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

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County sees increase in carryover funds

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors learned the county experienced an increase in carryover funds during the annual year-end report at its Aug. 10 meeting.

The fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. Treasurer Sandra Stone said the net general county fund balance carried forward was $13,947,421, an increase of $295,852 from the previous fiscal year.

"That was an increase of $295,852 from last fiscal year," she said.

Stone said the county's carryover balance comes from several sources, including unspent department budget funds, revenues that were higher than budgeted and unspent carryover funds from the previous year.

"Carryover funds are needed and used during our lower revenue months. Usually, these months are August to October and February to April," she said.

At the end of June, the county's contingency fund balance was $1,251,601. The county earned $442,876 in interest on investments and $16,396 in interest on deposits.

(See County p. 6)



The Enterprise, which is marking its 150th anniversary, was selected as the first local business to be recognized as a Patrick County Partner. Pictured are Taylor Boyd and Debbie Hall, from the newspaper; and supervisors Andrew Overby, Richard Cox, Jonathan Wood and Clayton Kendrick. (Photo by Somer Luna-Ojodeagua)



The Patrick County School Board learned the school division was awarded National Beta District of Distinction for the 2025-26 school year.

Patrick County schools earn Beta distinction

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board learned the school division was awarded National Beta District of Distinction for the 2025-26 school year during its Aug. 13 meeting.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood said this is the third consecutive year the division has received the award.

"This shows the tremendous amount of great students we have and the hard work our staff puts into making sure our students have extracurricular activities beyond just the normal academics. Our students do so well in the competitions that the state has at the national level," he said.

Wood said pictures of students competing in Beta events will be shown to the board at its Sept. 10 meeting.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Approved the consent agenda as presented.

*Approved the GDQ-R policy updates.

*Tabled selecting the Virginia School Board Association delegate and alternate delegate until the Sept. 10 meeting.

*Approved the personnel report as amended.

Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, was absent from the meeting.

Rotary, Ruritan event set for Aug. 27

By Taylor Boyd

The Rotary Club of Stuart and Stuart Ruritan Club will hold Pints for Patrick County Partnerships from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Pickle & Ash.

Admission is a $5 donation at the door.

Stuart Rotary Club President Liz Pierce said the Rotary Club began its Rotary on Tap events in January.

"We've been rotating between four different restaurants and we do what's called a Pints for Event. Each month we pick a different cause and the restaurant donates $1 per drink that's sold, and then we just invite people to come in and it's more of a networking community event," she said.

For the Aug. 27 event, the two groups are teaming up to give local businesses and nonprofit organizations an opportunity to pitch projects that would help them grow or better serve the community.

(See Rotary p. 8)

Flash flood causes further Campbell Branch discoloration

By Taylor Boyd

A flash flood on Campbell Branch, a tributary of the Mayo River, caused further discoloration of the water earlier this month, according to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The latest incident occurred more than a month after DEQ issued a request for corrective action to Faith Mulch following a July 18 spill of blue-green hydroseeding mulch into Campbell Branch.

According to DEQ, the material is a nontoxic, blue-green-dyed hydroseeding mulch.

DEQ Senior Communications Coordinator Sarah Pentecost said the short-term corrective actions requested by the agency have been implemented.

"The longer-term actions were being implemented at the time of this latest incident when a flash flood on Campbell Branch caused water to rise into the production area of the plant (Faith Mulch). DEQ continues to engage with the facility and partner agencies to ensure actions are taken to achieve compliance," she said.

Pentecost said the latest incident has been incorporated into the compliance and enforcement action involving Faith Mulch.

"In addition to DEQ's requirement to hire an environmental contractor to perform immediate cleanup on Aug. 8, faith Mulch will have additional short- and long-term corrective actions to implement as a result of a Notice of Violation issued to the company," Pentecost said.

Despite the dramatic change in water color in Campbell Branch and the Mayo River, Pentecost said DEQ has not observed or received reports of aquatic mortalities, and none are expected.

DEQ also has not conducted water testing and does not plan to do so, Pentecost said.

"Other than temporary discoloration, no lasting impacts have been observed or are expected in Campbell branch or the South Mayo River," she said.

Harris seeks Smith River District seat

By Taylor Boyd

Five years after ending her term on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, former Smith River District representative Crystal Harris is seeking the seat again in the Nov. 4 election.

Harris will face interim representative Richard Cox, who is also seeking the post. The winner will serve the remaining three years of the current term.

Harris previously served on the board for 21 years. She said she decided to seek the position again because she felt the need to work as a team with the Board of Supervisors.

"I did say we need new eyes," at the end of her last term, "but what I think I said was 'young, new eyes.' We've had a hard time recruiting the young people to get involved," she said. With the community behind her encouraging her to run again and with a lot of thought and consideration, Harris decided that she could be "a benefit to the county."

Harris said her more than two decades of experience on the board gives her knowledge she could use to serve the community.

"You have to be patient. County government does not move as fast as your business work does. You have to follow procurement plans, and you just have to be patient and work with the people, which I feel like I did work with the people," she said.

Harris said she answered residents' questions during her previous terms and, when she did not know an answer, would find someone who did and conduct her own research.

In addition to her experience on the board, Harris said she brings common sense to the position.

"I do feel like my common sense with what the people in Patrick County wants and I've always been open to anything. I've worked with people who had issues with their roads, because we're at the grace of VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation)," she said.

During her tenure on the board, Harris said the Enterprise Zone was created to provide incentives to businesses in each district.

"When I came on board there weren't any, and we worked as a team and each district got the Enterprise Zone, one after the other. I think it benefited the people. I worked with the economic development board to try and keep what we have, and I think that's an important thing to keep the people that are here - the employers - to keep

(See Harris p. 3)



Crystal Harris is seeking the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the November election.

Eco Ambassador Council funds eight environmental projects

The Eco Ambassador Council (EAC), a coalition formed by Carter Bank, with members including Blair Construction, Clark Gas & Oil, Frith Construction, Hooker Furnishings, Intertape Polymer Group (IPG) and Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, is proud to announce the selection of eight community-led environmental projects that will receive a combined $70,778 in funding during 2026–2027. To date, the EAC has invested $257,178 in projects throughout the region since 2022.

The projects span Southern Virginia and North Carolina's northern Piedmont and focus on expanding outdoor recreation, improving water safety, protecting wildlife habitat, reducing litter, enhancing environmental education and creating more equitable access to the region's natural resources. Together, they represent the EAC's continued commitment to investing in projects that strengthen both communities and the environment.

"These projects reflect the kind of practical, community-driven solutions that create lasting impact," said Tyler Carter, Community Reinvestment Administrator for Carter Bank and an EAC member. "Whether we're helping a young person experience their first paddle trip, protecting a threatened species or improving access to public green spaces, every investment represents our shared commitment to making this region's natural resources healthier, safer and more connected."

Among this year's funded projects is the Outdoor Equity and Access Initiative which will remove barriers that often prevent underserved communities from enjoying the outdoors by providing free guided paddling and hiking programs, transportation assistance, outdoor equipment and multilingual educational materials. By addressing financial, geographic and language barriers, the project will make outdoor recreation more accessible while encouraging lifelong environmental stewardship.

Building on a successful educational program that has been piloted in Martinsville and Danville, the EAC will also fund the Epic River Experience for youth in Patrick County. This program will bring hands-on river education to local high school students who will receive beginner paddling instruction and water safety and stream quality education while gaining confidence on the waterways that define their community.

EAC Leadership members also selected the Step into Nature program, a new guided hike series that

will introduce participants to local trails while incorporating Leave No Trace principles, outdoor safety and environmental learning.

"What makes the Eco Ambassador Council unique is that local businesses aren't simply writing checks, we're investing in the future of the communities where our employees and families live. Every project we support strengthens our region by protecting the resources that make this region such a great place," said Michael Jones, Director of Global Energy & Sustainability at Intertape Polymer Group (IPG), the newest member of the EAC. "These investments create opportunities for people to build meaningful connections with nature that can advance to lifelong stewardship."

Wildlife conservation remains a priority for the EAC and through the Bog Turtle Signage Initiative at I.C. DeHart Park in Woolwine, educational signage and habitat enhancements will increase awareness of the federally threatened bog turtle while protecting one of the region's most sensitive wetland ecosystems.

To improve water quality, the EAC has also funded Virginia's First Trash Trout Installation which will be installed in Martinsville. The floating litter collection system will intercept trash in Jones Creek before it reaches larger waterways while engaging volunteers in ongoing cleanup and watershed stewardship efforts.

"The Eco Ambassador Council continues to prove that when businesses invest in conservation, the entire community benefits," said Jim Frith, Chairman of the Board of Frith Construction and also a founding member of the EAC. "These projects will inspire more people to become lifelong stewards of the natural places that make this region special."

Following overwhelming public interest, the EAC has funded Paddle Safety Classes for the second year. Six beginner-friendly classes will be provided in 2027 and participants will receive personal flotation devices, safety equipment and practical skills needed to safely enjoy river and lake recreation.

"Investing in the community where we live and work impacts not only local businesses but contributes to quality of life for our citizens and specifically our employees. It also showcases our public spaces to our region's visitors," said Tim Clark, President, Blair Construction and a founding member of the Eco Ambassador Council. "It's a long-term commitment at Blair Construction to give back and be a part of the continued growth in Southern Virginia. When I was asked to be part of this council, there was no hesitation because I knew the impact we could make on our community."

Environmental education will expand in the region through a previously funded project, The WaterShed, an outdoor classroom in Basset, VA. In phase two, there will be a native pollinator garden and stormwater demonstration area where students can explore biodiversity and habitat restoration through learning experiences aligned with Virginia Standards of Learning.

The Angel Overlook Enhancement Project in Meadows of Dan was also selected for funding and will improve one of Patrick County's most scenic destinations by adding picnic facilities and landscape enhancements that encourage visitors to spend more time enjoying the panoramic views of Pilot Mountain and the Sauratown Mountain Range.

"Investments like these improve quality of life for residents, enhance tourism and encourage people to get outside and enjoy everything our region has to offer," said Anna Lester, Vice President of Clark Gas & Oil and a founding member of the EAC. "One of the things I love most about the Eco Ambassador Council is that every business can choose how they want to be involved. Some members simply help select and fund projects, while others roll up their sleeves alongside their employees and families to volunteer to help support these projects. We love having the opportunity to work together outside the office, give back to our communities and see firsthand the difference these projects make."



CEDS working committee kickoff

West Piedmont seeks input on economic development strategy

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission is updating its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and is seeking input from residents, businesses and community partners through a public survey.

The CEDS serves as a regional framework for economic growth and community development, including efforts to create jobs, diversify local economies and improve quality of life.

"Updating the CEDS is a critical opportunity to guide the future of our region," said Michael Armbrister, executive director of the WPPDC. "This plan not only sets our shared vision and priorities, but also serves as a vital tool when competing for grant opportunities that can bring new resources and investments to our communities."

The WPPDC was designated as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in 1992. The designation requires the commission to update its CEDS every five years to qualify for EDA assistance and maintain its designation. The previous CEDS covered 2022-26.

"Community input is essential to creating a strategy that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of our region," said Kiana Dillard, economic development specialist for the WPPDC, who is leading the update.

The commission hosted a working committee meeting June 6 with regional leaders from health care, education, transportation, economic development, government and nonprofit organizations. The group discussed goals and timelines, as well as regional strengths, challenges, opportunities and trends.

The planning process is expected to conclude in early 2027, with the final plan scheduled for adoption in the spring.

The survey is available on the WPPDC website, www.westpiedmontpdc.org.

Pets of the Week



Meet Big Boy, although he's not actually big, he is a sweet 1 year-old Pit mix. If you are interested in adopting this adorable boy, please visit the shelter or call for more information.



Kittens, more kittens, cats and even more kittens. Every shape, size and color. Please visit the shelter and adopt!

Like us on facebook

Please save a life by adopting your next pet. 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 check out their Facebook page for 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/.

Boothe earns degree from University of Maryland Global Campus

Jonathan Boothe of Stuart, earned an Associate of Arts from University of Maryland Global Campus in spring 2026.

Boothe was one of more than 7,300 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the spring 2026 term.

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Data centers in VA need to conserve water during drought, group says

By Zamone Perez
Virginia News Connection

Consumers in the Potomac River Basin are being encouraged to limit their water use and river health groups stressed data centers with high water usage need to heed the call.

Below-average rainfall and groundwater supply have put the large watershed in conditions ranging from abnormally dry to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Officials have asked for voluntary water conservation in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Pat Calvert, Virginia director of conservation for the environmental nonprofit American Rivers, said data centers need to adhere to preservation practices taking shape around the Commonwealth.

"We need to preserve our water supply right now by using common sense water conservation measures at the personal level but I also believe it's at the permitted level, so that includes everybody," Calvert asserted. "Businesses and industries that are using water need to be also held to account."

Virginia is home to one of the largest concentrations of hyperscale data centers in the country. According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, larger facilities can consume up to 5 million gallons a day to cool their servers, the equivalent of a city with a population of 50,000.



Larger, AI-focused data centers could spur even more water consumption, according to a study by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute. (Adobe Stock)

This year, Virginia lawmakers passed bills requiring water utilities to send yearly or quarterly reports on data center water usage. Calvert acknowledged the policies, set to begin in January, will be helpful.

Calvert argued officials need to be cognizant of the potential overstressing of the Potomac, which can affect water accessibility.

"We certainly need to be vigilant in ensuring that everybody is part of this effort to ensure that we're using our dwindling water resources wisely and that conservation measures are being considered seriously across the board," Calvert urged.

Forecasters said there is a nearly 50% chance the Potomac River will experience low flow through the end of the year. If it happens, officials may need to release additional water supply from two D.C.-area reservoirs.

Weekly initial claims for unemployment increase

Virginia Works' Economic Information and Analytics Division, which serves as the Commonwealth's official source for labor market and workforce data, reported that that 2,663 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending August 8.

The claims were filed with the Virginia Employment Commission, which administers the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance program.

This is 16.8 percent higher than last week's 2,280 claims and 1.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,624). Nearly 75 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (329); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (257); Health Care and Social Assistance (244); Retail Trade (206); and Manufacturing (156).

Continued weeks' claims (20,613) were 0.0 percent higher than last week (20,603) and were 4.0 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (21,463). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (3,691); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,388); Health Care and Social Assistance (2,068); Accommodation and Food Services (1,691); and Retail Trade (1,476).

Girl Scout Bronze Awards presented

Girl Scout #1302 had 5 girls earn their Bronze Award in Girl Scouting.

The Bronze is the first of the highest awards in girl Scouting. Next comes Silver and then Gold (equal to Boy Scout Eagle). These 5 girls were Jazzmin Glenn, Abigail Hall, Rebecca Handy, Natalie Lawrence and Taylor Ragsdale.

For their award, the girls painted the parking lines in the Providence UMC parking lot in both areas of the church. The girls spent 20 hours on this project and were proud of their results. The church congregation was very pleased to have the lines done so they could better park in the parking lots. To add to this the girls pulled weeds around the church and packed the backpacks for the church to take to Patrick Springs Primary School (PSPS).



Pictured are Taylor Ragsdale, Jazzmin Glenn, Abigail Hall, Natalie Lawrence (not pictured Rebecca Handy).

The girls will now start work on their Silver Award which will be a bit more work and time. They must spend 50 hours on the project of their choosing and have a bit more paperwork to do as well. These projects help the girls become more involved in their communities, learn leadership skills, develop many new tasks and learn how to work as a team.

Harris

(cont. from page 1)

them here in Patrick County as much as we can," she said.

Harris said she also believes the county should use its existing resources to recruit businesses to the area.

"We're not going to get large companies because they moved overseas. We need to keep what we got, that is important to Patrick County, the workforce. We got great workforce here," she said.

If elected, Harris said she would work to retain existing employers and recruit more small businesses to Patrick County.

"Patrick County is wide open for tourism. If we promote more tourism and get more people coming through, they may want to bring their business here. I have worked with other businesses to try and get them in. Even now, even though I'm not on the board, I still keep an open eye for anyone I think would be great for this county. We need to keep our beauty," Harris said.

Harris also believes the U.S. 58 expansion project will benefit county residents.

She does not support data centers being built in Patrick County.

"The research that I have done, I don't think it would be a good fit for Patrick County or any part of the area," she said.

Harris has served with the Smith River Rescue Squad for almost 40 years.

Fluvanna County pharmacist charged with stealing prescription opioids

A federal grand jury indictment was unsealed last week charging a Fluvanna County pharmacist with diverting liquid hydromorphone for his own use and replacing it with water.

An indictment is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

According to the indictment, Joshua Joseph Walden, 52, who previously worked at Jefferson Pharmacy in Palmyra, Virginia, is charged with one count of tampering with consumer products and attempt to tamper with a consumer product, two counts of theft of pre-retail medical products, and one count of acquiring a controlled substance by fraud.

Walden worked as a pharmacist from in or before July 2023 until he resigned in February 2025, according to court records. Throughout the course of his employment, Walden stole liquid opioids and amphetamines and further tampered with prescription medications with reckless disregard for the risk that another person would be placed in danger of death or bodily injury.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Virginia State Police are investigating the case.

First Assistant United States Attorney Robert N. Tracci for the Western District of Virginia made the announcement.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher B. Browne is prosecuting the case.

Ninth District staff set August hours

Staff for U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, will hold traveling office hours Aug. 26 in Martinsville and Patrick County.

Staff will be available from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Martinsville City Hall, Room 32, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville, and from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Patrick County Administration Building, 106 Rucker St., Stuart.

For more information, call Griffith's Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671 or Abingdon office at 276-525-1405.

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Organ Scandal



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The 118th Congress served as a launching pad for numerous actions taken in the 119th Congress.

House Republicans reintroduced common-sense policies that first secured House passage in the 118th Congress.

One bill, the Laken Riley Act which I repeatedly voted for, makes it easier for law enforcement to arrest criminal illegal aliens for certain crimes. This bill received swift consideration and passage in both the House and Senate.

A second bill is the HALT Fentanyl Act. I was the proud House sponsor of this legislation to permanently designate lethal fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs. The bill also made researching Schedule I drugs easier so that we can work to better understand the impacts of these substances on human health.

Like the Laken Riley Act, this bill received swift consideration in both chambers of Congress.

Both of these bills not only won support in the 119th Congress, but from the President as well. President Trump signed these bills into law to help protect American communities.

Some of my actions in the 118th Congress have influenced further action at the federal level.

During that time, I served as the Chairman of the Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Moreover, I was a leading Energy and Commerce member on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

During my leadership on these panels, I routinely participated in oversight of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with particular interest in American public health agencies engaged in risky research and gain-of-function research projects.

Our investigative work demanded answers from public health officials like Dr. Anthony Fauci.

My findings led me to introduce the Risky Research Review Act. This bill outlines key reforms to make American-funded research more safe, more transparent and more accountable.

To continue momentum on this front, I reintroduced the bill in the 119th Congress with Senator Rand Paul. But the Trump Administration is actively responding to my concerns.

In July 2026, the Trump Administration announced a new government policy for stopping high-risk life sciences research.

The federal policy prohibits American funding of dangerous gain-of-function research in both domestic and foreign settings and aims to establish stronger oversight for life sciences research that could present significant risks to human health.

The Trump Administration further limits federal support for research in countries or institutions that lack appropriate biosafety, biosecurity and oversight standards.

While I will still push for my legislation to enshrine necessary guardrails into law for federally funded risky research, these federal actions are steps in the right direction.

A separate health care policy I investigated under my Chairmanship in the 118th Congress concerned the implementation and oversight of the organ donation and transplant system.

I led a hearing to spotlight issues with our organ transplant programs and discuss the failures of the groups responsible for the procurement of organs, Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs).

In particular, I highlighted alarming allegations that were previously raised to my Subcommittee's attention.

We received reports that an OPO had planned to operate on prospective organ donors who showed signs of life!

Another allegation claimed that somebody mouthed the words "help me" just before doctors were ready to commence an organ harvesting procedure.

The patient survived, but this disturbing detail reinforced Congressional desires to make the organ transplant process more safe and less risky.

These reports reflected concerns about Network for Hope, one federally designated OPO, and its management and operating procedures.

Upon hearing these troubling allegations, my Oversight Subcommittee brought in medical experts to understand the organ transplant health care landscape and determine the frequency at which these incidents happen.

Following my investigation on the issue, the Trump Administration has worked to protect prospective organ donors and patients awaiting lifesaving treatments.

In August 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made steps to decertify Network for Hope! This means the OPO can no longer do business with the federal government, and it loses a primary source of income.

This action is another critical federal step in working to ensure the safety and integrity of organ donation and securing U.S. health care programs to better protect patients.

I am proud to have been an early advocate on these issues to help sway federal action. I will continue to shine a light on issues that deserve attention from Congress, the President and the American people.

Is Lavender an Effective Treatment for Headaches and Migraines?

My wife often gets throbbing headaches in the afternoon or evening. They seem to appear out of nowhere, leaving her huddled on the couch in intense pain. Although we've spent significant time trying to identify the cause, it remains a mystery. Painkillers don't do much for her. Up until recently, her preferred method of treatment has been a long shower and a nap.

My wife isn't alone. Many Americans suffer from headaches and migraines without understanding the cause of their pain. To make matters worse, painkillers are often ineffective. Migraines are especially debilitating. For some reason, these painful headaches are 3 times more common in women than in men. They can be accompanied with nausea and extreme sensitivity to light and sound. My grandmother used to get migraines that knocked her out for days.

On a recent vacation, my wife and I were introduced to the idea of using lavender as a treatment. She decided to give it a try. The next time she had a bad headache, she rubbed some lavender oil on her temples. Within a few minutes she felt much better. The headache didn't miraculously disappear, but it did significantly improve.

Lavender and Migraines

In 2012, the first study of the effects of lavender oil on migraines was published. Researchers asked participants to use lavender oil during the onset of a headache and record their pain levels at 30-minute intervals for 2 hours. They were not allowed to use any painkillers during this time. To use the lavender oil, participants put 2 to 3 drops on their upper lips and inhaled the vapors for 15 minutes.

Seventy-four percent of participants who used the lavender experienced reduced migraine symptoms. The symptom reduction was much more pronounced in the lavender group than in the placebo group. The researchers concluded that "Inhalation of lavender essential oil may be an effective and safe treatment modality in acute management of migraine headaches."

How does lavender compare to other migraine treatments? Let's take a look.

*A high dose of Tylenol is 52% effective (it helps 52% of people who take it).

*Ibuprofen is 57% effective.

*Sumatriptan (the most commonly prescribed headache medicine) is 59% effective.

*Sumatriptan injections (used in emergency rooms) is 70% effective.

Compared to these meds, lavender's 74% effectiveness is very impressive. Besides being at least as effective as other (more conventional) treatments, lavender is safe, natural, and easy to use. It probably smells a lot better too. So next time you or someone you love has a headache, give lavender oil a try.

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

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

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Mountain Valley recognized for hospice care

Mountain Valley was recognized as a 2026 Hospice CAHPS Honors recipient for its Virginia service area, a national distinction recognizing hospice organizations that provide exceptional care and outstanding patient and family experiences.

The Hospice CAHPS Honors program, presented by MatrixCare, recognizes high-performing hospice providers based on results from the Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey. The award reflects feedback from patients' families and caregivers and highlights organizations that consistently deliver high-quality, compassionate care.

To earn this recognition, hospice providers must score above the MatrixCare national performance benchmark on key quality measures, including families' willingness to recommend the hospice, as well as multiple indicators related to communication, symptom management, emotional support, and overall quality of care.

"This recognition reflects the compassion, dedication, and professionalism of our Virginia team," said Jenna Campell, Chief Clinical Operations Officer. "Every day, our staff and volunteers are committed to creating the best experience for every patient, every family, every time. We are honored that the families we serve have recognized their commitment through this award."

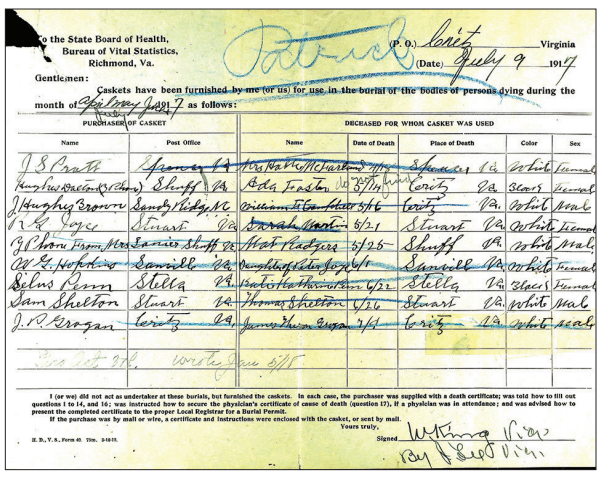
The 2026 Hospice CAHPS Honors awards were based on survey results collected from April through December 2025. Award recipients were identified by comparing hospice performance against national benchmarks across 22 quality indicator measures.

Mountain Valley remains committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered hospice care that supports individuals and families with dignity, comfort, and excellence throughout life's journey.

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET
WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Patrick Pioneers

William King Via and Mary Rose Wood Via



To the State Board of Health,
Bureau of Vital Statistics,
Richmond, Va.

(P. O.) Critz Virginia
(Date) July 9 1917

Gentlemen: Caskets have been furnished by me (or us) for use in the burial of the bodies of persons dying during the month of February 1917 as follows:

PURCHASER OF CASKET		DECEASED FOR WHOM CASKET WAS USED				
Name	Post Office	Name	Date of Death	Place of Death	Color	Sex
J S Pratt	Spencer Va	Mrs Martha McMartin	Feb	Spencer Va	White	Female
Hughie Brown (Col)	Shuff Va	Ada Foster	2/5/17	Critz Va	Colored	Female
J Hughey Grogan	Sandy Ridge NC	William [illegible]	2/16	Critz Va	White	Male
R E Joyce	Stuart Va	Sarah Martin	2/21	Stuart Va	White	Female
J B Thorn Penn Mills	Spencer Shuff Va	Mat Rodgers	2/25	Shuff Va	White	Male
W E Hopkins	Sanville Va	[illegible]	2/6	Sanville Va	White	Female
Silas Corn	Stella Va	[illegible]	2/22	Stella Va	Colored	Female
Sam Shelton	Stuart Va	Thomas Shelton	2/16	Stuart Va	White	Male
J S Grogan	Critz Va	James Wilson Grogan	2/11	Critz Va	White	Male
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

I (or we) did not act as undertaker at these burials, but furnished the caskets. In each case, the purchaser was supplied with a death certificate; was told how to fill out questions 1 to 14, and 16; was instructed how to secure the physician's certificate of cause of death (question 17), if a physician was in attendance; and was advised how to present the completed certificate to the proper Local Registrar for a Burial Permit.
If the purchase was by mail or wire, a certificate and instructions were enclosed with the casket, or sent by mail.

Yours truly,
Signed. W. King Via
By J. Scott Via

H. B., V. S., Form 40. Thm. 2-10-15.

King Vias Casket Ledger

By Beverly Belcher Woody

William King Via and his wife, Mary Rose Wood Via, contributed greatly to the Critz community during their lifetimes. Through business, banking, education, and their willingness to support the people around them, the Vias became an important part of the community they called home. More than a century later, old issues of The Enterprise provide glimpses into their lives and reveal just how deeply they were woven into the history of Critz.

William King Via was born in 1868 to James Robert Via (1840–1915) and Martha Catherine Koger Via (1845–1918).

His paternal grandparents were Fleming Via (1808–1893) and Mary Corn (1812–1896), of the Elamsville community of Patrick County, Virginia. His maternal grandparents were Joseph Koger and Ruth Slaughter, of the Carter's Store community of Henry County, Virginia.

William King Via was the oldest of at least six children:

William King Via (1868–1921)
John Peter Via (1871–1949)
Jesse Ben Via (1873–1934)
Henry W. Via (1876–1899)
Mary R. Via (1878–1965)
Nannie Sue Via (1880–1968)

The woman who would share William's life and become equally well known in the Critz community was Mary Rose Wood Via.

Mary Rose Wood was the daughter of James Mattison Wood (1831–1911) and Druscilla Ruth Spencer (1832–1917). James and Druscilla had at least seven children:

John L. Wood (1859–)
James J. Wood (1864–)
Charles M. Wood (1866–)
Robert Martin Wood (1868–1920)
Mary R. Wood Via (1870–1924)
Martha E. Wood (1872–)
George A. Wood (1876–)

William King Via and Mary Rose Wood Via made their home in the Critz community, where they raised their two sons:

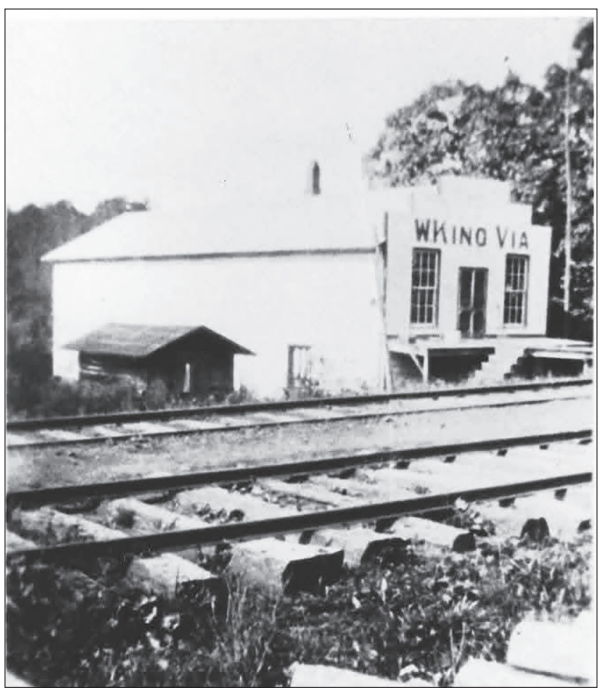
James Lee Via Sr. (1896–1985)
Marshall Ney Via (1904–1982)

The surviving newspaper accounts from the early twentieth century provide a wonderful window into the lives of the Via family. They show William not only as a successful merchant and businessman, but also as a neighbor, friend, banker, and supporter of education. They also reveal Mary as a woman remembered for her generosity, friendship, faith, and devotion to her community.

October 3, 1912 — The Enterprise

By 1912, William King Via was already described in the newspaper as a popular Critz merchant. An October 3 issue shared a lighter glimpse of his life away from business:

Our popular merchant Mr. W. King Via and Mr. Erastus Martin of Roanoke are anticipating a trip to the Shenandoah Valley in the near future fishing, camping etc. Owing to business affairs and sickness, they were detained from going in August as they had planned to do.



King Via store in Critz, courtesy of Charlie Bowman

Just a few months later, the Via home itself appeared in the local news, offering a glimpse of the couple's place in the social life of their community.

January 30, 1913 — The Enterprise

Mr. and Mrs. King Via entertained a crowd of their young friends last Sunday. Among those were Misses Maggie, Pattie and Emma Prillaman, Cora, Delia, Rosa and Clemmie Bryant, Della and Flora Shelton, Laura Ingram, Juda Sneed, Nellie and Mary Wright. Messrs Thomas, Abe and Elisha Bryant, and Frank Wright.

These brief community notices may seem simple today, but they preserve something valuable. They give us the names of the people who gathered together, visited one another, and formed the social fabric of Critz more than a century ago.

William King Via's influence, however, extended far beyond the social life of the community. His store at Critz served local families with an assortment of merchandise that reflected nearly every aspect of everyday life.

January 29, 1920 — W. King Via, Critz, Va. Advertisement

The headline read:

1920 Greetings — Jan. Clearance Sale!

Short Lengths of Denims, Suitings and Madras
Ladies' Misses' and Children's Sweaters
Underwear
Men's Fur Hats
Farm Machinery Coffins & Caskets
White & Ecru Counterpanes
Curtain Rods
First Come, First Served
W. KING VIA, Critz, Va.

The remarkable variety advertised by Via's store—from clothing and household goods to farm machinery, coffins, and caskets—illustrates the important role that the country merchant once played in a rural community.

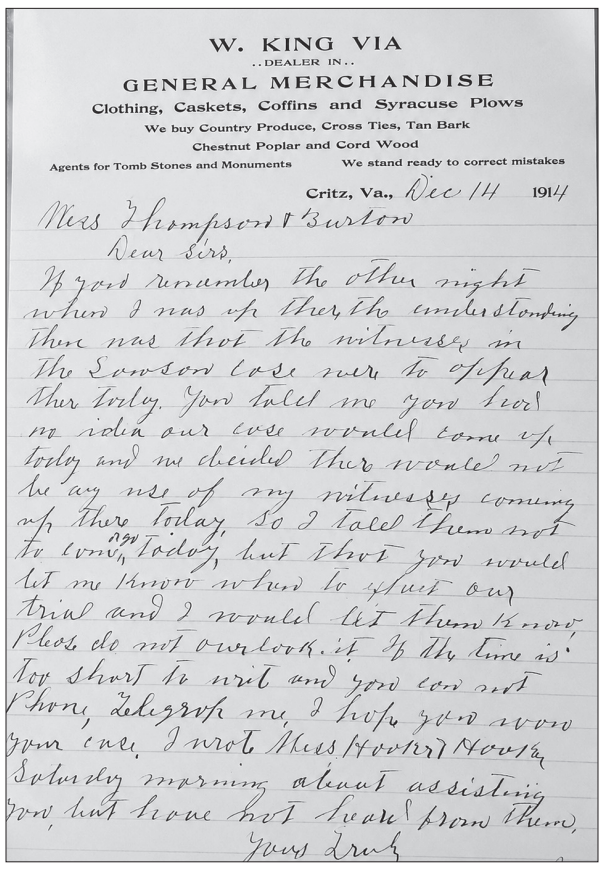
While William was operating his mercantile business, he was also helping shape the financial life of Critz.

January 15, 1920 — Bank of Critz Financial Statement

A financial statement published for the Bank of Critz read:

I, J. K. Fulton, cashier, do solemnly swear that the above is a true statement of the financial condition of the Bank of Critz, Inc., located at Critz, in the County of Patrick, state of Va., at the close of business on the 31st day of December 1919 to the best of my knowledge and belief.

CORRECT—ATTEST:
J. K. FULTON, CASHIER
W. KING VIA
C. E. MARION



W. KING VIA
..DEALER IN..
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Clothing, Caskets, Coffins and Syracuse Plows
We buy Country Produce, Cross Ties, Tan Bark
Chestnut Poplar and Cord Wood
Agents for Tomb Stones and Monuments — We stand ready to correct mistakes

Critz, Va., Dec 14 1914

Mrs Thompson & Burton
Dear Sirs,

If you remember the other night when I was up there the understanding there was that the witnesses in the Lawson case were to appear there today. You told me you feared no idea our case would come up today and we decided there would not be any use of my witnesses coming up there today. So I told them not to come today, but that you would let me know when to start our trial and I would let them know. Please do not overlook it. If the time is too short to write and you can not phone, telegraph me. I hope you won your case. I met Mrs Hooker Hawks Saturday morning about assisting you, but have not heard from them.

Yours truly

King Via letter, courtesy of Charlie Bowman

B. H. COOPER
DIRECTORS
STATE OF VA., COUNTY OF PATRICK

Sworn to and subscribed before me by J. K. Fulton, Cashier, January 10, 1920.

J. H. BROWN, N. P.
My com. expires Sept. 26, 1923.

The Via store apparently provided more than merchandise and employment. According to a delightful announcement published later that year, it had also become a successful meeting place for Cupid.

September 23, 1920 — Announcement from W. King Via's Store

Announcement!

The store of W. King Via, at Critz, Va., is not only the home of the best merchandise, but also seems during the recent past to have been the permanent residence of Cupid. The following marriages have taken place among the employees of the store during the last ten months:

JAMES L. VIA and RUTH K. COOPER
November 23, 1919
EDWARD T. HODGE and MARY JESSUP
November 27, 1919
GEO. A. MARTIN and LIZZIE HANBY
July 24, 1920
IRVIN I. HUTCHENS and HATTIE BRAMMER
September 11, 1920

Among those listed was William and Mary's own son, James L. Via, whose marriage to Ruth K. Cooper had taken place on November 23, 1919.

As 1920 drew to a close, another newspaper announcement demonstrated William King Via's important role in the development of the Critz community. He was serving as president of the Bank of Critz.

December 9, 1920 — Bank of Critz

BANK OF CRITZ,
(INCORPORATED)

This bank is now open and doing a general banking business. We solicit the patronage of the public and promise every courtesy and accommodation consistent with sound business policy, and will gladly extend to you every consideration and facility you will receive at any other bank.

We solicit time deposits and will pay 4 per cent interest on same.

J. K. FULTON, Cashier
OFFICERS
W. KING VIA, President

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – I Worked for my Ex-husband but Wasn't Paid and now have little Social Security; What are my options?

Dear Rusty: Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband. I'm a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me "on the books" and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial irresponsibility (I don't want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small $773 Social Security payment each month. At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband but wasn't paid? *Signed: Distressed Divorcee*

Dear Distressed: We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least 2 years), you should be able to collect an ex-spouse benefit as his former wife. In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was entitled to at his own full retirement age (because he and you were married for over 10 years).

The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned $773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental "spousal boost" to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS full retirement age. In other words, because you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record. You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living.

Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I suggest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org. At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental assistance you may be entitled to where you live, including healthcare and medication assistance, housing, nutritional assistance, etc.

Regarding your question: "Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years and wasn't paid?" Social Security determines benefits based solely on your personal earnings as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is, in turn, dependent on how your joint income taxes were filed over the years you worked in your husband's business. Social Security is unable to assist you with IRS matters. I'm afraid yours is more of a legal matter you would need to pursue by discussing your situation directly with the IRS or engaging an attorney for assistance.

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).

Race Report: Richmond Raceway

By wood Brothers Racing

Despite a late-race skirmish that appeared to hinder the speed of the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane Ford Mustang Dark Horse, Josh Berry battled to an eighth-place finish in Saturday night's Cook Out 400 at Richmond Raceway, extending his streak of top-10 finishes to three consecutive races.

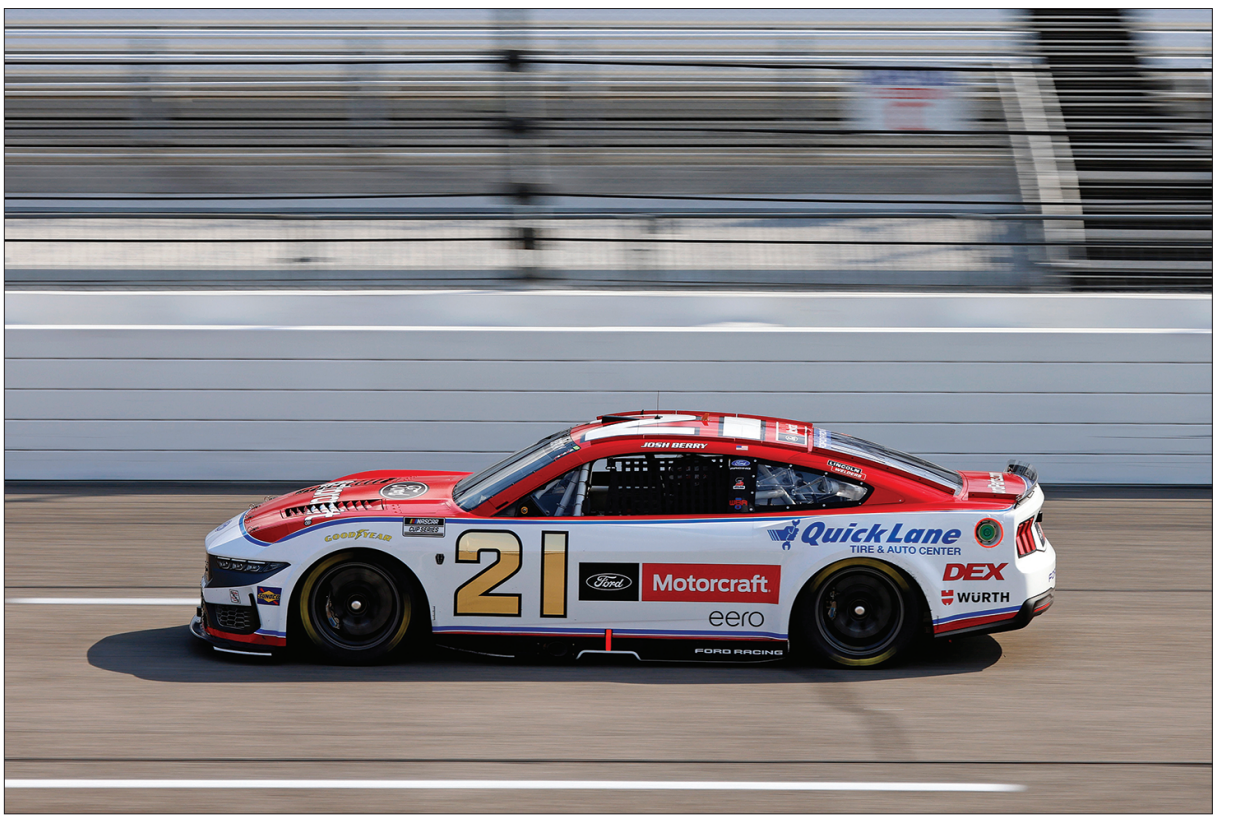
Berry, who entered Richmond following finishes of seventh at Indianapolis and fourth at Iowa, started a season-best third and showed strong pace from the outset. He ran inside the top five throughout the opening 70-lap Stage before finishing fifth to earn six Stage points.

Following a pit stop during the Stage break, Berry restarted the second Stage in seventh. He initially slipped to 10th before working his way back to fifth ahead of a round of green-flag pit stops. Berry made his stop, but the caution flag flew before the remainder of the field completed its stops, dropping the No. 21 to 16th and forcing the team to take the wave-around to rejoin the lead lap.

Once back under green, Berry steadily worked his way through the field, returning to the top 10 by Lap 192 and climbing to sixth by the end of Stage 2 to collect another five Stage points.

Berry was running fourth when the caution came out for the stalled car of Carson Hocevar on Lap 285 of 400. The Motorcraft/Quick Lane team elected to stay on track, preserving a set of fresh tires for later in the race.

On the ensuing restart, Berry found himself in the middle of an aggressive battle for position and was shuffled back to 10th following contact. The Motorcraft/Quick Lane Mustang



Dark Horse appeared to lose some speed as a result, but Berry remained inside the top 10 for most of the closing stretch and gained two positions over the final 10 laps to secure the eighth-place finish.

"It was a decent night," Berry told reporters at the track. "I felt like we left a little bit out there… That one restart I got tight and got jammed up behind the 48, and we were one of the last cars that stayed out there.

"That one didn't work out, but all in all, the car was pretty good. For getting trapped under yellow twice and waving around and all that, it was still a solid day with Stage points.

"We'll just go to New Hampshire and try to do better."

The NASCAR Cup Series heads next to New Hampshire Motor Speedway for Sunday's Dollar Tree 301, where Berry will look to continue his recent momentum at a track that has been one of his strongest. He finished second at the one-mile oval last season.

County

(cont. from page 1)

we actually have in the fund. This past fiscal year there were no new funds set up," she said.

Stone said the delinquent tax list has been completed, with copies available in her office and the County Administration Office.

As of June 30, the county had collected 98.61% of 2024 personal property taxes and 94.72% of 2025 personal property taxes.

"For 2023 real estate we were at 99.59 percent, for 2024 real estate we were at 99.3 percent, and for 2025 real estate we were at 97.7 percent, and for year 2026, which is just for the first half only, we are at 95.62 percent," Stone said.

Stone said delinquent taxes are collected daily through methods including Department of Motor Vehicles stops, wage liens, debt setoffs, bank liens, summonses and judicial sales.

"These have been very beneficial. We don't do anything until it's a last resort. We try to do every method we possibly can and we are willing to do payment plans, so if anyone finds themselves in a financial hardship or anything like that please reach out to us. We will work with you anyway we can," she said.

In other matters, the board:

- Heard from Steve Ferring about a Freedom of Information Act request he filed regarding vehicles used by the sheriff's office.
- Heard from Galen Gilbert, who thanked volunteers and first responders who helped in the aftermath of recent flooding.
- Approved a resolution setting the Personal Property Tax Relief Act percentage at 29.5%.
- Ratified the July 2026 appropriations.
- Approved a declaration of a local state of emergency due to flooding.



Treasurer Sandra Stone presented the year-end report to the Board of Supervisors.



Greg Preston provided the annual Piedmont Community Services update.

- Tabled scheduling a public hearing to amend the Patrick County Public Schools fiscal year 2027 budget.
- Approved the county serving as the preservation partner for Envision Critz to qualify to apply for a Virginia Outdoors Foundation grant. There is no financial obligation to the county.
- Heard an update on the Blue Ridge Regional Library from Director Melissa Chapman.
- Heard an update on commercial vegetation spraying from Facilities Director Scottie Hylton.
- Heard the annual Piedmont Community Services update from Executive Director Greg Preston.
- Paid bills, claims and appropriations.
- Presented the August Patrick County Partner award to The Enterprise.
- Appointed Amy Hylton to the Community Policy & Management Team Board as the county administration representative.
- Appointed Richard Cox to the Department of Social Services Board and Community Policy & Management Team to fill the remaining one-year term.
- Heard the administrator's report.
- Heard the supervisors' reports.



Bridging ceremony held

Girl Scout Troop #1302 held its back to year ceremony at Patrick Springs Park on Monday, Aug. 10. At this meeting the troop bridged several girls that had aged up to the next level of scouting. From Daisies to Brownies were MacKenzie Elliot, Everly Hooker and Lettie Lawrence. From Brownies to Juniors was Rylan Holt. Then from Juniors to Cadettes were Jazzmin Glenn, Abigail Hall, Rebecca Handy, Natalie Lawrence and Taylor Ragsdale. Finally from Seniors to Ambassadors were Halo Martin and Emma Purdy. The other girls were in attendance and took part in helping these girls move up to their next level. Then all the girls in attendance joined together for a group picture on the bridge.

The troop will start its yearly meetings on Monday, Aug.24, at Providence United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. The troop has many new activities planned for this year and the girls are excited to get started. Anyone interested in joining the girls in this troop come on our to the meeting and find out what goes on and see how the girls carry on their meetings and how exciting the year will be.

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.

Written by Janice Mills Stanley and Ann Robertson McConnell

The British Northern Campaign in the American Revolution was aimed to cut off New England from the other colonies. Thick forests and supply lines slowed the British troops down. The Revolution started in the northern colonies and the patriots fought hard. The resistance was more than the British anticipated. George Wahsington kept the main British army pinned near New York. After the American forces won the crucial Battle of Saratoga in 1777 the British focus was shifted to the southern colonies since many leaders believed many loyal colonists lived in the South. The Southern Campaign began in1778 when British forces captured Savannah, Georgia. Seargent Mannon Hill served under Captain Jonathan Hanby in the Virginia Militia during the Southern Campaign. Seargent Hill is the Patriot Ancestor of DAR member Janice Mills Stanley.

Mannon Hill was born in 1760 to Matthew and Lucy Hill, probably in Stokes County, North Carolina. Hill joined the Revolutionary War around 1781 in Henry County, now Patrick and served as a sergeant in Captain Hanby's Virginia Militia Company. This company participated primarily in the 96 Campaign in the Southern Theater between May and July 1781 supporting General Nathanael Green's drive against British-held Ninety Six in South Carolina. This was the longest field siege of the American Revolutionary War. From May 22 to June 18, 1781, the Patriots fought to capture a fort held by the British. The American forces failed in a final all out assault and retreated when British relief troops approached. Greene retreated north and although the British won the tactical battle, the outpost was too isolated to hold and the British soon abandoned and burned the town surrendering control of the South Carolina backcountry to the Patriots.

After the war Mannon Hill served as a minister at Snow Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Mannon married Mary Fulkerson in October 1784, in Henry, Virginia. They were the parents of at least 5 sons and 4 daughters. He died in December 1838.

Information for this article is from Hill Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, Part 2, American Ancestors (Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots), Wikipedia and the authors' notes.

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 your 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)

B. F. MARTIN, Vice President
DIRECTORS
J. H. TUDOR
B. H. COOPER
B. J. CORN
O. R. MARTIN
B. F. MARTIN
J. W. OKE
W. KING VIA
R. R. PRICE
W. L. JOYCE

Sadly, William King Via would have only a short time remaining to continue the work in which he had invested so much of his life.

May 26, 1921 — Local News

The Enterprise reported:

Local News

Mr. W. King Via, of Critz, one of the leading merchants of this County, and a very prominent and substantial citizen of Critz, died in Lucy Lester Hospital at Martinsville Saturday following a long illness. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

William King Via was only about 52 years old when he died. The description of him as "one of the leading merchants" of Patrick County and "a very prominent and substantial citizen of Critz" speaks to the position he had earned within his community.

Mary Rose Wood Via survived her husband by less than three years. Her death on April 15, 1924, brought another great loss to Critz. The memorial written for her by Georgia Martin is particularly moving, not only because it records the circumstances of Mary's final illness, but because it describes the character of a woman whose influence reached well beyond her own family.

April 24, 1924 — IN MEMORIAM — VIA

On Tuesday morning April 15th God in His infinite wisdom took to himself by death Mrs. W. King Via from the town of Critz and Patrick County. God removed one of the best and most loyal supporters of all things good and pure. She was a thrifty citizen, a friendly neighbor, nearly surpassed by any.

Mrs. Via had been an invalid for about a year but by the help of her faithful Physician Dr. Shelton she was again permitted to stand on her feet once more but about nine days ago she was taken with "Flu," which went into pneumonia and on Tuesday she was taken home. She bore her suffering patiently, keeping her faith through the "Valley of the Shadow of Death," but fearing "no evil." The Community is in the darkest of night by her departure, but heaven we trust has been made brighter, for as the sun peeps in below the western hills only to shine behind, just so this soul is replaced to shine in heaven, leaving gloom and sadness on earth.

But the bereaved are left to shine as the stars by night. The young people of her community and elsewhere who desire success in life, might well take her life as a means to that end. She had looked forward with respectful interest to "rainy day," and when it came, she was ready, and as for her immediate family they are not left wanting except for her.

She gave freely to worthy public matters, being always ready and willing to help carry on the things of public interest, especially the things pertaining to schoolwork. None knew her but to love her; one of her favorite hymns "Think of the Home Over there," was sung at her funeral and each and every one present could not believe and rejoice that she was in the hands of a just God, and that she was going home to be with her loved ones, who had preceded her beyond this "Vale of Tears."

She leaves two children, besides two grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss her husband having preceded her to the better land about two and a half years ago.

The burial services were conducted at the home by Rev. John Wimbish and Rev. S. A. Thompson. In the presence of many relatives and friends she was gently and tenderly laid to rest near Critz.

The floral offerings were many and beautiful. These spoke eloquently of their love.

Saviour, guide our feeble footsteps
That we may meet, know and love her
When our trials here are done.

Written by Georgia Martin

The words written following Mary's death reveal something that cannot be found in census records or vital statistics. She was remembered as a "friendly neighbor," a supporter of worthy causes, and a woman especially interested in the education of the community's children.

That commitment to education was shared by her husband.

Nearly five years after William King Via's death, The Enterprise looked back upon the effort to provide Critz children with a better school and once again recorded his name among those who had led the way.

February 4, 1926 — The Enterprise

Still relying upon the little log school built in 1890 for the education of their children, the citizens of Critz determined to seek some means of improving conditions, that their children, thru better education might prepare for a better portion of life and become better citizens of the great Old State.

The proposition met with hearty response and under the leadership of a group of patriotic citizens, funds were provided for a better school building. Among the leaders in this movement were W. King Via, H. H. Reynolds, B. H. Cooper, B. F. Martin, Jess Via, and C. E. Marion. Thru, private subscription and state-aid, funds were provided for the construction of the first brick schoolhouse. The success of the plan, it is stated, was largely due to the generous aid of the late Richard J. Reynolds, of Winston Salem. A four-room brick building was constructed at 68 x 29 feet.

That 1926 account provides a fitting final glimpse of William King Via. Even several years after his death, his contribution to Critz was still being remembered.

Taken together, these old newspaper accounts tell the story of a husband and wife whose lives were closely connected to the growth and well-being of their community. William King Via was a merchant, businessman, bank president, and advocate for better educational opportunities. Mary Rose Wood Via was remembered for her generosity, friendship, faith, support of public causes, and particular interest in schoolwork.

Their story also reminds us that the history of a community is not made only by famous events or celebrated figures. It is built by people who open businesses, establish banks, improve schools, welcome neighbors into their homes, help worthy causes, raise their families, and work to leave their community a little better than they found it.

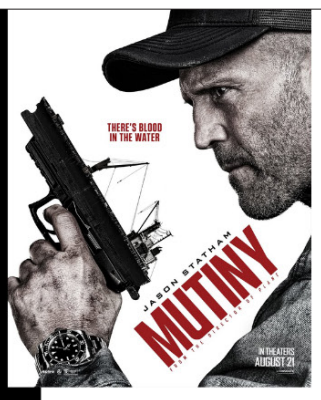
William King Via and Mary Rose Wood Via did just that. More than one hundred years after their deaths, their names remain a part of the story of Critz and Patrick County. Their contributions to the community they loved are certainly worthy of remembrance among our Patrick Pioneers.

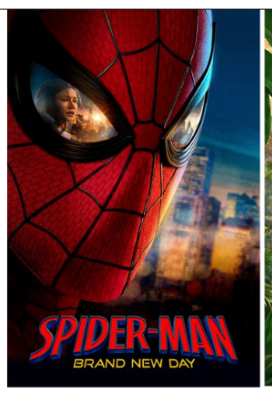
For questions, comments, or story ideas, Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

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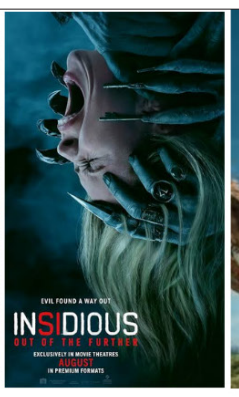

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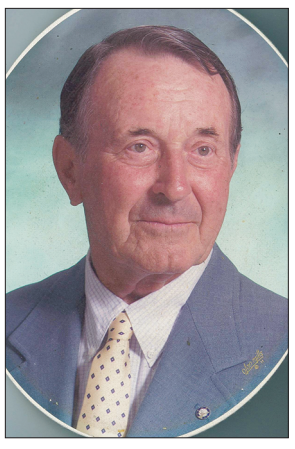




$5 tickets near Walmart
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OBITUARIES

Petrus (Peter) Kuper



Mr. Petrus (Peter) Kuper, age 101, of Stuart, Virginia passed away on August 14, 2026, at the Landmark Center in Stuart. He was born on May 29,1925 to the late Johan Antonius Kuper and Petronella Mansvelt Kuper. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Maria Mayke VanGulick Kuper, and all of his 3 brothers, John, Theo, and Gerald Kuper, and 5 sisters, Joke Kuper Hoelen, Elly Kuper Van lerlant, Riet Kuper Crusio, Meece Kuper Van Bladel, Vicky Goosen.

Peter Kuper was a hardworking dedicated Christian man who served in the Dutch Army in WW2. He retired as a VP of Prudential Bache and Co. on Wall Street at age 62 and moved to Florida, where he lived a robust life of both service and fun. He was a faithful usher at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and a dedicated member of the Sarasota Elks Club. He lived the last 2 years of his life in good health at the Landmark Center. He was deeply loved and admired by all who met him and now is safely in the hands of our Lord. He was a patriot of patriots, and he hung out the American flag every day of his life.

Mr. Kuper is survived by 3 children, Robert and Paul Kuper, Astrid Kuper Cole; 9 grandchildren, Christian and Giselle Batcheller, Justin, Scott, Austin and Ian Cole, Brent and Jeffry Kuper and Lindsay Kuper Levine, and 12 great grandchildren, Brooks, Price, Christian, and Kuper Batcheller, Hadley and Ammon Sloop, Addie, Clyne and Lola Belle Cole, Madeline Cole, Reese and Josephine Levine.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Risen Lord Catholic Church, 59 Mountain View Loop, Stuart, VA, with the Rev. Ronnie Dolosa presiding. Burial will be in the Incarnation Church Garden in Sarasota, FL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Tim Tebow Foundation through info@timtebowfoundation.org. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Joan Joyce Turner



Joan Joyce Turner, 79, passed away peacefully on August 16, 2026. She was born on October 25, 1946, to the late Harvey Joyce and Alice Lawson.

In addition to her parents, Joan was preceded in death by her beloved son, Christopher Allen Stultz, and her sister, Gail Joyce Smith.

Joan had a successful career as a sales engineer at Centel Telephone (later Sprint). Following the death of her son, she decided to devote herself to serving others in need and received her bachelor's degree from Radford University. She was a caring nurse at Martinsville Memorial Hospital and served as a Patient Liaison until her retirement.

Joan had a heart for serving others and was blessed to participate in several mission trips throughout her life. Her faith was an important part of who she was, and she joyfully shared her beautiful voice as a member of the choir at Pleasant View Baptist Church. She taught Sunday School at Mountain View Baptist for 30 years.

Left to cherish Joan's memory is her loving husband of 50 years, Chester S. Turner; her two sons, John D. Stultz (Vikeesa) and Smith A. Turner (Jackie); her six grandchildren, Julie Turner, Elena Turner, Ryan Harding, Megan Stultz Grimes (Ryan), Sarah Faith Stultz (Jason), and Olivia Grace Stultz (Noah); her great-grandchildren, Ryleigh Grimes, Layla Grimes, Ryan Scott Grimes, Aiden Harding, and Meadow Joan Wilkinson, and another precious great-grandchild on the way. She was also survived by two sisters; Vickie Joyce Pauley and June Martin; and her brothers, Steve Joyce and Roger Joyce.

Joan will be remembered for her caring heart, her devotion to her family, her love of service, and her unwavering faith. She leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love that will continue through her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all those whose lives she touched.

Her family finds comfort in knowing that her life was one of love, service, faith, and dedication. Though she will be deeply missed, Joan's memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who were blessed to know and love her.

Services will be held at Pleasant View Baptist Church on Saturday August 22, 2026, with the visitation from 11 P.M-1 P.M. Funeral service will follow at 1 P.M.



Franklin County Sheriff Bill Overton and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges conclude the signing of a memorandum of understanding to establish a training partnership between P&HCC and FCSO.

P&HCC, Franklin County Sheriff's Office sign training MOU

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) have entered into an agreement for P&HCC to become the training provider for the county's justice-impacted population.

"This is a bifurcated mission to instill hope and serve the community as well. We have seen firsthand that when you give someone a pathway to a good-paying job that changes the trajectory of their lives, reduces recidivism, and improves the circumstances of their family. We believe in that powerfully and we are delighted to partner with Franklin County in this important way," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

The primary goals of the agreement are to reduce recidivism among justice impacted individuals and to promote economic stability among such individuals through training for industry recognized certifications and credentials. P&HCC instructors will provide instruction on-site at the Franklin County Jail, providing coaching to assist students in successfully completing the training programs and connecting justice-impacted individuals to community support resources and employment opportunities.

"With this partnership, I just believe we're going to soar," said Franklin County Sheriff Bill Overton, adding, "We feel a lot of pieces are coming into play to help us be successful on this level that we are embarking upon. I couldn't think of anything more exciting or any one group to partner with for what Patrick & Henry is doing. I'm so grateful that we are finding ways to help the gentlemen in our facility and cut their recidivism rate."



Rotary

(cont. from page 1)

Participants will have three to five minutes to present their projects. Attendees will vote at the end of the event, and the winning project will receive the money raised that night as well as a day of service from the Rotary and Ruritan clubs.

"Basically we're going to have the attendees vote at the end, and whatever wins the pitch will win whatever money we raise that night and a day of service between us and the Ruritans. We're going to team up and pick a day to go out and whether it's like paint a room or organize," Pierce said.

As of Aug. 13, three organizations had registered: Primitive Coffee, Patrick County Department of Social Services and Dragon's Beard Farm & Camp.

Pierce said Primitive Coffee hopes to create a sensory play area behind its shop that would include turf installation, a play zone and outdoor furniture.

The Patrick County Department of Social Services recently created a family-friendly visitation room and is seeking a mural depicting children and families to bring warmth and comfort to the space.

Dragon's Beard Farm is working to convert an attached garage into a dedicated gluten-free commercial kitchen. The project could include framing and installing a standard door, insulating and sealing the garage space, or plumbing work, Pierce said.

Businesses will be able to set up tables at the event to talk with attendees and network before presenting their pitches.

"We're just hoping to get a good crowd over at Pickle & Ash. For the businesses that don't win, if anything it's going to highlight their businesses and allow them to talk to community members about different ideas they have for how they want to grow their business," Pierce said.

There is no deadline for businesses and nonprofit organizations to register.

"We were hoping that people would sign up beforehand, but we're open to people coming and showing up and doing it too. We'll have paperwork and be able to add them in because we're just going to do a little ballot sheet. We want as many businesses to participate as possible," Pierce said.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations interested in participating can register online or contact Pierce at LPierceStuartRotary@pm.me for more information.

SCC to host free bilingual community wellness event

Surry Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program will host a free Bilingual Community Wellness Event on Thursday, August 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Yadkin Center, 1001 College Drive, Yadkinville.

The community-focused event is designed to provide valuable information about pain management, movement, wellness, and the benefits of physical therapy. Open to individuals of all ages, the event will offer resources and education in both English and Spanish, making wellness information accessible to a broader audience throughout the region.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in live demonstrations led by PTA faculty and students, ask questions about common physical health concerns, and learn practical strategies for improving mobility and reducing pain. Participants will also receive a take-home wellness kit while supplies last.

"We want community members to leave with practical tools they can use every day to improve their health and well-being," said Jessica Lawrence, PTA Program Director at Surry Community College. "Whether someone is dealing with pain, caring for a family member, recovering from an injury, or simply interested in learning more about healthy movement, this event offers valuable information and resources in a welcoming environment."

Event highlights include live demonstrations, question-and-answer sessions, and take-home wellness kits. Admission is free; however, pre-registration is required. Community members may register online at bit.ly/SurryPTAevent2026.

For more information, contact Jessica Lawrence, PTA Program Director, at (336) 386-3289 or lawrencejk@surry.edu, or Brisa Mondragon, PTA Student, at (469) 684-2114 or riveramondragonb@student.surry.edu.

Patrick Pulpits

It Was Written For You

By Van Yandell

Has anything ever been done especially for you? Did it make you feel special, important, or that you really meant something, or to someone?

The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson, assisted by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and declared the separation of the United States (13 colonies) from Britain. The declaration was adopted July 4, 1776.

It was signed August 2, 1776 by fifty of the fifty-six signers. The other six signed later that year. Those men signing knew they may be signing their own death warrants because the signing was considered treason by the British crown. This fact alone makes a statement as to their sincerity and determination.

The first paragraph reads as follows: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

The second paragraph begins with, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration listed twenty-seven violations of humanity by King George. Freedoms of the people of the colonies were virtually none and the oppression of the king was beyond reason.

The separation from Britain became vital. The king was imposing on the colonists the oppression they had come to the new world to escape.

The Revolutionary War began April 19, 1775 with the battles of Lexington and Concord. The war ended officially September 3, 1783 at the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

About 6,800 colonists soldiers died in battle and another 17,000 died of diseases or froze to death. Losses on the British side are unclear but one estimate is that as many as 24,000 died.

The Constitution of the United States was written over a four month period in 1787, four years after the end of the war. It was written to protect the people, not the government.

The Constitution separates the government into three branches thus establishing a system of accountability and checks and balances. The citizens have the power of the ballot box to control the politicians. They represent the people.

The three branches of government are the executive (president and cabinet), the legislative (house and senate), and the judicial (supreme court). As long as those adhere to the Constitution the purposes determined by the founding fathers will prevail.

The Constitution is preceded by a preamble. Being a brief statement of purpose, the preamble should be memorized by all; including those in government positions.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

We must never forget the revolutionary soldiers that suffered and died; died for us! Those penning the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution wrote those for us; for the protection of American citizens.

A much older document (or series of documents/books) written for us is the Holy Bible. Many believe the Bible was written by men and they were inspired by our Creator God.

The Bible contains sixty-six books (thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament) written by over forty men over a period of 1600 years. In three languages, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic, the Bible is mostly consistent in its teachings.

Even with these differences in language, time span and writers; the eternal salvation teachings are totally consistent.

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

Romans 15: 4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

It is such a great honor and privilege to know that our Creator provided us with a book that is in its entirety, a set of instructions for our existence. I will continue to believe one reason for the chaos in the world is because the people of the world do not consider God's rules.

The Apostle Paul wrote 1900 years ago a description of mankind that definitely applies in today's world. 2 Timothy 3: 1-5 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Those that govern, citizens and non-believers alike, must pay attention to these characteristics of mankind. Those words of God and Paul paint a perfect picture of the world today. Isaiah 5: 20a also makes a connected statement, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil"

Both individually and collectively, we are a very blessed people. To have a Constitution and a Holy Bible to guide our lives, our goal must be to follow these instructions issued centuries ago by men and God. They were written for us!

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. Which gospel does not contain the Olivet prophecy? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

3. The prophecy of Obadiah is basically about what nation? *Shem, Edom, Tabor, Nebo*

4. Who said, "Rabbi" and kissed Jesus? *Alexander, Mark, Mordecai, Judas*

5. David was what relation to Boaz? *Brother, Son, Grandson, Great-grandson*

6. Who was Nun's son? *Jehoshaphat, Joshua, Zacchaeus, Meshach*

ANSWER: 1) Old, 2) John, 3) Edom, 4) Judas, 5) Great-grandson, 6) Joshua



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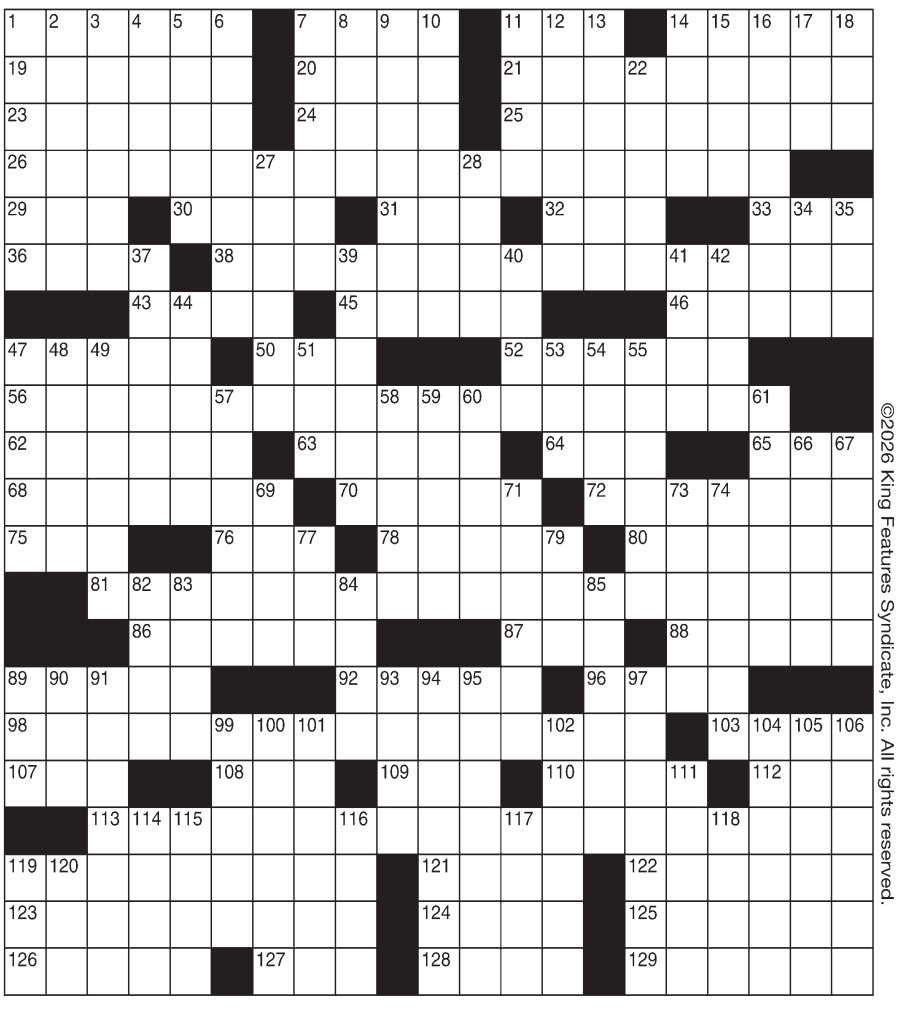
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Super Crossword

TOOTIN' MAD

ACROSS
1 Lie down in rest
7 Pedometer unit
11 Trial fig.
14 Pig in a kids' series
19 A bit coarse, as humor
20 — sapiens
21 Informal talks
23 Personae non — (unwelcome sorts)
24 At the summit
25 Nielsens, e.g.
26 Start of a riddle
29 Granola bit
30 Goose of Hawaii
31 Many a craft brew, in brief
32 — center (play area)
33 Thu. follower
36 "That's — blow!"
38 Riddle, part 2
43 Suffix with billion
45 High-IQ crew
46 Harp relatives
47 Uncouth sorts
50 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
52 City near Seattle
56 Riddle, part 3
62 Hat for Indiana Jones
63 Esther of "Good Times"
64 China's Chou En- —
65 Uncertainties
68 Very last part
70 Opus
72 Freaks out
75 Gore, Roker and Pacino
76 Relative of .edu or .org
78 Base for head hair
80 Like many Coast Guard rescues
81 Riddle, part 4
86 Feature of the word "jot"
87 Execs' mag
88 Idea sources
89 Skylit lobbies
92 Project deets
96 James of "Alien Nation"
98 End of the riddle
103 Pirate's drink
107 Bunch
108 "Deck the Halls" contraction
109 Mined stuff
110 Egyptian canal
112 Year, in Brazil
113 Riddle's answer
119 Like the work of insurance risk calculators
121 "Bye-bye!"
122 Walk really quietly
123 Lambastes
124 Pre-'91 empire
125 "7 Rings" singer Grande
126 Applesauce brand
127 "Fancy that!"
128 Chinese dog, in brief
129 Became taut

DOWN
1 Singer Belle or Spektor
2 Lengthy reprimand
3 Beseech reverently
4 Preminger of film
5 Former teen idol Cassidy
6 Glasses and contacts
7 Unselfish sort
8 Carry around
9 Like theatrical behavior
10 Appear like a jack-in-the-box
11 Last part of some plays
12 Saloon
13 Castle tower
14 Org. against leather
15 Estrada of "CHiPs"
16 Miss terribly
17 Tent stake
18 Hoofed beast
22 Nickname for Louis Armstrong
27 Make beloved
28 Sculling tools
34 Comic Issa
35 SSNs, e.g.
37 Artist Andy
39 Iconic "Dragnet" line
40 Granola bits
41 Often-tickled Muppet
42 With 48-Down, "Barry Lyndon" star
44 French river or department
47 U.K.'s counterpart to an Oscar
48 See 42-Down
49 A bit strange
51 Neither's partner
53 Ocean east of Ga.
54 Mined stuff
55 Columbus citizen
57 Mexican general Villa
58 Donovan of "Clueless"
59 Decide (to)
60 Decompose
61 "— Cousins" (Elvis Presley film)
66 Grazing area
67 Doesn't leave
69 Mail slot spot
71 Plaza Hotel girl
73 Rho follower
74 Botching it up
77 "Rocky III" co-star
79 Wordplay bit
82 "That so?"
83 Persian ruler
84 Like a snoop
85 Build up, as interest
89 Piercing tool
90 Even if, in brief
91 Snare drum sound
93 Inadequate
94 Annual basketball contest on the Continent
95 Silk nightdress
97 Proficient in
99 Pong maker
100 Clamping down on
101 Lordly home
102 Beachward
104 Believers in Jah, informally
105 Common soccer score
106 Conk out, as a machine
111 Old name of the Congo
114 "Hooper" star Reynolds
115 Junior miss
116 Big ice mass
117 Bit of work
118 Revolve
119 It's pressed for cash
120 Co. big shot



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Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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

Meetings

Wednesday, 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

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.

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.

Saturday, Aug. 29
The Christian Bowhunters of the Blue Ridge will host a free 3D archery target shoot for all ages, both youth and adults are welcome, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sycamore Baptist Church pavilion, 179 Sycamore Church Road, Stuart. Bows and arrows are provided or bring your own recurve or compound bow.

Friday, Sept. 4
The Kitchen Pickers will perform live bluegrass music, 7-9 p.m., Fairy Stone State Park, Shelter 2.

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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What the amendment means for Virginia and how you can help spread the word to vote NO.
YES
NO
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OBITUARY SUBMISSION — DEADLINE — MONDAY AT NOON

Super Crossword

Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Summer Workforce Programs expanded with Construction Academy



Construction Summer Academy

Surry-Yadkin Works is expanding career-connected learning opportunities this summer through its Construction Academy, providing students and recent graduates with hands-on experience, college coursework, and direct exposure to careers in the construction industry.

The academy was made possible through Governor Josh Stein's investment in apprenticeship and workforce development programs across North Carolina. Funding supports youth pre-apprenticeship opportunities for high school students and allows Surry-Yadkin Works to expand access to career training experiences that meet the workforce needs of local employers. Additional participants are being served through the Jobs for the Future Project ACCESS grant, which supports workforce training and apprenticeship opportunities for recent graduates and adult learners.

This summer, ten high school students are participating through the state's apprenticeship investment initiative, while two recent graduates and adult learners are participating through the Project ACCESS grant.

Over the course of the 10-week program, students attend classes at Surry Community College two days each week and spend three days each week learning on the job with local construction employers. Participants gain exposure to industry standards, workplace expectations, safety practices, and technical skills while exploring a variety of career opportunities within the construction field.

Students complete construction-related coursework through Surry Community College, earn industry-recognized credentials, and participate in registered pre-apprenticeships with local employers. The experience provides a direct pathway into registered apprenticeships, employment opportunities, or continued education in construction and related skilled trades programs.

The expansion of summer academies was made possible through recent grant funding, which enabled Surry-Yadkin Works to hire John Darcey, Workforce Development Coordinator. Working closely with faculty and staff at Surry Community College, Darcey has helped develop industry-focused coursework, coordinate employer partnerships, and establish meaningful pre-apprenticeship opportunities that connect classroom learning to real-world work experiences.

In addition to tuition-free instruction, participants receive all required instructional materials, career coaching, employability skills training, and financial literacy education. Students also receive a new pair of work boots valued at approximately $150 to support their participation in the construction industry and earn a program stipend of $1,250 upon successful completion of the academy.

This summer's participants include: Diego Alexander Barron-Lopez of North Surry High School, working with Coram Construction; Kaiden Cave of Forbush High School, working with DNR Construction Services; Luis Cruz of Surry Online Magnet School, working with Johnson Granite Inc.; Jericho Jace Euart of North Surry High School, working with Coram Construction; Blaklynn Garcia of Elkin High School, working with Surry County Parks & Recreation; Matthew Lawson of North Surry High School, working with Shenandoah Furniture; Hunter Robert-James Penley of Elkin High School, working with Mount Airy Housing Authority; Angel Rojas of North Surry High School, working with Coram Construction; and Carson Shaffner of Elkin High School, working with DNR Construction Services.

"Expanding summer career opportunities is an important step in meeting the workforce needs of our local businesses while preparing students for high-demand career fields. These programs allow students to gain valuable experience, earn industry credentials, and explore careers that are critical to the future of our region. Through strong partnerships with employers and Surry Community College, we are creating opportunities that benefit students today while helping build tomorrow's workforce," said Crystal Folger-Hawks, executive director of Surry-Yadkin Works.

"Construction employers throughout the region continue to report a need for skilled workers as experienced professionals retire and demand for residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects grows," said Ray Hoots, Director of Engineering Technologies at Surry Community College. "Programs like the Construction Academy help introduce students to rewarding careers while strengthening the local talent pipeline."

"The academy reflects Surry-Yadkin Works' ongoing commitment to expanding work-based learning opportunities that connect education and industry while helping employers develop their future workforce," Folger-Hawks added.

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

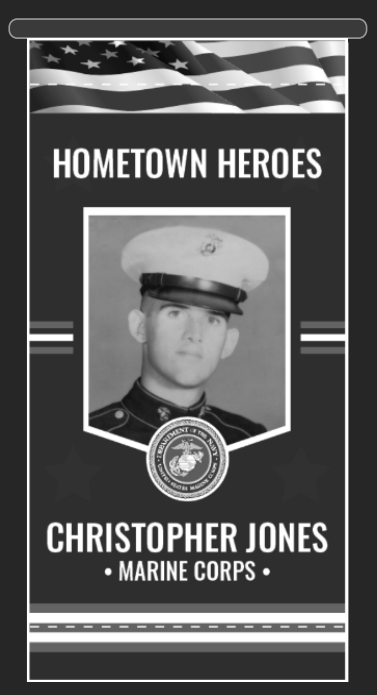
LEGAL

NOTICE OF TAKING PROOF OF DEBTS AND DEMANDS

In re: Richard Darren Cobbler, Deceased
Patrick County Circuit Court
Case File No: 230000231

At the request of Billie S. Upchurch, Administrator d.b.n. of the Estate of Richard Darren Cobbler, deceased, and pursuant to Virginia Code Section 64.2-550 (1950), as amended, I have scheduled **Monday, August 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**, at my office located at 6 Moss Street, The Phoenix Building, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, as the time and place for receiving debts and demands against the said decedent or his estate.

Janine M. Jacob
Commissioner of Accounts - Patrick County
P.O. Box 884, Martinsville, VA 24114
Phone: 276-403-4252
assistant@jjacoblaw.com



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Celtic traditions featured at Blue Ridge Music Center



Sean Heely Celtic Band (Photo by Rachael Rodgers)



Kinnfolk

The Blue Ridge Music Center will present the internationally-acclaimed Seán Heely Celtic Band in concert with Roanoke-based Kinnfolk on Saturday, August 22 in the venue's scenic outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This year's Deep Roots, Many Voices concert series marks the 25th anniversary of live shows at the Music Center.

The irresistible energy of the Seán Heely Celtic Band blends ancient melodies from Scotland and Ireland, vibrant rhythms from Galicia and Brittany, and original modern compositions in one powerful performance. From Scots Gaelic (Gàidhlig) ballads and sea shanties to pub songs and fiery fiddle and bagpipe tunes, the band brings the timeless spirit of Celtic folk music to life. Led by U.S National Scottish Fiddle and Gàidhlig singing champion Seán Heely, the band includes acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and All-Ireland singing champion Kevin Elam, percussive dancer Agi Kovacs, bagpiper Tom Cangelosi, and bouzouki player Beth Patterson.

Seán Heely Celtic Band has performed in venues including the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Music Center, and Hylton Performing Arts Center, has been featured at the Virginia Scottish Games and the Niel Gow Festival in Scotland, and has performed annually as headliners at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games since 2023.

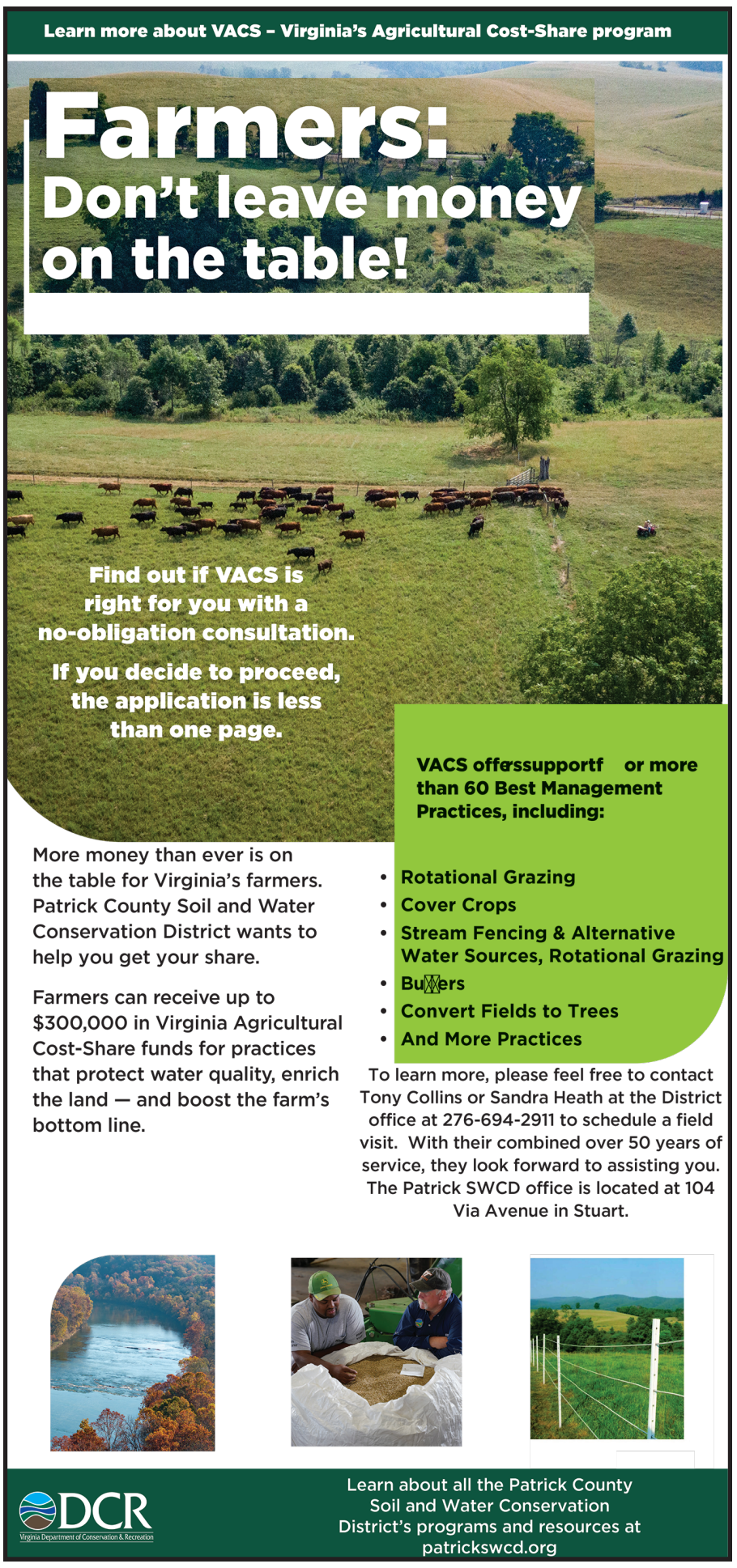
Kinnfolk, a Roanoke, Virginia-based Celtic folk duo, will open the show. The husband and wife duo of Josh and Julie Kinn weave octave mandolin, bodhrán (Irish drum), and smooth vocal harmonies into their Celtic folk music from the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. From sea shanties and working songs to traditional tunes and old-time favorites, their shows feel like a kitchen party—where everyone is family, and there's always room for a dancer.

Since forming Kinnfolk in late 2018, the pair have played at festivals and listening rooms across Canada and the United States. They have performed at Canada's premiere Celtic event, Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, and have been featured on the cover of the largest traditional music magazine in the world, Irish Music Magazine. In 2022, Kinnfolk received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Roanoke to create a body of work exploring the history, geography, and folk legends of their town, resulting in their latest studio album, "Star Above the Mountain".

This concert highlights the significant influence of Celtic traditions on music of the Blue Ridge Mountains, as Scottish and Irish settlers brought the fiddle and the tradition of ballad singing to the region in the 1700s. Visitors can learn more about the intercultural influences and evolution of the region's music at the Music Center's award-winning Roots of American Music Museum, open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days a week through November 1.

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

Season sponsors for the concert series are WLA Trucking, Yadkin Arts Council, the National Council for Traditional Arts, and 88.5 WFDD.



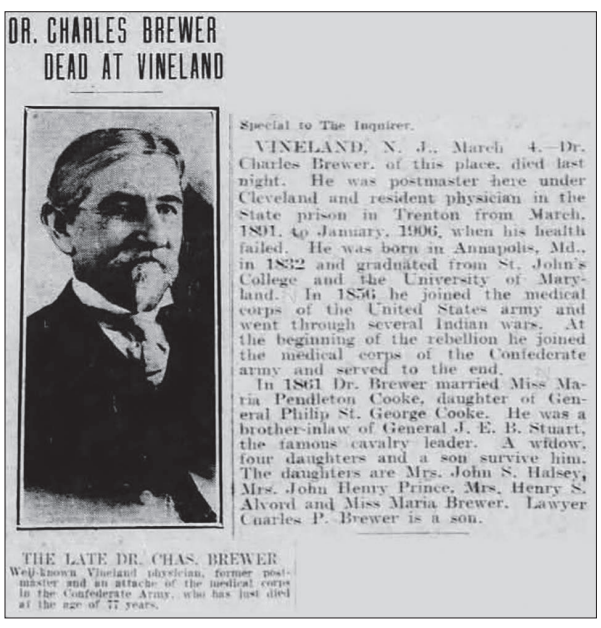


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Jeb Stuart's Brother-in-Law Charles Brewer







DR. CHARLES BREWER DEAD AT VINELAND

Special to The Inquirer.

VINELAND, N. J., March 4.—Dr. Charles Brewer, of this place, died last night. He was postmaster here under Cleveland and resident physician in the State prison in Trenton from March, 1891, to January, 1906, when his health failed. He was born in Annapolis, Md., in 1832 and graduated from St. John's College and the University of Maryland. In 1856 he joined the medical corps of the United States army and went through several Indian wars. At the beginning of the rebellion he joined the medical corps of the Confederate army and served to the end.

In 1861 Dr. Brewer married Miss Maria Pendleton Cooke, daughter of General Philip St. George Cooke. He was a brother-inlaw of General J. E. B. Stuart, the famous cavalry leader. A widow, four daughters and a son survive him. The daughters are Mrs. John S. Halsey, Mrs. John Henry Prince, Mrs. Henry S. Alvord and Miss Maria Brewer. Lawyer Charles P. Brewer is a son.

THE LATE DR. CHAS. BREWER
Well-known Vineland physician, former postmaster and an attache of the medical corps in the Confederate Army, who has just died at the age of 77 years.



By Tom Perry

Late on the evening of May 11, 1864, Dr. Charles Brewer worked over a severely wounded patient at his home on Grace Street in Richmond, Virginia. The patient, Brewer's brother-in-law, was shot in the abdomen by the pistol of one of United States Cavalry General George Armstrong Custer's men. As Brewer worked to remove his patient's clothes, he took off the cavalryman's yellow sash. The sash stained with blood is on display in the Virginia Historical Society's exhibit, "The Story of Virginia."

Brewer may have thought of seven years earlier, when he had this same man shot in the chest by a Cheyenne at the Battle of Solomon's Fork in July 1857. The young soldier survived that wound, but as Charles looked at him now, he knew the prognosis was not good. Brewer no doubt remembered the young Lieutenant James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, and his young wife, Mrs. Brewer's sister. Flora Cooke Stuart and Maria Cooke Brewer were the children of Virginia, born to Phillip St. George Cooke and his wife, Julia. They all met while serving in the U. S. Cavalry in the Kansas Territory in the 1850s.

Brewer wrote a manuscript that recently went on sale through a manuscript dealer about his experiences on the Solomon River in 1857, where Stuart was wounded by a Cheyenne, saving the life of Lunsford Lomax. I have never read the manuscript but would love to one day.

"Charles E. Brewer (1832–1909) was born in Annapolis, Maryland, to Judge Nicholas Brewer and his wife Catherine, and served as an army surgeon with the 10th Infantry Regiment on the western frontier in the 1850s during the Utah Expedition. He participated in the Battle of Solomon's Fork between U.S. Cavalry and the Cheyenne (July 9, 1857), one of the earliest conflicts of the Plains Indian Wars and the only one involving a mass saber charge. Brewer was also involved in the aftermath of the Mountain Meadows Massacre, in which Mormons killed all but seventeen young children in a wagon train of Arkansas emigrants (September 7–11, 1857). As Assistant Surgeon General, Brewer buried the remains of the victims and submitted a detailed report on his findings. In May of 1861, Brewer joined the medical corps of the Confederate army—causing a break with his father, who supported the Union—and served as surgeon general under Gen. Robert E. Lee. Brewer and J.E.B. Stuart married sisters (Flora and Maria Cooke)."

Nearly seven hours after Stuart was struck at Yellow Tavern, his ambulance pulled up at Dr. Brewer's residence around 11 p.m. The cavalryman was carried to a room upstairs. Upon examination, Brewer found little he could do for Stuart except make him comfortable. A pistol ball had penetrated his left side, entered near his stomach, and then exited through his back. Stuart spent a fitful night placing ice on his wound and gradually growing weaker as he bled to death internally.

Word of Stuart's wounding quickly spread through the city. Beginning early on the morning of May 12, a stream of visitors began to arrive at the Brewer house. Former Prussian aide Johann August Heinrick Heros Von Borcke, himself wounded the previous summer in the Loudoun Valley, also visited Stuart.

Stuart's chief of staff and first biographer, Henry B. McClellan, visited his stricken chief. As he left, McClellan met President Jefferson Davis, who, as Secretary of War for the United States, appointed Stuart to the 1st U. S. Cavalry in 1855. The doctors told Davis of Stuart's fate. Davis returned to what we call the White House of the Confederacy, and his wife, Varina, recounted in the book that they knelt in prayer that Stuart might be saved for his country.

Recently, I found the following listing on a manuscript dealer website." Memorial Ode to Jeb Stuart by his Brother-in-Law, Charles Brewer. " A beautiful manuscript document signed, 'Charles Brewer M.D.', shortly following the mortal wounding of J.E.B. Stuart, who was brought to his home in Richmond where he died before his wife Flora and son arrived. Dr. Brewer attended to his care in his home in Richmond and was with Stuart there when he died, after which Dr. Brewer penned this eloquent eulogy.

"In Memoriam To my old friend and comrade, one of the gallant leaders of the Confederate Cavalry, the lamented General James E. B. Stuart of the Army of N. Va. These lines are affectionately dedicated." The dealer wrote that it was "Penned by a professional hand except for the signature and, oddly enough, the introductory phrase 'affectionately dedicated'. Effusive Victorian language and imagery is used here in this flowery tribute to Stuart. A brief excerpt, by example, reads: '...From fair Richmond's spires steal the church bell chimes, as they tell down the twilight air / Of Virginia homes now redeemed from the dust, and of rose wreaths clustering there, / Whilst as long as Virginia's name shall last, and her soil be trod by the free, / Sire to son shall tell, how bold Stuart fell, and shall treasure his memory.' A unique and heartfelt 19th-century tribute by the anguished physician who was unable to save Stuart's life."

"After the war, Brewer moved with his family to Vineland, New Jersey, where he continued his medical practice and took up his pen, publishing at least one tale closely based upon his experience with the Mountain Meadows Massacre, titled Retribution at Last: A Mormon Tragedy of the Rockies (Cincinnati: The Editor Publishing Co., 1899)."

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