THE ENTERPRISE

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

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ZiTEL to take over West broadband project

By Taylor Boyd

Internet service provider ZiTEL will now complete the West broadband project covering Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties, replacing RiverStreet Networks, according to a release from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC).

The WPPDC and the three counties requested that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) amend the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant contract in late July. The contract was officially changed in early August.

RiverStreet initially received the VATI 2022 and 2023 funds, as well as Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funding, for the project.

In April 2024, RiverStreet Director of Business Development and Government Affairs Rob Taylor said the company would pass 8,376 locations in Patrick County, with approximately 621 miles of fiber to be installed.

According to the release, RiverStreet was unable to complete the project because it could not secure the remaining necessary funding.

WPPDC Executive Director Michael Armbrester said the organization has full confidence in ZiTEL's ability to move the West broadband project forward and deliver high-quality internet access to communities.

"We sincerely appreciate the patience and un-

(See ZiTEL p. 12)



Floodwaters damaged the Rabbit Ridge Road bridge over the Ararat River earlier this month.

Flooding makes travel difficult in Ararat, Kibler Valley

By Staff Reports

Recovery efforts are underway in the Ararat and Kibler Valley communities as local officials seek donations for volunteers and appeal for people with heavy equipment to help reach several families who remain isolated after recent flooding.

Many of the bridges on side roads in Ararat are impassable, making it difficult for residents to travel.

"If you know the backroads, you can get out, but you have to go out of the way for most," said local resident Tom Perry.

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office said washed-out roads also have left several Kibler Valley families without vehicle access to their homes. Among those stranded are residents with significant medical needs, including a wheelchair user, a stroke survivor, a person with early Alzheimer's disease, a chemotherapy patient and another resident recovering from surgery.

(See Flooding p. 13)



Hope Center Ministries and Disaster Relief Food Ministry volunteers work to paint the interior of the Penny House.

Volunteers give Penny House a much-needed facelift

By Taylor Boyd

Almost 30 years after opening its doors, the Penny House in Patrick Springs is getting a facelift, thanks to volunteers working to give the home a fresh coat of paint and make other needed repairs.

"We've been trying to do this for over a year. It has brightened this place up tremendously and given it a nice new facelift," Lord's Acre Committee President Jane Cardwell said.

The Penny House was established in 1996 by the Lord's Acre Committee, a group of more than a dozen churches, to provide temporary housing for people who lose their homes and belongings to natural disasters such as fires and floods.

Since its opening, more than 100 families have stayed at the Penny House.

People can stay "until their insurance kicks in, they find somewhere they can go, or they can

(See Volunteers p. 14)

Music, memories and mountain traditions highlight Folk Fair

The Meadows of Dan Community Association is inviting everyone to come out for the 22nd Annual Folk Fair — a day filled with music, food, local vendors, old-fashioned traditions and plenty of things to see and do.

On the way in, stop by the Welcome Tent to check out this year's Folk Fair shirts, featuring the event's new little hillbilly mascot.

The day will get started with local group the Greenview Graybacks, headed by Nathan Helms, followed by another local favorite, the Country Boys.

After the music, things will slow down a bit for "Colorful Characters Remembered," a time to listen to — or share — stories about some of the colorful people who have made Meadows of Dan what it is.

Organizers are especially looking forward to hearing stories about local people who have passed away, whether they were longtime friends, neighbors or simply characters who left a lasting impression.

And, of course, come hungry.

Meadows of Dan Elementary School will serve its annual fish fry, while Shan's Concessions will offer a variety of other food options.

Local vendors will also be on hand selling their products, making the Folk Fair a good place to start that Christmas shopping and support local businesses.

Villa Appalachia will be set up beginning at 11 a.m. with its award-winning wines. Visitors can stop by and say hello to Heyward and his crew.

Concord Primitive Baptist Church will hold

(See Music p. 11)

Tri-Area school clinic opens as PCHS students return

By Taylor Boyd

Students at Patrick County High School have a new health care option with Tri-Area Community Health's school-based clinic. Opening of the clinic coincided with the Tuesday, Aug. 11 new school year.

Initially, the clinic will offer students virtual appointments.

Director of School-Based Services Pam Hylton said virtual appointments will be available until nurses and medical providers are trained and in place at the PCHS clinic.

"They would just be able to start using it through the school nurse's office at each school. We have provided each school, including the high school, with a TytoCare device, which is a digital instrument that the school nurse can use for students whose parents have given consent for them to use our Tri-Area services. It's like a regular doctor's appointment, but they use those tools to obtain blood pressure, pulse, they can get the heartbeat, ears, nose, throat exam," she said.

Hylton said the TytoCare device also has a camera that can look inside and take pictures, if needed, of the ears, nose, throat and skin.

While she does not have a definitive date, Hylton estimates in-person services will begin sometime this fall.

Tri-Area currently has five school-based health clinics, with medical providers in place at the other four.

"We'll be scheduling appointments with those school-based providers virtually until our positions are filled," she said.

Tri-Area began offering school-based clinics in the City of Galax before expanding to clinics in Carroll, Grayson and Floyd counties.

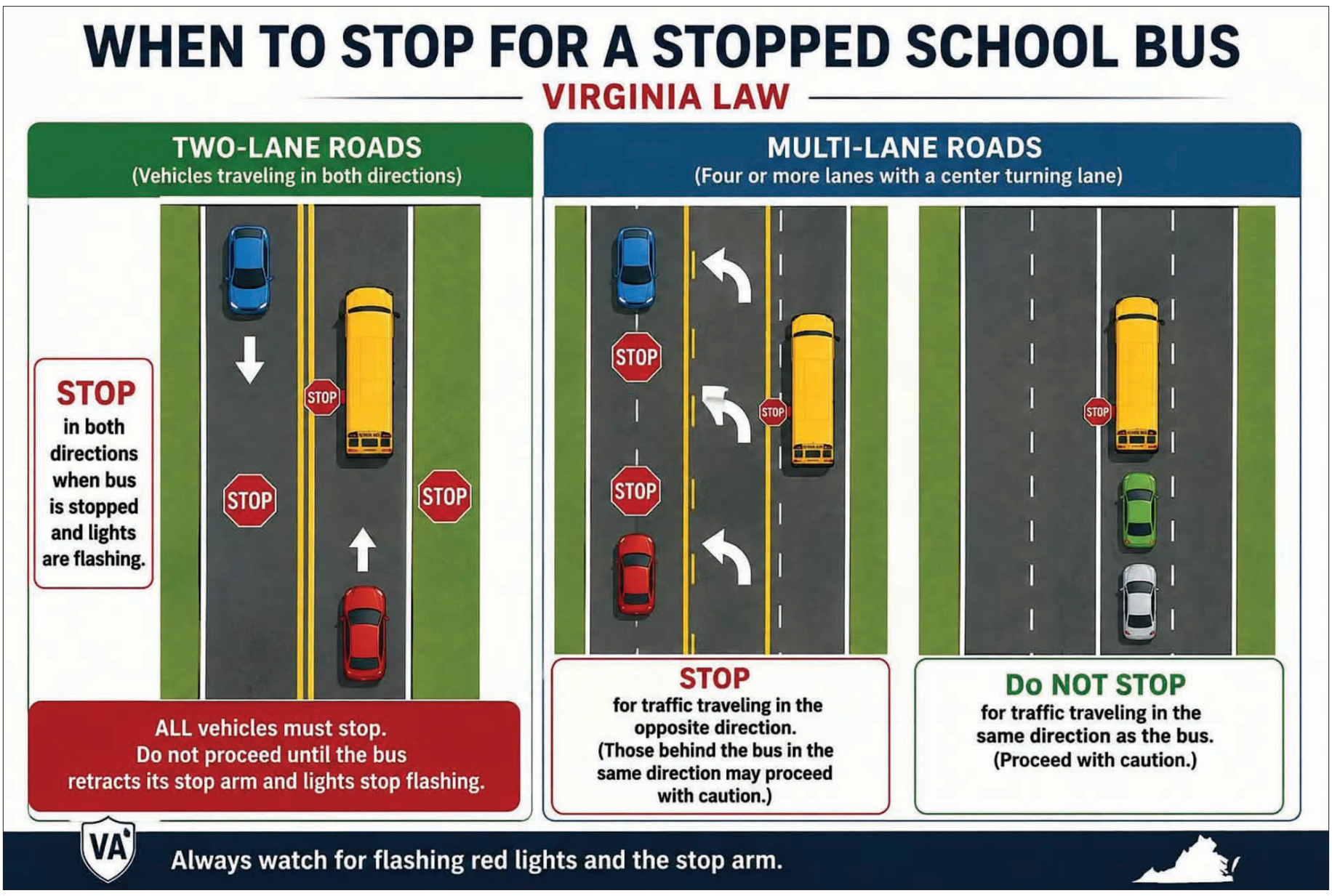
Hylton said Tri-Area decided to open a school-based health clinic in Patrick County after Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood approached the organization's CEO, Dr. James Werth.

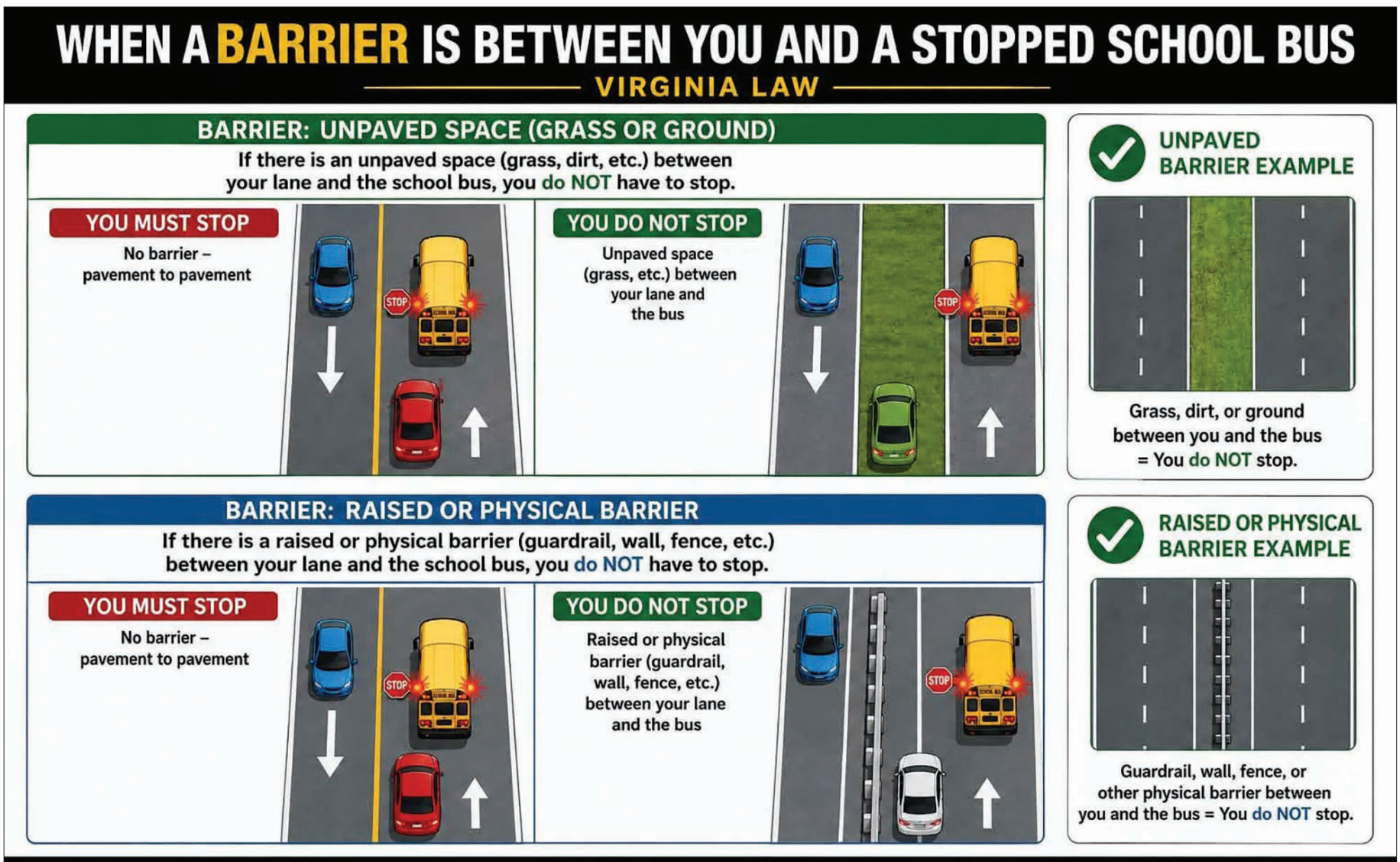
"That was about the time the urgent care closed in town, so there were fewer options for students to get care and for those types of acute conditions and things that arise. We came up with a proposal, and he presented it to the school board and it was approved. We've been working

(See Tri-Area p. 7)



Tri-Area Community Health donated boxes of tissues to Patrick County Public Schools. From left are Angie Tallman, LPC; Patrick County School Board Clerk Sara Leigh Collins; and Tri-Area Director of School-Based Services Pam Hylton.





The Patrick County Sheriff's Office uses these graphics to remind motorists of the proper way to pass a stopped school bus.

Sheriff's Office reminds drivers to watch for students, buses

With the new school year underway, the Patrick County Sheriff's Office is reminding drivers to use extra caution during the morning and afternoon commutes.

Motorists should expect increased traffic around schools, more pedestrians, school buses making frequent stops and children crossing roadways.

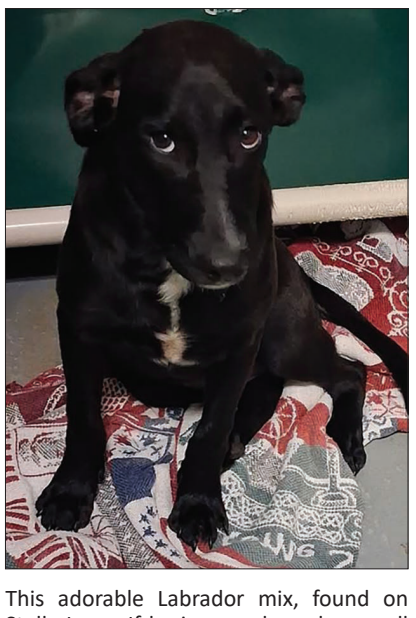
When approaching a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, drivers must stop. Motorists should be especially alert on rural roads and in areas where visibility may be limited.

The sheriff's office also encourages drivers to slow down, stay alert, allow extra time to reach their destinations and avoid distractions.

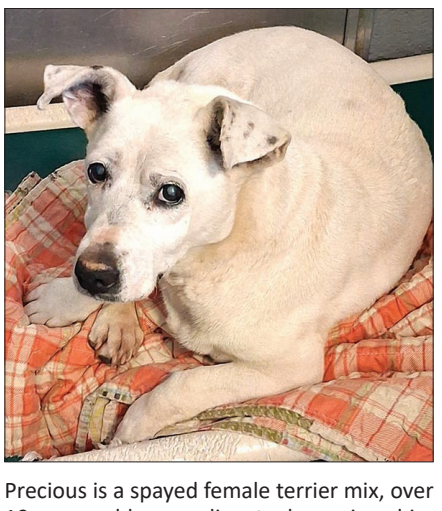
"Let's start the new school year off right and make safety a priority throughout Patrick County," the sheriff's office said. "Please slow down. Stay alert. Watch for buses. Protect our children."

The sheriff's office wishes students, teachers, parents and school staff a safe and successful school year.

Pets of the Week



This adorable Labrador mix, found on Stella Loop. If he is your dog, please call the shelter.



Precious is a spayed female terrier mix, over 10 years old, according to her microchip. She was adopted from the Henry County Martinsville SPCA and her owner information was not kept up to date. Precious was found on Short Cut Drive in Woolwine. If she is your dog, please call the shelter.

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 league's Facebook page for new videos at https://www.facebook.com/blueridgeawl/.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Amanda Dawn Gravely, 43, address unavailable, was charged July 24 with fail to appear. Pulaski County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Mitchell Steve Slate, 51, of Stuart, was charged July 24 with drive while intoxicated. Deputy C. Pilson was the arresting officer.

*Nicole Burks, 31, of Stuart, was charged July 27 with assault. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*William Lee Haynes, 27, of Claudville was charged July 28 with one count each disregard law enforcement command and continue to drive and drive motor vehicle on revoked/sus-

(See Arrests p. 3)

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Community gets look inside Patrick County offices



Community members gather in the hallway of the Veterans Administration Building during a recent community meeting with Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness. Patrick County Tourism provided information and refreshments for visitors.



Lou McGuinness, wife of County Administrator Michael McGuinness, helps with refreshments during the community meeting.



Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness talks with community members while giving them a look inside the county's administrative offices.

By Mary Dellenback Hill

Patrick County residents had an opportunity Thursday, Aug. 6, to get a closer look at their county government during a Patrick County Citizens Learning Series meeting with County AdministratorMichael McGuinness.

The meeting was held at the Veterans Administration Building in Stuart, where McGuinness welcomed community members and provided a look at the offices and the people who work there.

Among those attending were Commissioner of Revenue Glennda Morse and other county officials.

Patrick County Tourism had a table set up in the hallway with tourism information, while refreshments were available for visitors following the meeting.

McGuinness' wife, Lou, helped with the refreshments while McGuinness spoke with visitors about the various offices housed in the building.

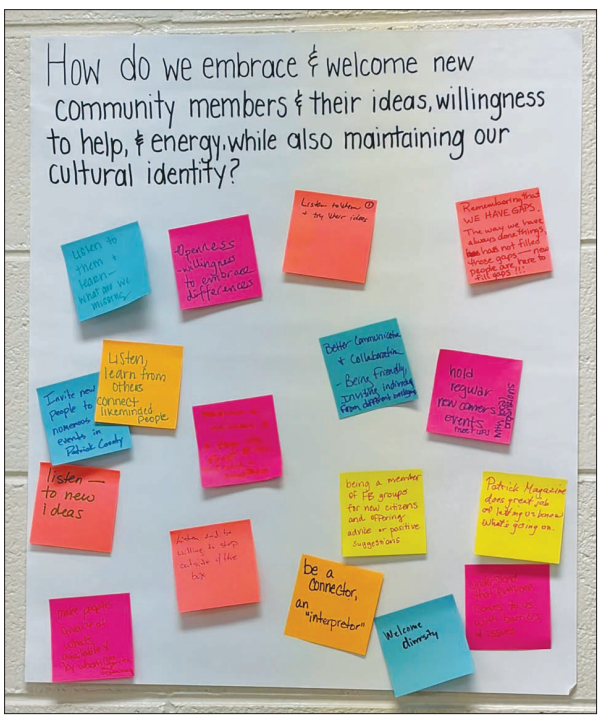
The group then moved into the administrative offices, where McGuinness explained the work that takes place there and introduced residents to the people who serve the county each day.

McGuinness said he is proud of the county's employees and described them as a dedicated team.

The informal meeting provided residents with an opportunity to ask questions, meet county officials and gain a better understanding of the day-to-day work that goes on behind the scenes of county government.

Connecting Communities Workshop Brings Leaders Together







The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Stuart participated in Rural Assembly's Connecting Communities event as part of the nationwide Rural Everywhere initiative. The program challenged communities to think differently about strengthening rural places—not by focusing on what is missing, but by recognizing existing assets, building relationships, and intentionally creating opportunities for people to connect.

A recurring message throughout the national program was that thriving rural communities are built through connection before collaboration. Strong relationships between residents, organizations, businesses, local governments, schools, churches, and volunteers create the foundation for economic growth, civic engagement, and improved quality of life.

During the local discussion, participants reflected on who serves as "community connectors" in Patrick County and, equally important, who was absent from the conversation. Participants identified a broad range of organizations and individuals who should be more engaged in future discussions, including county administration, members of the Board of Supervisors, town council representatives, schools, hospitals, law enforcement, social workers, churches, volunteer organizations, park and recreation, and community connectors from every community. Several participants emphasized the importance of inviting more diverse representation and encouraging open dialogue across organizations and sectors.

The discussion also reinforced several themes presented during Rural Everywhere:

- Rural communities already possess tremendous assets in the form of committed citizens, organizations, local businesses, and volunteers.
- Cross-organizational collaboration is essential to addressing community challenges and identifying shared opportunities.
- Public gathering spaces, trails, downtown activity, arts, and community events help create the informal interactions that build stronger communities.
- Community leadership should intentionally include voices from across generations, professions, geographic areas, and lived experiences.
- Success depends on moving beyond working in organizational silos toward a culture of shared goals and mutual support.

Participants recognized that many of Patrick County's organizations are already working toward similar objectives but often do so independently. Increasing communication, sharing resources, and creating regular opportunities for organizations to connect could strengthen community-wide impact while reducing duplication of effort.

The workshop concluded with a shared understanding that building stronger communities begins with intentionally bringing people together. By expanding participation, fostering relationships, and creating spaces where ideas can be exchanged, Patrick County can continue building a more connected, resilient, and collaborative future.

Next Steps

- Host regular cross-organizational networking events and roundtable discussions.
- Create a shared community resource directory for organizations and volunteers. Chamber of Commerce has a digital version already on their website.
- Continue investing in projects that encourage community interaction, including trails, public art, parks, downtown events, and gathering spaces.
- Expand outreach to organizations and community leaders who were identified as missing from the conversation to ensure broader representation in future initiatives.

This workshop demonstrated that one of Patrick County's greatest strengths is its willingness to work together. By continuing to cultivate relationships and celebrate local assets, the community is well positioned to create lasting partnerships that benefit residents, businesses, nonprofits, and visitors alike.

Arrests

(cont. from page 2)

pended license. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Jason Ray Ziglar, 43, address unavailable, was charged July 29 with seven counts probation violation. Senior Deputy H. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Mariana Elizabeth Lopez, 33, of Stuart, was charged July 30 with fail to appear. Sgt, L.K. Carroll Jr. was the arresting officer.

*Robert Lee Bedsaul, 42, of Meadows of Dan, was charged July 18 with one count each strangulation and assault. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Jasmine Lopez, 22, of Stuart, was charged July 19 with assault. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Robert Joseph Spear, 48, of Roanoke, was charged July 21 with probation violation. Franklin County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Kenneth Russell Griffith, 36, of Claudville, was charged July 23 with four counts probation violation. Senior Deputy B. Fields was the arresting officer.

*Mark Allen Mitchell, 64, address unavailable, was charged July 23 with three counts probation violation. Carroll County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Larry Wayne Harris, Jr., 42, of Willis, was charged July 23 with probation violation. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Amanda Prillaman, 39, no address available, was charged July 23 with one count each littering and disorderly conduct. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Anthony Cline Bryant, 61, of Critz, was charged July 23 with assault. Sgt. M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Mario Fuentes Ramirez, 54, of Patrick Springs, was charged July 23 with drive while intoxicated and drinking while driving or open container. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

What is an ombudsman?



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The end of our schools' summer break means children return to school in Virginia's Ninth District.

A new school year represents new opportunity for students to develop friendships, connect with fellow classmates, recount family summer vacations and more. For some, it means changing to a new school.

Connections in school are important for a child's development. As the son of a schoolteacher, I like to stimulate classroom conversations by visiting schools and talking with students.

For my school visits this year, I went to Council High School in Buchanan County, Cornerstone Christian Academy in Washington County, Floyd County High School and Patrick County High School.

This May, I had the privilege to address the graduates of Thomas Walker High School in Lee County.

These settings are opportunities for me to engage our student populations and educate them on the duties of lawmakers.

As a Congressman, I share my experiences as a policymaker and as an ombudsman.

I clarify that my role as a policymaker focuses on matters of drafting legislation, committee debate discussing proposals, amendment recommendations and the final votes on bills.

But what is an ombudsman?

An ombudsman is one who interfaces with the federal government on behalf of others.

I act as an ombudsman for you on many occasions.

Thus, my office communicates with scores of federal agencies to address agency issues that constituents ask us about.

These issues vary by agency. But among the matters that demand our attention include passport requests and renewals, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) disputes and social security assistance.

In 2025, my office opened more than 1,175 constituent cases. Through this casework, we worked with more than 40 federal agencies.

There are multiple ways for us to open a case for you. An easy route is for you to give one of my district offices a phone call and speak with a representative in my office. Please refer to the end of this e-newsletter to access those phone numbers.

However, I recognize that you may prefer an in-person alternative.

Every month, my staff travels to all corners of Virginia's Ninth District, which happens to span more than 10,000 square miles.

You can view when my staff next visits your locality by checking on my website at https://morgangriffith.house.gov/ or my Facebook page at Congressman Morgan Griffith.

These pages help people stay engaged on issues impacting my work in Congress and on behalf of the Ninth District.

My leadership on issues includes federal funding for Ninth District communities.

One program that I champion at the federal level is the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program. As the leading Virginia advocate, AMLER projects identify idle mine land property and explore potential improvements and site redevelopment.

In late 2025, I attended an AMLER check presentation to support a nearly $2 million project in Buchanan County. This project will create the Southern Gap Office Park Building, a commercial office space within Buchanan County's Regional Office Park. I left DC at 8:30 pm to make it to Grundy the next day because I considered the announcement so important.

AMLER delivers millions of federal dollars to our regions every year. With new projects set to be announced later this year, I will continue to fight for additional AMLER opportunities that benefit Virginia's Ninth District.

A second federal program targets brownfields, which are properties or sites whose redevelopment are complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program delivers various federal grants to clean up these polluted sites.

When I served as Environment Subcommittee Chairman earlier in the 119th Congress, I held a hearing to spotlight the EPA Brownfields Program. As part of this, I invited Duane Miller of Scott County, who serves as Executive Director of the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, to testify.

Since then, the EPA Brownfields Program continues to deliver funds for local projects in our communities.

This June, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, Giles County and the City of Martinsville received EPA Brownfields grants.

I believe in serving the constituents of Virginia's Ninth District. Accordingly, my office remains ready to help you access the support, resources and opportunities you need from federal agencies.

Whether I am in the classroom or in a DC committee room, I will continue to remind people that you can always count on my voice and my office as a resource.

Further, if your local high school wants me to speak to students, please have them contact our office.

Hard Work and Generating Passive Income

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Creating passive income is lingo that you probably have heard or thought about more than once. Generating an ongoing flow of cash that keeps coming is welcome by most of us. Seminars are often held by different entities explaining their technique for how to build a steady stream of income. All of us need money so it's usually a topic of interest.

Years ago, a friend influenced me to sign up for Amway. He was doing great things and lived well. I signed up. That lasted maybe a month or two. I didn't make any money from it but I admit I gave up quickly. Later, I was influenced by another friend to sign up for a telephone pyramid scheme. Supposedly, people were making money. After about two months, I lost interest. On another occasion, I signed up to sell vitamins. On this occasion someone was reporting about how it helped people with multiple sclerosis. My wife was very sick from the disease and I was willing to buy or try anything that would help her. The vitamins did not help her and I gave up on the vitamin business.

The old adage that if it's too good to be true then it probably is, is accurate most of the time. Occasionally someone wins the lottery and occasionally someone is struck by lightning.

When I was 18 years old, I was working for a little country church. My only deacon whose name was Harold Rice said, "Glenn, we are going to enroll you in the annuity program operated by the Annuity Board of our Southern Baptist Convention." Today, it's called Guidestone. "We are going to put six dollars a month into your account," he said. That contribution probably occurred approximately 12 times. I moved on to college. About 13 or 14 years ago I remembered that and called to see if an account like that even existed. The account did and it had grown to $30,000. I was shocked. A year or so later I took the fund out and invested it into an index fund which at that time was Ameritrade and now Schwab. The account has grown to $90,000. Yes, I am talking about over 50 years of growth. The dividends were reinvested every year. The dividends from that little fund today are an ongoing passive income.

The best way for you to develop passive income is to work a job and put some money into an Individual Retirement Account every year. I like a Roth IRA best because once you have paid tax on it and invest it into the Roth then it will generate income that you never have to pay tax on again.

At age 25, if you will start putting $5,000 in a Roth IRA every year until you are 60 your fund could easily total ABOUT $1.2 million. At the young age of 60 that account could easily produce $12,000 or more of income for you. This is really passive income. Then, you can keep working or play golf every day.

Nothing is free and easy but you don't have to make a huge sum of money to put $5,000 a year into a Roth IRA. You may have to skip eating out some or pass on a few vacations. You might have to drive an old car longer and avoid credit card purchases. Any sacrifice you make will be worth it later in life.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 15 books. He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, and is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. His column is published in over 600 media outlets nationally.

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Is "Bed Rot" Changing Your Brain? Part 2

Plot twist: willpower is the wrong hero.

If bed rot has gone automatic, that's not a personal failing; it's habit-formation doing its job a little too well. Habits latch onto reliable cues: the bed, the couch, the phone lying six inches from your face. Trying to beat a cue with raw discipline is like trying to out-stubborn gravity. The cheat code is to change the cue so the better choice becomes the lazy choice.

The reset: make the habit annoying, make the good stuff easy

You don't need a monk retreat. You need to add a little friction to the habit and delete the friction from the alternative. Steal these swaps:

- Bedtime → charge your phone in another room. If it's not in reach, it's not the last thing you touch (or the first).
- Wake-up → chase sunlight before screen light. Anchor your rhythm before the feed hijacks it.
- Boredom → drink water, read a few pages, or, wild idea, just be bored. Boredom is where creativity sneaks in.
- Tired or wired → grab a journal and dump your thoughts on paper instead of into the algorithm.
- Backup → let an app blocker or screen-time limit be the bouncer between you and the habit.

Give your brain a new game to win

The habit stuck because it paid you. So the reset needs a paycheck too. Make your wins visible: every time you beat the urge to scroll, drop a paper clip in a jar. Set a tiny daily goal, resist the urge ten times, and at the end of the week, cash in for something you actually want: a movie, a great dinner, a small treat. Watching that jar fill up gives your brain the little "yes!" it was chasing on the feed, minus the 90-minute detour.

Because you're not just quitting a habit. You're handing your brain a brand-new reward loop, one built on rest, focus, and control instead of the infinite swipe. Same craving for a win. Way better prize.

Note: For references, see the article posted at www.LifeandHealth.org.

This article is for general education, not medical advice. If screen habits are seriously wrecking your sleep, mood, or day-to-day life, it's worth talking with a qualified health professional.

(Submitted by betty Dean. Written by Ezra Otieno, MPH. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Patrick Pioneers

Harley Mack Cassell Sr. and Jr. and Amos Cassell

By Beverly Belcher Woody

There are some family stories in which history seems almost impossibly cruel in its repetition.

For the Cassell family, war brought that repetition across two generations. During World War II, brothers Harley Mack Cassell Sr. and Amos Cassell were both held prisoner by Nazi Germany. More than two decades later, Harley would experience a parent's worst fear when his own son, Harley Mack Cassell Jr., serving during the Vietnam War, was captured and held for months in Cambodia.

It is difficult to imagine one family enduring such an ordeal once. The Cassells endured it twice.

Amos Cassell was born October 2, 1923. During World War II, he served in the United States Army, enlisting on February 26, 1943.

Less than a year later, his family received the message every wartime parent dreaded.

On March 13, 1944, a government message from Washington, D.C., informed his mother:

"The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regrets that your son Pvt. Amos Cassell has been reported missing in action since 21 January in Italy. If further details or other information are received, you will be promptly notified."

The uncertainty surrounding Amos was especially agonizing because his brother, Pvt. Harley Cassell, was already a prisoner of war in Germany.

The March 30, 1944, edition of the Enterprise carried the alarming headline:

TWO PATRICK BROTHERS HELD PRISONERS BY NAZI GOVT.

SON MISSING

Mrs. Roxie Cassell of Patrick Springs had been notified through the International Red Cross that Amos was being held as a prisoner of war by the German government. According to the newspaper, another son, Pvt. Harley Cassell, had been in a German prison camp since February 14, 1943.

The Red Cross informed Mrs. Cassell that a letter confirming Amos's whereabouts would soon arrive from the Provost Marshal.

Meanwhile, she had received a number of communications from Harley. He wrote that several of her letters and packages had reached him. Despite being a prisoner himself, Harley included a request that spoke volumes about the importance of the Red Cross to American servicemen held overseas: he asked his mother to be good to the Red Cross because they had been good to him.

For one Patrick County mother, there was now the almost unimaginable reality of having two sons held prisoner by Nazi Germany at the same time.

Months later, there was finally encouraging news about Amos.

The September 14, 1944, edition of the Danville Register and Bee reported:

Pvt. Amos Cassell Returning Aboard Gripsholm; Due Home by Oct. 1

Amos, an infantryman and son of Mrs. Roxie A. Cassell of Patrick Springs, was identified as an exchange prisoner of war of Germany who was expected to arrive in the continental United States sometime late that month.

Remarkably, he was the only Virginian among 233 exchanged Army men being returned aboard the Gripsholm.

The MS Gripsholm was a Swedish passenger ship used as a neutral vessel during World War II to exchange prisoners of war and civilian internees between the Allied and Axis powers.

For the Cassell family, Amos's return meant one son was finally coming home.

But Harley remained behind.

The family would wait until the spring of 1945 for the news they had prayed to receive.

The May 23, 1945, Danville Register and Bee announced:

Pvt. Harley Cassell Freed From Nazis; Prisoner 2½ Years

It was the first word received from Pvt. Harley H. Cassell since a letter he had written from a German prisoner-of-war camp on October 25, 1944.

Harley wrote his sister, Mrs. C. J. Clifton of 702 Kemper Road, Danville, VA that he had been liberated on April 21 and was headed home.

The newspaper identified Pvt. Cassell and reported that he had been a German prisoner for thirty months after being captured during the North African campaign on February 7, 1943.

His words to his sister captured both the joy of freedom and the deprivation he had endured:

"I'm a free man now after so long a wait. I am OK in every way except starved. Chow and white bread sure taste good."

Harley was waiting for a plane to carry him back to the United States.

The following day, May 24, 1945, the Enterprise brought the news closer to home, reporting that Mr. and Mrs. Billie Cassell had received a letter from their liberated son, Pvt. Harley Cassell.

The Enterprise reported that Harley had been a prisoner of Germany since February 14, 1943, and that the last letter his parents had received from him was dated December 9, 1944.

Now, at last, he wrote that he was en route home by plane.

The war that had taken two Cassell brothers into enemy captivity was finally releasing its grip upon their family.

But history had one more astonishing chapter waiting for the Cassell family.

Can you imagine surviving a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp, returning home, marrying and raising a family—and then learning that your own son had been captured during another war?

More than twenty-five years after Harley's capture in North Africa, his son, Harley Mack Cassell Jr., was serving his country during the Vietnam War.

And once again, the Cassell family waited for a prisoner of war to come home.

The August 23, 1968, Danville Register & Bee reported that Mrs. Lucille Murphy Cassell was optimistic about her son's eventual release from Cambodia after speaking with Oklahoma Congressman Victor Wickersham, who was working to secure the freedom of Harley Mack Cassell Jr. and ten other American soldiers.

The soldiers had been taken prisoner the previous month after their patrol boat strayed into Cambodian territory while on a mission in Vietnam.

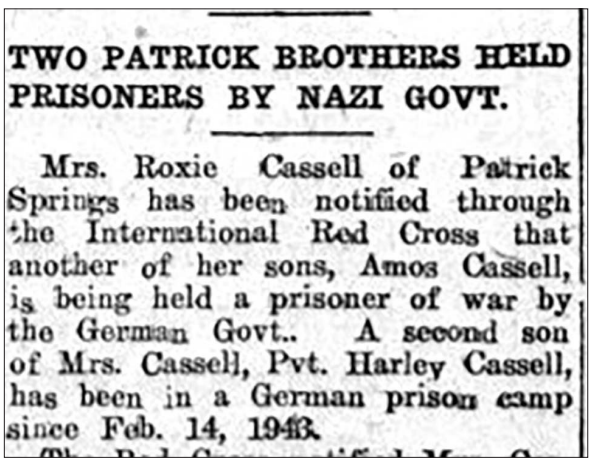
Mrs. Cassell, then of 405 Chatlaine Avenue, Danville, VA said she was pleased with Congressman Wickersham's handling of the case and had spoken with him by telephone the previous afternoon.

Harley Jr. was twenty-one years old and a specialist four in the United States Army. He had been assigned to the patrol boat as a seaman.

The boat departed Cong Tam, a base near the Mekong Delta city of My Tho, on July 15. Its destination was Binh Thuy, another base just upriver from Can Tho, the largest city in the delta.

The journey up the Mekong and Bassac Rivers and across a major canal should have taken two days.

The boat never arrived on the night of July 17.



TWO PATRICK BROTHERS HELD PRISONERS BY NAZI GOVT.

Mrs. Roxie Cassell of Patrick Springs has been notified through the International Red Cross that another of her sons, Amos Cassell, is being held a prisoner of war by the German Govt.. A second son of Mrs. Cassell, Pvt. Harley Cassell, has been in a German prison camp since Feb. 14, 1943.

Enterprise March 30, 1944

It was later disclosed that the vessel had been seized by Cambodia. The United States government apologized to the Cambodian government for what it described as a "navigational error."

For Lucille Cassell and her family, the waiting began.

She had not heard from her son since his capture.

Harley Mack Cassell Jr. was a native of Danville and had gone to Vietnam on February 1.

He had attended George Washington and Dan River High Schools and completed his high school education after entering military service on December 12, 1966.

Before being drafted, he had worked at the Porter-Disston plant.

Harley Jr. had one brother, Curtis Lee Cassell, seventeen, who was living at home, and one sister, Mrs. Patricia Ann Mills of Danville.

While government officials and elected representatives worked toward the men's release, the Cassell family could do little but hope, pray, and wait.

Harley Sr. knew better than most what his son was experiencing.

He had once been the young soldier held captive in a foreign land, separated from everyone he loved and wondering when—or whether—he would see home again.

Now he was the father waiting for his son.

Just before Christmas 1968, the waiting ended.

The December 23 edition of The Bee reported that a young Danville soldier had returned home after six months in an Asian prison camp.

Twenty-two-year-old Harley Cassell Jr., dressed in uniform and noticeably thinner than when he had left home, stepped from a bus in Danville at 12:56 a.m.

After six months of captivity in Cambodia, he was home.

Waiting for him were his family, a houseful of friends, a celebration—and something that must have seemed wonderfully ordinary after months as a prisoner: the opportunity to sleep in his own bed.

His mother, identified in the article as Mrs. Harley F. Cassell of 504 Chatelaine Avenue, said her son appeared none the worse for his months in captivity except for his weight loss. Harley had weighed approximately 175 pounds at the beginning of the ordeal but only 158 pounds when he was released.

Much of the weight loss was attributed to his diet, which consisted primarily of the traditional Cambodian foods of fish and rice. Harley said the meals were not particularly agreeable to the captive Americans.

Conditions improved after the first month when Australians began sending food.

The greater enemy then became monotony.

The soldiers were permitted to play volleyball

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Is the Medicare Part B Premium a Percentage of our Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty: I have a simple question: Is the amount we pay for Medicare Part B premium a percent of our Social Security amount we receive? *Signed: Curious*

Dear Curious: Your Medicare Part B premium is not based on a percentage of your monthly Social Security benefit amount. Medicare Part B premiums are set in October of each year by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and are based upon anticipated total costs of the Medicare program in the forthcoming year. Generally speaking, Medicare Part B enrollee premiums are expected to offset about 25% of CMS' anticipated total Medicare Part B costs; the rest Is borne by the Federal Government. So, when CMS estimates Medicare program costs for the upcoming year, they also look at the number of anticipated Part B enrollees. They then divide 25% of total anticipated Part B program costs by the number of expected Part B enrollees, resulting in the "standard" Medicare Part B premium for next year. For 2026, the standard Part B premium amount is $202.90. The standard premium for 2027 will be announced in October 2026 and will likely be different.

It's important to understand also that not everyone pays the "standard" Part B premium. Some lower income seniors may pay less because of the so-called "hold harmless provision," and some higher income folks may pay more than the "standard" monthly Part B premium because of a provision called "IRMAA."

The "hold harmless provision" says that monthly Social Security benefits cannot decrease as a result of a Medicare premium increase, so if the annual SS COLA (cost of living adjustment) is insufficient to offset any increase to the standard Part B premium, then the SS beneficiary may pay a smaller Part B premium amount so that their SS benefit doesn't decrease (note there are exceptions to this rule).

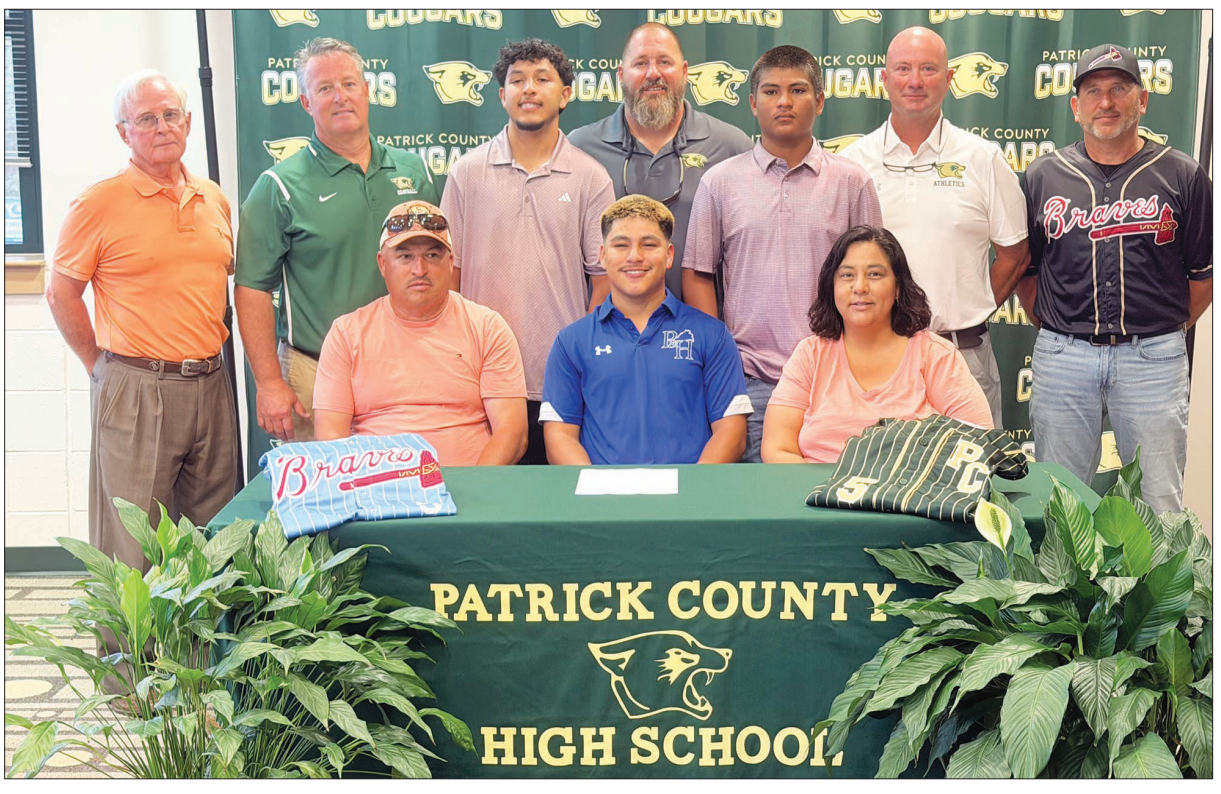
Conversely, those with a higher "provisional income" (an IRS definition), may pay more than the standard Medicare Part B premium. That's because of a provision known as "IRMAA" (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds a supplemental amount on top of the standard Medicare Part B premium. IRMAA supplement amounts are determined using a sliding scale to define the required higher Part B premium for each income level category, and IRMAA will cause the Part B premium to be more than the standard premium amount. For those with exceptionally high incomes, the Part B premium can be as much as $690 per month.

FYI, income reported to the IRS two years ago is used to determine if an individual is subject to IRMAA for the forthcoming year. The reason for this is timing: when next year's Part B premium is determined in October of each current year, the IRS has processed all tax returns for the preceding year but doesn't yet have individual income for the current year. Thus, they must use a person's income from October of the preceding year to determine who will pay the standard Part B premium next year, and who will pay a higher IRMAA amount.

And just to complete this picture, you should be aware that IRMAA also applies to Medicare Part D premiums. And that means that those with higher incomes who are affected by IRMAA for Part B will also pay a higher Medicare Part D premium. (Medicare Part D is private insurance coverage for prescription drugs). But none of this is related to your Social Security benefit amount.

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).

Martinez-Tejeda to Play Baseball at P&HCC



In attendance for the signing: Front row (l-r) Father Alejandro Martinez, Brother Erik Martinez-Tejeda, Mother Ana Tejeda Martinez, Back row (l-r) PCHS Coach Sonny Swails, PCHS Coach Tal Swails, Brother Reyli Martinez-Tejeda, PCHS JV Coach Scott Errichetti, Brother Ian Martinez-Tejeda, PCHS Michael Hall, Virginia Braves Coach Mike Gregory.

By Ashlee Mullis

Patrick County High School graduate, Erik Martinez-Tejeda, signed to continue his baseball career as a Patrick & Henry Patriot.

Tatum said, "Playing at the collegiate level has always been my dream since a very young age. I began playing at the age of three locally on rec teams and then played Dixie Youth baseball. I fell in love with the game when I began playing travel baseball with the Virginia Braves, a local organization. I have always played the position of catcher. Baseball has always been my number one sport through the years. Being an athlete has taught me character, the importance of teamwork, work ethic, and leadership. I am thankful for all the support and encouragement from all my coaches with the Virginia Braves and Patrick County High School, my family and teammates. Most importantly none of this would be possible without my Lord. Psalm 28:7 says, 'The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.'"

Fundraiser underway locally for Ronald McDonald House



By Sandra Heath, Patrick County Farm Bureau

Patrick County Farm Bureau is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, Southwest Virginia. Save your pop tabs and drop them off at the Patrick County Farm Bureau office in Stuart, located across from Hardee's.

Aluminum tabs from soda cans, sparkling water cans, soups cans, pet food cans, energy drinks, and other aluminum containers can be donated. If the tab is aluminum, it can be recycled.

Together, these small tabs make a big difference by helping support families staying at the house while their children receive medical care.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors, one pop tab at a time. Contact Sadie Perry Brown or Amber Lawless for more information at 276-694-7108.

Rotary launches shoe drive for Alzheimer's research

The Rotary Club of Stuart is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser from August 15, 2026 through October 31, 2026 to raise funds for CART. The Rotary Club of Stuart will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will directly benefit CART. Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at:

Town Office of Stuart, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart

Patrick County Library, 116 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart

Tony's Pizza & Pub, 402 Patrick Avenue, Stuart

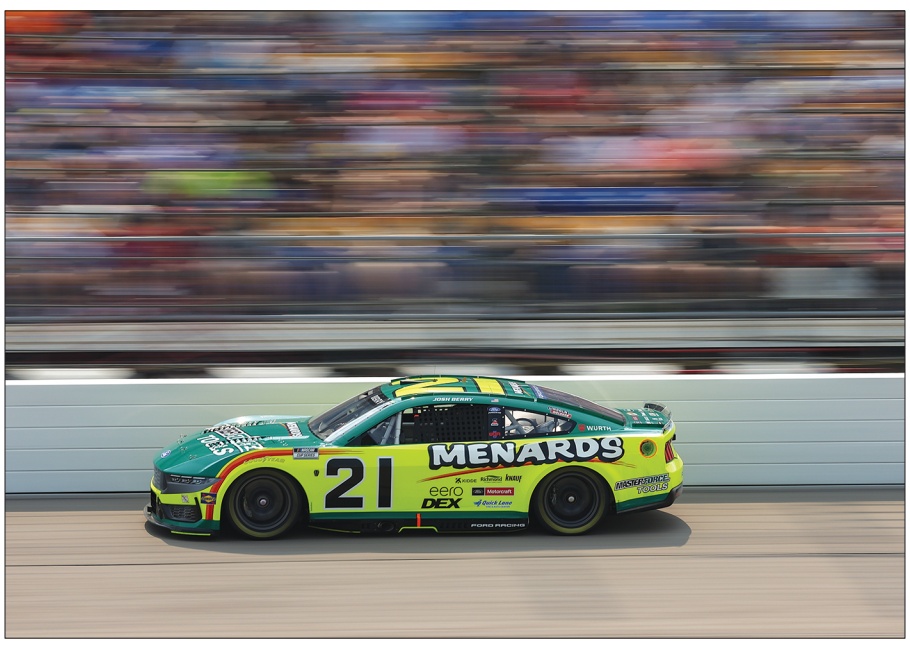
More collection sites to be added. Check the Rotary Club Of Stuart Facebook page for details

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Proceeds from the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are then used to feed, clothe and house their families.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Amy Nash, CART Chair for Rotary Club of Stuart. "We know that most people have unworn shoes in their closets and by donating to our shoe drive, we raise money for CART, and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

By donating gently worn, used and new shoes to the Rotary Club of Stuart, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives around the world.

Rotary is an international network of over 1.4 million people who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe. The Stuart Rotary Club, https://stuartrotary.com/, is one of 46,000 clubs worldwide and we are very active group of community members and business leaders who focus on service above self by making a positive difference in our community. CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1995 by fellow Rotarian, Roger Ackerman. Every penny raised goes directly to research on Alzheimer's Disease.



Race Report: Iowa Speedway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Josh Berry and the No. 21 Menards/Masterforce Tools team turned a fast Ford Mustang Dark Horse and a late two-tire strategy call into a fourth-place finish in Sunday's Iowa Corn 350 at Iowa Speedway.

The result marked Berry's first top-five finish of the season and the seventh of his NASCAR Cup Series career. It also gave him back-to-back top-10 finishes following a seventh-place run at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and marked his fourth top-10 of 2026.

Berry started the 350-lap race from 13th on the 0.875-mile Iowa oval and quickly began working his way forward. He cracked the top 10 within the opening five laps and remained in contention there for much of Stage 1 before finishing the segment in 11th place.

After restarting 12th for Stage 2, Berry again worked his way into the top 10 and spent much of the Stage racing inside or just outside that group before taking the green-and-white checkered flag in 11th.

Berry lined up 14th to begin the final stage and once again steadily worked his way forward. As the field began cycling through its final round of green-flag pit stops, he climbed as high as second before making his final stop with 53 laps remaining.

Crew chief Miles Stanley made the call for two tires, positioning Berry and the No. 21 team to capitalize on track position during the closing run. Berry returned to the track in 14th and moved into fourth as the remainder of the field completed its stops.

Despite having only two fresh tires against several competitors on four, Berry maintained his position over the final laps to bring the Menards/Masterforce Tools Ford home fourth.

"We had a really solid day," Berry told reporters after the race. "The car was great."

Berry said the No. 21 showed plenty of speed during Saturday's practice session, even though the team wasn't able to fully capitalize on it in qualifying.

"I feel like everybody on the 21 car did a really good job all weekend," Berry said. "We just unloaded good and definitely had great long-run pace throughout the race. We just needed it to run long enough to show it, and we were finally able to do that and overcome a lot of things.

"It makes it easy when your cars drive like they did this weekend, and we've just got to keep pushing. I think we've got a lot of good tracks coming up. I'm excited to get to Richmond next week and keep going after these good finishes."

Berry and the Wood Brothers Racing team will look to carry the momentum of consecutive top-10 finishes to another short track when the Cup Series heads to Richmond Raceway for Saturday night's Cook Out 400.

Federal grant boosts services for assault survivors

Virginia will receive more than $5.28 million in federal funding to strengthen services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine announced.

The funding, awarded to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, includes nearly $4.27 million through the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program to support law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and victim services, and more than $1.01 million through the Sexual Assault Services Formula Program to assist rape crisis centers and other nonprofit organizations serving survivors. The grants are intended to improve victim protection, strengthen prosecution efforts and expand services for victims and their families.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

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 Beth Wood Witt and Ann Robertson McConnell

Last week we mentioned the hardships soldiers faced in the American Revolution and nowhere are those hardships more evident than in December of 1777 when George Washington moved the Continental Army to Valley Forge. The army camped at Valley Forge consisted of as many as 12,000 Continentals, as well as smaller numbers of African Americans and Native American soldiers. A number of women and children, including officers' wives, were also present at Valley Forge, having joined their husbands or family members in the encampment. Soldiers worked together to build huts for shelter, but unsanitary conditions, and shortages of food, shoes, clothes and blankets contributed to the disease and exhaustion which continually plagued the camp. Joshua Tasherway Tuggle fought in the Revolutionary War and was among the troops that spent the winter at Valley Forge. Tuggle is the Patriot Ancestor of DAR member Beth Wood Witt.

According to Virginia and Lewis Pedigo's book, History of Patrick and Henry Counties, Virginia, written in 1933, "the Tuggles first emigrated to the colonies in 1614, only seven years after the founding of Jamestown Colony. The Tuggle men were listed as lawyers, planters, teachers, preachers and surveyors." Joshua Tuggle and his cousins, father and son, John and Reverend Henry Tuggle arrived in Patrick County after the Revolutionary War. Joshua was in Captain Samuel Cabell's Company of 6th Virginia Reg. of Foot, commanded by Lt. Col. James Hendricks. Lt. Col and Deputy General, Samuel Cabell writes of Tuggle, "I do certify that Joshua Tuggle served as a soldier in the 6th and 19th Virginia Regiments from March 4, 1776 to November 23, 1779, during which time he acted as a brave, faithful and intrepid soldier,…"

Joshua married Elizabeth Pace at St James Northam Parish in Goochland County in 1780. They had at least twelve children. They lived in several counties of Virginia during their marriage: Fluvana, Louisa, and Albermarle. In 1807 they moved their family to Patrick County where they had purchased four hundred acres on Rock Castle Creek from his cousin Reverend Henry Tuggle. Elizabeth died "after1810" and Joshua died in 1818. They are believed to be buried on what was the family's property at the time in Patrick County.

Information for this article is from "History of Patrick and Henry Counties, Virginia," the Library of Virginia, DAR Records, Wikipedia and the authors' records.

Everyone has a story. Let us help you tell yours. 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 non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. Help researching and proving you lineage can be provided by the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter by contacting Ann Robertson McConnell at nammcconnell@yahoo.com.

Members of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter will be at the Patrick County Library each Thursday in August from 4 to 5 p.m. to help with genealogy searches.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

for two hours during the afternoon. Otherwise, Harley recalled, there was little to do except play cards and read books.

Perhaps one of the most striking details of his account was that the Americans did not even realize they had entered Cambodia when they were captured.

"We didn't know where we were," Harley explained. "Nobody was suspecting anything."

The Cambodians fired upon them as a warning before a boat came out to meet them.

The captured Americans were taken to a Cambodian naval training center, where they were questioned intermittently during their first week of captivity.

After that, their days became a familiar routine to prisoners throughout history.

They hoped.

And they waited.

Amos and Harley Mack Cassell were two of the ten sons and two daughters born to William "Willie" Abraham Cassell and Roxie Anna Campbell Cassell. Their large family included Mary Lucy Cassell Clifton (1898–1991); Willie M. Cassell (born 1899); Annie Susan Cassell Doss (1901–1968); Carter Cassell (1903–1995); Lemly Charlie Cassell (1908–1997); Thomas Jefferson Cassell (1909–1975); Robert James Cassell (1910–2000); Roy Larkin Cassell (1914–2001); Claude Otis Cassell (1916–1997); Harley Mack Cassell (1920–1994); Amos Cassell (1923–2002); and John David Cassell (1925–2003).

The Cassell family's roots in the area extended back further generations. Willie Cassell was the son of John Robert H. Cassell (1856–1948) and Druscilla Ruth Spencer Cassell (1859–1939). Roxie Anna Campbell Cassell was the daughter of John Campbell and Missouri Campbell (1850–1928).

History is often told through battles, campaigns, treaties, and dates, but its true weight is carried by families. It is found in mothers waiting for word of missing sons, in letters traveling thousands of miles from prison camps, in brothers separated by war, and in fathers who understand all too well what their captured sons are enduring.

For the Cassell family, two generations knew the uncertainty of captivity and the long wait for freedom. Yet their remarkable story is ultimately not simply one of war or imprisonment.

It is a story of survival.

It is a story of homecoming.

And it is a story worthy of remembrance among our Patrick Pioneers.

Sources include the Enterprise, Volume 68, Number 13, March 30, 1944; the Danville Register and Bee, September 14, 1944; the Danville Register and Bee, May 23, 1945; the Enterprise, Volume 69, Number 20, May 24, 1945; the Danville Register & Bee, August 23, 1968; and The Bee, December 23, 1968.

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

Tri-Area

(cont. from page 1)

on this since February to get everything planned and implemented, and we're just really excited to get open as soon as we can," Hylton said.

Parents can schedule appointments for their students by going to Tri-Area Community Health's website and selecting Patrick County Schools from the School Clinics dropdown list.

"They can register in advance if they would like to go ahead and get that done in the event that their child needs to use the clinic, or they can wait until the need arises and go online and register that day, the same day as the appointment," Hylton said.

Paper copies of the registration form will also be available from school nurses and principals, Hylton said.

"If they're already a Tri-Area patient there still is an additional consent form just because the school clinic is not the same as the big clinic, so even currently Tri-Area patients need to register with our school clinic," Hylton said.

The school-based clinic is not a free clinic, and insurance, including Medicaid, will be billed.

"If someone does not have insurance they can apply for our sliding scale fee, and that is a reduced rate for uninsured patients. Tri-Area is a federally qualified healthcare center and we don't turn people away based on their insurance status. We don't collect payments from students, but we will bill in the mail or payments can be made online through the patient portal or over the phone," Hylton said, adding that payment plans can also be set up.

For more information, visit Tri-Area Community Health's website or call 540-365-4469.

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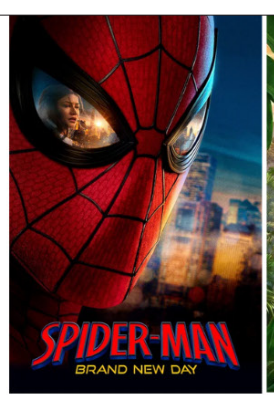
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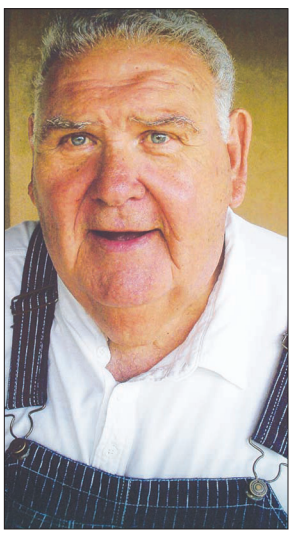

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OBITUARIES

Raymond Lester Thomas



Mr. Raymond Lester Thomas, age 85 of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was born in Patrick County on June 26, 1941, to the late Posey Lester Thomas and Mary Rotenberry Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Ann Thomas; a daughter, Lisa Thomas Brumm, and two sisters, June Thomas Morris and Nancy Thomas Hooker. Ray retired from Ford Motor Company after many years of service. He was active in his church and the jail ministry. He loved studying his Bible, auto racing, football, hunting, traveling, spending time with his family, and most of all, leading people to the Lord.

Ray is survived by his son Duane Thomas (Maricely Hernandez) of Roanoke, VA; two grandchildren, Kaila Lubiarz and Nick Lubiarz; two brothers, Roy Thomas and Bobby Thomas, both of Martinsville, VA; five nephews, Ken Morris, David Morris, Justin Thomas, Jason Thomas, and Michael Hooker; and caregiver, Jeannette Atkins of Meadows of Dan, VA.

The graveside service for Mr. Thomas will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the George Lee Thomas Family Cemetery located at 6918 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120, with Pastor Shawn Carter officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralsservices.com.

Michael James Jarecke



Michael James Jarecke, age 61 of Stuart, passed away Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at his home. He was born in Rochester, New York on June 5, 1965 to the late Merle Roy Jarecke and Sandra Jean Wilkinson Bailey. In addition to his parents, Mr. Jarecke was preceded in death by a grandmother, Marie Milanette.

Mike will be remembered as a man whose love, laughter, and unwavering devotion touched everyone fortunate enough to know him. For 36 years, he was the steadfast partner and best friend to his wife, Lisa, always planning the next project or adventure and bringing joy to everyday life with his quick wit and contagious laughter. He had a remarkable ability to make others smile, and his sense of humor was one of his greatest gifts.

Music was a constant companion in Mike's life. It was rare to see him without earbuds in his ears and his foot tapping along to the beat. He also loved to travel, especially to the beach and on cruises, where he created treasured memories with those he loved most.

Above all else, Mike's greatest passion was his family. He loved them deeply and devoted himself to their happiness and well-being. His second calling was serving others as a paramedic, a profession that was far more than a career—it was a lifelong commitment. Medicine was his passion, and he continually studied, learned, and shared his knowledge. He could spend hours talking with fellow EMTs and paramedics, exchanging stories and experiences. Every patient he cared for received his full attention, compassion, and empathy, making each person feel they were the only one who mattered in that moment.

Mike also served his country with great pride as a Corpsman in the United States Navy alongside the United States Marine Corps. Affectionately known as "Doc," he treasured his service and the lifelong bonds it created. Having completed both Navy and Marine Corps training, he proudly embraced both identities. His love for his country, the military, and serving his community remained a defining part of who he was throughout his life.

Mike's legacy is one of love, service, kindness, and dedication. He was a devoted husband, loving father, cherished son, caring brother, loyal friend, proud veteran, and compassionate paramedic. He leaves behind countless memories, immeasurable love, and an example of selfless service that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Mr. Jarecke is survived by his wife, Lisa Lou McAlexander-Jarecke; a son, James Douglas Jarecke (Kelly Dalton); a daughter, Danielle Renee Jarecke; a brother, Mark Bailey; an uncle, Alan Milanette (Brenda); his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Glen and Ruby McAlexander; a sister-in-law, Susan Wrenn (Ryan); a niece, Rylee Wrenn; a nephew, Dylan Wrenn; and his German Shepherd dog, Luna.

A memorial service for Mr. Jarecke will be held Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 3:00 P.M. at Sycamore Baptist Church with Pastor Jeff Harris officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Military rites will be conducted by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Smith River Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 122, Woolwine, Virginia 24185 or the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard, c/o Richard Cox, 7888 Woolwine Hwy., Woolwine, Virginia 24185. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

James Randolph Mitchell Jr. ("Jimi")



James Randolph Mitchell Jr. ("Jimi"), 78, of Stuart, Virginia, passed away on August 2, 2026, at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. Jimi lived a life rooted in love, creativity, and quiet strength. He shared 60 devoted years with his wife, Mary Lee Whitten, and together they built a home filled with laughter, hard work, and deep family pride.

He was a devoted father to Matthew Whitten Mitchell, a loving grandfather to Karathena Fallon, Genevieve Skye, Clariti Alei, and Maisley Grace, and a proud great grandfather to Kolten McCoy Preston. He was preceded in death by his sister, Nancy Lindsey, and his parents, Sue Hylton Mitchell and Randolph Mitchell. Family meant everything to him, and he carried that devotion into every part of his life.

A lifelong educator, Jimi spent his career teaching art to elementary students, bringing joy and imagination into the classroom. His humor, patience, and ability to make every child feel seen became the legacy he was most proud of. He earned degrees in Art Education from Radford University and East Carolina University, and he poured his heart into the work he loved.

Jimi and Mary Lee spent eight summers running M&J Riding Stables at Fairystone State Park, forming friendships and memories that lasted decades. After retiring, they embraced a new adventure and spent twelve years living in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, where they enjoyed the beauty, culture, and pace of life that suited their adventurous spirits. Their farm in Stuart, which they've owned since Jimi graduated in 1970, remained one of his greatest joys.

Jimi will be missed by all those who knew him. Living a full, adventurous life, he had a special manner of accepting life's trials and blessings. His gentle spirit, creativity, and quiet resilience touched everyone around him.

In keeping with Jimi's wishes, no visitation will be held. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is assisting the family and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Barbara Joyce "Bobbie" Bowman Clement



Mrs. Barbara Joyce "Bobbie" Bowman Clement, 93, of Ararat, VA, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at Surry Community Health Center by Harborview, following several months of declining health. Mrs. Clement was born March 1, 1933, in Surry County, the daughter of the late Elmer Roosevelt and Nellie Lee Wilson Bowman. She will be remembered as living a life filled with love and kindness for her family, friends, church family, and community. Mrs. Clement was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church USA and taught Sunday school for many years. Bobbie was also a founding member of the Patrick County Historical Society. As a member of the Patrick County bicentennial celebration committee, she traveled to many places and homes to secure photographs of people and events representing Patrick County's past, which can be found at the Patrick County Historical Museum. She was a foster parent and cared for many other children in her home who became like family. An avid genealogist, Bobbie was always eager to share photos and information with others seeking their family history. She is survived by two daughters, Wanda Isaacs of Ararat, VA, and Joy Clement of Mount Airy; a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Rhoda Clement of Claudville, VA; four grandchildren, Amelia Rautio (David), Clifford Isaacs (Amy), Matthew Clement, and Katherine Rewerts (Scott); five great-grandchildren, Claire Isaacs, Eden Isaacs, Adam Rautio, Alice Rewerts, and Ivy Rewerts; along with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins whom she loved dearly. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Lottie Bowman of Ararat, VA; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Johnny and Mildred Clement of Stuart, VA; and special friends and caregivers, Trina Bullins and Kristin Mills. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Clement was preceded in death by her husband of 74 years, Romey Alexander "Rose" Clement; two sisters, Hazel Collins and Louise Eckenrod; and a brother, Clyde E. Bowman, Sr. The funeral service will be held Friday, August 14, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy, with the Rev. Mark Collins officiating. Interment will follow in the Clement Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Following the interment, family and friends will meet and share a meal at The Fellowship Church in Ararat, VA. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude for the love, care, and compassion shown by the staff of Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care and Surry Community Health Center by Harborview. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial contributions may be made to the Patrick County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1045, Stuart, VA 24171; the Clement Family Cemetery Fund, c/o James Clement, 6630 Ararat Highway, Ararat, VA 24053; or a charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Spanberger seeks applicants for corrections advisory council

Gov. Abigail Spanberger has opened applications for the Governor's Community Partnership Council on Corrections, a new advisory body aimed at improving transparency, accountability and operations within the Virginia Department of Corrections.

Announced in June as part of the governor's corrections reform agenda, the council will bring together corrections officers and staff, formerly incarcerated individuals, family members, victim advocates, law enforcement representatives and community organizations to provide recommendations on policies and operations.

According to the governor's office, reforms implemented during Spanberger's first months in office have contributed to a 56 percent reduction in serious assaults on staff, a 47 percent decrease in confirmed overdoses and a 27 percent decline in facility lockdowns from January through May 2026 compared with the same period in 2025.

The council will be led by Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Stanley Meador and Virginia Department of Corrections Director Joseph Walters. It will focus on conditions of confinement, reentry and reintegration, family engagement, staffing and public accountability.

The council will have no more than 18 members representing community and advocacy organizations, individuals with lived experience in the corrections system, victim advocates, public safety partners and corrections leadership. Corrections leadership positions will make up no more than one-third of the membership.

Applications are available online through the governor's office. The deadline to apply is Sept. 4.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Patrick Pulpits

The River Ran Backwards

By Van Yandell

John 7: 37-38 " In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

The morning was cool but pleasant. I walked out onto the pier under the Brooklyn Bridge with my early morning coffee. The New York skyline cast shadows over the city, I felt totally alone and susceptible. We were working with a Christian disaster relief group providing meals for first responders and victims.

The scene of that September morning in 2001 included smoke off the site of the collapsed World Trade Center towers. It had been five days since the terrorist attack on America.

The smoke continued to rise off the rubble and the thoughts of the lives lost troubled my soul. The dead are dead but their families were in extreme grief. Not knowing for sure what has happened to a loved one is horrible but to consider the circumstances of their death sets the heart and mind beyond its normal limits.

Sea gulls floated by as if being uplifted by an unseen force emanating off the water of the East River. Not a river, it bears the name. Actually it is a saltwater tidal estuary or strait connecting the Atlantic Ocean in two places.

Finally my eyes cast down toward the water and the thought besieged my mind, "The river was running the other direction yesterday! Am I going mad? What's happening?"

In a few seconds the realization came forth, the tide was going out; whereas yesterday it was coming in. Being from western Kentucky, my ability to comprehend the tides was limited and came only from text books.

A river running backwards happened on February 7, 1812. When the New Madrid fault slipped on that date, the Mississippi River ran backwards for several hours forming Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. That quake is estimated to have been as high as 8.2 on the Richter scale.

Water in volumes too large to accurately determine, exerts tremendous force. The energy produced by tides exceeds all the energy produced by mankind every second of every day. To harness that energy is another matter.

Tidal energy is currently being used in a few locations around the world, most notably at the Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station in South Korea and La Rance, France, which is the oldest large-scale tidal power station still in operation.

The awareness of tidal potential as a renewable and economical source of energy has long existed but the initial cost of tidal power plants is mostly prohibitive. Perhaps in the future, the tides will be utilized to decrease the use of fossil fuels which some believe is a major factor in climate change.

Life on earth could not exist without water. Genesis 1: 2 tells us, "The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." We know that water is one of the essential components for God's creation process.

The combining of carbon based matter (Genesis 1: 1), water (Genesis 1: 2) and light (Genesis 1: 3), the process of photosynthesis happens. With that, chlorophyll is produced, of which a by-product is oxygen.

We humans inhale oxygen to be distributed by our lungs into our blood which in turn feeds the thirty trillion cells in our bodies. On the return trip through our veins the residue left (carbon dioxide) is exhaled into the atmosphere which provides for plants the fuel to produce more chlorophyll thus more oxygen.

God was the first recycler and it appears He thought of everything. I suppose that's why He's God.

Considering the power of moving water and that water is essential for photosynthesis and human survival, we can understand why Jesus emphasized water in His teachings.

John 4: 13 "Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

At times it seems as if the church, like the East River, is running backwards. The church as Jesus intended it to be has in many cases lost its focus. Matthew 16: 18 "That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

That statement by Jesus indicates one and only one church. His church has been severely fragmented and divided by denominationalism which is a result of individual thinking. Religionists have taken it upon themselves to distort the words of our Savior/Creator.

We cannot rewrite the scriptures and expect it to go unnoticed. Revelation 22 18b-19a "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life."

The perversion of the originally intended church goes far beyond the corruption of the scriptures. Churches are not to be social clubs or entertainment centers. Speakers are not to preach what has lately been dubbed as "feel good" preaching.

Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for the remission of the sins of all mankind was nothing to take lightly and celebrate as the winning of a ball game. Jesus' death and resurrection changed the history of the world as no other event, ever!

We often wonder why the church is in decline in America. Perhaps these are a part of the reasons. We must preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and adhere to His teachings and not let this river run backwards.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy2121@outlook.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. By Roman reckoning what time of day did Jesus meet the Samarian woman at the well? *Daybreak, Noon, Midafternoon, Dusk*

3. On the island of Patmos, to whom was the book of Revelation given? *John, Paul, Matthew, Luke*

4. Who hid 100 prophets in two caves and supplied them food and water? *Solomon, Philemon, Obadiah, Hosea*

5. On what day did God create the sun, moon and stars? *3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th*

6. The Semites were descended from Shem, the son of whom? *Moses, Noah, Paul, Jacob*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Noon, 3) John, 4) Obadiah, 5) Fourth, 6) Noah



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Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church
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Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
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Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
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office@stuartbaptist.org

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Weekly SUDOKU

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					6			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!

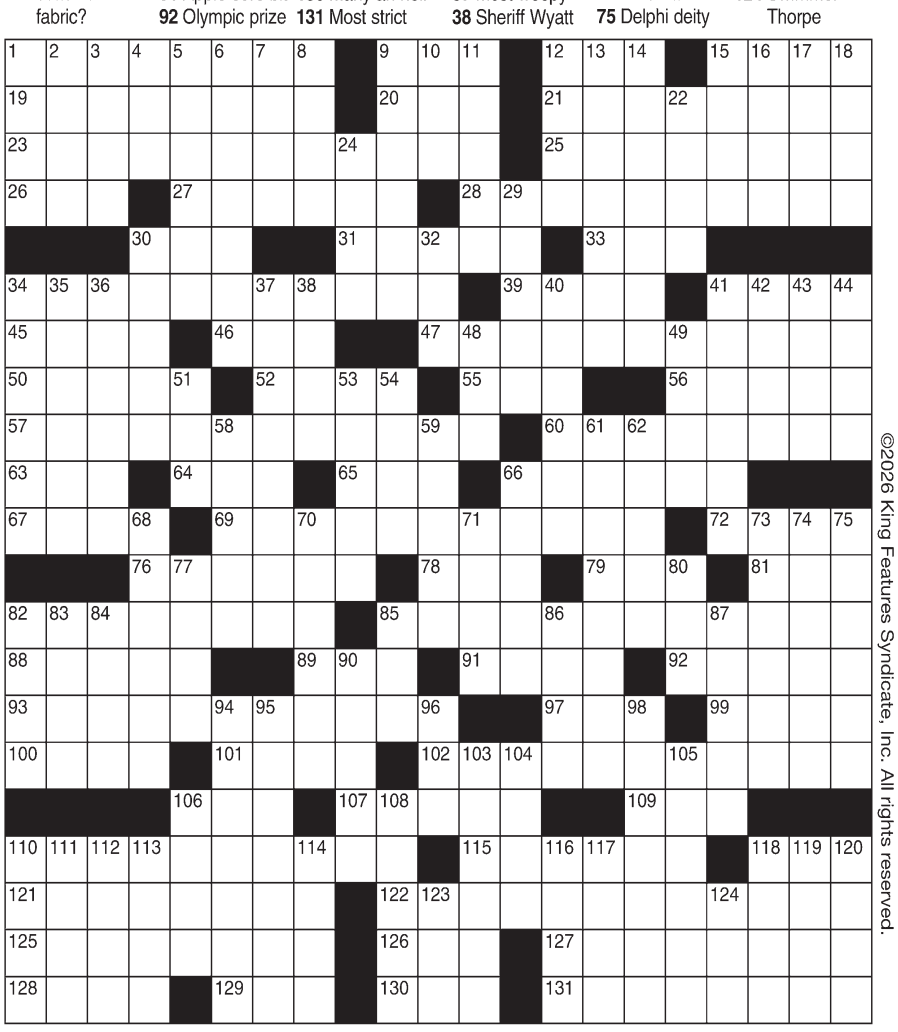
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Super Crossword

"OH, GO ON!"

ACROSS
1 Classic candy with a white, gooey center
9 "Don't — step further!"
12 Subj. for U.S. citizens-to-be
15 What food is in a food fight
19 First-aid plant
20 Cyber-address
21 More lethal
23 Musical ensemble that likes taunting its audiences?
25 Brainstorming question
26 IRS form info
27 War horses
28 Identify the star of "The Godfather"?
30 Taint
31 Peripheral
33 Pistol, in slang
34 Speed of corporate employees?
39 Alexis I, e.g.
41 Move a little
45 Think ahead
46 Whale locale
47 Two-ply cotton twill fabric?
50 Outfielder Judge
52 French for "weapon"
55 — -la-la
56 Sacred vows
57 Horse with color patches on one-fourth of its body?
60 Great delight
63 German conjunction
64 — polloi
65 Ike's inits.
66 Yasser of Palestine
67 Popular crafts website
69 Publicity video made by 12th graders?
72 "Chiquitita" pop group
76 Pupils' places
78 Galloped
79 Daiquiri liquor
81 Lil Durk or Lil Jon's music
82 Brief, tight shorts
85 Marx brother with extreme views?
88 Mammal with striped legs
89 — Paulo
91 Apple core bit
92 Olympic prize
93 Beatles drummer participating in a bout?
97 Tell tall tales
99 Big shopping center
100 "— From Muskogee"
101 "Puffball" director Nicolas
102 Stringed instrument played by people in jail?
106 Water, in Vichy
107 — salts (bath supply)
109 Pewter metal
110 Moola earned by singer Jones?
115 Adds to a film, as music
118 Response to "Are you?"
121 Boa of South America
122 Small dance club?
125 Some chewy candies
126 RV hookup org.
127 Countertenor
128 Linear, briefly
129 Colorant
130 Many an heir
131 Most strict

DOWN
1 Antislip items
2 Bar brews
3 Bank offering
4 The, in Caen
5 Egg capsule
6 Middles, in London
7 Compulsion
8 Speed
9 Gets clogged with icky stuff
10 Celestial ball
11 Without help
12 Certain Dutch cheese
13 Dakar's land
14 Uncover
15 "Paper Lion" star Alan
16 Outward appearance
17 Honey wine
18 Roughly
22 Inside dope
24 Former Laker Lamar
29 Pianist Schnabel
30 Small-time
32 Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Mr. —"
34 Not reflecting light
35 Display boldly
36 Units of capacitance
37 Most weepy
38 Sheriff Wyatt
40 Fast-food pizza chain
41 California mountain
42 A Jackson 5 brother
43 With a sharp image, briefly
44 Pinkish-red
48 Prefix with laryngology
49 Club in a Barry Manilow hit, for short
51 — degree
53 Longish skirts
54 Prefix with skeleton or spore
58 Lab slide dye
59 On — firma
61 Hobby with call letters
62 Into a state of conflict
66 Golfer Palmer, informally
68 Rebel like Abbie Hoffman or Jerry Rubin
70 Moniker of a loch monster
71 Paw parts
73 Of a wedding woman
74 Lauren of "The Fan"
75 Delphi deity
77 Parade ruiner
80 Roman 1,900
82 Drifting sort
83 "Enough, I get it!"
84 Cabbie's car
85 Hitter Maris, for short
86 Toon pics
87 Macho sorts
90 Make furious
94 Fine- — wood
95 In the form of a circle
96 Photo —
98 Authorize
103 Dennis of hoops fame
104 "It's my turn"
105 Remnant of a burned coal
106 Kingdom given to Esau
108 Some skin scars
110 Mexican treat
111 — even keel
112 Filly's mother
113 Jack fish
114 Simplify
116 Comic thuds
117 "Shoo!"
118 Oahu, e.g.
119 Deeds
120 Irrelevant
123 Tic-tac-toe victory
124 Swimmer Thorpe



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Puzzle answers page 11

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, Aug. 13
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Tuesday, Aug. 18
The Patrick County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the Patrick & Henry Community College (Stuart Site), Community Room.

Wednesday, Aug. 19
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the town office.

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

Events

Wednesday, Aug. 12
The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute boxes at its Stuart location from 8:30-11 a.m., and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m., and starting at 5:30 p.m. at the community building in Meadows of Dan.

Thursday, Aug. 13
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its August monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Charles Bowman. Beverages will be provided to all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring salads and/or desserts to share. Due to the Patrick County Agricultural Fair, there will be NO monthly senior meeting in September.

Friday, Aug. 14
Friday Morning Market is open 8 a.m. - noon. Same great selection of local grown produce and hand made items. The Caring Hearts Free Health Clinic will be on hand to offer free blood pressure checks.

Sunday, Aug. 16
Ross Harbour Methodist Church, , 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart, will hold a Homecoming with special music by Four for One starting at 9:30 a.m. and worship beginning at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor David Gaylor. Lunch will follow the service.

Monday, Aug. 17 - Wednesday, Aug. 19
Ross Harbour Methodist Church will hold a revival starting at 7 p.m. each night. There will be special speakers and singers each night.

Tuesday, Aug. 18
Tuesday Evening Market will be open 5-7 p.m. with local produce, soaps, hand crafted items, peanut butter, fresh eggs, and baked goods.

Friday, Aug. 21
The community food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Ross Harbour Methodist Church will hold a free community meal from 4-6 p.m.

Friday Morning Market is open 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., featuring a selection of fresh produce, fresh eggs, hand crafted items, coffee, peanut butter, birdhouses, baked goods, and handmade soaps.

Tuesday, Aug. 25
The Tuesday evening market will be open from 5 - 7p.m. with local produce, soaps, hand crafted items, peanut butter, fresh eggs, & baked goods.

Thursday, Aug. 27-Sunday, Aug. 30
"Awaken" a free Community Revival Service, will be held at the Virginia Motorsports Museum Auditorium, 212 Johnson St., (P&HCC & Dehart Park) Stuart. The event will be led by Pastor Brian Edwards and a team of pastors and musicians from the Hope Church Network. Event begins Thursday - Saturday at 6:30 p.m., and 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Supper on the grounds at the Picnic Shelter above the Pool at Dehart Park. Chicken BBQ sandwiches will be supplied while supplies last, attendees are asked to bring side dishes and drinks to share. Be sure to bring a chair on Sunday for the outdoor portion of the event. Service on Sunday begins at 5:30 p.m. with a Service of Baptism to follow at Dehart Pool for those who wish to be baptized and claim Jesus as Lord. This event is Sponsored by Stuart Church of Living Water 101 E. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart. Call 276-694-3322 for additional information.

Friday, Aug. 28
Friday Morning Market is open 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. with fresh produce, fresh eggs, hand crafted items, coffee, peanut butter, birdhouses, baked goods, and handmade soaps. The Landmark Center will be on site offer free blood pressure checks.

Ongoing

The Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR will provide assistance in genealogy research on Thursdays in August, from 4 to 5 p.m., at the Patrick County Library. "If you are just getting started in your search, or stuck in your search, we can help."

American Legion Post 105 meets the third Friday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Post building at 553 American Legion Road, Stuart. All are welcome.

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

Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105, at 6 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

M	A	L	L	O	C	U	P	■	G	O	A	■	E	S	L	■	A	M	M	O
A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A	■	U	R	L	■	D	E	A	D	L	I	E	R
T	E	A	S	I	N	G	C	O	M	B	O	■	A	N	Y	I	D	E	A	S
S	S	N	■	S	T	E	E	D	S	■	N	A	M	E	B	R	A	N	D	O
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A	A	R	O	N	■	A	R	M	E	■	T	R	A	■	■	O	A	T	H	S
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	P	I	N	T	O	■	R	H	A	P	S	O	D	Y
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O	N	E	D	■	D	Y	E	■	S	O	N	■	S	T	E	R	N	E	S	T

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Music

(cont. from page 1)

an old-fashioned singing at 5 p.m., offering an opportunity to hear and sing some beautiful old hymns.

The Royall family will once again be making its old-fashioned peach butter in the parking lot of Papa's Country Cooking, while Leslie will demonstrate spinning at Poppy's.

Meadows of Dan Baptist Church will have a prayer tent available for anyone who would like prayer for themselves or someone else.

There will also be some new additions to this year's festivities.

The Sunset Market will have additional vendors, along with its own activities, food and music. Organizers said the goal is simple: Keep everyone entertained throughout the day.

A cruise-in will also be held at the Blue Ridge Mountain Inn, hosted by James and Anita Watts. Brandon Watson is organizing the event, with Watson and other car enthusiasts expected to arrive between 2 and 3 p.m.

The day will wrap up with a movie at Mountain Top Park around 8:30 p.m. Attendees can bring the family and settle in to watch "Zootopia 2."

With music, food, shopping, storytelling, church events, cars and a movie, organizers say there will be plenty to keep visitors busy.

Parking will be available at Frontier Home and Meadows of Dan Baptist Church, with shuttle service provided by Reynolds Homestead.

For questions or vendor inquiries, call Trinity Goad at 540-230-7943.

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Medicaid Impact Dashboard launched

Gov. Abigail Spanberger on Wednesday marked the 61st anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid by criticizing recent federal healthcare legislation and outlining steps Virginia is taking to respond.

According to the governor's office, changes included in H.R. 1 could affect Medicaid coverage for about 300,000 Virginians and reduce federal Medicaid funding to the state beginning in 2028. The administration also said it has launched online dashboards to monitor the impact of the changes and is working to help eligible residents maintain health coverage.

State officials said Virginia's 2026-28 budget includes funding to support residents who lose health coverage and to establish a Medicaid reserve fund. Spanberger also announced a series of listening sessions with patients, healthcare providers and community organizations to discuss the law's effects.

More information about Medicaid coverage changes is available through the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services.

This version avoids repeating the release's political rhetoric, attributes contested claims, and reads like a standard newspaper brief rather than a rewritten press release.

LEGAL

VDOT

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.

Phone: 276-629-2582

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov

EEO/AA Employer

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA

The Town Council of the Town of Stuart, Virginia, will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, Virginia, to receive public comment on proposed amendments to two Town ordinances:

1. Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) Tax Ordinance. The proposed amendments would (a) provide for the licensing of mobile food vendors (food trucks), including a short-term option of $25.00 per operating day, not to exceed $300.00 per license year; (b) authorize electronic filing and payment and one-stop business registration; and (c) make housekeeping revisions to conform the ordinance to current provisions of the Code of Virginia.
2. Meals Tax Ordinance (Ordinance No. 08-02). The proposed amendments would (a) provide for the collection and remittance of the Town's 5% meals tax by mobile food vendors; (b) add the meals tax exemptions currently required by Va. Code Section 58.1-3840; (c) add an explicit interest provision under Va. Code Section 58.1-3916; and (d) authorize electronic filing and payment.

The full text of each proposed ordinance is on file and available for public inspection at the Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, Virginia, during regular business hours, and on the Town's website at: https://stuartva.org/proposed-bpol-meals-tax-ordinance-amendments-public-review/. Copies will be furnished upon request.

Written comments may be submitted before the hearing to the Town of Stuart, P.O. Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171; by email to information@stuartva.org; or by telephone at (276) 694-3811. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Persons requiring special accommodation to attend or participate in the public hearing should contact the Town Office at (276) 694-3811 at least three business days in advance.

By order of the Town Council of the Town of Stuart, Virginia.

ADVERTISE WITH US

ZiTEL

(cont. from page 1)

derstanding shown by our local partners and residents as we resolve the challenges with this project. With ZiTEL, we are poised to fulfill our mission of expanding broadband access across the region," Armbrester stated in the release.

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said he is excited the broadband project is moving forward again because residents were becoming increasingly concerned.

"It looks like a lot of the local supervisors across the state actually along with their representatives who are already working with RiverStreet to make a transition. It's kind of like RiverStreet has sort of laid down its arms, and they were working to rebid and be replaced by other providers. It seems like these guys have a track record of recent success because there's been a number of these build-outs across the state, it's just RiverStreet is the one who unfortunately ultimately failed," Williams said.

Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness said he received an email July 30 regarding the project's transfer.

In an email to DHCD and WPPDC, McGuinness said he appreciates the efforts being made and is optimistic about the change.

"We do hope that parameters are set in place, a matrix, or a timeline if you will, so we as a county could start to see progress," he stated in the email.

McGuinness, who was not serving as county administrator when the project began, said he believes the project lacked sufficient structure from the beginning.

"There was absolutely no type of matrix. You just don't give someone a blank check and tell them we want broadband. A statement of work, a scope of work, there needed to be parameters set in place and how do we know going forward that parameters are set in place," he said.

During a meeting with ZiTEL before the change was announced, McGuinness said the company indicated it plans to provide monthly invoices detailing its work and the amount of fiber installed.

"They'll break that down for us and then they'll be able to say, I think the figure was $22,000 a mile of fiber, so they should be able to say, 'hey, we put in five miles of fiber this month. Okay, there's $110,000, cut them a check, pay them. But you just don't give someone a big pile of money. You just don't give them money and tell them to put in broadband. I mean look at RiverStreet, they failed miserably," McGuinness said.

McGuinness said he is excited for ZiTEL to take over the project.

"I have a lot more faith in them from day one when I became County Administrator than with RiverStreet. ZiTEL says the right things, we believe in them, they're connected to Patrick County a little bit, so they were excited to serve our county and our citizens," he said.

Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the county knows many residents have been frustrated by the project's delays.

"We share that frustration. Our responsibility is to the people of Henry County, and when it became clear this project needed a new path forward, we worked with our partners to make that happen. It's good news for the project, and we're excited about getting a vendor that can move us forward for our residents," he said.

Wagoner said he has confidence in ZiTEL's ability to complete the project and deliver on the promise of countywide broadband.

"We're grateful to all of our partners for their continued commitment and patience throughout this process. Projects of this scale require tremendous collaboration, and organizations like the Harvest Foundation and HCPS (Henry County Public Schools) have remained focused on the same goal we have from the beginning. We appreciate their partnership and look forward to working together with ZiTEL to bring this project to a successful completion," Wagoner said.

Moving forward, Wagoner said ZiTEL has a timeline the county expects it can meet without jeopardizing the project's federal funding.

The West broadband project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027, with 14,161 fiber internet connections planned.

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

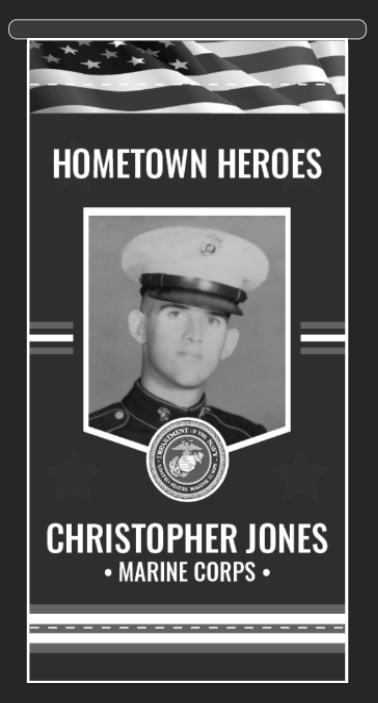
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FIND THE ENTERPRISE ON FACEBOOK

Wildlife experts share tips for living with bears, coyotes











Nearly 100 residents turned out for a recent "Living with Black Bears and Coyotes" presentation in Meadows of Dan, and judging by the show of hands, encounters with black bears are becoming a familiar experience for local residents.

The program was presented by Southwest Piedmont Master Naturalists Norma Bozenmayer, Valinda Dyer, Julie Currier and Dayna Gibson. It was sponsored by the Meadows of Dan Ruritans.

When attendees were asked who had recently seen a black bear in the wild, nearly every hand in the room went up.

The presentation covered black bear behavior, ways to avoid conflicts and what to do if someone encounters a bear.

One of the key messages was the importance of keeping black bears wild by reducing food sources and other attractants around homes and properties.

The presentation also gave residents an opportunity to ask questions and share concerns about encounters with bears and coyotes. The discussion was lively, with attendees raising a variety of questions about wildlife in the area.

For more information about black bears, coyotes and other Virginia wildlife, visit the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website at dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife.

Residents with questions or concerns about wildlife encounters can also contact the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Hotline at 1-855-571-9003 or vawildlifeconflict@usda.gov.

Flooding

(cont. from page 1)

Officials are asking contractors, excavating companies, logging crews, farmers with tractors, UTV owners and others with equipment that can be used to safely access damaged areas to call Angie Nelson at (336) 705-3185.

The Ararat Ruritan Club has been designated as an official drop-off site for donations to support volunteers, emergency responders and community members involved in cleanup efforts.

Needed items include nonperishable food, ready-to-eat meals, snack foods, bottled water, sports drinks and electrolyte drink mixes. The club is accepting walk-in donations daily.

Officials said the donations will help sustain crews working to restore access and help residents as recovery efforts continue in the flood-damaged communities.

SCC orders data centers to pay transmission costs

The Virginia State Corporation Commission has ordered data centers and other large electricity users to pay for transmission infrastructure built exclusively to serve their facilities, a move Gov. Abigail Spanberger said will save Virginia families and small businesses hundreds of millions of dollars.

The order follows a filing by the governor's administration urging regulators to prevent residential and small-business customers from bearing the costs of transmission projects needed for large-load developments. Spanberger said the decision ensures data centers pay the full cost of infrastructure required for their operations and pledged to continue working with the General Assembly on policies addressing energy costs, environmental standards and local community concerns.

VDOT seeks input on roadway safety

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is asking the public to provide input on their experiences and concerns about roadway safety as the agency updates its guiding document for making Virginia's roads safer for everyone.

Virginia's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a five-year plan that provides direction and focus for road safety efforts in the commonwealth. The steering committee that provides oversight to the update — made up of VDOT, Virginia State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, and other state and local agencies and safety partners — invites public input to help shape the next plan and guide future safety initiatives.

The statewide survey is now open and will remain available through Aug. 23. This online survey asks Virginians to identify the most pressing safety issues within SHSP emphasis areas such as speeding, occupant protections, impaired driving and others, as well as to provide insight on which countermeasures, actions or strategies they believe would be most effective in reducing or eliminating those concerns.

The number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries in Virginia decreased in 2025, but they remain at pre-pandemic levels. Public input to the plan through this survey will help focus our actions so that those traveling on Virginia's highways and streets will arrive alive and unharmed.

The updated plan is expected to be released in early 2027.

DMV's Mobile ID rolled out in southwest

Following successful regional rollouts across the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has officially expanded Virginia Mobile ID to Southwest Virginia, making it available for use across the state. The expansion kicks off in Abingdon at the 77th Virginia Highlands Festival, where festivalgoers can experience Virginia Mobile ID firsthand, as well as at participating locations across the region.

Designed with convenience and data privacy in mind, Virginia Mobile ID allows users to verify their identity or age in seconds with a quick QR code scan. Using unique encryption, Virginia Mobile ID securely transmits only the required data directly to a verifier device, ensuring the user's personal information remains protected without having to hand over their phone.

"This is an exciting milestone for Virginia Mobile ID," said DMV Commissioner Saundra M. Jack. "With Southwest Virginia now joining our growing network of participating businesses and organizations, Virginians can use their Virginia Mobile ID in every region of the Commonwealth. Whether you're catching a ballgame, traveling through the airport, attending a festival or visiting participating businesses, Virginia Mobile ID is making everyday interactions more convenient, secure and accessible across Virginia."

Getting started with Virginia Mobile ID only takes a few minutes, and the process can be completed at home or while on the go. Customers can download the free app on App Store or Google Play, scan their driver's license or ID card, complete a quick face verification and begin using their mobile ID immediately. Virginia Mobile ID is a digital companion to the physical ID, and residents must always carry their physical ID as a backup, especially when driving.

Attendees at the Virginia Highlands Festival can use Virginia Mobile ID at the beer garden from July 30 through Aug. 1 to securely confirm they are over 21 without sharing unnecessary personal information, such as their name and home address. By introducing the option at the festival this summer, event leadership aims to streamline the process of navigating the event while protecting guest privacy.

"We are thrilled to lead the way in Southwest Virginia with Virginia Mobile ID," said Deirdre Cole, executive producer of the Virginia Highlands Festival. "Incorporating this technology at our festival grounds gives our guests a more modern way to verify their age, so they can spend more time enjoying everything that the festival has to offer. It's a great step forward for both our attendees and the broader business community."

In addition to the Virginia Highlands Festival, Virginia Mobile ID is currently accepted at numerous participating locations across Southwest Virginia.

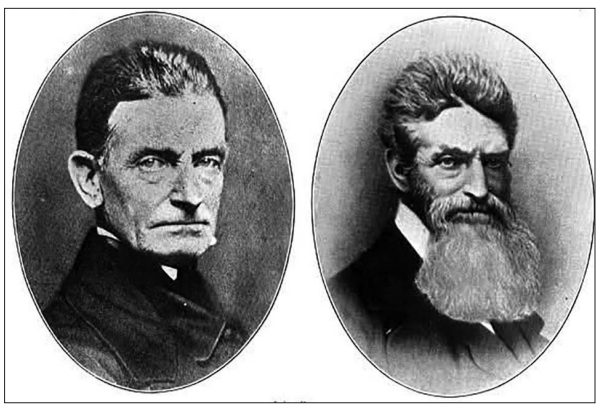
Accepting Virginia Mobile ID is fast and simple for local businesses, with no added costs. Business owners can get started today by downloading the free Virginia Mobile ID Verifier app from the App Store or Google Play.

In addition to participating businesses, stadiums and venues across the Commonwealth, Virginia Mobile ID is accepted at TSA checkpoints at 350+ U.S. airports, pilot Virginia ABC stores, all DMV Customer Service Centers and by Virginia State Police. DMV is continuing to broaden acceptance of Virginia Mobile ID statewide with a variety of businesses and organizations.

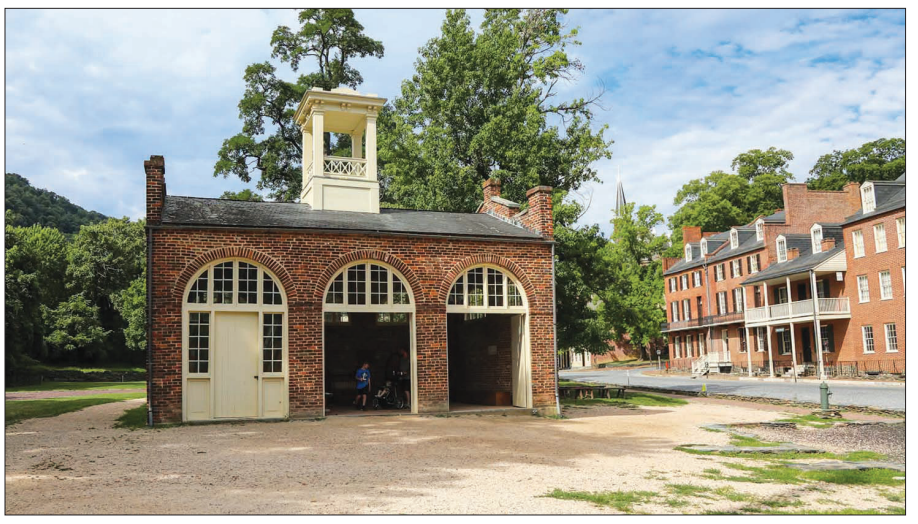
For more information about downloading and using the Virginia Mobile ID app, benefits, participating locations, security features and frequently asked questions, visit DMV's website.

J. E. B. Stuart and John Brown

By Tom Perry



John Brown



The fire house at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart seemed fated to be involved in the Civil War. He was born during the Nullification Crisis of 1833, wanted to join the U. S. Army during the Mexican-American War of 1848 that expanded our nation to the Pacific Ocean, found himself at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, from 1850-54, where he encountered many personalities of the coming War, such as Robert E. Lee. He then found himself in the middle of "Bleeding Kansas," where he encountered many people, such as John Brown.

On May 24, 1856, John Brown led the "Pottawatomie Massacre" against pro-slavery Kansans. On June 5, 1856, Stuart and the 1st United States Cavalry, under the command of Edwin Sumner, went into John Brown's camp three days after the "Battle of Black Jack." Stuart and John Brown would cross paths again.

During a trip east in 1859, I believe Stuart visited his birthplace, Laurel Hill, for the last time as his mother sold the property later that year. The trip included business, as Stuart received Patent No. 25684 for a saber-attaching device on October 4, 1859, that he invented. The United States Government purchased "Stuart's Lightning Horse Hitcher" for $5,000 ($106,616.37 in 2005).

During his visit on October 17, Stuart was in the War Department Office at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street, awaiting a meeting with Secretary of War John Floyd, when news from Harper's Ferry of a possible takeover of the Federal Arsenal came across the telegraph. Stuart, in civilian clothes, went to Arlington to inform Colonel Robert E. Lee. Today, the Custis-Lee House sits on the hill in Arlington National Cemetery. A legend states that Stuart found Colonel Robert E. Lee at an Alexandria apothecary, what we would call a drug store, and informed him of the situation. Together, the two officers, Stuart and Lee, traveled into Washington City, where they met with Floyd and the fifteenth President of the United States, James Buchanan, at the White House. The two then boarded a fast train and headed northwest to put down the disturbance, with a contingent of Marines commanded by Lt. Israel Greene and the Maryland Militia arriving in Harper's Ferry before midnight.

On October 18, 1859, at 7 a.m. near dawn, Stuart delivered an ultimatum from Lee to the firehouse, where the townspeople had trapped the raiders. Stuart was to signal to Lee if his ultimatum was rejected. "Jeb" found a cocked carbine held by "Isaac Smith," aka John Brown, pointing at him. Stuart told the raiders their lives would be spared if they surrendered. Brown refused, saying, "No, I prefer to die here." After some haggling between the two, Stuart stepped back and signaled by waving his hat. Stuart, Greene, and 24 Marines approached the fire engine house with 2,000 spectators on hand. During the three-minute attack, Stuart took John Brown's Bowie knife, which is on display at the Virginia Historical Society.

As the Marines dragged Brown unconscious out of the firehouse, Stuart informed Lee of his real identity. Stuart wrote later that "the greatest service I rendered the state" involved recognizing Brown from Kansas Territory. Brown claimed he could have wiped Stuart out "like a mosquito," but Stuart felt his razor sharp saber "would have saved Virginia the expense of Brown's trial."

For many, John Brown is a hero who martyred himself to bring attention to slavery and the abolition of the economic system that dominated the Southern economy before the War Between the States, 1861-65. For others, John Brown is a terrorist who killed many innocent people in Kansas and was on a suicide mission at Harper's Ferry. I can see both sides of the argument, but I think that killing innocent people for your cause is not an option in a civilized society.

After the raid, newspaper stories reported that Stuart and Brown had an exchange during Brown's interrogation, where Stuart interrupted, questioning the prisoner about what he paid his fellow raiders, saying, "The wages of sin is death." Brown responded, "Young man, had you been my prisoner and wounded, I would not have insulted you." If Stuart had been Brown's prisoner, he would have been dead, especially if in Kansas Territory. This shows an interesting take on the whole business. Just as the coming War, these two men have divergent views on their Christianity and what is right and wrong.

I believe that Stuart's involvement changed his viewpoint on many things. He began writing letters to the Governor of Virginia, Henry Wise, among others, while still an officer in the U. S. Army, stating that he had "done all in my power to encourage and help organize military companies." Five years earlier, Stuart wanted to do all he could to pay back his debt to the United States, but John Brown's Raid and the trouble in Kansas now turned him to write, "For my part, I have no hesitancy from the first that, right or wrong, alone or otherwise, I go with Virginia." War was on the way, and J. E. B. Stuart chose a side. John Brown influenced that decision by trying to cause a slave uprising and seizing arms at the U. S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, which is today a national park at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers.

Virginia tried and executed John Brown for treason on December 2, 1859. Brown passed a note to his jailer on his way to the gallows. "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood." John Brown was correct. He and J. E. B. Stuart would both lose their lives.

Volunteers

(cont. from page 1)









The Penny House has provided temporary housing for people who have lost their homes in natural disasters for nearly 30 years.

get back into their home. Most of the time it's anywhere from four to seven people in this house," Cardwell said.

Because the Penny House is used so often, Cardwell said a second house is needed.

"It's been people in it ever since it started. Actually, it would be nice if we had a second Penny House because there were a lot of times we could actually use a second Penny House, but everybody wants a lot of money for their home. Hopefully in the future with more churches joining" we might be able to purchase another one, she said.

Larry and Margaret Vernon are in charge of the Penny House, checking residents in and making sure they have everything they need. Cardwell said Jimmy Willard, founder of Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc., also helps supply food boxes to residents.

Before the walls were painted, the Patrick County Cluster built a new ramp and deck for the house.

"It's a group of churches that goes out into the community" to complete projects for those in need, Cardwell said, adding that the Cluster will also install new flooring.

Half a dozen volunteers with Hope Center Ministries in Ararat and Disaster Relief helped paint the walls.

"Once we get all of this done, then the flooring's next and then we'll renovate it. We'll update the pictures, update decor, they'll be new curtains. We were donated a nice living room suite, we had two new beds donated, so it's just to bring it up to date for the people who stay. Because they've been through so much that when they come it's welcoming," Cardwell said.

Hope Center resident Scott Rhudy said being able to share God's love with the residents nearly brings him to tears.

"God's doing this. I ain't doing it for anybody but God and to help these people and to give back. With the lifestyle I lived before I was sober, if I can give back and help somebody show them God's real, then I will. It puts a smile on my face the whole time I'm doing it and makes me feel good, and maybe show others there's a different way to life," Rhudy said.

Donations to the Penny House can be mailed to Larry Vernon at 255 Vernon Drive, Stuart, VA 24171.

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