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Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson, right, gave a tour to volunteer fire and EMS members.

Hospital leaders eye reopening as county finalizes EMS partnership

By Taylor Boyd

Braden Health officials say they are working toward reopening Stuart Community Hospital by the end of the year, before its certificate of public need (COPN) expires. At the same time, Patrick County has approved a contract to transition its paid emergency medical staff to Patrick County EMS, a move leaders say will strengthen services without diminishing support for volunteer agencies.

The dual efforts represent two of the most significant health care developments for Patrick County in decades: restoring its hospital and reshaping its emergency response system.

EMS transition finalized

Under the agreement approved by county officials, Ambulance Services of Lexington, Inc., doing business as Patrick County EMS, will take over management of the county's paid EMS staff, known as Station 8, by the end of the calendar year.

Current employees will be offered positions with Patrick County EMS, ensuring a seamless transition, according to a county release issued Monday. The company has also pledged \$2 million to enhance local operations, including the purchase

(See Hospital p. 12)

Sheriff's Office K-9 Crash is barking up the right tree



Senior Deputy and K-9 Handler Dustin Dillon with K-9 Crash.

By Taylor Boyd

After a search and criminal apprehension in June, Patrick County Sheriff's Office K-9 Crash is excited to get back into the field and continue being a respectable member of the "pawlice."

Crash, a Belgian Malinois, has been with the department since 2020. He previously served in Tazewell County as a narcotics dog.

Senior Deputy and Crash's handler, Dustin Dillon, said that with the legalization of marijuana, Tazewell County decided to 'wash' Crash.

"We were lucky enough to pick him up. I think he had been up there for a year, and I think he had had two or three apprehensions out there before we got him," Dillon said.

Dillon said Crash performs basic patrols, tracking for human scent, area searches, article searches, apprehension and building searches for the office.

Since joining the department, Dillon estimates Crash has been involved in about 50 cases, including search warrants, tracking and apprehensions.

"That don't sound like a lot in five years, but there's some K-9s that never really have one. Then

of course you can't just send him on anybody. There are standards to when I can actually use him," he said.

Dillon said Crash is a big asset to the community, and notes there have been several cases he believes would not have been successful without the dog's tracking ability or his presence causing people to give up and surrender.

"It's a big safety issue for all of us. It's much easier if they give up and come out when they hear the dog. He's been very helpful. If he's on scene, and he's out of the car, they're usually much more compliant. I don't think they're worried about hurting the dog. I think it's a 'I don't want that dog to bite me,'" Dillon said.

Throughout his tenure with the department, Crash has never been in danger or hurt.

"I'm careful about where I'll send him. I mean if it looks like he can break a leg or something like that, I wouldn't send him in on it. It's all situational based of course," Dillon said.

Crash is the first police dog Dillon has had in his role as a K-9 handler.

"He's a good one. I told him he's been so good, I don't know if I want

(See K-9 Crash p. 3)

Town receives positive result from 2024 audit



One Family Productions member Chris Prutting asked the Stuart Town Council for a donation for the upcoming Front Porch Fest 16.

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council learned it received an unmodified opinion, or positive result, from its 2024 audit at its Wednesday, Aug. 20, meeting.

As part of the audit, both a qualified and an unmodified opinion on the financial statements were issued.

For the unmodified opinion, Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the business-type activities, which include water, sewer and sanitation funds, received the positive rating.

"The audit also identified several material weaknesses in our internal controls. For audit adjustments, the town has historically relied

(See Audit p. 2)

Could Community Canneries Make a Comeback in Patrick County?

By Joanne Hill

At one time, Patrick County was home to five community canneries and one industrial cannery. With renewed interest in growing and preserving food at home, could community canneries make a come-back?

Community gardens—such as the one sponsored by the Patrick County Master Gardeners and Providence United Methodist Church, as well as the garden at Homestead on Commerce Street—are proof that local interest in food self-sufficiency is growing. A rise in farmers' markets and small-scale meat production

has given residents more options for locally grown and raised products.

Roots in War-Era Necessity

During World War I, food shortages arose as farmers and labor-

ers were sent overseas to fight. In response, many states began establishing community canneries to help families preserve food. The movement expanded during World War II

(See Canneries p. 6)



Tin cans once were used in local canneries to hold a host of food.

Fugitive apprehended after crash into fire department



Kenneth Dane Gray

A Claudville man was charged following a motor vehicle pursuit, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. Around 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, deputies were patrolling in the area of Pedigo Ridge Road looking for Kenneth Dane Gray, 55, of 427 Pedigo Ridge Road.

Gray was a fugitive wanted on a capias for failure to appear on distribution of methamphetamine charges from Patrick County Circuit Court.

Senior Deputy Andrew Kinney attempted to stop Gray in a Chevrolet pickup, however, Gray allegedly began to flee recklessly from the deputy on Pedigo Ridge Road, Unity Church Road and Homeplace Road, according to a release.

Senior Deputy Dustin Dillon

successfully deployed spike strips across Homeplace Road, deflating Gray's two front tires. Gray allegedly continued to flee onto Ararat Highway, at which time Kinney performed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, which removed Gray's vehicle from the roadway.

Gray allegedly continued to flee off road and eventually was unable to steer his vehicle and struck the side of the Ararat Volunteer Fire Department building, causing minor damage.

Gray was removed immediately from the vehicle and arrested by deputies.

More than two ounces of suspected methamphetamine and a loaded handgun were found in the vehicle, according to the sheriff. The suspected methamphetamine will be sent to the state forensic lab to be analyzed. Numerous firearm and narcotics felony charges are forthcoming pending analysis, Smith said in a Tuesday afternoon release.

Smith alleged Gray "is a career criminal with multiple methamphetamine distribution convictions, the hardworking citizens of Ararat and Claudville have been victimized by his criminal behavior for far too long."

Gray is being held without bond in the Patrick County Jail.

Audit

(cont. from page 1)



The Stuart Town Council heard a breakdown of its fiscal year 2024 audit at its Aug. 20 meeting.

upon the auditors to make material adjustments to the financial statements, which indicates a weakness in our internal control,” Simmons said.

He noted this is something he has been working on over the past year. “If you remember, when we first went to our financial management system, a lot of the information could not import from our old system to our new system. We had six months basically of information that was in the system, but didn’t click exactly right. They had to make a lot of journal entries. That has been done for the audit itself,” he said.

Simmons said the audit also noted a lack of proper segregation of duties, as a single employee has been responsible for most accounting functions for the town.

“That is also something that we have been working to separate” where the treasurer “does payroll, deposits, things of that nature. I have been doing invoices and then separating the checks. So that’s the separation of those duties that they’ve been talking about, where now all bills are reviewed by council and approved. That’s something that didn’t necessarily happen in the past, but now you’re seeing the full-fledged approving everything that we write a check for,” he said.

The bank reconciliations also had not been completed accurately in a long time. Simmons said this is something he has been doing, and the town now has at least a full year of bank reconciliations accurate.

“So what is in our system now matches what is on our bank statements. That was something important for me to get resolved,” Simmons said.

The audit also noted some instances of noncompliance, with the town’s expenditures exceeding appropriations.

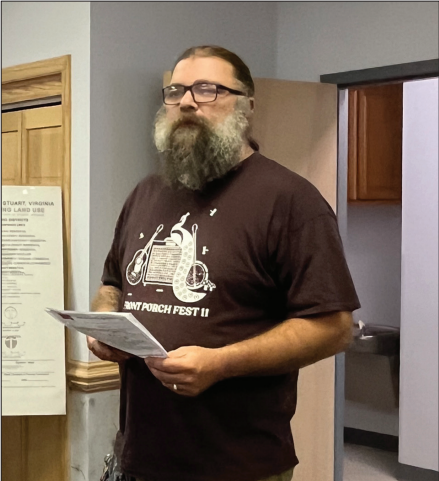
“The general fund expenditures were over budget. This is because we had grants that were basically expensed out of the general fund, but we did have a good mechanism to account for those within our budget,” he said.

Two of the town’s bank accounts also were not properly reported to the Virginia Department of Treasury as required by the Security for Public Deposits Act. Simmons said he is now working to address the issue.

For the FY24 audit, Simmons said the town’s net position increased by \$652,429.

“The town’s total revenues for government activities was \$1.13 million and our general fund saw total revenues of \$1.113 million, which was \$997,000 over the final budget. This was largely driven by the higher-than-budgeted revenues from other local taxes, particularly our meals tax, which brought in \$436,000,” he said.

The total expenditures for government activities was \$1.13 million,



Chris Prutting gave a presentation at the council meeting.

with general government administration being the largest expense at \$567,000.

“The general fund’s total expenditures were \$1,439,000, which exceeded the final budget by \$593,000. A major factor in this was \$577,000 in capital projects, primarily for the purchase of the Star Theatre and the fire department equipment, which was ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)-funded expenses,” Simmons said.

He said Stuart’s combined cash and cash equivalents was \$2,899,106 at the end of FY24, with an additional \$230,792 in restricted cash. The town also holds \$1,152,528 in the Virginia Investment Pool.

“The long-term liabilities total \$5,695,000, which includes \$1,404,000 loan for government activities and a total of \$3,457,000 in revenue bonds for business-type activities. Our USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) bonds require a debt reserve equal to one year’s payment, and these bonds are secured by our water and our sewer revenues,” Simmons said.

Simmons said a qualified opinion was given for the town’s governmental activities and the general fund because of the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department.

“This is something that happened last year. While not an illegally separate entity, the fire department maintains its own checking account and related financial activities outside of the town’s official financial statements. This is a matter they suggest we need to address,” he said.

The auditors recommended either bringing the fire department’s financial records into the town office or creating a separate legal entity for it.

In other matters, the council:
*Approved project financing but will still look into a plan of finance regarding the Municipality Advisory Services agreement.

*Approved a \$1,000 donation and a \$2,000 in-kind donation to Front Porch Fest 16.

*Heard the town manager’s communication.

*Discussed meals tax collection.

*Approved the meeting minutes.

* Paid the bills.



P&HCC’s Police Chief Gary Dove monitors campus cameras from the campus police department.

Two grants for surveillance cameras awarded to P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has received two grants to support surveillance camera upgrades on campus.

P&HCC received \$47,149 for surveillance camera upgrades from Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VDCJS) and \$10,000 from the Virginia Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Fund to purchase surveillance cameras for monitoring ingress/egress at one of P&HCC’s remote sites as well as surveillance of several of the campus’s parking lots and roadways. The camera to be installed at the remote site is equipped with license plate identification capabilities.

“Not only will this enhance the security and safety of P&HCC’s campus, but it will also boost the security of the service region and allow the campus to assist law enforcement in the city of Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia. We look forward to implementing these technology resources to increase the overall security of our campuses,” said Eric Arrington, P&HCC’s Director of Technology.

P&HCC expects several immediate

benefits to campus security thanks to the VCDJS and HEAT grants, including improved surveillance capabilities for campus police, decreased time spent searching through video archives and performing real-time tracking of a subject; use of vehicle, people, and license plate data to assist neighboring, state, and federal police forces; and real-time alerting (face, vehicle, license plates) to ensure that P&HCC employees, students, and visitors are safe from known criminals or persons of interest.

P&HCC has a robust surveillance system in place, including a cloud-based camera management and storage solution, which, partnered with upgraded surveillance equipment, ensures a more high functioning surveillance system across campus that will enhance security. Additionally, P&HCC has a recognized and accredited police force, with 5 law enforcement officers and 3 security officers. Patrick & Henry Community College Police Department’s mission is to provide a safe and secure campus for the community.

Apple Dumpling Festival 5K set for Oct. 18 in Stuart

Lace up your sneakers and hit the trail on Saturday, October 18, for the annual Apple Dumpling Festival 5K in Downtown Stuart. Presented by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Dan River Basin Association, this annual fundraiser offers one of the most scenic — and flattest — 5K courses in Patrick County, following the beautiful Mayo River Rail Trail.

The race kicks off ahead of the Town’s 24th Annual Apple Dump-

ling Festival, held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-registered participants are guaranteed an event T-shirt, and all runners will enjoy a marked course, finisher medal, chances for awards, and a fun, supportive atmosphere.

Proceeds from the race support the Dan River Basin Association’s trail development projects in Patrick County.

To register or learn more, visit www.patrickchamber.com or call 276-694-6012.

Like us on facebook

Pets of the Week



This Border Collie mix male pup is active, adorable and searching for a new home.



This shaggy Border Collie-Aussie mix male pup is playful and friendly.



A cute tan young lady with perfect manners would make an awesome companion for any family.

All these dogs deserve a permanent loving home. 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 which includes spay/neuter, vaccine package, flea treatment and wormer.

Check out videos and more pictures of these dogs and cats on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page. It also provides pet food assistance and is always in need of pet food donations, especially cat food. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

Norris Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com



1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Ronald Derrell Hairston, 28, of Stuart, was charged July 31 with drive without license. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Israel David Branch, 47, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Aug. 4 with drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Travis Carl Ray Goad, 39, of Galax, was charged Aug. 6 with fail to appear. Galax PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Cody Harold Mullins, 32, of Ennice, N.C., was charged Aug. 6 with fail to appear. Sgt. Deputy D. Dillon was the arresting officer.

*Gena Faye Snow, 40, of Dobson NC, was charged Aug. 6 with fail to appear. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Berkley Williams Tate, 45, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 7 with fail to appear. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Ethan Lewis Dehart, 25, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Aug. 7 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended and purchase/transport gun while under an active protective order. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Brett Lane Williams, 56, of Stu-

art, was charged Aug. 7 with assault. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Joseph Michael Murphy, 39, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 8 with four counts probation violation and one count possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Terroll Scott Ragsdale, 46, of Patrick Springs, was charged Aug. 10 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Landry Delaine Morrison, 36, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 11 with two counts failure to appear on felony offense, and one count each fail to appear, contempt of court, and violate conditions of release. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr., made the arrest for Henry County.

*Jesse Augustus Smith, 29, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 13 with petty larceny. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Shannon Gray Pack, 33, of Claudeville, was charged Aug. 15 with one count each assault, strangle, and abduction. Deputy C.L. Adkins and Inv. Tennille E. Jessup were the arresting officers.

*Thatcher Linwood Robertson, 29, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 15 with probation violation. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

Turner sentenced to 20 years active time in 2023 incidents

Roger Dale Turner was sentenced recently in connection with charges of aggravated malicious wounding, strangulation, and child endangerment stemming from August 2023 incidents, according to a release from Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt.

Turner pleaded guilty on March 12, to one count of aggravated malicious wounding, two counts of strangulation, and one count of child endangerment in connection with the incident.

At a sentencing hearing on August 4, Circuit Court Judge Marcus A. Brinks sentenced Turner to 55 years in the state penitentiary, with 35 years suspended on the condition of 30 years of supervised probation and good behavior.

Turner's active sentence is 20 years in a Virginia Department of Corrections facility, and he was ordered to pay \$5,026 in restitution for medical expenses. Turner also was ordered to have no contact with the victim.

In August 2023, law enforcement responded to a serious domestic violence incident in the Patrick Springs area of Patrick County. Authorities determined that Turner subjected his long-term partner to prolonged and extreme physical abuse over the course of several

days, including strangulation, repeated beatings, and burns inflicted with boiling water, heated tools, and a blow torch. A minor child was present throughout the abuse and, at one point, was encouraged by the defendant to participate.

Patrick County Sheriff's Investigator Tennille Jessup was the lead investigator. Bobbitt prosecuted the case.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to Patrick County Sheriff's Office for their work on this case," Bobbitt said. "This outcome would not have been possible without the diligent investigation led by Investigator Tennille Jessup and, most importantly, the courage of the victim who came forward.

"When I assumed office, I vowed to the citizens of Patrick County that I would do everything in my power to protect the most vulnerable and to incarcerate violent offenders. I stand by that promise wholeheartedly and remain committed to it," Bobbitt added. "I am grateful for our dedicated team that responds to reports of domestic violence and child abuse, ensuring thorough investigations that lead to more convictions. My hope is this result brings some form of closure to the victims and helps them to begin their journey of healing."

Why is Breakfast So Important?

Why am I choosing to focus on breakfast? As easy as eating breakfast can be, it can be just as easy to forget or, more often, neglect breakfast. You might be running late to work, you want to lose weight, cooking breakfast takes too long, you want to sleep in, you're not hungry because you had a late dinner, and the list goes on.

So, why is breakfast so important and how can eating breakfast add years to your life?

The numbers don't lie. Eat breakfast to not die.

In the original data that was collected from the Alameda County study, the men that ate breakfast and didn't eat between meals had 50% less risk of death than men that skipped breakfast and snacked. (1) Moreover, in a more recent analysis of the Alameda County study showed that of the individuals ages 60-94, those who did not eat breakfast had a 50% increase in the risk of death compared to those that ate breakfast regularly. (2)

It's almost too simple, but eating breakfast is powerfully correlated with a longer and more enjoyable life. When I was in high school, a glass of orange juice was all I felt I needed for breakfast. But, when I was exposed to the enormous

benefits of breakfast, it became a no-brainer for me to prioritize my first meal of the day.

The myth behind breakfast and weight loss

Unfortunately, it's common practice to skip breakfast in an effort to lose weight. The logic behind this is that if you skip breakfast, you won't be eating as many calories as you would have if you had eaten breakfast. To be blunt, this is a myth. What researchers found is that those that eat more for breakfast and lunch will lose weight faster than those who eat a large dinner.

In American culture, the last meal is traditionally the biggest but we would do well to decrease or even eliminate our last meal of the day and get the majority of our calories earlier in the day. The patients that did this not only saw more weight loss but also showed reduced risk for diabetes and thyroid problems. (3)

Breakfast and reduced heart attack risk

When do most heart attacks happen? Between seven in the morning and noon. Why is this, and what does breakfast have to do with it? Platelets, the part of our blood that is responsible for clotting, are "stickier" in the morning after you wake up. This increases the tendency of

K-9 Crash

(cont. from page 1)



Dillon and his partner, K-9 Crash.



K-9 Crash demonstrates his moves on Animal Control Officer Christian Gilbert.

another one. I got spoilt. The first three weeks of school he knew what to do—I didn't know what to do—but once we clicked it's been pretty smooth sailing," Dillon said.

Since Dillon has had the police pooch, Crash's typical days are all or nothing when it comes to action.

"We'll go weeks without a call, and then I think" one month, "we had four calls that week. It's feast or famine around here," Dillon said.

He typically gets Crash ready to go in the car around 7 a.m. before arriving at the office.

"I try to get him three or four breaks a day, do something with him to stimulate his mind, cause he's pretty wired. Most times, we'll do something here out in the yard to make him think, and go home, walk him, feed him, and we do it again tomorrow," he said.

For training, Dillon said some fellow officers will run and hide for Crash to find.

"If I get anybody else to hide, they'd usually run up here to the side of the road and sit down."

Animal Control Officer Christian Gilbert "will be gone for an hour-and-a-half and climb a tree and then make me come find

him," he said.

"It's like adult hide-and-go-seek with consequences," Gilbert added.

While Crash is typically excitable and playful, Dillon said once he puts the vest on him, he's a changed pup.

"It's like a light switch. He's ready to go to work. He's got his head up looking around to see what's going on," Dillon said.

While they have had multiple tracks, Dillon said the incident in June was the first track that ended in both an area search and an apprehension for Crash.

"I was pretty proud of that to see him get excited, and cut him loose, and go to work. Because we didn't have a clue that guy was there, but the dog knew where he was, you could tell. With these dogs, you look for any type of change in behavior or alertness. We tracked for 25-30 minutes, and he was just goofing off you could tell. Then we got back to where he was picking up scent, his ears perked up, head started working, tail started wagging. You could tell we were getting close. He was getting excited," Dillon said.

While Crash is a good tracker, like most police dogs, his favorite type of case to work is apprehension.

"Because it's fun for them—it's a game so to speak. Our area searches usually with some type of apprehension at the end of it. I'd say that's where he really shines. I guess it'd kind of be like an adrenaline build for a human. It's pretty much the most exciting part of what he does. It's not a job to them, it's more of a game with a reward at the end, so to speak. Like we were at a track and I say good boy and take him back to the car. He gets bored with that. I think it's the action part of it," he said.

With tracking, Dillon estimates Crash has an above 50 percent success rate.

"A lot of tracks we've been on, usually they're never easy. Usually, we're an hour or two behind or later, and it's weather-based and (that) makes it difficult to start the track and keep it. Then you have the terrain and how many other people have been walking around disturbing the scent. So, it's not a bad number I don't think," he said, adding Crash is more effective with tracks that have a good setup.

Crash turned 8 on July 7. Dillon said most police dogs retire around 9 years old, depending on health and other factors.

"But he's still full of it, full of himself, and drive. Healthwise, he seems perfectly healthy, so we'll use him I know through this year, and I guess we'll reevaluate and see where he's at. If he's still wanting to work, I don't see why we'd wash him early, good of a dog as he is," Dillon said.

After retirement, Dillon plans for Crash to stay with him. He added it's typical in most law enforcement agencies for the handler to keep the police dog, if possible.

- *Increased verbal fluency
- *Improved attention span
- *Better attitudes
- *Better scholastic scores

All this evidence leads to the conclusive argument that a healthy breakfast can not only add years to your life but also add life to your years.

(For references mentioned, i.e. 1-5, please check online to see the original article at Life and Health – Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Westney White. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

A) Labor Day and B) Ukrainian Situation

Throughout our country's history, the American worker has constantly made important contributions.

American industry, powered by the great contributions of the workforce, helped our progression to be a global economic powerhouse. This dynamic duo of industry and the world's best workforce developed our workforce's skillsets and resources and ushered in national prosperity and wealth.

Without the worker, we could not build our cities and towns, supply Americans with goods and services nor support our communities.

The American worker also served as a catalyst in our war effort in World War II. Rosie the Riveter captures the spirit of the American workforce during that era.

Thanks to their efforts, America stands as the model nation in the world. Our communities run on the sweat of our workers.

Labor Day is about the worker, and I am proud to live in a powerful country strengthened by the heart and soul of the American workforce.

As President Ronald Reagan put it: "I would match the American worker against any in the world."

Some of our labor and innovative triumphs are memorialized in the U.S. Capitol.

Historical figures known for their inventions, such as Benjamin Franklin and Robert Morse, are honored.

In other Capitol works, the Wright Brothers are recognized for their role in the birth of aviation.

Aviation has led to great economic growth in the American economy. According to Airlines for America, commercial aviation accounts for 5% of U.S. GDP.

August 19th marked National Aviation Day!



Morgan Griffith

Representative

But without the American workforce, there would not be a National Aviation Day.

As our workforce continues to make tremendous strides, I wish you a happy and relaxing Labor Day weekend.

Russia and Ukraine

The prospects of ending the Russia-Ukraine War have improved by President Trump's recent efforts.

President Trump held a summit in Alaska with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss a pathway to peace.

After that summit, Trump felt enough progress was made that he could move another step forward. He held a meeting just days later at the White House with European leaders, including Macron of France, Starmer of the United Kingdom, Merz of Germany and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Through these talks, further ideas about peace negotiations were advanced.

As of this writing, Trump is working to set up a bilateral summit between Putin and Zelenskyy. Should that meeting go well, then a final trilateral meeting involving the United States would be in play.

A major tenet of the peace discussions concerns security guarantees for Ukraine.

However, Ukraine is no stranger to deals that involve security guarantees.

In a 1994 agreement known as the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, Ukraine forfeited its

nuclear weapons in exchange for independence and freedom from threats or uses of force against their sovereignty.

At the time, Ukraine's nuclear weapons stockpile was the third largest in the world!

Bill Clinton signed the memoranda on behalf of the United States. The United Kingdom, Ukraine and Russia all signed it. China and France signed similar agreements.

Russia violated the Budapest Memorandum when it annexed Crimea in 2014. President Barack Obama did little to punish Putin for this move.

Then in 2022, after President Joe Biden failed to show strength in Afghanistan, Russia launched a full-scale invasion into Ukraine, where fighting remains more than three years later.

Given this history, Ukraine will appropriately be very cautious with how it proceeds in peace discussions where security assurances are given.

Will they trust the United States? The United Kingdom? France?

What will these security guarantees look like? Will they be similar in scope to those agreed upon in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum? Or will be they stronger?

If the United States makes promises, will we live up to the promises outlined in this new agreement?

Should we commit to an armed conflict with a nuclear Russia? I do not think we should.

Further, I would hope we would not give a "blank check" to Ukraine. "Blank checks" are how Europe went from the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand directly into World War I.

As the above history shows, weakness and ambiguous "blank checks" invite further and potentially larger conflicts.

Therefore, any agreement should be clear and unambiguous.

I believe American strength and decisiveness result in peace and a more stable world.

President Trump deserves credit for projecting American strength in the pursuit of peace.



Letters to the Editor

Our education system –a need for change

(Fox News, US Dept of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education (DOE), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

The Department of Education was formed in 1979. Despite the outrage from liberals that the American education system will collapse without the DOE there has been a sharp decline since 1979 in student performance.

Adjusted for inflation the DOE budget skyrocketed from \$56.9 billion in 1980 to \$268.4 billion in 2024, an increase of 470%. In that same period, overall federal spending increased 193 %, reflecting the disproportionate growth of the agency.

In spite of the massive increase in funding, student outcomes did not improve. In fact, they got worse. According to a NAEP 2024 report, 69% of 4th grade students and 70% of 8th grade students scored at or below "Basic" in reading. In math 25% of students failed to reach the NAEP Basic level. Since 1992, the first year for which NAEP results were available, 4th grade reading scores have remained unchanged and math scores are on the decline. Grade 4 average reading scores from 2017 to 2022 for every state in the country decreased, except Mississippi and South Carolina, that had a small increase and Arizona and Louisiana, which stayed the same. Why should taxpayers be expected to continue shelling out billions of dollars for such lousy progress.

When Trump took over DOE had more than 4,000 employees. The

public relations staff alone had grown to more than 80 people with a cost to taxpayers of \$10 million dollars per year. More than 1,000 DOE employees were paid more than \$160,000 per year and 80 employees made more than \$200,000 per year, which is four times the average of a K-12 teacher despite the falling of student scores.

Soon after Trump took office DOGE identified and eliminated 29 DEI programs costing \$101 million and \$350 million in contracts that were additional indoctrination material that were not in the best interest of students and taxpayers. By dismantling the DOE and restoring power to the states, Trump put an end to the one sized fits all model that has stifled creativity and suppressed excellence in American classrooms.

In its place, a decentralized, flexible and dynamic system now can emerge that welcomes innovation such as charter schools, private and faith-based schools, homeschooling, hybrid models and vocational models, which of course the liberal teachers' unions are not in favor of. Parents are now encouraged to find what works best for their children. This approach recognizes that every child is different and education should reflect that.

This is not just a policy shift, but a change of mindset and mission that puts students and families first, where they have always belonged.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart.

Make America Safe

Dr. Glenn Mollette

I would love to go back to Washington, D.C. and feel like my wife and I could safely stroll the city at 9:00 or 10:00 at night. Actually, I would like to feel like we could safely walk the city at 10:00 in the morning. I am grateful that President Trump is taking a pro-active approach to making D.C. as safe as possible.

In 2024 there were over 14 million criminal offenses reported in the United States. (US Crime statistics, Bing.com)

How many cities, towns or even rural areas do you feel safe in today? My son and I were in NYC a few years back. We toured the Empire State building and it was almost 1:00 in the morning by the time we left the building and started looking for New York pizza. We walked back to Times Square and of course there were still people out but not that many. There wasn't a minute that I wasn't constantly looking around and wondering if we were safe. We had a good evening but it's aggravating to have to be concerned.

What town or community in America can we go and not have to be concerned? Even in the smallest villages in America, who knows if there is a mentally deranged person out and about looking for something bad to do or someone to hurt?

FAA funds runway, hangar projects across Southwest Virginia

The Federal Aviation Administration has awarded more than \$15 million in grants to airports across Virginia's Ninth District, including \$4.3 million to the Blue Ridge Airport Authority for a runway extension.

"Structural and capacity improvements to airports in our region are worthwhile investments," Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said in a release. "The development of airports and air travel to our region help attract future investment, create significant potential for economic growth and contribute to the backbone for local businesses."

Other awards include:
\$1,000,000 to Smyth Wythe Airport Commission for hangar construction

\$281,865 to Smyth Wythe Airport Commission for runway rehabilitation

\$381,100 to Tazewell County Airport Authority for hangar construction

\$5,225,960 to Virginia Highlands Airport Commission for runway rehabilitation

\$850,000 to Twin County Airport Commission for a runway extension

\$2,401,600 to Twin County Airport Commission for a taxiway extension

\$538,200 to Twin County Airport Commission for hangar construction

The grant funds were made available through the Fiscal Year 2025 Airport Improvement Program.

"I am excited about the \$15,014,525 worth of grants to our region's airports," Griffith said. "I will continue supporting policies and submitting community funding project requests that attract financial capital and foster economic development in Ninth District communities."



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Crossing the Lines

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

After 81 years missing, Sgt. Thornton honored with Arlington burial



Former Martinsville Mayor Danny Turner and W.C. Fowlkes attended the service, and presented proclamations from Henry County and Martinsville to Thornton's family members.

After being missing in action for 81 years, U.S. Army Sgt. Ivor Darrell Thornton of Ridgeway was identified and laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, Aug. 15.

Thornton, 34, was killed on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944 — D-Day. He was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division.

According to Honor States, a website dedicated to documenting fallen U.S. service members, Thornton died two days before his

35th birthday.

Thornton was not married and had no children. He was the son of James Stovall Thornton and Ida Carnie Young. At the time of D-Day, his brother, Technician Fourth Grade Geoffrey D. Thornton, was serving with the Fifth Army in Italy.

Before entering the service, Thornton worked in Fieldale for Marshall Fields. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Thornton was identified and accounted for on March 10.

Grand opening set for Heritage Museum annex

A grand opening of the annex of the MHC Heritage Museum will be held from 3-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at the museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

The annex is a 13,000-square-foot new building behind the former Henry County Courthouse, which was built in 1824 with a 1929 addition. The two buildings are connected by a skywalk and together give more than 25,000 square feet of museum exhibit space.

The grand opening will feature children's games and activities, refreshments and live music, all free. Ann's



Dr. Mervyn King, Jack Stewart and Virginia King designed and built display areas in the annex.

Kitchen will sell food. Admission to the annex will be free to all children up to age 18 as well as free to members. Memberships can be purchased at the event.

The free grand

opening event will be held on the courtyard on the museum grounds. General admission for inside the museum is \$10, with \$5 for children 2-18 and 65+ and free for infants.

Residents offered \$2,500 credit to connect to new sewer line



Henry County residents along the path of a new public sewer extension on U.S. 58 West can receive a

\$2,500 credit to cover connection and facility fees, thanks to a grant secured by the Henry County Pub-

lic Service Authority (PSA).

The credit is available to property owners along U.S. 58 West, between Grassy Creek and the Carver Road intersection. Any eligible resident who submits a completed tap application will receive the full credit, which covers the PSA's current connection and facility fees in full. Property owners may connect at any time after the project is complete.

"This is a mean-

FAHI's newest exhibit honors local athletes



Fayette Area Historical Initiative's (FAHI's) honors African American athletes from the region. Executive Director Charisse Hairston said more than 20 local athletes are represented.

The Fayette Area Historical Initiative's (FAHI) newest exhibit, honoring African American athletes from the region, opened Wednesday, Aug. 13.

FAHI Executive Director Charisse Hairston said about 22 athletes are featured.

"From a Negro League baseball player to a Major League Baseball player to multiple minor league baseball players, international basketball players, NFL players, a track runner, and a golfer," she said.

The exhibit also highlights two heavyweight boxers, including one world champion, and a UFC fighter. It includes photographs, biographical information, and sports memo-

rabilia such as jerseys, gloves, helmets, bats, balls, and books.

Hairston said while the concept was largely her idea, FAHI board member Joyce Staples had also suggested something similar.

As executive director, Hairston said part of her goal is to get people engaged and make them want to come to the museum. "To do that you have to have transitioning exhibits. You have to have something new, and you have to find things people are interested in."

This year's Juneteenth Festival theme, "Inspiring Our Future," influenced Hairston's approach. She has been working with local schools to encourage student tours.

Blight, development updates discussed at Northside meeting



Northside residents attend a community meeting at Martinsville High School.

A community meeting was held Aug. 19 at Martinsville High School to discuss the Northside community. Before the meeting, council members toured the area and made notes about issues, including blighted properties.

One concern came from Dr. Mervyn King, who asked for action on the Byrd building, located in Uptown near the old courthouse. The structure is one of several properties in Uptown in need of renovation.

Residents also raised concerns about a vacant house in the Northside area that has attracted trespassers. Some community members said they felt nothing was being done to address the problem.

"If anything, we have taken some action. We have boarded up the basement area because that wasn't open. And we have towed a

couple of vehicles," said Building Official and Zoning Administrator Kris Bridges.

Bridges noted his office does not have the authority to repair properties. "The unfortunate reality is that my hammer is really, really big. I can tear down houses," he said.

Council Member Julian Mei warned against potential buyers trespassing on blighted properties.

"They said they went up into the property. Don't do that anywhere. Don't go into other abandoned structures. They might not be abandoned. Just in general, don't go in there, any other house, even if you think you want to buy," Mei said.

The group also visited the area near the bridge past Chick-fil-A, where the city is working with the Harvest Foundation on a feasibility study for an amphitheater.

ingful investment that helps residents access modern public utilities without having to pay out of pocket for connection costs," said Dale Wagoner, General Manager of the PSA.

"We're grateful for the support that al-

lows us to offer this benefit directly to the community."

The funding was made possible through a grant from the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SER-CAP), which awarded \$50,000 to the PSA.

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Melissa Carol Saul Belcher



Ms. Melissa Carol Saul Belcher, age 61 of Stuart, Virginia passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at her home. She was born in Henry County on July 6, 1964. She was preceded in death by her father, Dennis Saul; stepfather, Sterling Mullins; maternal grandparents, Elmer and Vera Lackey; companion and love of her life, Todd Withrow; and beloved yorkie, Peewee. Melissa was a Post Master for the United State Postal Service for many years in several different Post Offices. She enjoyed fishing, riding motorcycles, and target shooting. She will

be greatly missed by her family and friends. Melissa is survived by three children, Joseph Matthew Hylton of Stuart and fiancé, Elizabeth Cortner of Henry County; Kelsie Deann Deal and husband, Scott of Collinsville; and Jesse Ray Belcher and wife, Cathy of San Antonio, Texas; one grandson; her mother, Elaine Lackey Mullins of Stuart; one stepsister, Linda Mullins Campbell of Henry County; and several uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends. Services for Melissa Belcher are private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy., Stuart, VA 24171 or to Smith River Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 122, Woolwine, VA 24185. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the family and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

John Mapp Johnson



Mr. John Mapp Johnson, age 77 of Woolwine, passed away Saturday, August 16, 2025, at his home. He was born in Nassawadox, Virginia on June 10, 1948, to the late Thomas Francis Johnson, Sr. and Louise Mapp Johnson. In addition to his parents, Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by a brother, Thomas Johnson, Jr. John spent 46 years working at the Woolwine textile plant. John's health issues started 25 years ago with a heart attack which he recovered from. Later followed by two cancers (one a stage 4), a serious car accident, and three strokes. By God's grace, he always fought his way back until this last time when God decided He wanted him back. John's passion

was golf, having won Club Championships on both the eastern shore and at Floyd. But even more than golf, John loved his family and was so proud of his sons and grandsons. A lifelong Presbyterian, he served as an elder and a deacon, as well as other duties. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth DeHart Johnson of the home; two sons, John T. Johnson (Haley) of Claudville and Tim Johnson of Elliston, Virginia; two grandsons, John Luke Johnson and Ezra Johnson; a niece, Ginny Carman of Maryland; and a sister-in-law, Kay Webster of Hockessin, Delaware. Funeral services will be held Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Stuart Presbyterian Church with Pastor Danny Redman officiating. Burial will follow in the Woolwine Community Cemetery. Visitation will be held Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ned Lee Turner



Mr. Ned Lee Turner, age 85 of Martinsville, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2025. He was born on May 18, 1940, to the late James Roy Turner and Evelyn Turner. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Ann Wright Turner; and a brother, Bobby Turner. Ned grew up in Henry County. Graduated from Bassett High School. He served four years in the U.S. Navy. After returning to Henry County, He went to work as an Industrial Engineer for Fieldcrest Mills. In 1970, Fieldcrest transferred Ned to Laurinburg, N.C. later, Fieldcrest was purchased by Mohaw Carpet. He retired with 45 years of service. Ned was a member of Saint Luke United Methodist Church in Laurinburg. Mr. Turner is survived by one son,

Gregory Wright Turner of Martinsville; one granddaughter, Megan Murdock (Ryan) of Fort Mill, SC; two great-grandchildren, Liam and Lyza Kate; two siblings, Lynwood Turner of Martinsville, and Anita Clark of Stuart; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral for Mr. Turner will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church with Joey McNeil officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service at the church on Tuesday. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Wilmer Wayne Parks



Mr. Wilmer Wayne Parks, age 76 of Claudville, Virginia went to be with his Lord and Savior at his home with his family surrounding him on Monday, August 18, 2025. He was born in Maryland to the late Roy Gilbert Parks and Gladys Overby Parks. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Annice Bowman Parks; two sisters, Sandra Hamilton and Freda Ray; and one brother, David Parks. Wilmer was loved by everyone who met him and had a way of making everyone laugh. He will be greatly missed and will be remembered as a loving husband, dad, gramps, and friend. Left to cherish the memories of Mr. Parks are his five children, Vicky Pilson (Barry) of Stuart, Janet Hardin (Steve) of Stuart, Debra Parks of Claudville, Roy Parks (Alberta) of Stuart, and Ronald Parks of Claudville; three grandchildren, Brandon Light, Amber Moran (Kelly), Steve Hardin, III; two step-grandchildren, Heather Bowers and Amber Akins, both of Martinsville; ten great-grandchildren, Sophia, Aubrie, Vada, Sterling, Kaiden, Kaylee, Kendell, Kaleb, Lakelynn, and

Derrick; two siblings, Doug Parks (Debbie) and Wanda Hooper (Butch), both of Maryland; one brother-in-law, Kenneth Hamilton of Maryland; and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends at the home located at 6734 Dobyns Road, Claudville, VA 24076 on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. A private graveside will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 1427 Edgewood Drive, Suite 101, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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Advisory council hears update on Transit Occupancy Tax

The Patrick County Tourism Advisory Council met Aug. 21 in Patrick & Henry Community College Community Room in Stuart. Those who attended the meeting included:



Kim Rakes, Finance Director Lori Jones, Human Resource Director Donna Shough, County Administrator Beth Simms. They met with the council and gave an update on the Transit Occupancy Tax. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Rebecca Adcock, and Kurt Bozenmayer also are pictured. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)



Brian Alley, Jeanie Clark, Bessie Weber, Director of Economic Development and Tourism James Houchins, Grace Cooper, Andrew Overby. Also attending, but not pictured, were Steve Marshall and Mary Dellenback Hill.

PATRICK PULPITS

A Household of Faith

By Luke Moore
High Point Baptist Church

While reading through the book of Acts, I was struck by a phrase that is repeated multiple times: "... and the entire household believed." Some iteration of that phrase occurs at least 5 times through the book of Acts. It refers to Cornelius and the fact that he and his household feared God (10:2). This phrase is also used by the angel who came to Cornelius and told him, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household" (11:13-14, emphasis added). When Lydia was baptized, her entire household followed suit (16:15). Paul and Silas instructed the Philippian jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (16:31, emphasis added). While Paul was in Corinth, "Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household..." (18:8, emphasis added).

This emphasis on the household was not limited to the New Testament church. When God Almighty gave Abraham the covenant symbol of circumcision, Abraham was instructed that the symbol was not just for him and his male offspring, but even for the male servants (see Genesis 17:9-14). This showed a dedication of the entire household to the covenant God had made with Abraham. Ruth declared to her mother-in-law, the only family she now knew, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). She was willing to give up everything she knew for herself to follow the faith example of her mother-in-law.

Apparently, there is some correlation between the head of the household becoming a believer and the rest of the household following the example. This correlation is not just anecdotal, however. Research has consistently shown that children look to their parents for spiritual direction before they turn to any other source, and the faith of parents is statistically likely to be "passed on" to their

children (Graham, 2016). This is not a definitive guarantee of our children following our example of faith, but the correlation is certainly hard to miss.

There are two key takeaways from this Scriptural and statistical observation. First, we as parents need to ensure that the example we are setting for our children is one that will draw them closer to their Savior. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up your child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This training starts with your own example, your own trust in Christ, your own walk in the Spirit. In my experience as a father of young children, I have learned that kids absorb much of your habits, personality, and speech - for better or for worse. Once we are established in our own faith, the next part comes easier: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). We must set habits for our children as well. We must teach them the importance of the Word of God; the importance of service to Him; and the importance of a personal, life-changing relationship with Him.

The next implication of the reality of household influence is evangelism. As a local church, we do well to host VBS, Awana, and other child-focused discipleship programs. But we must not neglect ministry to families. Of course, evangelism is not merely about numbers and efficiency, but we cannot deny the effectiveness of ministry to families in bringing entire households to the Truth.

Finally, I always like to end a study in praise. If the reading of God's Word only leads us to think of our own actions, we are missing a key takeaway. We ought to be praising God for His institution of the family, the influence of parents, and His ability to change the hearts of entire households.

Finding rhythm as school, sports resume

With students back in class and sports and extracurriculars filling family schedules, many parents are juggling busy calendars while staying connected to work around the clock. Smartphones, laptops and digital platforms make it easy for professional duties to spill into personal time, blurring the line between the office and home.

Instead of aiming for a perfect 50-50 split, more people are embracing work-life integration — creating a rhythm where both work and family can thrive. Still, without clear limits, work can quickly overtake personal life. Here are some strategies to help keep balance this school year:

Flexible scheduling. The traditional 9-to-5 doesn't always work when practices, games and school events fill afternoons. Flexible hours let employees adjust their workday — maybe taking a break to attend

a school assembly and making up time later.

Set boundaries. Remote work remains common, but it can blur work and family roles. Establish a dedicated workspace, unplug during family time and let coworkers and loved ones know your working hours.

Prioritize tasks. Focus on high-impact projects at work and delegate when possible. At home, share chores with kids to teach responsibility and ease parents' load.

Lean on support systems. A partner, colleague or fellow parent can share responsibilities. Connecting with other families can also provide advice, carpooling help and encouragement.

Make time for self-care. Exercise, hobbies and downtime help reduce stress. Taking care of yourself keeps you healthier and better equipped to manage both work and family obligations.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Nahum (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*
2. In Acts 7, who recounts the story of Abraham along with the captivity and freedom of the children of Israel? *Paul, Peter, Stephen, Andrew*
3. Who went to sleep and fell out of a window while Paul preached? *Esua, Enid, Eutychus, Eucyrus*

4. From Matthew 8, whose mother-in-law did Jesus heal? *Elijah, Solomon, Daniel, Peter*
 5. In what Macedonian city were Paul and Silas imprisoned? *Philippi, Neapolis, Jericho, Jerusalem*
 6. Who was Priscilla married to? *Atilla, Aquila, Andrew, Alpheus*
- ANSWERS: 1) *Old*, 2) *Stephen*, 3) *Eutychus*, 4) *Peter*, 5) *Philippi*, 6) *Aquila*



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1 "Venerable" Eng. monk
7 Place to grow cultures, for short
13 Furious with
20 "You can't get out this way"
21 Catwoman portrayer Kitt
22 Panamanian dictator Manuel
23 Net access provider available on passenger flights?
25 "Jerry Maguire" studio
26 Petition
27 Hairy TV cousin
28 Women's garment with an adage printed on it?
30 Video chat between people stroking their dogs and cats?
35 Sail supports
36 Gridiron divs.
37 Maiden name precursor
38 52 weeks
41 Brewpub drink, in brief
44 Burning
- 46 Situation creating strife within a sports squad?
50 Perfume bottle
53 Partner of Princepe
55 Guarantee
56 Gulf ship
57 Chinese soup additive
58 Hobby
60 Touring actor representing his kingdom?
65 Broody rock genre
66 Blast stuff
67 Starting from
68 Gymnast Comaneci
70 Mild cheese
73 In days past
76 With 19-Down, toaster pastry brand
78 Ransack Oregon's capital?
83 Locale of Baylor University
87 Time of note
88 "Laughing" scavenger
89 Big name in train travel
90 Hovering ominously
- 94 Establish contact (with)
95 Give a fleet commander new weapons?
97 Melancholy woodwinds
99 Immigrants' class, in brief
100 Minimally
102 Part of UNLV
103 Here, in Haiti
106 Grilling place
109 Put the notation "this means the opposite" next to a word?
112 Junk email touting wellness products?
117 It's continent
118 Razor name
119 Last king of the united Sweden and Norway
120 Stitched clothing line in the Haitian style?
125 Utterly foolish
126 Mole's path
127 Austria's capital
128 Discount item labels
129 Nome's state
130 "Strut" singer Sheena
- DOWN**

1 Lively
2 Worked hard
3 Soft caps
4 Person living abroad, for short
5 Youngest of the Rugrats
6 GPS guess
7 "Atlanta" actress Zazie
8 "Same here!"
9 Spanish gold
10 British "Inc."
11 "Pssst" relative
12 The Crimson Tide, to fans
13 Dadaism, to its critics
14 Typical situations
15 Grain to be crushed
16 Hazards
17 Abominable Snowman
18 Gel in a petri dish
19 See 76-Across
24 Mali neighbor
29 Dec. 24
31 Enlightens
32 No, in Berlin
33 Wise about
34 Come upon
39 Retired NBAer Ming
40 Actress Watson
41 Language akin to Aleut
- 42 Argentina's Eva
43 "— you clever!"
44 High-speed train name
45 Gas option in Canada
47 Alter, as a computer program
48 Actress de Armas
49 Suffix with Marx
50 In favor of
51 Bit of untruth
52 In the way of
54 "Son of —!"
57 Roald Dahl's "fantastic" title animal
59 Sorority "O"
61 Kansas' capital
62 Duffer's goal
63 Academy URL ending
64 Glass edge
69 "You said it!"
71 Most wan
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73 In the know
74 ESPN events
75 In base eight
77 Handheld computer
79 Jason's ship
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81 Jr. officer
82 West of "I'm No Angel"
- 84 Bruins' Bobby
85 Piper's cap
86 Garden dirt
91 Refinery input
92 Lady's title
93 Rick's love in "Casablanca"
94 Part of S&L
96 Yellow-disked blooms
98 Siren noise
101 37-season "Jeopardy!" host
103 Purpose
104 Writer — de Bergerac
105 1965 Yardbirds hit
106 Herbivore's meal
107 Heart parts
108 Object
110 Coleridge's "— Khan"
111 Wet spots in deserts
112 Frozen dew
113 "To be," to Horace
114 Vinegar, e.g.
115 — part (role-play)
116 Heavy hitter
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123 "Hail!" to Horace
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Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Meetings

Monday, Sept. 8

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

Thursday, Sept. 11

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

The Stuart Town Council is meeting at 6 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Thursday, Aug. 28

Patrick County Democratic Committee meets, 6-7 p.m. at the Patrick County Branch Library.

Fairy Stone State Park: Oak Hickory Trail Guided Hike, 9 a.m., Shelter 4; Living with Black Bears in Virginia, 3 p.m., Shelter 4.

Thursday, Aug. 28 - Saturday, Aug. 30

Revival and Homecoming, Life Tabernacle, 771 Iron Belt Lane in Stuart. Thursday, 6 p.m., special singing by Sue Nester; Friday, 6 p.m., local singers and musicians will perform; Saturday, 11 a.m., lunch and music by The Shelton Brothers.

Friday, Aug. 29

The Stuart Farmers Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Great selection of fruits, vegetables, baked items, meats, eggs, plants, craft items. Information provided by the Patrick County Master Gardeners & Stuart Rotary on site with Ag Fair Exhibit Info.

Clark's Cuts offers haircuts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the upstairs area of the Basset Ruritan Club. Suggested \$15 donation. All proceeds go to the Bassett Ruritan Club. Walk-ins are welcome.

Fairy Stone State Park: Stuart's Knob Guided Hike, 9 a.m., Stuart's Knob Trailhead; Woodland Wellness, 10 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 1 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 2 p.m., Visitor Center; Living with Black Bears in Virginia, 3 p.m., Shelter 4; Welcome Campfire, 8 p.m., Amphitheater.

Wayside Community Church, 3520 Wayside Road, will have young evangelist Willie Byrd and an encouraging message by Joyce Greene with music starting at 6:30 p.m. A light meal and refreshments will be served after.

Friday, Aug. 29-Saturday, Aug. 30

Yard sale hosted by the Fellowship Church, 5101 Ararat Hwy, Ararat, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Home decor, tons of children's clothing. Bag sale at 11

a.m. on Saturday. All proceeds to benefit Ararat Fire & Rescue.

Friday, Aug. 29-Monday, Sept. 1

Stuart Church of Living Water (formerly Stuart UMC) will hold its 18th annual Labor Day Flea Market featuring 125 - large 25'x30' vendor spaces. Vendors may set up on Thursday, August 28 for free. Worship service on site, Sunday morning at 8 a.m. with Pastor Tommy Shepherd. From Stuart, follow Rte. 58 East (JEB Stuart Highway) 8.7 miles to 25767. Parking for \$1 per vehicle. All proceeds support the church's mission and outreach ministries. For more information, call Alex, 276-229-8488 or the church, 276-694-3322. No alcoholic beverages allowed.

Saturday, Aug. 30

The Patrick County Food Bank will hold a memorial service in memory of Dudley Clark at the Rotary Building from 3-5 p.m.

Fairy Stone State Park: Lakeshore Trail Guided Hike, 9 a.m., Amphitheater Trailhead; Volunteer Workday, 9:30 a.m., Visitors Center; Woodland Wellness, 10 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitor Center; For Goodness Snakes!, 2 p.m., Shelter 2; Town Under the Lake Paddle, 5 p.m., Beach Breezeway; Bluegrass Music in the Park, 7 p.m., Shelter 2.

Sunday, August 31

Fairy Stone State Park: Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitors Center; Native Plants & Pollinators, 11 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitors Center; Magic Trees, 2 p.m., Shelter 4; Fayerdale: The Missing Town, 3 p.m., Shelter 4; C.S.I.: Creek Scene Investigation, 4 p.m., Shelter 4.

Monday, Sept. 1

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Select in Stuart will be closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Thursday, Sept. 4

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair exhibit coordinators will be accepting quilt entries from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Building at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Friday, Sept. 5

The community food truck will be at the SSRS in Woolwine from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6

Demolition Derby, Patrick County Agricultural Fairgrounds at Rotary Field. Stands open at 5 p.m. Drivers compete in four different classes plus a Powder Puff class and Kids Power Wheels Derby at 6 p.m. Derby at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate. For more information, call Clyde Crissman at 276-694-4217.

First Saturday Rally for Democracy, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stuart Courthouse to celebrate the Constitutional Democracy and the Rule of Law. Bring your flags and signs.

Meadows of Dan Women's Club Bingo, in the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games start at 6 p.m. Raffle drawings and concessions are available for sale. Call

276-952-2674 or 276-952-6395 for more information.

Country breakfast buffet 7:30-10 a.m., by the Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway in Ararat. Sausage, ham, eggs, apples, gravy, pancakes, biscuits, water, juice, or coffee, for \$10 per plate.

Saturday, Sept. 6 - Sunday, Sept. 7

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair exhibit coordinators will be accepting all fair entries (except quilts) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Sunday, Sept. 7

The Haynes Family Reunion will be held at 1 p.m. at the Smith River Church of the Brethren, Elamsville Road.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Saturday, Sept. 13

The 71st Patrick County Agricultural Fair will be held nightly.

Ongoing

Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, rain or shine, 5-7 p.m. at Shelters #3 & #4. Cash only market. Free parking. Runs through Labor Day.

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

Community meal at Salem Church on Salem Church Road in Critz, the first Sunday of every month at 12:10 p.m. Call (276) 222-1069 with questions.

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday each month at noon. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend. Literature is also available.

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

Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105, at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Free Community Meal, on the 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, with music and dancing, 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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Hospital

(cont. from page 1)



Henson (left) talks with Crystal Harris (center) and Pat Shouse (right) about the work being done to reopen the hospital.



The tour included various areas and departments in and outside of the hospital.

of new ambulances and advanced training for personnel. Patrick County EMS and Braden County EMS will handle their own direct billing, which county officials say will streamline operations. Board of Supervisors Chairman Jonathan Wood said the move is designed to expand the county's ability to respond to emergencies while recognizing the ongoing importance of volunteers.

"We deeply appreciate the community's support of the hospital reopening effort and this creative solution to provide high-quality emergency care for our citizens," Wood said. "This partnership strengthens our emergency response capacity while continuing to honor the critical role of our volunteers."

The county will continue to employ an Emergency Management Coordinator, who will oversee disaster response, serve as liaison

between volunteers and the Board of Supervisors, and manage EMS grants, training, and operational support.

Hospital progress
On Monday, Aug. 25, Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson led volunteer fire and EMS members, along with community leaders, on a tour of the hospital. He described ongoing renovations, outlined plans for new equipment, and spoke about the challenges of preparing the long-shuttered facility for patients again.

The centerpiece of the hospital's equipment upgrades will be a 64-slice CT scanner moved from another Braden Health location.

"A lot of rural facilities, if they have a CT scanner, it's going to be like a 16-slice, which really doesn't do the cardiac scans or can't do bone density, that sort of thing," Henson said. "This one will be able to, so that will be a great start."



Henson and Joanne Spangler, a member of Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad.

Other technology and equipment will be improved as revenue allows, he added.

"As it makes sense, we will keep on improving equipment," Henson said.

Renovations and new patient spaces

The hospital's administration wing has been stripped of its carpet and wallpaper, with new flooring installed and fresh paint throughout most areas. A Variable Refrigerant Volume (VRV) HVAC system is being added to allow patients to control airflow and temperature in their rooms.

Concrete has also been poured outside the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy (PTOT) room, creating a space where patients can exercise outdoors.

"If PTOT patients need to get a breath of fresh air, do some exercises out here, they now have the freedom to do so," Henson said.

The former intensive care unit is being converted into a medical-surgical unit, which will include a nurse station, in-patient rooms, and swing beds. An updated Pyxis medication machine will be installed there, and the medication room is being relocated to provide more workspace.

Because some patient rooms are large, Henson said they will be able to accommodate two beds.

"Of course, for state purposes we have to have 25 beds... which will not be a problem reaching that," he said.

In the basement, two operating rooms are being prepared. To meet state requirements, about 20 additional

electrical outlets will be added in each, bringing the total to 36. One wing of the basement will remain closed, with staff focusing on cleaning and preparing areas needed for the hospital's reopening.

"It used to have offices down here, credentialing, medical records, we even had maintenance guys down here as well. We're still working on cleaning this area up, but obviously we're prioritizing the areas of cleanup where the hospital's actually going to be open," Henson said.

While the operating rooms are in progress, Henson said it has not yet been determined what types of surgeries will be performed there.

Infrastructure improvements

Major work is also underway to bring the hospital's infrastructure up to code. A new concrete pad has been poured near the former emergency room for a liquid oxygen tank, replacing a brick enclosure that no longer meets state requirements. A spill pad will be added, and the tank will be installed once the concrete cures in two to three weeks.

"We decided to put the pad down here" near the old ER area "and they actually just poured concrete this morning. We're going to make what's called a spill pad in front of that to connect with the asphalt. Then as soon as that's complete, we have to allow for two to three weeks for it to dry because it is a thick pad. We already have a liquid oxygen tank acquired, so we just have to wait for the right timing to actually drop it



EMS members, public safety and hospital officials met Monday.

into place," he said. Ambulance access will also be improved by removing curbs near the emergency room bay and laying asphalt in their place.

"We are going to take out these curbs completely and get asphalt to basically make this a better area, an easier area for EMS vehicles to maneuver," Henson said. The asphalt will extend to the edge of the building, creating more room for parking and turnarounds.

Preparing for opening

Inside, preparations for the hospital's reopening are steadily progressing. Some patient beds have already been delivered, with additional furniture on order. Flooring will be stripped and resurfaced, and ceiling tiles will be replaced last.

"We had a life safety inspector come in... he was so excited that we had all of the ceiling

tiles down still. He's like, 'it makes my job 10 times easier.' So, replacing the rest of the ceiling tiles will be the very last thing that we do," Henson said.

The facility has already been inspected by Patrick County Building Inspections Official Jason Brown, the state fire marshal, and other authorities to ensure compliance with safety standards. Braden Health has also begun the process of hiring administrators, doctors, and other essential staff in preparation for reopening.

LEGAL

Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Code of Virginia Bureau of Alcohol Beverage Control Board notice is hereby given that Country Convenience Market Inc. is now operating as Country Convenience Market LLC. This notice is posted August 11, 2025. Brenda H. Collins President Country Convenience Market LLC

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The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2025-2026. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and **may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.**

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Thursday October 2, 2025 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582 Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

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Public Notice Roadway Discontinuance Public Hearing

Route 694 (Dogwood Road)
Patrick County

Monday, September 8, 2025, 6 p.m.
Patrick County Administration Building
Third Floor Board Room
106 Rucker Street,
Stuart, VA 24171

From: Intersection of Route 697 (Crossover Drive)

To: 0.06 mile east of Route 697 (Crossover Drive)

Length: 0.06 mile

In accordance with §33.2-908 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will offer alternatives and consider public input regarding the discontinuance of the segment of Route 694 (Dogwood Road) in Patrick County as described above. This matter is being considered upon request of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Patrick County School Board.

Citizens interested in giving written or oral comments may do so at the public hearing. VDOT staff will be available to discuss information regarding the proposed discontinuance. Please contact Lisa Hughes with any questions at 276-629-2582, 1-800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Salem District Civil Rights at 540-387-5552, 1-800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.



Members of the P&HCC Caring Campus team celebrate the college's gold certification. Front Row L to R: Shannon Farmer, Amber Shelton, Kaylyn Gary, Val Dillard, Samantha Martin, Kim Dillard, Dr. Meghan Eggleston. Back Row L to R: Dr. Chris Wikstrom, Patti Amos, Terrence Strickland, Bronte Miller, LaDonna Varner, JC Hazelwood.

P&HCC is now a Certified Gold-level Caring Campus

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has earned Gold-level Caring Campus certification from Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC).

The Caring Campus Initiative, developed by IEBC, is designed to create a college environment that increases students' sense of connectedness and belonging and, in turn, completion of each student's education goals. The Caring Campus Initiative engages P&HCC employees to create a Caring Campus that ensures they are deeply involved in student success initiatives. It is particularly important for students from historically underserved populations, students less familiar with college, non-majority students, students from low-income households, and first-generation students to feel welcome and that they belong in college.

"This distinction reflects the college's hard work on creating and institutionalizing a culture of care. As a Certified Gold-level Caring Campus, Patrick & Henry Community College stands out as one of a select group of institutions that demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the principles of Caring Campus, and through that a next-level commitment to student success," said Dr. BolaKing-Rushing, IEBC associate vice president & Caring Campus

coach/facilitator.

Patrick & Henry began the Caring Campus initiative focused on greeting one another in a positive manner & making PHamily members feel comfortable; wearing name badges to personalize all members of the PHamily; being fully present, involved, accessible, and approachable; making connections on students' behalf; and eliminating barriers by helping to clarify practices. Following the initial implementation, a faculty team was formed to further develop the campus culture of care. The focal tenets for this addition include engaging students at the onset of the college course, learning and using students' preferred names, effectively communicating course details, creating moments that matter, providing frequent assignments and evaluation, and practicing situational fairness.

"Our hope is that, in living out our central commitments on a daily basis individually and with intention, we might be a positive catalyst for students – both current and prospective – as well as each other," said Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC president.

Smith River cleanup shows impact of anti-litter programs



Part of the volunteer crew including Henry County staff, Boxley, MHC Trash Pandas, and DRBA volunteers.

More than 40 volunteers came out on Saturday and generously gave their time to remove close to 750 pounds of litter and debris from the Smith River and roadsides during the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and Henry County annual Smith River Cleanup event held on August 16. Volunteers aged seven to seventy, from both Virginia and North Carolina, gathered Saturday morning at the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex, dividing into groups with some people choosing to clean up on land, and others paddling and picking trash out of the river. Everyone met back at the Sports Complex for a thank-you lunch and prize raffle.

“For the past 16 years, DRBA has partnered with Henry County for an annual cleanup event, and every person that lives, works, and plays in our community benefits from the amazing job these volunteers do,” said Anna Wheeler, DRBA’s Recreation and Stewardship Manager. “Every year we notice a bit less litter on the river, and that’s a good thing. This year, we saw it drop to almost half of what we picked up last year, and that means the efforts of DRBA, Henry County, and other partners are making a huge difference. Still, more than 700 pounds means we have more work to do.”

“The clean-ups give people a chance to work together and make some new friends while giving back to the community. It’s important to note that most of the trash and debris is not dumped directly into a waterway but gets there from roads,



Boxley volunteer group, including Stacy Barbour, Quarry Manager, and Keith Elliott from DRBA.

and then storm drains carry this debris into the waterway,” noted Wheeler.

The volunteers worked from 9 a.m. to noon in canoes, kayaks, and on boats, while others scoured the sides of the roads along the river. The appreciation lunch was generously donated by Boxley and provided by Hugo’s Restaurant and Bar. Henry County, Star News, Hugos, Brian and Patty Williams, Lisa Simons, Rooster Walk, William MacKinnon, and DRBA donated raffle prizes. The Smith River Sports Complex donated the use of tables and chairs for the luncheon.

Garbage removal was provided by Henry County. Event volunteers included employees from local companies, dozens of concerned and caring individuals who live in both Virginia and North Carolina, and the Henry County Adult Detention Center Workforce.

“The Smith River is not only a natural treasure—it’s a vital resource for Henry County,” said Tracy McKoy, Henry County’s Beautification Coordinator. “Removing trash from the river and roadways protects our drinking water, preserves our local ecosystems, and enhances the beau-



Patty Williams and Lauren Appel cleaning up the Smith River via canoe. Pictures courtesy of DRBA.

ty that draws visitors and supports our economy. Clean water and a clean community go hand in hand, and the Smith River Cleanup is a crucial step toward a healthier, more vibrant Henry County.”

“The Smith River is the source of drinking water for thousands of people who live in Martinsville and Henry County and North Carolina,” added Wheeler. “The river also provides economic benefits to our region when visitors come to hike, paddle, and fish. Keeping our natural resources protected and healthy is good for everyone’s health and our local economy. These volunteers are true heroes.”

To learn more about how you can help keep

our local waterways clean and healthy for future generations, visit DRBA’s website, www.danriver.org

The mission of the Dan River Basin Association is to promote and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin through education, recreation, and stewardship. DRBA works to fulfill that mission by building river accesses and trails, educating people of all ages about protecting our natural resources, and protecting our water resources through water quality monitoring, cleanups, and master planning. The Dan River basin is 3,300 square miles, including sixteen counties throughout Virginia and North Carolina.



Hurricane season can be devastating. Learning about these intense storms and how to respond is a benefit.

Hurricane season facts and preparation guide

With Hurricane Erin recently churning in the Atlantic, experts note that the same warm waters and balmy conditions that make summer appealing also fuel the powerful storms that reach their peak this time of year.

Hurricanes are not exclusive to summer, but their peak activity and formation tend to happen during late summer and early fall. This is due largely to rising ocean temperatures, which must reach 79.4 F (26.5 C) to a depth of at least 160 feet for a hurricane to develop. These temperatures are commonly reached during the summer and early fall in subtropical regions. Warm, moist air also is a hallmark of hurricane formation, which is a notable condition during the summer.

Although hurricanes occur each year, there is much about these powerful storms that many may not know.

Where did the word “hurricane” originate?

The word hurricane comes from the Taino Native American word “hurucane,” which means “evil spirit of the wind.” This name helped make sense of the storms, which feature extremely strong winds.

Where do hurricanes begin?

Hurricanes begin as warm air over tropical areas of the ocean, building strength by drawing moisture from warm ocean waters.

What is the difference between a typhoon, hurricane or cyclone?

These names refer to the same type of storm, but vary depending on the region of the world in which the storm occurs. “Hurricane” refers to storms that form over the Atlantic Ocean.

When is hurricane season?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and extends to November 30. In the East Pacific, the season runs from May 15 to November 30.

How are hurricanes classified?

Hurricanes are classified by their strength using the Saffir-Simpson Scale. Major (intense) hurricanes fall into categories 3, 4 and 5. A category 3 hurricane begins at wind speeds of 130 miles per hour.

Which state gets the most hurricanes?

Operation Blessing says Florida has had the most hurricanes since record keeping began. The majority of Florida stretches into warm water, with the Gulf of Mexico on its western side and the Atlantic Ocean on its eastern.

Do hurricanes affect Canada?

Hurricanes occasionally affect Canada, namely on the Atlantic Ocean side of the country, says Get Prepared, an emergency preparedness site from the Government of Canada. On rare occasions, remnants of tropical cyclones in the Pacific can affect British Columbia.

What is the typical rainfall associated with a hurricane?

A typical hurricane can dump six inches to a foot of rain across a region.

When did hurricanes begin being named?

In 1953, the U.S. Weather Bureau started the process of assigning women’s names to tropical storms. In 1979, men’s names were added. The names used are in alphabetical order, but exclude the letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z. Six lists of names exist and are rotated every six years. A name is retired from a list when the storm causes so many deaths or so much destruction that it would be insensitive to use the name again. The World Meteorological Organization oversees retiring hurricane names and choosing new ones.

What was the most active hurricane season to date?

The National Hurricane Center identified 28 storms in 2005. There were so many storms that all of the traditional storm names had been used, and the last six storms were given Greek letters. This is the storm season that spawned Hurricane Katrina, which decimated New Orleans.

How can I prepare for a hurricane?

Treat a hurricane like many other emergencies, and make preparations ahead of the storm. Fill totes with first aid kits, extra prescription medication, nonperishable food, water, batteries and battery-powered radio, cash, diapers, baby formula, and important documents. A household emergency plan, which may include where to evacuate, if necessary, also is a good idea.

Tips for a successful apple picking trip



Apple picking adventures can be fun and fruitful.

Visiting a local orchard and filling a basket with fresh fruit is a quintessential fall tradition. Apple picking offers time outdoors in cool, pleasant weather and provides plenty of fruit for seasonal favorites like pies and cobblers.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service, Washington state is the nation’s top apple producer, followed by New York and Michigan. In Canada, apple cultivation dates to the early 1600s in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. Today, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia are major producers.

Apples also are plentiful locally, and those looking to pick their own have plenty of op-

tions.

Even in regions that aren’t apple-growing hubs, many families can find local orchards that offer pick-your-own opportunities. A little preparation helps ensure a fun and fruitful outing.

- Do some research. Check what orchards are nearby, which apple varieties are available and when they’re ripe. Call ahead before visiting.
 - Go early. Early in the season offers the best selection, while mornings bring cooler temperatures and lighter crowds.
 - Dress for the orchard. Wear closed-toed shoes and layers, since orchards can be muddy, uneven and buggy.
 - Pick carefully. Roll or twist apples gently upward. Ripe fruit will detach easily with the stem intact. Yanking on the apples can damage the tree and apples
 - Check for bruises. Choose apples that are firm and brightly colored. Leave behind those with bruises or insect damage.
 - Don’t overload. Pick only what you need and avoid piling apples so high they bruise. Plus, over-picking means that the apples may spoil before they can be eaten.
- After picking, store apples unwashed in a cool, dark place to help them last longer.

James I. Robertson, Jr., and Laurel Hill

By Tom Perry

Private John M. McBryde of the 1st South Carolina Cavalry served in the cavalry of J. E. B. Stuart during the War Between The States. He was President of Virginia Tech from 1891 until 1907. He was not the only man who served under Stuart who made his way to Blacksburg, Virginia. “John McLaren McBryde, known as the “Father of VPI,” laid the foundation for modern Virginia Tech. He increased bachelor’s degree offerings, added graduate programs, created an infirmary, and christened the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve). He encouraged the formation and growth of student activities and was at the helm when the first football team was formed and the school colors of orange and maroon were adopted. In the Spring of 1982, I found myself in the first floor auditorium of McBryde Hall for a class I had signed up for per the recommendation of Tom Smith, who lived on the third floor of 9700 Foxridge Apartments Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., walked into the classroom of 100 McBryde Hall at 9 am to teach his Civil War History class, and my life was changed forever.

I had Bud for two Civil War classes and one class called Representative Americans. Part of the grade for the latter was to teach the class one day during the quarter about a person from American History. Again, with apologies to Hokie Nation, I chose Thomas Jefferson. Never in my life have I been more mortified to stand up in front of a group of people and talk because I knew that if I did not do a good job, the sharp knife of Robertson was waiting to cut me into little pie-



Perry with Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. at a fundraiser for the Bassett Historical Center. Photo by Ruby Ann Davis.

es, eviscerate me. Until then, talking in front of a group of people terrified me, a surprise no doubt to those who hear me now, but that day changed my life too. If I can survive talking in front of “Bud,” no historical association or civil war roundtable will bother me. I survived, and now I think nothing of getting up in front of a group to talk about history. This is because I know my subject, and my confidence has grown. I came to feel that it was important to talk about the history that interested me.

I rekindled my interest in Laurel Hill in the late 1980s after having Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. as a professor in the largest Civil War class in the nation and receiving a bachelor’s degree in history from Virginia Tech in December 1984. When we first started raising money to save Stuart’s Birthplace, one of the first people I called on for help was Robertson, and he never failed to step up for J. E. B. Stuart.

On October 19, 1990, Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. made the first of

many appearances for the Birthplace at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia. Among his comments that night was, “In these days when Civil War sites are being developed and lost forever, it is good to see Patrick County taking an interest in preserving its past. The Stuart birthplace project is the most important historic project ever undertaken in Patrick County.” Dr. Robertson’s lecture raised \$1,300 for the Birthplace, and the evening was even more special with the presence of Burke Davis.

James I. Robertson, Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Tech, often speaks of Jackson and Stuart’s common heritage, both growing up in the western mountains of Virginia. Jackson felt Stuart was the best cavalryman he could call on, and his confidence in him never wavered. Both were West Point graduates who were aggressive and combative. Last, the two men shared a deep faith in God that affected everything they did on and off the battlefield.



James I. Robertson, Jr., as head of the Civil War Centennial, with President John F. Kennedy.



With President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Bud came to Laurel Hill to film a segment for his Forgotten Battlefields documentary about the Civil War in Southwest Virginia. By then, talking in front of a camera was not a problem for me or my Danville native professor. I donated all the papers relating to Stuart and the early days of the Birthplace to Special Collections in the Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech.

In 2011, I went back to college. My professor was retiring from teaching the largest Civil War class in the country after

over half a century at Virginia Tech. When Bud came in, I spoke to him briefly, and I was pleased to see his eight-decade old eyes light up and a big smile, saying he could not believe I would come to class as I had nearly thirty years earlier.

James I. Robertson, Jr. wrote, “For Johnny Rebs and Billy Yanks, Gettysburg was a test of what soldiers can bring themselves to attempt and what they can force themselves to endure. The major lesson from that great contest in Pennsylvania is the unforgettable one

of men who demonstrated that they loved their country more than they loved their own lives. We remember because it would be profane to forget.”

James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr. died on Saturday, November 2, 2019. The last time I saw him was in my mother’s hometown of Augusta, Georgia, where I was visiting family and noticed he was speaking to their Civil War Round Table. He looked at me and said, “What are you doing here?” I told him I had come for class. He liked that!

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