



THE ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 149 No. 22 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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



Members of the Class of 2025 celebrated with a traditional cap toss after receiving their diplomas on May 23.

Class of 2025 encouraged to lift others as they rise

By Taylor Boyd
The 152 graduates of the 55th Patrick County High School (PCHS) Commencement Exercise on Friday, May 23, were told not just to be graduates of the school, but also graduates of humanity.

The words of wisdom came from Student Government Association President Eliza Lin Clifton, who encouraged her fellow graduates to be “people who choose empathy over ego, action over apathy, and love over hate,” as that is the greatest distinction people can strive for.

Clifton said being kind is free, and choosing cruelty or judgment—especially toward others who are different—costs far more than most realize.

(See Class p. 6)

Plans advance for Stuart Community Hospital



Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson provided an update on Stuart Community Hospital and fielded questions from those in attendance.

By Taylor Boyd
Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson provided an update and answered questions from residents regarding Stuart Community Hospital at a community meeting held May 21 in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Dozens of residents attended the meeting, and learned that Braden Health, a Tennessee-based healthcare (See Plans p. 4)

Barnie: A Personal Remembrance

By David R. Hoback
This past weekend, along with my wife Deborah, I travelled to Roxboro, North Carolina to say a final goodbye to Barnie K. Day who undoubtedly had a profound influence and lasting impact upon my life. Barnie bravely battled Parkinson’s Disease for over 20 years; his wife Debbie had most kindly included me in a text message chain in recent weeks reporting that his health had significantly deteriorated and therefore I heartbreakingly reasoned the end was likely approaching. However, as is the case with anyone you love, the finality of death is nonetheless jarring. I hold Debbie and Barnie’s family in my prayers for comfort, strength and peace in time.

Barnie was my mentor and friend. In 1985, while serving as Patrick County Administrator, Barnie hired me for the position of Special Projects Director, which launched my career in local government and public service. The decision to hire me was a risky one for him because he later shared that the Board of Supervisors at the time would have preferred hiring a local candidate. However, Barnie saw something in me I probably did not see in myself at the time, and I am forever indebted to him for the confidence he placed in me; I remain grateful for all I learned from him.

Barnie had a fundamental common-sense approach to success in local government he shared with me, and it was



Barnie Day

a lesson I carried with me for the remainder of my career. He once told me the first thing any elected board member or administrator needs to learn is “how to count to three” as in the number of votes required to pass a motion on a five-member board. At the end of the day an elected official’s success, or lack thereof, is measured by supporting policies adopted for the advancement of the community or opposing policies harmful to same. Success is never reached by the unwillingness to compromise and the continued stoking of petty disputes. I remain astounded to this day how many elected officials I read about across our region have not learned to count to three.

Another bit of sage advice Barnie instilled in me early on, and I wisely adopted, was maintaining a good relationship with the news media. Barnie had a newspaper background and highly valued their importance in holding government accountable in a free society. He loved the quote often attributed to Mark Twain: “Never pick a fight with people who buy ink by the barrel.”

Barnie often included me in meetings unrelated to any matter I was directly involved in simply for my edification. We took many rides out in the county to view projects or see citizen concerns on the ground. There were also the road trips to Richmond where I learned my way around the Capital and the General Assembly Office Building. He included me in all these things to expand my knowledge and broaden my horizons. I cherish to this day the time spent together, the conversations, the amazing stories and all the laughter. He had a great belly laugh and a devilish grin I will never forget.

My fondest hope for any young person beginning a career is they are blessed by a mentor willing to invest time and effort in their future success. For me Barnie was that person. When he later decided to leave county government to accept a new career challenge in business, he advocated for me to replace him as County Administrator. I was further blessed, Barnie later served two very effective terms on the Board of Supervisors where he was a strong leader and a consummate strategic thinker; his time on the Board positioned him well for his later tenure as a highly successful member of the Virginia House of Delegates with outsized influence

(See Barnie p. 4)



Storyteller, Statesman, Servant: Barnie Day Remembered

By Taylor Boyd
Former Patrick County Administrator and House of Delegates member Barnie K. Day died Monday, May 12, of complications of Parkinson’s disease and dementia.

Day was 72.

During his life, Day was a jack of all trades and a master of all, excelling as a newspaperman, radio news editor, editor of a string of small newspapers in Missouri, farmer, merchant, manufac-

turing executive, banker, rancher, medical administrator, local government executive, politician, Patrick County Administrator and county supervisor, Virginia General Assembly delegate, and writer.

Referred to by one journalist as “Virginia’s Mark Twain,” Day was named by another observer as “The Country Doctor of Political Satire.” One review of his Amazon Books- (See Storyteller p. 12)

Scholarships awarded to more than 50 PCHS seniors

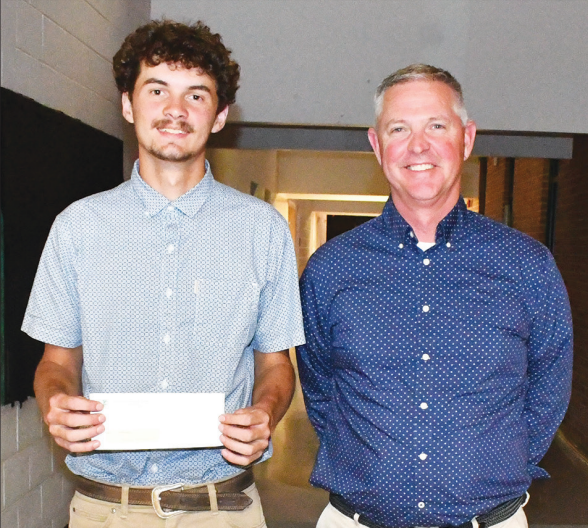
Fifty-three Patrick County High School seniors received scholarships during a recent awards presentation. A total of \$127,000 in local scholarships was awarded, and students earned an estimated \$250,000 in additional institutional scholarships.



Alfred Brammer Memorial Scholarship - Presenter Susan Gasperini, Danay Garcia



American Legion Post 105 Scholarship - Daryl Lynn Combs, Presenter Garry Griffith



Bill Dillon Memorial Scholarship - Hunter Heath, Presenter Terry Harris

(See Scholarships p. 2)

Scholarships

(cont. from page 1)



Doris Wood Memorial Scholarship-
Cindy Leon-Cisneros



Doris Wood Memorial Scholarship-
Owen Nutter



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School
PTO Scholarship- Brett Foley



Ann Belcher and Orea G. Rakes
Memorial Scholarship - Isabelle
Turner



Richard, Cornelius, and Very
Stanley Memorial Scholarship-
Emma Buchanan



Daughters of the American
Revolution Youth Leadership Medal-
Daryl Lynn Combs, Presenter Hope
Perry



Dorn O. and Gaynelle Spangler
Memorial Scholarship- Presenter
Susan Gasperini, Jackson
Iacovone



Fern E. Pino Memorial Scholarship-
Presenter Pam Craig, Carrie Cassell



First Generation Scholarship-
Presenter Anna Lester, Allison
Hughes



Mary Jane Taylor Senior Beta
Memorial Scholarship- Presenter
Susan Gasperini, Zachary
Letchworth



George Rigney Scholarship-
Presenter Anna Lester, Cameron
Collins



GRASP Last Chance Scholarship- Emily
Stiltner, Presenter Kayla Webb



Honorable Gerald L. Baliles
Memorial Public Service
Scholarship- Presenter Courtney
Williams, Isabelle Turner (not
pictured- Anna Arellano)



James C. and Margaret S. Hiatt
Memorial Scholarship- Presenter
Susan Gasperini, Lexi Cutchins



Meadows of Dan PTO- Scottie
Hubbard, Presenter Rozina
Turner



Jesse Wood Sheppard Scholarship-
Presenter Susan Gasperini, Tara
Collins



John D. Hooker Scholarship-
Presenter Susan Gasperini,
Scottie Hubbard



Cougar Pride Scholarship- Lilly
Hazelwood, Presenter Hope
Perry



Patrick County Retired Teachers
Scholarship- Presenter Phyllis
Eastridge, Isabelle Turner



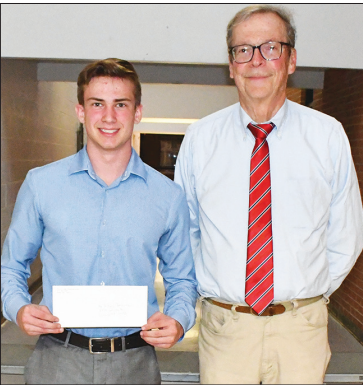
Christopher Newton Cobbler
Memorial Scholarship- Presenter
Dea Nolan, Lexi Cutchins



Patrick County Sheriff's Office
Scholarship- Whitley Kruse,
Presenter Chief Eric O'Connell



Patrick Springs Ruritan- Alyssa
Callahan, Isabelle Turner



PC Historical Society Henry G. Ayers
Memorial Scholarship- Jackson
Iacovone, Presenter John Reynolds



Corporal Jonathan W. Bowling
Memorial Scholarship- Presenter
Courtney Williams, Chelsea
Lawson (not pictured- Joshua
Jimrusti)



Darrell Bowling Family
Commonwealth
Legacy
Scholarship- Presenter
Courtney Williams, Hunter
Heath



Gail Harding Memorial Scholarship- Daryl Lynn Combs,
Presenter Stephen Henderson, Dante Belcher



Fulton Clark Memorial Scholarship- Presenter Sarah Clark,
Chance Corns, Presenter Laura Simmons

(See Scholarships p. 3)

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DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

Norris

Memorial Services

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www.norrismemorialservices.com

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Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

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Pets of the Week



These two pups were picked up on East Fork Road in Ararat, and will be available for adoption when their stray hold is over. This beautiful shepherd mixed girl is still available for adoption. She has been at the shelter a long time. Free spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available

pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/neuter services; we are always in need of pet food donations. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details.

Scholarships

(cont. from page 2)



George Burton Memorial Scholarship- Presenter Sharon Shepherd, Lexi Cutchins, Tommy Shepherd



Meadows of Dan Women's Club Scholarship- Presenter Jennifer Frisch, Daryl Lynn Combs, Dante Belcher, Presenter Mary Locke, (not pictured- Tessa Johnson)



Nation's Best Care Scholarship- Jude Martin, Gavin Fain, Presenter Joe Aguila



Patrick County Fire & Rescue- Cheyenne Wood, Presenter Crystal Harris, Easton Harris, Chance Corns



Stuart Elementary Boosters Scholarship= Presenter Whitney Cassell, Lilly Hazelwood, Chance Corns



Patty Hazelwood Memorial Scholarship- Emily Eastridge, Presenter Sybil Slate, Lilly Hazelwood



Dr. Houston B. Roberson Scholarship- Presenter Dr. Olivia Givens, Emily Eastridge, Presenters Elaine Thomas, Sheila Thomas, Teresa Roberson



Patrick & Henry Scholars- Presenter Courtney Williams, Taylor Collins, Jude Martin, Sydney Hopkins, Raeli Moran



Patrick County Alumni Association Scholarship- Presenter Della Fulcher, Allison Hughes, Katie Vernon, Daryl Lynn Combs, Presenter Ricky Fulcher, Easton Harris, Chance Corns, Lilly Hazelwood, (not pictured, Tessa Johnson)



Ararat Ruritan Club Scholarship- Presenter Pam Smith, Eliza Clifton, Amelia Clement, Mason Dellenback, Presenter Kevin Smith



Nancy Susan Reynolds Scholarship- Sydney Peer, Heather Brim, Presenter Sarah Wray, Danay Garcia, Allison Hughes, Katie Vernon, Presenter Janice Pendleton, Cheyenne Wood, Chelsea Lawson, Mary Beth Williams, Autumn King, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Daryl Lynn Combs, Dante Belcher, Mason Dellenback, Zachary Letchworth, (not pictured) Adrianna Gause.



PCHS Class of 1976 Scholarship- Presenter Della Fulcher, Kendall Williams, Owen Nutter, Benjamin Sutphin, Presenter Ricky Fulcher (not pictured) Tessa Johnson



Spencer-Penn Scholarship- Joshua Freeman, Lexi Cutchins, Presenter Marla Perry, Heather Brim, Carrie Cassell

(See Scholarships p. 12B)

Local residents among RU's spring graduates

Several local residents were among the nearly 1,400 graduates awarded degrees during two main ceremonies at Radford University, the graduate commencement and hooding on May 9, in the Dedmon Center and undergraduate commencement on May 10 on Moffet Lawn. Students were joined by proud family members, friends and faculty as they marked this milestone achievement.

This year's graduating class includes 259 first-generation college students, with graduates ranging in age from 18 to 66, and representing eight states, Washington, D.C., and 12 countries outside the United States. The nursing program had the largest number of students graduating from a single academic discipline.

Keynote speaker Kwabena Osei-Sarpong, a 2005 Radford alumnus and CEO of RIFE International, delivered an inspiring address that emphasized gratitude, resilience, and the enduring power of a Radford education.

"Twenty years ago, I sat where you are today, excited, hopeful but unsure about what was ahead," Osei-Sarpong said. "Today, standing here with you, I feel the same, except now I have a few more scars, a little more wisdom and a lot of gratitude. This might be the most surreal moment of my journey, a full-circle moment that I wouldn't have imagined would have come so soon."

"To the Class of 2025, go out there and show them the Radford spirit."

Recent local graduates include Naomi Manns of Spencer, Deisy Alvarez Nolasco of Martinsville, Andy Lin of Stuart, Shania Adams of Martinsville, Christopher Miller of Collinsville, Grace Gongora of Martinsville, Bethany Mills of Bassett, Nicole Ramey of Martinsville, Naomi Stone of Martinsville, Contessa Haas of Meadows Dan, Jovanny Machuca Tiznado of Martinsville, Melanie Manzano-Molina of Axton, Macy Deal of Martinsville, Campbell Ferguson of Ridgeway, Kylie Campbell of Stuart, MaKayla Fix of Stuart, Katherine Beckett of Stuart, Sadie Vernon of Stuart, Morgan Joyce of Martinsville, Whitley Manns of Spencer, Savannah Roberts of Woolwine, and Pierson Turner of Axton.

Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion are two



Easing these rules for

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Henson said he knows the com-

David Hoback, a former Patrick County administrator and executive director of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, currently serves on the Stuart Town Council.

munity's been burned before. When they first walked into the facility, Henson noted there were boxes filled with banners that said, "Foresight Health Grand Opening 2023."

"We don't want to be like that, we're not like that. We're here to stay," he said.

Facility and Amenities

Henson said the building's upstairs will be fully operational and will serve the community's immediate needs, like emergency services, inpatient care and acute care.

As required, the hospital will include a Computed Tomography (CT) scanner, which will be a 16-slice model to start.

"Then once the hospital starts making money, that's when we start getting better equipment in. We've done that in each and every one of our hospitals. We're going to take care of the immediate needs that we have to have. The specialties and better equipment will be an ongoing process," he said.

While the hospital will be licensed for 25 inpatient beds as part of its Certificate of Public Need (COPN), Henson said it will start out with 22 beds, as there are 22 available rooms.

“There are a couple of rooms that have dual bed capabilities, but we’re going to stick a single bed in there to start. Obviously, if the need to add beds arises, we will do so,” he said. “We’re going to make sure people are comfortable, we’re not going to have these 2- or 3- inch mattresses. We’re going to make sure that people are as comfortable as we can make them in the hospital.”

Some outpatient services, like the CT scanner and lab services, also will be available. Telemedicine will not be done at the hospital.

The hospital's pharmacy will move upstairs, and Henson said its kitchen equipment, sewer lines, electrical lines, HVAC system, and other amenities have been updated. The hospital's Emergency Room (ER) will have six rooms and a triage area. Mental health services are currently not in the plan.

Henson said Braden Health has its own ambulance/EMS company in Lexington, Tenn.

"Every county that we've gone into, we have done EMS in that county. The counties that we're in

(See Plans p.6)



THE ENTERPRISE

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Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers
By Beverly Belcher Woody

As we approach the 81st anniversary of the D-Day invasion—June 6, 1944—we pause to honor the brave souls who gave their lives during one of the most pivotal moments in World War II. Nearly every American family was touched in some way by the events of that day, and here in Patrick County, we, too, grieved the loss of one of our own. This week, we remember and honor Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers—a young man from Stuart whose life was cut short on the shores of Omaha Beach.

Richard was born on October 6, 1914, to Tobias Ayers and Sarah “Sallie” Stanley Ayers, who made their home along Spencer Nowlin Road in Stuart. Tobias was originally from Floyd County, while Sallie was the daughter of Creed Stanley and Sarah Jane Goad of Patrick County. Richard was the youngest of four children and grew up surrounded by the love of his siblings: Bertha Virginia Ayers, Sandy Ralph Ayers, and Charlie Glen Ayers.

Before answering the call to serve, Richard worked for John J. West and was known for both his physical strength and his kind, humble nature. Standing six feet tall, with a ruddy complexion, brown hair, and deep brown eyes, Richard was a quiet but dependable presence in his community.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 3, 1941, in Roanoke—months before America would officially enter the war. In February 1942, Richard married Miss Regina Lorene Beasley of Stuart, the daughter of George Washington Beasley and Vergie Emma Beasley. Regina came from a beloved local family; her brother, Winford Paul Beasley, was well-known in town as the longtime manager of the movie theater and owner of Beasley’s department store in downtown Stuart.

On June 6, 1944—D-Day—Cpl. Ayers landed with Allied forces on the blood-soaked sands of Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. He was 29 years old. Amid the chaos and unimaginable courage of that morning, he was struck by artillery fire and fatally wounded. He died in the line of duty, helping to liberate Europe from Nazi oppression.

Cpl. Ayers served in Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division—widely known as the company of the “Bedford Boys.” During the initial assault, 19 men from the little town of Bedford lost their lives, and more than 800 members of the 116th Infantry were killed, wounded, or declared missing. Their valor created the critical foothold needed for Allied success, paving the way for the liberation of France and, eventually, victory in Europe.

Initially, Cpl. Ayers was laid to rest at St. Laurent, Baveux Cemetery, overlooking the cliffs of Omaha Beach. His body was returned to the United States in December 1947 and received by Nelson Funeral Home in Danbury, North Carolina. Funeral services were held at Wayside Community Church on December 10, with Reverend Charles Bryte of-

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

BRIGADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY, NAVAL, MARINE AND AIR FORCE PLACE OF BIRTH DATE

Cpl. Richard G. Ayers, US 04 604
Post P, Box 9, Route 176,
United States Military Cemetery
St. Laurent, France

20 May 1947

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

NOTE—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper and true living and person, named by the next of kin, is about to be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postpaid free envelope provided for this purpose. If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

PART I

1. Mrs. Sallie Stanley Ayers (Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box)

☐ WIDOW ☐ SPOUSE ☐ SON/DAUGHTER OVER 18 YEARS OLD ☐ DAUGHTER OVER 18 YEARS OLD ☐ FATHER ☒ MOTHER ☐ BROTHER OVER 18 YEARS OLD ☐ SISTER OVER 18 YEARS OLD

☐ RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE (Specify)

2. I have familiarized myself with the options which have been made available to me with respect to the final resting place of the deceased and I have decided upon the following: (Please place an "X" in the box which represents the action you have selected)

☐ I am interested in a permanent American military cemetery overseas.

☒ I am interested in the United States or any possession on territory thereof for internment by next of kin in a private cemetery

Wayside Church Cemetery at Stuart, Virginia

☐ I am returned to _____ (Foreign Country) _____ the homeland of the deceased or next of kin, for internment by next of kin in a private cemetery located at _____

☐ I am returned to the United States for final internment in a national cemetery located at _____

(Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the proper box)

☐ YES ☐ NO

THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE GRAVE, NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES (If an amendment is necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "CHANGE" in the space below)

None

12 August 1947

345 MILITARY

Request for Disposition of Remains

ficiating. Full military honors were rendered by American Legion Post 105 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7008 of Stuart.

Today, Cpl. Ayers rests in Wayside Cemetery in Stuart—the same land where he was born, lived, and loved. His story is one of courage, duty, and devotion, and though his life was tragically short, his sacrifice lives on in the hearts of all who cherish freedom.

More recently, a beautiful Veterans Memorial was constructed at Wayside Cemetery by Hunter Heath of Stuart as part of his Eagle Scout project. It stands as a fitting tribute to the heroes buried there. One can only imagine that Cpl. Ayers would be proud of the honor shown to his fellow veterans and to future generations who now understand the price of liberty.

For those seeking information about loved ones who served and died during World War II, a valuable resource is now available. Due to a legal settlement related to the return of remains from a mass grave in the Philippines, more than 500,000 Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs) are now accessible to families at no cost. These files document service members from World War II, the Korean War, and, in some cases, Vietnam.

To request the IDPF of Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers—or of another service member—you can email idpfbataan@gmail.com, including the full name, date of birth, and place of birth of the individual. If you prefer, I would be honored to help you. You may contact me at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com.

PART I (Continued)

If on Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Number 2 or 3, or Option Number 4 with your own funeral arrangements desired at a location other than the national cemetery, complete one of these sections.

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

NUMBER AND STREET CITY OR TOWN COUNTY OR PROVINCE STATE & TERRITORY OF DECEASED

EXPRESS OFFICE (Checked national passenger station) TELEGRAPH ADDRESS TELEPHONE NO.

OR

1. AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

Nelson Funeral Home

CITY OR TOWN COUNTY OR PROVINCE STATE OR TERRITORY OF DECEASED

EXPRESS OFFICE (Checked national passenger station) TELEGRAPH ADDRESS TELEPHONE NO.

Walnut Cove, N.C. Danbury, N.C. 918

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NEXT IN LINE OF KINSHIP AFTER ME, AS SET FORTH IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," IS:

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED

Ayers Sandy E. brother

NUMBER AND STREET CITY OR TOWN COUNTY OR PROVINCE STATE & TERRITORY OF DECEASED

Stuart Patrick Virginia

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS. (Use additional space on page 4.)

AS EXPLAINED IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," I AM THE NEXT OF KIN AND THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE DEAD REMAINS.

I, the undersigned, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that the statements made by me in the foregoing document are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mrs. Sallie Stanley Ayers Route #5

Mrs. Sallie Stanley Ayers Stuart, Virginia

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me according to law by the above-named applicant this 28th day of June 1947 at the place named above.

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this 28th day of June 1947 at the place named above.

Notary Public for the State of Virginia

*NOTE—Page 4 is part of the material attached.

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

SECTION A—NAME AND SERIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

DIRECTIVE NUMBER 3582 00105 DATE 10 09 47

NAME AYERS RICHARD G SERIAL NUMBER 33047604 RANK CPL

COUNTRY ST LAURENT BAVEUX

ROW GRAVE 176 COUNTRY FRANCE

SECTION B—CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE NELSON FUNERAL HOME DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN SALLIE S. AYERS ROUTE #5 STUART, VIRGINIA

SECTION C—DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME AYERS, RICHARD G. SERIAL NUMBER 33047604 RANK CPL DATE OF DEATH 6 June 44 DATE DISINTERRED 10 Sept 47

IDENTIFICATION TAG ON REMAINS CO A, 116th INF REGT, 29th INF DIV REGION Ok IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY Wm. J. Smith 1st Lt

NATURE OF BURIAL OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

SECTION D—PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR DISINTERMENT

CONVEYANCE OF REMAINS

WFD Advance Stages of Decomposition

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

WHICH DISCREPANCIES?

REMARKS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASET

DATE 10 Sept 1947 BY Cpl. Danella

CASET SEALED BY HENRY A. GENTZEL

CASET BOUND AND LABELED

REMARKS

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

James F. Nabors Maj

Disinterment Directive

As Memorial Day approaches, may we take a moment to remember the faces behind the names, the families who endured the loss, and the freedoms won at such great cost. Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers gave all for a cause greater than himself. May we never forget.

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don’t even know where to start. *Signed: Seeking Assistance*

Dear Seeking: It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1.800.772.1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal “my Social Security” account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security full retirement age, or “FRA.” Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working. By tak-

ing benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced (to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that – if you are still working – you will be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET). The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe).

So, you can apply for your Social Security benefits, as indicated above, either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security’s earnings limit (the earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty).

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don’t need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in

Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>.

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it’s easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1.888.750.2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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

Growing Herbs in Patrick County

By Robin Reichelt
Patrick County Master Gardener

When I first started gardening, I started with herbs. They smelled good, looked pretty, and I knew I could use them when I cooked to add flavor. Spoiler alert, it wasn’t easy! My first attempts were an abysmal failure. So, I gave up. Fast forward twenty years and many, many gardening books later, I tried again. I wouldn’t say it was a complete success, but it wasn’t a complete failure. So, I kept at it. I now have an herb garden that does well, although I still have some herbs that struggle and there are some that I just have given up trying to grow. All in all, I am pleased with what I have been able to grow here in Patrick County.

Things to Consider

The first thing you need to keep in mind is that most herbs are native to the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, or Asia. That means they either like the climate hot and dry, mild and cool, or hot and humid. That is quite a difference, but it can be achieved here.

To achieve the hot dry climate where rosemary (*Salvia Rosmarinus*) grows, focus on locating your herb garden in a sunny area with good drainage. If you are planting herbs that thrive in the Northern European climate such as dill (*Anethum graveolens*), parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) or chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) you may need to make a microclimate by planting on the northern side of a wall and keeping the soil damp. The Asian herbs such as lemongrass (*Cymbopogon*) and Thai Basil (*Ocimum basilicum* var. *thyrsoflora*) like it warm and sunny but damp, so place them where they can be watered daily but get six to eight hours of sun.

Another thing to check is the pH of your soil. This

can be done with a soil test. The Extension Office has soil testing kits that Virginia Tech will analyze is for the specific crop you are planting. Most herbs like the pH of the soil to be 6.3 to 6.8. This will produce optimum growth. You may need to amend your soil to achieve this. If your soil is clay you will need to incorporate compost. Amend the soil to a depth of eight inches.

Type of Herbs

There are two types of herbs, annuals and perennial. Annuals such as basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and dill (*Anethum graveolens*) are easy to start from seed. You can start these by sowing them into small pots with potting soil and about six weeks before the last frost date. Keep the pots covered with a thin layer of seed starter and keep them moist until the plants are established. Harden them off after the last frost by placing them outside in the shade for a few hours and then bringing them back into the house before night. Gradually increase the time and the amount of sun until they can withstand a full day outside. Plant on a cloudy day and water well.

Perennials can be started from seed but most often are purchased from local nurseries. Some herbs require asexual propagation like tarragon. It can be grown from seed, but it will not have the oil concentration to have good flavor.

Using Your Herbs

The best flavor from your herbs will be achieved when you use them fresh from your garden! However, start with a smaller amount as they will be stronger than dried herbs.

Drying your herbs will give them a longer shelf life. This can easily be done by spreading them on a cookie sheet and placing them in the oven at the lowest

setting, somewhere around 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Freezing is another option. It will change the texture or the herbs, but it doesn’t affect the flavor. This is done by blanching the herbs for 50 seconds, dipping them in cool water, and then spreading them on cookie sheets in a single layer before placing them in the freezer.

What’s in My Herb Garden

My herb garden is in two tiers with the drier tier on top slightly sloped to facilitate drainage. My soil is clay but has had years of compost and mulch added to it. On the top tier, I have lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*), and oregano (*Origanum vulgare*).

There is a slight stone wall and a drop to the second tier. There I have planted chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), rosemary (*Salvia Rosmarinus*), parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*), sage (*Salvia officin*), and basil (*Ocimum basilicum*).

My rosemary (*Salvia Rosmarinus*) is not doing well, so I will be taking cuttings off of it and replanting it on the top tier as I think it has been getting too much water. Gardening has a learning curve, and we all sometimes have to learn the hard way what works the best. It is okay to have a failure because you learn from them as well as from your successes and successes can certainly spice up the family dinner!

Reference materials: Richmond. Jodi (2021) Herb Gardening for Beginners. <https://extension.wvu.edu/gardening/gardening-101>

Appling. Ashley, and Latimer. Joyce (2024) Herb Culture and Use. https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/pubs_ext_vt_edu

(cont. from page 1)

Manns said he was talking with a friend one

The Class of 2025's class colors were Cougar green and gold. The class flower is wildflowers. The class song is "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac, and the class motto is "If you're going to be late, you might as well go to Hardee's."

(cont. from page 4)

“We’ll make sure we have the right person in our billing department, and then we’ll work with a payment program. We will have policies already in place for a self-pay discount that you’re probably not going to find anywhere else,” he said, noting the self-pay discounts will be a type of financial assistance for those without insurance.

Hayden Lawless tossed a no-hitter, recording six strikeouts and allowing just one walk as the Patrick County High Lady Cougars secured a 7-0 victory over Carroll County on May 22. Lily Hazelwood and Jenna Woods each had three hits, while Lacey Sutphin and Lawless contributed two hits apiece to fuel the offense.

Rising 6-8th grade students may be interested in a number of camps that will be held at the P&HCC Dalton Idea Center in Martinsville and P&HCC's Patrick County site in Stuart.

***Fab Lab Innovation Camp**

Join us for an exciting, hand

your creativity meets cutting-edge Fab Lab technology. Dive into fun projects using laser cutters, 3D printers, and more to bring your ideas to life. Custom creations will include a 3D printed key-chain, laser-cut name tag and notebook, vinyl-cut stickers, and your very own designed t-shirt. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to create amazing projects!

Mon-Thurs, June 9-12, 9 a.m. -12 p.m., \$59
Dalton Idea Center & Patrick County Fab Lab

*Minecraft Makers Camp

Join us as we design and build incredible worlds in Minecraft. Students will craft unique structures and creatures within the game and bring their creations to life using Fab Lab equipment. Dive into hands-on experiences with our 3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, and more to create real-world replicas of your digital masterpieces!

Mon-Thurs, June 23-26, 9 a.m. -12 p.m., \$59
Dalton Idea Center

Verizon Innovative Learning Stem Achievers
Program

FREE summer STEM enrichment program for rising 6-8th grade students!

Every child deserves a chance to shape the world, but they don't always have the tools to do it. That's why we've launched the Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program - an immersive program developed to ignite STEM passions through design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, and social entrepreneurship.

Lunch and a snack are provided.
Mon-Fri, July 7-25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., FREE!

Held at the Dalton Idea Center & Patrick County Site

For information, call (276) 656-5461 or email areed@patrickhenry.edu.

The 2,715 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims which were filed during the week ending May 17, 2025, is 32.0 percent lower than last week's 3,992 claims and 22.1 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,224), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 80 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (64 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (387); Accommodation and Food Services (342); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (237); Health Care and Social Assistance (194); and Retail Trade (188).

Continued weeks claims (19,765) were 8.9 percent higher than last week (18,144) and were 24.7 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (15,851). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (64 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (4,075); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,335); Manufacturing (2,100); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,627); and Retail Trade (1,427).

Crossing the Lines

News snippets from outside the town/county lines...

County breaks ground on housing project in Villa Heights



County and other officials break ground on new housing projects.

A transformative housing initiative is underway in the Villa Heights section of Collinsville, marking a collaborative effort between the Henry County Board of Supervisors, the Harvest Foundation, and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC). The partnership aims to construct 13 single-family homes that had previously been removed and had suffered from drug-related incidents.

The project, located at 1616 Stultz Road, focuses on the construction of three houses. In April, the Board of Supervisors awarded a \$608,940 construction contract to Taylor Enterprise of Bassett, Virginia, for the first three homes to be built on lots 9, 10, and 11. Construction is set to begin

immediately, with additional homes to follow in phases as funds from home sales become available.

“This is more than just breaking ground on new homes—it’s about rebuilding hope and opportunity in Villa Heights,” said Joe Bryant, vice-chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors. “We are proud to work with dedicated partners who share our vision for strong, affordable neighborhoods.”

Bryant added that work to get the project going had been something he worked on for eight to 10 years.

“We had to build these houses, we have to have houses in this community,” Bryant said, and noted that housing is needed in other districts as well to help grow the county.

City installs gunshot sensors on trail, county says it wasn’t notified

Recently, several unexpected gunshot detectors were installed along the Martinsville section of the Dick & Willie Trail, which offers miles of walking, running and biking paths through Henry County and Martinsville.

While such sensors are not uncommon in urban areas, their placement along a nature trail has raised concerns among local residents.

The devices were installed without the knowledge of Henry County Parks and Recreation, which manages the trail system. The issue came to light after concerned community members called and emailed the department with questions.

“We were not aware of that,” said Roger Adams, director of the county Parks and Recreation Department. “A couple of



Gunshot sensors along the Dick & Willie Trail prompted confusion from residents, and county officials, who did not know the devices would be installed.

people have called us that they were being scanned in some sort of database, (but) they are gunshot detectors.”

Board to weigh fire department billing proposal at meeting

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal that would allow volunteer fire departments to implement a system and bill for certain services at their May 27 meeting. It begins at 3 p.m., with another at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

The billing proposal includes establishing a structured fee schedule for services provided by the volunteer fire departments, according to Public Safety Director Matt Tatum, who raised the issue on behalf of the volunteer fire departments.

The county’s code authorizes the public safety department to charge for services and establish rules and regulations for administering charges. The fire departments have agreed to adopt a compassionate billing policy,

meaning they will bill applicable insurance, but will not pursue direct payment from individuals for any remaining balance.

Proposed fees are included in the board documents. A sampling includes Motor Vehicle Incidents, with costs detailed for three levels:

Level 1 - \$618, Provide hazardous materials assessment and scene stabilization. This will be the most common “billing level.” This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an accident/incident.

Level 2 - \$705, Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents) for hazardous fluid clean up and disposal if the fire department has to clean up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

Fincher outlines travel, training process

After recent purchasing card statements from the City of Martinsville sparked public scrutiny of some travel and other expenses, Police Chief Robert Fincher said his department’s travel budget hasn’t increased in 10 years.

“And we haven’t gone over it either,” he said.

The \$75,000 allocated for travel breaks down to about \$1,500 per each of the department’s 50 employees, Fincher said. Of that amount, \$500 per person is earmarked for fees to the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy.

The remaining \$1,000 per employee is used to pay for required training and travel.

Approval for training follows a four-step process. It begins when an officer or non-certified staff member submits a required Training Request Form to their supervisor. The form details the proposed training.

If approved, it moves on to the captain, who ensures the employee’s absence won’t leave the department short-staffed. Next, the major reviews the request to determine whether the training aligns with the department’s goals and standards, Fincher said.

If it passes those reviews, the request comes to Fincher for final



Police Chief Rob Fincher, as the city’s senior department head, is also the point of contact in the absence of City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who indicated at the May 13 council meeting she would not attend the May 27 meeting, but would attend the June 10 meeting.

consideration.

“I look at it to see whether we can afford it,” he said, adding that he makes the final decision on whether the training is approved or denied.

Most training costs are reimbursed through state grant funds or other sources, Fincher said. While a city purchasing card may sometimes be used for upfront costs, the expenses are typically reimbursed later.

For example, Fincher recently attended an annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in Dallas, Texas. The cost, he said, was covered by the IACP.

Success rooted in community, Roberson tells P&HCC graduates

Dr. Stewart Roberson delivered the commencement address at Patrick & Henry Community College on Saturday, May 17.

“My recipe for success is to show up. Ninety percent of life is just showing up. Show up for work, for your family, for your community. Be present,” Roberson told graduates and their family and friends gathered for the event.

“Second, work hard. I’m talking honest, good-sweat kind of hard—the kind that makes your back sore and your spirit strong. Third, be kind,” he said,




Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC president, shakes hands with a P&HCC graduate, as Dr. Stewart Roberson looks on. Roberson delivered the commencement address.


adding, “Success without kindness is empty. A kind word or helping hand will take you further than anything.”

Finally, Roberson encouraged graduates to “keep learning, whether it’s in a classroom or under the hood of a car. Never stop growing. Education is fuel to fill your tank.”


He urged students not to forget their roots, saying they should give back to their community no matter where they begin—just as Patrick County native and former Gov. Gerald Baliles did.




1-3-5-7-9




1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-4-7

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Terri S. Wood, Manager

What's in your water?

Did you know that private water supplies like wells and springs are unregulated? The homeowner is responsible for regularly testing water quality, maintaining the water system, and addressing any problems. Confidential water testing and education will be offered through the Patrick County Extension office. The date for our annual water testing clinic will be July 9, with kits available for pickup on July 2 and 3.

Participation is voluntary and confidential.

Water samples from participating homeowners will be analyzed for 14 parameters, including bacteria, metals, nitrate, and hardness. This year, we anticipate funding to offer this test for free to the first 40 county residents who have not received a free or discounted kit in the past.

The fee for this testing is normally \$70. Free tests are limited to one per Patrick County household. You may receive additional kits by paying the normal price. Results and water system care and maintenance information will be given to each participant.

A pre-recorded presentation will be made available to help explain the summary results and recommendations to address problems. All information is kept strictly confidential. Please contact George Stovall at 694-3341 or gstovall@vt.edu to pre-register.

Space is limited and pre-registration is REQUIRED. For more information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program, as well as many resources relevant to private water systems, please visit www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu.

How to make yourself a harder target

Criminals are always looking for ways to get your personal information to use in criminal activities. The good news is that there are many steps you can take to help protect your data and minimize its value to criminals. Here are three:

Create stronger passwords: Better protect yourself by using strong and unique passwords or passphrases or consider using a password manager to store and generate strong passwords securely.

Use multi-factor authentication: A second layer of defense to your accounts

makes it harder for cybercriminals to gain access. Check account settings for two-factor authentication, two-step verification, or multi-factor authentication, and follow the setup instructions.

Keep your operating system updated: Sometimes those updates are to patch a known vulnerability; set yours – and your antivirus protection - to update automatically.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Stuart Backwash and Sewer Outfall

The Town of Stuart (Owner) is requesting Bids for improvements to the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) backwash recycle system which includes: demolition of the existing equalization basins, installation of a new equalization backwash tank, 5100 LF of 4-inch sanitary sewer including two directional bores under the South Mayo River and Poorhouse Creek, and demolition of the existing outfall.

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by:

Bryce Simmons, Town Manager
100 Patrick Avenue
Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-3811; Bryce.simmons@stuartva.org

Public Bid Opening: Thursday, June 26th, 2025, at 2:00 PM EST, Town of Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Ave, Stuart, VA 24171

Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025, at 2:00 PM EST, Town of Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Ave, Stuart, VA 24171

Contract Documents: Documents will be made available the week of May 19th by the Issuing Office. Documents will be viewable at the Town of Stuart Town Office or digitally via the Town of Stuart website.

Issuing Office: Dewberry Engineers, 551 Piney Forest Road, Danville, VA 24540

Contact: David Ross, PE; dross@dewberry.com; 984-232-6788

Prospective Bidders must notify the issuing office of intent to bid to be placed on the plan holders list. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website and sent directly to the plan holders.

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project will be available the week of May 19th and can be obtained by contacting the Engineer – David Ross, PE. Documents will be sent in PDF format, and prospective bidders will be placed on the plan holders list. All further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award are provided in the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office following the Pre-Bid Conference on June 3rd.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. Who went to the city gate every morning to hold a court of justice trying to win people from David? Nain, Rehoboam, Absalom, Felix

3. Where did the first miracle of Jesus take place of His turning water into wine? Cana, Antioch, Berea, Corinth

4. Which queen died by

being thrown from a window and trampled by horses? Elisabeth, Jezebel, Vashti, Abigail

5. In what book does Paul promote the public reading of scripture? 1 Timothy, 1 Samuel, 1 John, 1 Thessalonians

6. From Judges 9, who had 70 of his brothers killed on one stone? Abraham, Abimelech, Samuel, Amos

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Absalom, 3) Cana, 4) Jezebel, 5) 1 Timothy, 6) Abimelech

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Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
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276-694-3440
www.stuartbaptist.org

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11:00 Worship Service
office@stuartbaptist.org

**Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church**
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ACROSS

1 Fuel dispenser
8 Lord's home
14 Made untidy
20 The Beatles' Rigby
21 Coated with gunky stuff
22 Box up
23 "Sk8er Boi" singer making an exit?
25 Stir to action
26 Go kaput
27 Italia's capital
28 Very sad tune from the "Sir Duke" singer?
30 Stephen of the screen
32 Very big bird
34 Seattle-to-L.A. dir.
35 Jaded
36 Hazard encountered by the "Thank U, Next" singer?
42 By birth
44 Diatribe deliverers
45 Many a stencil user
48 Dog in "The Thin Man"
52 Consent (to)

53 "Lean on Me" singer makes twisting movements?
55 Pub potable
56 Unit of petrol
57 "@" signs
58 Total up
59 Cambodian money unit
61 Part of QED
63 Actor Carroll O'—
64 "Grease" singer's big country home?
69 Subway system named after the "Care-less Hands" singer?
72 UFO crew
73 Czech-German river
75 Infirmary-free
76 Leah's father, in the Bible
77 Ellipsis part
79 "That's someone — problem!"
81 Lacking hair
85 Webpage for devotees of the "Don't Speak" singer?

88 Spain's peninsula
90 Morays, e.g.
91 Creator of body designs
92 Splash, as cooking oil
93 Stanley Cup org.
94 Person painting a portrait of the "All My Ex's Live in Texas" singer?
96 Port in Iraq
100 Hawaiian strings, for short
103 Binge-watching aid, in brief
104 Part of R&R, in brief
105 "Toxic" singer dissects a sentence?
110 Soothe
112 Cut (off)
115 California city
116 "Hound Dog" singer's noisy pet dogs?
119 Totally ruins
120 Ornamental tuft on a hat
121 Funeral tunes
122 Set of nine
123 Dior dresses

124 Jean Arp or Max Ernst
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2 Jai —
3 Pay to a fired worker
4 — gow poker
5 Not marked, as a test
6 Not stereo
7 People studying to be docs
8 Suffix with Sudan
9 Deli dish
10 Brand of 103-Across
11 Despot Idi
12 Ministers (to)
13 Sword parts
14 Honey drink
15 Clothe
16 Angry look
17 Sweatbox
18 Twisty turns
19 John of plows
24 Dalai —
29 Freshens up
31 Key in
33 Dark
36 Snatch
37 Relay, say
38 Prior to
39 "Dream on!"

40 Rarefied air
41 Map no.
43 Botch it up
46 Poets' Muse
47 Q-U linkup
48 Make up (for)
49 Redirect, as a train
50 Choir voice
51 Jetsons' dog
53 Actor Ferrell
54 "— in peace"
56 Hawaiian string, of a sort
59 Lisa of "Soap Talk"
60 ICU tubes
62 Painter's studio
63 Cartoon pic
64 Dizon dance
65 Off to — start (behind)
66 Insult in print
67 Toronto Maple —
68 Unleash on
70 Syngman of South Korea
71 Family VIPs
74 Make drunk
77 Contact by phone
78 Many a time
80 Fine fiddle
81 Singer Midler

82 Constitution part establishing the executive branch
83 Whoppers
84 Pub missile
86 Final degree
87 Refusals
88 Hoppy brew, for short
89 Drove fast
92 Wandered
93 C.S. Lewis' fantasy world
95 Tony winner Judith
96 Back half of a 45
97 Chef's cover
98 Five plus two
99 Lift
101 Iota follower
102 Flynn of film
106 Mail out
107 Highway rig
108 X Games
109 — gin fizz
111 Actress Ward
113 Rich rocks
114 Hushed
117 Trio in "mammal"
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Puzzle answers page 11

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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Storyteller

(cont. from page 1)

published novel, “The Last Pahvant,” dubbed him “The Pat Conroy of the Blue Ridge.”

Stuart Town Council member Dave Hoback said he first met Day in 1985 when he was hired as Patrick County’s special projects director by then–County Administrator Day.

“A lot of people are described as being true originals, Bernie unquestionably was. He possessed a keen intellect, an agile mind, a rapier-edge wit, a disarming charm, and a gift of gab that he could talk with anybody. He could talk with the governor, or he could talk with the common man from the street. It didn’t matter. He was equally capable of connecting at whatever level he needed to,” Hoback said.

Hoback said Day was a mentor to him, and eventually the two became friends.

“He was extremely kind to me,” he added.

Hoback said he felt Day took a risk in hiring him because “folks on the board at the time preferred he hired somebody from the county,” and Hoback came from outside the community. “But he seemed to, or at least I’d like to think, that he saw potential in me,” he said.

When Day left the county administrator position, he advocated for Hoback to succeed him in the role.

“I owe Bernie a lot. He did more professionally for me than anybody that I ever worked with in my entire career, and probably any success that I ended up later having was rooted in the things that he taught me and the confidence that he placed in me and the advocacy that he displayed on my behalf. I remain eternally indebted to him,” Hoback said.

He speculated that Day left his post as a productive and successful county administrator because he grew bored with the job and wanted new challenges. He also believes Day was a “terrific delegate,” noting that he doesn’t know of anyone who became relevant in the General Assembly as quickly as Day did.

“Most of them in the first term are kind of back benchers, you know you’re there to be seen and not heard. Well, he was heard. He was heard right from the beginning, and I would say that for somebody that was only there for four years, he had outsized influence,” Hoback said.

Day had a true passion for making the community a better and more just place.

“He had a laser focus and zealous determination to get things done. It didn’t matter if someone else’s ox got gored in the process, he was determined to see things through,” he said, adding that he will most remember Day’s great belly laugh and devilish smile.

Day was also an extremely creative and gifted person, Hoback said.

“He was a great storyteller, and he just had an innate way of looking at seemingly mundane things and turning them into just making you laugh until your ribs hurt,” he said.

Tony Giorno, a retired Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Virginia and former Patrick County Commonwealth’s Attorney, said Day was a quintessential Renaissance man.

“He was smart, he cared about people, and he had very high ethical standards. He was a character. I knew if I had a problem, I could go to Bernie and talk to him about it and I would get something that actually made sense,” he said.

While working together, Giorno saw Day mentor some of the county employees and noted he always made himself available when needed.

“I just can’t say enough good stuff about Bernie. When I heard about it (Day’s passing) it really was a tough blow to me because I was pretty close to him,” he said.

Giorno said he’ll remember Day as never doing anything strictly for political reasons.

“There were several decisions that came up before the board that had potential political implications, and Bernie was always like, ‘what’s the best to do for the county? What’s the best thing to do for the folks that actually put us in these positions,’” he recalled.

Giorno said there was never a doubt in his mind that Day had a right “moral barometer,” which could be unusual in the political spectrum.

“He put the county first, he put the people of the county first, and he was always like, ‘well, is it the right thing to do?’ It wasn’t just ‘can we do it, but is it the right thing to do,’” Giorno said.

While some were upset because of that, Giorno said Day still earned respect due to his high morals.

“Bernie and I didn’t always agree, but our disagreements were strictly over things like policy or some practical thing. We never had a disagreement over whether something was the right thing to do,” he said.

For example, Giorno said he and Day had just finished negotiating with a company to locate to the county, open a manufacturing plant, and create a number of jobs.

“It was going to be in an area of the county where we needed some industry at the time. The negotiations went on for quite a while. They eventually came to an agreement, the deal was signed, and the company was fine — they were going to come in and do it and actually started working on it,” he said.

At that time, it was a done deal, and the only thing left was to wait for the company to finish its work.

Giorno said Day came into his office one day saying he had gotten a nice gift, a “high dollar pen,” from the company’s CEO.

“I said, ‘well, okay. Why did he give it to you?’ He said, ‘I don’t know Tony. He gave it to me and said he appreciated my help with basically keeping the communications open and things like that,’” he said.

When he asked Day what the issue was, Giorno said Day believed he shouldn’t keep the pen.

“I said, ‘well, you don’t have to keep it. What exactly is your concern? It’s not a bribe, you’ve already done the stuff that you did in the context of your job.’ He said, ‘well that was just it Tony, I was doing my job. I didn’t do anything that I wouldn’t ordinarily do for anybody else that came in. I just don’t want there to be an appearance of impropriety,’” he said.

Giorno said Day’s concern wasn’t that there was anything improper, but that there could be an appearance that he or the county was doing something wrong.

Day eventually decided to give the pen back.

“I might have recommended the same thing because of appearances, but I never got the chance. He just came in and told me what he was planning to



(Contributed)

do,” Giorno recalled, adding that Day “worked his butt off to get that business to come into the county.”

After all these years, the business remains in the county and still employs several residents.

Day “did the right thing. There was no question in his mind that he was going to do that,” Giorno said.

Ron Haley, who worked with Day in the banking sector, said if you were a friend of Day’s, you were his friend for life.

“He did as much for this county and for the top of the mountain that anyone has done in a short period of time as he had here. Although he left Patrick County and went to Murrells Inlet (North Carolina), his love for the county never stopped,” Haley said.

He recalled that he and Day once traveled to New York to recruit one of the local manufacturers and talk them into relocating to Patrick County. The manufacturer is still in operation in the area.

“That was good times,” Haley said, adding that he’ll remember Day’s honesty, wit, and his command of the English language.

“Whether it was in Patrick County-ese or whether it was in New York-ese, he could talk to anyone,” he said.

Once, when Day had been out of office for about two years, the pair were in Richmond for Bank Day, where state bankers could come in and meet with their legislatures.

“I took him with me up there and we were going through the House building, and he says, ‘wait a minute,’ and he opened the door and walked in, and it was the Democratic caucus,” Haley said. “Now I didn’t go in behind him, but I could see from the hallway they stood up and started clapping — I know they clapped for five minutes when he walked in. That was the amount of respect he had of his fellow legislatures.”

As a delegate, Haley said Day was extremely effective. If someone in his district wanted or needed something, Day would go to bat for them, “and he would not give up until he saw that he wasn’t going to win or until he did win.”

Day started working with Haley in banking in 2001 and continued until he retired a little over a decade later.

“My son was a page up there in Richmond, and we’d gone up for the weekend to see him. We were riding through the circle at the capitol, and I saw Bernie’s car and I knew he wasn’t going to run again, so I stopped and put a note on his car. It said, ‘call me when you get home.’ He called me and I asked him, ‘you want a job?’ and that’s how that started,” Haley said, adding he and others lost a good friend with Day’s passing.

In addition to working with Day, former Patrick County Attorney Alan Black said they were also neighbors and close friends who knew each other for about 30 years.

“He was probably the most dynamic man I’ve ever known. He was friendly and respectful and well-liked by people from all walks of life. He was just able to be comfortable and confident in any kind of situation you could imagine,” he said.

Black said Day could handle himself well in any situation, whether it was in high-level politics and decision-making in Richmond or on a fishing trip.

“Sometimes you would go to visit him, and a governor would be on his front porch and a well-known burglar would be out there fishing in the back in his pond, and that was normal,” he said.

As a supervisor, Black said Day was a quick study who could understand complicated concepts easily.

“He was not afraid to do something that maybe some others disagreed with, but he thought was right. He had a backbone, which I respected,” he said.

Black believes Day thrived more while he served as a delegate for the area because he could get more accomplished. He also believes those in Meadows of Dan enjoyed having Day as delegate. He also was a leader in the community.

“If somebody new moved to our area, Bernie would invite them over for a get-together so that they could meet others in the community. He did that all the time. If someone moved into our area in Meadows of Dan, he would go out of his way to introduce them to local folks and make them comfortable and welcome in the community. He did that constantly,” he said.

Many also looked to Day for guidance and leadership, Black said.

“If there was an issue that needed to be addressed, people would ask him his opinion, and usually they would do whatever he suggested,” he said.

In addition to missing Day’s leadership ability,



Black will miss Day’s ability to serve as a social center for the community.

“Through him, you would meet interesting people you otherwise wouldn’t know. He brought all kinds of different folks together in the same space, and so through him, people in the community got to know others in the community,” he said.

Because of how dynamic Day was, Black said watching him suffer from Parkinson’s was difficult.

“Parkinson’s is a debilitating disease, and you just observe a person suffering from Parkinson’s, they sort of wither in front of you, and that was difficult to watch, but he never complained. I never heard him once complain about it,” Black said.

Crystal Harris, a former Patrick County supervisor, said Day was always helpful when the county needed him.

“If I ever reached out to him, he was always there to help me with information I was looking for. He was always a gentleman that cared about Patrick County,” she said.

Harris remembers Day as being soft-spoken and informed.

Once, when she was trying to apply for a grant, Harris said the then–county administrator said she didn’t have time to prepare the application.

“I called Bernie and Bernie made sure that we got on the docket, and we got that grant. I think it was probably for the covered bridge, but Bernie went above and beyond to help us get that when the county administrator, whoever it was, would not help,” she said.

Harris believes Day’s leadership skills and mentorship of different county employees made an impact.

“I just think we’ve lost an amazing person in the county,” she added.

Retired Circuit Court Judge Martin Clark described Day as a genius and a powerhouse.

“Even slowed by illness, he always came off as bigger than life in so many ways. Bernie was often called ‘Virginia’s Mark Twain,’ but for me he was Cormac McCarthy crossed with George Will. Bernie K. Day was a one-of-a-kind bona fide star,” Clark said.

Former Del. Roscoe Reynolds said Day excelled as both a county administrator and a delegate.

“He showed courage in battling the disease that were ravaging him, and I’m just mighty sorry about his passing and hope things go the best they can for Debbie (Day’s wife) and the Day family,” he said.

Reynolds said he would remember Day as a great writer and teller of jokes, often using jokes in a way that stressed the point he was trying to make.

“Probably one of the ones that stick out in my mind is, there was a measure before the House of Delegates that had become very political. The advocates for the bill were saying more about it and overlooking its shortcomings and the negative impact it would have. Bernie started telling the story about a guy who’s riding out on the interstate and gets a phone call from his wife who says, ‘they just announced over the radio some fool on the interstate’s traveling in the wrong direction. You be careful.’” In response, Day said the husband responded, “I can see 10 coming at me right now that are on the wrong way,” Reynolds said.

With the joke, Reynolds said Day stresses that the bill was the wrong way to try to approach the matter.

“That was fairly typical of him, and a lot of times he would involve Patrick County in his tales. That got everybody’s attention,” he said.

Barry Shelor, of Shelor’s Dairy, LLC, said he met Day when he moved to Meadows of Dan and became part of the community.

“He liked to hunt some and I liked to hunt, and I took him on a few trips. The biggest thing I know about Bernie was he could meet a stranger and make friends instantly, and they had something in common to talk about. It didn’t matter who it was,” he said.

When Day was elected as a delegate, Shelor assumed Day’s seat on the Board of Supervisors. Day went on to be “a good and effective delegate. I thought he should have stayed on, but after he was on there for a short period of time, they redistricted. That put him and Ward Armstrong and Tom Jackson all in the same district. So, Tom and Bernie stepped out so that Ward Armstrong would stay on. But I thought he was an excellent member of the General Assembly,” he said.

Shelor said Day truly loved working in and doing things for the county to make it a better community.

“I think that was one of his best goals in life ... to see Patrick County to be better than it was.”

Library Storytime goes to the river



The Library’s Story Time went to the river to learn about water quality and macroinvertebrates (creek critters). The book “Creek Critters,” by Jennifer Keats Curtis with Stroud Water Research Center and illustrated by Phyllis Saroff was read by children’s librarian Sam Edmundson followed by Norma Bozenmayer and Jessica Hines demonstrating how to use a seining net to catch bottom dwelling aquatic animals. They also taught the future ecologists and river rangers about the organisms found.

The macroinvertebrates caught were then examined and identified by the children using identification charts.

It was determined the Mayo River is a healthy river with many healthy organisms like mayflies, toneflies, crane flies, hellgrammites, water pennies, crayfish and gilled snails. Participants discussed how to keep the river clean for all the wildlife.

River Ranger Buckets containing the materials to do your own investigation are



available to borrow and use at the Mayo River. They can be found at the kiosk with the little library. The Patrick County Library now has one bucket to check out and use at local parks and Fairy Stone State Park has a bucket to lend to park attendees to use in the park.

For information on River Ranger programs contact the Patrick County Chamber of Com-



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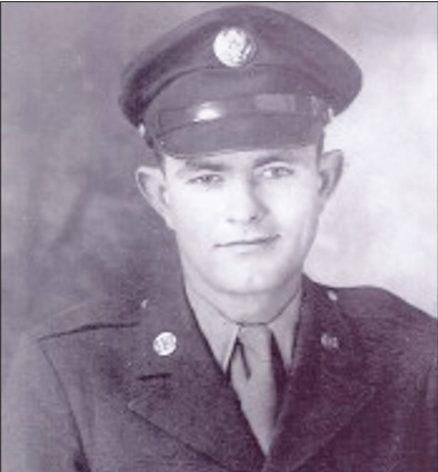
J. E. B. Stuart’s Brothers In Arms: Jonathan Hanby Carter, Surry County’s Civil War Sailor

By Tom Perry

In May 1853, J. E. B. Stuart wrote from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, to his cousin Bettie Hairston, “A few days ago I had a visit from an old friend and neighbor Jonathon Carter, now a Lieutenant in the Navy on the eve of starting out in Ringgold’s expedition to Bering’s Straights to be absent four years. He looked better than I ever saw him and seemed to anticipate a fine time.”

Jonathan Hanby Carter was born on January 1, 1821, in Surry County, North Carolina, the son of William Carter II and Elizabeth Moore. His family roots were in Patrick and Surry counties. Susannah Hanby married William Carter, the man O. E. Pilson, the “Father of Patrick County History” called the “Father of Patrick County” in 1788.

Carter chose the Navy as a career beginning in March 1840. He traveled the world for fifteen years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant in the United States Navy, serving on the USS Powhatan, USS John Adams, USS Perry, USS St Lawrence, and USS Savannah. Carter was in the first graduating class at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1846.



Jonathan Hanby Carter in the U. S. Navy



Mathew C. Perry led several expeditions to the Far East to open up China and Japan. Part of these expeditions included Cadwalader Ringgold (1802-1867), who led an expedition of five ships beginning in 1853 to survey the western Pacific for the whaling industry. Carter served on the USS Powhatan during the expedition.

On April 25, 1861, Jonathan Hanby Carter resigned his commission in the United States Navy and began his second naval career in the Confederate States Navy. His first command involved taking the Ed Howard, a side-wheel steamship, and turning it into the CSS General Polk. The six-gun ship patrolled the Mississippi River and Louisiana coast in the first two years of the war. After fighting in the Battle of Island #10 on the Mississippi River in March 1862, Carter escaped seventy-five miles up the Yazoo River and burned the ship to avoid its capture.

By October, he was building another ship. In April 1863, Carter launched the CSS Missouri on the Red River near Shreveport, Louisiana. He supervised all aspects of its construction and commanded through the end of the war. The ironclad ship carried three guns: one eleven inch, one nine inch gun, and one thirty-two pounder. A Union officer described the ship as “very formidable” but “very slow.” Carter’s command included 24 officers and 18 men, but it was not very exciting, mainly due to low water in the Red River keeping the ship from participating in any major campaigns.

Carter became so bored that in February 1864, he wrote, “Feeling desirous of doing my country more effective service, I must respectfully request that Steamer Harriet Lane now lying in Galveston harbor be turned over to me for the purpose of running her to some European port and there altering her as to make an efficient cruiser.” During the war, he wrote over 262 letters edited by



Sgt J. E. B. Stuart at West Point

Born Surry County NC 1821
U. S. Naval Academy 1846

U. S. Navy 1840-1861
USS Powhatan,
USS John Adams,
USS Perry,
USS St Lawrence
USS Savannah

C. S. Navy 1861-1865
CSS General Polk
CSS Missouri
Died 1884
Buried Edgefield SC

*A Man and His Boat:
The Civil War Letters
of Jonathon H. Carter
Edited by Katherine B. Jeter*

“A few days ago I had a visit from an old friend and neighbor Jonathon Carter now a Lieutenant in the Navy on the eve of starting out in Ringgold’s expedition to Behrings Sts to be absent four years. He looked better than I ever saw him and seemed to anticipate a fine time.”

-- J. E. B. Stuart
West Point, New York
May 17, 1853

Cadwalader Ringgold (1802-1867) led an expedition of five ships beginning in 1853 to survey the western Pacific.



Grave of Carter in Edgefield, South Carolina

Katherine B. Jeter in A Man and His Boat: The Civil War Letters of Jonathan H. Carter.

Jonathan Hanby Carter surrendered on May 26, 1865. The CSS Missouri was the last Confederate ship to surrender in home waters. After the war, Carter farmed in Louisiana, married Henrietta Tompkins in 1870, and settled near Edgefield, South Carolina, where he died in March 1884. In Edgefield’s First Baptist Church Cemetery, Carter lies near South Carolina’s Civil War Governor Frances Pickens and cavalry general Mathew C. Butler, who saved J. E. B. Stuart at Brandy Station in June 1863. Carter’s grave is

in sight of Senator Strom Thurmond. Bringing this story full circle, another local resident is starting her career at the U. S. Naval Academy this fall. Eliza Clifton is the daughter of Mitch and Julie Holland Clifton, the granddaughter of Garland and Becky Smith Holland, and the great-granddaughter of Maybelle and Fred Smith. Fred strongly supported the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace in the early days. If he was still with us, I think he would say of his great-granddaughter following Carter to Annapolis, “Gee Whiz Pal Fellows.”

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**Class of
2025**

*Congratulations
Noah James Jessup!*



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We are so proud of you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, and Luke!

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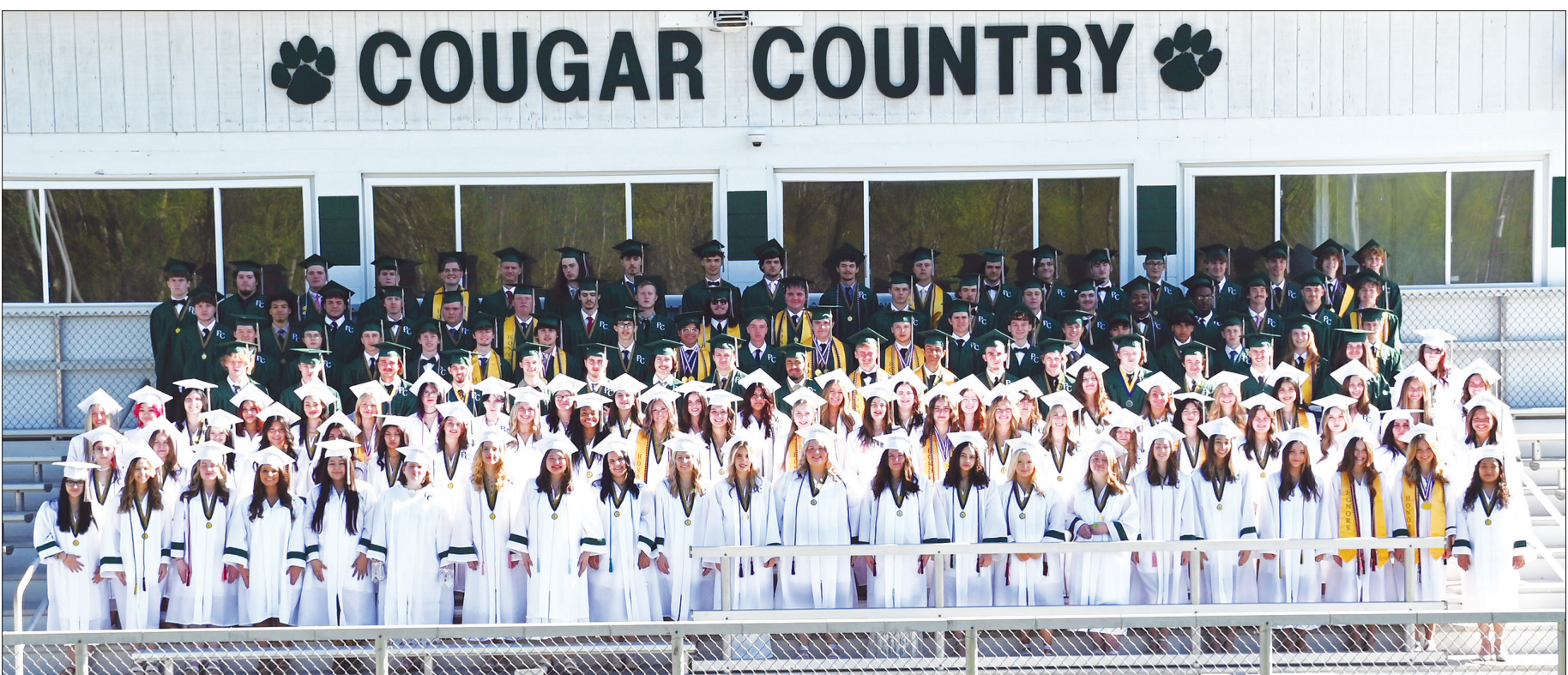
The Enterprise

GRADUATION EDITION

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

PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2025



Congratulations Class of 2025

Honor Grads



Front Row (l-r) Kendall Williams, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Eliza Clifton, Raeli Moran, Mary Beth Williams, Sadie Martin, Allison Hughes, Sasha Campos, Emily Eastridge, Tara Collins, Daryl Lynn Combs, Whitley Kruse; 2nd Row (l-r) Andrew Hensley, Noah Jessup, Benjamin Sutphin, Mason Scott, Xavier Torres-Seda, Joshua Freeman, Dhritik Tanna, Bryan Clark; 3rd Row (l-r) Chance Corns, Zachary Letchworth, Mason Dellenback, Jackson Horton, Owen, Nutter, Dante Belcher, Blake Dillon.

Class Officers



President Jymasia Manns, Secretary Raeli Moran, Vice President Scottie Hubbard.

SGA



President Eliza Clifton, Vice President Cindy Leon-Cisneros.

Gifted

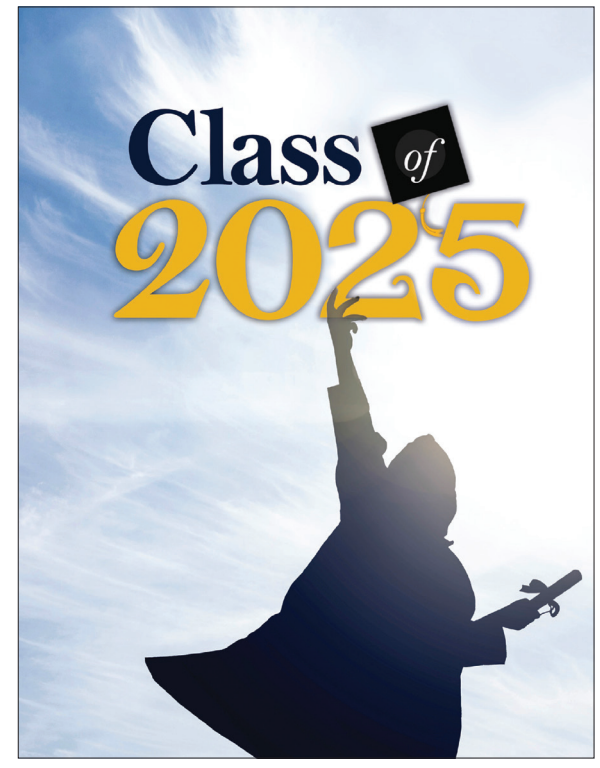


Front Row (l-r) Daryl Lynn Combs, Emily Eastridge, Kendall Williams, Tara Collins, Eliza Clifton 2nd Row (l-r) Mason Scott, Benjamin Sutphin, Blake Dillon, Bryan Clark, Dante Belcher, Riley Hodges, Dylan Quesinberry, Owen Nutter, Jonah Clifton.

Junior Marshals



Front Row (l-r) Xena Wilcox, Abigail Bryant, Kathryn Wood, Lacey Easter, Callie Montgomery, Kylee Leonard, Angel Plaster, Kendra Worley, Madison Scott, Haley Rakes, 2nd Row (l-r) Rylee Soliday, Rachel Branch, Lilleann Butler, Samantha Nester, Sydney Tatum, Callie Wood, Camille Gonzales, Ginny Nations, Autumn Bowman; 3rd Row (l-r) Carter Gregory, Devon Booth, Vishal Somasundaram, Greely Terry, David Lawson, Johnathan Harbour, Jaxon Ayers-Rosa, Jacob Lester, Parker Roop, Darysin Maselli.



D Squared



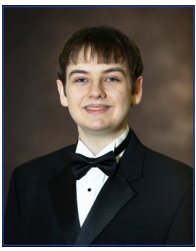
Front Row (l-r) Allison Hughes, Eliza Clifton, Sadie Martin 2nd Row (l-r) Zachary Letchworth, Noah Jessup, Benjamin Sutphin, Blake Dillon, Joshua Freeman, Xavier Torres-Seda.

Mechatronics



Front Row (l-r) Noah Wingfield, Evan Havens, Hunter Greer, Benjamin Conner, Jonah Shockley, Conner Goad.

Congrats & Hats Off to the Graduates



Conner Boyd



Mark Day



Maggie Easter



Kaden Shepherd



Aubrey Tucker



Caleb Turner

Vipperman Air Conditioning
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Congratulations, Patrick County graduates!

2025 Nancy S. Reynolds Scholarship
award recipients

Dante Belcher | Heather Brim | Cindy Leon-Cisneros
Daryl Lynn Combs | Mason Dellenback | Santa Danay Garcia
Adrianna Gause | Allison Shae Hughes | Autumn King
Chelsea Lawson | Zachary Letchworth | Sydney Peer
Katie Vernon | Mary Beth Williams | Cheyenne Lee Wood

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Class of 2025



CONGRATATIONS
JUDE MARTIN!



Congratulating Our SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Eliza Lin Clifton



Amelia Marie Clement



Mason James Dellenback



Congrats TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



Franklin Anthony Kirk



Whitley Katherine Kruse



Trinity Marie Lackey



Cindy Leon-Cisneros



Zachary Ryan Letchworth



Jymasia Hykiem Manns



Justin Tyler Keen



Autumn Kaye King



Alivia Lee Kirk



Rynne Elizabeth Lary



Chelsea Elizabeth Lawson



Haley Nicole Lawson

PATRICK COUNTY
Virginia

Congratulations from the Patrick County Tourism and the Economic Development offices

Congratulations & Best Wishes



Meet the CLASS of 2025



Arellano, Anna Marie



Ashworth, Tylor Jay



Belcher, Dante Marshall



Belcher, Jordan Hollis



Black, Burke Franklin



Bowman, Kali Marie



Brim, Heather Danielle



Brown, Christopher Jaiden



Bryan, Mya Michelle



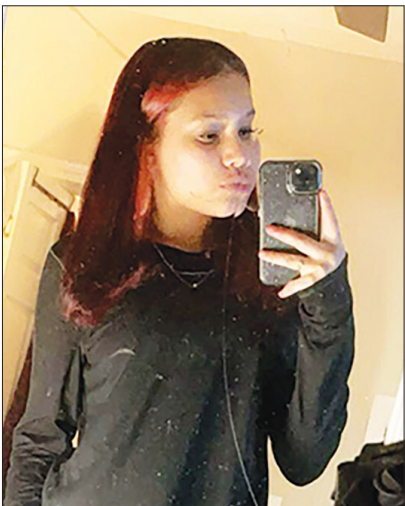
Buchanan, Emma Mae



Callahan, Alyssa Grace



Campos-Pineda, Sasha Nicole



Cannoy, Brianna Lynn



Carter, Mason Rielly



Cassell, Carrie Faith



Cassell, Haley Grace



Clark, Bryan Nathaniel



Clement, Amelia Marie



Clifton, Eliza Lin



Clifton, Jonah Satchel



Collins, Cameron Lee



Collins, Tara Elizabeth



Collins, Taylor Grey



Collins, Zachary Edwards





Combs, Daryl Lynn



Conner, Benjamin Edward



Conner, Skyler David



Copenig, Alysha Brooke



Corns, Paige Elizabeth



Corns, Williams Chancellor



Cutchins, Lexi May



Dellenback, Mason James



Dellinger, Emma Grace



Dillon, Blake Lee



Eastridge, Emily Claire



Evans, Arienah Journie



You Did It!

All your studying and hard work has paid off!

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Congratulations

GRADUATES 2025

Jordan Hollis Belcher Mason James Dellenback

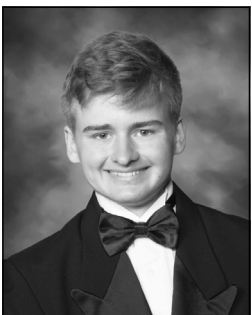
Hopkins Lumber Contractors
29673 JEB Stuart Hwy., Stuart • 694-2166
680 Old Sand Rd., Ridgeway, Va. 276-956-3022



Cassell, Carrie Faith



Cassell, Haley Grace



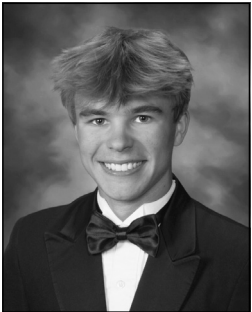
Clark, Bryan Nathaniel



Clement, Amelia Marie



Clifton, Eliza Lin



Clifton, Jonah Satchel

United Country Real Estate

Lambert Realty
22199 Jeb Stuart Hwy
Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-2646 • (276) 952-5502



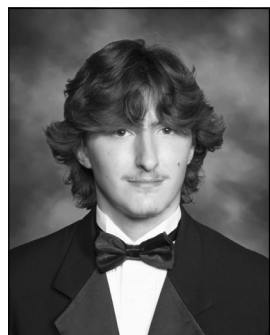
Williams, Mary Beth



Wimbush, Kimora Grace



Wingfield, Noah Alexander



Wolfe, Brayden Christopher



Wood, Cheyenne Lee



Zwerling, Allie Chaviva

WOOD'S COLD STORAGE & SUPPLY
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woodscoldstorage.stihldealer.net





Fain, Gavin Samuel



Fitzjarrald, Rachel Magdalena



Foley, Brett Wayne



Freeman, Joshua Glenn



Funes, Aaron Alden



Garcia, Santa Danay



Gause, Adrianna Marie



Geiger, Caleb Elmo



Geiger, Seth Andrew



Gillispie, Haley Katherine




Goad, Conner Wayne



Gonzales, Nicol Jennifer





PATRICK COUNTY
chamber of commerce

"You cannot dream of becoming something you do not know about. You have to learn to dream big. Education exposes you to what the world has to offer, to the possibilities open to you."
—Sonia Sotomayor


CONGRATULATIONS!

THE BEST
IS YET TO come



Hats off and best wishes to all of this year's outstanding graduates! We hope your big day is wonderful in every way.


CONGRATULATIONS
Graduates
TEN OAKS
PROLAM

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Class of
2025

Class of
2025



Gosnell, Jacob Israel



Greer, Hunter Riley



Haden, Nicolas Lee



Hall, Breanna McKenzie



Hall, Sammi Jean



Harris, Easton Cole



Havens, Evan James



Hazelwood, Lilly Grace



Hazlewood, Richard Gauge



Heath, Hunter Randolph



Hensley, James Andrew



Hodges, James Riley



Holland, Chase David



Hopkins, Sydney Lynn



Horton, Jackson Blake



Hostetter, Caleb James



CONGRATULATIONS!




Congratulations!

GRADUATES

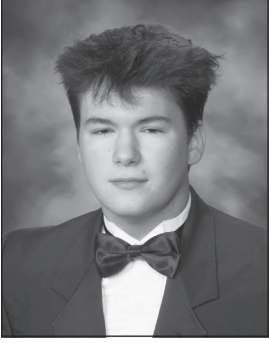


Alyssa Grace Callahan


Insurance Center of Patrick
113 W. Blue Ridge St., Stuart, Va. (276) 694-4989
www.insurancecenterofpatrick.com




Anna Marie Arellano




Tylor Jay Ashworth




Dante Marshall Belcher



Jordan Hollis Belcher



Burke Franklin Black



Kali Marie Bowman

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Hubbard, Riley Ellis



Hubbard, Scottie William



Hughes, Allison Shae



Hylton, Kamaury Javon



Iacovone, Jackson Connor



Jackson, Abigail Sebastiana



Jessup, Noah James



Jimrusti, Joshua Aaron



Johnson, Tessa Elizabeth



Jones, Holden Blaine



Jones, Kalynn Faye



Keen, Justin Tyler



King, Autumn Kaye




Kirk, Alivia Lee




Kirk, Franklin Anthony



Kruse, Whitley Katherine




CONGRATULATIONS!




CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2025



Noah James Jessup




Katie EllaNora Vernon

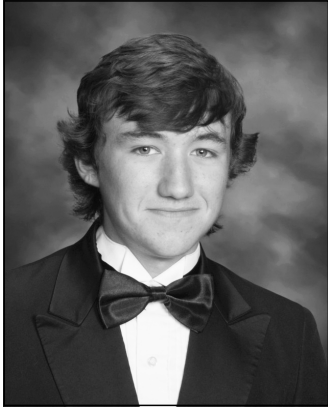
Brian Jessup CPA, PLC

125 N. Main Street, Stuart,VA - (276) 694-4999


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF

2025





Jonah Kaden Shockley



Mary Beth Williams

DOMINION VALLEY PARK
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Lackey, Trinity Marie



Lary, Ryanne Elizabeth



Lawson, Chelsea Elizabeth



Lawson, Haley Nicole



Leon-Cisneros, Cindy



Letchworth, Zachary Ryan



Manns, Jymasia Hykiem



Marshall, Tyler William



Martin, Jude Galyean



Martin, Sadie Jane



McBride, Katy Rose



McDowell, Lilly Miyoko



Mize, Kenzie Lee



Moran, Raeli Jo Adrianna



Morrison, Ethan Wesley



Murphy, Joseph Aiden



Napier, Jaden Liegh



Nester, Matthew David




Norman, Chase Everett




Nutter, Owen Kyle


Congratulations!




McBride, Katy Rose



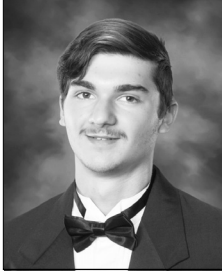
McDowell, Lilly Miyoko




Mize, Kenzie Lee



Moran, Raeli Jo Adrianna



Morrison, Ethan Wesley




Murphy, Joseph Aiden

Moody Funeral Home


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Mattie B's Gifts & Apparel wishes
all our local graduates well!
Congratulations!



Elizabeth Rose
P&HCC Graduate

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize
for which God has called me heavenward in
Christ Jesus." – Philippians 3:14



Kendall Tate Williams

Mattie B's

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Stuart, VA
(276) 694-4438



Olivares-Tovar, Rocio Ximena



Olmos, Rebeca



Overby, William Wesley



Pack, Dayton Thomas



Pascale, Paul David



Peer, Sydney Rose



Pendleton, Hunter Levi



Penn, Quantyn Nytae



Penn, Tyrese Jardon



Poynter, Rhythm Alexis



Pruitt, Jakya Marie



Quesinberry, Carley Jolie



Quesinberry, Dylan Lane



Quiroz Gonzalez, Erick



Register, Samantha Ann Marie



Rigney, Wesley Zane



Ring, Emily Virginia



Roberts, Karley Alise



Rodriguez, Kieran Luis



Ross, Lane Daniel


**Congratulations,
Graduates!**



Noah Jessup



Katie Vernon



Heather Danielle
Brim



Christopher Jaiden
Brown



Mya Michelle
Bryan



Emma Mae
Buchanan



Sasha Nicole
Campos-Pineda



Mason Rielly
Carter

H. E. “Chip” Slate
Attorney at Law - 403 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, VA • 276-694-2731

Hydro Air Systems
571 Mountain View Loop, Stuart, Va. - Phone 694-7308



Scott, Mason Wyatt



Scruggs, Sophie Leigh



Shelton, Sadie Janessa



Shockley, Jonah Kaden



Smith, Hunter Aaron



Smith, Talan Ryder



Spangler, Josiah Lee



Spence, Linsleigh Logan



Stiltner, Emily Kaye



Strothers, Jesse Lee



Sutphin, Benjamin Blake



Tanna, Dhrithik Deepa



Taylor, Lucas James



Torres-Seda, Xavier Orlando



Turner, Isabelle Olivia




Turner, Sydni Ann








Taylor Grey Collins

Mechanical Designs of Virginia
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Alyssa Grace Callahan Autumn Kaye King Tyler William Marshall



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F. (276) 694-7449
www.patrickcountyeeye.com



CLASS OF
2025
Congratulations



Turner, William David



Venable, Troy Thomas



Vernon, Katie EllaNora



Watts, Autumn Rose



Williams, Josilene Mackenzie



Williams, Kendall Tate



Williams, Mary Beth



Wimbush, Kimora Grace



Wingfield, Noah Alexander



Wolfe, Brayden Christopher



Wood, Cheyenne Lee



Zwerling, Allie Chaviva

SENIORS NOT
PICTURED ARE:

Pennington, Nicholas Bryce
Vining, Matthew Edwin
Zeigler, Barry Jackson

Trinity Christian School Graduates



Aubrey Tucker



Caleb Turner



Conner Boyd



Kaden Shepherd



Maggie Easter



Mark Day



*The “road” to success is “paved” with
endless possibilities and countless
opportunities. Always put God first; and, always
remember those who help you along the way.*

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS!



Lexi May Cutchins

J.C. Joyce Trucking & Paving
23767 Jeb Stuart Hwy. Stuart, VA
276-694-7400



CONGRATULATIONS!

Scholarships

(cont. from 1A)



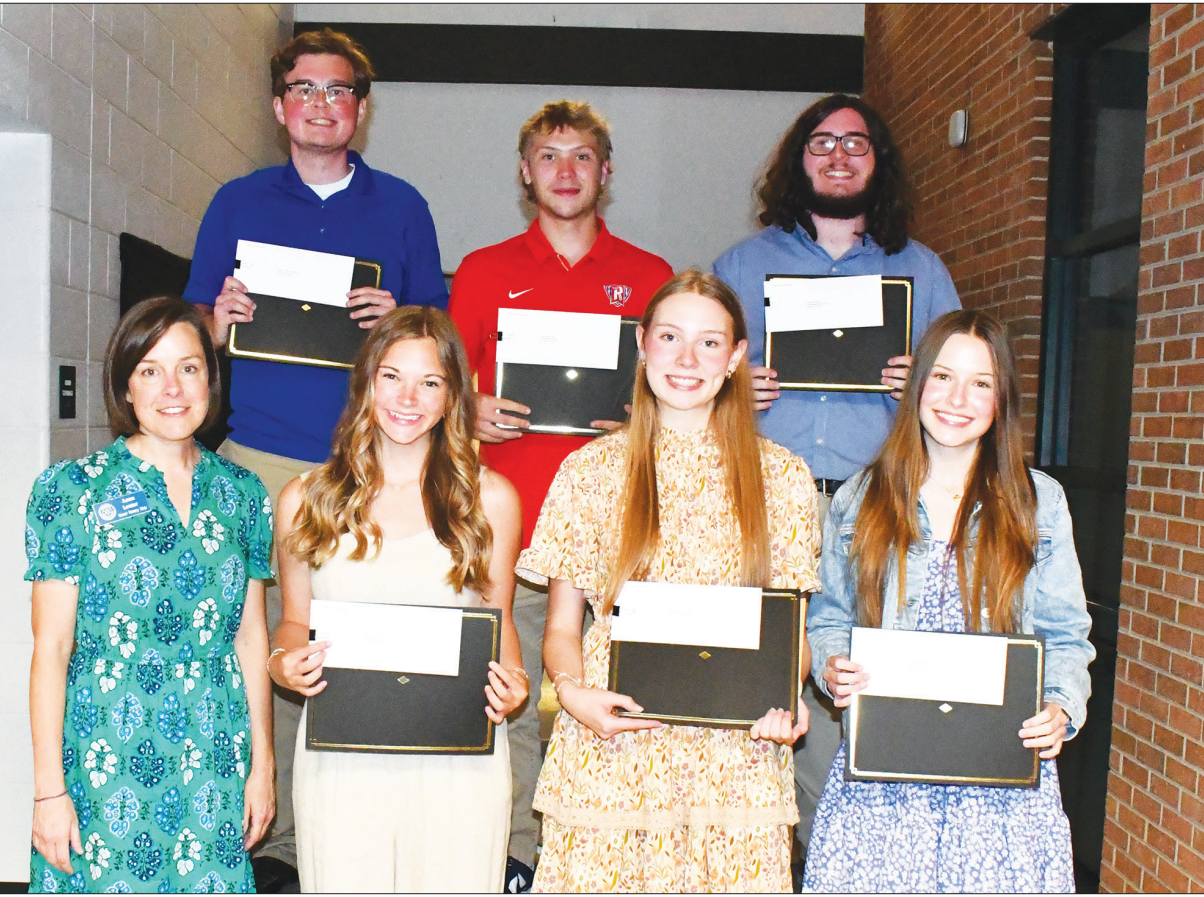
Patrick County Superintendent Scholarship- Owen Nutter, Whitley Kruse, Presenter Libby Wood, Dante Belcher, Cameron Collins, Isabelle Turner, Kendall Williams



Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship- Presenter Blair Clark, Joshua Freeman, Benjamin Sutphin, Hunter Heath, Heather Brim, Dante Belcher, Kendall Williams, Bryan Clark, Daryl Lynn Combs



PCHS Class of 1975 Scholarship- Presenter Della Fulcher, Sophie Scruggs, Lexi Cutchens, Benjamin Sutphin, Presenter Ricky Fulcher, Kendall Williams, Emily Eastridge, Zachary Letchworth, (not pictured- Rynne Lary)



Stuart Rotary Scholarship- Presenter Anna Lester, Katie Vernon, Whitley Kruse, Mary Beth Williams, Mason Dellenback, Noah Jessup, Owen Nutter



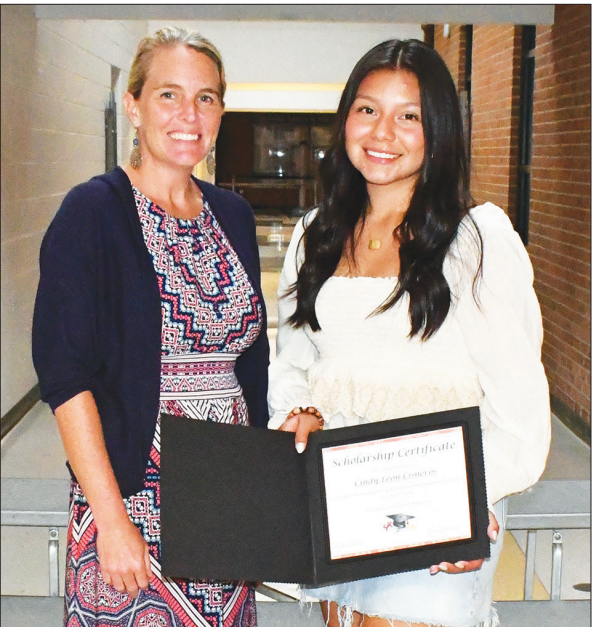
Ross Harbour UMC Scholarship- Presenter Dickie Wood, Cheyenne Wood, Matthew Nester, Heather Brim



Woolwine PTO Scholarship- Danay Garcia, Presenter Annette Harbour, Allison Hughes, Woolwine Warrior Scholarship- Whitley Kruse



Smith River Church of the Brethren Scholarship- Presenter Nancy Griffith, Allison Hughes



Stuart Elementary PTO Scholarship- Presenter Annie Baker, Cindy Leon-Cisneros



Stuart Elementary School Scholarship- Presenter Annie Baker, Chance Corns



Susan Allen Huff Memorial Scholarship- Presenter Denise Clark, Cameron Collins

Scholarships

(cont. from page 12B)



Wanda Ayers-Slate Memorial Nursing Scholarship-
Presenter Courtney Williams, Rocio Olivares, (not pictured-
Nicol Gonzalez)



Woolwine Ruritan Scholarship- Presenter Nancy Belcher,
Allison Hughes, David Belcher



Woolwine United Methodist Church Scholarship- Emma
Buchanan, Dante Belcher

OTHER STUDENTS NOT PICTURED ARE:

Bryan Clark received the
Fred Allen Memorial Scholarship.
Allison Hughes received the
Providence UMC Scholarship.
Daryl Lynn Combs and Tessa Johnson
received the Meadows of Dan
Ruritan Club Scholarship.
Abigail Jackson received the Patrick
County Veterans Memorial Honor
Guard Scholarship.



Strategies to land a job in a competitive market

The road to graduation is often long and winding, filled with academic challenges, personal growth, and milestones. Graduation itself is an exciting and fulfilling moment—but it can also stir up anxiety as newly minted graduates face the next phase: finding a job and launching their careers.

An unpredictable economic climate and the rising cost of education may leave some students wondering what lies ahead. Still, there is reason for optimism. According to the market data firm Gitnux, 86 percent of college graduates secure employment within six months of graduation.

While macroeconomic trends do play a role in post-graduation outcomes, they aren't the only factors that shape a student's path. Individual planning and proactive steps can make a significant difference in how smoothly that transition goes. Here are several strategies students can consider to boost their chances of success after graduation.

Start Early

It's never too soon to begin thinking about your career path. Career platform Indeed advises students to keep their grade point average strong, as many employers view GPA as an indicator of work ethic and discipline. In addition to academics, students should seek part-time jobs or internships in their chosen fields. These opportunities not only provide practical experience but also help students explore whether a particular career is the right fit.

Avoid the Job Hunt Rush

Most students begin job hunting after graduation ceremonies in May or December, leading to a flood of applications in a short period. To stand out, consider starting your search earlier—or wait until a slightly less competitive window. Applying off-cycle can increase the chances that your résumé gets noticed.

Tailor Your Résumé for Each Role

With employers often sifting through hundreds or even thousands of applications per job listing, customization is key. Make sure your résumé reflects the specific qualifications and keywords found in each job posting. If you don't have formal work experience, highlight



Graduating from college marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. With the right preparation, strategic timing, and effective networking, students can improve their chances of finding rewarding employment—regardless of the economic climate. The transition may be daunting, but it's also filled with potential for growth, discovery, and success.

relevant coursework, class projects, or volunteer work that demonstrates your skills and potential.

Tap into Your Network

It's no secret that many job openings are filled through personal connections rather than public postings. Reach out to professors, academic advisors, internship supervisors, and peers in your department. Don't hesitate to ask for informational interviews or to be kept in mind for openings. Maintaining these relationships—and staying professional and polite—can open doors that may not be advertised.

Look to Growth-Stage Companies

While large corporations may seem like the obvious choice, fast-growing startups and mid-size companies often offer rich opportunities for recent graduates. According to the University of Missouri Career Center, growth-stage companies are more likely to hire entry-level employees and invest in shaping their future leaders. These organizations are often more flexible in terms of qualifications and can offer rapid advancement.

Leverage Career-Oriented Social Media

Platforms like LinkedIn and Indeed are more than just job boards—they're powerful networking tools. Build a strong profile that highlights your strengths, skills, and goals. Join relevant groups, follow companies of interest, and connect with professionals in your field. Many employers search for candidates directly, so having a searchable, polished profile can attract opportunities even when you're not actively applying.

Congratulations, CLASS OF 2025!

Popular majors among modern college students

College students' choice of majors can set them on a path toward rewarding and lucrative careers. Though a career may not be foremost on the minds of students as they graduate high school and inch closer to the start of college, choice of major merits consideration, even among students who have yet to receive their high school diplomas.

Many college students enroll in school as undeclared, while others may pick a major without realizing what it requires and which career path it might set them on. That might explain why it's so common for college students to switch majors. Though data indicating how many students switch majors is somewhat dated, one study from the U.S. Department of Education indicated about one in five students changed



Choice of major is a significant decision for college students. Students are urged to discuss potential majors with their parents as they seek to lay the foundation for their professional futures.

their majors at least once while pursuing a bachelor's degree. With that in mind, students may want to consider some popular majors as they try to determine which path to take in college. Accord-

ing to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than half of the 2.1 million bachelor's degrees awarded at United States colleges and universities in the 2020-21 school year were concentrated in

six fields of study. In addition, the NCES reports that the following are the six most popular degrees from that academic year.

1. Business: Almost one in five bachelor's degrees awarded in

2020-21 were in the field of business.

2. Health professions: This field accounted for 13 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21. Common specializations include health sciences,

health care administration, nursing, and sports medicine.

3. Social sciences and history: NCES data indicates nearly one in 10 students majored in a social science in 2020-21. This includes specializations such as history, political science and sociology.

4. Engineering: Demand for engineers is expected to rise in the coming decades, and that should bode well for the 126,000 students who earned bachelor's degrees in engineering in 2020-21.

5. Biological and biomedical sciences: Bachelor's degrees awarded in biological and biomedical sciences increased by 46 percent between the 2010-11 and 2020-21 school years.

6. Psychology: NCES data indicates degrees in psychology accounted for 6 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21.

Press Pause: How a Gap Year Can Shape the Future

Many high school students tend to enjoy a few months of summer vacation after they graduate, and then embark on new adventures at college or trade school. Graduating college seniors follow a similar path of joining the workforce or beginning post-graduate work after earning their degrees. But such paths are not the only ones available to students. Some students may want to consider a gap year.

A gap year is a break from academia to pursue other interests or even experiential learning, according to Forbes. It's more than just a time to relax, and can prove especially helpful to self-development and discovery. If time and budget allows, taking a gap year can be a worthwhile and productive endeavor. Here are a few ideas and benefits relating to gap years.

· Hone skills: Some see a gap year as a chance to goof off or lounge around. Instead, this break provides an opportunity to sample the workforce and gain experience. Individuals can seek opportunities that will be relevant to the careers they intend to pursue in the future. A future certified public accountant, for example, may want to spend tax season working with an accounting firm to learn the ropes.

· Learn a language: Students may think a gap year is the perfect opportunity to become more proficient in a foreign language or two. Bilingualism can be a key advantage in one's job search and future career. Traveling to a country where a studied language is spoken and learning it while immersed in the culture can be a particularly effective means to acquiring language skills.

· Engage in a passion project: There are many projects that may be put on hold because of lack of time or resources while in school. A gap year can be the ideal time to write more or explore an innovative new business idea.



Taking a gap year may not be the traditional route for students, but the benefits of time away from formal learning can be profound.

· Perform service work: A gap year can be an opportunity to engage in social change or to help a cause. Certain people may want to travel to underprivileged areas on humanitarian missions or teach English to students overseas. These are experiences that will promote personal growth and help boost a résumé when it comes time to find a job.

· Improve academic performance: A study by Colorado College's Gap Year Research Consortium reported that those who participate in gap

years exceeded their predicted GPAs by roughly 0.15 points. A gap year may help a person become a better student.

· Land an internship: Some companies may want to extend internship offerings beyond the standard semester. Many professionals land their jobs through networking, so taking time away from school to participate in a lengthy internship can make for a smoother entry into that company should one want to work with them in the future.



Senior Superlatives

*Most Likely to be
Crowned
Mr. & Mrs. America*



Jymasia Manns and Kya Pruitt

*Most Likely to Live
Happily Ever After*



Noah Jessup and
Katie Vernon

Worse Case of Senioritis



92
Scottie Hubbard



Jordan Belcher

Best Dressed



Sadie Martin



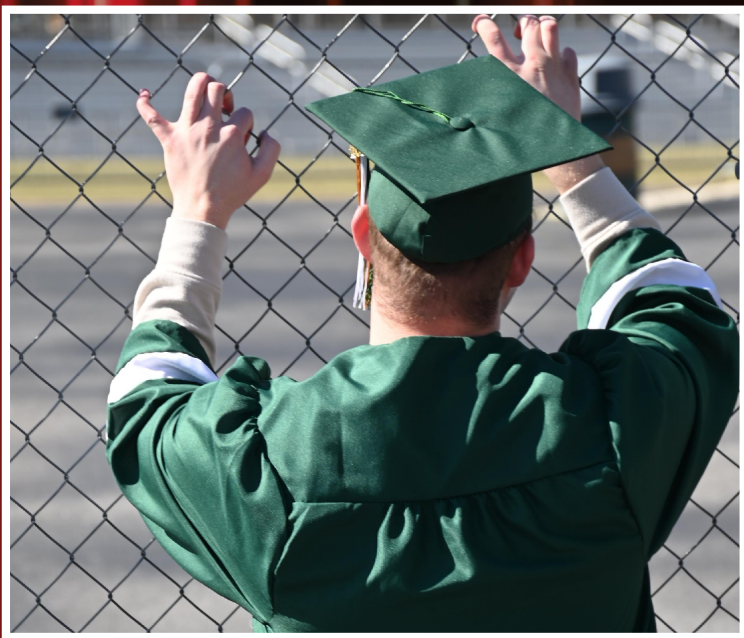
Riley Hubbard

Best Bromance



Cameron Collins, Jackson Horton, Seth Geiger, Hunter Heath, Holden Jones, Gavin Fain, Burke Black, Noah Jessup, Easton Harris

Most Likely to Not Show Up to Graduation

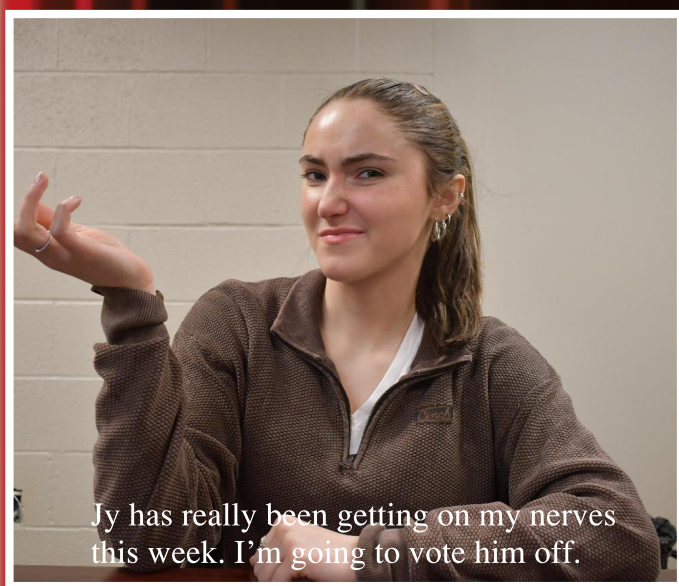


Scottie Hubbard



Arienah Evans

Most Likely to be on a Reality TV Show



Jy has really been getting on my nerves this week. I'm going to vote him off.

Eliza Clifton



Eliza is wanting to eliminate me. Don't try me. I'll win immunity this week.

Jymasia Manns

CONGRATS
to the Class of
2025
We wish you all the best!

You DID IT!