THE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 150 No. 28 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 USPS 523-500 $1.50

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Interim supervisor seeks election in Smith River

By Taylor Boyd

Richard Cox will seek election to the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in November.

Cox, who was appointed to the board in April to fill the vacancy in the district, said he initially intended to serve only until the November election. However, after several months on the board, he decided to seek the remainder of the term.

If elected, Cox would serve the remaining three years of the term.

"I thought, 'Well, I haven't heard of anyone else that's stepping up to run.' That may change as it gets closer, but I felt like if I was in a position to serve the community and the community chose me to serve, that I was in a position to represent them in an effective manner to achieve common goals," he said.

Cox said one of the county's biggest challenges is creating economic opportunities while preserving Patrick County's rural character.

He cited job opportunities and infrastructure — including the electrical grid, broadband access and roads — as key issues facing the county.

"Those are issues that are going to have to be addressed, but they are going to have to be addressed in a manner that's consistent with the rural community we live in," he said. "We can hope for a corporate structure to come in here and offer large employment opportunities, but that's not a reality. That's a dream because we don't have the resources at the present time to support a big company moving in here."

Cox said residents also want to protect the county's traditions while planning for the future.

"Beyond that, I don't know what more I could indicate that I would be willing to consider," he said. "There's no magic pill to solve the problems facing Patrick County, but a crucial thing is the people themselves have to make the board aware of what their concerns are."

He also believes the board should allow more time for residents to address supervisors during meetings.

"I sometimes think our meetings are, subject-wise, far too short and don't allow the public the time needed to make their concerns known," Cox said.

Since joining the board, Cox said he has learned the position requires a significant time commitment, with multiple committee, authority and community meetings each week.

"You can't do that by just attending one meeting," he said. "But I'm thankful for the opportunity because, being retired, it gets to the point where you can only watch the grass grow for 24 hours in one week without it getting boring. I consider this position a challenge. Do I hope to get anything out of it? Nothing more than the satisfaction that I've done the best for the people I represent."

Cox said he is collecting signatures to qualify for the November ballot. Candidates have until Aug. 14 to file the required paperwork.

"Signing my petition doesn't mean they'll vote for me," he said. "It simply means that they think I've got the qualifications to be a candidate, and I appreciate that."



Richard Cox is pictured in April, when he was appointed to represent the Smith River District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. Cox is seeking election to the remainder of the term in November.



Jerry Woods was appointed to represent the Peters Creek District on the Patrick County School Board until the November election.

Woods appointed to interim school board seat

By Taylor Boyd

Jerry Woods has been appointed to represent the Peters Creek District on the Patrick County School Board until the November election.

The school board appointed Woods during its June 23 meeting. He was the only candidate presented for the position at a June 15 special called meeting.

The winner of the November election will serve the remaining year of the four-year term.

Woods said he decided to seek the interim appointment because he wants to support local students.

"I've been a substitute bus driver for about 10 years, and I also started substitute teaching this year," he said. "The children are the main thing. They're our future, and I talked with Mr. Wood (Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood) about it, and I told him I would try for him and try to represent my district the best I can."

Woods said he also plans to run for the seat in November.

"I want to give the last year of it a chance, and then from there I'll decide if I want to run for a four-year term or not," he said.

Because he had not yet attended a school board meeting when interviewed, Woods said he wants to spend time learning about the role before identifying priorities.

"I'm new at this, and I've got to get in and learn and see what all is going on," he said. "But as of right now, I don't have any concerns or anything. I think the school system is running pretty smoothly right now."

His first school board meeting is scheduled for July 14.

"I'm coming in as green as green can be," he said with a laugh.

Woods said his family has been supportive of both his appointment and his plans to seek election.

(See Woods p. 12)

Felony charges against Roach dismissed

By Taylor Boyd

Felony charges against Malcolm Roach Sr., a former candidate for the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, have been dismissed.

Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt said Roach's attorney filed a motion to suppress evidence obtained from his personal computer, arguing that one of the search warrants contained an error.

"Following a hearing on July 1, Judge (G. Carter) Greer ruled that the search and seizure of Roach's personal computer was invalid. As a result, all evidence recovered from the computer was suppressed. Without that evidence, the Commonwealth was unable to proceed with the prosecution, and the charge was dismissed," Bobbitt said.



Felony charges against Malcolm Roach Sr. were dismissed following a July 1 court hearing.

Roach was arrested June 9, 2025, on 10 felony counts of attempting to possess bestiality materials.

Roach has sold his property in Patrick County and moved out of state.

Firefighters extinguish silo fire at Ten Oaks



Firefighters from several Virginia and North Carolina departments responded to a silo fire at Ten Oaks LLC in Stuart on July 5. (Contributed Photos)

By Taylor Boyd

Firefighters from Virginia and North Carolina responded to a silo fire at Ten Oaks, LLC in Stuart on July 5, containing the blaze in about two hours despite extreme heat.

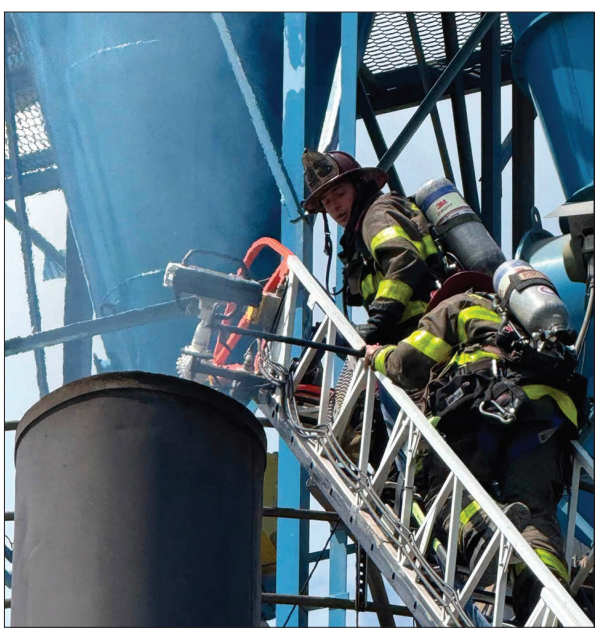
Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Deputy Chief Clint Weidhaas said a maintenance crew was testing newly installed equipment when workers noticed smoke coming from the top of the dust supply silo for the boiler.

"During the operation, they noticed smoke coming from the top of the dust supply silo for the boiler. This has happened before, about a year ago. When they saw the smoke, they were like, 'Crap, it's on fire again. Call 911,'" he said.

Patrick Springs and Stuart volunteer fire departments were initially dispatched.

When he arrived at the scene, Weidhaas said heavy smoke was coming from the top of the silo, prompting him to request additional manpow-

(See Firefighters p. 13)



Firefighters used Stuart Volunteer Fire Department's 100-foot aerial ladder to reach the top of the silo and extinguish the fire.

Chamber Chat

Monthly Recap – June 2026



By Rebecca Adcock

June was another busy and productive month for the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce as we continued to support economic development, tourism, community engagement, and regional partnerships throughout Patrick County and the surrounding region.

One of the highlights of the month was the completion and celebration of the Water Tower Mural Project adjacent to the Mayo River Rail Trail. On June 20, community members gathered for a picnic, artist talk, and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the nearly completed mural. This project has transformed a prominent community landmark into a vibrant public art installation that enhances the trail experience and highlights the growing connection between art, recreation, and tourism in Patrick County. Special thanks go to Bull Mountain Arts for facilitating the project, Faith Mulch for allowing the use of the tower, and the generous donor who helped fund the artist's commission.

The chamber also remained actively engaged in regional planning and economic development efforts. I attended the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) kickoff meeting hosted by the West Piedmont Planning District Commission in Martinsville. This planning process is an important state requirement and helps guide future economic development priorities and investments across the region. Patrick County was represented at the meeting to ensure our community's needs and opportunities remain part of the conversation.

Leadership development continued to be a priority as I attended and spoke at the Patrick County Leadership graduation ceremony on June 11 at Reynolds Homestead. Congratulations to this year's graduates for their commitment to learning more about our community and developing the skills necessary to serve as future leaders. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this group will have throughout Patrick County.

Business support and celebration remained at the forefront of chamber activities. More than 75 people attended the Business After Hours and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Jessup and Associates as the company celebrated thirty years in business and the opening of its new Main Street location. Congratulations to Brian Jessup and his team on this significant milestone. The chamber was also pleased to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Aerial Machine & Tool Corporation's facility expansion, which will house the company's Aqua Lung department and represents continued investment in local industry and workforce opportunities.

Throughout the month, the chamber continued collaborating with numerous regional partners. Work continued with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation on Blue Ridge Rising initiatives, including trail inventory projects and public art planning. Meetings also continued for Downtown Revitalization efforts, Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative projects, and new opportunities involving Department of Forestry funding, invasive species management, and landscape design partnerships with Virginia Tech.

As we move into July, the chamber is preparing for several exciting initiatives. We have begun accepting advertising reservations for the Fall 2026 edition of the Patrick County magazine. We are also partnering with the Rotary Club of Stuart to host the Connecting Communities event on July 27, bringing residents together to discuss collaboration and community engagement. Additional upcoming programs include the We Impact Virginia regional leadership event in July, an Employee Handbook Lunch & Learn in August, and planning for a regional Nonprofit Summit this November.

Thank you to our members, volunteers, partners, and community supporters who continue to make these efforts possible. Together, we are building a stronger and more connected Patrick County.

Welcome new member: High Hopes Dog Training.

Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

Tourism Talks

A Big Thank You

Hi Patrick,

Well, we made it! The excitement of Patrick County's VA250 Week-Long Celebration of Independence came to a close. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make this celebration one of our community's finest. The committee had a vision, and we saw it come to fruition.

Over the course of the week, we witnessed what makes Patrick County truly special—neighbors working together, volunteers giving countless hours, organizations collaborating, and visitors discovering the rich history, natural beauty, and genuine hospitality that define our county—from our Revolutionary War heritage to our patriotic celebrations, the week showcased the very best of Patrick County.

A sincere thank you goes to every organization, business, church, civic club, nonprofit, volunteer fire department, historical group, musician, vendor, sponsor, and volunteer who dedicated their time and talents. Your commitment transformed ordinary days into extraordinary experiences for our residents and visitors alike.

Thank you to the Reynolds Homestead, the Laurel Hill Preservation group, the Patrick County Historical Society, the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, the Stuart Farmers' Market, Fairy Stone State Park, the Vesta Community Center, DeHart Park, and the many other community partners who hosted outstanding events throughout the week. From historical presentations and military demonstrations to bluegrass music, fireworks, family activities, and patriotic ceremonies, every event reflected the pride we have in our heritage and our future.

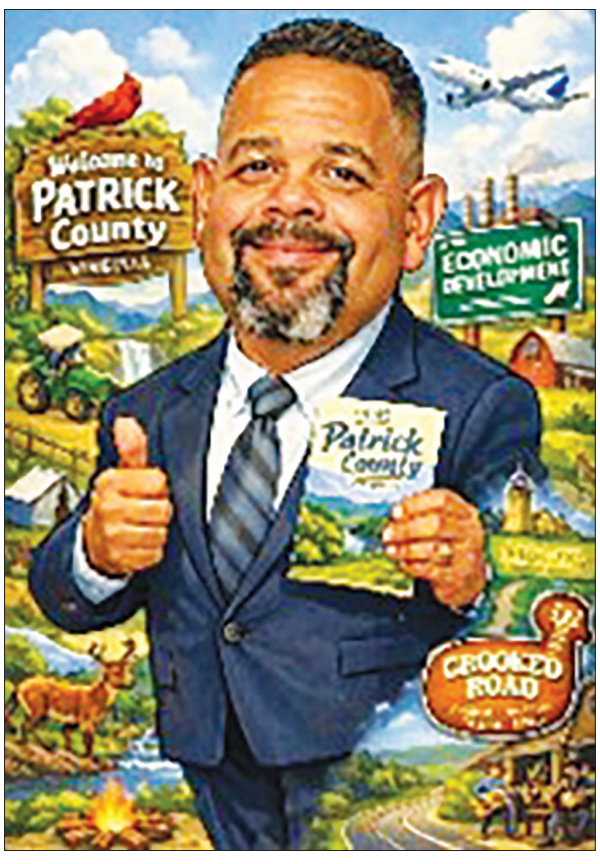
I also want to recognize our local businesses, restaurants, lodging partners, and retailers who warmly welcomed visitors from across Virginia and beyond. Your hospitality leaves a lasting impression and strengthens Patrick County's reputation as a premier destination in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

To everyone who attended—even if you came to just one event—thank you for celebrating with us. Your participation brought our communities together, honored those who came before us, and created new memories for future generations. Seeing families gathered, children learning about our nation's founding, veterans being honored, and neighbors enjoying one another's company reminded us why these celebrations are so important.

Special appreciation goes to our county staff; Sabrina Rorrer our summer college intern, Sue Kolljeski, Grace Cooper, and Noah Mabe, our VA250 committee; BJ Nolan, Patrick Delaney, John Reynolds, Mary Dellenback Hill, Ronnie Hayes, Billy Curren, Tom Perry, Ann McConnell, Kieth Gunter, Bud Thompson, our law enforcement officers, emergency medical services, public works employees, tourism partners, and all those working behind the scenes to ensure every event was safe, organized, and enjoyable. Your professionalism and dedication often go unnoticed, but they are essential to the success of celebrations like these.

The VA250 Week-Long Celebration demonstrated that Patrick County is more than a beautiful place to visit—it is a community built on patriotism, service, history, and hospitality. Together, we honored our past while investing in our future as a destination where people come to experience authentic small-town America.

On behalf of Patrick County Tourism and the Economic Development Authority, thank you for making this celebration such an overwhelming success. We are grateful for your support and look forward to welcoming you



back for many more events throughout the year.

Until next time, continue to explore, support, and "find yourself here" and celebrate all that Patrick County has to offer.

Our website, https://visitpatrickcounty.org/, will have all the latest information on upcoming events.

God Bless the United States of America, In God we Trust!!

All my best,

James Houchins,

jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us

Director of Economic Development and Tourism

Congressional staff to visit Henry, Patrick counties

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on July 22.

Staff will be in Henry County from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room, Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Hours in Patrick County will be 12:30 – 2 p.m., with congressional staff in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

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Pets of the Week





This sweet little girl, found on Stella Loop weeks ago, is quiet and gentle. No one has claimed her, so now she waits for someone who will love her.

This adorable little tabby male kitten is ready for adoption. Many other cats and kittens are at the shelter waiting for their forever homes.

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.

VISIT US ONLINE WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Roy Warner Keen, 32, of Lynchburg, was charged June 29 with three counts probation violation. Lynchburg made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Mason James Martin, 21, of Stuart, was charged June 30 with drive while intoxicated. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Ryan Dalton Humble, 35, of Claudville, was charged June 30 with one count each enter building at night, intentional damage, and possession of burglarious tools. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Ryan Jenny Button, 48, address unavailable, was charged June 30 with fail to appear. Chatham PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Ana Gabriela Lopez, 35, of Stuart, was charged July 1 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Anthony Chase Walton, 41, address unavailable, was charged July 2 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Pierre Quartez Scales, 35, of Martinsville, was charged July 3 with five counts probation violation. Roanoke County PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Brianna Morgan, 29, of Woolwine, was charged July 3 with fail to appear. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Robert Allen Trent, Jr., 36, of Wytheville, was charged July 3 with three counts each fail to appear and probation violation. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*James Wayne Greer, 44, of Stuart, was charged July 4 with bail/pretrial violation. Sgt. M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Steven Ray Joyce, 53, of Stuart, was charged July 6 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Zachary Dalton Scales, 30, of Claudville, was charged July 6 with enter building at night. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Kelly Rachel Humble, 35, address unavailable, was charged July 6 with interfere with property rights of another. Deputy C. Pilson was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan Thomas Manson, 33, of Patrick Springs, was charged July 8 with fail to appear. Sgt. M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Kendal Marie Jones, 34, of Stuart, was charged July 8 with fail to appear. Deputy D. Spence was the arresting officer.

*Charles Nicholas Doss, 27, of Martinsville City Jail, was charged June 26 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jason Albert Chatfield, 49, of Patrick County Jail, was charged June 28 with obstructing/tampering with jail security camera. Sgt. T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Ana Gabriela Lopez, 35, of Stuart, was charged June 28 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Zachary James Denny, 30, address unavailable, was charged June 11 with two counts probation violation. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Trey Austin Morgan, 31, of Logan, WV, was charged June 11 with fail to appear. Deputy D. Spence was the arresting officer.

*Dale Ray Tatum, 56, of Stuart, was charged June 12 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Larry Dean Martin, 53, of Martinsville, was charged June 12 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy Douglas Perry was the arresting officer.

*Barry Wayne Farmer, 47, of Stuart, was charged June 13 with intentional damage. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Bradley Hunter Eanes, 48, of Ridgeway, was charged June 13 with five counts probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Sandra Michelle Hall, 31, of Martinsville, was charged June 15 with seven counts of probation violation. Bedford County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Darrell Edward Sutphin, 53, of Meadows of Dan, was charged June 15 with two counts of probation violation. Floyd County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Secario Tayvon Goodwin, 23, of Mt. Airy, NC, was charged June 16 with warrant of extradition. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Allen Michael Bowman, 27, of Stuart, was charged June 17 with violation of home/electronic incarceration. Deputy R.W. Campbell was the arresting officer.

*Nelson Endaya Lanphere, 64, of Woolwine, was charged June 19 with dive while intoxicated-1st offense. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Manoj M. Thakkar, 56, of Bassett, was charged June 19 with two counts violate fire prevention code. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe made the arrest for VA State Fire Marshal.

*Israel David Branch, 48, of Hillsville, was charged June 20 with probation violation. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick made the arrest for Carroll County.

*David Sobolewski, 47, of Stuart, was charged June 22 with animal cruelty. Senior Deputy Mark Sowder was the arresting officer.

*Leticia Jacqueline Campos-Pineda, 26, of Stuart, was charged June 22 with one count each drive while intoxicated-1st offense, and hit & run unattended. Trooper D. Bryant was the arresting officer.

*Daryl D. Speas, 54, of Stuart, was charged June 23 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*James Devontae Flood, 25, of Martinsville, was charged June 24 with three counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Senior Trooper R.S. Lawson was the arresting officer.

*Keith Allen Charles, 38, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 25 with six counts probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*James Jonathon Turner, 46, of Martinsville, was charged June 25 with five counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jodie Noel Joyce, 35, address unavailable, was charged June 25 with five counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

Cifers to lead IALR program

The Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) has promoted professional machinist and educator Wesley Cifers to serve in a newly reorganized role.

As of July 1, Cifers serves as Managing Director of ATDM – a 16-week training program at IALR designed to prepare civilians from across the nation for careers building the nation's next-generation vessels in the submarine industrial base.

"I'm delighted to name Wesley Cifers as the new Managing Director of ATDM. His experience, technical acumen and maturity made him an ideal candidate to become the leader of this critical program here on the campus of IALR," said Telly Tucker, President of IALR.

Cifers holds more than 15 industry certifications and brings a vast array of experience and knowledge in manufacturing environments to the role. His previous private sector experience, coupled with his time in instruction, curriculum development and program management at IALR, uniquely positioned Cifers to oversee ATDM. In his most recent role, Cifers managed two major additive manufacturing training programs for the U.S. Navy and led all workforce programs for the Center for Manufacturing Advancement (CMA) at IALR, after growing through various instructional ranks within ATDM.

"Wesley is a highly credentialed journeyman machinist who started his career with a leading supplier to the federal government prior to joining IALR five years ago and has since grown and moved into the instructional and training realm at various levels. His most recent position grew many of the valuable skills that Wesley will employ in this new role, including juggling numerous high-level stakeholders, managing federal contracts and ensuring quality instruction," said Jason Wells, IALR's Executive Vice President, Manufacturing Advancement. "Not only does Wesley possess a balanced and intimate knowledge of the ATDM program and its many facets, but he leads with superb professionalism and integrity, making him an excellent fit for this role."

Since its inception in 2020, ATDM has graduated over 1,530 students from 47 states, Washington D.C., Australia, Puerto Rico and Guam. The program spans all three shifts and delivers accelerated, intensive training in five key skilled trade areas in high demand by defense manufacturers and critical to national defense, including Additive Manufacturing, CNC Machining, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), Quality Control Inspection (Metrology) and Welding.

"I am grateful to work alongside an amazing team at IALR and eager to step into a new role in further support of ATDM to see where the future takes us. Over the last 5 years, I have held several roles with varying responsibility to the program, and I am excited to bring that combined experience into my new position," said Cifers. "This is a unique program that has changed how our country views manufacturing training and I have witnessed that in real time. This transition is not something I take lightly, and I am looking forward to returning to the ATDM team to continue pushing forward."



The IALR serves Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg counties, and the cities of Martinsville and Danville.



New startup program opens to Patrick, Henry innovators

By Staff Reports

Entrepreneurs, startups and researchers in Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville are eligible to apply for a new eight-week commercialization accelerator designed to help bring innovative ideas to market.

The program is a partnership between RISE (Regional Investment in Startups and Entrepreneurs) and RAMP (Regional Accelerator and Mentoring Program). It is funded by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corp.

RAMP Up is open to startups, existing businesses, researchers and innovators working in agriculture, forestry, food systems, animal sciences, natural resources, advanced manufacturing, automation, sustainability, rural technology and related industries.

Participants will work with experienced entrepreneurs, researchers and industry experts to validate customer needs, evaluate market opportunities, refine business models and develop commercialization strategies.

There is no cost to participate.

Teams that complete the program will be eligible for grants of up to $10,000 to support commercialization efforts, including product development, pilot projects, customer validation and other approved business expenses. The grants are non-dilutive, meaning participants do not give up ownership in their companies.

"Southern Virginia has a long history of innovation rooted in agriculture, forestry, manufacturing and rural enterprise," said Lauren Mathena, director of economic development and community engagement for the Southern Virginia Innovation Hub and program director for RISE. "Through this partnership with RAMP, we are creating new opportunities for innovators to connect with experts, test ideas and explore pathways to bring new products and solutions to market."

Chip Bobbert, director of innovation for the Roanoke Blacksburg Innovation Alliance, which operates RAMP, said the program is intended to help innovators overcome one of the biggest hurdles to launching a business.

"Many innovations never reach the marketplace because innovators lack access to commercialization support," Bobbert said. "RAMP Up is designed to bridge that gap by helping innovators understand customers, markets, partnerships and commercialization pathways before they enter a full accelerator program."

The inaugural cohort will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. on eight consecutive Mondays, Sept. 21 through Nov. 9. Seven sessions will be held in person at the Southern Virginia Innovation Hub in South Boston, with one virtual session.

Applicants must either operate an existing Virginia business or commit to establishing operations in Virginia. Eligible localities include Martinsville and Danville, along with Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Halifax, Pittsylvania and several other Virginia localities.

Applications are due by Sept. 3.

For more information or to apply, visit sovarise.com/ramp-up.

Actions on Agriculture



Morgan Griffith

Representative

A core pillar of the economy for Virginia's Ninth District is agriculture.

Whether they raise corn or cattle, cut timber or Christmas trees, agricultural producers all play a vital role in rural America's success.

Thanks to our agricultural communities, we can deliver fresh produce, supply grocery stores, feed American families, spur small business economic activity, support local communities and so much more.

Given these meaningful contributions, I explore opportunities in Congress to support America's agricultural sector.

Often that means voting for better federal policy.

In April, I voted for a bill that helps strengthen the farming industry in Virginia's Ninth District.

H.R. 7567 – the Farm, Food, and National Security Act provides funding resources for farmers.

The farm bill helps institutions like Virginia Tech with federal funding through various research grant opportunities.

The farm bill creates a pilot program for badly needed additional custom slaughter establishments. Small meat-processing facilities may be able to sell their meat inside the Commonwealth of Virginia as long as their product has a label that says the product is not inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Further, the farm bill promotes 21st century technologies to help farmers modernize their operations to make them more efficient.

I believe there are some very positive provisions that will help Virginia farmers. That is why the bill has support from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Virginia Agribusiness Councill and the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, among others.

After Republicans helped pass this critical legislation for rural America, it awaits action in the Senate. I will continue to encourage Congressional action on policies that benefit our American farmers.

Not only do I support Congressional action, but I also work with the Trump Administration to help deliver better outcomes for Virginia's farmers.

Such was the case this year as the Commonwealth has faced harmful weather events.

In response to frost and freeze events during the spring that impacted many farms, Virginia requested a Secretarial Disaster Designation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

I helped lead efforts in Virginia's congressional delegation to urge USDA Secretary Rollins to approve Virginia's request.

In June, Secretary Rollins granted our request! Many Virginia farmers who suffered crop losses from the spring can now access emergency loan assistance.

Further, severe drought this summer has caused additional challenges.

Governor Spanberger has urged Virginians to conserve water as Virginia faces its driest period since 1941.

Secretary Rollins approved parts of Virginia to be eligible for federal drought relief, with Tazewell County receiving a primary natural disaster area designation. Bland, Buchanan, Russell and Smyth Counties may also request federal drought assistance.

As growing season challenges and record temperatures threaten to destabilize farming operations, I will continue my advocacy at the federal level for farming community access to federal disaster resources.

Our farmers need access to more than just resources. They need access to opportunity.

That is why President Trump continues to work on trade deals that create opportunities for the American farming industry to market its products globally.

Trump's trade actions have improved American beef producers' access to markets in Southeast Asia.

All the while, we continue to monitor the situation with South American beef.

Due to the deteriorating relationship with China caused by many factors, trade negotiations have been tougher.

In those negotiations, I have joined lawmakers in writing to President Trump to protect American tobacco.

One complication is likely that the Chinese Communist Party controls the expansive Chinese tobacco industry.

For many years, China was among the U.S. trade partners that annually purchased as much as 80 million pounds of American tobacco.

However, China made clear it would not buy America's superior quality flue-cured tobacco from the 2025 crop. This announcement spelled unease and trouble for Virginia's tobacco producers.

Accordingly, I am supportive of President Trump's efforts to ensure fair treatment of American farmers and expanded market access for our farming products.

Some have not fared as well with the tariffs, and Congress is working to ameliorate those issues. Affecting our region is the export of timber products.

Whether it is crops, livestock, timber or other items, America's agricultural sector creates the best quality products in the world. Accordingly, it is only right for them to get a fair shake.

I will continue working in Congress to promote policy outcomes that make farming operations in the U.S. more sustainable, less costly and more successful.

Looking back on a landmark year at P&HCC



Greg Hodges, Ph.D.
President Patrick & Henry Community College

As Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) prepares to welcome our students back to campus for the fall semester, we are pleased to share a year-end report highlighting the achievements of the 2025–2026 academic year—one of the most distinguished and impactful years in our institution's history.

This year, P&HCC continued to strengthen its position as a national leader in student success, workforce development, and community impact. We were honored to be named a Top 200 College, a Top 25 Semi-Finalist College, and a Top 10 Finalist by the Aspen Institute Community College Excellence Program. Notably, P&HCC is the first community college in Virginia to receive this recognition. Additionally, P&HCC became the first community college in the nation to be certified as a Gold-Level Caring Campus, a testament to our unwavering commitment to belonging, connection, and student-centered excellence.

The college secured significant external funding to expand programs, strengthen student support, and enhance campus infrastructure. This included $1.95 million from the U.S. Department of Education for a five-year Student Support Services grant, $1.34 million from the GO Virginia State Board to advance industrial skilled trades across Region 3, and $242,187 for the Construction Pre-Hire Immersion Training Program to equip our Industrial Skilled Trades Academy. We also received $225,000 for the College Success Coach Initiative, $115,000 in RSVP funds, and multiple grants from SCHEV totaling nearly $30,000 to support middle school campus visits and the Patriot Pantry.

Our commitment to regional economic mobility and workforce development continued to deepen. P&HCC expanded its leadership in justice-impacted education by signing an MOU with the Martinsville Sheriff's Department and receiving $50,000 from an anonymous donor to strengthen this work. We also received $47,149 and $10,000 in state funding to enhance campus safety through upgraded surveillance systems.

This year also marked the launch of the Patrick Promise, a transformative partnership with the Patrick County Education Foundation that will expand educational opportunity for generations of students. The college also celebrated major philanthropic investments, including a $224,169 gift from the D. Victor Williams Trust for healthcare scholarships and expansions.

Our academic and workforce programs continued to excel. P&HCC expanded its FESTO industrial certifications and is now one of only seven colleges in the nation to offer Level 3 certification—and the only institution to issue a Level 3 certification to date. Our healthcare programs also achieved extraordinary outcomes: both the PN and RN May 2025 cohorts earned 100% first-time NCLEX pass rates, the December 2025 RN class achieved a 100% pass rate, and the 2026 Paramedic cohort earned a 100% pass rate on the National Registry exam.

We were also proud to earn the Bee Campus USA designation, reflecting our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

As always, the highlight of our year was celebrating our graduates. For academic year 2025–2026, 475 unduplicated graduates earned 732 academic credentials, with 241 students participating in our May 15 commencement ceremony. Each credential represents a life changed, a family strengthened, and a community made more vibrant through education.

For 63 years, Patrick & Henry Community College has served as this region's college. Today, our mission of economic mobility is more urgent—and more impactful—than ever. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing high-quality education and training that prepares our students to thrive as employees, entrepreneurs, and leaders. The economic resurgence of our region is real, and P&HCC is proud to be a driving force behind this momentum.

It continues to be the honor of my life to serve as the president of Patrick & Henry Community College.

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Established in 1876
USPS 523-500
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone (304) 647-5724 *Mountain Media*
www.theenterprise.net

PUBLISHER
Michael Showell
EDITOR
Debbie Hall
ADVERTISING
Wendi Craig
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

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Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: $37 per year in Patrick County; $50 per year in state; $50 per year out of state. Single copies $1.50.

Letters to the Editor

Meadows of Dan Backpack Program: May-July 11

On behalf of Meadows of Dan Elementary School Backpack Program, I extend heart felt gratitude to all who have made monetary donations and given of their time and energy to keep at risk students supplied with nutritious, tasty weekend meals. This outreach would not be possible without your concern for the wellbeing of the children in our community. We begin sending home packages of food the very first week of school and additional food will be ordered in early July of this year and again In January of 2027. The price of groceries and necessities continue to escalate making it difficult for single parents and even couples to feed, clothe and house their children. Thank you for being a part of the MODE'S Backpack program. Your tremendous generosity is appreciated more than you will ever know.

The board members and volunteers are excited to report we continue to work with Mrs. Rozina Turner- principal of Meadows of Dan Elementary School, Mrs. Lisa Stone-school nurse, and the staff during the 2026-27 school year to help ensure the health and safety of our children. Once again, thank you to all who assist in making the Backpack Program a success!

If you would like to donate to the MODE'S Backpack Program, you may simply go to the Skyline Community Bank's drive-in window in Meadows of Dan, located across the road from the Family Dollar Store at the intersection of Willis Road and Jeb Stuart Highway. Let the teller know you would like to donate to the Meadows of Dan Backpack Program, and they will deposit your gift directly into the Backpack checking account. Or you may mail your gift to Tammy Franklin, 7206 Squirrel Spur Road, Meadows of Dan, VA, 24120. Should you have any questions, you may call Franklin at 276-728-8235.

Tammy Franklin, President
Meadows of Dan Backpack Program

Griffith should focus on Southwest Virginia

Republican Congressman Morgan Griffith is calling people in the opposing political party "Communists" and "Marxists". So this is what he thinks of many people and families in the Fightin' Ninth District. Well, he doesn't spend his time with the people in SWVA. He was asked

(See Letters to the Editor p. 7)

Patrick Pioneers

Sallie Elizabeth Craig Hylton

By Beverly Belcher Woody

You can find all sorts of amazing treasures at the Patrick County Historical Museum. During a recent visit, I came across one that immediately captured my attention—a small notebook kept by mountain midwife Sallie Elizabeth Craig Hylton, affectionately remembered by many as "Grannie Sara."

Inside its pages was a carefully recorded list of seventy-five babies she delivered between October 18, 1918, and August 27, 1942.

Today, more than a century later, that notebook serves as a remarkable reminder of one woman's quiet dedication to the families of Patrick County.

Sallie Elizabeth Craig was born on December 2, 1867, to Peter David Craig and Sallie Ann Wood Craig. She grew up near Apple Tree Drive in the Lone Ivy community of Patrick County and was the fourth of ten children.

Her brothers and sisters were:

John Cope Craig (1860–1919)
Nancy Ellen Craig Belcher (1863–1937)
Martha Eveline Craig Cassell (1865–1949)
Sallie Elizabeth Craig Hylton (1867–1964)
Susan Ann Maria Craig Belcher (1869–1967)
William "Billy" Jerman Craig (1871–1960)
Mary Lou Craig Belcher (1872–1966)
Lula Alberta Craig (1879–1972)
Thomas E. Craig (1879–1911)
Oma M. Craig Handy (1888–1989)

On April 1, 1886, Sallie married William Moses Hylton, the son of Moses Hylton and Elizabeth Cruise Hylton. Having grown up as neighbors, they began their married life together in the Lone Ivy community.

Their children were:

Martha Ann Hylton (1886–1981), who married James Edward Hylton, son of James Arnold Hylton and Nancy "Nannie" Pendleton.

John William Hylton (June 26, 1888–1894), who is buried in Richardson Cemetery off North Fork Road.

James Emmett Hylton (1890–1967), who married Pearlie May Ingram, daughter of William Green Ingram and Martha Frances Wood Ingram.

David Moses Hylton (1892–1961), who married Mamie Frances Rorrer, daughter of William Elkanah "Cain" Rorrer and Laura Belle Cruise Rorrer.

Lala Sallie Hylton (1898–1999), who married William Lee Koger, son of William Lee Koger Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Ingram Koger.

Thomas Greeley Hylton (1899–1988), who married Martha Ellen Hylton, daughter of George Washington Hylton and Caroline Texas Harris Hylton.

While raising her own family, Sallie also became one of the area's trusted mountain midwives. According to her notebook, she delivered her first recorded baby when she was fifty years old and continued serving families until she was seventy-four.

Imagine the confidence and composure it must have taken to travel mountain roads—often at night and in all kinds of weather—to assist mothers during childbirth. Sallie even delivered at least five of her own grandchildren, a responsibility that surely required nerves of steel.

Many of the babies she welcomed into the world lived long and fulfilling lives. One became a founding member of the famous Wood Brothers Racing Team, and several are still living today.

Fortunately for us, Sallie carefully preserved their names in her notebook.

Babies Delivered by Sallie Elizabeth Craig Hylton

Gladys Myrtle Cockram — October 18, 1918
Ruby Cordelia Pendleton — April 19, 1921
Nannie Elva Cockram — September 8, 1921
Waitman Jessie Pendleton — November 18, 1921
Greely Oscar Hylton — December 29, 1921 (grandson)
Elsie Ruth Belcher — April 13, 1922
Velda Sarah Jane Cockram — November 3, 1922
Lois Harbour — January 10, 1923
George Willis Harbour — August 1, 1923
Nannie Garnet Pendleton — August 21, 1923
Leonard Marvin Hylton — December 16, 1923 (grandson)
Herbert Cecil Hylton — February 28, 1924
Clyde Rorrer — March 1, 1924
James Early Harbour — May 6, 1924
Mabel Elizabeth Pendleton — July 7, 1924
Infant of Sam & Ollie Martin — September 3, 1924
Pauline Eva Hopkins — November 21, 1924
Vada Gladys Haden — February 10, 1925
Lelia Carlene Cockram — February 11, 1925
Dorath Lily Harbour — April 18, 1925
James Allen Hopkins — June 22, 1925
Glenn Alexandria Wood — July 18, 1925
Effie Gene DeHart — October 25, 1925
Charlie Clay Pendleton — December 11, 1925
Gertice Bula Harbour — February 2, 1926
Villa Gay Harbour — February 2, 1926
Nannie Ruth Conner — October 4, 1926
Mildred Elizabeth Hylton — October 17, 1926 (granddaughter)
Wilbert Green Dillon — November 6, 1926
Doris Alice Hopkins — January 14, 1927
Hoy Calvin Haden — January 25, 1927
Marcilla Walker — April 4, 1927
Merton E. Griffith — May 27, 1927
Dorathy Lilian Hopkins — June 3, 1927
Virginia Laura Hopkins — September 5, 1927
Goldie Clemon Pendleton — November 4, 1927
Clara Ella Harbour — October 31, 1927
Infant of Sam Martin — December 2, 1927
James Otis Wood — December 31, 1927
Charlie Coy Harbour — January 1, 1928
Jewel Harrison Cockram — February 17, 1928
Evelyn Christine Hubbard — July 5, 1928
Jewell Della Dillon — September 10, 1928
Vera Etta Pendleton — December 21, 1928
Infant of Ira Conner — December 25, 1928
Callie Helen Hubbard — December 11, 1929
Frank Elijah Wood — December 25, 1929
Paul Robert Hylton — February 25, 1930
George Wesley Harbour — March 7, 1930
Kenneth Moir Pendleton — May 8, 1931
Frank Barnard Hylton — July 18, 1931 (grandson)
John Sherman Wood — October 18, 1932
James Greeley Hylton — December 6, 1932 (grandson)
Joseph Calvin Cockram — December 31, 1932
Virginia Marie Hylton — February 21, 1933
Garland Green Pendleton — November 13, 1933
Betty Lou Wood — February 23, 1934
James Alford Hubbard — April 27, 1934
Thelma Pauline Martin — August 7, 1934
Wilford Lewis Prillaman — January 25, 1935
John Marvin Hubbard — December 26, 1935
Melvin Lee Pendleton — April 23, 1936
Russel Lois Wood — June 17, 1936
Francis Cordelia Pendleton — February 23, 1938
Dora Lue Harbour — June 28, 1938
Delora Gay Hubbard — August 11, 1938
Chester Lee Pendleton — November 23, 1938
David Melvin Pendleton — August 1, 1939
Dovie Ann Hylton — December 28, 1939
Helen Alpha Harbour — May 9, 1940
Lorna Jane Hylton — August 27, 1942



William Moses Hylton and Sallie Elizabeth Craig Hylton, courtesy of the late Kenneth Harbour

William Moses Hylton passed away on February 4, 1933. Sallie lived another thirty-one years, passing away on November 29, 1964, at the remarkable age of ninety-six.

She spent her life as a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, widow, and mountain midwife. Long before delivering babies in hospitals became commonplace, families relied upon women like Grannie Sara during some of life's most joyful—and sometimes most difficult—moments.

Today, her carefully kept notebook preserves more than names and dates. It preserves the legacy of a remarkable woman whose steady hands and compassionate heart welcomed generations of Patrick County children into the world.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, Woody may be reached 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 – Should I Claim Spouse Benefits Now, or my Own SS Benefit?

Dear Rusty: I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits. I am a 64-year-old female, and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits. *Signed: Wondering Spouse*

Dear Wondering: If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced. And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse. If you claim at any time before your SS full retirement age (FRA) of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early. All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.

Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount. Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit, or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.

Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to consider are these:

• Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is $24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of $1 for every $2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly). If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.

• Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes (provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less). Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.

• What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy (average is about 87 for a woman your current age), then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.

So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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).

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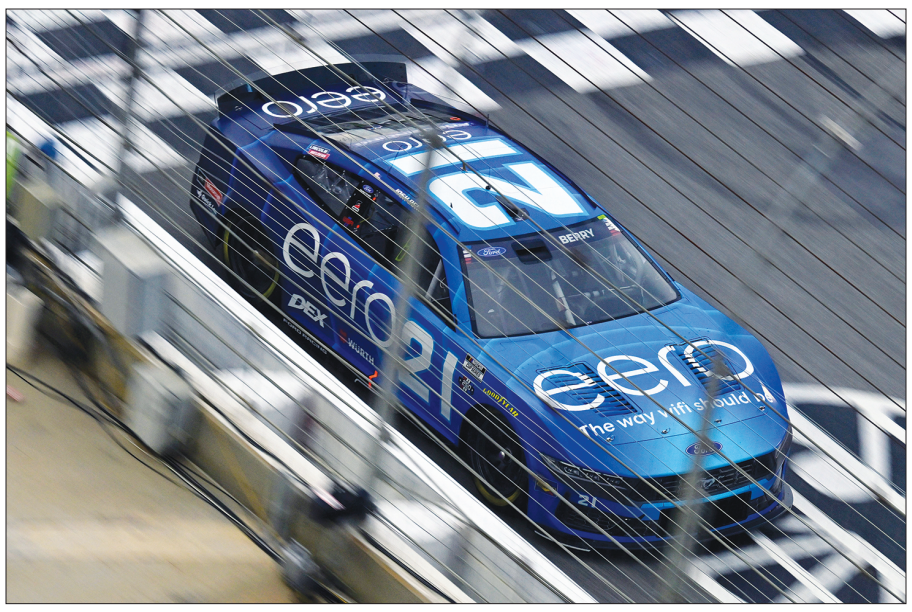
Race Report: EchoPark Speedway



By Wood Brothers Racing

Josh Berry and the No. 21 eero team battled through a marathon Quaker State 400 at EchoPark Speedway before ultimately coming home with a 25th-place finish in a race that stretched into the early hours of Monday morning.

After weather delayed the event for more than three hours, the 260-lap race didn't conclude until well after midnight. Berry took the green flag from the 17th starting position and steadily worked his way through the field during the opening 60-lap Stage, remaining inside the top 25 throughout and finishing the segment in 20th.

Following a four-tire pit stop, Berry continued to run inside the top 20 for much of Stage 2 before lightning and heavy rain brought out a red flag on Lap 108. At the time of the stoppage, he was scored 22nd.

When racing resumed after a three-hour, nine-minute delay, the No. 21 team pitted one lap later than much of the field before restarting 28th. As the stage progressed, the handling shifted away from the eero Ford Mustang Dark Horse, and Berry finished Stage 2 in 28th.

Berry worked his way into the top 15 during the opening laps of the final stage, reaching 13th before a caution on Lap 195 for AJ Allmendinger's spin brought the field to pit road. Confusion during the pit stop cost Berry several positions, leaving him to restart deeper in the field. Despite continuing to battle over the closing laps, he was unable to regain the lost track position and crossed the finish line in 25th.

Next up for Berry and the Wood Brothers Racing team is historic North Wilkesboro Speedway for Sunday night's Window World 450, the first points-paying NASCAR Cup Series race at the short track since 1996.

Stone wins 2026 Kids Color PPG Contest



By Wood Brothers Racing

Wood Brothers Racing and PPG recently announced that 11-year-old Lucas Stone of Bassett, was selected as the winner of the 2026 Kids Color PPG program. Stone's winning design will be featured on the No. 21 PPG team's pit wall banner during the Brickyard 400 presented by PPG at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on July 26.

Josh Berry, driver of the No. 21 PPG Ford Mustang Dark Horse, selected the winning artwork from entries submitted by a talented group of young race fans from across the country.

"We saw a lot of creative designs, and it was really fun to go through all of them," Berry said. "Lucas did an awesome job bringing this year's 'America's Birthday Celebration' theme to life. It has a lot of great color and creativity, and I'm looking forward to seeing it on pit road in a few weeks at Indianapolis."

Stone's winning artwork celebrates America's 250th birthday through a vibrant patriotic design featuring bold red, white and blue elements that capture the spirit of the historic milestone. His artwork will be transformed into a full-size pit wall banner that will be displayed throughout the 400-mile race before being signed by the No. 21 team and given to Stone following the event.

The 2026 edition marks the second year of the Kids Color PPG program with Wood Brothers Racing, continuing a tradition of celebrating creativity and inspiring the next generation of race fans. Prior to expanding to the No. 21 team in 2025, the program featured fellow PPG-sponsored driver Josef Newgarden, with winning artwork showcased on a variety of items over the years, including a helmet, fire suit and pit wall banner.

"We're proud to continue the Kids Color PPG program and celebrate the creativity of young race fans through this special initiative," said Trish Allen, strategic relationships manager, PPG. "Lucas created a wonderful design that perfectly captures this year's theme, and we're excited to showcase his artwork at the Racing Capital of the World."

The Brickyard 400 presented by PPG is scheduled for Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m. ET with live television coverage on TNT.

Folk Americana band featured at Blue Ridge Music Center



TopHouse



PigPen Theatre Co

The Blue Ridge Music Center will host TopHouse and PigPen Theatre Co. at 7 p.m., Sat., July 18, in the venue's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This year's Deep Roots, Many Voices concert series marks the 25th anniversary of live shows at the Music Center.

TopHouse is a Montana-raised Americana/folk band, currently located in Nashville, made up of Jesse Davis, Joe Larson, Will Cook, and Andy LaFave. With fast-paced, high-energy foot stompers along with ballads that'll make you cry, it's kind of like a rock band married old-fashioned bluegrass and had a little baby they named TopHouse.

The band began as a duo in 2015 when guitarist/songwriter Jesse Davis and violinist William Cook realized they loved playing music together. The addition of singer, songwriter, and guitar/banjo player Joseph Larson helped vault TopHouse to local fame, with The Missoulian naming TopHouse one of the top 5 best new bands in 2016.

The band moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 2019 where they wrote, recorded, and released their second album, Snapshot, and were invited to be the house band for Tennessee Brew Works in 2021. Pianist Andy LaFave joined the band in 2022, rounding out the band's sound. They are currently working on their newest music release.

Opening the show is PigPen Theatre Co. This band of storytellers began creating their unique brand of theatre, music, and film in 2007. They have since performed, produced, and licensed their original plays in New York and all over the world.

PigPen's debut album, Bremen, was named #10 album of the year in The Huffington Post's 2012 Grammy preview, sending PigPen on tour playing to sold-out crowds across the country. In 2015, they performed at Mumford & Sons' Gentlemen of the Road Festival and made their feature film debut in "Ricki and the Flash" starring Meryl Streep. Following numerous regional theatre premieres for their original stage musicals and a three-year residency at New York's Little Island, PigPen created the music and lyrics for the 2024 Tony-nominated Broadway musical, Water for Elephants, which is now touring nationally.

Concerts are held rain or shine. The Music Center is accessible to people with disabilities and offers assistive listening devices for use during concerts. Food will be available for purchase during the concert from The Bluffs Restaurant. Concertgoers are welcome to bring picnics. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

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My Patriot Ancestor

Editor's Note: The Enterprise is pleased to partner with the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to present My Patriot Ancestor, an ongoing series highlighting Revolutionary War patriots through the stories of local DAR members and their families.

By Ann Robertson McConnell

Soon after I retired, my cousin introduced me to genealogy. It was through researching and discovering who my ancestors were that I learned I was a direct lineal descendant of a soldier who fought in the American Revolution. My patriot ancestor is Daniel Givens. In 2017 I joined the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Daniel Givens was born c1745 in Virginia. His family settled in an area called Meadow Creek, not far from Sinking Creek, near New Castle, VA. Daniel's parents are believed to have come from County Antrim in Northern Ireland. He married Martha Camden in 1764 and they had at least eight children. They farmed their land in what is now Craig County. Givens died in March 1823.

In May 1780, Daniel Givens, serving in the Southern Carolina Campaign before the Battle of King's Mountain, fought in a contingent of the patriot forces that operated in the York County, SC area. At that time the British captured the only significant American army in the South at Charleston, South Carolina. In June that year, Patriots were compelled to either take an oath of loyalty to the king or be regarded as "rebels and enemies of their country." In the backcountry of South Carolina the Patriots selected their own leaders to continue to fight against the Tory militia. In early July, Christian Huck, a Philadelphia lawyer and captain in Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton's British Legion, was ordered to find rebel leaders and persuade other area residents to swear allegiance to the king. Huck held a great deal of bitterness toward the patriots. Huck's troops burned homes and tortured women and children and threatened prison and death to any who dared resist the British. This simply encouraged more men to join the rebels, who were organizing a militia brigade under Brigadier General Thomas Sumter. With the help of a partisan leader's younger sister and a neighbor's enslaved man providing vital information about the Tory army, the loosely organized Patriot forces swarmed after Huck. About 150 arrived in the vicinity of a plantation in Chester County where Huck's troops had encamped for the night. Huck's security was extremely lax and shortly after sunrise, at least two groups of Patriot groups managed to attack simultaneously. The British and Loyalist troops were caught completely by surprise; many were still asleep. Huck was shot and killed as he mounted his horse to rally his troops. Tory losses were very high…only 24 men escaped. Patriot losses were one killed and one wounded.

Although the numbers engaged were small, the importance of the skirmish was immediately clear. Volunteers streamed in to join the partisan militia of General Sumter. Huck's defeat has been called a major turning point in the American Revolution in South Carolina.

Information for this article is from Wikipedia and the personal records of the author.

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. NSDAR is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. Help researching and proving your lineage can be provided by the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter by contacting Ann Robertson McConnell at nammcconnell@yahoo.com.

Letters to the Editor

(cont. from page 4)

about not being in SWVA much, mostly sends his aids to take meetings with the people. No town halls to speak of hereabouts. In this far corner of SWVA he is known as "missing Morgan" and elusive as the Woodbooger.

The thing is we have found who Missing Morgan hangs out with. He goes to many meetings and caucuses where the ultra rich and powerful are. He even founded the Wales Caucus. He doesn't have time to work for rural SWVA. Example: National Parks stripped of funds and many workers. The Blue Ridge Parkway is neglected and tourism trade that localities like Meadows of Dan depend on has dropped off. He shows no concern, voted for the bad budget bill.

He confidently votes against the release of the Epstein files where Trump is mentioned more times than Jesus in the New Testament. Attorney General Bondi said the release [meaning the full and unredacted release] would bring the system down. He votes for the SAVE ACT that could disenfranchise up to 69 million – primarily married women who have changed their name after marriage. `

Morgan thinks he can win votes by fear mongering like Joe McCarthy. No doubt he will back Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson who is calling for cuts to Social Security, more cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Johnson said the cuts are a must because that makes up the biggest part of the budget and goes out automatically. Those cuts would cripple SWVA. Scare tactics and no work to proudly show. Missing Morgan.

Gerry Scardo,
Clintwood, VA

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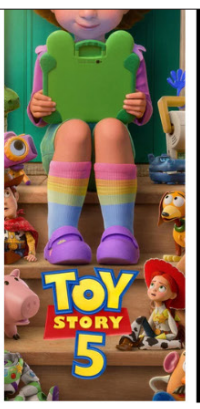

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OBITUARIES

Jane Johnson Ford

Jane Johnson Ford, aged 101, long-time resident of Stuart, Virginia and recent resident of Brandermill Woods in Chesterfield, Virginia, passed away peacefully on July 5, 2026.Born in Radford, VA, Jane was the beloved daughter of Guy and Caroline Johnson. She grew up in Stuart, Virginia and earned a bachelor's degree from Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia. After graduation she began a career as a teacher at Stuart Elementary School, and later at Patrick County High School, where she influenced the lives of many students.

Jane was a devoted mother to her three children: Janie, Anne, and Howard Jr. She was also a cherished grandmother to Catherine, Ashley, and Demetria. She will be remembered for so many things, including her gracious Southern manners, her kindness, her practical view of life, her life-long sense of fashion, and love of a good card game.

Jane is survived by daughter Janie Richardson and her husband, Walker; daughter Anne Ayers and her husband, Rob; son Howard T. Smith, Jr. and his wife, Lori Forcucci; granddaughters Catherine Pennino and her husband, Michael Blair; Ashley Pennino and her husband, James McGuire; and Demetria Smith. She was also preceded in death by her infant daughter, Caroline Smith.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Stefania Johnson, former social worker at Brandermill Woods Assisted Living and Health Care, who became a treasured friend to Jane and provided exceptional care and support. The family also wishes to thank the entire staff at Brandermill Woods for the compassionate care and support they provided to Jane during her time there.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her memory to Patrick County High School Class of '75 Scholarship Fund, c/o Rickie Fulcher, 590 American Legion Rd, Stuart, VA 24171.

Jane's warmth, grace, and unwavering love will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

Robert Gwynn "John Henry" Hill



Mr. Robert Gwynn "John Henry" Hill, of Stuart Virginia, passed Thursday, July 9, 2026 at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was born in Patrick County, Virginia on February 23, 1939 to the late Samuel Jackson Hill and Kate Joyce Hill. In addition to his parents, Mr. Hill was preceded in death by his loving wife, Annie Sue Hill, a daughter, Annette H. Penn; daughter in law Sellinah Hill, three brothers, James "Bro" Hill, Dillard (Mozelle) Hughes Hill, and Ralph Hill, and five sisters, Thursa Hill, Thelma (King) Hylton, Hazel (Chalk) Corbett, Constance "Eldean" (Willie) Clark, and Carrie W. (Ralph) Tatum, and his extended family which includes Samuel Joyce, Olya Joyce, and Brenda Joyce.

Robert was known by many nicknames, including John Henry, Big Papa, Papa Hill, and Big John. Everyone who loved and adored him had a special name for him, and he treated everyone he encountered with kindness and respect. For over 30 years, Robert worked at East Hampton Rubberthread in the textile department. He was also a member of Hylton Thessolonia Primitive Baptist Church. Robert Hill was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. If you knew "Big John," you were aware of his passions: he had a deep love for NASCAR and Richard Petty, the Atlanta Braves and Chipper Jones, classic westerns like "Rifleman," and game shows such as "Wheel of Fortune" and "Family Feud" with Steve Harvey. He enjoyed spending his time outdoors, whether it was in his garden, riding his tractor, or sitting on the porch.

Mr. Hill is survived by his four children, Wayne (Bessie) Hill, James Robert Hill of Stuart, Virginia, Mary (Daryl) Smith of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Corretta H. Anthony of Stuart, Virginia; two son in laws, Ricky Penn of Patrick Springs, Virginia and Ray Anthony of Stuart, Virginia; one sister in law Lucille Hill of Martinsville, VA; eleven grandchildren, James Hylton, Brad Penn, Shuana Penn, Adrian Penn, Khyva Burgess, Sandile Hill, MaSwazi Gause, Daryl Smith Jr., Marquetta Reid, Erika Anthony, and Denzel Anthony; fifteen great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; his extended family Helina Sammons of Washington D.C., and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Funeral Service for Mr. Hill will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. with Reverend Benjamin Redd officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Clyde James Holland



Clyde James Holland, 92, of Ridgeway, Va. passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at his home. He was born in Bluff, North Carolina on August 7, 1933, the son of the late John Spencer Holland and Maggie Parker Holland.

He was a member of Horsepasture Christian Church, where he served for a number of years as Trustee, Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 65 years, Shirley Bralley Holland, and his four siblings: Russell, Ranie Holland Vartenisian (George), Alva (Janet) and Kay Higgins (Gene).

Clyde was a member of the last graduating class from Spencer Penn High School in 1952, and while there was an all-star member of Spencer Penn's Championship basketball team, where Clyde "Hook" Holland was named Henry County's outstanding offensive player.

After graduation, Clyde served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict as a teletype operator with the 59th Signal Corps. On his first furlough, Clyde married Shirley, before being deployed to the Marshall Islands, where he participated in "Operation Redwings," the Army's Nuclear testing program.

While Clyde was a retired rural mail carrier from the U.S. Postal Service and also a retired carpenter from Anthony Brothers Construction, he never really retired from his third occupation, farming. Clyde loved his draft horses, Molly and Polly, but he had a special affection for Ford Tractors "because Ford Tractors got me out from behind the horses," he was fond of saying.

Clyde had an incredible memory for names and faces and his affection for his many friends was genuine. Left to cherish his memories are

his son, Darryl (Lillian), daughter Vickie Collins (Odell) and youngest son, Larry Holland with whom Clyde shared his home. Clyde was also a wonderful "PAPA" to his grandson, Logan Collins (Kristin) and to his great grandson, Cooper Holland Collins. Four other honorary grandchildren who were equally loved were the Thompsons, Sadie, Hope, Jay and Ruth, who brought much job and happiness to PAPA Clyde in his later years. And of course, he is survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members who he loved and who will miss him dearly.

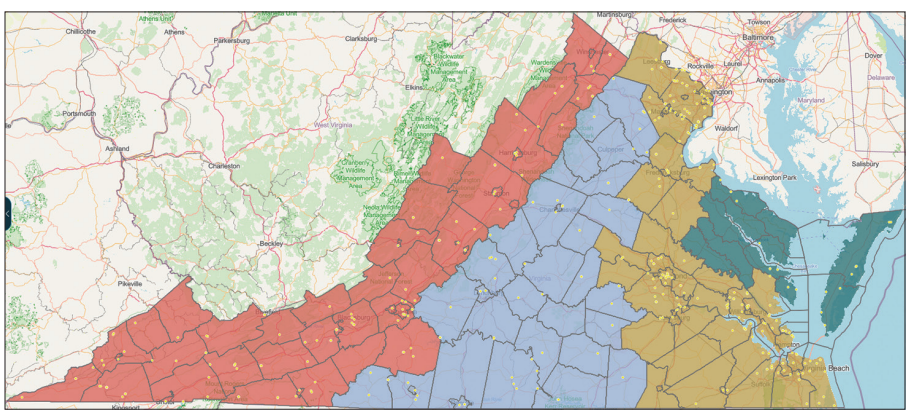
The family would like to extend its gratitude to caregivers Hannah Thompson and Shirley Belton, and to Mountain Valley Hospice for the attention to PAPA during these last tiring months, and to Dr. Ben Lewis for his professional counsel and support.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Horsepasture Christian Church. The funeral was held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at Horsepasture Christian Church and was officiated by Senior Minister Kyle Thompson. Interment followed in the Church Cemetery.

Pall Bearers were Tyler Brinegar, Danny Cline, Barry Cox, Mike Cox, Logan Collins, Richard Gearhart, Jonathan Haga, Thomas Hensley, Bailey Stanley and Mark Stegall.

Memorials may be made to Horsepasture Christian Church Missions, 1146 Horsepasture Price Road, Ridgeway, Va. 24148.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. served the family. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.



Virginia Outdoors Plan map showing Land and Water Conservation Projects in Virginia.] [alt:Map of Virginia divided into four regions with yellow points marking locations.

Land, water conservation grant round announced

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is now accepting grant applications for parks and outdoor recreation projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program, or LWCF, is a 50-50% matching reimbursement program for acquiring, developing and rehabilitating park areas. A total of $11 million is available.

The minimum grant award will be $150,000 with a total project cost of $300,000. The maximum grant award amount is $2.5 million with a maximum total project cost of $5 million.

Since 1965, nearly $135 million has been invested in more than 430 projects in Virginia, such as new public parks and improved amenities. All projects must be maintained and kept open as public outdoor recreation areas in perpetuity.

According to the Virginia Outdoors Survey, most Virginians (82%) place a high value on access to outdoor recreation. The most needed outdoor recreation opportunities are natural areas, trails and parks.

Eligible applicants include state agencies, cities, counties, park authorities and federally or state-recognized Indian tribes. Recipients must be able to fund 100% of their project while seeking periodic reimbursements.

Potential applicants can learn more about this funding opportunity and how to navigate the requirements by viewing the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Visit Section 4, which includes an interactive map of recreation resources supported through LWCF across Virginia, at: https://vop-vdcr.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grants-page.

A virtual workshop for potential applicants is planned for Tuesday, July 14 from 2-3:30 p.m. Information about the workshop, an updated program manual, application materials and applicant resources is at https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/lwcf.

The deadline for submitting applications is Aug. 27 by 4 p.m. Applications must be emailed to recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.

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The Jewish-Christian Connection

By Van Yandell

Zechariah 2: 8 "For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye."

For centuries the Jewish nation has been criticized, hated and many murdered by the misinformed. To base an opinion of a culture, nation or religion on generational thinking rather than truth and fact is unwarranted and unjustified.

Results of those misunderstandings have been catastrophic. The support of Israel against their 4000 year old enemy is imperative for Judeo-Christians.

Thousands of deaths on both sides of the conflict have been cataclysmic. Cultures, in many cases, do not coexist in harmony. Tolerance and a "live and let live" philosophy do not appear to be possible.

Dating back to Sarah (wife of Abraham) and Hagar (servant of Sarah) the disdain (Genesis 21:8-14) between the two factions has never ended.

While America was not founded based on Judaism, the foundation of the Christian faith is based on the Old Testament teachings.

One of the American founding fathers admonitions to future generations was a high regard for rights and particularly, the rights of others. One of those basic rights was freedom of religion.

America has many freedoms including freedom from oppression. Christianity through the concepts passed to us by the Jewish nation gives Christians freedom from the bondage of sin.

The first pioneers/settlers on the shores of the western hemisphere were Christian and their religion was Christianity. To be hated or intimidated by another belief is not freedom.

To allow the infiltration of the new country by other religions was essential but problems have been spawned. Over the years those problems have escalated and a solution for coexistence is doubtful.

Jews first arrived in New Amsterdam (now New York City) from Brazil in 1654. The inquisition in Brazil was by the Portuguese, refusing to accept religious tolerance.

Over 600 Jews fled Brazil. Many went back to Europe but twenty-three went to the new world; now America.

The influence those Jews had on the settling of the new world was mostly positive. They assimilated into the population and very little, if any, conflict existed between them and the Christians.

As we consider the history and expansion of the Jewish people throughout the world (Ezekiel 36: 19), we must realize their influence on the rest of us is immeasurable.

Our history has a connection to Jerusalem more than any European city or country. Our blood came from Europe and other parts of the world but our connection to God came from Israel. When Moses went onto Mt. Saini and brought down the Ten Commandments, the stage was set for the formulation of many of man's laws written yesterday and today.

Those laws (commandments) established by God, connected today's world to the Jews, in a way that can never be severed or disputed.

God established the Jewish nation and their land around 4000 years ago. Their purpose was to provide the world with a Savior (Isaiah 49: 6).

Savior Jesus came nearly 2000 years ago to make eternal salvation a result of a faith based belief in Him. John 3: 16 states "whosoever believes in Him" will have eternal life. What was a horrifying ordeal for Jesus makes eternity simple for us.

For anyone to discredit the Jewish nation for providing the world with a Savior, a great misunderstanding does exist.

Genesis 12: 2-3 "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

We can see from verse three, to condemn and hate Israel is extremely dangerous. That great blessing noted in verse three was to be Savior Jesus.

The Jews set the concept of the blood sacrifice. The practice of the Jews in Old Testament times was to take an animal to the altar and bleed it. That blood sacrifice was for the atonement of their sin.

Leviticus 17: 11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

This verse also offers a biological fact. Blood is literally alive. To analyze the implications of our blood by its characteristics and abilities would fill volumes. Our blood furnishes oxygen and nourishment to all of the thirty-trillion cells in our bodies, one atom at a time.

The shedding of blood and that being associated with death signifies the salvation connection with Jesus' death on the cross.

Hebrews 9: 22b "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." The writer of Hebrews was explaining the Old Testament-New Testament connection.

That practice was followed for 1500 years before Christ was born. He became the blood sacrifice for the sin of the world.

When examined in detail, we see how the world is connected to the Hebrew people. Sad to say, billions do not realize this and the hatred of that people will continue.

One of our greatest enemies is misunderstanding. As long as misinformation is passed from generation to generation, the lies and deceptions will continue. Read and study the Bible for yourself.

John 1: 17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" Jesus gave us eternal salvation by grace and mercy by being a believer-follower of Christ Jesus, crucified and resurrected.

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 Mark (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? *Back, Stomach, Head, Legs*

3. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? *3, 40, 100, 346*



4. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? *Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul*

5. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as "blessing"? *Berakah, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket*

6. How old was Abraham when he died? *75, 175, 202, 256*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stomach, 3) 40, 4) Philip, 5) Berakah, 6) 175

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ACROSS
1 Reserves of stock
9 Person applying a mail stick-on
16 Understands
20 Actress Palicki of "Friday Night Lights"
21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher
22 Out of the wind, nautically
23 Start of a riddle
25 Watson of "Little Women"
26 Was bested
27 Rug threads
28 Emo of zany comedy
30 Crafty plans
34 Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"
35 Have in mind
36 King, in Paris
37 Riddle, part 2
41 Unhappy
44 Almonds, e.g.
45 See 63-Across
46 Jamaican music genre
47 Alpine climber's tool
49 Extra NFL periods
51 Actress Long of "Missing"
53 Nobelist Bohr
54 Riddle, part 3
60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)
61 Check casher, e.g.
62 Pre-2001 space station
63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest
67 Lacking living organisms
69 Shampoo brand
71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)
73 Some till bills
74 Helium, e.g.
76 Dot in the ocean
78 Fife sound
79 Riddle, part 4
82 Pong producer
86 Tart's cousin
87 Capote, to his pals
88 "The First 48" network
89 Ricky Martin's old boy band
91 "Sir," in colonial India
95 "Hey there, tiger!"
97 Wee child
98 End of the riddle
102 Yoga chants
103 Loosen up
104 Tolkien trilogy initials
105 To some degree
109 Popular rum brand
111 Swindling guy
113 Really ruin
114 Scraped (out)
115 Riddle's answer
120 Give for a while
121 Determines the sum of
122 Thief's activity
123 Uno + dos
124 Some tax cheats
125 Lays out for proofing

DOWN
1 Cries loudly
2 Like a one-off committee
3 Fail suddenly
4 Purring baby
5 Precept
6 "Warzone" singer Yoko
7 Wildebeest
8 Narcissist's love
9 People crying loudly
10 Maple fluid
11 Greed for wealth
12 Russian-built fighter jets
13 Arafat's gp., once
14 Formed a secret union?
15 Ginger's trait
16 Scottish Celt
17 Suburb of Phoenix
18 Pertaining to time
19 Ocean coasts
24 "White Flag" singer of 2003
29 Have in mind
31 Tailless feline breed
32 Aussie bird
33 New Jersey's — Hall University
35 Smaller than large
38 Lens aperture setting
39 Russo of "The Intern"
40 Hi-tech movie effects
41 Hold to one's decision
42 Novelist Chinua
43 Buy and sell
48 Eldest of the Musketeers
50 Suddenly lose patience
52 Warts and all
55 Pal, in Peru
56 Song line
57 Kin of "Oy!"
58 Beautiful, in Bologna
59 Poetic Muse
63 Old Glory's land, informally
64 Really strong
65 City in Spain or Ohio
66 A short round of tennis
68 Al who drew the Yokums
70 For fear that
72 To the extent that
75 Bern's land, to the French
77 Australia Zoo owner Irwin
79 Not as messy
80 Harvest
81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley
82 Bandoleer, informally
83 Drink infusing device
84 Cutoff cry from a film director
85 Long to undo
90 Out with one's sweetie
92 Hint-providing columnist
93 "My thoughts exactly"
94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs
96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.
99 Isaac of sci-fi
100 Actress Drescher
101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps
106 Perez of film
107 Quaint reply of denial
108 Canoodles, in Cambridge
110 Determines the sum of
111 Street rep
112 Hawk's home
116 Plato's "H"
117 Hog's home
118 Vivacity
119 "Little" actress Issa



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Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

Meetings

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

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

Monday, July 20
The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet July 20, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. in the Gerald Baliles & Richard S. Reynolds, Sr. Learning Center. This is a public meeting, but the Board will not receive public comment.

Tuesday, July 21
The Patrick County Planning Commission meeting in July is cancelled.

The Patrick County Department of Social Services Advisory Board will meet at 4 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration building's 3rd floor DSS Conference room.

Events

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.

The Rotary Club of Stuart will host Pints for Patrick County High School Teachers from 6-8 p.m. at Uptown Stagecoach. A $5 donation at the door will go directly toward teacher appreciation effort, raising raise funds for a special appreciation initiative supporting PCHS teachers. Uptown Stagecoach will also donate $1 per pint sold during the event.

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

The Stuart Farmers' Market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with locally grown crops and hand made items. The Rise & Shine Youth Market plans to be on site with a selection of items made by local youth.

Free Community Meal, 4-6 p.m. at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart.

Saturday, July 18
Patrick Springs Christian Church, 23716 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Patrick Springs, will hold a movie night with finger foods at 6 p.m.

New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Road, will hold an outdoor cookout/open jam starting at 5 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Tuesday, July 21
The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5-7 p.m.

Friday, July 24
Friday Morning Market will be open from 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. The Landmark Center will be on site offering free blood pressure checks. The Patrick County Library is hosting a special Storytime reading at 10 am.

Saturday, July 25
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.

Descendants of the Rock Castle community, as well as anyone with an interest in the history of Rock Castle, are invited to attend the annual Rock Castle Reunion beginning at noon in the Meadows of Dan Community Center, 2858 J.E.B. Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan. Attendees are encouraged to bring family photographs, stories, historical artifacts, and a covered dish to share. For additional information, contact Beverly Belcher Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Tuesday, July 28
The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, July 30
Friends of the Moorefield Store Community are hosting a reorganizational meeting for the Virginia-Carolian Ruritan Club at 7 p.m. at Dominion Valley Park. Light refreshments will be served.

Friday, July 21
Friday Morning Market will be open from 8 a.m.- 12 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_FezM1OXKGz-0BqHem1wiWnL_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.

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Super Crossword

Answers

B	A	C	K	L	O	G	S	■	S	T	A	M	P	E	R	■	G	E	T	S
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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REPUBLICAN PARTY
MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 23
6PM

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Stuart, VA 24171

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2ND AMENDMENT
JILL MCDANIEL
Virginia Citizens Defense League

TOPIC: The 2nd Amendment in Virginia
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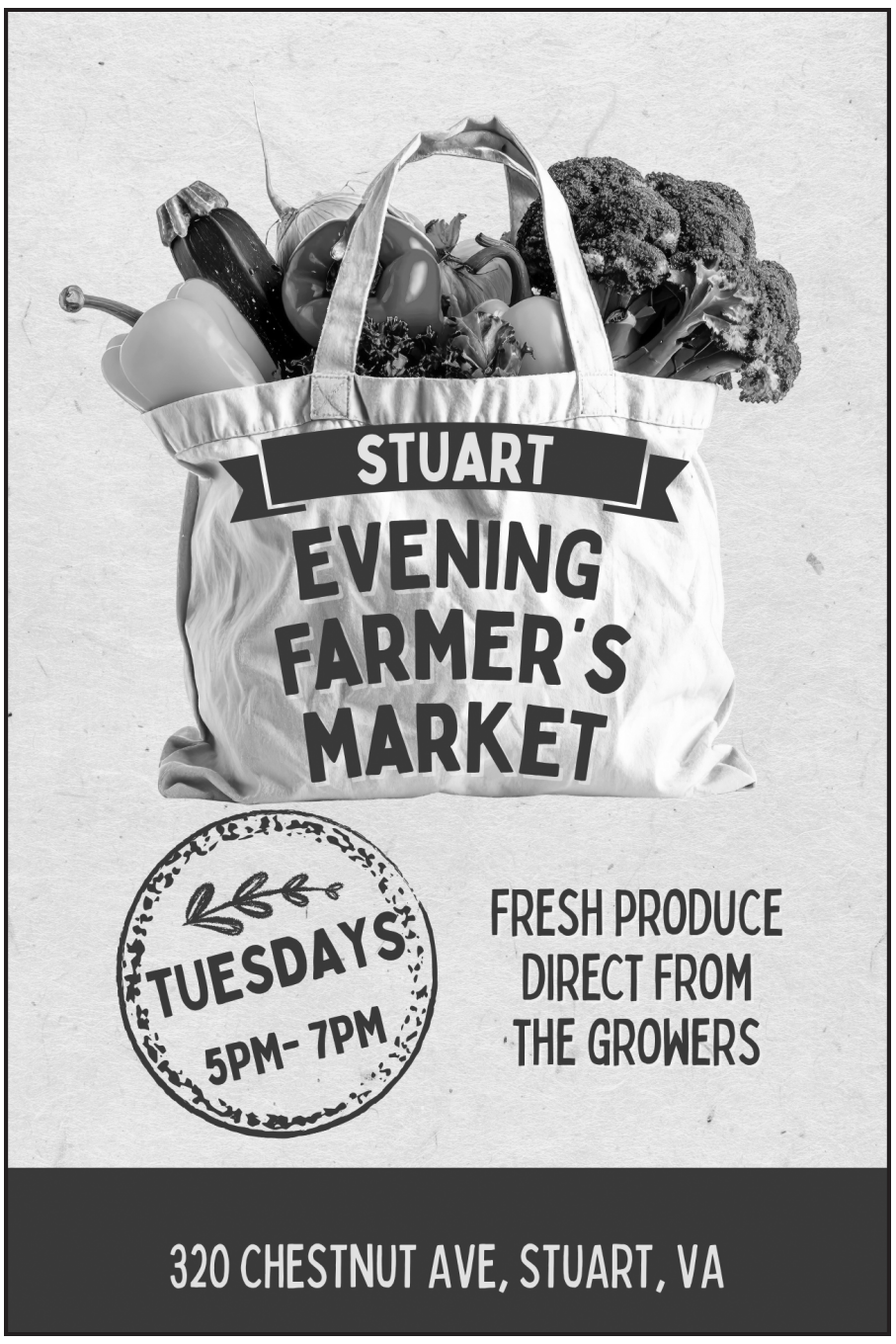

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TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA
Employment Opportunity
Community Coordinator

The Town of Stuart is accepting applications for a full-time, salaried Community Coordinator. The Community Coordinator plans and leads Town community events and special programs; serves as a liaison among Town administration, local businesses, and community organizations; and provides administrative and project support to the Town Manager and Clerk/Treasurer. This is a public-facing position with seasonal peaks in workload, including some evenings and weekends.

Reports to: Town Manager
Starting salary: $49,000 per year, negotiable based on qualifications and experience
Application deadline: 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2026 (firm)
Duties include:

- Plan and coordinate Town sponsored events, including Strawberry Festival and Apple Dumpling Festival. Must communicate logistics with various vendors, partnering organization, and volunteers.
- Maintain the Town website and social media and post public notices and announcements.
- Provide administrative and project support to the Town Manager and Clerk/Treasurer.
- Provide front-line customer service to the public.

Minimum qualifications:

- Associate's degree in business, public administration, communications, marketing, or a related field preferred; an equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered.
- Experience in event planning or coordination and in public-facing customer service.
- Strong organizational and communication skills; proficiency with standard office software; valid Virginia driver's license.

Benefits:
The Town pays 100% of the premium for employee-only health insurance, plus a retirement plan, twelve (12) paid holidays, and paid vacation and sick leave.

To apply:
Submit a completed Town of Stuart employment application, a cover letter, a current resume, and three (3) professional references to information@stuartva.org, or by mail or in person to Town of Stuart, Attn: Town Manager, 100 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171. The full position description and application are available at www.stuartva.org. Questions: (276) 694-3811. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2026.

The Town of Stuart is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Woods

(cont. from page 1)

"I went by the registrar's office earlier this week, got everything I needed to get my signatures and paperwork to run," he said. "I think I have until the middle of next month to get everything back to the registrar's office, so I will be getting out to the community ... and get my name out there and everything."

A graduate of Patrick County High School, Woods has worked at Moody's Funeral Home for 20 years. He previously worked at Lowe's Foods for 10 years, with Regional One EMS and as an emergency medical technician at the local hospital.

He also volunteered with the JEB Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad for 19 years.

In his free time, Woods enjoys watching his daughter play sports, bowling and spending time outdoors.

Chamber, Rotary Club host 'Connecting Communities' event

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Stuart invite residents, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, churches, civic clubs, and community advocates to attend Connecting Communities on Monday, July 27, at 6 p.m. at the Rotary Club of Stuart.

As part of the Rural Assembly Everywhere initiative, Connecting Communities will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in meaningful conversations about strengthening relationships, increasing collaboration, and building a more connected Patrick County.

The event is designed to bring together individuals and organizations that share a common goal of improving the quality of life in the community through service, partnership, and civic engagement. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about ongoing efforts throughout the county, share ideas, identify opportunities for collaboration, and explore ways to address local challenges together.

"Strong communities are built when people come together to share ideas, resources, and a commitment to making a difference," said Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the chamber. "This event is an opportunity to connect with neighbors, organizations, and leaders who are passionate about the future of Patrick County."

Whether representing a business, nonprofit, church, service club, government agency, or simply an interest in the community's future, all are welcome to participate.

For more information, visit www.patrickchamber.com or contact the chamber.

Report shows clean energy cheapest way to meet VA data-center demand

By Suzanne Potter
Virginia News Connection

Demand for energy is soaring because of a surge in data centers, and a new report finds clean energy could meet that load growth more cheaply than fossil fuels.

Researchers at the nonpartisan nonprofit Energy Innovation calculated the cost of building out renewables compared with keeping old coal plants online and building new gas power plants.

Brendan Pierpont, Energy Innovation's director of electricity, said renewables would reduce costs by about 17%.

"The fossil fuel pathway would add around $30 billion per year to overall national electricity costs," Pierpont said. "Doing this with clean energy is about $5 billion cheaper."

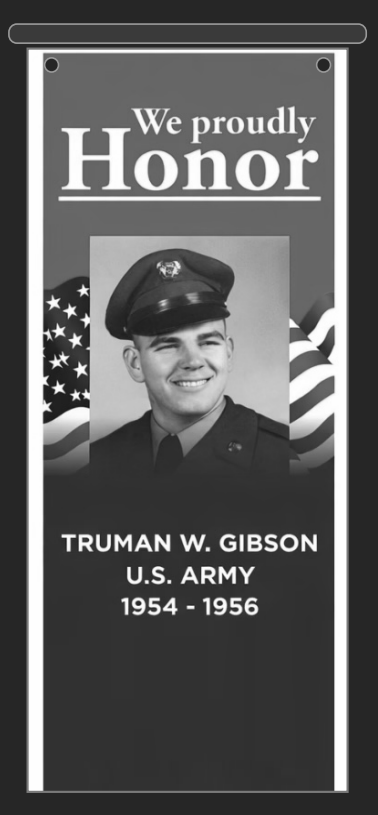
Electricity prices jumped 76% in the first quarter compared with last year, according to an analysis of the mid-Atlantic and Midwest regional grid by an independent monitor.

A Pew Center analysis finds Virginia faces the biggest increase in demand for data centers in the nation, with 398 already built and another 287 planned.

Pierpont urged policymakers to fast-track renewables on the grid.

"That more cost-effective pathway involves building solar energy storage and wind and deploying those quicker, having more efficient local siting and permitting processes," he said.

The Trump administration argues fossil fuels are more reliable and has worked to undermine renewable projects, even paying companies to abandon wind-energy projects.



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Summer reading program features fairy stone hunt



Fairy Stone State Park Volunteer Norma Bozenmayer





Participants in the library's summer reading program "hunted" fairy stones. (Contributed photos)



Fairy Stone State Park Interpretative Ranger Ben Salser

Possessing rare 'fairy stones" is believed to protect from illness and accidents and even to ward off a witches curse.

Participants in the summer reading program at the library were all able to find rough fairy stones in a simulated hunt brought to program by Fairy Stone State Park Interpretative Ranger Ben Salser and Fairy Stone State Park Volunteer Norma Bozenmayer.

Fairy stones are hexagonal (six sided) Staurolite crystals formed from iron, aluminum and silicate. They often intersect and form Roman, Maltese and St. Andrews crosses. The formation of fairy stones require unique heat and pressure during the formation of mountains so are only found in few areas throughout the world. Fairy Stone State Park is one of these unique spots.

Participants in the program also made a fairy stone shape with a pipe cleaner and placed it in a jar with a solution to grow crystals at home.

To learn more about fairy stones or go on a real fairy stone hunt, visit Fairy Stone State Park 967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart.

To learn more about the summer reading program call or visit the library.

Firefighters

(cont. from page 1)

er from the Woolwine and CCDF volunteer fire departments, as well as the North East Stokes and Lawsonville volunteer fire departments in North Carolina.

Weidhaas estimated about 10 firefighters responded from the two North Carolina departments. Stuart sent six firefighters, Patrick Springs nine, Woolwine six and CCDF two.

JEB Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad and Stuart Community Hospital also responded with ambulances to provide rehabilitation for firefighters working in the extreme heat.

"We were probably able to work for 15 to 20 minutes, and then guys were having to switch out because it was so hot," Weidhaas said. "The hot weather is extremely taxing on firefighters during this time period because of all the gear we're wearing. It's just awful."

The fire was confined to the ceiling area of the silo, limiting damage.

"There was no damage to any mechanical equipment, and there was really no damage to the silo," Weidhaas said. "It's made out of steel and concrete, so it's pretty resistant."

Firefighters used the Stuart department's 100-foot aerial ladder to reach the roof, stretched a handline to the top of the silo and sprayed water through roof hatches to extinguish the fire.

"We tapped into the local hydrant system to supply us water," Weidhaas said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Although the region has experienced dry conditions, Weidhaas said he is not concerned about the local water supply.

"The hydrant systems that Patrick Springs and Stuart have are very well shored up by a supply of water," he said. "I am worried about brush fires and how dry it is."



Fire crews switched out personnel after 15 to 20 minutes due to the high summer temperatures.

Patriots remembered at Laurel Hill



The grave and memorial of Revolutionary War patriot William Letcher at Laurel Hill served as the centerpiece of the June 29 America 250 kickoff celebration.



Local historian and author Tom Perry speaks about Revolutionary War-era Patrick County during the June 29 celebration at Laurel Hill.



JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust President Ronnie Haynes, left, is joined by Patrick County Tourism Director James Houchins during the America 250 kickoff event at Laurel Hill.



Chris Corbett, left, coordinated the fireworks display with DJ Lawson and members of the Ararat Volunteer Fire Department during the America 250 kickoff celebration at the JEB Stuart Birthplace at Laurel Hill.

(See Patriots p. 14)

J. E. B. Stuart 1861

By Tom Perry

Finishing our series of stories about James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, we find him in January commanding a company at Fort Wise, Kansas Territory, which is now in eastern Colorado, on the banks of the Arkansas River near the Bent's Fort National Park.

On January 11, 1861, he was back at Fort Riley, near present day Junction City, Kansas. He continued to write, seeking a spot in the Southern Army. Among those were Mississippi Senator Jefferson Davis, future President of the Confederate States of America. He wrote to Lincoln's Attorney General, Edwin Bates, about his promotion and received a response that "officers that flirted with treason would be held accountable."

He wrote his brother, William Alexander, about a cavalry legion from Wythe County, Virginia. "For my part, I have no had no hesitancy from the first that, right or wrong, alone or otherwise, I go with Virginia…every true patriot deplores even the possibility of disunion yet let its blessings not be purchased at too great a price.. Put equality and independence in one scale and Union in the other, and if the latter outweigh the former, I for one would, like Brennus, throw my sabre in the scale consecrated by the principles and blood of our forefathers—our constitutional rights without which the Union is a mere mockery."

Today, some people view Stuart as a traitor, but he viewed Virginia as his country. His mother, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, personally delivered an offer to join Virginia at the State's Adjutant General's Office in Richmond, where she was now living, having sold Laurel Hill in 1859.

In February 1861, he was commanding a company at Fort Wise, where he gave a Washington's Birthday Speech he gave at Fort Wise. "In times like these when the discordant elements of sectional passion and prejudice are spreading revolution broadcast through the land, it is gratifying to know that here we may stand on common ground and indivisible heritage in the memory of Washington… that a nation whose rapid prosperity has been like the eagle's flight is now about to sink to miserable mediocrity, if not annihilation… for the miserable gratification of party pride….a union entered into by voluntary compact can only be perpetuated by voluntary concessions nor once broken can it be restored by bloodshed and violence, peaceful remedies alone can avail… but if such a catastrophe as a civil war must befall us when God in his infinite mercy forbid. Well may the future historian who records the downfall of the American Union drop a tear upon the page and blot it out forever."

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the sixteenth President of the United States. At that time, the November election did not result in an inauguration until March. By that time, seven states had seceded from the Union.

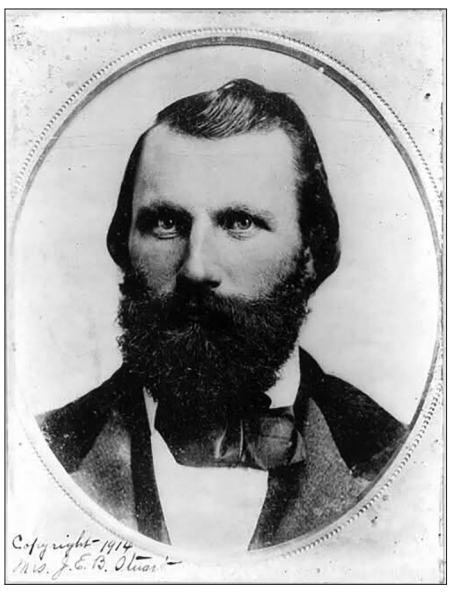
Stuart received 60 days' leave on 2-Feb-1861 and spent three weeks in Saint Louis to see what Virginia would do. Before leaving Fort Riley, he wrote to John O. Steger of Richmond. "I am quietly awaiting Virginia's action. I verily believe that Lincoln is only waiting for our (Virginia's secession) convention to adjourn without action decided, before he begins coercion. Lincoln is only waiting to get firmly seated on his throne…I am afraid Virginia will lose the opportunity to separate in peace and thus be obliged to do it in war….General (Winfield) Scott has expatriated himself and rendered themselves unworthy of their state."

He was thinking of taking revenge on his former commander, Edwin Sumner. 'If we have war, I want to be vis a vis Sumner so as to teach him some cavalry evolutions and take him prisoner. It would be sweet revenge."

On April 17, Virginia seceded and put it to a vote of the people. Samuel G. Staples represented Patrick County in the secession convention. On April 4, he voted against secession, but on April 17, he voted for it and signed the Ordinance of Secession. The people of Patrick County voted 2 to 1 to leave the Union.

On May 3, 1861, James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart was on his way to Virginia. In Cairo, Illinois, he wrote to Virginia Adjutant General Samuel Cooper, resigning his captain's commission in the U. S. Army. "From a sense of duty to my native State Virginia, I hereby resign my position as an officer in the Army of the United States."

Cairo was at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and Stuart was at his Rubicon. "Crossing the Rubicon" is an idiom meaning "passing the point of no return". Its meaning comes from Julius Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon River in January 49 BC at the head of the 13th Legion.



Caesar was not allowed to command an army within Italy proper, and by crossing the river with his forces, he was defying the law and risking his life. The crossing precipitated a civil war.

Others were trying to assist Stuart. Jeb's mother, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, wrote to Robert E. Lee for a position for her son in the Army of the South. On 7-May-1861, Stuart arrived in Wytheville and then went to Richmond to visit his mother. On May 10, 1861, Stuart received a Virginia Infantry command and left for Harper's Ferry to join Thomas Jonathon Jackson. He was not "Stonewall" yet. Stuart said that he would rather be a "private in the Virginia Army than a General in an army to coerce her."

You can visit the website of the J. E. B. Stuart Trust at www.jebstuart.org. Tom Perry can be reached at freestateofpatrick@yahoo.com.

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Patriots

(cont. from page 13)



Members of the Ararat Ruritan Club, Colonel Abram Penn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust serve barbecue, cake and lemonade during the June 29 celebration.



Reenactors in period clothing gather at the William Letcher grave and memorial during the America 250 celebration at Laurel Hill.

By Mary Dellenback Hill

The JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust and Patrick County Tourism kicked off Patrick County's America 250 celebration June 29 at Laurel Hill with an evening honoring Revolutionary War patriot William Letcher through living history demonstrations, music, food, fireworks and a presentation by local historian Tom Perry, a historical author and local author historian of the Letcher, Stuart, and Dellenback families (Charlie Melton Dellenback Sr. saved the grave from being moved in the mid 1950s) of Ararat, Dan River District.

Fireworks Director Chris Corbett of Stuart, with DJ Lawson of the Ararat Volunteer Fire Department, and their helpers, at the JEB Stuart Birthplace, Laurel Hill Park.

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