THE ENTERPRISE

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Town approves budget, utility rate increase

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council approved its fiscal year 2026-27 budget and a water and sewer rate increase at its June 17 meeting.

The balanced budget totals $2,396,529, according to Town Manager Bryce Simmons.

"We have a general fund and unassigned fund balance of about $3.9 million, and that comes from the 2025 audit. One thing I do want to note is that we have proposed a deficit budget for this year, and that is represented in the general revenues. We are running a deficit of about $25,972," Simmons said.

He said the deficit budget was adopted to help offset increases in the town's water and sewer fund.

"We are offsetting our enterprise fund, which is our water and our sewer accounts, with general fund revenues of $283,521," he said.

Council member Erica Wade said she appreciates the budget committee for its work on this year's budget.

"We'd like to thank Mr. Bryce. He made our job easier," Mayor Terry Dalton said.

The council also approved increasing the base water and sewer rate for in-town customers from $21.11 to $22.50, effective July 1.

Simmons said rates have not increased significantly since he became town manager about five years ago.

"The cost of chemicals to treat, power, all things involved has gone up approximately 30 percent in the past three to four years, so I did feel it was necessary to do a rate analysis. To balance out our enterprise fund, meaning for our water and our sewer, and our sanitation to pay for itself, that was going to be somewhere in the neighborhood of $40 per customer per month, and that's just too much for our residents to take on at one time," he said.

Simmons said the Public Service Authority (PSA) rate reflects the cost of producing water.

"So we are looking at, for PSA, it costs us about $6.28 per 1,000 gallons to make and produce water, and it takes about $8.52 per 1,000 gallons to treat sewer water. I felt it was important to keep our residential customers under that wholesale rate, so the proposed price per 1,000 gallons that you will see in our water and our sewer rates is below that rate," Simmons said.

Town Attorney Chris Corbett asked why it was important to keep residential rates below the wholesale rate.

"The reason that I felt it was important, and it was critical, was to not be charging town customers more than we charge county customers. That was my rationale for keeping it below that wholesale rate," Simmons said.

He said the increase was the smallest the town could adopt without worsening its financial position.

"This is the first time that I've put together a deficit budget, and I hope that I don't have to continue to do that," Simmons said.

In other matters, the council:

(See Town p. 4)



Ribbon-cutting marks new chapter for Jessup & Associates

Brian Jessup, center, is joined by family, friends and community members during a June 18 ribbon-cutting celebrating the 30th anniversary of Jessup & Associates CPAs and the firm's new Main Street office in Stuart. A feature on the business will appear in an upcoming edition.

County burn ban lifted; restrictions remain

Patrick County officials have lifted the countywide burn ban, effective immediately, but residents are reminded that restrictions on open burning remain in place.

Under state regulations, open burning is permitted only from 4 p.m. until midnight, and all fires must be completely extinguished by midnight. Daytime burning remains prohibited because lower humidity and higher winds increase the risk of wildfires.

Officials urge residents to clear the area around any burn pile of all flammable debris, keep fires at a manageable size, and never leave an open flame unattended for any period of time. Individuals found in violation of the designated burning hours or responsible for escaped fires may face legal penalties and liability for emergency response costs.

Local fire officials warn that current environmental and weather conditions remain volatile. The temporary relief allowing for this lift is expected to be short-lived. Due to current conditions and seasonal forecasts, the burn ban is likely to be reinstated in approximately 30 days.

Residents who violate burning regulations or allow fires to escape may face legal penalties and liability for firefighting costs.

Blue Star Mothers chapter launches in region

By Taylor Boyd

A new chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America has been established to support active-duty service members, veterans and military families across the region.

Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. VA7 was officially chartered June 17. The chapter serves Henry, Patrick, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, along with the City of Martinsville.

President Amy Guetler Beal said the nonprofit organization was founded in 1942 during World War II.

"It was just moms serving while their soldiers were serving in any capacity - nursing, homeland security, getting packages together, that sort of thing. It didn't get fully chartered until 1960. Once it did, it took off," she said.

Today, Blue Star Mothers has about 6,000 members in more than 200 chapters nationwide.

Beal said membership is open to biological mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, grandmothers and other women with legal parental ties to someone serving in the U.S. military.

"We get together and what we do is we partner up with our veterans and we also do things on our own as well. We don't just do for our soldiers, our sons and daughters, we do for others. There's a lot of soldiers serving right now that don't have family and it's sad. My son went into the Army, it'll be 12 years this June that he went in, and I just remember him telling me on the deployments, 'Mom it's so sad, so and so isn't getting packages.' So, I'd go out and I would get extra stuff together, package it up, and send it to that soldier," she said.

Beal said she later discovered Blue Star Mothers was already doing the same kind of work.

"I don't know why I waited 12 years. I wish I had done this sooner," she said.

In addition to sending care packages to deployed service members, the chapter plans to assist veterans and military families with needs such as food, clothing and utility assistance when possible.

"Whatever they need and whatever we can do. There's just so much, there's so many veterans out there that don't have a lot and it's heartbreaking, and we've got a lot in our area. I think our veterans take up eight to nine percent of the population here, so it's a big number," Beal said.

(See Blue Star p. 12)



From left are Vice President Jessica Tate, President Amy Guetler Beal, Treasurer Michele Corbo and Secretary Patricia Hylton.

Powerline students complete lighting project at Rotary Field



Students in the Powerline Class installed new lighting at Rotary Field as part of a hands-on training project.

Students in the Powerline Class, a partnership between Patrick & Henry Community College and Wytheville Community College, recently installed new lighting at Rotary Field as part of a hands-on training project.

The students replaced and added lights on the upper soccer field, installed new lights on the lower soccer field and added lighting to the demolition derby track.

Parks & Recreation Director Luke Williams said the project gave students valuable field experience while improving the county's recreational facilities.

"I believed this would be an amazing opportunity for the class to gain some experience," Williams said. "They replaced and added new lights on the upper soccer field, along with new lights

(See Powerline p. 12)

Distinguished Alumni Class of 2026 Recognized by P&HCC Foundation



Pictured, front row, from left: Careen Rodgers, Edwin Clark Jr., Michael Taylor, James Lovell, Paula Wood and Kathy Whitley. Back row, from left: Lucas Prillaman, Sherry Vestal, Colin Ferguson, Jeff Gauldin, Stuart Bowman and Christopher Meeks.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored 12 P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at an awards dinner on Friday, June 5, at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have completed a minimum of twenty-four credit hours at P&HCC, have demonstrated success within their field of expertise, and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.

This year's award recipients are: Stuart Bowman; Edwin Paul Clark, Jr.; Dr. Colin Ferguson; Jeff Gauldin; James B. Lovell; Christopher Meeks; Lucas Prillaman, CPA; Careen Rodgers, BSN, RN; Michael Taylor; Sherry Vestal, RN; Kathy Whitley, MSN, RN, FNP; and Paula Wood, MSN, RN, FNP-C.

Bowman earned his associate's degree in business administration, education, and general studies from P&HCC in 1987. He continued his education earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Averett University in 1989 and a Master of Business Degree in 1998. He also trained as a National Registered Paramedic at the College of Health Sciences in 1990 and earned a certificate in Safety and Health Technology at East Tennessee State University in 1995. Bowman is the Health & Safety Manager at Press Glass. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, he has served as an Environmental, Health & Safety Manager at Howmet Aerospace, Safety Specialist at Solutia, and held several management positions at Sara Lee Corporation. Appointed by the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Bowman serves as the Chairman on the Henry County Public Service Authority Board of Directors. He has been an active member and volunteer of the Fieldale Collinsville Rescue Squad since 1978. As a National Registered Paramedic, Bowman provides advanced medical care for critical and emergent patients. He is also on the Henry County Plan-

(See Alumni p. 4)

Early voting for 2026 primaries has begun

In-person early voting for the Aug. 4 primary elections has started at registrar offices.

All localities offer early voting. Voters are only allowed to vote early in the jurisdiction in which they are registered. Virginia's 45-day early voting period officially begins Saturday, June 20, but registrar offices that will be closed must offer early voting June 19. However, due to the Juneteenth holiday, most registrar offices will be closed. Those offices will offer early voting beginning June 18.

The localities that will be open for early voting June 19 are:

- Campbell County
- Fredericksburg City
- Lunenburg County
- Powhatan County
- Russell County

All other localities began early voting June 18.

Early in-person voting will continue through Saturday, Aug. 1.

To vote early in-person, registered voters should go to a designated early voting location for the jurisdiction in which they are registered, present their ID and cast a ballot.

Early voting locations vary by jurisdiction. Each locality in Virginia sets its own early voting location(s). Some jurisdictions offer early in-person voting at multiple satellite locations throughout the early voting period. Dates and times vary by jurisdiction.

For the first time, early voting will take place in all localities on two Sundays. In addition to the two Saturdays preceding Election Day, early voting will also take place on the second and third Sundays before Election Day.

For the 2026 primary, those days are Sunday, July 19; Saturday, July 25; Sunday, July 26, and Saturday, Aug. 1.

Curbside voting is also available for those with disabilities and those over 65 who wish to vote in person. Contact your general registrar's office for more information regarding voting hours, additional locations and ballot drop boxes.

A list of acceptable forms of identification can be found online.

Requested absentee ballots begin being mailed no later than June 19, including ballots to registered military and overseas voters.

Any registered voter can request an absentee ballot either in person, by mail, online, or by contacting your general registrar's office. The deadline to request a mailed absentee ballot is July 24.

Registered voters do not need a reason to request an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots can be dropped off at the general registrar's office or designated drop box location during the early voting period or at polling locations on Election Day. Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Aug. 4 and received by noon Aug. 7.

Anyone with visual or manual dexterity impairment has the option to vote an absentee ballot using an electronic marking tool.

The deadline to register to vote and cast a regular ballot is July 24. Afterward, voters can register and vote through same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot. Same-day registration must take place in person either at an early voting location for the jurisdiction in which the voter intends to register or at their designated polling location on Election Day.

Voters with questions about absentee or early in-person voting can call their general registrar's office or the Department of Election at 1-800-552-9745 or email info@elections.virginia.gov.

All 133 Virginia counties and cities will have a Republican primary, but only 82 will have a Democratic primary.

On the ballot this year in Virginia are primaries for both Democratic and Republican nominees for House of Representatives seats, a Republican Party primary for U.S. Senate, and local races.

A full list of candidates in all 2025 races can be found online. Virginia Dept. of Elections: Candidates & Referendums.

Important dates for the Aug. 4 election cycle:

- July 24 – Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or online.
- July 24– Deadline to register to vote and cast a regular ballot.
- July 25 – Same-day registration begins. Anyone registering and voting at the same time will have to cast a provisional ballot.
- July 25 – Registrar offices open for Saturday voting.
- July 26 – Registrar offices open for Sunday voting.
- Aug. 1 – Last day of early voting.
- Aug. 4 – Election Day
- Aug. 7 – All mailed ballots that were postmarked by Election Day must be received by the general registrar's office by noon to be counted.
- Aug. 11 – Deadline for local electoral board to certify provisional ballots.
- Aug. 18 – State Board of Elections certifies results.



SCC is hosting a celebration in honor of the 250th anniversary of the U.S.A. on June 24, on the Dobson campus. For more information, contact Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu.

SCC Celebrates America's 250th Birthday

Surry Community College will be hosting a celebration in honor of the United States of America's 250th anniversary on Wednesday, June 24, on the Dobson campus.

The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with a Liberty Tree Dedication in front of the A-Building, followed by an Ice Cream Social at noon by the Betty Kay Vaughn Clock Tower, and finishing with a Genealogy Workshop at 1 p.m. on the second floor of the SCC Library.

This event is sponsored by SCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. For any questions, please contact PTK Faculty Advisor Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu.

Pets of the Week





It's kitten season and the shelter has so many beautiful ones available for adoption. Please check out the adult cats that need forever homes, too.

Salem, so named because he was found on Salem Hwy. in May, is a fluffy Pyrenees/Collie mix brought into the shelter as a stray and never claimed. He's 75 lbs. and estimated to be approximately 3 years old. He loves people.

Please save a life! Adopt! All dogs and cats at the shelter deserve a permanent, loving home. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are $10 and include spay/neuter and vaccinations.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food and spay/neuter assistance. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page to see our videos of these amazing pets.

email us

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www.norrismemorialservices.com



Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Kenneth Wayne Reynolds Jr., 38, of Ferrum, was charged June 2 with eight counts probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer made the arrest for Franklin County.

*Susan Michelle Smith, 47, of Winchester, was charged June 2 with fail to appear. Winchester PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Eric Lee Baliles, 47, of Stuart, was charged June 4 with four counts probation violation. Sgt. J.D. Lewis made the arrest for Franklin County.

*Jermiah Kane Cockram, 44, of Meadows of Dan, was charged June 4 with one count each violation of protective order and abduction by force. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Johnny Ray Gwyn, 57, address unavailable, was charged June 4 with two counts probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Timothy Underwood, 27, of Ferrum, was charged June 4 with three counts probation violation. Senior Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*Emily Ruth Edwards, 38, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 4 with one count each allow person with no legal right to drive vehicle and contribute to delinquency of a minor. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Aubrey Benjamin Fuller Jr., 36, of Fieldale, was charged June 5 with fail to appear. Franklin County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Robert Evan Lee Mabe, 42, of Claudville, was charged June 5 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy R.S. Martin was the arresting officer.

*Cynthia Marie Epperly, 48, of Stuart, was charged June 6 with six counts probation violation. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Sidney Ladane Pettigrew, 38, of Rockingham Regional Jail was charged June 6 with six counts probation violation. Rockingham County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Israel David Branch, 48, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 8 with drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

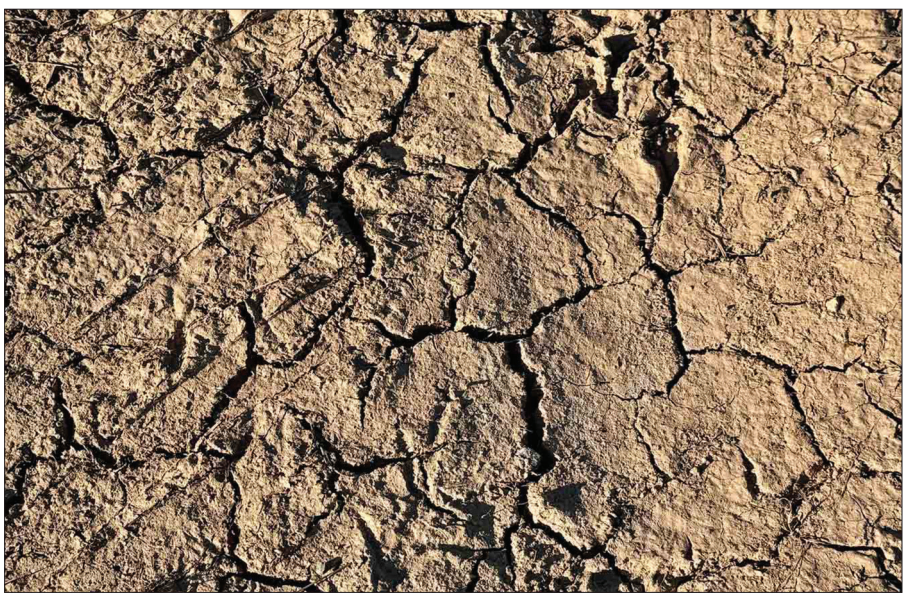
*Christopher Allan McMillian, 49, of Cana, was charged June 9 with possess firearm by non-violent felon convicted within 10 years. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Tyler Henry, 25, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 9 with assault. Inv. Linda Martin was the arresting officer.

*Curtis Harold McBride, 72, of Stuart, was charged June 9 with two counts maliciously shoot/throw into occupied building and one count possess firearm by convicted violent felon. Lt. Steve Austin was the arresting officer.

Jaidyn McGugan, 21, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 10 with contempt of court. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr., made the arrest for Henry County.

Emergency loans available for farmers in nine counties designated natural disaster areas



Farmers in nine Virginia counties are eligible for emergency loans after their drought-stricken areas have been designated natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency to extend much-needed emergency loans to farmers affected by drought. The loans can be used for replacing equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation, or refinancing certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Counties eligible for the loan program include: Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Henry, Nelson, Pittsylvania and Sussex.

Additionally, the following contiguous areas are eligible: Albemarle, Augusta, Bedford, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Prince Edward, Prince George, Rockbridge, Southampton and Surry counties, and the cities of Danville, Lynchburg and Martinsville.

The deadline to apply for a loan is Jan. 31, 2027. Farmers can determine program and loan options by visiting farmers.gov and using its Loan Assistance Tool.

To file a Notice of Loss or for other questions, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Commonsense water conservation urged in response to dry conditions

In response to the historic drought conditions creating challenges for communities and farmers across Virginia, Gov. Abigail Spanberger — in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force — encouraged Virginians to take voluntary, commonsense steps to conserve water use.

Despite much of the state receiving recent beneficial rain, a significant lack of precipitation has resulted in Virginia recording its driest period since 1941. Precipitation totals are approximately eight inches below average across much of the Commonwealth.

"All Virginians can play a role in protecting our water supply during this historic dry period," said Spanberger. "As communities across the Commonwealth — particularly in Southside and Central Virginia — continue to be impacted by these conditions, it is important that we take commonsense steps to meet this challenge. I'm grateful to Virginians for doing their part, and my office will continue to remain in close coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force as we focus on safeguarding our water supply."

Voluntarily conserving water may help the Commonwealth avoid mandatory water restrictions in the future if drought conditions persist or intensify.

Steps to conserve water:

*Reduce lawn and garden watering schedules to alternating days, only watering between dusk and dawn

*Turn off ornamental fountains

*Limit washing of vehicles and paved surfaces unless addressing public health and safety

*Limit filling of swimming pools.

Health district asks for community's help to stop measles spread

Currently, Buckingham County, which borders, Halifax County, is experiencing a measles outbreak. The number of measles cases in the Buckingham area has been climbing since early May. The Southside Health District is asking for the community's help to stop the spread of measles in the area. Health officials are encouraging people to skip large, crowded events in the Buckingham area if they are unvaccinated or if they are experiencing symptoms of measles.

Currently, the Buckingham outbreak has 88 cases. Measles is one of the most contagious infectious diseases and spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. A person with measles can spread the virus from four days before until four days after a rash begins, meaning someone can spread measles before they know they are sick. Attendance at large, crowded events increases your risk of exposure if you are unvaccinated.

Vaccination remains the best protection against measles. If you or a loved one have not had two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, contact your healthcare provider or call your local health department to schedule a vaccine appointment today.

To check your immunization status, call your healthcare provider or request records through the VDH Record Request Portal.

If you have been exposed to measles, watch for symptoms of measles for 21 days after the potential exposure. If you notice symptoms of measles, immediately isolate yourself by staying home. Contact your healthcare provider right away. If you need to seek healthcare, call ahead before going to your healthcare provider's office or the emergency room to notify them that you may have been exposed to measles and ask them to call the local health department. This call will help protect other patients and staff.

For more information about measles, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/measles/. For additional questions, contact VDH's Call Center at 877-829-4682 (Option 2), The VDH Call Center is available Monday–Friday (except holidays) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Localities in line for opioid settlement funding

Henry County, Patrick County and the City of Martinsville are slated to receive renewed funding through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority for programs ranging from recovery court services to kinship support and overdose response.

The authority's Grants Committee approved the recommendations June 15 for the 2027 performance period.

Renewal awards recommended for local programs include:

•Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services: $13,953.87 for a Henry County Kinship Navigator position.

•Patrick County: $20,184 for Patrick County Public Safety's Justice Support and Recovery Court Services.

•Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services: $4,017.35 for a Martinsville Kinship Navigator position.

•The Henry County Piedmont Community Services Lighthouse Program: $0 for a Cooperative Partnership Award, with Martinsville approved for $309,883 for the Overdose Spike Response and Harm Reduction Access program.

The recommendations are part of more than $35.2 million in opioid settlement investments supporting evidence-based prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction and criminal justice diversion programs across Virginia.

The grants committee recommended funding for 150 projects throughout the commonwealth, including:

•64 individual distribution projects.

•79 cooperative partnership projects.

•Seven Operation STOP! projects targeting communities disproportionately affected by fatal overdoses among Black residents.

Since its creation in 2021, the authority has awarded more than $150 million to localities and state agencies.

Funding comes from Virginia's share of national opioid settlements with manufacturers, distributors, retailers and other companies. Payments began in 2022 and are expected to total more than $1.1 billion by 2041.

The General Assembly created the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority in 2021 to oversee distribution of 55 percent of the state's settlement funds. Another 30 percent goes directly to cities and counties, while the remaining 15 percent is distributed to the commonwealth. State law and court orders require the money be used for opioid abatement and remediation efforts.

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Celebrating the Nation's 250th Birthday: Part 1



Morgan Griffith

Representative

America's 250th anniversary is an exciting time for Virginia communities and the United States.

Because this is truly a big deal, I will dedicate two columns to honor this remarkable moment in our history.

Our 250th birthday is a historic milestone that inspires patriotic celebrations, festivities and traditions.

As the State at the epicenter of the independence movement, Virginia's role cannot be understated.

VA250, a commission created by the Virginia General Assembly, was established to detail and commemorate the significant role that Virginia played in our country's founding.

Numerous VA250 projects have been active in Virginia's Ninth District.

The "Martinsville Missile," a VA250 car project created in Martinsville, recently broke the world land-speed record for a stock car at 253 miles per hour!

I co-introduced a resolution with Senator Tim Kaine to recognize this tremendous feat. The resolution declares that the House of Representatives extends its congratulations to the VA250 Car Project.

While Virginia's Ninth District continues to shape history in our 250th year of independence, we can examine the ways in which American independence is rooted in our communities and our region.

One of my favorite columns from past years relates to historic figures from the American Revolution era for which our communities bear names.

Such names include those who were key to our nation's Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Seven Virginians lent their names to this foundational document, including George Wythe, for which Wythe County is named.

Of the other 49 that signed the document, perhaps no figure enjoys as much acclaim as Benjamin Franklin. Franklin County is named in his honor.

Maryland's Charles Carroll of Carrollton is credited for Carroll County's namesake.

Virginia's fingerprints are not just all over the Declaration of Independence, but also the battlefields where independence was won.

Most notably is George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army that defeated the British Empire at Yorktown, Virginia. Washington County celebrates its namesake for the great revolutionary leader.

One of Washington's aides, William Grayson, helped in the revolutionary combat. Grayson County pays homage to his service through its name.

Montgomery County gets its name from Richard Montgomery, who led the invasion of Canada and died at the Battle of Quebec in 1775. A belief that cultural and identity similarities existed between Quebec and America fueled prospects of a 14th American colony.

Meanwhile, militia leaders like Brigadier General Joseph Martin, for which Martinsville enjoys its name, helped preserve the frontier. At one time, Martin received a commission from then-Virginia Governor Patrick Henry to be a key diplomat on the frontier.

Henry, whose "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech helped fuel the revolutionary spirit, has both Patrick and Henry Counties named in his honor.

Another future Virginia governor, Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, was a former revolutionary officer who would earn a Virginia County, Lee, in his name. At Washington's memorial service, Lee eulogized our first president, "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Lee helped serve in campaigns that took place in the South.

Numerous frontiersmen and forces played vital roles in the South, including the Overmountain Men. These frontier units travelled from Abingdon to the Carolinas to fight the British at key battles such as Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

The Overmountain Men consisted of valiant soldiers like William Russell. Russell's father by the same name served at the Battle of Point Pleasant, a conflict where Andrew Lewis helped lead American frontiersmen to defeat Chief Cornstalk and the Shawnee tribe.

The Russells fought with great resolve, and thanks to their revolutionary heroism, Russell County earns its name.

While American colonists sacrificed blood, sweat and tears on the battlefield, also meaningful were the contributions from foreign figures.

Polish count Casimir Pulaski was a European nobleman inspired by the American cause. Credited for saving George Washington's life, he later died at the Battle of Savannah.

For Pulaski's service, Pulaski County gets its name, and a U.S. Congressional resolution posthumously proclaimed Pulaski an honorary U.S. citizen.

Our country's fight for independence took many forms that are immortalized in Virginia communities, history books and other materials. I will continue to honor and recognize the nation's 250th birthday in next week's edition.

Town

(cont. from page 1)

*Discussed roofing issues at the Star Theatre and the possibility that it could remain closed for the rest of the year rather than reopening in October.

Crews have discovered moisture issues beneath the vinyl siding covering the roof that must be evaluated before the theater can reopen.

Earlier this year, Simmons said, "We've been having some humidity issues that are up under the vinyl siding that covers the roof area, so we will have to be pulling all of that vinyl siding down to evaluate the condition up under the ceiling."

Simmons said condensation was found beneath the vinyl siding during the warmer months.



The Star Theatre closed for the summer to replace the HVAC system and perform other updates. It may remain closed for the rest of the year to address moisture and roofing issues.

"That's a condition that we didn't know about when the Star Theatre was purchased, and I don't know if even the" former owners "understood what was happening until there was someone in there to observe what was going on," he has said.

Addressing the moisture is necessary to preserve the historic building, he added.

"Where part of the building is underground, we have some humidity that builds up, especially in the basement. We have it building up between the ceiling and the roof. So we do want to address those situations to keep the Star Theatre from moisture problems," he has said.

Earlier this year, the town ordered the necessary equipment for the HVAC and other work, and an evaluation before installation began.

Previously, the town received a $154,556 Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grant for improvements to the theater, including a professional projector and screen, new stage curtains and replacement of the HVAC system. Work was scheduled to begin in early June.

"Once that's done we should be able to open up," Simmons said at the time.

The theater had been expected to reopen in October following renovations, but it may remain closed for the rest of the year.

*Directed Simmons to sign a consent order and pay a Department of Environmental Quality fine, pending his communications with the agency and concurrence from Corbett.

*Heard an update on the Virginia Retirement System.

*Approved advertising for a community coordinator position.

*Received an update on public works projects.

*Approved the May meeting minutes.

*Paid the bills.

Vice Mayor Dave Hoback was absent.

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Alumni

(cont. from page 2)

ning Commission and the Western Virginia Critical Incident Stress Management Team of the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council. Bowman previously served on the Board of Directors of the Martinsville-Henry County Crimestoppers and maintains active membership in the American Society of Safety Professionals. He is an American Heart Association Instructor Trainer and an adjunct professor at P&HCC in the OSHA General Industry courses.

Clark Jr., earned his associate's degree in general studies from P&HCC in 2009. He continued his education earning a Bachelor of Art's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Licensure from Virginia Intermont College in 2012. Clark serves as a Criminal Investigator/Digital Forensics Examiner with the Henry County Sheriff's Office. A graduate of Bassett High School, Clark was an elementary school teacher before he completed the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy and joined the Martinsville City Police Department as a Patrol Officer. While with the City Police, Clark was awarded the Lifesaving Award in 2018, the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Award and the Officer of the Year Award in 2021. He then transferred to the Henry County Sheriff's Office and was promoted to an Investigator in the Criminal Investigations Division. He received the Crimestoppers Investigator of the Year Award in 2024. Clark has completed multiple specialized trainings during his time in law enforcement to include NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Criminal Patrol Drug Interdiction, General Instructor Development, Internet Crimes Against Children Investigative Concepts, and Basic SWAT School. He is an instructor at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy serving as the lead for NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and holds over a dozen Certifications as an instructor, operator, and analyst. Clark recently received a Valor Award from the Virginia Sheriffs' Association for demonstrated bravery, disciplined decision-making, and commitment to protecting others under life-threatening circumstances. Clark, his wife April, and their three sons Everitt, Easton, and Evan are active members of Stanleytown Amazing Grace Baptist Church and serve in the children's ministry.

Ferguson completed credits toward an associate's degree in general studies from P&HCC in 1992. He continued his education at Emory and Henry College earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Science in 1995, a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2001, and a Doctorate in community college leadership in 2013 from Old Dominion University. Ferguson is the Assistant Vice President of Workforce & Technical Programs at Patrick & Henry Community College. A graduate of the Carlisle School, he previously served as the Dean of STEM, Health and Allied Programs, the Director of Enrollment Management, and the Accelerated Career Pathways Coordinator/Perkins Grant Administrator/

(See Alumni p. 8)

Patrick Pioneers



Martha Conner Dalton, courtesy of John Swinney



The Leaksville News
Section E
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1964

Makes Own Sewing Machine Cabinet

Mr. and Mrs. Dover Dalton display some of their handiwork, including crocheted doilies and a sewing machine cabinet, which Dalton fashioned from cedar, chestnut, pine and other wood. Mrs. Dalton holds a coverlet woven over 100 years ago by her grandmother. Her husband holds the sewing machine cover which he designed and made. (Gillie Photo)

Dover and Martha Conner Dalton



Mac and Annie Belcher Conner home place, built by Dover Dalton

Dover and Martha Conner Dalton

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Dover Green Dalton was born on October 14, 1889, in Pulaski, Virginia. He was the oldest child of Robert Hill Dalton and Roena Isabelle Via Dalton. By the time of the 1900 United States Census, Robert had moved his family to the Willis area of Floyd County, where the household had grown to include Effie Opifila Dalton Conner (1893–1947), Lala Dalton Belcher (1896–1983), and Ruby Dalton Agee (1898–1959).

Robert and Roena's family continued to grow with the births of Lona Mildred "Keat" Dalton Hylton (1901–1949), Frank James Dalton (1903–1978), Barbara Lillian Dalton Harris (1905–1988), William Walling Dalton (1907–1933), Larnie May Dalton (1911–1981), and Foster Edwin Dalton (1914–1995).

On November 17, 1910, Dover married Miss Martha Jane Conner, the daughter of Charlie Cicero Conner and Malvina Jane Hylton of Woolwine. Martha was the only daughter among her brothers, Robert Emmitt Conner (1890–1974) and Rufus Lee Conner (1896–1932).

Following their marriage, Dover and Martha established their home across from the Lawson School on Willis Road in Meadows of Dan. Dover was a man of many talents and an accomplished carpenter and builder. Among the homes he constructed was the house now commonly known to Rock Castle hikers as the Austin House, which was originally the Conner-Belcher house.

George William "Mac" Conner hired Dover to build the home in Rock Castle using poplar trees harvested from the property and milled on-site with a portable sawmill. Mac paid Dover one dollar per day for 600 days to complete the project. Finished in 1916, this remarkable home still stands today, a testament to Dover's exceptional craftsmanship more than a century later.

Dover and Martha raised eight children in Meadows of Dan: Hazel Irene Dalton Hall (1912–1991), Jessie Viola Dalton (1915–1928), Stella Lee Dalton Carter (1917–1946), Robert Lawrence Dalton (1919–1939), Geneva Dell Dalton Swinney Varner (1922–1996), Loel Dillon Dalton Draper (1926–2025), and Winton Clifford Dalton (1929–2004).

Although they endured heartbreaking loss, they remained people of remarkable faith and kindness. Jessie died tragically of typhoid fever at only thirteen years of age, Stella lost her battle with cancer at twenty-eight, and Robert died of meningitis at the age of nineteen. Despite these unimaginable tragedies, Dover and Martha never became bitter. Instead, they were loved and respected throughout the Meadows of Dan community.

My mother and aunt always looked forward to visiting Dover and Martha. Dover enjoyed crocheting and often made beautiful handmade items that he generously gave to friends and neighbors. His kindness and generosity left lasting memories with those who knew him.

During the mid-1950s, several of the Daltons' children found employment in the textile and tobacco industries around Reidsville, North Carolina. Wanting to be closer to their family, Dover and Martha relocated to the Leaksville-Draper-Spray area.

Retirement certainly did not slow the industrious couple. Dover continued woodworking and cabinet making, while Martha remained well known for her quilting, crocheting, and homemaking skills. Their talents were recognized in a feature article published in The Leaksville News on December 16, 1964.

The Leaksville News
Wednesday, December 16, 1964
Section E
Makes Own Sewing Machine Cabinet

Mr. and Mrs. Dover Dalton display some of their handiwork, including crocheted doilies and a sewing machine cabinet, which Dalton fashioned from cedar, Northern pine and other wood. Mrs. Dalton holds a coverlet woven over 100 years ago by her grandmother. Her husband holds the sewing machine cover which he designed and made.

Daltons Combine Talents to Create Pieces of Art

By Rose Marie Adams

The handmade quilts, potholders and crocheted doilies fashioned by Mrs. Dover Dalton, of 503 Cascade Road, Spray, are delightfully quaint and artistic in design and quite appropriate for any home, whether contemporary or colonial.

Not to be outdone by the ingenuity of his wife, Dover Dalton was just as adept in the art of making beautiful things. He created lovely, crocheted items, but cabinet making was where he truly excelled.

A cross between Oriental and Pennsylvania Dutch styles, the cabinet he designed and built around his wife's portable electric sewing machine was entirely his own creation. Fashioned from plywood with cedar trim, it became an attractive conversation piece. The sewing machine cover required painstaking precision, featuring intricate inlaid pieces of Northern pine and cedar placed in alternating patterns. Walnut handles, slender cedar accents, and cedar shamrocks decorating the cabinet doors completed this remarkable work of artistry.

The sink cabinets, stools crafted from walnut and cherry, and numerous other woodworking projects reflected the skill of an experienced carpenter who truly knew his trade. Cabinet making had been Mr. Dalton's vocation until his retirement several years earlier.

At seventy-five years of age, and recovering from a recent illness, Mr. Dalton had slowed his pace considerably.

"I'm just taking it easy right now," he remarked.

Native Virginians, Dover, a native of Pulaski County, had spent most of his life in Floyd County. He was the son of the late R. H. and Bell Dalton and the oldest of ten children.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton had recently celebrated their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary at their home adjoining the property of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Swinney. Although they had spent two winters there before leaving their Virginia farm, they eventually decided to make North Carolina their permanent home.

"It's much nicer and warmer in the winter," they explained.

The Daltons were the parents of eight children, five of whom were living. In addition to Mrs. Swinney, their surviving children included Mrs. Hazel Hall of Draper, Mrs. Charlie Draper of Wentworth, Mrs. Lewis Spencer of Carroll County, Virginia, and Winton Dalton of Manassas, Virginia. They were also blessed with twenty grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Dalton was an outstanding cook who especially enjoyed preparing meals for her family. Her chicken and dumplings were a favorite among the Daltons.

"I have no special way of preparing the chicken," she explained. "I simply boil the chicken until tender and then drop in the dumplings."

One of her secrets for making light, tender dumplings was allowing them to cook in the steam without exposing them to outside air. She prepared them from self-rising biscuit dough rolled about one-fourth inch thick before cutting them into small pieces and dropping them into well-seasoned broth thickened with a simple flour-and-milk mixture.

Dover Green Dalton passed away on December 14, 1967, at the age of seventy-eight. Martha Jane Conner Dalton followed on May 3, 1979, at the age of eighty-seven. They were laid to rest together in the Dalton Family Cemetery in Meadows of Dan.

More than half a century after their passing, Dover and Martha Dalton continue to be remembered not only for the home they built and the family they raised, but also for the kindness they showed others, the craftsmanship they perfected, and the legacy they left behind. Their lives remind us that the greatest works are often built not only with skilled hands, but with generous hearts.

Thank you to Shirlien Belcher and John Swinney for providing information for this story. For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Why Don't They Just Create Individual Social Security Accounts?

Dear Rusty: Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus. If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard. There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon. *Signed: Skeptical Senior*

Dear Skeptical: Believe it or not, putting SS contributions (from payroll taxes) into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea. For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about 5 years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty. People are now collecting benefits (on average) for decades, and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan, and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk. In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem - it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right – Congress can (and, we are confident, will) address this, and hopefully soon. For its part, AMAC (the Association of Mature American Citizens) and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider (see this). And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

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

Jesse Love To Join Wood Brothers Racing In 2027

By Wood Brothers Racing

Jesse Love, the 2025 NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series champion, will pilot the famed No. 21 Ford Mustang for Wood Brothers Racing in the NASCAR Cup Series beginning in 2027, the team announced today.

Love will add his name to the long list of accomplished drivers who have competed for the Wood Brothers when he takes over the No. 21 beginning with the 2027 DAYTONA 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

The Menlo Park, California, native has established himself as one of NASCAR's brightest young stars. After becoming the youngest champion in ARCA Menards Series history with his first ARCA Menards Series West title at age 16, Love went on to capture the 2023 ARCA Menards Series championship before making the jump to the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series.

There, he earned Rookie of the Year honors in 2024 before capturing the series title in 2025. Love has also made seven Cup Series starts and is currently competing for a second consecutive O'Reilly Auto Parts Series title.

"Driving the No. 21 for Wood Brothers Racing is truly an honor," said Love. "This team has played such an important role in NASCAR history, and the drivers who have sat behind the wheel of this car are some of the greatest our sport has ever seen. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone at Wood Brothers Racing, Team Penske and Ford Racing for believing in me – I'm excited to get to work, continue learning from the people around me and compete at the highest level."

Wood Brothers Racing is NASCAR's longest-running active team and one of the winningest organizations in series history. The team surpassed the 100-win mark in NASCAR's premier series during the 2025 season and has celebrated victories with legendary drivers such as David Pearson, Cale Yarborough, Neil Bonnett, A.J. Foyt and others. The organization also enjoys a technical alliance with Team Penske and continues to receive support from Ford Racing.



"Jesse has accomplished a lot at a young age," said Jon Wood, president of Wood Brothers Racing. "He's demonstrated the ability to win races, compete for championships and handle the expectations that come with racing at a high level. We're looking forward to giving him the opportunity to take the next step in his career with the No. 21 team."

The 21-year-old driver currently sits second in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series standings, where he remains in contention for a second consecutive championship.

Additional details regarding the No. 21 team's plans for the 2027 Cup Series season will be announced at a later date.



Race Report: San Diego

By Wood Brothers Racing

After their hopes for a strong finish in Sunday's Anduril 250 Race the Base at Naval Base Coronado were dashed by a mid-race collision, Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team came away with a 29th-place finish.

Berry started 35th for the 75-lap event on the 16-turn, 3.4-mile street course through the active military installation near San Diego. Pit strategy played a significant role throughout the race, and when the opening 20-lap stage came to an end, the Motorcraft/Quick Lane Mustang Dark Horse was scored in 15th place.

After a pit stop during the stage break, Berry lined up 29th for the start of Stage 2. He worked his way forward and avoided a multi-car incident that eliminated several contenders before the segment concluded with the No. 21 team running 27th.

Following the break, Berry moved up to 18th for the start of the final segment. However, contact from behind on the restart sent the No. 21 Mustang into a spin and caused significant front-end damage.

Despite the setback, Berry and the Motorcraft/Quick Lane team continued to battle through the remainder of the race, overcoming the damage and navigating several strategy cycles before taking the checkered flag in 29th place.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team now turn their attention to next Sunday's road course race at Sonoma Raceway.

Blevins receives DAR Youth Citizen Award



Daylin Blevins is a rising 8th grader from Meadows of Dan Elementary. She is an exceptional student who truly represents the qualities of the DAR Youth Citizen Award. Daylin is actively involved in the Junior Beta Club, showing her commitment to academic excellence and service. She is also an incredibly talented writer whose creativity and skill earned her recognition as winner of the prestigious Patriot's Pen Essay contest. She also plays recreation volleyball. Daylin's strong character, positive attitude, and willingness to encourage others make her a role model among her peers. She exemplifies citizenship through her hard work, integrity, and dedication to making a positive impact in everything she does. She is the daughter of Sarina Johnson and John Blevins.

Miles named DAR recipient at WES



Blake Richard Miles was Woolwine Elementary School's 2026 recipient of the DAR Youth Citizenship Award. Mrs. Jeannie Hubbard, principal of Woolwine Elementary, presented this award to Blake during the seventh-grade promotion ceremony on May 20th. In order to receive this award a student must display qualities of leadership, dependability, service and patriotism in his home, school and community.

Blake was also presented the President's Education Award, Principal's Award, High Achievement Award, Warrior Award and Top Speller Award. He is a member of the Jr. Beta Club. Blake enjoys playing football, baseball and riding his bike. His future plans include becoming a professional welder. Blake is the son of Billy and Melissa Miles.

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HRMS DAR Award recipient announced



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School recognized Taelyn Blankenship as this year's recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens Award.

Taelyn is an exceptional young lady whose character, leadership, and dedication make her highly deserving of this recognition. She consistently demonstrates the qualities of a good citizen through her actions at school, in her church, and within her community.

Academically, Taelyn has excelled throughout her seventh-grade year, maintaining straight As while demonstrating responsibility, perseverance, and a strong work ethic. She serves as President of the Junior Beta Club, where she leads by example and encourages others to do their best. She is also involved in the school social club and has participated in Lego League, showcasing her teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Outside of school, Taelyn is active in her church youth group and strives to live out the values of kindness, compassion, and service in her daily life. She is also dedicated to athletics, participating in basketball and softball, where she demonstrates commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Taelyn hopes to attend Virginia Tech and become a registered nurse so she can continue helping others. Through her leadership, academic achievement, strong values, and caring spirit, Taelyn truly embodies the qualities celebrated by the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens Award.

It is our honor to recognize Taelyn Blankenship as this year's recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Award.

Taelyn hopes to one day become a registered nurse and attend Virginia Tech, where she can continue pursuing her goals of helping others and making a positive impact in her community.

As the youngest of three siblings, she enjoys spending time with her family, playing Roblox in her free time, and enjoying her favorite foods—her mom's taco salad and homemade spaghetti. Her favorite color is teal, a fitting choice for someone with such a vibrant and positive personality.

Through her leadership, academic success, faith, and compassion for others, Taelyn truly represents the qualities honored by the Daughter of the American Revolution Award.

Don't Be A Victim To This Silent Killer - Part 1

Chronic stress is linked to the six leading causes of death: heart, disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, and suicide. Life is full of stress and it affects young and old alike, rich and poor. Stress is a silent killer.

Simply put, stress is what we experience when we are confronted with a problem that we don't have the resources to solve or cope with. Stress can negatively affect your health even if you're doing all the right things. This is not to say that one should not eat healthily; it's still important to keep the body's defenses up should something come up. Eating a nutritionally balanced diet remains important, but the main key is in your lifestyle. It's necessary to evaluate your lifestyle and assess areas that need to be improved.

Stress is a normal and everyday part of life, but when it becomes chronic, it is called distress.

Extended Periods of Stress

Daily stressors are to be expected—traffic, workload, disagreements at home, etc. However, holding in anger, guilt, resentment, and the like, can cause a build-up, lowering our immune function. Research shows that chronic stress can affect every system in the body. Imagine being on a constant fight-or-flight response. Once the supposed danger subsides, the body will return to its normal heart rate and breathing. However, if the stress is chronic, this period continues and can trigger a plethora of illnesses.

Chronic stress puts you more at risk for diseases. It causes an immune response that compromises its effectiveness and leads to inflammatory reactions. It can cause unwanted weight gain, pre-diabetic symptoms, and poor digestion. There is a link to stress and allergic reactions, GERD, inflammatory bowel disease, coronary heart disease, hypertension, cancer, hormone imbalance, and more. Hormonal imbalance is linked to anxiety, depression, infertility, menstrual disturbances, and aging. Not all will develop an illness or react the same way to stress, but the bottom line is that stress suppresses our immune system. Since the body and mind sympathize, poor digestion can also cause fluctuations in our emotional and mental well-being.

Mental health is important because it affects the quality of life, enjoyment of it, and the ability to perform and contribute. It should be taken seriously as individuals, families, society, church, and world. With that being said, take a look at…

Causes & Effects of Stress on the Body

The body is amazing in how it adjusts to situations. When we understand how the body operates, the puzzle pieces come together on how to manage stress effectively. Since stress causes a fight-or-flight response in the body, that means the body is preparing itself to handle danger. When there is no threat posed and it is simply chronic stress,

Poor Diet

What we eat is linked to our overall well-being. The life is in the blood, and what we eat makes up our blood. Diets full of refined sugars and carbohydrates, chemicals, processed foods, and stimulating compounds like caffeine causes immune reactions, digestive issues, and leads to disease. We may find ourselves experiencing headaches, migraines, fatigue, and irritability.

Toxins

Toxins are found in our environment and the products we use at home

Emotional problems

Depression, anxiety, anger, guilt

Work-Related Stress

Insecurity about job advancement or termination, dangerous work conditions, work harassment, job discontentment, long work hours

Major Life Changes

A death in the family, divorce, job loss, moving, illnesses or injuries, and traumatic events like theft, violence, or even rape.

Worry

Fear and uncertainty, unrealistic expectations, your attitude and perceptions.

Note: Article will be continued as Part 2 in a following edition of The Enterprise.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Grace Jauwena. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL26000144-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104
PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
RAS TRUSTEE SERVICES LLC v. THE ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL, ET AL

The object of this suit is to:
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO HEIRS WITH UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS
It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN HEIRS OF, ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL AND JULIA HUTCHENS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 10, 2026.
MAY 26, 2026
Clerk

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance exchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Stovall recognized with DAR award during PCHS ceremony



Glenn Stovall is pictured with Ann McConnell, Regent of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR.

During Patrick County High School's Annual Senior Awards Ceremony on May 14, senior Mitchell "Glenn" Stovall was honored with the prestigious Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Citizenship Award.

Presented by Ann McConnell, Regent of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR, the award recognizes students who exemplify honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. Glenn received a DAR medal, certificate, engraved Jefferson Cup, and a $100 award in recognition of his accomplishments.

Throughout high school, Glenn maintained all A's and B's while competing as a three-season athlete. He served as senior class president and was actively involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Praise & Worship Team. Outside of school, Glenn contributes to his family's farm and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in December 2025 through Boy Scout Troop 69.

For his Eagle Scout project, Glenn designed and built flag retirement boxes placed throughout Patrick County Public Schools and local businesses, providing the community with a respectful way to retire worn American flags.

Patrick County High School proudly congratulates Glenn Stovall on this well-deserved honor and thanks him for his outstanding service to both school and community.

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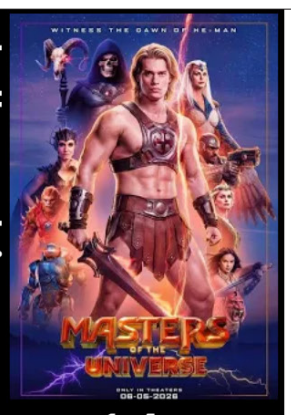
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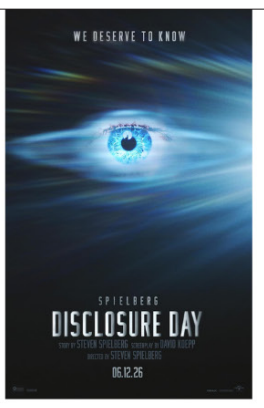
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OBITUARIES

Alumni

(cont. from page 4)

Tech Prep Coordinator at P&HCC. Ferguson has served the Virginia Community College System on committees for long range planning, tech prep, career coaching, and Perkins advisory oversight. He has represented the college with SACSCOC on multiple occasions. In addition to his published work and numerous conference presentations for National Tech Prep Network, National Career Pathways Network, and HIRE Ed, he also serves as a conference proposal reviewer for NACEP. Ferguson is a member of First United Methodist Church, the Hooker Educational Fund Corporate Scholarship Evaluations Committee and has served as a Piedmont Youth Soccer League Coach and volunteer.

Gauldin graduated from P&HCC in 2015 with his associate's degree in science. He continued his education at Old Dominion University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 2017 and a master's degree in public administration in 2020. Gauldin is the Public Works Director and County Engineer for Franklin County. A graduate of Laurel Park High School, he was an Electronics Technician in the United States Navy for six years. Gauldin previously served as the Public Works Director, Industrial Coordinator, and Wastewater and Water Plant Operator for the City of Martinsville, and a Water Superintendent for the Town of Rocky Mount. He holds licenses as a Class 1 Water Operator, Class 1 Wastewater Operator, and Class 2 Waste Management Facility Operator. Gauldin is a Board Member for the Ferrum Water and Sewer Authority, a voting member of the Virginia Rural Water Association, and volunteers as a regional science fair judge for the Virginia Water Environment Association and the American Water Works Association.

Lovell earned his associate's degree in administration of justice from P&HCC in 2008. Lovell is the Deputy Chief of Police for the Martinsville City Police Department. A graduate of Martinsville High School, he previously served as Captain of Operations, Lieutenant over the Criminal Investigations Division, Patrol Lieutenant, Sergeant, Investigator, and Patrol Officer. Lovell has also been on the department's SWAT team where he was assigned the Team Leader position, Honor Guard, Motor Unit, Accreditation Team and is a highly regarded Field Training Officer. He has served on the ATF Task Force and the Southwest Virginia Fraud Investigators Group and has earned over eighty certifications during his twenty-seven-year career in law enforcement. Lovell has also been an instructor at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy and is a Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Certified Law Enforcement Command Executive completing the VACP Professional Executive Leadership School through the University of Richmond. He has held leadership positions with the Martinsville Volunteer Fire Company, the Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #73 of which he was a founding member. Lovell is a member of the Martinsville Elks Club and President of the Martinsville Police Department Benevolent Committee. Lovell is an active member of Horsepasture Christian Church where he serves as a Deacon and Head of Security.

Meeks completed credits towards an associate's degree in business management, a certificate in welding, and a certificate in auto body repair from P&HCC in 2007. Meeks is the Corporate Manager/Owner of Meeks Recycling, Meeks Pic & Pull, and Meeks Roll Off. He completed the Grow MHC and Leadership MHC program with the Chamber of Commerce and Patrick & Henry Community College. Meeks has been in the winner's circle consecutively at the Fast Track Trade Show for the past three years securing Best In Show honors in 2024 and 2025. His businesses contribute donations and sponsorships to numerous organizations, events and athletic teams including the Bassett Cruise In, The Boys & Girls Club Duck Race fundraiser, the Virginia Valor baseball team, the Lady Cyclones softball team, Henry County Parks & Recreation baseball teams, Charity League, and Bassett High School Teacher Appreciation. Meeks serves on the Board of Directors for the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Prillaman earned his associate's degree in general studies from P&HCC in 2014. He continued his education at Guilford College, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics in 2016 and a Master of Science in Accountancy from Wake Forest University, School of Business in 2017. Prillaman is a Certified Public Accountant in North Carolina and the Chief Operating Officer at Broward Grove, LLC. A graduate of Bassett High, he began his career as a Budget Analyst Intern with Martinsville City Public Schools. Prillaman then worked in the Private Client Services Tax Group at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. He started as a Manager of Tax and Accounting at Broward Grove, LLC and advanced to the Director of Family Office Services prior to his current position. Prillaman received several awards as a soccer player at Patrick & Henry Community College including All Region 10 as a midfielder and defender and was named Male Patriot of the Year by the Athletic Department. While at Guilford College, he received an Academic All ODAC for maintaining a high GPA while playing Varsity Soccer along with achievements in Outdoor and Indoor Track and Field. Prillaman was the student speaker at the P&HCC Inauguration of Dr. Angeline Godwin. He is an Assistant Coach for Let Me Run, mentoring elementary school boys in character development, leadership, and healthy living. Prillaman is a board member of Monroe Road Advocates supporting community engagement and neighborhood improvement initiatives. Additionally, he serves on the Alumni Council for the Wake Forest School of Business and is a Guest Speaker in graduate tax courses. An avid runner, Prillaman has a goal to run fifty marathons in fifty states having already completed eleven marathons in ten states with plans to run in Honolulu at the end of this year.

Rodgers earned her associate's degree in nursing from P&HCC in 1998. She continued her education at Radford University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2024. Rodgers is the District Nurse Epidemiologist, Senior at the Virginia Department of Health/ West Piedmont Health District. A graduate of Laurel Park High School, she started her 28 year nursing career as a Charge Nurse and Anemia Manager at Gambro Healthcare Dialysis Center, then worked at Greensboro Surgical Center as a Post Anesthesia Care Unit Staff/Charge Nurse before serving as the Outpatient Services and Endoscopy Supervisor at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County. Rodgers went to work for the Health Department in 2010. She was named Public Health Nurse of the Year for Southwest Virginia in 2019. Rodgers played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic evaluating lab results and training staff and contractors in contact tracing and case management. In 2024, Rodgers along with her husband Patrick started the Henry County based nonprofit, All Vets and serves as the Event Coordinator and Public Information Officer. With the mission to Honor the Fallen & Strengthen the Living, All Vets organizes the yearly Memorial Day Ruck with a team that rucks twenty miles across Henry County and the City of Martinsville. They also held the first 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb that took place at Martinsville Speedway where hundreds of participants climbed 2,071 steps on the grandstands with all the proceeds going back to Henry County's volunteer EMS and Fire Departments. All Vets also organized the first Henry County Veterans Honor Trail. She is on the Board of Directors for the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA. Rodgers is a four-time marathon finisher.

Taylor earned an associate's degree in general studies and a certificate in general education from P&HCC in 2015. He continued his education at Radford University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Sciences and Systems in 2018 and a master's degree from James Madison University in Computer Science Information Security in 2022. Taylor is an Information Security Engineer at Bassett Furniture Industries. A graduate of Bassett High School, he previously worked as a Web Developer and Information Technology Specialist at Bassett and at NET Developer building websites and database systems. Taylor was also a co-founder and previous owner at Scuffle Hill Brewing Company with Jake Abell managing technology systems, digital marketing, e-commerce, and operations. He holds multiple Microsoft Office Certifications. While at Radford University, he received the prestigious Dean's Scholar which is only awarded to a single graduating student in each major per year and is chosen on faculty votes. While completing his master's at JMU, he was inducted in the Upsilon Pi Epsilon honor society for computing and information disciplines. Taylor started training at Gym 24 and ran in many Miles in Martinsville races and completed his first full marathon in 2025 in Richmond. He is a strong advocate for the Dick & Willie Trail and encourages others to pursue long term health goals and enjoy the outdoors.

Vestal graduated with her associate's degree in nursing from P&HCC in 1987. Vestal is the retired Nurse Coordinator for Henry County Public Schools. She is also a Community Outreach Nurse for Connect Health & Wellness, a Henry County School Board member for the Blackberry District, and Owner/Operator of Babbles Bakes, LLC. A graduate of Bassett High School and the Martinsville and Henry County School of Practical Nursing, Vestal began her nursing career at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County as a staff nurse on the Med-Surg unit. She then went to work with Henry County Public Schools as a school nurse before moving into the Nurse Coordinator position. Through Stanford University, Vestal became a Master Trainer for Chronic Health Conditions and Self-Management Diabetes, and a Pain Management Conditions Instructor. Appointed by the Henry County Board of Supervisors, she served on the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board of Trustees. Vestal is an active member of the Bassett Library Expansion Steering Committee. She is a volunteer with the Greater Bassett Area Community which sponsors the Bassett Cruise-In and Rhythms by the River. Vestal serves a secretary for Children's Primary with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and volunteers at Stuart Elementary School. She is a certified EMT and a Basic Life Support Instructor as well as a "For the Bleed" Instructor and a Naloxone (Narcan) trainer.

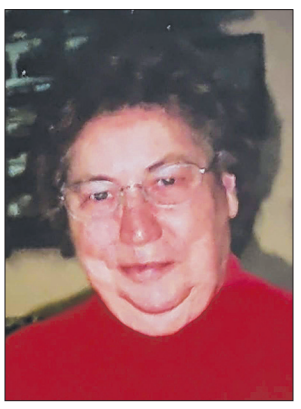
Kathy Whitley earned her associate's degree in nursing from P&HCC in 1977. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Averett University in 1988 and her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from Old Dominion University in 2000. Whitley is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner from the Virginia Department of Health/West Piedmont Health District. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, she started her nursing career as a Clinic Nurse at Hawaii Planned Parenthood. She then became a staff nurse at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County in the maternal-child unit. Whitley served as an Office Nurse for several local physicians, Director of the Practical Nursing Program for Henry County Public Schools, Adjunct faculty for Old Dominion University, a Family Nurse Practitioner for the Martinsville Free Clinic and Children's Medical Center, and an Associate Professor of Nursing at P&HCC. She received the Outstanding New Faculty Award at P&HCC in 2001 and the Virginia Community College Association Faculty Showcase Award in 2006. Whitley has been an American Red Cross volunteer, CPR & First Aid instructor, and board member. She has also been a Preceptor for Radford University, Bluefield University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Whitley has served on the boards of Theatre Works Community Players, Smart Beginnings, American Red Cross, P&HCC Nursing Advisory

(See Alumni p. 12)

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Willadean McAlexander



Willadean McAlexander of Meadows of Dan went to join her Lord and her beloved husband, Roy, on June 13, 2026. She was born to Raymond and Lila Hardy Nester on June 25, 1936 in Carroll County. She was so proud that she was turning 90 this year but missed it by 12 days. However, she has been telling everyone she was 90 years old since last July.

She was a long-time employee of Meadows of Dan Food Market, retiring in 2007. She and Roy owned the Market for a while. She was active in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the Meadows of Dan EHC.

She was proceeded in death by her parents and her husband of 67 years, Roy McAlexander and also two brothers-in-laws, Elmo McAlexander and Delmon Nester.

Left to survive Willadean are her 4 children: Sue Perigen, Patsy Harrell (David), Benton McAlexander (Tammy), and Janice McAlexander. Four grandchildren: Dennis Harrell (Shannon), Rachel Harrell (Doug Wasson), Brandon Perigen (Megan), and Jamie Perigen (John Belshan). Her precious great grandchildren: Cora Van Stuphin, Dorsie Harrell, Dawson Harrell, and Hudson Perigen. Sister in laws: Rogene Nester and Eunafaye McAlexander. A neice, Debra Nester and a nephew, David Nester (Janet).

Funeral services for Willadean are planned for Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 2pm at Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel in Hillsville with Pastors John Franklin and Howard Nester officiating. Visitation will be from 1pm to 2pm at the funeral home, prior to the funeral service. Burial will follow in the McAlexander Cemetery on Widow Drive in Meadows of Dan. Donations may be made to the VFW 8467 or the Meadows of Dan Fire Department in lieu of flowers. Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel is serving the family.

Patrick Pulpits

"Get In Gear, Boy"

By Van Yandell

Proverbs 4: 1-5 "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth."

Daddy made statements that still ring in my ears and quickly get my attention. One was "I always know where to find my tools; they're wherever Van used them last."

Admittedly, I had the bad habit of not putting the tools back in their appropriate place. Always seemingly in a rush, I still have that bad habit.

Another, if he observed me being lazy was "Get in gear, boy; we've got work to do." Still a third was "Let's get to work; we're burning daylight."

With his attitude that I should be an over-achiever (which at the time, I did not share), to see me wasting time disturbed him to an extent, at the time, was not understood by me.

Dad taught me plumbing, electrical wiring and laying concrete blocks. I still use those skills occasionally and have memories of our precious times spent together.

At the ripe age of ten years old, I was threading and soldering pipe, crawling around in attics stringing electrical wire or mixing mortar to lay blocks. In today's upside down world, most of that would be considered child abuse.

Daddy was indeed a serious student of the Bible. I well remember walking into his store. He was reading his Bible; the text was Matthew 27. It was the story of how Jesus was mocked and tortured before the crucifixion.

I noticed tears in Dad's eyes. It was so hurtful to him to read of Jesus' torture that fateful day nearly 2000 years ago. Many promote we should have a personal walk with our Savior. Dad did!

It was like he was reading about someone he knew personally. Years later I realized he actually did.

The construction trades and belief in Savior Jesus were not the only lessons from my dad. He loved America, the land of the free. He loved his freedom to speak freely, worship, assemble with his friends around a card table or go to church.

Maybe his most valued freedom was freedom of opportunity. Being citizens of a free country, Americans have opportunities many in our world do not have.

Freedom of opportunity to educate ourselves, either to self-educate or in a public education institution is a basic right. Opportunities are abundant in a free society. Any citizen has a right to pursue their goals.

Dad did not encourage me to go to school (high school or college). He expected it and I knew it! Some encouragements are observed in actions that dictate expectations, not words.

He never could come to grip with my blasé attitude toward school. My priorities were not math and science. I learned my math on the job and science in the fields and forests. Dad finally gave up on me and let me be me. Now, that's great father!

But that doesn't work in all cases. Children need guidance and discipline. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Wife Margie worked in early childhood education and is a firm believer that environment is a determining factor in a child's future. In her case she may even say "the determining factor."

Without a doubt, children are products of their raising. If we teach them hate, they will hate. If we teach them work ethics, compassion and love, they will grow to emulate those qualities.

Dad's intentions, in retrospect, were all the above. On a job one day when I was probably around twelve years old, Dad gave me a task to solder a fitting on a length of copper pipe.

I knew the pipe was too long for its placement and asked why. One of the few times he became short with me he said "Don't ask why, just do it!"

I then said "But daddy, I really need to know why we're doing it that way." He realized that was a teachable moment and explained to me "why" he wanted it done that way.

Never again if I asked why, did he not stop and explain why it needed to be done in a specific way. As the years have passed I've realized that children have a natural curiosity and to want their questions answered is good.

Dad was very serious about his faith in our risen Savior. His exasperated moments trying to raise me at times may not have exemplified that but all in all I could not ask to have had a better father.

Our father in Heaven is even more patient with us. At times we can be assured His patience is tried to the limit but He created us the way we are and when we realize we are not perfect, we can go to Him in confession and repentance.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Father's Day is a special day to me. Dad died in 1984 and I still miss him and am sure as long as I'm alive that missing him will not end. I so much wish at times I could call him with a question being sure he would take time to answer.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 2 Peter (KJV) in *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. From Matthew 4, how many days and nights did Jesus fast before his temptation by Satan? *3, 12, 40, 7 x 70*

3. Who said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away"? *Satan, Adam, Job, Haman*

4. From Proverbs 6, what is held up as an example to the lazy man? *Bee, Flea, Locust, Ant*

5. How old was Abram when Hagar bore Ishmael? *19, 39, 68, 86*

6. From Acts 13:1, where was Lucius from? *Cyrene, Zion, Sodom, Canaan*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) 40, 3) Job, 4) Ant, 5) 86, 6) Cyrene



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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

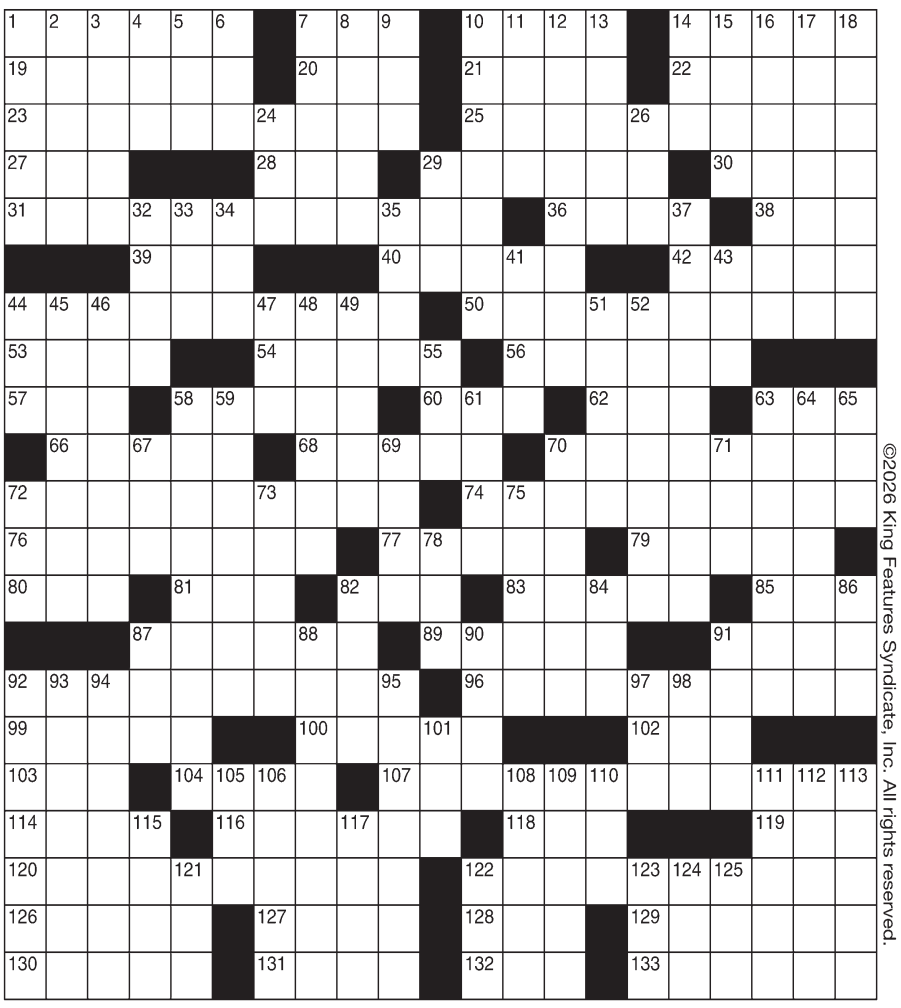
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Super Crossword

U2

ACROSS
1 Sleep out in a tent
7 Nutrition std.
10 Fishing throw
14 Alpaca's kin
19 "Moonlight" actress Harris
20 Suffix of element names
21 Analogy words
22 Ancient Athens or Sparta, e.g.
23 Construction vehicles with tilting beds
25 Chooses a finger over a pacifier
27 Before, in verse
28 "The Raven" writer
29 German art songs
30 Qatari capital
31 1920s-'30s American mobster
36 Young lady
38 "Bali —"
39 Slugger Gehrig
40 Plant swelling
42 How food is often fried
44 Title dragon of a '70s kids' show
50 Silly sorts
53 French suffix with jardin
54 Neighbor of Venus
56 Fish-tailed males of myth
57 Hi-tech "appt. book"
58 Radical type
60 1040 org.
62 Suffix with ball or bass
63 Roman 901
66 Northern French river
68 Roofing piece
70 Essential (to)
72 Stiff-bristled bath item
74 Dazed from a heavy blow
76 Incentive
77 GI no-shows
79 Small needle cases
80 Suffix with Canton
81 Turkey Day vegetable
82 GI R&R center
83 Racecar fuel
85 Articulate
87 River crafts
89 "Cool beans!"
91 Get weary
92 No-bake pie base
96 Some heirs' cash sources
99 Concerning kidneys
100 Brooklyn art institute
102 Granola bit
103 Big bush bird
104 Apiece
107 Brand of popcorn with peanuts
114 Part of UTEP
116 Deep and hoarse, as a voice
118 — de toilette
119 Hugs, in a love letter
120 "Painful to face the reality!"
122 Speechless from shock
126 Very mad
127 Actor Liu of "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"
128 Mined matter
129 Séance state
130 Stocking fiber
131 Padlock part
132 Oozy gunk
133 Alternatives to Cokes

DOWN
1 Stopped
2 Pacific island republic
3 Sky streaker
4 Band blaster
5 Sch. in Cambridge
6 According to
7 Big name in photocopiers
8 Blue Devils' sch.
9 Mornings, in brief
10 Inhabitant
11 Tennis great Arthur
12 Seven-card poker variety, e.g.
13 Marisa of film
14 Vinyl albums, in brief
15 Booming
16 Liquor
17 Russia's Gorbachev
18 Tears into
24 Scannable ID in a market
26 "It's cold!"
29 U.K. "Inc."
32 Sleuth's aid
33 Great athletes get elected to it: Abbr.
34 54-Across orbits it
35 Headed out
37 Compared with
41 Daisy relatives, for short
43 Mother Teresa, e.g.
44 Place for a fanny pack
45 Censors, as part of a text
46 With 122-Down, rodent with a bark-like cry
47 Ready
48 Ankle bone
49 Eurasian mountains
51 Horse to bust
52 Suffocate
55 Homer, e.g.
58 Not for sale
59 Matt of "Friends"
61 Taken-back auto, for one
63 Village People album with the song "Y.M.C.A."
64 Kind of roof with four sloping sides
65 Sort
67 Addition total
69 "Eureka!" moments
70 As originally placed
71 Minions' leader in "Despicable Me"
72 Fresno-to-L.A. dir.
73 Gossipy tidbit
75 Pertaining to an arm bone
78 Got the gold
82 Gorbachev's fed.
84 How- — (DIY manuals)
86 "Of course!"
87 Nashville awards org.
88 Great elation
90 Rebuke to "Brute"
91 Ballet attire
92 Entered stealthily
93 Wed again
94 Anomalous
95 Affixes to a corkboard, e.g.
97 Cargo weight
98 Relatives, informally
101 Test out
105 Frau's "Alas!"
106 Pulverize
108 Prefix with biology
109 Tiny role
110 Wheel middle
111 Verbs' counterparts
112 Spherical bacteria
113 Improves superficially, with "up"
115 Filmmaker Preminger
117 24/7 sources of $20 bills
121 Cackling bird
122 See 46-Down
123 Inits. at Indy
124 Half of sei
125 Jay-Z's genre



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Puzzle answers page 11

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(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, July 13
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Tuesday, July 14
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office.

Wednesday, July 15
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. at the Town Office.

Events

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27
High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will hold Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Pastor Wayne Moore at 336-793-7991.

Friday, June 26
The Stuart Farmers' Market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. with locally grown produce and handmade items. The Landmark Center will be on hand to offer free blood pressure checks. The Blue Ridge Regional Library will be on site for a Story Time reading at 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 27
A free community picnic and bluegrass jam will be held at Dominion Valley Park, with barbecue and all the fixings served from 4-7 p.m. The event is being sponsored in part by the Dan River District Ruritans and friends of the Moorefield Store area.

Monday, June 29
The Patrick County VA250 celebration will be held at the William Letcher Gravesite, an American Patriot of the Revolutionary War at 221 Letcher Lane at 6 p.m. Revolutionary War Reenactors will be present, a cannon will be fired, and Tom Perry will speak about Letcher.

Tuesday, June 30
The Stuart Evening Farmers' Market will be open from 4-7 p.m. for an evening market featuring fresh produce, jewelry, handmade soaps, and handcrafted wooden gifts, among other items.

Friday, July 3
The Kitchen Pickers will perform at Shelter 3 of Fairystone State Park from 7-9 p.m. The program is free, but the park charges a parking fee.

Saturday, July 4
Bluegrass and old time music competition at the Vesta Community Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Competition categories include banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footing with three competition levels of children, teen, and adult. People should bring their own lawn chairs. Concessions will be available for sale.

The Stuart DMV Select Office will be closed in observance of the Independence holiday.

Stuart Baptist Church will host a community meal before the fireworks start, 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Hotdogs and all the fixings.

Monday, July 6
Open Mic Night sponsored by Growing Patrick County Foundation at Stagecoach Coffee from 5-8 p.m. Text 276-229-0318 to register or just show up. All talents welcome.

Thursday, July 9
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Jimmy Handy will provide the entertainment and hot dogs, buns, Cole slaw, condiments, and beverages will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share.

Saturday, July 11
The United Daughters of the Confederacy will hold a special program form the 130th anniversary celebration of Mildred Lee Chapter 74, Virginia Division at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum, 1 East Main St., Martinsville, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 12
The descendants of John Preston Williams will hold their annual reunion at the Hughes Shelter in Trot Valley, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a covered dish for lunch, which begins at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15
The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food from 8:30 - 11 a.m., and 5 - 6:30 p.m., at 108 Commerce Street, Stuart; 8 - 10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat; and 5:30 until out of boxes at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, July 17
The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Thursday, July 25
The Fresh Harvest Christian Church, other churches and organizations, will hold a Community Back-to-School Experience at Rotary Field from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ongoing

The Patrick County High School Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2026 until July 31. Nominations can be made at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/147g76X_3A_FezM1OXKGz0BqHem1wiWnL_lV2iIxhah0/edit.

American Legion Post 105 meets every third Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Post building at 553 American Legion Road, Stuart. All are welcome.

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

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

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. 109 Buena Vista, Stuart, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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

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

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the community room at Patrick Springs Park, 2 Ballpark Road, Patrick Springs.

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

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

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

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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

Super Crossword

Answers

E	N	C	A	M	P	■	R	D	A	■	C	A	S	T	■	L	L	A	M	A
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E	R	E	■	■	■	P	O	E	■	L	I	E	D	E	R	■	D	O	H	A
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I	E	R	E	■	■	E	A	R	T	H	■	M	E	R	M	E	N	■	■	■
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Blue Star

(cont. from page 1)

Mental health also will be a focus of the chapter's work.

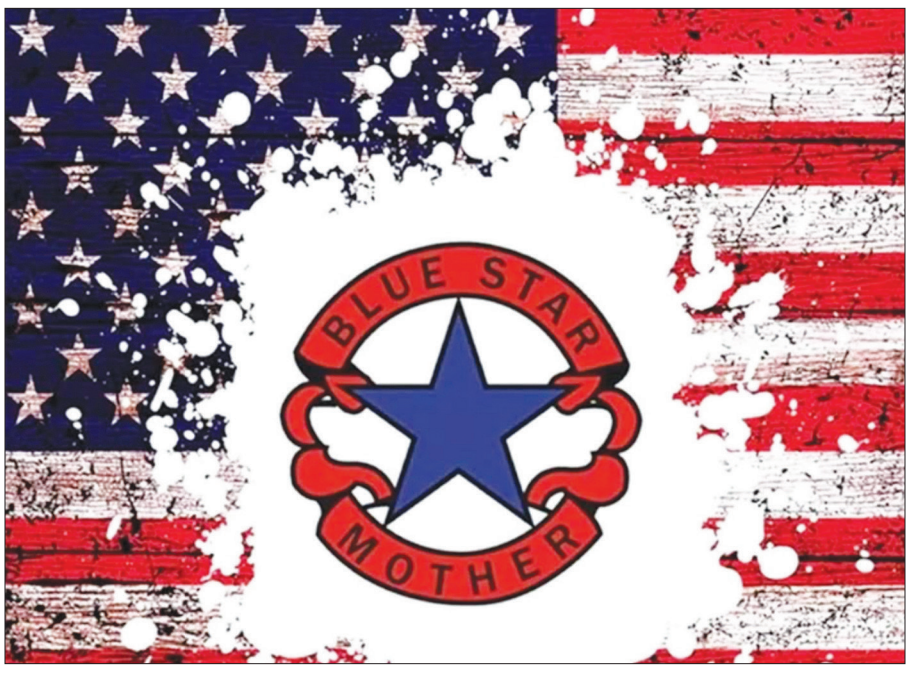
"Of course there's a lot of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)" in the military. "So we kind of are just going to throw ourselves around, and help in any capacity that we can in regards to our military," she said.

The chapter also hopes to recognize a local Gold Star mother each year on Gold Star Mother's Day.

"That's something you don't want to be. A Gold Star mom is someone who has lost a soldier. What we want to do is once a year on Gold Star Mother's Day, September 27, we want to honor a Gold Star mother. Our goal is we don't want to find one because you never want to be a Gold Star mom, but we do want to honor one a year," Beal said.



Treasurer Tonya Hodges was unable to attend the June 17 chartering ceremony because she was visiting her son, who is serving in the military.



Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. VA7 was officially chartered on June 17.

The chapter currently has fewer than a dozen members and meets at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the back meeting room at Wright Funeral Service & Crematory in Martinsville.

Women interested in joining can contact Beal at skully168@gmail.com.

"We could use all the moms that we can get. Don't be afraid to reach out and don't be shy, we're just a bunch of military moms that want to help our soldiers as well as other soldiers and our veterans. We're also a good support group to lean on, especially with what's going on in the world right now, you know our boys getting deployed everywhere. Sometimes you need an extra shoulder or an extra ear to lean on," Beal said.

Powerline

(cont. from page 1)



Parks & Recreation Director Luke Williams thanked students, Patrick County Public Schools and the community college partners for helping improve Rotary Field.



The lighting project included upgrades to the upper and lower soccer fields at Rotary Field.

on the lower soccer field, and added lights on the demolition derby track. We are very appreciative of the work they have done for us!"

The light poles and fixtures were donated by Patrick County Public Schools. Patrick County Parks & Recreation thanked the school division and its community college partners for supporting the project and providing students with opportunities for hands-on learning.

Blue Ridge Elementary School student receives prestigious DAR Citizenship Award



During Blue Ridge Elementary School's annual 7th Grade Awards Ceremony on May 20, 7th grader Bentley Stanley was honored with the prestigious Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Citizenship Award.

Presented by Ms. Jillian Jude, Blue Ridge Elementary 7th-grade teacher, the award recognizes students who exemplify leadership, citizenship, dependability, service, and patriotism.

Throughout his years at Blue Ridge Elementary School, Bentley has demonstrated strong character through his kindness, respect for others, positive attitude, and sound decision-making. He is a dedicated student who works hard academically and consistently serves as a positive role model for his peers.

As an athlete, Bentley enjoys baseball and has shown leadership both on and off the field, encouraging and supporting his teammates while setting a positive example. Coaches praise Bentley for his coachability, positive attitude, and willingness to accept constructive criticism, using feedback as an opportunity to grow and become a better teammate and player.

Blue Ridge Elementary School proudly congratulates Bentley Stanley on this well-deserved honor and thanks him for the leadership and positivity he brings to the school community.

Alumni

(cont. from page 8)

Board and is presently serving on the boards of Safetynet and Henry County Parks & Recreation. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, and the Virginia Nurses Association.

Paula Wood earned her associate's degree in nursing from P&HCC in 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Radford University in 2008 and her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from Old Dominion University in 2013. Wood is the Executive Director of the Pregnancy Care Center of Martinsville & Henry County, Owner/Supervisor Provider at Outshine Medspa, and an Independent Nurse Practitioner at Bon Secours Urgent Care. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, Wood started her nursing career at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital as a high-risk Labor & Delivery nurse, then a nurse in the birthing center at Morehead Memorial Hospital, and a nurse at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital in the operating room and in hospice care. She served as a Nurse Practitioner at Carilion Clinic Hospice, Carilion Obstetrics & Gynecology, Piedmont Access to Health Services, Inc., and Dr. Jon's Urgent Care. Wood was also an adjunct Clinical Instructor at P&HCC. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the Virginia Nurses Association. Wood is Community Lay Director and board chair of the Dan River Emmaus Community. She is an alumna and former board member of the Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County. She participated in the Dancing for the Arts fundraiser for Piedmont Arts. Wood is an active member of Rich Acres Christian Church and supports Young Life Martinsville-Henry County and the Good News Global Jail Ministry.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Distinguished Alumni Awards program, call the P&HCC Foundation at 276-656-0250.

Turner receives DAR award at SES



Juliet Kate Turner was selected as the recipient of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter of the NSDAR Youth Leadership Award in recognition of her strong character, academic effort, and leadership qualities. Juliet is a sweet, intelligent student who consistently demonstrates kindness toward others and takes pride in her work.

She is known for her positive attitude, responsibility, and willingness to help her peers, making her a wonderful example of a young leader both in and out of the classroom. Juliet approaches challenges with maturity and does her best in all she does.

While attending Stuart, Juliet has maintained the principal's list, served as Junior Beta vice-president, and 4H president. Juliet was a captain for middle school cheer, participated in PCHS Winter Guard, plays softball, and dances with Patrick County Dancing Arts Center. After high school, she plans to attend a university to become a lawyer. Juliet is the daughter of Matthew and Jennifer Turner.

We are proud to celebrate Juliet for this well-deserved honor and the many qualities that make her stand out as a role model for others.

Volunteers build new bridge at Reynolds Homestead





Photos from Reynolds Homestead.

Visitors to the Reynolds Homestead can once again safely access the historic Rock Spring thanks to a new bridge built by volunteers.

The Reynolds Homestead thanked Della and Ricky Carter, Diane Poeske and Kevin Reynolds for constructing the bridge, which replaces one built in 2008 by Daniel Reynolds as his Eagle Scout service project. Daniel is Kevin Reynolds' son and a member of Boy Scout Troop 69.

The original bridge was damaged over the years by floods and storms and was no longer safe to use.

Members of the Rock Spring Plantation Descendants Committee, Della Carter, Poeske and Kevin Reynolds wanted the bridge completed in time for the upcoming Juneteenth Freedom Celebration so visitors could once again reach the spring, which historically provided water for those who lived on Rock Spring Plantation.

Virginia Quilt Museum to open exhibit commemorating Virginia history

The Virginia Quilt Museum will open Stitching Together History: 250 Quilts Commemorating the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 4.

The exhibition, which runs through Dec. 22, will feature 257 quilts created by fiber artists from across the United States. Each 20-by-20-inch quilt interprets a person, place, event or idea connected to Virginia's history.

The exhibit is the result of a nationwide call for entries held in 2024. More than 275 quilts were submitted before a jury selected the final collection.

"Stitching Together History is an extraordinary exhibition commemorating the history of Virginia and West Virginia," said Alicia Thomas, executive director of the Virginia Quilt Museum.

Thomas said the exhibit includes quilts that examine both difficult and uplifting aspects of history, along with works highlighting heroes, everyday citizens, natural landscapes and cultural traditions.

The exhibition coincides with the America250 and Virginia250 commemorations marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

A companion book published by Schiffer Publishing features the quilts and the stories behind them.

Located in the historic Silver Lake Mill in Dayton, the Virginia Quilt Museum is the official quilt museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Founded in 1995, the museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting the quilting arts through exhibitions, educational programs and community engagement.

For admission information and museum hours, visit www.vaquiltmuseum.org.



Overall rates of self-reported cognitive disability have risen by nearly 40% in the last decade. (Adobe Stock)

AARP Virginia: socializing, healthy diet important for brain health

By Zamone Perez
Virginia News Connection

During Brain Health Month, AARP Virginia is encouraging Virginians to take simple steps to help keep their brains healthy and address potential cognitive issues early.

According to the American Academy of Neurology, a growing number of adults are reporting challenges with memory and concentration. Among adults ages 18-39, rates of cognitive disabilities have doubled.

Connie Scaggs, a volunteer for AARP Virginia, said people can support brain health through physical activity, stress management, sufficient sleep, a balanced diet, learning new things and staying socially active.

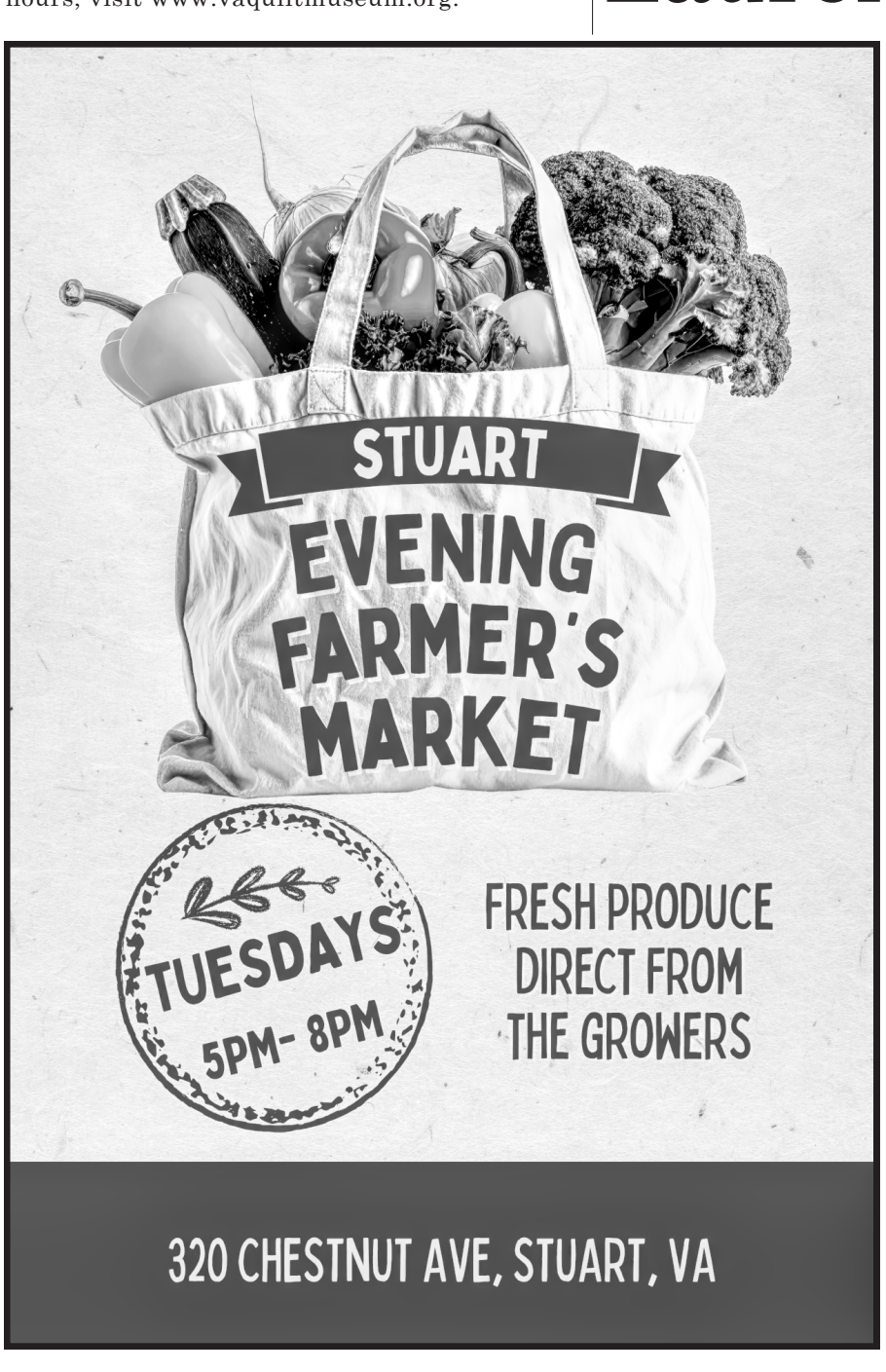
"These kinds of things are also preventative," Scaggs explained. "It is not just when you start thinking you're having some brain health issues. These things are really preventative and can help deter some of those changes we face."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise each week, along with muscle-strengthening activities two to three times a week. Berries, leafy greens, walnuts and mushrooms are among the common foods to help promote brain health.

Scaggs pointed out people might be experiencing brain health issues if they notice short-term memory loss, difficulty finding the right word, a harder time multitasking, repeated conversations or new sleep cycles.

"If you have any one of those, particularly maybe more than one, it'd be a great time to talk to your PCP and say, 'Hey, I'm having these issues. Is there some test we can do? What would you recommend we do? Or is it a normal sign of aging?'" Scaggs recommended.

Throughout the month, AARP Virginia is planning events promoting brain health in Roanoke, Virginia Beach and Richmond.



Laurel Hill's Many Histories

By Tom Perry

If James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart came back to his birthplace, Laurel Hill, along the banks of the Ararat River in Ararat, Patrick County, Virginia, there is only one thing he would recognize: the grave of his great-grandfather, William Letcher.

It is appropriate that we begin Patrick County's 250th celebration of America on June 29 at 6 pm at Letcher's grave, the oldest marked grave in Patrick County. In fact, Letcher was one of the first men from Patrick County to give his life during the American Revolution, when Patrick County was still Henry County. Letcher was shot in front of his wife, Elizabeth, and baby daughter, Bethenia, on August 2, 1780, by a Tory, a pro-British sympathizer. Corporal Letcher was a member of Daniel Carlin's Henry County Militia and a strong supporter of the Patriot cause.

The parallels between Letcher and his great-grandson are many. Both died in what they thought were their wars of independence around the age of thirty. Stuart did not see his country as the United States. He saw Virginia as his homeland. His letters have multiple comments on this, such as "I believe the north will yield what the south demands and thereby avert disunion. I go with Virginia." or "For my part I have had no hesitancy from the first that, right or wrong, alone or otherwise, I go with Virginia."

It is easy to view a person from over 160 years ago through today's opinions or lifestyle, but a real historian looks at a person in their own context,



from their time forward, not through our viewpoint looking backward. You should walk a mile in a person's shoes before judging them by modern standards. People in the past did not know how things would turn out. Letcher and Stuart did not know they would give their lives for their beliefs, but they dared to stand up for what they believed, whether we agree with them or not.

George Hairston came and took Mrs. Letcher and her daughter back to Henry County with him. He married Mrs. Letcher, and Elizabeth Perkins Letcher Hairston became the mother of a dozen children at Beaver Creek, which still stands in Martinsville, Virginia. She was the mother of Robert, George "Old Rusty," Hardin, Samuel, Henry, John, Nicholas,

(See Laurel p. 14)

Laurel

(cont. from page 13)





Constantine, America, Ruth, and Marshall, the father of Bettie Hairston, whom J. E. B. Stuart pursued romantically while at West Point.

Bethenia Letcher married David Pannill and had two children: William Letcher Pannill, whose descendants started Pannill Knitting, and Elizabeth Letcher Pannill, who married Archibald Stuart and had eleven children, including Major General J. E. B. Stuart, who was born at Laurel Hill on February 6, 1833.

J. E. B. Stuart grew up on a 1,500-acre farm where, every day, he could see the military tradition of his great-grandfather, as his grandmother, Bethenia Letcher Pannill, had placed the white marble slab from a Richmond stonecutter named Montjoy over her father's grave. Stuart was keenly aware of the sacrifice his family made for the independence of our country.

We started trying to preserve Laurel Hill over thirty years ago. Today, 75 acres are preserved as a park on the Virginia Landmark Register and the National Register of Historic Places. It is meant to be an outdoor classroom with interpretive signs, walking trails, and exhibits on the history that was there before the Stuarts, such as indigenous peoples who lived in the Yadkin River watershed, and on the history after the Stuarts, such as the Mount Airy and Eastern Railroad, "The Dinky."

It is not a place that glorifies slavery, as Governor Spanberger recently intimated when she signed a bill that took away the property tax exemption for the property in an attempt to bankrupt organizations that have any connections to Confederate history. It is a place that glorifies history, including taking on the troubling past by talking about slavery and the enslaved people who lived there and are honored with a granite marker to their lives at the site of the slave cemetery.

It is a place that remembers the families who lived at Laurel Hill on and beside the Stuart land, such as the Browns, Pedigos, Mitchells, and Delenbacks, who saved Letcher's grave from being moved in 1952, when Archibald Stuart was moved to Saltville to rest beside his wife, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart. So, I invite you to come on June 29 and learn about the history of Laurel Hill and its many histories, and the rest of the time you can learn on your own or walk your dog.

It is a place that you can learn about the life of James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, whether you like or dislike his life choices. They were his choices, and before you judge him, take a long look in the mirror and think about how future generations will look at us when we are gone. History is for each of us to study and make up our own mind about the complicated past we share. History can also be celebrated as we will on June 29.

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VA250
WEEKLONG CELEBRATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
JUNE 29 TO JULY 4

★ JUNE 29

6pm: William Letcher's Gravesite
Letcher Lane, Ararat, VA 24053
▪ Revolutionary War camps & displays, cannon firing, lecture on J.E.B. Stuart's great-grandfathers in the American Revolution, fireworks display

★ JUNE 30

7pm: Reynolds Homestead
463 Homestead Lane, Critz, VA 24082
▪ Presentation - Men at War: stories of the military service men connected to the Reynolds Homestead

★ JULY 1

5:30pm: John D. Hooker Building
264 Woodland Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ Presentation - the history of the family of Eliphaz Shelton

★ JULY 3

5pm: Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department
9912 Woolwine Highway, Woolwine, VA 24185
▪ Cruise In, crafts, music, Most Patriotic Contest, fireworks display
6pm: Stuart Farmers' Market - 320 Chestnut Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ First Friday Summer Jam Series, featuring Slick Jr & the Reactors
7pm: Fairy Stone State Park - 967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ Live Bluegrass music with the "Kitchen Pickers"

★ JULY 4

10am: Patrick County Historical Society
116 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ Dedication of a monument honoring local heroes of the American Revolution
10am: Vesta Community Center - 149 Community Lane, Vesta, VA 24177
▪ Old Time & Bluegrass Music Competition, "Quilts of Valor" Presentation
12pm: DeHart Park - 212 Wood Brothers Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ Pool games, live entertainment, fireworks display
2pm: Countywide
▪ Ringing of bells as encouraged by US Congressional Resolution 25 (1963)
6pm: Fairy Stone State Park - 967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
▪ "Red, White, and Canoe" paddling on Fairy Stone Lake

Honor Our History.
Celebrate Our Freedom.

★ SCAVENGER HUNT! ★
A scavenger hunt will be held from June 29 to July 4.
Five rubber ducks will be hidden throughout the county.
Find one, and bring it to the Visitor Center to receive a FREE T-SHIRT!

Check the "Friends of Patrick County Tourism" Facebook page for updates. ★ 276-693-2005 ★ Schedule subject to change.

Thank You For Reading The Enterprise