARC Workshop, the Developmental Center, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with monetary donations.

Beginning with the September 2026 meeting, the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association is open to all retired school personnel who have worked at least five years and live in

the area served by the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association, upon payment of the prescribed dues. This change comes about because the Patrick County Retired Teachers By-laws have been revised as of June 2026.

For further information, contact Phyllis Eastridge at 276-694-6766 or Betty Perry at 276-692-6327. The retired teachers meet four times yearly and have both interesting and educational programs.

Actions Against Fraud



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Republicans are on the front lines to root out waste, fraud and abuse of the federal government by large criminal conspiracies. Accordingly, I am taking additional steps to continue the Republicans’ War on Fraud. Earlier this year, I helped lead investigations into Medicaid fraud. Together with Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressman Brett Guthrie, and the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman, Congressman John Joyce, we probed ongoing fraud in numerous State Medicaid programs. Our Committee investigations extended to fraud-ridden States such as California, Minnesota and New York.

As a result of our investigative work, which shows nationwide trends in Medicare and Medicaid fraud costing American taxpayers billions of dollars every year, we produced a comprehensive staff report to shed a light on our findings. The report makes several recommendations. One is to strengthen federal program integrity guidelines. Minimum qualifications, screening risk standards for providers of equipment and services, and more frequent screenings as well as background checks for providers are fraud-preventative actions that federal authorities can push. Another recommendation is to improve States’ capacity to prevent fraud before it occurs.

It is clear that some States make patients more vulnerable to fraud due to weak oversight measures. If this lack of oversight action is maintained at its current trajectory, this problem will continue to persist and grow, allowing fraudsters access to valuable health care dollars and thus robbing resources from patients that need them.

For example, some States like Virginia exercise provider screening and investigative audits. These program integrity tools and practices must be fully applied in more States.

That is why our report also encourages the employment of innovative tools to improve fraud detection capabilities.

Artificial intelligence technologies can complement the above oversight actions to help States better track unusual and fraudulent activity.

As a solution to the highlighted problems, the Committee recently unveiled a package of policies that help combat fraudulent activities, protect public health programs and serve vital health care resources to patients.

As part of this policy package, I introduced H.R. 10621 – the Medicaid Fraud Fighting and Taxpayer Protection Act.

My bill targets Medicaid fraud by incentivizing States to take steps, such as implementing program integrity tools, that investigate fraud and protect federal health care programs.

The incentive provided by my bill allows States to receive an increased portion of the federal dollars saved when they identify fraud. This saved money can then be used to support numerous State programs like those in Virgin-

ia. Ongoing fraudulent activities recently impacted Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Virginia. In Lynchburg, officials notified residents that more than \$60,000 in SNAP benefits were stolen from Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards in the month of August! It is believed that fraudsters stole private EBT card information and used the money loaded onto the cards to make purchases.

Cardinal News reported that this crime represented a 21-fold increase in food aid fraud.

Even worse, no system was in place to provide the Lynchburg SNAP theft victims with reimbursement of their stolen benefits.

Thus, the victims found themselves squeezed into a desperate situation.

Already faced with challenging health and financial conditions, SNAP recipients who lose access to all or a portion of their benefits will struggle to get by.

That is why I am promoting a measure that

cracks down on fraud impacting SNAP benefits and supports victims of SNAP theft.

I am co-sponsor of H.R. 3887 – the SNAP Anti-Theft and Victim Compensation Act.

This anti-fraud bill creates new civil penalties for any person who knowingly accesses, uses or transfers SNAP benefits.

Additionally, the bill provides that States can use SNAP benefits to reimburse households whose benefits are stolen due to no fault of their own.

These are some policies that can complement the ongoing work of federal efforts that are saving taxpayers billions and bringing bad guys to justice.

Whether you are a recipient of Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP or some other federal public health program, the benefits belong to you, not some criminal actor which are often part of international criminal conspiracies.

I am proud to continue my efforts that target fraud, protect valuable resources for patients and provide leadership for our War on Fraud.

Letters to the Editor

Grateful for the opportunity to serve

I am honored and thankful for every moment that I can do a little something for someone, even to a cold glass of water.

Recently, I was recognized as a Patrick County Partner, and I am deeply grateful for the recognition and honor bestowed upon me at the Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 14.

Thanks to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, the officials and the nominating person, and most of all, Thanks To God for the recognition and

honor.

Thanks to my family, friends, church and community for your loving support. You don’t know how grateful I am to write this note.... to see the support overwhelmed my heart!

I pray that each of you will be BOUNTIFULLY BLESSED as we work together to improve Our Community.

With sincere gratitude,
Burgie L. Penn

Blood drive set for Oct. 13

This month’s blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the John D. Hooker Building. The donation hours are 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

* Donors are reminded that RapidPass allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home or office. The donor can answer health history questions before arriving at the blood drive location. This can save as much as 15-20 minutes in the donation process! RapidPass must be completed the day of the drive and can be found at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass>. The donor can bring a hard copy or copy to your cell phone.

* The Red Cross encourages all donors to get a good night’s sleep, to eat a good breakfast or lunch, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture ID with them to the drive.

*The blood drive qualifies for an ARC charitable program that benefits local non-profit

charitable organizations. A minimum of thirty units must be collected. A minimum donation of \$300 would be made benefiting a local charity of our choice. But it works only when 30 or more units are collected.

* Donors can make an appointment up to the time of donation through the blood donor app, by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to <http://www.redcrossblood.org> and searching 24171.

* This month’s goal is 23 blood units including 3 “double-red” units.

* The volunteers look forward to serving you and making your donation a pleasant experience.

We hope to see you at the oldest blood drive in Patrick County on Tuesday, October 8.

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

The Trump Administration:

*Is responsible for the deaths of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and others.

*Does not understand, appreciate, or care about everyday consumer and breadwinner issues concerning availability and affordability.

*Has destroyed programs for elderly citizens and children, such as healthcare and food resources.

*Imprisons and expels legal immigrants and US citizens.

*Fails to protect the food supply and eliminates access to food.

*Destroys healthcare and medical research programs.

*Destroys renewable energy programs and equipment.

*Is guilty of malicious prosecutions and illegal surveillance.

*Is made up of unqualified, mendacious, and cruel people.

*Is responsible for record-high diesel, gasoline, and food prices.

*Is responsible for infrastructure destruction in the DC area and destruction of national parks.

*Is responsible for attempting to destroy the American legal system.

*Is blatantly racist and misogynistic.

And Morgan Griffith has voted to support all of this.

**The information on which these statements are based comes from daily coverage since Jan. 20, 2025, by CNN, The Washington Post, Fox News, The Enterprise (Morgan Griffith weekly columns), MS NOW and The New York Times, including coverage of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and Congress.

We need a change.

Tom George,
Meadows of Dan

Chat

(cont. from page 2)

tion now open for businesses, organizations, groups, and individuals who would like to participate and hand out candy along Main Street. Back again this year will be food trucks, an Imagine Circus fire performance, and bounce house options. We’re also working to add even more activities so the whole community can enjoy this fun fall tradition.

We are also busy planning the Nonprofit Summit with Reynolds Homestead, which will be held on November 7. This is a great opportunity for anyone who works with or for a nonprofit organization—including staff, volunteers, board members, and businesses that partner with nonprofits—to learn more about trends in the nonprofit sector. Topics will include volunteer

recruitment and retention, board management, financial information, and more.

We hope you will join us for this great event and help us continue strengthening the nonprofit organizations that make such an important impact on Patrick County.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the chamber and our community. We look forward to seeing you at one of these upcoming events!

For more information, visit our website at www.patrickchamber.com or follow us on Facebook.

Thank you to our new chamber members: Business Solutions, LLC and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.



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Patrick Pioneers

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

By Beverly Belcher Woody

We are continuing Daniel Webster (D. W.) Scott's History of Meadows of Dan with the sixth installment where we read an excerpt from his history, and I will attempt to follow the generations down from the person he mentions in his story. The following are Scott's words:

Thomas DeHart (Miller) who first settled about one-half mile north of Meadows of Dan;

William (Billy) Lawson the first Pastor of Concord Primitive Baptist Church, also the grandfather of W. C. Lawson a noted attorney, now located in Florida, first settled about one mile north of Meadows of Dan post-office;

Buck Turner who settled about four miles northeast of Meadows of Dan;

Preston Cox and Joel Hubbard, who lived about three miles west of Meadows of Dan, and others, also deserve honorable mention.

THE CLOTHING OF EARLIER DAYS

Most every family had a home-made loom, spinning wheel and reel.

The loom was a large crude affair usually kept in the kitchen, if possible. If not, they built a house nearby called a loom house.

There were two kinds of spinning wheels. A large wheel, used mostly to spin yarn. A smaller wheel, used mostly to spin flax. Each wheel was homemade. The large wheel had a band around it connecting it with a spindle.

It was operated by turning the wheel with the left hand and walking backwards with the roll of wool in the right hand, with just enough speed to make a smooth yarn thread. Then the thread was run back on the spindle until it was full of thread. The thread was then run off on the reel and made into a hank ready for weaving.

The process of making the flax cloth required a lot of work.

First, the flax seed was sown early in the spring. When ripe was pulled by hand and laid in swaths until the outside became brittle. Then it was laid in small bundles and then thrashed to separate the seed from the stalk. The stalk was then ready for the flax brake. This was a crude machine made at home. And then for the swing knife, as it was called, and then for the hackle, and it was ready for spinning.

Marriages, quilting parties and old Folk Dances were about the only kind of recreation the first settlers had.

The people in general married young. A wedding engaged the attention of the entire neighborhood. Both young and old attended, as weddings were the only gatherings that did not call for labor from the visitors.

The bride and groom dressed very differently than from today. The bride wore linsey petticoats, coarse shoes and home knit stockings. The groom wore home-made moccasins, leather pants, leggings, and linsey shirts.

On the morning of the wedding day the groom and his attendants assembled at the home of the groom's parents for the purpose of reaching the house of the bride by noon, which was the usual time to celebrate the nuptials that took place before lunch."

This concludes the excerpt from Scott's history for this week. Before looking more closely at some of the early settlers he mentioned, I would like to share the wedding story of my great-grandparents, Herman Clyde Hall and Nannie Clayton Wood.

Grandma and Grandpa met in a rather inter-



Elijah Harden Hall Family. See names in story.

esting way—at an “Apron Party.” All the girls would bring an unhemmed apron, and the boys would hem them. Apparently, sewing was not necessarily one of the young men’s greatest talents, as some of their stitches would be two or three inches long!

Grandpa and Grandma courted for two years and were married on Thursday, July 2, 1914, at the Ballard Preston Hylton homeplace on Langhorne Mill Road. Ballard and his wife had taken my great-grandmother into their home when she was orphaned.

After the wedding, Grandma and Grandpa went to his parents’ home for supper, where they enjoyed chicken and dumplings, vegetables, homemade bread, and cake.

That night, there was a big serenade. The old Ballard Band was there, and the celebration must have been quite a sight! Some of the men carried Grandpa around on a chestnut fence rail, while the ladies carried Grandma around in a wash tub. Some of the people were ringing cowbells, too.

The photo above may have been taken on Grandma and Grandpa’s wedding day.

Back row, left to right: Jeff Belcher, Minda Hall Harris, Joe and Nora Cruise Hall, Rillie Hall Wood and German Wood, German and Laura Hall Cockram, Wallace and Kitty Cruise Hall.

Front row, left to right: Nannie Wood Hall and Herman Hall, Cindy and Taz Hall, Elijah Hardin and Mary Jane Wood Hall, Claiborne (Coon) and Allie Hall Belcher.

The first person mentioned in this excerpt from Scott’s history is Thomas DeHart, the miller. There were several men named Thomas DeHart in Patrick County who could fit the criteria of early settlers, but only one who lived in the Round Meadow section of Meadows of Dan. Thomas DeHart, born in 1832, the son of Paul and Lucinda DeHart, seems to be the most likely person Scott was describing.

Thomas DeHart married Miss Lavinia Plaster on February 12, 1856. Lavinia was the daughter of Rev. Claiborne and Elishabe Griffith Plas-

ters. Thomas and Lavinia had five children before Lavinia’s passing in February 1867, at the young age of 33. They were:

Mintoria G. DeHart
1857–1892
Paul Green DeHart, who married Martha Ann Boyd
1859–1931
Charles Thomas DeHart, who married Nancy E. Handy
1860–1917
Lucinda Jane DeHart, who married James Alexander Wood
1862–1942
John Clayborne DeHart, who married Nannie Belle South of West Virginia
1865–1953

Thomas DeHart served in the 24th Virginia Infantry, Company A, during the Civil War.

Scott next mentions William Lawson, and fortunately, we have a wonderful firsthand description of him from someone who knew him personally. Asa Cox described Reverend William Lawson on page 36 of his book Footprints on the Sands of Time, published in 1900:

“Reverend William Madison Lawson was a Primitive Baptist minister, who resided in the northwestern part of Patrick County. He married a Miss Thompson, an amiable Christian lady. He was pastor of several churches in Carroll and adjoining counties. His superior talents and bright intellect, although limited in opportunity for education in early life, were well cultivated for usefulness in church and State. He was a systematic farmer, a prudent manager of the domestic business of life, that makes the family circle a happy home worth living for.

“The writer that records these facts, has, when wearied by traveling, spent several nights’ rest with this hospitable family. Elder Lawson continued faithful in his ministerial work as long as he was able to travel. ‘He, being dead, yet speaketh.’ He has gone to his happy home to dwell with the church triumphant in glory.

“Their son, Col. Jefferson Lawson, was an

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – When Will Congress Repay Social Security Money Taken Years Ago?

Dear Rusty: I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980’s and 1990’s. When will this be repaid with interest? *Signed: Concerned Senior*

Dear Concerned Senior: I’m afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security (SS) Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever. Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations. In 1983, Congress & President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security’s revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut. Then in 1993, Congress & President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue. What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered, or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security

money used for other purposes. And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds which pay interest (just like normal government “T-bills”). The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025. Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs. So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as “money borrowed” and sometimes call the bonds “worthless IOUs.” This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest. Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear (and refute) similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors. We’ve written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation’s two main websites – www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question “when will

this (money) be repaid with interest?” The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them. These bonds are secured by the “full faith and credit of the U.S. government” – a financial designation which is globally considered to be “exceptionally low risk.” FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits. And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now!

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 ss-advisor@amacfoundation.org.



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

Many families moved West following the American Revolution...sociologists call this “chain migration.” Even before the Revolution eastern lands were becoming crowded and expensive, while the West offered vast amounts of inexpensive property. Heavy tobacco cultivation had ruined much of the soil in central and eastern Virginia by the early 1800s, forcing farmers to look for fresh, productive land. Kentucky offered expanses of fertile western land that was much more affordable than aging Virginia properties. Pioneers used well-traveled paths like the Wilderness Road or floated down the Ohio River to reach central and northern Kentucky. Daniel Ross, Sr. was one of these pioneers and the American Revolutionary War Patriot of DAR member Margaret Underwood Butler.

Daniel Ross, Sr. was born in 1740 in Scotland and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland about 1760 along with his parents. His family settled in Virginia about the middle of the 18th Century. In 1765 he married Elazabeth Rose “Betty” Garth of Spotsylvania and Orange Counties, Virginia,

but who had for a few years been a resident of Louisa, Virginia. The couple had at least seven sons and at least six daughters. The family moved to Henry County, Virginia and in June 1780, Daniel was appointed Lieutenant under O. Rubell in the Virginia Militia. He not only served in the army during the war but rendered further assistance in the struggle for liberty by furnishing beef, corn and diets for the army.

Prior to 1807 Daniel, Elizabeth and their son, Churchill moved to Henry County, Kentucky. Daniel was an aging Revolutionary War veteran in his early 70s. Moving at that age was rarely done in isolation; it was always a matter of chain migration. Several of their children had already begun moving west to Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. Daniel owned land on both sides of the Smith River that was depreciating in value, while Kentucky land was booming and highly fertile. Moving to Henry County, Kentucky allowed him to transition with the help of his son and establish himself closer to the branches of the family expanding westward. Elizabeth Ross passed away in 1807 in Henry County, Ken-

tucky. The move to Kentucky was just a stepping-stone for this branch of the family. While he and Churchill settled in Kentucky the westward pull didn’t stop there. Churchill later moved onward to Cooper County, Missouri. Daniel followed and in November 1822 he died and is buried there. There is a memorial for Daniel, Elizabeth and their children at Ross-Harbour Cemetery, Elamsville, Patrick County, Virginia.

Information for this article is from Fold 3, Family Search, Bassett Historical Center, WikiTree and the DAR Genealogical Research Databases. Everyone has a story to tell. 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)

officer in the Confederate army, honored and respected, after the war, representative in the Legislature.”

—Asa Cox
I will write more about the Lawson family later, when I can give their story the time and attention it deserves.

The next early settler Scott mentions is Buck Turner. At the time of this writing, I have not been able to confirm exactly who Buck Turner was, and I am hesitant to speculate about what his birth name might have been. For now, I will leave that identification open in hopes that further research may provide the answer.

Scott next mentions Preston Cox (Cock) and Joel Hubbard in the same sentence. I suspect he mentioned the two men to-

gether because Preston Cox was Joel Hubbard’s son-in-law. Scott spelled Preston’s last name Cox, but in early census, marriage, and death records, the surname is spelled Cock.

Preston Cox, born in December 1820, married Miss Judith Hubbard on September 21, 1842, in Patrick County. Judith was the daughter of Joel Hubbard and Judah Conner.

Joel Hubbard was born on February 21, 1791, in Woolwine, Virginia. He married Miss Judah Conner on January 5, 1813, in Patrick County. Judah was the daughter of Elder John Conner and Lucy Fox Robertson Conner.

Preston and Judith had the following children. Notice that the surname is spelled differently among the children. I have used

marriage and death records to determine the spelling for each:

Jane Cock Dickerson
1843–1923
Joel Hubbard Cock
1848–1928
John C. Cock
1850–1859
Enoch P. Cock
1855–1919
Judith Ellen Cock
1856–1946
Lucy A. Cock Williams
1858–1937
David William Cox
1865–1932

Joel and Judah Conner Hubbard had two more daughters whose descendants would contribute to much of the population of Patrick County. Their daughter Lucy married William McAlexander (1815–1864), while their

daughter Anna married John T. Pendleton (1810–1893).

Each name that D. W. Scott recorded in his history represents much more than a line on a page. Behind those names were families, marriages, hardships, celebrations, faith, and generations of descendants who helped shape Meadows of Dan and Patrick County. Scott may have recorded them only briefly, but more than three-quarters of a century later, their stories are still waiting to be told.

Next week, we will continue with D. W. Scott’s History of Meadows of Dan.

If you have any questions, comments, or story ideas, you may contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Pastor

(cont. from page 1)

of life when you’re out of college. So, it just goes through my own personal life,” Dean said.

While it’s not a large volume, Dean said he believes the book is concentrated on the things he’s learned that he thinks would be of value to the younger generation.

“I shared it with my neighbor who is 69, and she said she really appreciated it. In fact, she read it twice in two days,” Dean said.

Dean said his favorite chapter is the one that focuses on marriage as it’s the core of society.

“Society is built on family, the family is built on marriage, so if you’re going to improve marriage, you’re going to improve society,” he said.

Noting he’s had a good, 54-year long marriage, Dean said he thinks he can give a lot of tips on why his marriage is good.

“Everybody has a love language, some more important than another one. Some people just love to have your time. I learned that my wife valued time more than doing things for her, and I learned that she didn’t care for gifts more than she cared for hugging, back rubbing, and that type of stuff. So, you need to understand your spouses’ or your friends’ language, so you know how best to relate to them, help them, and give them courage,” he said.

While it is different compared to the others, Dean believes the last chapter, “Final Thoughts on Wisdom” might be the most important chapter in the book.

“My daughter gave me a journal to fill out with bits of wisdom that I learned over the years, and I did that for 10 years or so, then I just let it slide. But I kept the book I did and words of wisdom, phrases of wisdom, that I wrote,” he said.

The chapter contains 24 words of wisdom and

a brief explanation that doesn’t fit in with the other chapters. Phrases include “self-support increases self-respect,” “nobody is an island,” and “don’t expect your spouse to supply your every need.”

Dean’s book is available online on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Dean is also selling copies of his book for \$15. Contact him at lookingforward65@hotmail.com about purchasing a copy.

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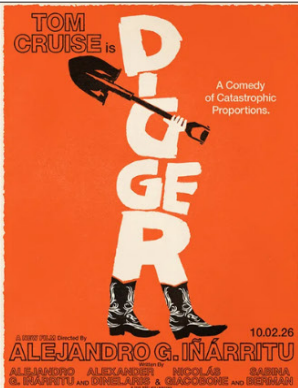
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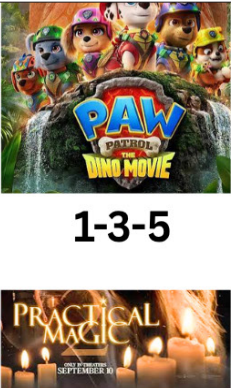
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Cox

(cont. from page 1)

zens so they wouldn’t have to go out of the area,” Cox said.

Finding the revenue to address the county’s needs presents another challenge, he said.

“This year we were fortunate in our county administration being able to get us back to a balanced budget situation. Revenue in the future is the question, taxes are high as they are, and we need to consider a couple of things,” Cox said.

Cox said the county may need to consider reducing some services he considers nonessential while prioritizing public safety.

“What I would think” as being non-essential “would probably be different than what others think. I think our essential concentration on spending should be related to firstly public safety - our law enforcement people, our fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services - they are essential and should have a priority,” he said.

Recreation could be among the areas considered if reductions become necessary, Cox said.

“We want those things, but are they essential with the economic situation we’re facing? To the extent possible, I would support them, but still that may be an area we need to look at for some practicality in making a reduction of services in any area,” he said.

Cox also said the county should look for ways to generate revenue without placing additional pressure on property owners.

“Our senior citizens that own property now are being stressed to the limit with a tax here, a tax there, and everywhere you turn, and now we’ve got to deal with the inflation of the necessities of life, the fuel for our vehicles as well as heating for our homes as the weather gets colder,” Cox said.

Cox said Patrick County’s rural geography and terrain can make attracting some businesses and services difficult. He pointed to grocery stores as an example.

“There are certain things like a

grocery store, certainly that’s an essential need, but we’re having difficulty attracting grocers to come into our area because we are rural. They’re looking at high dollar turnover and fast turnover, Patrick County can’t provide that to the degree that they want, so we need a grocery store provider that caters to rural areas, and they’re difficult to find in this economic time,” he said.

Cox cited the county’s school system as one of its strengths.

“Being ranked ninth in the state is a pretty high honor, but at the same time, maybe we need to look at the amenities that our schools desire for our students and concentrate more on retention of high-quality teachers and the materials that are taught to our students and get back to some basics - reading, writing, arithmetic’s the old saying,” Cox said.

Because the school division does such a good job at ensuring its students are well-educated, Cox said students tend to leave the area to pursue higher education and employment suited to their skills.

“When they do that to find a job that’s suitable for their attainments, they seek employment outside. So, we need some mechanism that responds to skilled workers that are needed here in our county and we need to provide means to make those opportunities available to students,” he said.

Public involvement also is essential to effective local government, Cox said.

“There’s a group of people who tend to show up for every meeting of the board and express their opinions, but we need more. Out of 17,000 that reside in this county, we only get a handful of people who take the time and effort to come before us and make their concerns known. If we’re to be effective, we need to know the concerns of as many of our constituents as will reach out to us,” he said.

Glenn Edward Foley

Mr. Glenn Edward Foley, age 92 of Stuart, Virginia passed away at the Blue Ridge Therapy Connection on Sunday, September 27, 2026. He was born in Patrick County on March 10, 1934, to the late Richard Amos Foley and Cora Lee Cockram Foley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Joan Forbes. Glenn attended Ross Harbour Methodist Church as long as he was able. He enjoyed his horses and riding in his younger years, and he dearly loved his dog, Buddy, and his family. Glenn will be remembered for his



hardworking nature, his love for his animals, and his devotion to his family. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those who knew and loved him. Left to cherish the memory of Glenn are one son, John Foley

(Loretta); one daughter, Cathy F. Rigney (Danny); one granddaughter, Kayla Foley (Salman); five great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Gabriel, Noah, Ezra, and Elliana; niece, Libby Cornwell; and special cousin, Arnold Foley.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in Ross Harbour Methodist Church Cemetery. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Cox said residents are welcome to contact him with their concerns and said he believes transparency in local government is important.

“There are limited exceptions to what is done in closed meetings, so any other issues should be open for discussions. The chief way to do that is to contact your board representative. That’s where we lack being able to reach out to citizens because they don’t reach out to us,” he said.

Cox pointed to his experience in public service when asked why voters should support him.

“I was a co-founder, a charter member, of the Smith River Rescue Squad and I was an organizer and captain of the Old Dominion Search and Rescue Team that traveled all over the state. I’m a member of the American Legion, a lifetime member, and I’ve been a member of the Honor Guard for over 15 years,” Cox said.

Cox began his public service when he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. “I wasn’t drafted, I joined. I enjoyed that service and what I learned from it,” Cox said.

He has 27 years of experience in the criminal justice system, in-

cluding 13 years as a magistrate in the 21st Judicial District.

His earlier work included 4 1/2 years as a deputy sheriff in Guilford County, North Carolina, and eight years in corrections with the city of Martinsville.

Cox holds an associate of applied science degree in law enforcement and a Bachelor of Science degree in administration of justice.

He also represented Patrick County on the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors for six years, concluding his service in June as vice chairman.

Cox was appointed to the Board of Supervisors earlier this year following a competitive interview process to fill the Smith River District vacancy.

Since his appointment, Cox said he has demonstrated his ability to work with other supervisors and county administration to address issues facing Patrick County and the Smith River District.

Cox has been married to his wife for 31 years. They have three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He enjoys reading and watching television in his free time.

October		PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY								2026	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
							1		2		3
Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration required. Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. Find us at the Apple Dumpling Festival AND Spooktacular!						Patrick County Puzzlers Puzzle Walk at 2pm		Board Game Day 10:30-12			
								Sit & Stitch 11:00			
	5		6		7		8		9		10
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Library Quilters Club 2pm		Homeschool Bookworms 10:30 Choose a book and learn about how to make a book report.		Crafty Chapters Club 11-1 (With Book Bedazzling)	
		Storytime at Reynolds Homestead 10:30				Off The Shelf Book Club 5pm					
LEGO Club 4:00											
	12		13		14		15		16		17
Library Closed- Staff Development		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Open Art Studio 1:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Find us at the Apple Dumpling Festival	
		No Storytime		Book Bingo 10:30							
		Youth Art Program 10:15* Surrealism				Haunting Trivia 6:00					
	19		20		21		22		23		24
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Macramé with Phyllis* 11am		Senior Social 11:00 Let’s Play a Game & 2027 Planning			
Paper Bag Pumpkins 1pm*		Storytime 10:30		Retired Teachers BC 11am							
LEGO Club 4:00		Chair Yoga 2:15*		Functional Medicine 11:30am		Music Bingo 5pm					
		Gentle Yoga 3:45*		Gentle Yoga 12:30* Board Game Day 2:30pm-4:30pm							
	26		27		28		29		30		31
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Stokes County Paranormal Presents “Tell me a Ghost Story” 5pm				Find us at Spooktacular!	
		Storytime 10:30									
		Chair Yoga 2:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30*							
		Gentle Yoga 5:15*		STEAM Program 4pm							

PATRICK PULPITS

Waiting Can Be Difficult

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Eric B. Hare remembers one of the most exciting days of his young life. It was when he was in Melbourne, Australia at the age of seven. He saw the Prince of Wales ride down the street just in front of him.

Eric played 3rd cornet in the Echo Publishing Company brass band. His band had been given a position on the street where the prince would pass. The procession was to pass along the street at 10:00 a.m. and they were told to be there early. Eric's father played one of the bass horns and his brother, Rueben, played the baritone.

So, everyone got up early that morning. Eric was too excited to eat breakfast, and though his mother urged him to take a lunch, he didn't want to carry anything. The band members were at their position at 9:00 a.m. Their horns were all nice and shiny. They stood in formation and played one piece just for practice.

Then they waited. Crowds pressed in to watch, and they too waited. By 10:00 a.m. the band all snapped to attention. But the prince did not come. Nobody came. 11:00 a.m. came, but still no prince. Eric was getting tired. They weren't in

attention anymore. The crowd was getting restless. Some grumbled. Many went away.

Then 12:00 noon came but no prince. They all were getting hungry. Eric thought "if only I had brought a lunch." Well, his dad sneaked off to a bakery shop, returning with some dry buns. 1:00 p.m. came, 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. came and no prince. They were tired. "Maybe he will never come." thought Eric.

At 4:00 p.m. they suddenly heard cheering way up the street. Two couriers with trumpets came riding along. They were followed by the mounted guard. Then came the Prince of Wales in the royal carriage. The bandmaster gave the signal, and the band began to play. It was beautiful! The prince looked right at them and took off his hat and smiled. They weren't tired any more and they weren't hungry anymore. They had seen the prince.

How much more have we been waiting for Jesus to come? And how much more will we feel excited and energized to see Him come. We need to be patient and not give up. "Watch and wait" were the words of Jesus to His followers in these last days. When He does come, we'll never be tired or hungry anymore.

Harris

(cont. from page 1)

tract businesses and industry. She acknowledged that paying for those improvements would be difficult.

"We would have to look at ways to motivate without hurting the other people and businesses in the county," she said.

Harris also said residents should become more involved in local government by attending Board of Supervisors and committee meetings. "The supervisors have to have tough skin because there's a lot of criticism and we need to listen to the people," she said.

Harris said supervisors also need to work with residents when making decisions and said she would like to see greater transparency in county government.

"We need to be more transparent than we have been, however there are some things that we cannot" discuss with the public due to restrictions, Harris said.

Harris described Patrick County as a good place to live and work and a destination for visitors, but she said more could be done to promote the county.

"I think we just need to do a little bit more promoting, although I think that tourism is doing a good job and economic development could step up just a little bit more. I'm not privy to what they're doing, so it's hard to criticize someone that I don't know what they're doing," she said.

Harris said a lack of water and sewer infrastructure also can make attracting development more difficult.

"You're going to have to have water and sewer to certain places to get certain people to come in and help the people that are here," she said.

Harris pointed to her previous experience on the Board of Supervisors and her ties to the Smith River District when asked why residents should vote for her.

"I have been married and lived in Woolwine for almost 64 years, so naturally the Smith River District is very important to me as is the whole county. If one area prospers, so does the others," she said.

Harris worked in the cafeteria at Woolwine Elementary School for 35 years and part time in the emergency room at the former R.J. Reynolds Patrick County Memorial Hospital for 10 years.

She holds a certificate in food services from Patrick & Henry Community College.

Harris was a charter member of the Smith River Rescue Squad and volunteered with the organization for nearly 40 years, including 20 years as captain.

She also was the first female president of Patrick County Fire & Rescue, served on the original E-911 committee and is a former member of the Patrick County Education Foundation.

Harris also served on the STEP Inc. board for 20 years.

Harris and her husband, Mavin, have three sons and four grandchildren.

She enjoys reading, fishing and riding around Patrick County.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. Which king wanted to see miracles when the arrested Jesus was before him? *Pilate, Shishak, Herod, Solomon*

3. From Judges 3, who was the left-handed Benjamite who killed Eglon? *Geshem, Agag, Ehud, Joram*

4. How many beasts rising out of the sea did Daniel have a dream about? *4, 7, 13, 20*

5. From Judges 1:6, which king had his thumbs and toes cut off? *David, Adoni-Bezek, Josiah, Herod*

6. Whose biblical name meant "messenger"? *Aaron, Moses, Samuel, Malachi*

ANSWERS: 1) *Neither*, 2) *Herod*, 3) *Ehud*, 4) *Four*, 5) *Adoni-Bezek*, 6) *Malachi*

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Rev. Tommy Gosnell

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School 10 am

Worship Services 11 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church



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

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Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
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SATURDAY SERVICES:
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Super Crossword

JOURNALISTIC SET

ACROSS

- 1 Principal part of a ship's rigging
- 9 Glucose and dextrose
- 15 Want greatly
- 20 Phrase before a memoir co-author
- 21 Result of iron deficiency
- 22 Opponent
- 23 Question to someone barking orders
- 26 Wriggly fish
- 27 Extinct bird
- 28 Swerving billiards shot
- 29 Teeny
- 30 Suspenseful NFL periods
- 33 CIA worker
- 35 PC fixer, e.g.
- 37 "Hey, amigo"
- 39 Highest price customers are amenable to paying
- 47 "Less filling" Miller beer
- 48 Prefix similar to "equi"
- 49 Vaccination fluids
- 50 Neighbor of Monterey Park, Calif.
- 51 Connections
- 53 Maximum
- 56 Rustic hotel
- 58 Lean- (simple huts)
- 59 Time to steel oneself and power through
- 66 Congregated
- 67 Goes past the time limit
- 68 Cold shoulder preventer?
- 69 A humidifier moistens it
- 71 Suddenly blazing stars
- 73 Pungent salad veggie
- 77 Lhasa - (small dogs)
- 80 Official assisting a referee
- 83 "Rapa- -" (1994 Esai Morales film)
- 84 Classic Maurice Sendak book
- 89 Cabinet dept. focused on homes
- 90 "- culpa"
- 91 Wedge for filling a gap
- 92 Show fatigue reflexively
- 93 Mother on "Bewitched"
- 97 Aruba, e.g.
- 100 Steal from
- 102 Medicine bottle
- 104 Jesus' words after "My God, my God," in Matthew
- 109 "You bet!," in Baja
- 110 Favorite cereal of a "silly rabbit"
- 111 "I'm - loss for words"
- 112 Pub barrel
- 113 "La-la" lead-in
- 116 "Jay - Garage"
- 119 Best draft status
- 121 Business mag
- 123 Response upon hearing about an astonishing feat
- 130 "Aida," e.g.
- 131 Dogs from Japan
- 132 They often get mashed
- 133 Stopwatch button
- 134 Despot ruler
- 135 They begin this puzzle's long answers
- 2 Fire residue
- 3 Figure skater Midori
- 4 Central point
- 5 Superlatively sneaky
- 6 University on Long Island
- 7 "- be an honor"
- 8 Put freight in
- 9 Less happy
- 10 Opens with a key
- 11 "Well, I'll be!"
- 12 Radio toggle letters
- 13 Actress Hayworth
- 14 Gives a quick greeting
- 15 Disney villainess De Vil
- 16 Chest bone
- 17 State boldly
- 18 Rose holder
- 19 Otherwise
- 24 - bene
- 25 "- Mio"
- 30 Hooting bird
- 31 Toward there
- 32 Feeling of fullness
- 34 Sycophantic guys
- 36 Bray syllable
- 38 Crunches tone them
- 40 High schooler, e.g.
- 41 Some rock band synth-sizers
- 42 Calc prereq
- 43 Subsidies
- 44 Caesar's final reproach
- 45 Bump on -
- 46 Unduly quick
- 52 Zebra feature
- 54 Shortly
- 55 Resort town near Rome
- 57 High degree
- 59 H-bomb, e.g.
- 60 "Lummox" author Fannie Shute
- 61 "A Town Like Alice" author Shute
- 62 Large pianos
- 63 Clingy wrap
- 64 Like a banjo's sound
- 65 On in years
- 70 Bern's river
- 72 Comic Rogen
- 74 Very shortly
- 75 "Smith" is the commonest one in the United States
- 76 Hasten
- 78 Resistance unit
- 79 Understand the point
- 81 Bake, as an egg
- 82 Brunch cocktail
- 84 "Close call!"
- 85 "Come again?"
- 86 Water swirl
- 87 Do laundry
- 88 Goalie's goal
- 94 Elle King's "Ex's & -"
- 95 Lambastes
- 96 Valuable trait
- 98 Auction unit
- 99 Former Volkswagen seven-seater
- 101 "Freedom" singer Jon
- 103 Shin's place
- 105 Soldier's steel helmet
- 106 Best in quality
- 107 Yaks, e.g.
- 108 Wichita site
- 113 Thunder god
- 114 Lasso, e.g.
- 115 Stupefies
- 117 Tasting of wood, as wine
- 118 Move a bit
- 120 Session with a dr., e.g.
- 122 - Field (Mrs. Met's home)
- 124 Deep anger
- 125 Greek vowel
- 126 "La-la" lead-in
- 127 Fight like Ali
- 128 Actor Ayres
- 129 Snaky letter

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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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.

Monday, Oct. 19

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

Wednesday, Oct. 21

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

Thursday, Oct. 22

The Blue Ridge Regional Library Board will meet at the Collinsville Branch Library at 3 p.m.

Events

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.

Friday, Oct. 9

Disaster Relief Food Ministry will hold a free community pinto bean meal at Rotary Field in Stuart from 4-7 p.m.

The Stuart Farmers' Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Fresh vegetables, fruits fall flowers, local beef, poultry, free range eggs, herbal products and other special items. Support your neighbors and shop local.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Providence United Methodist Church, 1021 Providence Drive, Patrick Springs, will hold a free breakfast from 7-10:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and coffee. Donations accepted.

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.

Monday, Oct. 12

The DMV Select in Stuart will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

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.

The Stuart Farmers' Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Fresh vegetables, fruits fall flowers, local beef, poultry, free range eggs, herbal products and other special items. Support your neighbors and shop local.

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 derricklanderson@gmail.com.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Disaster Relief Food Ministry will hold a food drive at Wal-Mart in Stuart from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

Saturday, Oct. 31

Disaster Relief Food Ministry will hold its mobile food distribution at Smith Brothers Trucking at 2904 Ararat Highway from 10-11 a.m. and at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church from 12:45-1:30 p.m.

Ongoing

American Legion Post 105 meets the third Friday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Post building at 553 American Legion Road, Stuart. All are welcome.

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

M	A	I	N	S	A	I	L	S	U	G	A	R	S		C	R	A	V	E		
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R	E	S	E	T		T	Y	R	A	N	T			T	H	E	S	I	X	W	S

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Earle-Sears

(cont. from page 1)

what they actually mean, how they're going to impact the churches, how they're going to impact the people of Virginia, how it's going to change the Constitution of Virginia," Curren said.

Curren said Earle-Sears will not appear at the symposium as a representative of the Republican Party.

"She's going to be there just to explain to people what this all means. She is doing a tour all around Virginia just to talk to people and tell

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TRUSTEE’S SALE OF 326 HILL VALLEY ROAD, STUART, VA 2417. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 24, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$81,632.18 recorded in the Clerk’s Office, Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000758. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on December 8, 2026, at 12:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT ONE CERTAIN LOT, TRACT, OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN PETERS CREEK MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE EAST SIDE OF STATE ROAD #730, THAT IS MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A DRIVEN IRON STAKE, A NEW CORNER, ON THE EAST SIDE OF STATE ROAD #730, THENCE A NEW DIVIDING LINE S. 70 DEG. E. 157 FEET 7 INCHES TO A NEW CORNER IRON STAKE; THENCE ANOTHER NEW DIVIDING LINE S. 20 DEG W. 200 FEET TO A DRIVEN IRON STAKE IN THE LINE OF WITT ROGERS PROPERTY, THENCE WITH THE RODGERS LINE N. 64 DEG. 46 MIN. W. 181 FEET 3 INCHES TO A DRIVEN IRON STAKE ON THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE SAID STATE ROAD #730; THENCE LEAVING THE ROGERS LINE AND WITH THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD #730; THENCE LEAVING THE ROGERS LINE AND WITH THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD #730 N. 28 DEG. 45 MIN. E. 186 FEET 3 INCHES BACK TO THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.75 OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS, BY SURVEY. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder’s deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser’s deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee’s Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. A form copy of the Trustee’s memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240 Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. 1012-1312B.

LEGAL

ABC NOTICE
MSRD CAN LLC trading as Roberts Market & Grill, 3918 Fairystone Park Hwy, Stuart, Patrick County, Stuart, Virginia 24171.
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store (Off-Premises Wine & Beer) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Ronakkumar Govindbhai Patel, member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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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.

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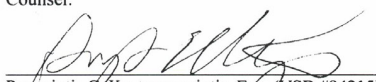
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Public Notice - Environmental Permit
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow impacts to wetlands, stream channel, and open water in Patrick County, Virginia.
PERMIT COMMENT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

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VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY
MARIE C. LANTRIP,
Plaintiff,
v.
MICHAEL LEE MARSHALL,
MELANIE MARSHALL-PARK,
WILLIAM CRAIG MARSHALL, JR.,
and
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WILLIAM
CRAIG MARSHALL, DECEASED,
Defendants.
CASE NO. CL26-653
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
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@dmklawfirm.com
Counsel for the Plaintiff
Morgan Boothe, Clerk
Patrick Circuit Court

Virginia Marketplace offers new premium savings for 2027

Virginians can now preview health insurance plans and determine whether they may qualify for new savings for 2027 through Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace.
The Marketplace’s window-shopping period began Oct. 1, allowing consumers to browse plans and compare coverage before open enrollment begins Nov. 1. The open enrollment period will continue through Jan. 29, 2027.
New this year is the Virginia Premium Savings program, which is designed to reduce monthly premiums for qualifying consumers. Funding for the program will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
Qualifying consumers could see their monthly premiums reduced by as much as 70%, according to the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange. On average, the program is expected to reduce monthly costs by \$65 to \$90 per person, depending on household size and income.
The savings apply to coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2027.
“The Virginia Premium Savings program is going to make a meaningful difference for families struggling to afford their Marketplace health coverage,” said Keven Patchett, executive director of the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, the State Corporation Commission division that oversees the Marketplace.
Individuals and families earning between 138% and 250% of the federal poverty level may qualify for the program under criteria established by the Virginia General Assembly and Gov. Abigail Spanberger.
State leaders allocated \$150 million for the affordability program.
Open enrollment is the primary period during which Virginians can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan or switch plans. Outside the open enrollment period, consumers generally must experience a qualifying life event, such as getting married or divorced, having a baby or losing health insurance, to enroll.
The Marketplace Consumer Assistance Center also will offer extended hours during open enrollment.
Representatives will be available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The center also will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, the first day of open enrollment.
The Consumer Assistance Center can be reached at 888-687-1501. Free translation services are available.
Consumers also can visit Marketplace.Virginia.gov to compare plans, use a savings calculator, review eligibility information or find free, in-person assistance in their area.



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THANK YOU FOR READING

Skunks visit Storytime at the library



Children's librarian Miss Lucia read skunk themed books.



Norma Bozenmayer, a Virginia Master Naturalist, demonstrated the warning dance a skunk will perform to alert you that it is about to spray. Heed the warning if a skunk is doing its dance, because skunks have an unforgettable musk odor.



Youngsters participating in the program made their own skunks and named them.



For more information about skunks or Storytime programs, visit or call the library, (276) 694-3352.

A large group of youthful nature enthusiasts learned about skunks found in Virginia, and their behavior, at the library Storytime. Virginia Master Naturalist Norma Bozenmayer demonstrated the warning dance a skunk will perform to alert you that it is about to spray. Heed the warning if a skunk is doing its dance, because skunks have an unforgettable musk odor. A taxidermized striped skunk on loan from Fairy Stone State Park allowed the children to feel the soft fur and see the sharp claws.

The group then made — and named — their very own skunk out of recycled toilet paper tubes and cotton. Children's librarian Miss Lucia read the skunk themed books, including "Sassafras," by Audrey Penn; "Lizzy and Skunk," by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and "Please Don't Upset P.U. Zorilla," by Lynn Rowe Reed. Skunks are nocturnal opportunistic omnivores that feed on insects, worms, fruit nuts and even snakes. They will also be attracted to pet food, garbage, compost and bird seed in your yard.

The most common skunk in Virginia is the striped skunk, and its coloring can range from all white to all black with a variety of markings. Many all-white skunks have been seen in Patrick County. Skunks breed from February to March, with a litter of two to 10 young being born in May. The young will follow the mother single file on hunting trips. They are most active at dawn and dusk. Skunks generally live 2 to 4 years in the wild. For more information about skunks or Storytime programs, visit or call the library, (276) 694-3352.

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



TO COLONEL L. THOMAS Cairo, Illinois,
May 3rd, 1861
Colonel:
From a sense of duty to my native State Vir-

ginia, 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



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A photograph of a single-story brick building with a white-painted wooden porch supported by columns. The building has a gabled roof with a small circular vent in the gable. The entrance features double glass doors. The building is surrounded by a green lawn and trees.



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