THE ENTERPRISE

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

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School board hears details of division's 2026 accreditation

By Taylor Boyd

All seven Patrick County public schools are fully accredited, with five earning framework scores in the 90s or higher, according to information presented to the Patrick County School Board at its Oct. 14 meeting.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood said the division's schools performed well under the state's 2026 accountability framework, although the way certain student subgroups are evaluated affected the performance classifications of several schools.

"So, five of our seven had a framework score in the 90s and two of them were in the 80s," Wood said.

Patrick County High School received the highest framework score in the division at 105.4, followed by Woolwine Elementary School at 97.7 and Meadows of Dan Elementary School at 95.9.

Stuart Elementary School received a score of 92.6, while Blue Ridge Elementary School scored 91.6. Hardin Reynolds Memorial School and Patrick Springs Primary School received scores of 86.5 and 84.8, respectively.

Wood said the state has recognized concerns with how certain student subgroups, including students with disabilities, are factored into

(See School Board p. 13)



Patrick County School Board members received certificates of appreciation, recognition and honor from the Virginia School Boards Association during the board's Oct. 14 meeting. Pictured from left are Walter Scott, Smith River District; Shannon Harrell, Blue Ridge District; Vice Chairman Rob Martin, Dan River District; Jerry Woods, Peters Creek District; School Board Clerk Sara-Leigh Collins; and Chairwoman Amy Walker, Mayo River District.



Clyde Thomas, Bill Hines and Jim McHone, from left, have been named grand marshals of the third annual Patrick County Veterans Parade and Program, scheduled for Nov. 14 in Stuart. (Contributed photo by Pamela Smith)

Three local veterans named grand marshals of annual parade

By Taylor Boyd

Three local veterans have been selected as grand marshals of the third annual Patrick County Veterans Parade and Program, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, in Stuart.

Clyde Thomas, Bill Hines and Jim McHone will lead this year's parade, which begins at 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by Patrick County's six Ruritan clubs.

Pamela Smith, 2026 Dan River District governor and a member of the Stuart, Ararat and Woolwine Community Ruritan clubs, said organizers decided to recognize three veterans this year in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary

(See Veterans p. 9)

Patrick County Music Association shows return Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will resume its monthly music shows Saturday, Oct. 24, following a summer break.

The show will be held in the Patrick County High School auditorium, with doors opening at 5 p.m. and music beginning at 6 p.m. Admission is by donation at the door.

PCMA President Denny Alley said the evening will feature performances by the Twin Creek String Band, a four-member group from Ferrum, and the Country Boys.

(See Music p. 8)

Carter Bank seeks veterans' names for holiday project

By Taylor Boyd

Carter Bank & Trust's Stuart branch is seeking the names and addresses of local veterans as part of a project to recognize their military service on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Vice President and Branch Manager April Hall said the bank plans to mail thank-you cards to as many veterans as possible as part of its commitment to giving back to the community.

"We just want to show our appreciation to our veterans for all that they do. We just wanted to send out thank you cards to as many as we can in our community to thank them for their service," she said.

Hall said the bank also plans to set up a table honoring veterans during the week of Veterans Day.

To reach as many veterans as possible, the branch is asking community members to provide names and mailing addresses.

"Nobody really has a list of them, and that's what I'm trying to get is as many as I can on the list to send them out," she said.

Hall said a teacher at Patrick County High School plans to provide a list of approximately 80 veterans who graduated from the school system.

The bank hopes to mail the cards ahead of the holiday.

"Just so that they can get them in a timely manner, if at all possible," Hall said.

The branch also is accepting donations of thank-you cards for the project. Cards may be dropped off with Hall or any employee at the Stuart office.

Residents who would like to submit a veteran's name and mailing address may contact Hall at april.hall@carterbank.com.

Farmers Insurance opens in downtown Stuart



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Oct. 15 to celebrate the opening of Jennifer Scott's Farmers Insurance office in downtown Stuart.

By Taylor Boyd

Farmers Insurance celebrated the opening of its downtown Stuart office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Oct. 15.

Agent Jennifer Scott said she is excited to take over the business and looks forward to expanding its services.

Scott, who previously worked for State Farm Insurance for 10 years, said she acquired the business earlier this year.

"We just took a minute to get all of my signage up and waited to do a ribbon opening," she said.

Scott said the office offers a variety of insurance products, including life, auto, home and business coverage, with plans to add Medicare-related services.

"I do all kinds of insurance. I do life, I do auto,

(See Farmers p. 2)



P&HCC to Offer Paid Internships Courtesy of Harvest Foundation Grant



P&HCC's Career Services team Amy Reed, Beth Marshall, and Beth Knight.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has received a three-year grant of $802,750 from The Harvest Foundation to support the establishment of a paid internship program connecting local students with area employers. The program aims to place 100 interns over three years in fields such as advanced manufacturing and healthcare.

"Too often, students complete their education without meaningful professional relationships with employers in the area. By the time they graduate, they may already be pursuing opportunities outside of Martinsville and Henry County because they have not built any connections here. Talent retention must begin before graduation through early, real-world experience. Internships are one of the most effective tools we have to address this talent challenge," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

The funds from The Harvest Foundation will allow P&HCC students to participate in paid internships with employers in Martinsville and Henry County. State funds from InternshipsVA will reimburse employers up to one-half of the intern's wages, or up to $7,500 per intern.

"Alleviating this financial burden for local employers will increase the number of students that are able to participate in paid work experiences and ultimately lead to more investment in the local workforce," said P&HCC Assistant Vice President for Workforce & Technical Programs Dr. Colin Ferguson.

To qualify,

- All participating employers must agree to pay a portion of the total wages of the intern.
- Employers that have 150 or fewer Virginia-based full-time employees must apply and be approved for InternshipsVA funds for up to one half of the intern's wage or up to $7,500 per intern. If eligible and approved for VEDP funds, these employers will also be eligible to receive another one quarter of the intern's wages or up to $3,750 per intern through The Harvest Foundation funds, with the remaining one fourth paid by the employer.
- Employers with more than 150 employees are eligible to receive up to one half of the cost of the total wages of the intern or $7,500 through The Harvest Foundation funds, with the remaining one half paid by the employer.

Students interested in completing internships must be currently enrolled at Patrick & Henry Community College, must have a high school diploma, and cannot have already completed an undergraduate degree. P&HCC students in both short-term and associate degree programs of study are eligible to participate in this internship opportunity.

The paid internship program is part of a newly reimagined Career Services Center for P&HCC. Formerly located on main campus, the Career Services Center has relocated to P&HCC's Manufacturing & Engineering Technology (MET) Complex to offer greater accessibility to the students who will be eligible for internships. Career Services also offers students job preparation workshops, news about career events & job fairs, and job referrals & leads.

The Career Services team is available to assist students and employers during traditional business hours Monday-Friday. Amy Reed, G3 Advisor, helps students enroll in courses and build pathways toward stackable certificates and degrees under Virginia's Get Skilled, Get a Job, Get Ahead (G3) initiative; Beth Marshall, Work-Based Learning Program Manager, coordinates job placement, resume development, and increasing student access to work-based learning experiences, including internships and apprenticeships; and Beth Knight, Career Services Director partners with faculty, staff, and industry leaders to integrate real-world experiences into the classroom, expand work-based learning opportunities, and strengthen employer engagement. The team is committed to helping students build the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to succeed in the workforce.

For more information about Career Services at P&HCC or to make connections with a prospective intern, contact Beth Knight at bknight@patrickhenry.edu or call 276.656.5483.

Farmers

(cont. from page 1)

home, and business insurance. We're working on the Medicare thing, not quite in place there yet, but I do pretty much any insurance," she said.

In addition to Farmers Insurance products, Scott said the office can provide quotes from other insurance carriers, including Liberty Mutual, Travelers and Progressive.

"So if you don't qualify or the price is too much or whatever with Farmers, we can do other carriers like Liberty Mutual, Travelers, Progressive, those types," Scott said.

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Adcock welcomed the addition of another service provider in the community.

"Insurance is always needed, so we're happy to have an insurance company with Farmers Insurance with Jennifer Scott," she said.

The office is located at 405 Patrick Ave., Stuart.

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Griffith staff to hold office hours in Martinsville, Stuart

Staff members from U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's Ninth District office will hold traveling office hours in Martinsville and Stuart on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

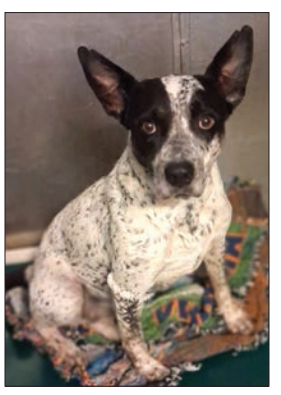
Staff will be available from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Martinsville City Hall, Room 32, 55 W. Church St.

In Patrick County, office hours will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker St., Stuart.

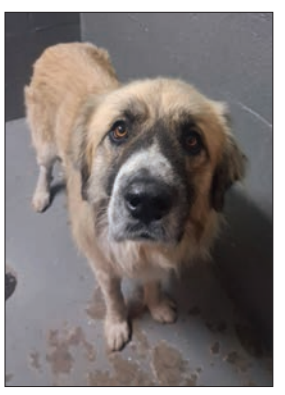
For more information, contact Griffith's Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671 or his Abingdon office at 276-525-1405.



Pets of the Week



Indigo is a friendly and playful Heeler mix. She is already spayed and has been at the shelter way too long. If you like Heelers, you'll love sweet little Indigo.



This handsome Great Pyrenees, along with his brother, was found on Squirrel Spur Road in Meadows of Dan. They are both now available for adoption.

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/.

PCHS Class of 1971 reunites



Members of the Patrick County High School Class of 1971 gathered for a reunion on Sept. 26. Pictured front row, from left are: Carolyn Inscore Choate, Mary Clement Dowell, Vickie Anderson Jessup, Janet Brim Jenkins, Dianne Wray Cox, Rhonda Gilley Doss, Rhonda Terry Nelson, Sophia Hodnett Durham, Melissa Ross Hall, Margaret Jenkins Rakes, Cathy Beach Clement, Michael King, Vickie Dehart Nelson, Jimmy Handy and Carolyn Haynes Moran. Second row, from left: Larry Nelson, Garland Burge, Mike Shelton, Jerry Kodenski, Ronnie Haley, Ralph Nelson, Gene Fain, Vance Johnson, Elizabeth Via Kolinski, David Profitt, Deborah Belton Griffin, Billy Handy, Kay Horton Eustler and Michael Ray Rorrer.
Not pictured: Jimmy Woodall. Contributed photo

The Patrick County High School Class of 1971, the first graduates of what was then the "new" high school, celebrated their 55th reunion on September 26. The event was hosted by class member Kay Horton Eustler and her husband Scott at their Spirithaven Farm.

This class was unique in a number of ways that created the identity of the school. Members of the class were instrumental in selecting the Cougar mascot, the green and gold colors, the yearbook and student newspaper names and writing the first student handbook among quite a few other accomplishments, a number of which that still stand today.

Of the 176 seniors, each one successfully graduated from PCHS. Those class members that have passed away since 1971 were remembered in a candlelight ceremony.

PCHS marching band named grand champion at Cavalier Classic



The Pride of Patrick County Marching Band was named Band of the Day and grand champion at the Cavalier Classic, held Saturday, Oct. 17, at Lord Botetourt High School.

The Patrick County High School band also earned first-place honors in drum major, percussion, color guard, music, marching and general effect in Class 4A.

Fall fire season runs through Nov. 30

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has agency firefighters in place across Virginia in preparation for fall fire season, which runs now through Nov. 30. DOF firefighters remain in close coordination with our state and federal agency partners as well as local fire departments in all counties.

Virginia, as well as fire agencies across much of the Southeast, recognize two fire seasons in the spring and fall. These seasons are intended to raise awareness and preparation for wildfires, which are more common due to dry conditions, lower humidity and fuels on the ground.

The leading cause of wildfires in Virginia is fire escapes due to careless outdoor burning. Nine out of 10 wildfires are started by people, with escaped fire debris the main concern. An unattended yard debris fire or bonfire can quickly spread to dry grass, leaves, limbs, felled trees or even the woods. These dry materials, known as "fuels," are plentiful in the fall.

"Wildfires are extremely unpredictable and can start and intensify in an instant," said State Forester Terry Lasher. "Protect your home and community by preparing for wildfires and reporting any wildfire activity by calling 911. Our firefighters remain plugged in with state and local emergency responders to coordinate on response operations and resource needs."

The weather is also an important factor when it comes to fire activity. Due to prolonged below-average precipitation, Virginia is experiencing drought conditions across many areas. Within the last week, some improvements occurred in portions of southwest Virginia. However, while recent impacts from Hurricane Isaias brought beneficial rain to Virginia, this will not eliminate drought conditions overall.

"It only takes a few days of dry, windy conditions combined with these extra fuels on the ground for an escaped fire to turn into a significant wildfire," said Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Protect your family and neighbors by staying informed and following the guidance of your local officials on the latest fire conditions in your area."

DOF will share updates and news on wildfire activity throughout fall fire season. Follow DOF's social media platforms and visit the DOF website for more information.

Colleges create expanded articulation agreements

Ferrum College and Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) have created additional articulation agreements to help students with associate degrees from the community college transition smoothly into criminal justice or education majors and earn bachelor's degrees within two years. P&HCC President Greg Hodges and Ferrum College President Mirta Martin signed the agreements on the P&HCC campus on Monday, October 12, with other college officials and students present. Eligible students will also qualify for tuition benefits from the Panther Promise program.

Ferrum College already accepts associate of arts and associate of science graduates from all Virginia community colleges with access to the Ferrum Promise for most majors at Ferrum. Since 2019, the Ferrum Promise has ensured automatic completion of general education requirements, allowing students to focus on coursework in their major area of interest and finish bachelor's degrees in most major programs in two years, or Ferrum College covers the remaining cost.

Those who meet the established criteria will also be eligible for the Panther Promise, which offers free tuition to qualifying Virginia residential students. Ferrum lies within the service area of P&HCC, and its graduates are among Ferrum College's most successful students and graduates. Initiatives like the Panther Promise and Ferrum Promise position transfer students for success while also fueling the region's eco-

(See Colleges p. 6)

Marriage Licenses

The following marriage licenses were issued in late August and September, according to records from the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office:

- Billy Smith and Emily Greer
- Darin Artz and Lyndsy Clayton (Aug. 31)
- Antown Terry and Kayla Reynolds
- Gilbert Hubbard and Hannah Howard (Aug. 28)
- Isaac Garner and Ashley Perkins
- Donovan Verrill and Lori Shamblin
- Douglas Coleman and Jayme Helms
- Johnathan Goins and Amanda Owens
- Charles Taylor and Nacole Gusler
- Nathaniel Scott and Annabelle Poling
- James Stewart and Montana Moorefield
- Logan Conner and Emma Madeya

Read Local
Keep up with your community!

Fighting for Coal



Morgan Griffith

Representative

American coal requires fighters in its corner. In our corner of Virginia, I am proud to be in the ring to support a vital industry for communities in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District.

As such, I have supported legislation and signed many letters as one of the co-chairs of the United States House of Representatives Coal Caucus.

Some of those letters have gone to encourage the Trump Administration to be aggressive in promoting coal.

And the President, always a coal supporter, has heard our voice.

Perhaps no president this century has been as supportive of coal as President Donald Trump.

What has happened since Trump's January 2025 inauguration?

Numerous pro-coal Executive Actions. I proudly attended events at the White House to celebrate announcements which invest in America's beautiful clean coal, fight anti-coal actions taken by Presidents Obama and Biden and give coal a seat at the energy table.

The Obama-Biden "War on Coal" constrained American coal production, which encouraged the world to look elsewhere for coal.

Countries like India and China, looking to support the energy needs of their billion-plus populations, view American coal as a key resource.

According to a graphic online from Visual Capitalist, in 2024, China and India accounted for nearly 35% of U.S. coal exports.

China in particular is historically a major buyer of U.S. metallurgical coal, which is the type of coal used to make steel. The coal mined in Southwest Virginia is mainly metallurgical coal and had been sold to China in the first Trump Administration.

But the Chinese Communist Party took actions to disrupt American coal access to Chinese markets, threaten U.S. coal mining jobs and rattle our coal communities.

Data provided by the U.S. Energy Information Administration notes the impact of Chinese tariff increases on U.S. coal exports. From 2024 to 2025, U.S. coal exports to China dropped a dramatic 92 percent!

In response to China's anti-U.S. coal moves, I helped lead efforts to engage the Trump Administration.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping prepared to visit DC for trade negotiations, I requested President Trump prioritize American coal in the negotiations.

Following the late September negotiations, President Trump announced that China will import at least 10 million metric tons of American coal in 2027 and another 10 million metric tons in 2028!

This announcement means coal business in America will get a boost. Foreign belief in American coal will continue to present major opportunities for economic growth, domestic coal jobs and certainty for America's coal operators.

I am proud to help secure this trade win for American communities. It is a positive outcome that confirms the strong demand for resources that our miners work every day to produce.

I am also fighting for another positive outcome that impacts our region's coal.

Currently, one of the last remaining coal-fired power plants in Virginia is the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center (VCHEC) in St. Paul, Virginia.

As one of the 10 newest coal plants to be constructed in America, VCHEC employs world-class emissions control technologies that reduce carbon harms to the environment. Further, the plant cleans up waste coal sites, like gob piles, and eliminates mine drainage.

The current VCHEC owner and operator is Dominion Energy. However, Dominion is engaged in a new merger proposal with NextEra Energy.

Should the merger secure approval from Virginia regulatory authorities, it would potentially put the VCHEC under the control of NextEra.

As an advocate for VCHEC, I voiced the plant's importance to both Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger and the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC), the regulatory authority responsible for reviewing the merger proposal.

With a SCC decision expected in January, I will continue to monitor discussion on the merger and its potential impacts on VCHEC.

Protecting our region's coal assets through the VCHEC is essential to support coal jobs, provide net environmental benefits as shown by our clean coal technologies and serve reliable as well as affordable electricity.

Coal plants can be particularly helpful for our electric grid to withstand challenges and prevent the threat of blackout periods.

Accordingly, while the Department of Energy works to ensure there is enough energy available for American consumers, I believe Southwest Virginia coal is an indispensable resource that can help meet the growth in electricity demands.

Further, as a co-chair of the Congressional Coal Caucus, I will continue fighting and promoting energy solutions and trade relationships that boost the prospects for American coal.

Principles of Healthy Eating: Whole Grains - Part 2

To understand the importance of consumption of whole grains versus refined grain products, we must understand the structure of the grains. A grain kernel is composed of three layers. The first is the outer shell, composed mainly of fiber. In addition to fiber, it also contains various nutrients and phytochemicals. The second is the germ, which contains large amounts of vitamins and minerals. The third layer is the endosperm, consisting chiefly of starch and protein. When a whole grain is refined, (as in making white flour or white rice) both the outer layer and the germ are removed from the endosperm. As a result, compared to whole grain flour, white flour is composed primarily of starch and protein with a small amount of micronutrients (vitamins and minerals), fiber and phytochemicals. For example, making white flour reduces the fiber content by nearly 80 percent compared to whole wheat flour. Similarly, white flour contains just 7 percent of vitamin E, and only about 26 percent of potassium in comparison to whole grain flour.

Some countries mandate that some vitamins and minerals lost in the refining process be added back into the while flour or white rice. In the United States, it is mandatory that food manufacturers add five nutrients to refined grain products. They include vitamins B1, B2, niacin, folic acid and the mineral iron. When these nutrients are added back to the refined flour it is then called enriched flour. Yet, in comparison to flour made of whole grains, it is still a nutrient-deprived product.

In addition to fiber and micronutrients, grains are a source of other important compounds such as stanols and sterols. Studies have shown that these compounds are effective in lowering blood cholesterol. Also, grains are a good source of magnesium and iron. Higher intake of magnesium is associated with lower blood pressure, and consequently a lower risk of stroke. In the United States, grains provide 30 to 50 percent of iron consumed, which means that they provide more iron than any other food group. It is precisely because of the relatively large amounts of fiber content, micronutrients, and other compounds including sterols and stanols that grains play an extremely important role in human nutrition and in the prevention of diseases.

Studies consistently showed that whole grains have a beneficial effect on the prevention of virtually all chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease (e.g. heart attack, hypertension), cancer and diabetes. Whole grains may also play a significant role in the treatment of some of these health problems. An example of such a study is the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study conducted by researchers from Harvard University. It involved more than 51,000 men aged 40 to 75 years. This study has shown that individuals with an average consumption of whole grains in the amount of 46 grams per day had a 19 percent lower risk of being diagnosed with high blood pressure compared with those individuals who on average consumed only 3.3 grams.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Roman Pawlak, PH. D, RD. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Friends in Smith River District:

I'm hoping everyone in the Smith River District will support my friend Crystal Harris for Supervisor. I've known Crystal for over 60 years when she was dating her husband Mavin and he and I were Co-Captains of Woolwine High's State Runner-Up Basketball team in 1963. She has always worked hard helping the community with the Smith River Rescue Squad for about 40 years and captain 20 years. She was the first female president of the Patrick County Fire and Rescue, served on the original E-911 committee and is a former member of the Patrick Co Education Foundation. Besides all these other leadership qualities she was also head of the cafeteria at Woolwine Elementary for 35 years, fixing good food for the kids and also served part time at the hospital emergency room. On top of that she served on the STEP Inc Board for 20 years. I can't think of anyone that has served our communities more than Crystal.

I think I still owe her a new pair of tennis shoes when she brought the ambulance to our log yard one rainy day to check on a log hauler and she walked through the mud with new tennis shoes ruining them. I know I owed her a new pair but not sure if I ever got them for her.

She has also been a great Supervisor for 21 years and has been Chairperson a few times, always working good for the Smith River District. I just don't think you could get a smarter, more knowledgeable about Supervising Patrick County and a more dedicated person. Please vote for Crystal Harris for Smith River Supervisor, you will be glad you did.

Bruce Griffith, President
Griffith Lumber Co.

Ferrum College receives funding to launch Engineering Technology Program

Ferrum College has secured $1,977,991 in first-year Title III Strengthening Institutions Program funding for a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program, expanding student opportunity and strengthening the workforce pipeline for rural Southwest Virginia.

The first-year investment from the U.S. Department of Education will support the development of an applied, hands-on engineering technology degree designed to prepare students for high-demand careers in civil, construction, and environmental engineering fields. The program will combine academic instruction, embedded internships, registered apprenticeships, and industry-aligned credentials to equip students with the skills employers need now and in the future.

Chairman of the Ferrum College Board of Trustees Scott Showalter said, "Ferrum College has always believed in the power of education to change lives. This first-year funding is a remarkable investment in that belief. It will open doors for students who may never have imagined a path into engineering technology and will help build a stronger workforce for the communities we serve. We are proud of the leadership that brought this opportunity to fruition and grateful for the confidence this award places in Ferrum College."

Ferrum College President Mirta M. Martin said the funding is a meaningful step forward for the institution and the region it serves.

"This is a powerful affirmation of Ferrum College's mission as a College of Opportunity," said President Martin. "This first-year funding allows us to begin expanding access to a high-val-

(See Ferrum p. 11)

Patrick Pioneers

The Spencer and Ruth Hylton West Family

By Beverly Belcher Woody

The history of Patrick County is filled with stories of hardworking families who raised their children in the mountains, instilling in them the importance of faith, education, and service to others. Many of those children eventually ventured far beyond the familiar hills of home, becoming teachers, physicians, businessmen, and community leaders. Yet no matter how far their journeys took them, their roots remained firmly planted in Patrick County.

Such was the story of Spencer Wilson West and his wife, Ruth Ellen Hylton West, of the Meadows of Dan community. Together, they raised a family whose children would make their marks in education, medicine, industry, and public service.

Spencer Wilson West was born on the 10th of May 1862, the son of Wilson Jackson West and Elizabeth Cockram West of Patrick County. On the 7th of April 1892, Spencer married Miss Ruth Ellen Hylton, daughter of the Reverend Elkanah Bryant Hylton and Amanda Melvina Harmon of Floyd County, Virginia.

Over the next several years, Spencer and Ruth welcomed seven children into their home. As their family grew, so did the opportunities and challenges that accompanied life in the mountains during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Their first child, William Clyde West, was born the following year, in 1893. William Clyde pursued an education at William & Mary that eventually led him into the medical profession. He first married Miss Virginia DeHart, daughter of Charles Davis DeHart and Mary Omohundro Langhorne.

William Clyde also served in the National Guard, holding the rank of first lieutenant with the Medical Department Detachment of the 116th Infantry Regiment.

He went on to become a successful physician in Alexandria, Virginia, where he also served as the city's health inspector. Although his professional career carried him far from the mountains of Patrick County, William Clyde maintained close ties to his family and the community where he had been raised.

The couple's second son, Charles "Byrd" West, was born on the 30th of August 1894.

Like his older brother, Byrd valued education, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. On the 14th of December 1917, Byrd enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a seaman until his honorable discharge on the 6th of August 1919.

Following his military service, Byrd continued his education at Berea College in Kentucky, where he distinguished himself as both a scholar and a student leader.

Byrd married Miss Bertha Mershon of Erie, Pennsylvania, and devoted his professional life to education. He taught in Patrick County and Henderson, Kentucky, and eventually served as principal of Critz School.

Byrd was particularly passionate about providing children with adequate educational opportunities. In an article published in The Enterprise on April 15, 1926, he questioned how Patrick County children could possibly receive a proper education when many schools operated for only four and a half months each year.

His concerns were well-founded, and his words reflected the convictions of a man who understood that education could open doors that might otherwise remain closed.

Charles Byrd West passed away on the 26th of January 1974.

Spencer and Ruth's third child, Francis "Frank" West, was born on the 14th of October 1898.

Frank also answered his country's call during World War I, enlisting in Company I of the 13th Cavalry on the 22nd of March 1918. He served honorably until his discharge on the 5th of September 1919.

Following his military service, Frank pursued a career in medicine, attending the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. While there, he earned the distinction of serving as president of the medical student body, the highest student honor in the Department of Medicine.

Frank married Miss Elsie Marshall of Laurel Fork, Carroll County, Virginia. Elsie was the daughter of the well-known preacher Elder Joel Marshall and his wife, Susan Alice Brim.

After practicing medicine in the Laurel Fork community, Frank eventually established a successful medical practice in the Annapolis, Maryland area.

Sadly, his promising life and career came to a tragic end when he was killed in an automobile accident on the 19th of November 1946. He was only forty-eight years old.

Dr. Frank West was laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery, leaving behind his wife, two daughters, and a son.

The fourth child of Spencer and Ruth, Coy Lee West, was born on the 6th of August 1899.

After attending Berea College, Coy left his mountain home in his early twenties and traveled to Detroit, Michigan, where the rapidly growing automobile industry offered exciting opportunities for ambitious young men.

Coy became an automotive engineer with the Hudson Motor Car Company, one of the most prominent automobile manufacturers of the era.

Although he had moved hundreds of miles from Patrick County, Coy found his bride among the young women of his home county.

On the 19th of June 1926, he married Miss Attie Mae DeHart in Detroit, Michigan. Attie was the daughter of William P. DeHart and Lucinda Ellen DeHart of Patrick County.

After spending their working years in Michigan, Coy and Attie returned to the Martinsville area following retirement. Upon their passing, both were laid to rest at Roselawn Burial Park in Martinsville, Virginia.

On the 23rd of August 1902, Spencer and Ruth welcomed their first daughter and fifth child, Clara Mae West.

Like her brother Byrd, Clara chose a career in education. For twelve years, she taught school on the mountain, helping educate the children of the same communities in which she had grown up.



Meadows of Dan Base Ball Team — organized around 1912 by John B. West. Reading from left to right back row: Hoy O. Blackard, deceaed; Brown Shelor, Norfolk, Va.; Talmidge Webb, Meadows of Dan; Elmer Cassell, deceased; Maurey Reynoids, Stuart, Va.; Posey Shelor, Meadows of Dan; Dr. Clyde West, for many years a prominent physician at Alexandria, Va., now deceased; John Harris, deceased. Front row: Ernest Langhorn, deceased; Ellis DeHart, Hillsville, Va.; John B. West, many years a school teacher in Patrick, later connected with the Department of Inland Fisheries, died in Amelia several years ago; John Cassell, former Postmaster at Leaksville, N. C., now deceased; Babe Shelor, Meadows of Dan; C. L. (Tump) Spangler, former member of the House of Deligates, now resides at Meadows of Dan.

Meadows of Dan Baseball Team, from The Enterprise archives

Clara eventually married Charles Frederick Adams and moved to Martinsville, Virginia, where Charles worked as advertising manager for the Martinsville Daily Bulletin.

Clara lived to the remarkable age of ninety-five and was laid to rest at Roselawn Burial Park.

Spencer and Ruth's sixth child, Nettie Jane West, was born on the 10th of July 1907.

Nettie also pursued higher education, attending Berea College in Kentucky, where she met Edmond Bradford Cooper, a young man from Maine. There is much more about Nettie in the articles below.

The youngest child of Spencer and Ruth West, Lola Cassie West, was born on the 15th of December 1909.

Sadly, little Lola's life was brief. She passed away just two years later, bringing heartbreak to the West household.

While the surviving West children would grow up and make lives for themselves in different parts of the country, little Lola would forever remain a part of their family's story.

Throughout the years of raising his family, Spencer West worked diligently to provide for his wife and children. He spent many years employed as a rural mail carrier, a position that would have required traveling on the winding mountain roads in all kinds of weather.

The 1930 United States Census places the West family along the Free Union to Rye Cove Road. That particular detail caught my attention because my friend Tina Puckett has spoken of her grandparents traveling from Vesta to Claudville to attend church, following this same road.

I can almost picture them setting out from Vesta in a horse and buggy, making their way down the mountainside along the narrow, winding road toward Dobyns and Claudville.

Today, we can travel these distances in a fraction of the time, but our ancestors made those journeys without the conveniences we so often take for granted.

Can you imagine traveling those mountain roads in the winter, especially when the weather turned bitterly cold or snow and ice covered the ground?

Our ancestors were certainly a determined and resourceful generation!

The West family experienced both great accomplishments and heartbreaking losses over the years. Spencer and Ruth watched their children pursue education and careers that would have been beyond the reach of many young people of their generation.

They also endured the sorrow of losing their youngest daughter in childhood, and Ruth would not live to see all the later chapters of her children's lives.

Ruth Ellen Hylton West passed away on the 29th of April 1937, at the age of sixty-four, while staying at the Alexandria home of her son, Dr. William Clyde West, where she had been receiving medical treatment.

Her remains were returned to the family's home community near Vesta for burial.

Her obituary described her as one of Patrick County's most dearly loved citizens and praised her useful, happy Christian life and her willingness to minister to others.

It is touching to think that a woman who spent so much of her life caring for her family and neighbors was remembered with such affection.

As I researched the Spencer and Ruth West family, I was especially struck by the number of their children who pursued higher education

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Did I Understand you right - I won't get all my SS benefits immediately?

Dear Rusty: I was a little confused with one of your past articles. This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year. For example, let's say that at my full retirement age in September I get $3,524, and in January 2027 I would get $3,619. According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned $3,735, but it sounds like I would only get $3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it. If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount? *Signed: Seeking Clarification*

Dear Seeking: Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct. If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your full retirement age (or your "FRA," in Sept. 2026), you will initially only get the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you earned through the end of 2026. The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028, and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.

SSA's reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age. When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year's DRCs until January of the following year. Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid. Please understand that I'm not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.

As you contemplate when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision. If you expect to live at least to the "average" life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than "average," claiming sooner is usually a better choice.

If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org or 1.888.750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

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



Members of the Patrick County High School girls cross country team, which won the Carroll County meet Oct. 14, are, from left, Cameron Rakes, Rain Davis, Kendra Vipperman, Presley Combs, Emma Purdy, Paisley Shuff and Alexa Diaz.

PCHS girls win Carroll County cross country meet

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County High School girls cross country team took first place at the Carroll County meet Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Rain Davis led the Cougars with a third-place finish in the varsity girls 3-mile race, posting a time of 22:25.6. Cameron Rakes finished fourth in 22:53.3, followed by Kendra Vipperman in fifth at 23:35.8.

Alexa Diaz placed seventh with a time of 25:06.5, Emma Purdy finished 11th in 26:12.3, Presley Combs was 14th in 27:00.7, and Paisley Shuff placed 27th in 31:32.1.

In the varsity boys 3-mile race, Nathan Shuff finished 14th with a time of 20:36.9, while Asher Vaughn placed 22nd in 21:51.3.

In the middle school girls 2-mile race, Avalynn Huffman finished fourth, Paisley Holt placed 10th, Milayna Helms was 11th and Erica Payne finished 19th.

Blake Wood placed 13th in the middle school boys 2-mile race.

Colleges

(cont. from page 3)



Terry Young, P&HCC Dean of Arts, Sciences, Education & Business; Colin Ferguson, P&HCC Assistant Vice President of Workforce & Technical Programs; Chris Wikstrom, P&HCC Vice President of Instruction & Student Services; Greg Hodges, P&HCC President; Mirta Martin, Ferrum College President; Richard Grant, Ferrum College Provost; Lois Williams, Ferrum College Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management; and Jason Powell, Ferrum College Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning.

nomic growth.

"We know that the successful completion of education and training is the major determinant in the economic mobility of our students and the overall vibrancy of our community," said Patrick & Henry President Greg Hodges. "These MOUs will ensure that students and families are equipped with the tools that they need to complete meaningful credentials that lead to good paying jobs with family-sustaining wages."

"At Ferrum College, we believe talent is universal, but opportunity is not. These articulation agreements reflect our unwavering commitment to ensuring that students can pursue their dreams without unnecessary barriers," said Ferrum College President Mirta Martin. "Together with Patrick & Henry Community College, we are creating a seamless pathway that allows students to build on the strong foundation they have already established and earn a bachelor's degree at Ferrum College in just two years. Through the Ferrum Promise and Panther Promise, we are making that pathway not only attainable, but affordable. This partnership is about far more than transfer credits; it is about transforming lives, strengthening families, and preparing the next generation of leaders who will serve our communities and contribute to the economic vitality of our region. We are proud to partner with Patrick & Henry Community College as we continue expanding access to the life-changing power of higher education."

The memoranda of understanding signed by Hodges and Martin affirm "the shared goal of fostering educational collaboration and enhancing academic opportunities for students."

Learn more about the Panther Promise here: https://www.ferrum.edu/admissions-aid/cost-and-aid/tuition-and-fees.

Patrick County 30-Nelson County 20

By David Morrison

The Cougars traveled to Nelson County on Friday night and despite trailing by 20 early, the Cougars played with composure and grit and fought back to claim the 30-20 victory on the Governor's homecoming night.

After Nelson County scored on their first drive of the night, the Cougars took the ball and marched down the field. The promising opening drive came to an abrupt end when the opportunistic Governors were able to scoop up a Cougar fumble on the 15-yard line and sprint 85 yards for a touchdown giving the Governor's an early 14-0 lead. The wet conditions led to yet another Cougar fumble on their ensuing drive, setting the Governors up with a short field, leading to their third touchdown of the night. The Cougars defense tightened, forcing a turnover late in the first half and with time winding down the Cougars offense took the field and put together a long drive of their own that was capped off by a 22-yard touchdown pass from Jayden Corns to Brayden Hylton. After the PAT was blocked the Cougars went into the locker room down 20-6 at the half.

The Cougars received the second half kick-off and wasted little time getting the comeback started with Junior Josiah Shelor sprinting 56 yards for the Cougars second touchdown of the night, Senior QB Jayden Corns added the 2-point conversion to put the score at Nelson County 20 Patrick County 14. The inspired Cougar defense forced a punt on the Governors next drive, and the Cougars took over on their own 37. The Cougars put together an efficient 63-yard drive capped off by a Jayden Corns 1 yard touchdown run that would tie the game at 20-20. The Cougars elected to go for two, and Corns connected with Josiah Shelor for the 2-point conversion making the score 22-20 Cougars. The Cougars defense continued to put pressure on the Governors offense and forced them into a 4th and long situation early in the 4th quarter where the Governors managed to convert with a throwback screen to the RB. Despite the Governors' best efforts, the gritty Cougars defense stepped up and forced a turnover on downs. Giving the ball back to the Cougar offense that would move methodically down the field gaining yards and eating clock along the way. With the ball on the 7-yard line the Cougars went to the air and found Junior Wide Receiver Brayden Hylton who made a leaping catch for his second touchdown of the night, Jayden Corns added the 2-point conversion to complete the scoring, giving the Cougars a 30-20 lead. With time winding down the Cougars defense held strong as Sophomore Jaxon Handy forced a Governor's fumble delivering the ball back into the offense's hands where they would run out the clock for the Cougars 3rd win of the season.

Defensively the Cougars were led by Senior Linebacker Wheeler Helms who had 12 tackles on the night and one tackle for loss. Josiah Shelor chipped in 7 tackles with one tackle for loss, and Andrew Miller added 6 tackles on the night. Briar Branch, Jacob Spencer, and Jaxon Handy added 4 tackles each with Handy and Spencer each forcing a fumble and Spencer adding a tackle for loss. Noah Becker, Jayden Corns, Ethan Errichetti, Brayden Hylton, Logan Brown, Brent Errichetti, and Wesley Kruse all recorded tackles for the Cougars on the night.

Offensively the Cougars were led by Jayden Corns who had 15 Carries for 133 yards,1 rushing touchdown, and two 2-point conversions for the Cougars. Corns also went 13 of 18 passing for 152 yards and 2 touchdowns. Jaxon Handy added 35 yards on 8 carries, Noah Cain ran the ball 7 times for the Cougars for 73 yards, and Josiah Shelor added 100 yards on the ground on 6 carries and had 23 yards receiving on 3 catches with a 2-point conversion as well. Ethan Errichetti caught 3 passes on the night for 38 yards, and Charlie Tabor added one catch for 15 yards. Junior Brayden Hylton led the way for the Cougar receivers hauling in 5 catches for 75 yards and 2 touchdowns on the night.

Patrick County will play at home next Friday night as they welcome the Glenvar Highlanders for a Three Rivers District matchup at John D. Hooker field in Stuart.



State launches fire risk assessment dashboard

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) has launched its first statewide Community Risk Assessment Dashboard, an online resource designed to help fire departments identify local hazards, assess risks and improve emergency preparedness.

The public-facing dashboard combines information about demographics, buildings, geographic characteristics, emergency response agencies, critical infrastructure and past incidents to help fire service leaders make informed decisions about prevention and emergency response.

"Departments who do not yet have data-informed information and intelligence about their risk profile now have a place to start," said Sarah Kenny, VDFP coordinator of community risk reduction.

The department also plans to offer one-day workshops across Virginia from October through January 2027 to help fire service leaders learn to use the dashboard. Space is limited.

For more information, email communityrisk@vdfp.virginia.gov.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

and dedicated their lives to helping others.

Two sons became physicians, two children devoted themselves to education, another became an automotive engineer, and Nettie became an active and respected member of her community.

Their accomplishments speak volumes about the values instilled in them by their parents and the opportunities they worked so hard to pursue.

Thankfully, The Enterprise preserved quite a few accounts of the West family over the years. These newspaper articles allow us to follow the children from their youthful days attending neighborhood gatherings to their later achievements in education, medicine, and public service.

There is something particularly special about reading those old announcements. They provide a glimpse into the West family's lives as events were actually unfolding, preserving details that might otherwise have been lost to time.

I have included several of those articles below, allowing the voices of the past to tell parts of the West family's story in a way that I never could.

After all, that is one of the greatest joys of researching and sharing Patrick County history. Sometimes the most meaningful stories are not found in grand historical events, but in the everyday lives of families whose faith, determination, and love of home helped shape the communities we know today.

The Enterprise — February 27, 1913

Misses Hattie Bertie Gunter gave the young folks a sociable last Saturday afternoon. Among those present were Misses Alice and Josie Gunter, Cora Joyce, Daisy and Maud Underwood, and Messrs Walker, Grover and Murray Agee, Byrd and Frank West, Harve West, John Underwood, Fred Clifton, Carl Vipperman, Bob Cruise, Ither Earls and Homer Gunter. All reported a nice time.

The Enterprise — May 29, 1913

Misses Hattie and Bertie Gunter, Callie Bowling, Messrs. Francis and Byrd West, Lester and Willie Bowling and Abe Smart gave Miss Josie Gunter a surprise party on the night of the 16th, it being her seventeenth birthday. Two hours were spent in playing and singing, after which refreshments were served. All had a jolly time.

The Enterprise — June 18, 1914

"Mr. Clyde West returned to his home on the Meadows of Dan last week from William and Mary."

The Enterprise — September 17, 1914

"Mr. Clyde West and his younger brother of Meadows of Dan and Mr. Vance Stedman of Stuart, left Tuesday for William and Mary College."

The Enterprise — July 29, 1915

SLATE SUMMER SCHOOL

This school is located in Dan River District, Patrick County, Va., between Little Dan River and the Premium Orchard Company. It is in charge of Prof. Noah Shockley assisted by Jno. and Clyde West.

It was my privilege to visit the school on July 22, and up to that time 109 had been enrolled, in age from 5 to 45 years. 93 was the largest attendance for any one day. This school is destined to accomplish much permanent good.

Respectfully, S. G. DOBYNS.

Claudville, Va. July 27, 1915.

The Enterprise — August 4, 1921

"Mr. Frank West called on Miss Rosa Hopkins last Sunday."

The Enterprise — February 28, 1924

Praises Byrd West

From the Berea College, Berea, Kentucky

February 18, 1924

To The Enterprise, Stuart, Virginia.

My dear Sir:

Readers of your paper will be interested to learn of the excellent record which has been made here in Berea College by Byrd West who comes here from your county.

He entered the Academy here in 1916. When the United States joined the Allies in the World War, he enlisted in the Navy and gave two years of service to the country on the fleet. He returned to Berea and entered college in 1920. During his stay here, he taught a number of classes in the Academy and the Foundation School and has rendered other important services for the institution. He is now president of the senior class, is president of the collegiate union, an organization to promote self-government, and has held other important student offices. All this bears evidence of his popularity with fellow students. In scholarship, he stands high.

In matters relating to his student conduct, Byrd West always stands for the best. His influence is most helpful in holding up the ideal of the institution.

Over here at Berea, everyone works. Students work to pay their expenses through school. Last year, the institution paid out in money and credits more than $100,000.00 for student labor to more than 1,900 students who earned sums varying from a few dollars to amounts large enough to pay practically all their expenses are in reach of the poorest fellow. From the fifth grade to the college senior, everyone works at something and gets paid for it. Byrd West works as vigorously as anyone.

The people of his home neighborhood and county have every reason to be proud of the record he has made and of the highest esteem in which he is held here on the campus. We'd like to have more like him.

Yours very truly,

John F. Smith

The Enterprise — April 15, 1926

What's The Trouble?

What's the trouble? Many of the schools in Patrick County closed at the end of four and a half months. We know that our children are bright, but they are not brilliant enough to do nine months work in four and a half months time. Unless something is done they are going to reach maturity without sufficient education to meet the competition of life.

We are living in an age of progress. Civil, educational, and industrial life is rushing forward in one overpowering tide, engulfing everything. The boy or girl of today who is not prepared for tomorrow will be left on the abandoned beach of a spent civilization. The world has made more progress during the last century and a half than it had made before since the days of Abraham. The world will likely make more progress during the next fifty years than it has during the last century and a half.

The next fifty years, probably the greatest period in the history of the world, belongs to your children. It is that age you are preparing them for. Four and a half months a year to prepare Patrick County's girls and boys to meet the greatest age in history! Can we train the minds of these boys and girls to meet the keenest competition the world has known in four and a half months a year?

It can't be done. Something must be done. What's the trouble anyway?

C. Byrd West

The Enterprise — May 27, 1926

Patrick County Men Receive High Honor at M. C. Va.

The President of the student body is the highest honor a student in the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. Mr. Frank West of Vesta, Va., who is a Senior Medical Student, has successfully held this high and honored position throughout the past college session. Mr. West has been an excellent executive and is admired by the entire faculty and student body.

At a recent student election, Mr. Frank Joyce, a Junior Dental Student was elected Vice-President of the student body for the session 1926-27. This position is the highest honor afforded in the Dental Department at M. C. Va. Mr. Joyce is a very popular young man, from Stuart, and is taking an active part in all phases of college activities. We feel sure that he will ably fill the position to which he has been elected.

The Enterprise — January 26, 1928

"Dr. Frank West of Laurel Fork and Miss Anna Sutphin of Dugspur were in Stuart Saturday night."

The Enterprise — May 22, 1930

WEST—MARSHALL

The marriage of Miss Elsie Marshall, daughter of Elder and Mrs. J. E. Marshall, to Dr. Frank West, which occurred at Laurel Fork last Thursday, will be of interest to the many friends of the young couple.

Mrs. West is a very attractive and popular young woman, while Dr. West is a promising young physician of the Laurel Fork section.

Dr. and Mrs. West will make their home at Laurel Fork for the present.

The Enterprise — December 4, 1930

Dr. and Mrs. Frank West of Laurel Fork spent a short while Friday evening in Stuart, enroute from Richmond, where they had spent Thanksgiving.

The Berea Citizen — September 8, 1932

FORMER BEREA STUDENTS WED

Miss Nettie Jane West and Mr. Ed Cooper are Married in Virginia

A wedding of much interest was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. West, of Meadow of Dan, Patrick County, Virginia, Sunday, August 28th, 1932, when their daughter, Nettie Jane, became the bride of Mr. Edmond Bradford Cooper of Maine.

The ceremony took place in the yard, under the spreading maple trees, and was performed by Rev. M. Guy West, cousin of the bride.

The bride was beautifully gowned in white satin and lace, with a bridal wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a large bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley. Her only attendant was her sister, Miss Clara Mae West, who wore yellow eyelet embroidery and net and a large picture hat, and carried a bouquet of yellow gladiolas and orchids.

Little Carolyn West of Detroit, Mich., niece of the bride, dressed in lavender organdy, acted as flower girl, carrying a basket of mixed cut flowers.

Mr. Edward Lafferty, from Kentucky, classmate of the bride and groom, was best man to the groom.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr. S. W. West.

Immediately before the ceremony, the bridesmaid sang, "I Love You Truly." The bridal chorus from Lohengrin was played by Mrs. Irene DeHart West, sister-in-law of the bride.

Following the ceremony a large wedding cake was cut by the bride, following the old custom, and served with other refreshments to the many guests gathered for the event, after which the bride and groom left by automobile for a tour of the Middle West and Canada.

The bride and groom are graduates of Berea College with the class of 1930 and have studied at George Washington University and University of Chicago, respectively.

They will make their home at Orono, Me., where the groom has a teaching position.

The Enterprise — May 6, 1937

MRS. RUTH E. WEST PASSES

This Community was shocked and grieved to learn of the passing of one of Patrick's most dearly loved citizens, Mrs. Ruth E. West, 64, whose death occurred at Alexandria, Va., on April 29.

Mrs. West, wife of S. W. West of Meadows of Dan, had been in poor health for some time and for the past few months had been at the home of her son, Dr. W. C. West in Alexandria, where she had been receiving treatment, and it was thought would soon be able to return to her home, when she was suddenly stricken.

Her remains were brought to her old home near Vesta for burial. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. E. Estell and Eld. J. E. Marshall and occurred by a lovely floral tribute. The body was interred in the Cemetery near the home.

Bearers were: George Lewis, Eugene Cassell, Ben Clifton, Fred Clifton, Kelly Scott, Ben Hylton, Bob Barker, Earle West, Elijah West, Larkin Cockram, Babe Cockram, Posey Boyd, John West, Charlie West, Tump Spangler, Ted Jewel, and Jerry Wood.

Mrs. West was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Elkanah Hylton. She had spent a useful, happy, Christian life, ministering to others gladly. Her going leaves a gap which cannot be filled in her community.

The deceased is survived by her husband and the following children:

Dr. W. Clyde West of Alexandria; C. B. West of Henderson, Ky.; Dr. F. B. West of West River, Md.; Coy Lee West of Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Charles Adams of Martinsville; and Mrs. Nettie Cooper of Auburn, Maine.

The Enterprise — November 21, 1946

DR. FRANK WEST DIES OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN WRECK

Dr. Frank West, former citizen of Patrick, son of S. W. West of Meadows of Dan, died Tuesday, following injuries sustained in an automobile wreck Monday.

Relatives were immediately notified of his critical condition, and later of his death. However no particulars are available at this time, other than that funeral services will be held Thursday and burial made in Arlington Cemetery. It is presumed that the accident occurred near his home in West River, Md., where he had a large practice.

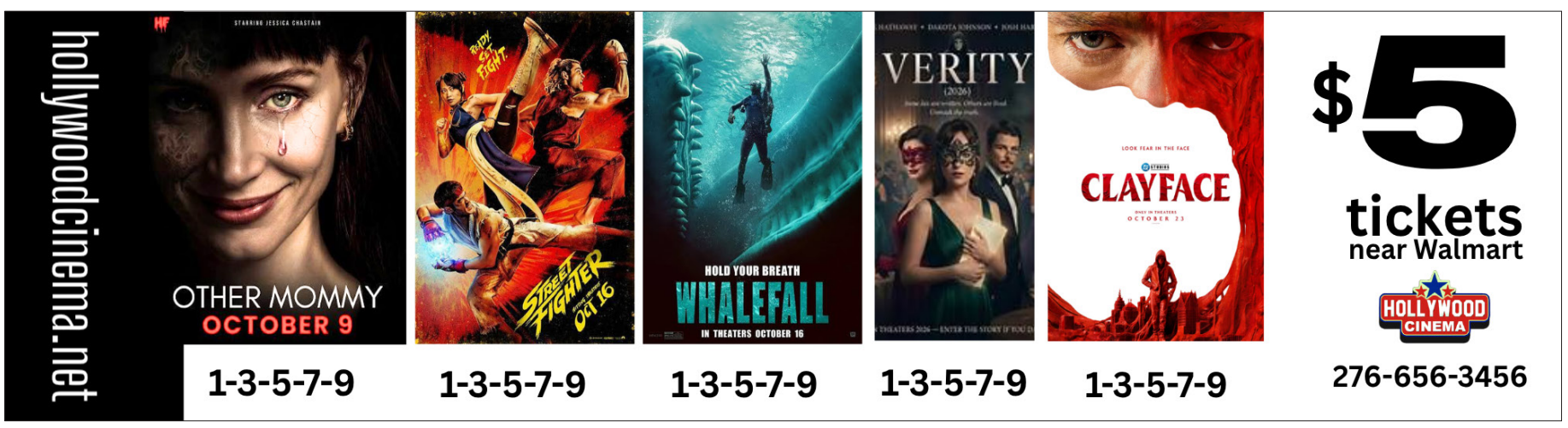
Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Elsie Marshall, two daughters, and one son.

The Enterprise — June 9, 1955

The Critz school is progressing nicely under the principal, Mr. Byrd West.

According to an obituary published in the Lexington Herald-Leader on April 25, 2002, Nettie West Cooper died April 22 at age 94. A Berea College graduate, she and her husband, Edmond, lived in New England and New Jersey before settling in Newark, Delaware, in 1950, where he worked for DuPont. Nettie was active in community organizations, including the YWCA, League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. She also enjoyed traveling, participating in book clubs, attending theater productions and gardening. She was survived by two sons, Peter and Wilson, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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



OBITUARIES

Nelson Jones Sowers



Mr. Nelson Jones Sowers, age 87 of Stuart, passed away Monday, October 12, 2026 at his home. He was born in Carroll County on May 7, 1939, to the late Cana Nelson Sowers and Sena Worrell Sowers. In addition to his parents, Mr. Sowers was preceded in death by a son, Jerry Nelson Sowers; three sisters, Norma Sowers, Jessie Puckett and Joann Combs; a brother, Manuel Sowers; and four half siblings, Iris Critz, Gene Culledge, Mavis Meredith, and Bill Sowers. He faithfully served in the United States Army Reserves. He was a member of the Virginia American Legion Post#141 in Richmond, Virginia, a lifetime member of the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department with over 50 years of service and a lifetime member of Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad with over 20 years of service. He retired from DuPont and later worked at the Blue Ridge Airport in Spencer. Nelson was a private pilot and enjoyed flying. He was a member Worrell Memorial Primitive Baptist Church and attended Patrick Springs Christian Church.

Mr. Sowers is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Hortense Chaney Sowers of the home; a son, Carl Sowers (Penny); a daughter, Anita Sowers Grigg (Brian); two grandchildren, Caleb Sowers and Victoria Sowers; a sister, Nora Alice Martin; a sister-in-law, Ann Sowers; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Sowers will be held Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Gleason Worrell and Pastor Buck Hanks officiating. Burial will follow in Ross Harbour Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Ridgeway, Virginia 24148 or to the Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad, 18287 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Ridgeway, Virginia 24148. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Jerry Lynwood Joyce



Jerry Lynwood Joyce, age 75 of Patrick Springs went to the Lord on October 17, 2026. He was born to the late Raymond Swanson Joyce Sr. and Iva June Fain Joyce.

He was a faithful servant at Pleasant View Baptist Church as a deacon. Serving others and greeting everyone gave him much joy.

He was a 1969 Bassett High School graduate. He proudly served in the US Army, where he was honorably discharged. He retired after 36 years from American Electric Power. He enjoyed mission trips, playing golf, Tarheel basketball, time on the beach, but most of all spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Surviving are his loving wife of 53 years Judy Adams Joyce; Two Sons, Todd and Dana Joyce, Brian and Stacy Joyce; Four grandchildren, Wesley and Heather Joyce, Dr. Amanda Joyce and Daniel Harless, Caleb Joyce and Ethan Joyce; great grandchildren, Ansel Joyce and Robin Joyce; his brother, Raymond and Peggy Joyce; his sister, Debbie and Mike Bryant; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will take place at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Pleasant View Baptist Church with Dr. Joey McNeil officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. A visitation will be held at Pleasant View Baptist Church on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 from 6-8 PM. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Pleasant View Baptist Church, Attn: Missions & Benevolence Fund, 4432 Pleasant View Drive, Patrick Springs, Virginia 24133. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Turner Thompson



Mr. Turner Thompson, a proud World War II veteran, lifelong farmer, and dedicated family man, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at the age of 101 at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart, Virginia.

Born on July 3, 1925, in Patrick County, Virginia, Turner was the son of the late John Henry Thompson and Notie Alice Puckett Thompson. Turner Thompson honorably served his country as a Private First Class and Military Policeman in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European Theater. For his dedicated service, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. What he experienced and witnessed during the war instilled in him a commitment to live life to its fullest, which he did with grace, hard work, and respect for everyone he met.

Upon honorable discharge, Turner returned to Ararat, Virginia, where he married the love of his life, Virginia Montgomery. They shared 58 beautiful years of marriage before her passing. Turner spent his life working the land as a tobacco, cabbage, and cattle farmer. He found true joy in the rhythm of agricultural life, always looking ahead to the next season's crops, striving for improvement.

After retiring, Turner embraced a love for travel, exploring all 48 contiguous states alongside his wife, her sister Mildred, and her husband Joe Pell. He also continued to raise cattle and plant a large garden. He enjoyed camping, fishing, walking at Mayberry Mall, and catching up with friends and neighbors at senior meetings and Boyd's Restaurant. He was a competitive Rook player who loved a good game with family and friends. A man of quiet faith, Turner regularly attended Salem Fellowship Church as long as he was able. In recent years, he cherished visiting his sister-in-law, Jinky Montgomery, reminiscing about old times while she tended to her greenhouses. Above all, Turner put family first, and his role as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather brought him his greatest joy. He never missed a family event, especially a dance recital or a ballgame.

In addition to his beloved wife and parents, Turner was preceded in death by three sisters, Mattie Young, May Belle Smith, and Mildred Glenn; and six brothers, Alvis, Lawrence, Benton, Fred, Ralph, and Claude Thompson.

His legacy of hard work, respect, and deep familial love lives on through his son, Turner Thompson, and daughter-in-law, Linda; his grandson, Adam Thompson, and his wife, Kayla; his granddaughter, Aimee Thompson Culler, and her husband, Michael; his three precious great-grandchildren, Fallon Elise Culler, Dalton Turner Culler, and Sadie Mae Thompson; and a special niece, Patsy Newsome-Crant.

Visitation will be at Moody Funeral Services of Mount Airy, Sunday, October 18th, from 6 to 8 pm. The Service will be held at Moody's Chapel on Monday, October 19th at 2:00 pm, with burial to follow at Oakdale Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to some of Turner's favorite charities: St. Jude's Hospital, Shriner's Hospital, the Appalachian Christian Project, the Disabled American Veterans, or Salem Fellowship Church of Mount Airy, NC.

Online condolences may be made at: www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Music

(cont. from page 1)

"They put on a real good show. They got a real big following, and it's unusual that the band has two singers that are good singers. You never see that in an old-time band," Alley said of the Twin Creek String Band.

The group performs a variety of bluegrass and country music.

"They have a big variety show," Alley said.

The Country Boys, another longtime local favorite, also will perform.

"They've been around 40-something years. That's the oldest band in the county," Alley said.

The association also has announced its remaining shows for the year.

The annual Veteran Appreciation Show is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, featuring Harrison Ridge, the Coffee Break Jam Band and Barry Collins & The Comptons.

Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness, a retired Marine, will be the special guest.

"County Administrator Michael McGuinness is going to be the special guest that night to speak to the crowd being a retired Marine. Mike's coming to open everything up," Alley said.

Sammy Shelor's annual Banjorama will be held Dec. 12, featuring Starlett & The Bluegrass Knights and more than a dozen banjo players.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds supporting firearm safety education for local youth.

For more information or to watch past performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

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Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
PATRICK COUNTY Economic Development
REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD VIRGINIA TECH

Veterans

(cont. from page 1)

of independence.

"We've been having two grand marshals, so this year they decided to do three," she said.

Thomas served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1965 after being drafted. He was a medical corpsman with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

Hines served in the Army from 1963 to 1966, while McHone served six years in the Army National Guard.

Smith said all three veterans have been involved in the annual event since its inception.

They've all "played an integral part in the program and parade over the years. Really good, deserving fellas for sure," she said.

Parade participants will begin lining up at noon on Wood Brothers Drive near the intersection with Blue Ridge Street.

The parade will follow the traditional Christmas parade route, traveling along Blue Ridge Street before turning onto Main Street. It will conclude at the stoplight in downtown Stuart.

Following the parade, a Veterans Day program will begin at 2 p.m. at Rotary Field.

"We are encouraging people in the parade route and the visitors to just keep on going over there to Rotary Field since that's where our program will be held," Smith said.

The program will include participation by the Patrick County Honor Guard, with County Administrator Michael McGuinness serving as keynote speaker.

Refreshments will be available for veterans and other attendees.

"This year we're going to have refreshments for anyone who comes and the veterans. Both the parade and the program will be livestreamed on Facebook, so anyone who can't make it out is welcome to watch it," Smith said.

In the event of inclement weather, the program at Rotary Field will still be held, even if the parade is canceled.

There is no fee to participate in the parade, and Smith said participation is open to anyone wishing to recognize a veteran or honor the memory of someone who served.

"They can call us for more information (276-229-6931), but basically veteran or not, just want to honor a veteran or honor the memory of a veteran or whatever, just show up there. We'll be lining up in the right-hand lane there of Wood Brothers Drive," she said.

A registration tent will be set up in the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department parking lot. Participants will not need to enter the lot, as volunteers will approach vehicles and floats to collect information for parade announcements and the livestream.

"Just so that the P.A. Speaker and Facebook Live will have the information of who's in the parade and if they're honoring someone," Smith said.

Organizers also are encouraging spectators to bring signs expressing appreciation for veterans.

"To let the veterans who are in the parade know they're appreciated. We really think that would add to it for the veterans to see that as they're going along the parade route," Smith said.

New Virginia Energy Plan targets costs, growing demand



Gov. Abigail Spanberger released Virginia's 2026 Energy Plan on Thursday, outlining several potential paths for meeting growing electricity demand while maintaining reliability, controlling costs and moving toward a net-zero power system.

The plan does not prescribe a single fuel source, technology or forecast for future demand. Instead, the administration said energy-system modeling was used to evaluate different levels of growth and policy approaches and their potential costs and tradeoffs.

The plan calls for accelerating lower-cost and faster-to-deploy energy resources, addressing the effects of data center growth, aligning utility incentives with energy affordability and developing resources capable of providing power when intermittent sources are unavailable.

It also calls for reducing emissions associated with natural gas infrastructure, expanding clean transportation and developing Virginia's energy workforce and supply chain.

"Virginians have been clear about what they need from their energy system," Spanberger said. "Energy should be reliable, with enough power to support Virginia's growth. It should be clean and built in a way that protects the health of our communities and the natural resources around us. It should be local, so the jobs and benefits of our energy growth stay here in Virginia. And it must be affordable."

The administration said development of the plan included more than 3,000 public survey responses, six regional meetings, a public town hall and 20 industry-specific lis-

(See Energy p. 14)

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 3 John (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. From 2 Samuel, who proclaimed, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished"? *Saul, Simeon, David, Peter*

3. Who said, "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are ye all"? *Samson, Goliath, The devil, Job*

4. From the Beatitudes, who shall be called the sons of God? *Hungry, Peacemakers, Merciful, Lonely*

5. What Jewish lady became queen of Persia? *Abigail, Sarah, Esther, Ruth*

6. Whose biblical name means "God is my judge"? *Titus, Festus, David, Daniel*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) David, 3) Job, 4) Peacemakers, 5) Esther, 6) Daniel

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
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Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

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Stuart
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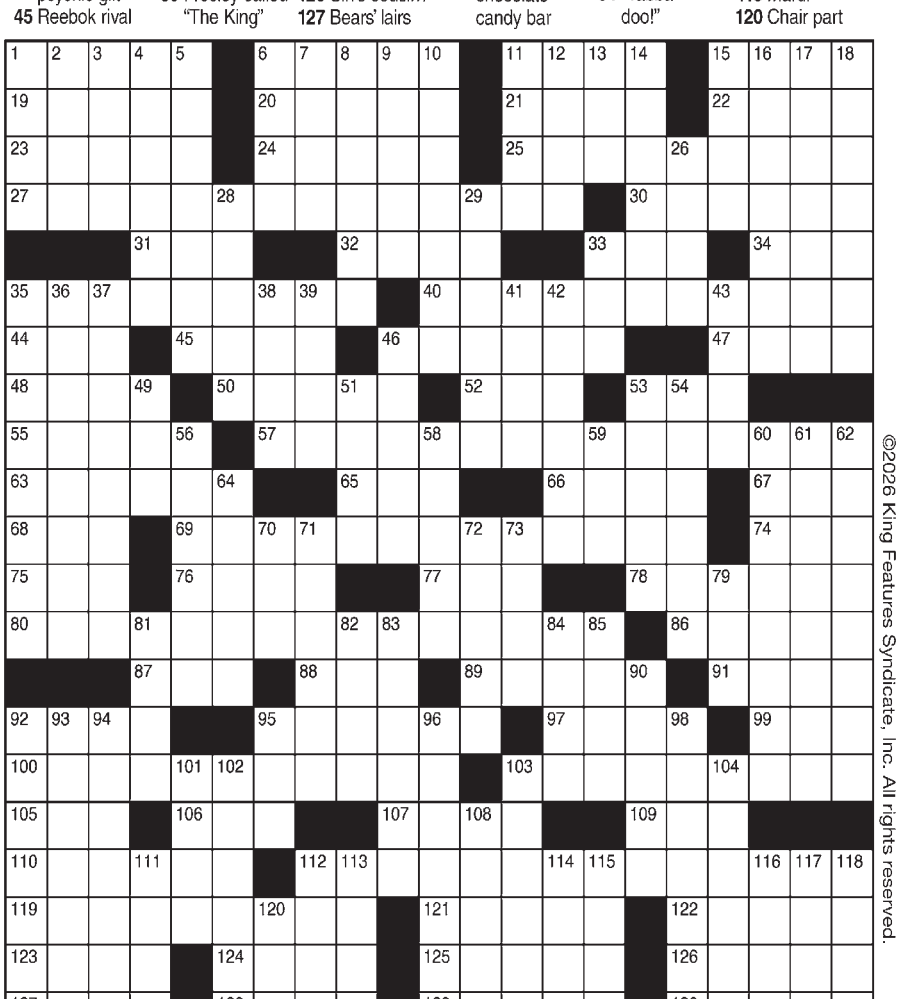
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Super Crossword

TITLEHOLDERS

ACROSS
1 Perp's excuse
6 Bee-related
11 Lipids
15 In addition
19 "Cheers!," in Spain
20 Cousin of largo
21 Concept
22 Geometry, e.g.
23 Photo-sharing app, casually
24 Be finished by
25 "Shakespeare in Love" Oscar winner
27 "A Pocket Full of Rye" novelist
30 Device connecting to a computer port
31 "Alley —!"
32 High mountain peaks, in Italy
33 "J to — L-O!" (2002 album)
34 Put on
35 Portrayer of Emma Peel on "The Avengers"
40 Longtime editor-in-chief of Vogue
44 Purported psychic gift
45 Reebok rival
46 One-celled swimmer
47 — 500 (auto race)
48 Ren or Stimpy, e.g.
50 "Peanuts" blanket toter
52 Cherry-hued
53 "Dr." of rap
55 Gazes at creepily
57 "Rebecca" novelist
63 Fee-free, as a mutual fund
65 Come — halt
66 Succotash ingredient
67 Kung — chicken
68 12-month period, in Rio
69 Longtime Royal Ballet luminary
74 Sick-dog link
75 Levy
76 Conical-bore woodwind
77 Wed.-Fri. link
78 Kind of gas that's banned for autos
80 Best Actress winner for "BUtterfield 8"
86 Large-eyed primate
87 — jiffy
88 Cattle call
89 Presley called "The King"
91 Morning TV's Kelly
92 Trotsky of Russia
95 Copier clogs
97 Free-for- — (melees)
99 Eggy drink
100 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
103 1986 Grammy winner for Best Jazz Vocal Performance
105 La Paz's country: Abbr.
106 Tee preceder
107 See 53-Down
109 Cut the lawn
110 Old Jewish ascetic
112 With 119-Across, "South Pacific" song ... or a declaration about the nine women featured in this puzzle?
119 See 112-Across
121 Mann of pop
122 Apple drink
123 Pernicious
124 British trolley
125 Atlantic, e.g.
126 Siri's cousin?
127 Bears' lairs
128 1980s Dodge
129 Quickness
130 Catnaps, e.g.

DOWN
1 China's home
2 Singer k.d. —
3 "Casablanca" woman
4 Part of a blouse or a mouse
5 Boise native
6 A Baldwin brother
7 Phnom —, Cambodia
8 How RuPaul performs
9 "Garfield: — of Two Kitties" (2006 film)
10 "Move to inbox" email phrase
11 Pacific island nation
12 In unison, in music
13 TV coach Lasso
14 Voiced a quick greeting
15 "That's for sure!"
16 "Arnie" actress Sue Ane —
17 City NW of Minneapolis
18 Classic chocolate candy bar
26 — about-face (flip-flop)
28 May preceder
29 Unrefined source of element #50
33 Pan Am rival
35 Explode, as a bomb
36 Having equal angles
37 Moon-landing mission
38 "Just jokin' with you"
39 Actress Rowlands
41 Must-have
42 Carry off illegally
43 Arena level
46 Take — at (try)
49 Prefix with colonial
51 As many as
53 With 107-Across, he had many hit songs with John Oates
54 Small stream
56 Apia native
58 Three-nation pact of '94
59 Skier Tommy
60 Small tablet from Apple
61 De-intensify
62 Driver's fit of anger
64 "Yabba — doo!"
70 Fish eggs
71 Become irate
72 "That's for sure!"
73 — and void
79 — Lingus
81 California wines, in brief
82 — sapiens
83 "Ooh, good comeback!"
84 Circle relative
85 Irritate
90 Replay mode, for short
92 Defamed in print
93 Causing to wear down
94 Raincoat fabric
95 Srs., last year
96 Ancient Egyptian king
98 Toy racer
101 Actress Suvari
102 In the habit of
103 Regions, weatherwise
104 For a bit
108 Camera brand
111 Morays, e.g.
112 IRS guy, e.g.
113 Half: Prefix
114 Chair part
115 Hawaiian goose
116 — of March
117 Following
118 Mardi —
120 Chair part



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Puzzle answers page 11

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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. 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

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.

High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will hold a community meal featuring homemade soup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dine-in and take-out options are available. Donations are not expected but will be accepted to benefit the Patrick County Recovery Ministry.

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.

Sunday, Nov. 1
Smith River Church of the Brethren in Woolwine will have a Cow Bell Service at 7 p.m. Pastors Terry Martin, Logan Boyd, and Rick Randall will speak. Refreshments follow the service.

Saturday, Nov. 7
The Meadows of Dan Women's Club will hold a Bingo event at the Meadows of Dan Community Center, located at 2858 JEB Stuart Hwy. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the games start at 6 p.m. Raffle drawings and food available for dine-in or take-out. For more information, call 276-692-6504.

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

Thursday, Nov. 12
The Patrick County Senior Citizen Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field. Entertainment will be provided by Philip Adams. The Reynolds Homestead will provide the meal. Attendees are requested to bring desserts to share with the group and cans of food to donate to the Patrick County Food Bank.

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.

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Answers

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S	A	L	U	D	■	L	E	N	T	O	■	I	D	E	A	■	M	A	T	H
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Ferrum

(cont. from page 4)

ue academic program that will prepare students for meaningful careers while also strengthening the economic future of rural Virginia. We are deeply grateful for the support that made this possible, and we are excited to see the impact this program will have on our students, our region, and generations to come."

Provost Richard Grant emphasized the program's academic significance and its alignment with Ferrum College's mission.

"The launch of Engineering Technology represents an important step forward for Ferrum College and the students we serve," said Grant. "This program brings together rigorous academics, applied learning, industry partnerships, and career preparation in a way that aligns directly with workforce needs across Virginia. Most importantly, it creates new opportunities for our students to earn a high-value degree, gain practical experience, and enter careers where they can make an immediate impact. This is exactly the kind of innovative, mission-driven program that expands opportunities for students while strengthening the future of the region."

The Engineering Technology program was developed in response to documented workforce needs and sustained student interest in engineering-related pathways. It will serve Ferrum College's largely rural, Pell-Grant-eligible, and first-generation student population by providing access to a career-focused degree that aligns directly with employer demand in the Commonwealth and beyond.

The first-year funding will support key elements of the program's launch, including specialized laboratory equipment, renovation and modernization of instructional space in Bassett Hall, and the hiring of essential personnel to guide curriculum development, internships, apprenticeships, and student success. During this implementation year, 100% of grant program activities will be financed with Federal money. As proposed in the grant application, non-governmental sources will not be utilized to finance the program. The program will also include embedded credit-bearing internships and direct employer engagement to ensure that graduates are ready to contribute immediately in technical fields.

The new degree program is expected to strengthen the region's economic vitality by preparing graduates for careers in infrastructure, utilities, construction, and environmental systems — fields that are essential to the future of rural Virginia. Through partnerships with employers and community colleges, the program will also create pathways for transfer students and working adults seeking advancement through higher education.

Ferrum College officials noted that the funding supports not only academic growth but also long-term institutional sustainability. The program is expected to generate new enrollment, expand access to career pathways, and create a model that benefits students, families, employers, and the broader region.

"This is exactly the kind of mission-driven innovation Ferrum College was created to provide," President Martin added. "We serve students who are determined to build better lives for themselves and their families. This funding helps us meet that promise in an even more powerful way."

Implementation will begin immediately, with facility preparation, curriculum finalization, personnel hiring, and employer partnership development already underway. The college expects the first cohort of students to enroll for fall 2027 classes.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
3336 MOOREFIELD STORE RD
STUART, VA 24171

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $87,500.00, dated September 28, 2016, and recorded as Instrument Number 160001574 in Patrick County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171-0148 on November 25, 2026 at 11:30 AM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF STATE ROUTE #631, IN THE MAYO RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING ONE (1) ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:
BEGINNING AT A STAKE 20 FEET FROM THE CENTER OF STATE HIGHWAY NO. 631 AND RUNNING NORTH 54 DEG. 30 MIN. E. 229.3 FEET TO A STAKE, 20 FEET FROM CENTER OF HIGHWAY, THENCE SOUTH 41 DEG. EAST 190 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 54 DEG. 30 MIN. WEST 229.3 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE NORTH 41 DEG. WEST 190 FEET TO A STAKE 20 FEET FROM CENTER OF HIGHWAY AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE ACRE, MORE OR LESS; AND BEING THAT SAME TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO JOHN DAVID HOPKINS BY DEED FROM CONSTANCE MARIE H. HAWKINS, ET ALS, DATED SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2016, AND RECORDED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HERETO IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE, TO WHICH DEED AND MAP REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the

Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
(844) 442-2150
(470) 321- 7112

LEGAL

Public Notice - Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow impacts to wetlands, stream channel, and open water in Patrick County, Virginia.
PERMIT COMMENT PERIOD: 9/23/2026 - 10/23/2026
PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations
APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Triton Construction, Inc.; P.O. Box 1360, Saint Albans, WV 25177; VWPP Permit Application No. 26-0835
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant has applied for a new permit for the Route 58 Improvements - Vesta Section project. The project is an approximately an approximately 4.4-mile roadway construction project located between Meadows of Dan Bypass and Lover's Leap Section in Patrick County, Virginia. The proposed activity would affect 2.39 acres of wetlands, 0.29 acres open water, and 6603 linear feet of stream channel. The proposed activity would affect waterbodies in the Roanoke River watershed. To compensate for the surface waters affected, the applicant would purchase 3.50 wetland mitigation credit(s) and 7,650 USM stream mitigation credits DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit.
HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts written comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.
CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. SHAWN CRIST; Blue Ridge Regional Office; 901 Russell Drive Salem, VA 24153; Phone: 434-316-4031; Email: shawn.crist@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

LEGAL

Meeting Notice
Patrick County Public Service Authority
Quarterly Business Meeting

The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold their quarterly Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 6 PM in the 3rd Floor Court Room of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building.
Petitions and requests from the public to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.

LEGAL

ABC NOTICE

Vaishvi Patel LLC trading as Ararat Stop N Shop, 5348 Ararat Hwy, Ararat, Patrick County, VA 24053-3920.
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Vardhman Patel/Partner, Chiragkumar Patel/Partner
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.

LEGAL

TOWN OF STUART PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
The Town of Stuart Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, Virginia.
The Commission will meet as the Façade Improvement Committee for the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project (CDBG #23-23-08) to review the façade improvement packages and funding recommendations, and will take up other business properly brought before the Commission.
All interested persons are invited to attend. Those unable to attend who wish to provide comments may contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager, by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at bryce.simmons@stuartva.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 1

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 1

Present Law
Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not explicitly provide to its citizens a right to reproductive freedom nor does it explicitly protect or prohibit certain kinds of health care procedures or decisions.

Proposed Amendment
The proposed amendment would add to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights the fundamental right to make and carry out decisions about a person's own reproductive care with only certain, specific exceptions. The proposed amendment specifically allows the state government to pass laws to regulate abortion care in the third trimester of pregnancy, but requires any such law to allow for abortion care when it is medically needed to protect the life and health of the pregnant person or because the fetus is not viable.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken.~~]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 11-A. Fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

That every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care.

An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

The Commonwealth shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on such individual's own exercise of this fundamental right or such individual's own actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against any individual for aiding or assisting another individual in exercising such other individual's right to reproductive freedom with such other individual's voluntary consent.

For the purposes of this section, a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of maintaining or improving the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of care and evidence-based medicine and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making.

This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of the section.



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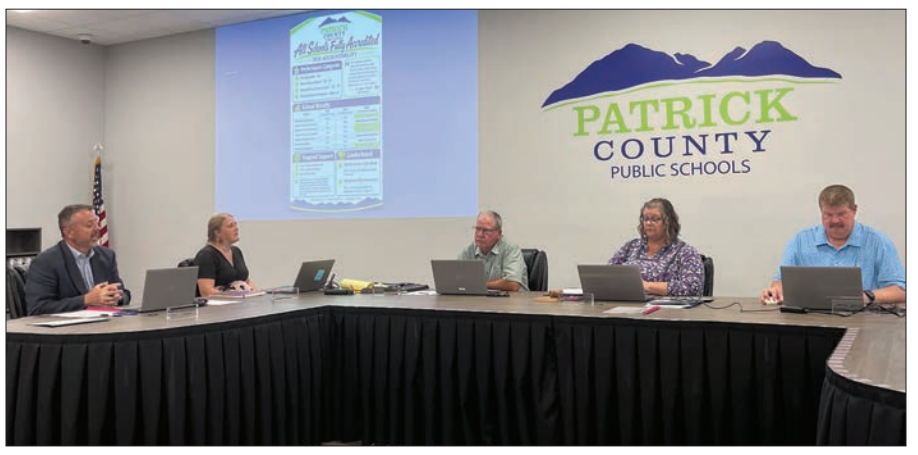
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School Board

(cont. from page 1)



Members of the Patrick County School Board learned that schools in the division performed well under the state's 2026 accountability framework.

school performance classifications.

Those calculations resulted in Stuart Elementary School being placed in the Meets Expectations category despite its framework score exceeding 90. Patrick Springs Primary School and Hardin Reynolds Memorial School were placed in the Approaching Expectations category.

Wood said the division remains pleased with the schools' overall framework scores.

He also noted an increase in the number of schools statewide identified as targeted support schools, from approximately 300 last year to more than 600 this year.

Six of Patrick County's seven schools improved their framework scores over the previous year, Wood said.

"Meadows of Dan is the only one who went from a 97.1 to a 95.9. Still exceptional," he said.

Although Stuart Elementary and Patrick Springs Primary did not meet expectations for the subgroup of students receiving special education services, Wood said their pass rates remain approximately 10 percentage points above the state average.

"We understand that the system is what we're having to adjust to, and it wouldn't matter if all of our students were distinguished, we would still look at our data, see what changes we need to make, and do what's best for our kids because that's what we do all the time," Wood said.

He also reported that Patrick County Public Schools recently ranked ninth in Virginia for Standards of Learning test scores, while Patrick County High School ranked third among combined middle and high schools.

Wood highlighted student attendance at Meadows of Dan Elementary School, which he said had the lowest chronic absenteeism rate in Region VI.

"Meadows of Dan is the number one school in our Region VI when it comes to coming to school, and so they have the lowest chronic absentee number," he said.

In other business, the board:

*Approved naming the Patrick County High School football stadium Tim Goad Stadium, with a dedication sign to be added to the scoreboard. The playing field will retain its name, Judge Hooker Field.

*Received Virginia School Boards Association awards.

*Heard updates on the Ok2Speak-Out program and school-age childcare.

*Approved a proclamation designating October as Bullying Prevention Month.

*Approved the consent agenda, an amended personnel report and three religious exemptions identified as 2026-2027-3, 2026-2027-4 and 2026-2027-5.

THANK YOU FOR READING

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 2

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same-sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 2

Present Law

Marriages, civil unions, and other legal relationships with the same rights, benefits, and effects of marriage between persons of the same sex or gender are prohibited under Virginia's Constitution. This prohibition is no longer enforceable as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender remains in the state's Constitution. If the Supreme Court were to overturn its previous decision, that prohibition would be enforceable again.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment removes the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender from the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights. It is replaced with the fundamental right to marry, requiring the state to recognize and treat equally under the law any lawful marriage between two adult persons, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of either person. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons because of their sex, gender, or race.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. Marriage.

That ~~only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions~~ marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not ~~create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage~~ deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. ~~Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage~~ This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 3

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, (ii) to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and (iii) to update the existing prohibition on voting by persons found to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 3

Present Law

Virginia's Constitution currently provides that a person who is convicted of any felony loses the right to vote for the rest of their life unless the Governor of Virginia takes administrative action to restore that specific person's right to vote. This is the only means of getting back the right to vote after a felony conviction.

The current constitutional provision also imposes a broad restriction, while using outdated terminology, on voting by persons found to be incapacitated. A person who is determined by a court to be incapacitated, regardless of the kind of incapacity, loses the right to vote, and only a court can restore the person's right to vote later.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment enshrines in the Constitution the fundamental right of all qualified persons in the Commonwealth to vote. Two exceptions to this right are for persons who are serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction and persons who are determined by a court to not understand the act of voting. Such right cannot otherwise be restricted by laws.

Under the proposed amendment, a person who is convicted of a felony loses the right to vote during their period of incarceration. Once released from incarceration, the person gets back the right to vote without needing to apply for restoration by the Governor.

The proposed amendment also requires a specific finding by a court that a person does not understand the act of voting in order for that person's right to vote to be taken away.

With the right to vote, a person also has the right to be a juror, the right to be elected to an office, and the right to be a notary public.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE II.

FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

(a) In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in ~~this section~~ subsection (b), and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. Every person who meets these qualifications shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, and such right shall not be abridged by law, except that:

(1) No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote ~~unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority.~~ during any period of incarceration for such felony conviction, but every such person, upon release from incarceration for that felony conviction and without further action required of him, shall be invested with all political rights, including the right to vote; and

~~As prescribed by law, no~~ (2) No person who has been adjudicated ~~to be mentally incompetent~~ by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote during such period of incapacity until his ~~competency~~ capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law.

(b) The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

(c) Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.



Energy

(cont. from page 9)

tening sessions.

For the first time in development of a Virginia Energy Plan, according to the administration, that public input was paired with energy-system modeling and analysis designed to examine different demand scenarios and policy choices.

The modeling found multiple potential pathways for Virginia to reach a net-zero power system by 2050 while maintaining reliable and affordable electricity, according to the administration.

Chief Energy Officer Josephus Allmond described the approach as "Clean-First, Least-Cost."

"As we build the energy system to support the growth we are anticipating, cleaner air and healthier communities will be part of how we measure success," Allmond said.

Data centers are among the sources of growing electricity demand addressed in the plan. The administration said one of its goals is ensuring future data center development advances the state's broader energy objectives.

The plan follows several data center-related measures approved earlier this year, including an energy consumption tax on data centers and additional requirements involving backup generators and water use.

Spanberger also urged the State Corporation Commission to require data centers to pay for transmission infrastructure constructed exclusively for their operations, according to the administration.

The Energy Plan itself does not establish utility rates or approve individual energy projects. Rather, it is intended to guide energy policy, investment and coordination as individual decisions move through legislative, regulatory and local government processes.

Virginia updates its Energy Plan every four years as required by state law.

"This plan sets a vision for building the innovative energy infrastructure and skilled workforce Virginia's economic growth will require, while preserving the flexibility to respond as demand, technology, and investment change," Secretary of Commerce and Trade Carrie Chenery said.

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