THE ENTERPRISE

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

Calendar 11
Church 9
Classified 10
Family Album 5
Obituaries 8
Sports 6
Viewpoints 4

Star Theatre roof damage less severe than expected

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council received an update at its Wednesday, Aug. 19 meeting on the condition of the Star Theatre's roof, which is undergoing renovations during the building's temporary closure.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said condensation had been building up underneath the vinyl siding inside the roof.

"We have since then been able to tear all of that vinyl siding down and remove the insulation that was above it. The condition is not quite as bad as I thought it was going to be originally," he said.

Simmons said most of the damage is on the wall adjoining the Beasley's building, with a few areas where the sheathing over the rafters is damaged.

"I'm currently getting quotes from roofers to take a look at replacing the roof. Originally I thought there might have been three layers of roof, however it was plywood on the rafters, asphalt shingles, and then a metal roof that was placed overtop. There is no in between, so I think that does make it a little bit easier to work on," he said.

Roofers he has spoken with so far have said the project does not appear to be particularly difficult because the roof is not very steep, Simmons said.

"But they have recommended going back with the white rubber roof that would help with offsetting some of that heat that's being trapped, which we should see less condensation. I also would prefer not to go back with putting the insulation and the vinyl siding back because I think that makes it easier for being able to maintain all of those power systems and cords that are currently exposed," Simmons said.

The Star Theatre closed in June for renovations and is expected to reopen in October.

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

In other business, the council:

- Approved the Business, Professional and Occupational License ordinance as amend-

(See Star Theatre p. 6)

Lawsuit costs county $3,600 in legal fees

By Taylor Boyd

A lawsuit brought by one supervisor against three other members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors cost Patrick County $3,621.56 in legal fees and related expenses.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, named fellow board members Chairman Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District; Vice-Chairman Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, and Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District in the suit filed on April 20.

All of the counts were related to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Five of the counts filed against the board of supervisors were dismissed by Circuit Court Judge Marcus Brinks, and the remaining count was voluntarily withdrawn during the April 27 hearing.

According to the invoice from Guynn Waddell, P.C., the county's attorney, Jim Guynn, who served as the attorney in the case, worked 15.10 hours preparing for and arguing the case in court.

At a rate of $200 an hour, the legal fees cost $3,020.

The invoice states travel expenses were also paid for Guynn, including $117.45 for travel expenses to and from Stuart for the court appearance and $59.11 for the travel expense meal at El Rancho in Stuart.

The invoice also states $425 was paid to Team Trial One, Inc. for court reporter fees.

The funds spent during the suit will be paid from the county's legal budget.

The three supervisors named in the suit also faced some financial issues due to needing to attend the court date.

Overby said the suit only cost him the time and mileage he used to attend the April 27 hearing.

Kendrick said he had to take the day off from work.

"You're looking at probably $600-$700 dollars gross that day," Kendrick said.

Wood said he took a sick day from work to attend the court hearing.

Marshall paid $159.12 to file the petition and have the Patrick County Sheriff's Office serve the other board members and county administration.

Marshall estimates he spent a couple hundred dollars on materials and filing the petition.

No one was ordered to pay any court fees or costs.

DMV Select renovations improve safety, service

By Taylor Boyd

Renovations to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Select office inside the Patrick County Administration Building have been completed, making the space safer and more efficient for employees and customers.

The work, which began earlier this year, was prompted in part by a walkthrough with a fire marshal last year. Installing fire shutters on the DMV windows was identified as one of the key items that needed attention to bring the office into compliance with the Virginia Fire Marshal's Office.

In addition to improving the building's safety, DMV Select

(See DMV p. 12)



From left are DMV employees Rita Cooper and Penny Morrison, DMV Select Manager Diana Belcher and Deputy Director of DMV Select Administration Barry Browning are pictured outside the renovated office.

Perry's new book explores Patrick County along the Parkway

By Taylor Boyd

Local author and historian Tom Perry's latest book "Patrick County Virginia's Northern Border: History And Memory Along The Blue Ridge Parkway From Volunteer Gap to Shooting Creek," was published earlier this month.

Perry said his book is laid out so that if you start driving on Main Street in Mount Airy, North Carolina and drive up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and keep going north, you'll hit every chapter in order.

"So it starts really with Orchard Gap, and the next gap over is what we call Volunteer Gap. One of the first things you'll come to is of course the Puckett's Cabin which is Aunt Orleana Hawks Puckett, the famous midwife," he said.

Perry also has chapters about the Rev. Robert Childress and the Rock Churches, the origins of Mayberry as the source for Andy Griffith's fic-

(See Perry p. 12)

Annual Demolition Derby returns Saturday



The annual Demolition Derby will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, at Rotary Field in Stuart. (Contributed)

By Taylor Boyd

The annual Demolition Derby will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Sponsored by Patrick County Tourism, the Rotary Club of Stuart, ValleyStar Credit Union and Ten Oaks/Prolam, the event will be hosted by Sarge & Sons Demolition Derby Inc. of Ohio.

Spectator gates open at 4:30 p.m. The children's Power Wheels Derby begins at 6 p.m., with the main event scheduled for 7 p.m.

Rotary Club of Stuart member Anna Lester said five categories are available for the main event: Wire-Up, Pro-Stock, Full-Size, Compact

(See Annual p. 13)



Tourism Talks

Greetings Patrick,

I hope all is well and you have been enjoying your summer! As I mention often, our department has been very busy, and we were fortunate to have Sabrina Rorrer working with us as a summer intern for a few weeks during the additional events. I mentioned her in my last Tourism Talk and the wonderful job she did for us. On one of our road trips throughout the county, a conversation started about our lovely mountains as we drove down Highway 58 leaving Vesta. I was intrigued by her knowledge of the Blue Ridge Mountains and asked her to write an article about them. I am presenting this to you all and hope that you learn a little more about our home and one of the many things that make Patrick County a true destination to visit and live.

Appalachia or Blue Ridge, which is it?

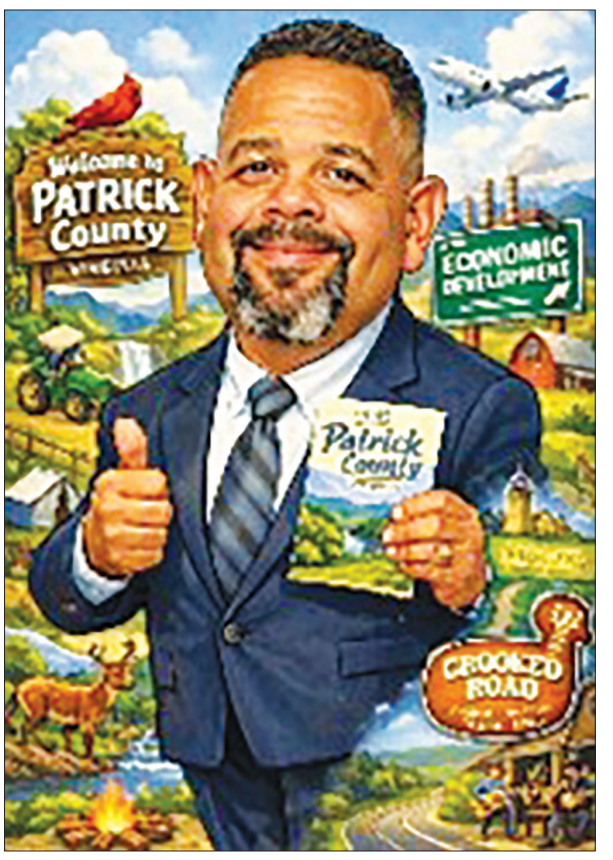
There can be a lot of confusion about which mountain range Patrick County is located in. Some people hear it described as a part of Appalachia, but it is also often referred to as a part of the Blue Ridge, so which mountain range is Patrick County really in?

The Appalachian Mountains are a larger range, while the Blue Ridge Mountains are a subrange of the Appalachian Mountains. Think of it as you think of dog breeds. A Labrador Retriever and a Pug are different breeds, but they are still dogs. The same goes for the subranges of the Appalachian Mountains. They may be considered different ranges, but they are all still the Appalachian Mountains.

Let's dive a bit deeper into both ranges! The Appalachian Mountains are a mountain range that stretches from Newfoundland, Canada, to Alabama. These mountains are at least 480 million years old, making them older than Pangea. Pangaea was a supercontinent, meaning all the landmasses on Earth were connected as a single landmass. In fact, the creation of Pangea played a major role in furthering the development of the Appalachians. When today's North America collided with today's Africa, the Earth's crust was pushed up, forming mountains and fusing the continents. The separation of Pangea, along with millions of years of erosion and weathering, has resulted in the Appalachian Mountains we know today. Now multiple subranges are a part of Appalachia, such as the Adirondacks, the Cumberland Mountains, and, of course, the Blue Ridge Mountains that Patrick County calls home.

The Blue Ridge Mountains stretch across eight states from Pennsylvania to Georgia and have subranges of their own, such as the Great Smoky Mountains and the Great Balsams. The Blue Ridge earned its name because of the mountains' cerulean hue, but why are they that color in the first place? Because of the trees. Now, you are probably thinking that trees are green, not blue, but it has to do with the gas the trees release. The conifers and oak trees in the area produce high amounts of a gas called isoprene. When isoprene reacts with atmospheric compounds, such as ozone, it forms smaller particles that cause haze. The haze magnifies the amount of light scattered. The reason the scattered light appears blue rather than another color is that shorter wavelengths scatter more easily than longer ones. Blues and purples have shorter wavelengths, while reds and oranges have longer wavelengths. Since blue is more easily scattered, that is the color magnified by the haze in the mountains.

Next time someone asks you if Patrick County is in the Appalachian Mountains or the Blue Ridge Mountains, you can tell them that it's in both! Grab a friend and take a drive through the county to get a good look at these ancient mountains and see for yourself the scientific phenomenon that makes these ridges blue.



Thank you, Sabrina, for the great service you gave to the county! Patrick, stay strong, and yes, "Come get lost and find yourself here".

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

All my best,

James Houchins

jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us

Director of Economic Development and Tourism

Reynolds Homestead opens applications for Leadership Patrick County Class of 2027



In partnership with the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead recently announced that applications for Leadership Patrick County are now available. The program is a perfect fit for emerging leaders, residents new to the community, those working in public service or private sectors, and any professional interested in deepening their understanding of Patrick County's assets and challenges.

The multi-month professional development opportunity invites up to 12 individuals to enhance leadership skills, civic connection, and community knowledge. Orientation is scheduled for Sept. 8 at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, and the cohort will meet once a month until June 2027.

Participants will travel to different communities in the county to visit businesses, historical sites, nonprofit organizations, and schools and learn about the incredible opportunities in and around the county as well as specific needs in each community. Additionally, cohort members will attend a community meeting to gain a greater perspective of government and other organizations committed to improving the lives of Patrick County residents.

As individuals move through the

(See Reynolds p. 3)



P&HCC tapped as host site for Latino Fest

The Southern Virginia Latino Association (SOVALA) announced the 7th annual Latino Festival will be held on Saturday, September 19 at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This free, family friendly event will feature local Latino foods and artisans, live music, and resources for the entire Southern Virginia region.

"Patrick & Henry Community College is proud to be the host location for the annual SOVALA Latino Festival. We look forward to welcoming community members to campus for this fantastic event," said Monica Hatchett, P&HCC director of public relations & marketing.

In addition to dance demonstrations and authentic Latino music and food, festival attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about services available in our community and children will enjoy games, face painting, and prizes.

Sponsors for the event include Sarver Properties, Meches Beauty, and Danville Pediatric Dentistry.

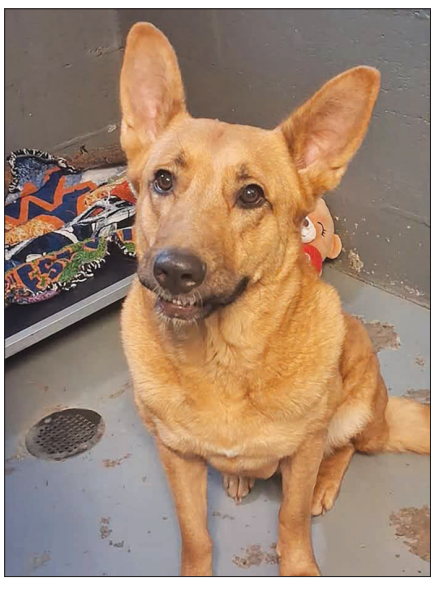
"Our annual Latino Festival is becoming a staple in our community, and we are proud to host this alongside Patrick & Henry Community College. This is a great time to connect with one another and learn about the resources available in our region while enjoying a lively atmosphere" said Eli Salgado, SOVALA executive director.

Any individual interested in volunteering or donating to the event is encouraged to email contact@sovala.org.

Pets of the Week



Dahlia is a 9-month-old Labrador mix who was surrendered by her owner. She is friendly and adorable and is looking for a new home.



Nelly is a 3-year-old female shepherd mix who was surrendered by her owner. She is a very good girl and would do best as the only dog in the home.

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/.

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Red Bank club holds August meeting

The August meeting at the Red Bank Ruritan Club started with the club giving David Larry Lawson III a Ruritan Double Your Dollar scholarship. Pictured is President Roger presenting the check to David.

Also at the meeting, because of health issues, President Roger ask the club to replace him to the end of the year. The vice president refused to move up and the club voted Merlin Scales as interim president until December.

DRBA raises concerns over proposed Stokes County data center

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is urging the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to reject a rezoning request for a proposed 1,850-acre hyperscale data center near Walnut Cove, citing concerns about water use, wastewater, flooding and potential impacts on the Dan River.

DRBA also is encouraging the county to consider a temporary or permanent moratorium on new data center development. The organization said a moratorium would give county officials additional time to evaluate the potential impacts of projects of that size and establish development standards.

"DRBA has never been opposed to responsible economic development. Conservation, recreation, community planning and economic vitality can and should work together," said DRBA Executive Director Tiffany Haworth. "But responsible development requires good information and good planning. Right now, there are too many unanswered questions about Project Delta."

The proposed Project Delta development would encompass approximately 1,850 acres of largely undeveloped land near Walnut Cove along the Dan River.

DRBA said it is particularly concerned about whether sufficient information is available to determine how much water the facility would require and where that water would come from.

The organization noted that the county's 2015 Stokes County 2035 Vision Plan concluded the county had adequate water supplies for future needs, but said that assessment predates the proposed hyperscale data center.

Project Delta has reportedly considered obtaining water from the Town of Walnut Cove. DRBA also pointed to questions about the town's water-system capacity and the Stokes County Water and Sewer Authority's request that Walnut Cove reduce the amount of water it purchases because of other demands on the system.

DRBA said those concerns are particularly significant as the county experiences drought conditions.

The organization also questioned how wastewater from the proposed facility would be treated and whether existing municipal treatment facilities are designed to handle potential industrial wastewater from a hyperscale data center.

DRBA specifically raised concerns about the possibility of wastewater being treated through Walnut Cove's constructed wetland treatment system before being discharged into Town Fork Creek and the Dan River.

The proposed development site also includes substantial FEMA-designated floodplain along the Dan River, according to DRBA.

The organization said the coun-

(See DRBA p. 4)

Reynolds

(cont. from page 2)



program, they will collaborate with their team to implement a community project to address an identified need. Participants should expect to gain skills in team building, collaboration, consensus building, design thinking, and project management. An overnight trip to Richmond provides an opportunity to tour the Capitol, attend sessions, meet their senator and delegate, and enjoy a meal with members of the Reynolds family.

Learn more about the program and download the application at bit.ly/rhlpc2027. Information may also be found in hard copy at the Reynolds Homestead and Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. All applications should be submitted by Sept. 1 and orientation will be Sept. 8.

Tuition for Leadership Patrick County is $300; Patrick County Chamber members are $250. Tuition covers all materials, some meals, and travel. Full payment or arrangement for payment should be made upon acceptance. Scholarship funding is available, please request more information if needed.

Any individual or business owner looking for an incredible professional development opportunity for themselves or an employee should consider applying today. Contact Melanie Gilbert at mtgilbert68@vt.edu with questions.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Austin Kenneth Bowman, 29, no address available, was charged July 28 with two counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Venson Delano Hairston, 53, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 1 with probation violation. Master Deputy R. Williams was the arresting officer.

*Steve Lee Davis, 44, of Collinsville, was charged Aug. 1 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended and fail to register or obtain certificate of title. Senior Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Joseph Ray Walton, 37, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 1 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended, fail to register or obtain certificate of title, and insurance. Senior Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*William Curtis Griffith, 47, of Cana, was charged Aug. 2 with six counts probation violation and one count disregard law enforcement command. Deputy C.A. Merriman was the arresting officer.

*Monica Marie Foley, 36, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 3 with fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*John Ewell Scott II, 38, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 3 with probation violation. Deputy Zachary Randolph was the arresting officer.

*Kody Devin Katzer, 30, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 4 with two counts violation of protective order. Inv. Tennille Jessup was the arresting officer.

*John Thomas Conner, 48, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Aug. 5 with one count each assault and batter on law enforcement officer and obstruct justice. Sgt. M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Bryan Vernon, 55, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 15 with violation of ignition interlock restriction. Deputy D. Spence was the arresting officer.

*Teyan Davon Jones, 36, of Henry County Adult Detention Center, was charged Aug. 5 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Brandee Taylor Feazelle, 27, of Collinsville, was charged Aug. 6 with fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*David Charles Donavon II, 38, no address available, was charged Aug. 7 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Amber Nicole Spencer, 33, of Lawsonville, NC, was charged Aug. 8 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Melissa Ann Lewis (Wright), 51, of Collinsville, was charged Aug. 8 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Sgt. T Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Matthew Lewis Roberts, 31, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 9 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Kobie Miller, 28, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 9 with one count each strangulation, abduction by force, and assault. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Jerome Johnson, 64, of Spencer, was charged Aug. 9 with one count each fail to appear and probation violation. Depuy C. Craft made the arrest for Henry County.

*Carrie Grace Porter, 26, of Max Meadows, was charged Aug. 9 with revoked license. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Dakota Pritchett, 25, of Martinsville, was charged Aug. 10 with two counts strangulation and one count each abduction by force, etc. to deprive of liberty, and assault. Inv. Tennille Jessup was the arresting officer.

*William Daniel Fitzgerald, 35, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 10 with two counts probation violation. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Kobe Miller, 28, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Aug. 10 with violation of protective order. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Emma Shae Hall-Pack, 40, of Woolwine, was charged Aug. 12 with four counts probation violation. Deputy C. Pilson was the arresting officer.

*Tyler Lee Frost, 33, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 12 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Lou Ann Thompson, 50, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 17 with probation violation. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*David Wayne Whittington JR., 47, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 17 with four counts probation violation and one count warrant of extradition. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Tyrone Cornelious Scales, 34, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 18 with petty larceny. Deputy C. Pilson was the arresting officer.

*Quinn William Horton, 47, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 19 with drive while intoxicated. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Tiffany Romont Alfred, 37, no address available, was charged Aug. 20 with four counts probation officer. Deputy D. Spence was the arresting officer.

*Mandy Marie Nester, 43, of Cana, was charged Aug 20 with probation violation. Virginia State Police made the arrest.

Lab Safety



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, lawmakers have intensified scrutiny of laboratory biosafety and research facilities that receive federal funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As the former Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman and current Health Subcommittee Chairman on Energy and Commerce, I continue to help lead investigative work of federal research labs and the NIH.

The NIH consists of 27 Institutes and Centers. The NIH maintains a vast and expansive network of labs inside and outside the United States.

One such lab is Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana.

Rocky Mountain Laboratories exercises a massive research portfolio. The lab studies various diseases, including but not limited to Salmonella, chronic wasting disease, relapsing fever and plague.

POLITICO reports that scientists there are credited with breakthroughs involving Lyme disease and Ebola, among others.

Rocky Mountain operates as a Biosafety Level 4 laboratory, which is the highest safety designation. Scientists at Level 4 labs tend to deal with diseases that are life-threatening and must follow the most stringent security requirements.

According to a webpage from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), only a handful of U.S. labs are qualified Level 4 labs.

However, within the last year, the Montana lab was linked to two concerning events.

One incident occurred in November 2025, when a Rocky Mountain worker was bitten by an infected lab monkey!

The monkey was infected with a lethal tick-borne illness known as Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes the severe illness as the most widespread viral hemorrhagic fever.

After news broke of the monkey bite incident, questions swirled about the Montana lab, its safety protocols and how such a lab incident could happen.

Controversy did not stop there.

In June 2026, two NIH researchers from Rocky Mountain were criminally charged by the Department of Justice!

Their crime?

Smuggling monkeypox into the United States!

According to the Department of Justice, the two scientists were traveling on a commercial plane back to the U.S. from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. The Congo is the epicenter of a current Ebola virus outbreak.

When the scientists arrived in Detroit, they lied to Customs and Border Patrol officers about the contents of a black case. The scientists claimed their case contained diagnostics and testing equipment.

Federal law enforcement discovered and tested 113 vials, many of which contained deactivated monkeypox virus. Another vial contained chickenpox and a couple contained human DNA.

It is clear that both researchers have experience working with infectious pathogens. In fact, Dr. Vincent Munster led Rocky Mountain's virus ecology section at that time.

Upon hearing about these incidents, I wanted to get answers.

This August, I traveled to Montana, where I received a tour of the Level 4 lab and a briefing. NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, who was a vocal opponent of COVID-19 lockdown policies, joined me to hear from the lab's researchers.

Explaining the monkey bite incident, the researchers had put the lab monkey under anesthesia. As one worker held the monkey up to their chest, the worker accidentally tapped the back of the monkey's jaw.

On reflex, the monkey subconsciously bit the worker.

The worker received immediate treatment for their minor wound, and after appropriate precautions, returned to Rocky Mountain to continue research.

In research settings, animal-handling incidents can occur despite established safety and handling protocols.

Researchers I met with at Rocky Mountain also said they were ashamed and felt betrayed by Munster's actions.

The Munster case seemed to be a case of arrogance.

Because he was a leading scientist, the theory goes that Munster felt like the normal rules should not apply to him. But more will become clear as the criminal charges proceed.

We have seen too often recently that some scientists share this philosophy, which is why we need to pass specific rules banning risky research, such as my legislation, the Risky Research Review Act.

Rogue activity in the "name of science" must always be confronted. Thanks in part to my efforts to confront these issues, the group responsible for funding dangerous coronavirus research in Wuhan, China, was debarred from getting contracts with the U.S. government.

As infectious disease research develops, Congress has a responsibility to protect the American people. I will continue my vigilance on improving safety compliance, my investigative work and my exploration of additional Congressional action that can be taken regarding biolaboratory safety.

Letters to the Editor

Two Big Lies They Want You To Believe

As an independent voter. I am often frustrated by the two major parties. Because freedom is my prime value in judging political actions, both parties often fall short. They both favor legislation that grows government, increases the national debt, and makes real oversight virtually impossible. As a result, we often end up with no real solutions, massive waste, and more unsustainable debt.

Claiming toe have real solutions, the so-called Democratic Socialists of America, campaigning under the Democratic Party banner, have entered the political arena. Since the platform of the Democratic Socialists of America openly states that they want to eventually nationalize key industries, I'll refer to them henceforth as Communists because confiscating the means of production is what Communists do.

Socialism/Communism appeals to the worst in human nature by promoting two big lies: 1) you can get something for nothing, and 2) everyone can be truly equal.

Everything that politicians promise they can deliver for free comes with a hidden price--the loss of some freedom. Every good or service that is "free" is truly not free unless the good or service was produced, promoted, and delivered with donated labor and funded with a no strings attached gift. In the real world, people want to be paid for working and taking risks. Otherwise, they would not be free. In a free society, people willingly trade away some freedom by having government act as a proxy so that they can concentrate on fulfilling their dreams.

Under Communism, individual dreams are sacrificed for collective goals; the collective determines your job. Citizens (comrades) become dependent on the government for "free" stuff. Soon empty store shelves testify that competency, not ESG or DEI, is required to run things efficiently. Party leaders keep stealing from the rich until there are no rich. In effect, comrades become slaves to a new oligarchy, which lives like the rich they claim to despise. When it is too late, comrades realize that the only "equality" they have achieved is having to live at the same (lowest) standard of living. If they complain, they may be disappeared. In time, the system collapses.

The only country that succeeded in flirting with socialism before it became full blown communism is Sweden. Realizing that socialism was failing and that everything could only get worse, Sweden reverted back to capitalism in time to avoid the inevitable repetition of history suffered by comrades in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba and Venezuela.

The reality of life is that there is no free lunch. Effort is required for survival, let alone prosperity. People vary in their abilities and ambitions. Therefore, in a truly free society, outcomes vary. Remember this when you are at the ballot box. Preserve what freedom you have. Don't fall for the two big lies. And yes, it might be hard, but wise, to vote for the lesser of two evils.

Joe Cadrin,
Stuart

ZiTel presentation on Broadband Project to Supervisor's Working Meeting

Monday, September 28, at 6 p.m.

Patrick County citizens need to come out in support of broadband and the new provider, ZiTel. They promise to soon begin working at a rapid pace to complete the project in Patrick, Henry and Franklin Counties previously contracted to RiverStreet Networks who ran into financial difficulties. This company, located in Moneta on Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford County, has assumed responsibility for assuring the looming funding deadlines are met. Wren Williams recently was quoted by Cardinal News expressing his conviction that this will be our last chance to bring fiber based high speed internet to our county as no future funding sources are anticipated.

For those living on the mountain who, like me, thought we would be switched over to Citizens who could have quickly completed our area, the decision by our county was difficult. ZiTel has a formidable project with budget and time constraints, and I understand they insisted that all possible locations be included in their contract to improve their payback period. While at present this has likely put us at the tail end of the project, I am asking the county to press Appalachian Power to complete their middle-mile fiber quickly past Meadows of Dan as called for in the contract. The previous broadband contract had partners Appalachian Power and RSN completing the entire project over a year ago. Thus, APCo should already be complete with their middle-mile fiber. They currently plan to wait until sometime next year when work on the Vesta route 58 project progresses and they can relocate poles in the few locations impacted. However, it appears they could easily install fiber on existing poles and make provisions to make the changes at the time they relocate power lines. This would enable the county to request ZiTel to prioritize service to Woolwine, where middle-mile fiber has already been installed on power poles, and to Vesta/Meadows of Dan. These two areas were omitted when upgrades to phone and internet services were made some twenty years ago and consequently have the most issues with telephone and internet in the county.

Thanks for supporting broadband.

Steve Terry,

Former Chairman, Patrick County Broadband Committee

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DRBA

(cont. from page 3)

ty's planning documents identify floodplains as potential community assets for parks, greenways, recreation and connections between communities.

DRBA said the project should be evaluated beyond whether individual buildings can be constructed outside mapped floodplain areas, citing potential risks associated with industrial structures, electrical substations, backup generators and fuel-storage facilities near the floodplain.

The organization also pointed to the 2014 Duke Energy coal ash spill and its impact on the Dan River, and its work with numerous partners to restore and protect the river.

American Rivers named the Dan River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers in 2026, citing development pressures facing the river, according to DRBA.

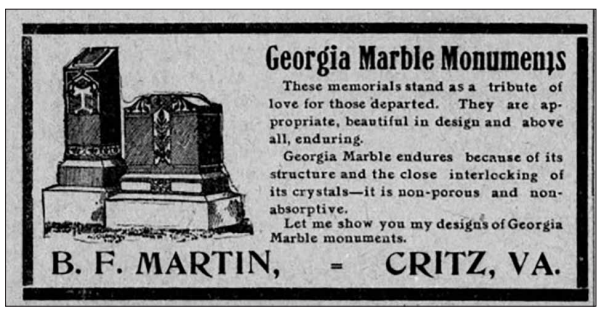
The river supports drinking water supplies, fish and wildlife, paddling, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities for more than 1 million people, DRBA said.

"Stokes County's natural resources are among its greatest assets and decisions being made today will determine what future generations inherit," Haworth said. "We hope to continue working with the county for decades to come. The decisions made today should protect and strengthen that asset, not put it at greater risk."

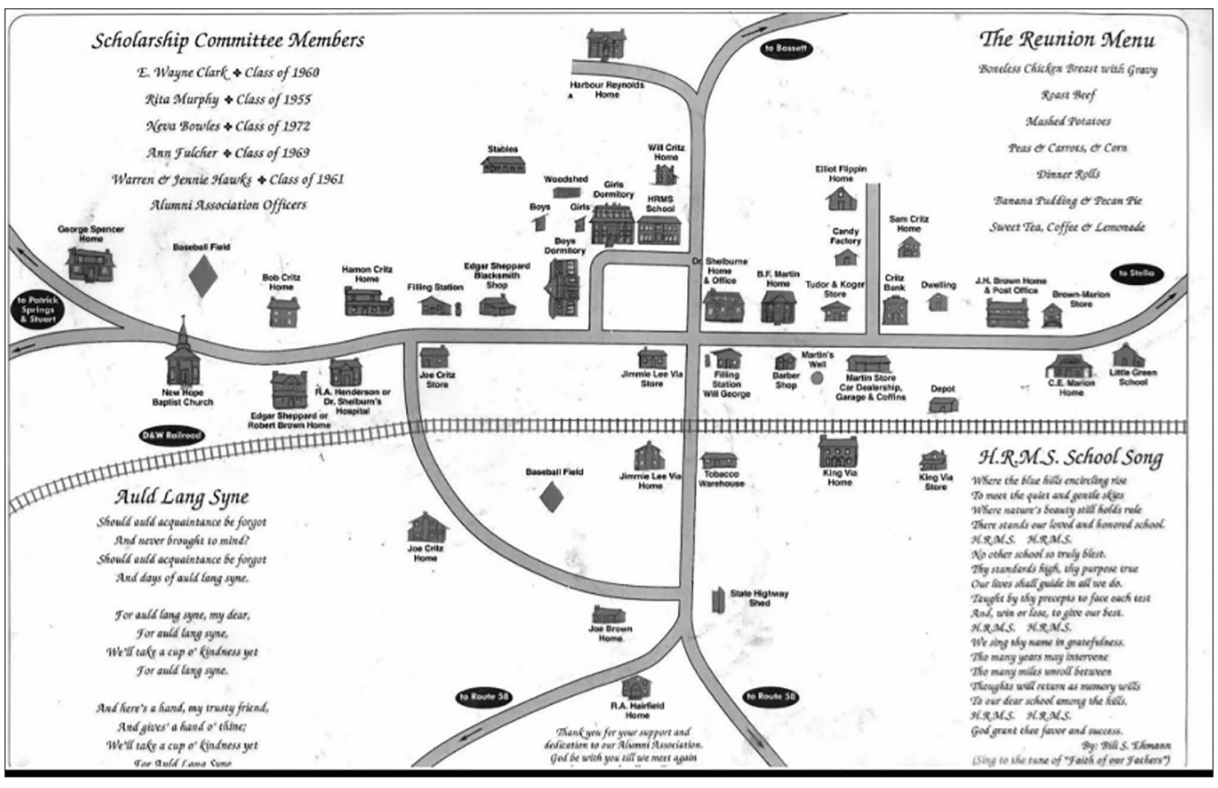
THE ENTERPRISE
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 - A PART OF PATRICK COUNTY'S HERITAGE

Patrick Pioneers

Bahnson Franklin "Bonce" Martin and Nannie Critz Martin



Monument advertisement



Early Critz Map on HRMS reunion brochure

By Beverly Belcher Woody

There was a time when the little community of Critz bustled with stores, businesses, a bank, a railroad, a mill, automobiles, and seemingly no shortage of enterprise. At the center of much of that activity was a man remembered as one who was always buying, trading, building, or trying something new—Bahnson Franklin "Bonce" Martin.

Bonce's life would be tragically cut short in 1928, but during his years in Critz, he left an imprint upon the community that endured long after his death. At his side was his wife, Nannie Ware Critz Martin, a descendant of the family for whom the community of Critz was named. While Bonce lived only into his early fifties, Nannie would live to the remarkable age of one hundred.

Together, their lives span a fascinating chapter in the history of Critz.

Bahnson Franklin "Bonce" Martin was born November 28, 1877, to William Franklin Martin and Mazzie Brown Martin. Bonce was one of at least five siblings.

His paternal grandparents were Abraham Walker Martin and Elizabeth Jane Moore Martin. His mother, Mazzie, was the daughter of Nicholas Brown and Sally Martin Brown, all of Patrick County.

On March 6, 1907, Bonce Martin married Miss Nannie Ware Critz in Patrick County.

Nannie brought with her another deep connection to Patrick County history. She was the daughter of William Dalton Critz and Elizabeth Flippin Critz.

William Dalton Critz was the son of Gabriel Critz and Mary McFarling Dalton. Gabriel's father was Revolutionary War Captain Haman Critz, for whom the community of Critz was named.

Nannie's mother, Elizabeth Flippin Critz, was the daughter of Joseph Taylor Flippin and Sallie Ware Lyon.

Following their marriage, Bonce and Nannie began building their life together in the Critz community. Before long, Bonce Martin would become one of the most active businessmen in that little corner of Patrick County.

Bonce's involvement in community affairs can be documented as early as 1910.

The January 12, 1911, edition of The Enterprise listed:

"B. F. Martin Registrar at Critz precinct for year 1910."

By October of that year, another small newspaper item provides evidence of his growing business. The Enterprise reported on October 26, 1911:

"Mr. B. F. Martin has employed Mr. Harry Nelson to clerk for him."

Business must have been going well.

On May 9, 1912, the newspaper reported that Martin was making preparations to have "a nice residence erected near his place of business."

The new home soon became a gathering place for friends and neighbors.

On February 13, 1913, The Enterprise offered a delightful glimpse inside the Martin home when it reported that Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Martin had entertained a large group of friends at a dance.

The gathering was given in their "hospitable home" in honor of several warehouse men. Among those named were T. R. and T. O. Pepper, R. H. Ogburn, C. E. Morton, T. W. Hancock, R. P. Barnes and W. L. Wolfe.

Others attending included Mary and Julia Cooper, Mattie and Jennie Wood, Hess, Bessie and Bettie Tatum, Ashworth, Mattie Via, Pearl and Dove Brown, Rachel McCabe, Ruth Cooper, Susie Critz, Bessie Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Critz, Mrs. Mary Hutcherson, Mrs. Joe Brown, Mrs. J. L. Hall, W. E. and C. D. Ore, Fleet McCabe, Posey Joyce, Hiram Tatum, G. F. Via, E. T. Reynolds, Will Ashworth, Noah Hamner, J. L. Via, Fayette Brown, Clarence Cooper, Russell Critz, Erastus Harbour Gillay and others.

Dancing continued until late in the evening, and refreshments were served around midnight. It was nearly two o'clock in the morning before the guests departed, declaring it one of the most pleasant evenings they had ever spent.

The newspaper summed up the evening with a wonderful description:

"This was an incident of true Virginia hospitality, and each one was welcomed as a royal guest."

It is a little newspaper notice that allows us, more than a century later, to imagine the Martin home filled with music, dancing, conversation, food, and friends on a winter night in Critz.

While Bonce and Nannie were entertaining friends, Bonce was steadily expanding his business interests.

On May 8, 1913, The Enterprise reported:

"Mr. B. F. Martin has just completed a storage room for shipping flour and etc."

Less than a year later, on April 16, 1914, another expansion was underway:

"Mr. B. F. Martin is having a large store house erected preparative for handling hardware."

Martin was clearly a man willing to venture into something new whenever he saw an opportunity.

And in 1915, one of the newest opportunities rolling into Patrick County was the automobile.

On April 22, 1915, The Enterprise announced that B. F. Martin had purchased a new model Ford Touring Car.

He and Gordon Beach had traveled to Danville and brought the automobile back to Critz on Saturday.

Apparently, Bonce did not remain merely an automobile owner for long.

Less than a month later, on May 20, The Enterprise announced:

"It seems that the automobile craze has struck Critz."

B. F. Martin had recently received a carload of Fords.

J. H. L. Tudor had already purchased one, while C. E. Marion, Eddie Tatum, and A. J. Hylton were reportedly expecting to buy automobiles within a few days.

What must it have been like to see a carload of new Ford automobiles arrive in little Critz in 1915?

Martin was becoming involved in a technology that would soon transform Patrick County and the nation.

His business continued to grow in other directions as well.

On April 29, 1915, The Enterprise reported that Rev. J. M. Martin had accepted a position as a salesman for his brother, B. F. Martin.

Then, on June 17, came word of another undertaking:

"Mr. B. F. Martin is preparing to erect a roller mill at this place, which will be quite a convenience to the community."

Bonce's enterprises were not only making a living for his family; many were providing services needed by the people around him.

Another prominent Critz businessman during these years was W. King Via.

On October 7, 1915, The Enterprise reported:

"Messrs. W. K. Via and B. F. Martin our hustling merchants made a business trip to Stuart last Tuesday."

That little phrase—"our hustling merchants"—seems particularly appropriate for the two men.

The same newspaper item announced that Miss Ella Corn had accepted a position as a sales lady for B. F. Martin.

Ella remained with the business for some time. On July 20, 1916, the newspaper announced her departure in wonderfully colorful language:

"Miss Ella Corn, who has been sales lady for Mr. B. F. Martin for sometime, has resigned and we learn that she expects to float on the seas of matrimony soon."

Bonce's interest in automobiles continued.

On January 11, 1917, The Enterprise reported that B. F. Martin of Critz had purchased the business of the Patrick County Motor Company from J. B. Beach and had taken charge at the beginning of the year.

Two months later, on March 8, the newspaper reported that Hugh Marshall had returned to Stuart from Amelia to work at the Stuart Garage, where he would repair automobiles and sell parts and supplies for J. M. Flippin.

The article explained that Flippin had reached an agreement with the owner, B. F. Martin, to take over operation of the automobile repair and supply business formerly operated by the Patrick County Motor Company.

Bonce Martin had moved from buying his own Ford, to bringing a carload of Fords into Critz, to owning an automobile repair and supply business.

Yet business was apparently not his entire life.

On April 25, 1918, The Enterprise reported that Pearl and Ruby Brown, C. D. Ore, W. E.

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – We Were Bitten by Medicare's IRMAA this year; What Should I Do?

Dear Rusty: My wife and I file our taxes jointly. In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which was significantly more than I was required to take. My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025, and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS' "Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen, or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm? *Signed: Worried Retiree*

Dear Worried Retiree: FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)" to apply for 2026. When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base "IRMAA" income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the "standard" Medicare premium for that year. The amount of the supplement depends on how much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was $218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium which also reduced your SS monthly payment (because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit). IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you (and your wife) will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. You don't need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

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: New Hampshire Motor Speedway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team extended their streak of consecutive top-10 finishes to four with a strong third-place run in Sunday's Dollar Tree 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Berry, who started a season-best second, led four times for 73 laps and scored points in both stages en route to his best finish of the season and eighth career NASCAR Cup Series top-five. The third-place result was also his best since finishing runner-up at New Hampshire a year ago.

Sunday's race began on a wet track, with Berry maintaining a spot inside the top five on rain tires through the opening 41 laps before the field transitioned to slick tires.

After the switch, Berry initially slipped to the back half of the top 10 but worked his way forward late in Stage 1 to finish fifth, earning six stage points.

During the stage break, the Motorcraft/Quick Lane team elected to change only right-side tires, putting Berry eighth for the restart behind six drivers who stayed on track. He steadily worked his way forward and took the lead on Lap 92.



Berry paced the field for the next 56 laps before eventual race winner Ryan Blaney moved ahead late in the segment. Berry finished Stage 2 in second, collecting nine additional stage points.

In the third and final segment, Berry returned to the lead three more times for an additional 17 laps before making his final pit stop for four tires and fuel with 75 laps remaining.

He lined up 11th for the ensuing restart and quickly began working his way back toward the front, moving into third with 35 laps to go. Berry continued to close the gap to the leaders over the final laps before taking the checkered flag in third.

"It was a lot of fun," Berry told reporters at the track. "Our car was really good. The guys did a great job. We had a solid weekend from start to finish and led a lot of laps."

Berry credited the team's recent run of strong finishes to improved speed and better fortune after several promising performances earlier in the season went unrewarded.

"It feels nice to capitalize on it," he said. "I have four top-10s in a row, and it really would be five if it wasn't for getting wrecked at Wilkesboro."

Berry and the Wood Brothers team now head to Daytona International Speedway for Saturday night's Coke Zero Sugar 400, the finale of the 26-race NASCAR Cup Series regular season.

Star Theatre

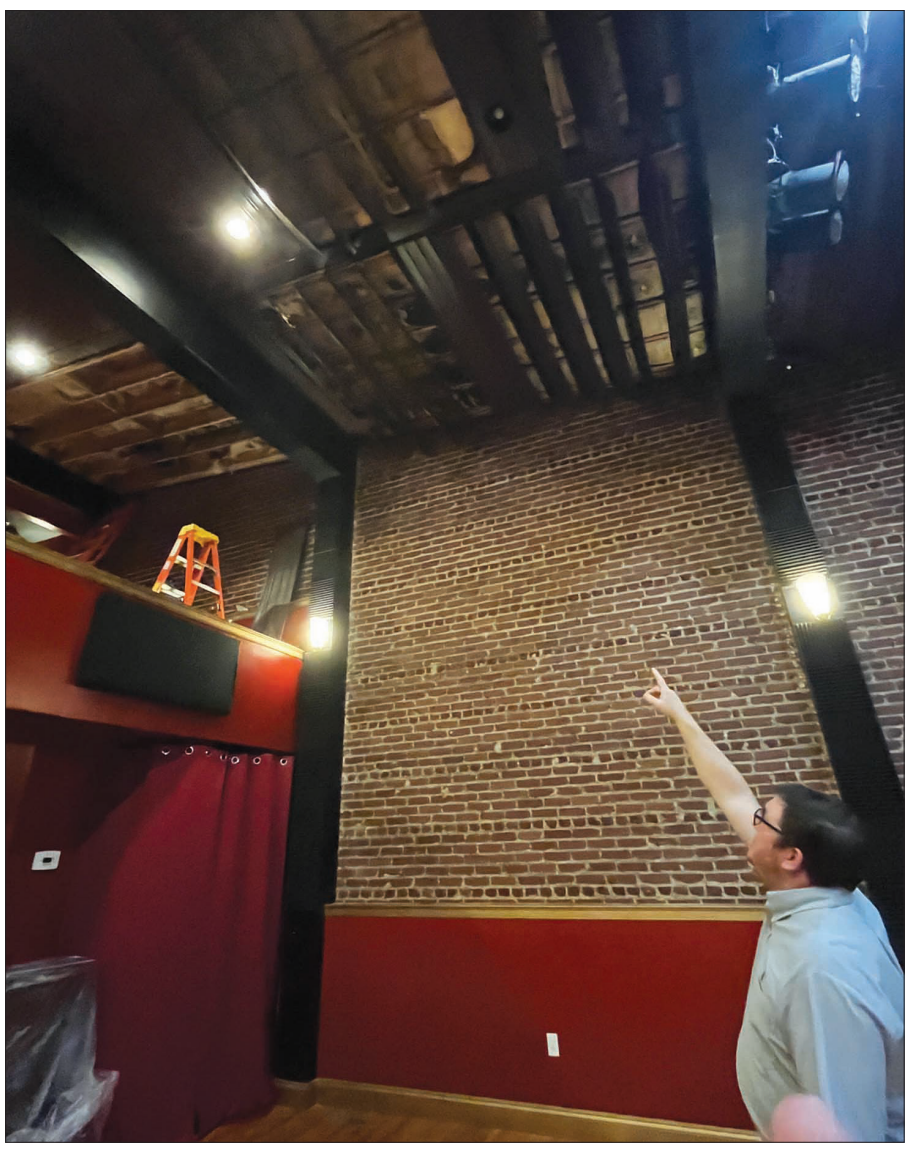
(cont. from page 1)



Stuart Library Manager Somer Luna-Ojodeagua gave council an update about the library's summer Splash and Read program.

ed.

- Approved amendments to the meal tax ordinance.
- Heard an update from Stuart Branch Manager Somer Luna-Ojodeagua on the branch's Splash and Read program.
- Approved a $1,500 financial donation and a $1,500 in-kind donation to One Family Production's Front Porch Fest.
- Approved a $2,000 donation to the Patrick County Food Bank.
- Heard an update on the Downtown Revitalization Project.
- Heard the clerk/treasurer's report.
- Heard an update on Virginia Retirement System correspondence.
- Approved the July 15 meeting minutes.
- Paid the bills.



Town Manager Bryce Simmons provided an update on the condition of the Star Theatre's roof.

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My Patriot Ancestor

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

Written by Ann Robertson McConnell

The Western theater of the American Revolutionary War was the area of conflict of the Appalachian Mountains, the region which became the Northwest Territory of the United States as well as the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. This western war was fought primarily between American Indians with their British allies in Detroit, and American settlers south and east of the Ohio River. William McAlexander was called up with the Virginia militia to defend the western frontier serving under General Joseph Martin. William McAlexander is the patriot ancestor of Lucy McAlexander Rudd.

William McAlexander was born in 1744 in Albemarle County to James and Sarah McAlexander who emigrated to America from Scotland. McAlexander served as a farmer and property lessor. He was married three times and had 21 known children.

In 1777 McAlexander took the Oath of Allegiance in Henry County, officially renouncing his loyalty to the British Crown and swearing to defend the commonwealth of Virginia. Militia members were often called upon to supply the army with necessary goods. McAlexander furnished food, grain, and other critical supplies to support the American troops during their campaigns. Earlier in the war, he served with the militia at Long Island on the Holston River to secure the western border, keeping British forces from easily flanking the southern colonies. Later in the war, his militia unit was swept into the main theater of the conflict. Thery marched to the coast and were present at the historic Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

In 1791 he settled with his family in the valley along the Rock Castle Creek area.

In 2022 a monument was donated by descendant John Rogers and his wife, Rosa, and dedicated McAlexander's memory. At the same time a marker dedication was conducted by the Patrick Henry Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both the monument and the marker are at McAlexander's gravesite in Woolwine, Virginia.

Information for this article is from The Lynchburg Press: p.3. 05 April1822., The Enterprise: Nov. 11, 2026, Woody., NSDAR Library.

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 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 Thursday, August 27 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. to help with genealogy searches.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

Brown, Beverly Grogan, and B. F. Martin made up "quite an enjoyable fishing party" the previous Thursday night.

It is another small detail that helps us see the person behind all those businesses.

As Critz grew, Bonce Martin continued to occupy an important place in its commercial life.

He became vice president of the Bank of Critz, serving alongside his fellow "hustling merchant," W. King Via, who served as president.

Years later, Roosevelt Reynolds remembered just how important businesses such as these had been to the community.

In a June 6, 1995, Bull Mountain Bugle story about the little town of Critz, Reynolds recalled that people were distressed and worried when the bank at Critz closed in 1929. They "fussed and carried on" again in 1942 when the Dick and Willie train made its final run.

But Reynolds associated another turning point in the community with the death of Bonce Martin.

He recalled that business in Critz "went plumb plunk" after Martin died.

According to Reynolds, Bonce had "kept something going all the time—buying and trading all the time."

That recollection is supported by the remarkable variety of enterprises associated with Martin during his lifetime.

Bonce and Nannie's daughter Elizabeth—known as "Buck" Martin—was only ten years old when her father died.

Years later, she remembered him as a man "who would take a chance on anything."

Her memories paint perhaps the clearest picture of the little business empire her father had created at Critz.

According to Buck, her father had seven buildings housing a garage with a mechanic; a feed house; a general merchandise store; a lumber house and plow sales; factory-built coffins brought into Critz by train; new automobiles; and, as she put it, "anything you could call for."

Those buildings stood in the area behind the site of the store at the intersection of Routes 626 and 694 in Critz.

At one time, Bonce even operated a candy factory—the Blue Ridge Candy Company of Critz.

Buck Martin preserved a wrapper from one of the company's coconut creme bars as well as some of the candy molds used by the factory.

Hardware, flour, feed, lumber, plows, automobiles, automobile repair, coffins, banking, oil—and even candy.

It is easy to understand why old-timers remembered Bonce Martin as a man who always had something going.

Sadly, it would all come to a sudden end in the summer of 1928.

On August 7, 1928, Bonce Martin was driving a car near Stuart when tragedy struck at a grade crossing on the Danville & Western Railway.

The Enterprise described it as "the most serious car wreck that has ever occurred in Patrick County."

The automobile was struck by a westbound train approximately two miles east of Stuart.

B. F. Martin, Walter Craig, Robert Critz, and Luther Craig were reported as occupants of the automobile. Martin, Walter Craig, and Robert Critz were in the front seat, while Luther Craig was in the rumble seat.

The injured men were rushed to Stuart Hospital by passing motorists.

Bonce Martin died shortly after reaching the hospital.

Luther Craig suffered a fractured skull, broken leg, broken collarbone, and crushed shoulder, although the newspaper reported that he had regained consciousness and appeared to be doing well. Walter Craig suffered a broken arm, while Robert Critz sustained two deep cuts on his leg. Robert and Walter were treated at the hospital and sent home.

According to the newspaper, the train had been operating on schedule and sounded its usual warning at the crossing. The occupants of the automobile apparently did not hear it.

The train struck the automobile near the middle and demolished it.

The newspaper reported that Bonce, who was driving, was very deaf and apparently failed to hear the approaching train.

In a matter of seconds, one of the most active business careers in Patrick County had ended.

The following day, August 8, one of the largest crowds ever assembled for a burial service in Critz gathered to pay tribute to B. F. Martin.

Services were conducted by Rev. N. C. Turner and J. Mason Richardson, assisted by the combined choirs of the Stuart and Critz churches.

The flowers covered and surrounded the grave, which The Enterprise said testified, even if only "in a small way," to the high respect and esteem in which Martin was held.

His pallbearers were T. H. Cooper, R. A. Henderson, C. E. Marion, Hon. W. L. Joyce, J. B. Via, Dr. J. T. Shelburne, R. A. Hirifield, J. L. Via, C. B. Cox, C. L. Ayers, J. H. Brown, and B. H. Tudor.

The flower bearers included Troy Carter, Taft Carter, Walter Moore, Arthur Tudor, Buford Tudor, Marshall Via, Richard Spencer, Richard Clark, Ellie Via, Marshall Brown, Charlie Shepard, Elmer Shepard, Cuthbert Via, Walter Craig, Robert Richardson, Billie Ayers, Cecil Ayers, Hardin Gilley, Russell Joyce, Jimmy Via, Hattie Clark, Joe Brown, Don Trent, and others.

The newspaper remembered Martin as "one of the leading citizens of Patrick County" who had been engaged in numerous enterprises both inside and outside the county and had taken an active part in all of them.

Perhaps the most telling tribute was this:

"Numerous persons have made the statement that no person could have been taken who will be missed more keenly than our deceased friend."

Bonce left behind his wife, five daughters, relatives, and a host of friends.

"A True Friend to All"

A longer obituary appeared in The Enterprise on August 30, 1928.

It stated that Martin had been a prominent merchant at Critz for twenty-two years. At the time of his death, he was vice president of the Bank of Critz and president of the Martin-Ford Oil Company. The obituary also associated him with the Critz baseball team.

The writer remembered him simply as "a true friend to all."

His pallbearers were the directors of the bank, while the flower bearers were members of the Critz baseball team assisted by other young men from the community.

Although Bonce was not a member of a church, the obituary said that "he had faith in and hope of life eternal."

The tribute ended by asking his grieving family and friends to trust that someday the meaning of their sorrow would become clear:

"Not now, but with the coming years
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And then sometimes, we'll understand."

It was signed simply:

"A Friend."

Bonce's death left Nannie a widow with five daughters.

She would remain a widow for the next fifty-three years.

While Bonce's life had been filled with the rapid changes of the early twentieth century—new businesses, automobiles, banking, mills, and industry—Nannie became a living link between generations of Critz history.

Known affectionately throughout the community as "Aunt Nannie," she had joined Critz Baptist Church in October 1896. By the end of her life, she had been a member of that church for an astonishing eighty-five years.

Nannie Ware Critz Martin died at her home in Critz on Friday in December 1981 at the age of one hundred.

The December 13, 1981, Martinsville Bulletin described her as a member of the Critz family that had first settled the Patrick County community bearing the family name and reported that she was believed to be the oldest citizen in Patrick County.

Surviving were her five daughters: Mrs. Troy (Eldena) Carter of Patrick Springs; Mrs. Madeline Thomas of Appomattox; Mrs. Jimmie (Erna) Nance of Martinsville; Miss Elizabeth "Buck" Martin of Critz; and Mrs. Nannie Sue Burton of Critz.

She also left five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held at Critz Baptist Church, where she had worshiped for most of her long life. The Revs. Fred Gilley, J. C. Spence, and Bill Wilkins officiated, and she was laid to rest in the church cemetery.

Bahnson Franklin "Bonce" Martin and Nannie Ware Critz Martin lived remarkably different lengths of life.

Bonce's ended suddenly in 1928, just as automobiles, roads, commerce, and technology were changing Patrick County. Nannie lived another fifty-three years, long enough to see changes her husband could scarcely have imagined.

Yet both remained closely tied to the little community of Critz.

The old buildings are gone. The Bank of Critz stands empty. The Dick and Willie no longer comes rumbling through. The Ford Touring Cars that once caused such excitement have long since disappeared from Patrick County roads, and the Blue Ridge Candy Company no longer turns out coconut creme bars in Critz.

But the stories remain.

And through those stories, we can still catch a glimpse of Bonce and Nannie Martin and of a Critz that once was—a community built by families, neighbors, merchants, dreamers, and entrepreneurs whose lives helped shape Patrick County.

Their story is another worthy chapter in the history of our Patrick Pioneers. For questions, comments, or story ideas, you may contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.



OBITUARIES

Clyde Dixon Rimmer



Clyde Dixon Rimmer, 95, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2026. He was born January 12, 1931.

A longtime resident of Burlington, North Carolina, Clyde worked for the railroad and later in manufacturing. Upon retirement, he moved to Patrick County, Virginia, where he and his wife Mina, made their home in the Appalachian mountains.

Clyde was preceded in death by his wife, Almina Jane (McGee) Rimmer; his sons, Thomas Clyde Rimmer and William Miller Rimmer; and his parents, Clara Ann Dixon and Walter Lloyd Rimmer.

He is survived by his sister, Peggy Ann (Rimmer) Goldstein; four grandchildren, Sally Katherine Rimmer, Samuel James Rimmer, William Henry Rimmer, and Hannah Mae (Rimmer) White; his daughter-in-law, the spouse of William Henry, Cheryl Irene Rimmer; and his nine great-grandchildren, Henry James Vargas, Zachary Aaron Neuhaus, Evan Victor Neuhaus, Hubert Clyde Rimmer, William David Rimmer, Rebekah Marie Rimmer, Jacob Daniel Rimmer, Alison White, and Cathryn White.

Clyde was beloved by his family. He loved jazz, animals, and spending time with his family, especially his great grandchildren.

Mary Elizabeth Hodges

11.19.1944 – 8.18.2026



Mary Elizabeth Hodges, 81, known as "Bunny" to many friends and family, passed away peacefully on August 18, in Charlottesville, VA. Recognized for her outgoing nature and humor, she touched many lives. She leaves behind several cousins in the Patrick County area, many of whom fondly share stories of the summers they all spent playing together at Grannie's cabin in Dry Pond.

Bunny had many interests and enjoyed literature and history and was a world traveler, visiting many countries in Europe, the near East, and the Holy Land. She was also an Anglophile and visited the British Isles many times; from an early age she had a keen interest in the royal family lineage. She liked sports, NASCAR, and was an avid Baltimore Orioles fan, attending many games at Memorial Stadium and Camden Yards.

The daughter of Grace Irene Pace Hodges and Rosser Elijah Hodges, she was born in Stuarts Draft, Virginia, and grew up there. A 1962 graduate of Wilson High School in Fishersville, Virginia, Bunny went on to attend business school and worked in Admissions at the University of Virginia for 47 years, facilitating hundreds of thousands of students to attend the school. A member of Ivy Creek United Methodist Church, in Charlottesville, she was a faith leader and involved in community outreach. She lived at The Colonnades Senior Living Community in Charlottesville.

She is preceded in death by her grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Moss Pace Boles; and grandfather, John Henry Pace. Surviving her are her sister, Peggy Ann Hodges Church, of Staunton, Virginia; nephew, Robert Church, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia; niece, Julia Church (Randall Wolf), of Stuarts Draft, Virginia; and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ms. Hodges will be interred at Creasey's Chapel in Stuart, Virginia, during a private gathering.

Joel Atlee Honse, Sr.

Mr. Joel Atlee Honse, Sr. age 84 of Woolwine, Virginia passed away peacefully on Friday, August 21, 2026, at the VA Salem Medical Center. He was born in Ford City, Pennsylvania on December 26, 1941, to the late John H. Honse and Julia Stitt Honse. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Martha Campbell Honse; and two brothers, James A. Honse and John H. Honse, Jr.

Joel was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He shared his love of outdoors as a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts. He was proud of his services as a United States Marine.

Left to cherish the memories of Joel Atlee Honse are his daughter, Kira C. Honse; son, Joel Atlee Honse, Jr.; his nephews, James A. Honse Jr., Christopher G Honse, John H. Honse and Joseph Honse and grandnieces and nephews and great-grandnieces and nephews; and his beloved dog, Luna.

All services for Mr. Honse will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralsservices.com.

Charlie "Maynard" Lovell



Charlie "Maynard" Lovell, 85, of Woolwine, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 21, 2026, with his loving family by his side and his extended family and closest friends supporting him through prayer and love. Maynard was born on September 2, 1940, to the late Frederick Isham Lovell and Dade Martha Jane Rorrer Lovell.

A proud veteran, Maynard served his country in the United States Army from October 1963 to October 1965. During his two years of military service, he kept things running smoothly while working in the motor pool. He also trained extensively on small arms repair and utilized those skills to repair tank guns. His time in the service deeply shaped his strong work ethic and left him with stories he proudly carried for the rest of his life.

Following his honorable discharge, Maynard held a few public jobs before finding his true professional passion in exhaust work. He became the proud owner and operator of Lovell's Custom Exhaust, where everyone throughout the region knew to see Maynard for their custom work.

This profession naturally grew his lifelong passion for cars. Maynard truly loved life, horse power, and hot rods. He enjoyed all kinds of racing, with drag racing always being his absolute favorite. Even after his retirement, Maynard could always be found attending drag races, cruising around with his friends on Sundays, and hanging out at local cruiseins. He possessed incredible skills when it came to cars, and his garage doors were always wide open to help anyone work on their classic hot rods. Outside of the garage, his other hobbies included raising black and tan coon dogs and taking them out hunting. He also had a sharp eye for value and deeply enjoyed the thrill of searching for a good deal.

Above all, Maynard loved being with his family. He cherished his time with them and successfully instilled his deep love for classic vehicles into several of his nephews.

He is survived by his two sisters, Helena Lovell Belcher (Albert) of Woolwine, Mildred Lovell Scott (Bobby) of Bassett and sister-in-law, Linda Boyd Lovell (Nash). He is survived by three nieces, five nephews, and an extended family of cousins, along with numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews who were blessed to know him. Maynard was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Nash Lovell, and his nephew, Dale Scott.

The family will receive friends on Monday, August 24, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery (179 Sycamore Church Road, Stuart, VA). A graveside service will follow at 1:00 PM with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to support his local community via the Woolwine Community Ruritan Club (P.O. Box 203, Woolwine, VA 24185) or the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department (P.O. Box 38, Woolwine, VA 24185). Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ervin Randolph Goad



Ervin Randolph Goad, age 80, of Stuart, passed away at his home on Saturday, August, 22, 2026. He was born in Willis, VA on November 29, 1945 to the late Earlie and Kayoulah Marshall Goad. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Tina Goad; two sisters, Mary Lou Lawless Dawson and Shelby Lawless; four brothers, Bob, Arwin, Lewis and Brainard Goad; one niece, Sue Goad; one nephew, Peanut Goad; one sister-in-law; and two brothers-in-law.

He enjoyed driving trucks for Burgess Trucking Company for 30 years, and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ervin was a loving husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend.

Mr. Goad is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bonnie Cassady Goad; his beloved dogs, Max, Potatoe and Maya; a daughter, Teresa Goad Clark; two sisters, Anna Mae Reed (Terry) and Carolyn Hogan (Joe); one brother, Clyde Goad (Janet); four grandchildren, Jonathan Scott (Brittany), Joshua Scott, Montana Inman (Garrett) and Cassady Inman; four great-grandchildren, Dixie and Silas Scott and Levi and Colter Rich; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services for Mr. Goad will be held Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted or memorial donations may be made to Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy., Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservicses.com.

Initial unemployment claims decrease

Virginia Works' Economic Information and Analytics Division, which serves as the Commonwealth's official source for labor market and workforce data, reported that that 2,391 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending August 15, 2026. This is 10.2 percent lower than last week's 2,663 claims and 24.0 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (3,146).

The claims were filed with the Virginia Employment Commission, which administers the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance program. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (294); Health Care and Social Assistance (241); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (236); Retail Trade (192); and Accommodation and Food Services (147).

Continued weeks' claims (20,548) were 0.3 percent lower than last week (20,613) and were 3.2 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (21,225). 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 (3,662); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,399); Health Care and Social Assistance (2,036); Accommodation and Food Services (1,609); and Retail Trade (1,496).

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Empires Come And Empires Go

By Van Yandell

Matthew 6: 33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

In Bible studies, we cannot avoid the studies of the world's great empires, both past and present. History documents those empires and all have fallen or lost their global presence.

Greed, imperialism, supremacy or implosion has destroyed them. Some lasted hundreds of years.

The British Empire began its power grab in the late 1500's. Colonizing Canada, several African countries, India and Australia, Britain's land and power grab began in 1583. By seizing Newfoundland it accelerated from there to other parts of the world.

Britain also known as the United Kingdom is still considered a world power but with a much smaller reach than in previous years.

Two world wars depleted their economic prowess tremendously. With the developing of other world superpowers such as the United States, Russia and China; Britain lost its position in the world as an empire.

The Babylonian empire lasted from around 1900 BC until the early 500's BC. Centered in Babylon (near today's Bagdad), her reach varied over the centuries.

In the book of Daniel, chapter five, we find the fall of the Babylonian empire. Darius the Mede destroyed Belshazzar and took Babylon. Ironically, God allowed the downfall because of their lack of respect for the possessions taken from the Jerusalem temple and other pagan practices.

The Macedonian empire under the command of Alexander the Great lasted a much shorter time. Some sources claim a short lived empire of only ten years.

The Roman Empire is believed by many to be the legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2: 40). The Roman Empire lasted from 168 BC to 476 AD. Having lasted nearly 600 years, it is among the longest lived of the empires.

The Romans occupied Judea from 60 BC until 70 AD, a period of 130 years. I find it interesting they just happened to be in control in Jerusalem in the 33rd year of the first century.

Romans were one of the few nations that used crucifixion as a method of capital punishment. Also interesting is that Christ Jesus just happened to show up on earth during their occupation of Palestine.

God has a plan! In order for the Old Testament prophesy to be fulfilled (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, and Zechariah 12), the Romans served a purpose. While those scriptures do not specifically use the word "crucifixion," the details of the suffering are described.

Some believe the United States is the greatest empire of this era. In such a case, are our days numbered as the other empires of history?

John Adams, the second president of the United States, wrote in an 1814 letter to John Taylor: "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." John Taylor was a political antagonist of the time.

America is not by definition a pure democracy but a constitutional republic. We elect representatives that are supposed to represent us by defending the Constitution. Nonetheless, we are a free people operating under the economic system of capitalism.

Capitalism allows us the freedom of opportunity. Also at times known as "free enterprise," capitalism plus our freedoms permit us to utilize our resources (imagination, ingenuity, intelligence, inventive abilities and work ethics) to earn money.

Those monies earned, allow Americans to achieve and acquire the American Dream. Few people on planet earth have the opportunities Americans have.

People living in communist countries are literally owned by the governments. Socialist governments take most of the earnings of the people in taxes and the hierarchy lives like kings while average working citizens struggle to survive.

As the statement above of John Adams appears to apply to the USA we live in today, are our days numbered? Our elected politicians in pursuit of votes have been channeling us into a socialist/communist mindset and system for over fifty years; making a people dependent makes them submissive and easier to control.

Having been victims of incremental conditioning, many have failed to recognize the progression. It is purely intentional and by the time many wake up, it will be too late.

Information we receive is obviously controlled into what someone deems us needing to know, we have been slowly conditioned away from the intentions of the founding fathers.

It appears at this time, if America falls, it will be by implosion. Abraham Lincoln said in 1838 "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

Causes of self-destruction are many. Some of the main causes are economic failure, political corruption, socio-economic disparities (resulting in conflicts hatred, violence and attitudes), and extreme political ideologies.

As the people in the previous empires did not know, we do not know how long America will last. With the transitioning into a world garbage dump, it appears, the end may be nearer than we think.

The time periods of the empires are a key factor in understanding them. There is only one time factor with God and that is eternity (2 Peter 3: 8).

Psalm 145: 13 "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations." God is eternal both past and future tense.

The Bible teaches that eternal life is a reality. 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).

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

2. To whom did God say, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"? *Daniel, Jeremiah, Noah, Thomas*

3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David reign over Israel? *7, 33, 40, 57*



4. What do the seven lampstands represent in Revelation 1:20? *Continents, Angels, Seas, Churches*

5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? *Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant*

6. Manasseh was the elder of whose two sons? *Matthew, Joash, Joseph, Timothy*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jeremiah, 3) Forty, 4) Churches, 5) Tentmaker, 6) Joseph

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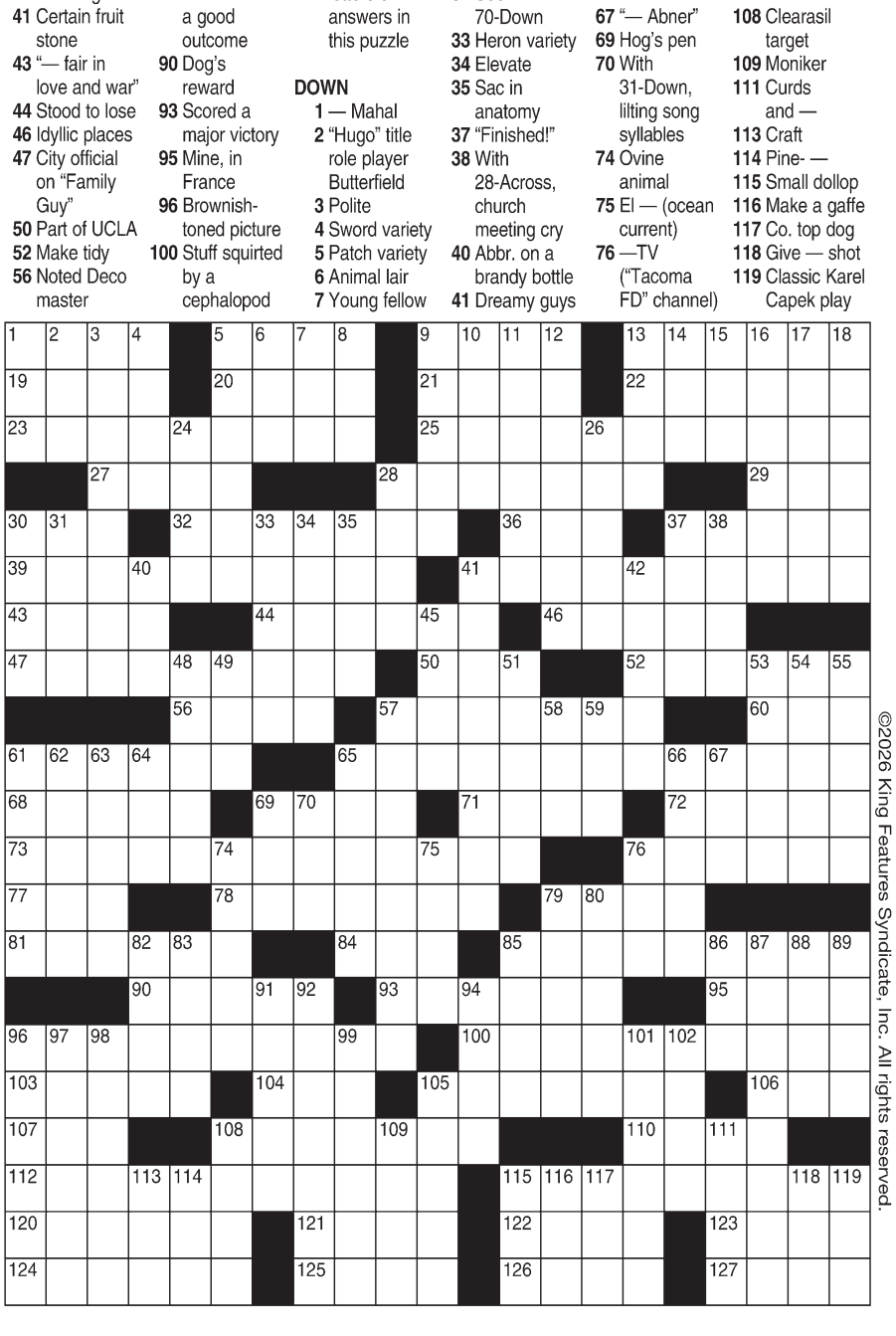
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ACROSS
1 Gentle
5 Not active
9 Hockey great Gordie
13 Certain utility meter reader
19 "Pronto!"
20 Back end
21 Notion
22 Hun leader
23 "Klute" actress
25 Line of air fresheners requiring an outlet
27 Element #10
28 See 38-Down
29 Texting format, for short
30 Land in eau
32 Strong-arms
36 Lobbying org.
37 Singer Ross
39 "Let's Get It On" singer
41 Certain fruit stone
43 "— fair in love and war"
44 Stood to lose
46 Idyllic places
47 City official on "Family Guy"
50 Part of UCLA
52 Make tidy
56 Noted Deco master
57 Notion
60 Go in haste
61 Fogged up, as a sauna
65 School for associate's degrees
68 Caribbean resort
69 "Let it stand"
71 Goes after in court
72 Intended (to)
73 Bartending tool with holes
76 1841-45 first family
77 Primo pitcher
78 Cape Cod resort village
79 Dried up
81 Heptathlete Jackie Joyner- —
84 Railroad depot: Abbr.
85 Portend a good outcome
90 Dog's reward
93 Scored a major victory
95 Mine, in France
96 Brownish-toned picture
100 Stuff squirted by a cephalopod
103 Slow to react
104 NFL notable Manning
105 Some private planes
106 "Is that so!"
107 Univ. senior's test
108 Weapons depot
110 Tiger's sound, to tots
112 Halifax native
115 Poolside seat
120 Large moon of Uranus
121 "I'm buying"
122 Region
123 Rebuke from Caesar
124 Lie comfily close
125 Belgian river
126 Frat guys
127 Span represented by the first three letters of 12 answers in this puzzle

DOWN
1 — Mahal
2 "Hugo" title role player Butterfield
3 Polite
4 Sword variety
5 Patch variety
6 Animal lair
7 Young fellow
8 Time of note
9 Old LP players
10 Polish river
11 Program running in a browser
12 Topic of an otologist's instructions
13 Intent stare
14 Munched on
15 Fuel additive brand
16 Country singer Ronnie
17 School reunion-goers
18 Pesters
24 Central points
26 "Champion" of Spain
28 Overly docile
30 Muslim prayer leader
31 See 70-Down
33 Heron variety
34 Elevate
35 Sac in anatomy
37 "Finished!"
38 With 28-Across, church meeting cry
40 Abbr. on a brandy bottle
41 Dreamy guys
42 Italian for "hundred"
45 SpaceX head Musk
48 Chart anew
49 Ironic, as wit
51 Rub to clean
53 Main topic
54 "The — Sanction" (1975 film)
55 Must have
57 Halve with an ax, say
58 Prior to, to a bard
59 Mac rivals
61 "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat
62 Halting of hostilities
63 Leonhard of pure mathematics
64 Prez Lincoln
65 Denim pants
66 Cake tier
67 "— Abner"
69 Hog's pen
70 With 31-Down, lilting song syllables
74 Ovine animal
75 El — (ocean current)
76 —TV ("Tacoma FD" channel)
79 Armani offerings
80 Incite
82 Incite
83 Part of QED
85 Basic lessons
86 Once lived
87 Move to a new country
88 Individual
89 Similar to
91 "Billy, Don't Be —"
92 "Anna Karenina" novelist
94 Yule tune
96 Join the team
97 Get dressed
98 Irritates
99 Promotional connections
101 Ski jackets
102 Quadrennial games org.
105 Seat weaver
108 Clearasil target
109 Moniker
111 Curds and —
113 Craft
114 Pine- —
115 Small dollop
116 Make a gaffe
117 Co. top dog
118 Give — shot
119 Classic Karel Capek play



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Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 10
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Sept. 14
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Saturday, August 29
Music and Potluck at Life Tabernacle, 711 Iron Belt Lane, off Hwy. 57, Stuart, beginning at 3 p.m., and featuring the Southern Gentlemen & The Shelton Brothers. All are welcome to join for an afternoon of gospel music, fellowship, and a community potluck. Bring a dish to share if you wish.

Sarge & Sons Demolition Derby, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Drive, Stuart; Kiddie Powerwheel, 6 p.m. for ages 3-10; show starting at 7 p.m., with $4,800 in prize money to be divided up in 4 classes: Fullsize Wire-Up & Prostock, 6-Cylinder & Compacts will be wire-up only, plus $100 to the first 20 drivers pre-entered & participate. Powder Puff class is back for the ladies. To participate call Clyde Crissman at 276-694-4217.

Friday, Sept. 4
The community food truck will be at Woolwine SRRS from 3-4 p.m.

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

Saturday, Sept. 12
A memorial service for David Lusk, who served as vice president of the Stuart Birthplace, will be held at the birthplace at 2 p.m. Tom Perry's new book, Volume Two of Laurel Hill's Many Histories, will be available at the annual encampment in October. The book is dedicated to Lusk, who died recently.

Sunday, Sept. 13
The 50th Hughes Family Reunion will be held at the Hughes Family Shelter on Trot Valley Road. A covered dish lunch will be served at 1 p.m. following a brief business meeting. Paper products and drinks will be provided. For more information call Danny R. Hughes at 336 648 2860.

Monday, September 14
A Five-Star Stay For Bees, 1 p.m., at Patrick & Henry Community College Fab Lab, 212 Wood Brothers Dr, Stuart. Help create a welcoming habitat for native bees and other pollinators. Build your own bee hotel and learn simple ways to support the pollinators that help our gardens, flowers, and communities thrive. A $10 supply fee is required at the time of registration. In-person registration required at Patrick County Branch Library.

Tuesday, Sept. 15-Saturday, Sept. 19
Patrick County Agricultural Fair will be held at Rotary Field in Stuart, with rides, midway, prizes, games, fair food, exhibits, livestock, music and more. For more, visit www.patrickcountyfair.com.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food boxes from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Stuart site, from 8-10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat, and beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, Sept. 18
The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

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.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

Auction
Real Estate & Personal Property
Saturday, August 29, 2026 – 10 A.M.
360 The Great Road, Henry County, VA
Directions: From Fieldale, take Rt. 609 (Dillons Fork Rd). At Rangeley102 Gas Station, turn left on to The Great Road, go to Mail Box 360 about ½ mile on left. Auction sign in yard.

Real Estate: Approx. 23 +/- acres, 1 ¼ Story House, Partial Basement, Out Buildings, Mobile Home, Pond, etc. House has Well/Central Air/Oil/Wood Heat * Land – has large pond/ Several Springs * Fruit Tree/Timber/ Open Field * Bidders to use due diligence.

Personal Property: Massey Ferguson 230 Tractor Bush Hog (To be confirmed) * Auger for Tractor * Craftman Lawn Mower * Craftman Tiller * Push Mower * Lg Animal Trap Case * 10 Ft. Canoe * Fishing Rods & Tackle Boxes * Air Mover * Chain Saw (2) * Gas Weed Eater * Tool Boxes * Wood bedroom suite * Canning Jars in cases * 50 Gal. Wooden Tank * Coin Saw (2) * Telephone Stand * Assorted Pocket Knives * Kitchen Table and chairs* Butter Churn * Jewelry Barrell / 20 Gal. Keg * consist of Rings, Bracelets, Ear Rings, Necklaces, Watches * Rolls of Quarters, Wheat Pennies, Kennedy 50 cent pieces, Coin Books * Old Military Compass * Wicker Furniture * Various Ceramic Pieces * Desk Chairs * Lamps * Bread Box * Glass Ware * Toaster Oven * Cookware * Pots/Pans * Coffee Maker * Bread Maker * Sandwich Grill * Silver Ware * Mixer * Microwave * Footed Cake Plate * Cabbage Patch Doll * Barbie Dolls * Western Train Set * Light Chair * Roll Mixer * Many Books * Assort Cut Glass * Piano Stool * Rocking Chair * Twin Bed * Patient Light * Chest Drawers * TV * Lingerie Chest * Tools * Cast Iron Kettle * Crock Pot * Washer/Dryer * Wheel Chair * Towels / Wash Cloths * Swinn Bicycle * Mason Jars * Bird Houses * Freezer * Tobacco Planter * Ice Crusher * Generator, Welder * Large Water Carrier * Wheel Chair Lift * Lumber * and Much More. Too much to list.

Terms/Conditions: Selling for J. R. Tuggle / D. P. Tuggle. Personal Property: "Selling AS IS", sale goes to highest bidder, No Guarantees/No Warranties. 10% Buyers Premium, Cash or Good Check. Items must be paid for before leaving premises. Real Estate: 5% Buyer Premium, 10% Earnest Money Deposit, balance to be paid within thirty days. Top Bid to be confirmed by sellers. Selling "AS IS", NO Guarantees/NO Warranties. Announcements day of Auction supersede all prior Advertisements. Contact Auction Office for Details.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

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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

DMV

(cont. from page 1)



DMV Select Manager Diana Belcher said the renovations allow employees to serve customers more efficiently.

Manager Diana Belcher said the shutters make it easier for employees to open the service windows.

"We no longer have to move our whole office, computer, everything that's on the desk" to close the window, she said.

"Before, we had a swinging door that we opened up, so now we are able to just mash a button and it comes right up. It's also tied into the fire security alarm system, so if there's a fire it will automatically shut. So that's a security feature as well," she said.

The renovation also addressed an ergonomic issue with the old office setup, Belcher said. Employees had to climb onto a step stool to access desks that were positioned higher.

"So we were able to lower the desks and now we don't have to climb in and out of our chairs, so it's a lot more easy and definitely more efficient," she said.

DMV employee Penny Morrison said the changes also make it easier for employees to access tags, documentation and other materials needed to assist customers.

"We're able to access it more efficiently now," Morrison said.

The office space was expanded during the renovation by extending the suite's wall.

"It's an open concept. Where we did have a wall inside as well as a door inside, now it's open," Morrison said.

Belcher said the renovated space provides a more professional and comfortable environment for customers.



A wall that displays license plate samples and an information center with forms customers can easily access will help provide a more relaxed atmosphere.

"Some place they can come to and not be so stressed like they are most of the time when they come to the DMV," Belcher said with a chuckle.

The DMV's second service window was also moved from the back of the suite, replacing a door on the right side, Belcher said.

"The second window was at the backside, but now it's open and you got more space, so we don't have to move every time" someone wants to enter the office, she said.

To make the space more comfortable and useful for customers, Morrison said Belcher had new seating installed and created a wall displaying license plate samples and an information center with forms customers can easily access.

During some of his past visits, Deputy Director of DMV Select Administration Barry Browning said he has seen the line at the office extend halfway down the hallway.



DMV Select Manager Diana Belcher stands outside the renovated space.

"This is a very busy office, and if you don't know what form to get to do an address change, it's up here" on the wall near both service windows, "so it's more efficient. Because when you get up to the counter and the window they're going to say, 'well, you need a form.' So it's more efficient to have a lot of the forms they use out here," Browning said, adding that multiple clipboards also are available outside the service windows for customers to use.

Browning said the improvements are a testament to Patrick County.

"The county is the one who wanted to renovate this and spent the money to do it to and be in compliance with the fire code, but they also took advantage to open it up and make more space for DMV customers. So it's a win for everybody, and it looks great," Browning said.

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved $27,000 for the renovations during its November meeting.

Perry

(cont. from page 1)

tional town, Circle M Zoo, and Lever's Leap, Rock Castle Gorge, and other points of interest.

In addition to focusing on the history of the area, Perry said his book also includes his own memories of the area.

"When I was a kid, we had a river boat in Patrick County that rode the Dan River. I rode the Dan River Queen many, many times, we even went to Boy Scout camporees where we would ride the river boat over to the other end of the pond and we'd camp. So I try to remember the memory I have of all of that," he said.

Throughout his book, Perry said he also provided further reading information about the different topics.

"If there's a book about this particular subject, I would put a little blurb in there about the book," he said.

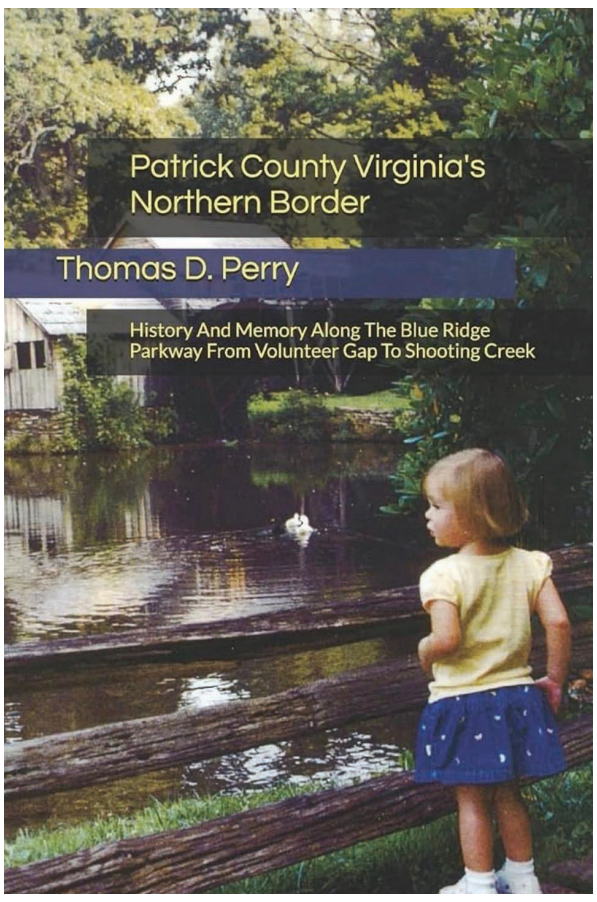
One of the things he really wanted to do with this book, Perry said, is note the worsening condition of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"The maintenance budgets for the Parkway have been cut for years and years. It's not just a Donald Trump thing, it's many, many administrations and congresses that just don't put money into the maintenance for the National Park Services. They had to put a new roof on Mabry Mill, well the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation had to do that. The National Park Service doesn't have the money to do it. I try to point out things like that the national parks are a great idea, but in 30, 40, 50 years down the road, you aren't putting money to keep it up, and that's a travesty in my opinion," Perry said.

While he does this throughout the book, Perry said he really ramps it up in the chapter about Mabry Mill.

"Because if you pay attention to Facebook at all, you'll know that's been a hot topic about the way Mabry Mill looks, the fact the pond has been allowed to fill in pretty much, the roof was bad until last year when the foundation put a new roof on it and the Puckett Cabin," he said.

For Patrick County, Perry said the Parkway is important as it's a primary driver of tourism to the area.



Tom Perry's latest book "Patrick County Virginia's Northern Border: History And Memory Along The Blue Ridge Parkway From Volunteer Gap to Shooting Creek," is out now.

"It always has been," he said.

Noting his 500-page book goes into a lot of different subjects and includes many photos.

"I've went back and gone through archives looking for pictures of Mabry Mill and pictures of the Dan River Queen, so there's lots and lots of pictures. There's pictures of Mabry Mill before they started restoring it, there's pictures of when the Parkway wasn't even there," he said.

Perry's book is available on Amazon, on https://laurel-hill-publishing-llc.square.site, and at select retailers in Patrick County.

The Mood in Your Water Glass - Part 1

We've all heard the advice to "drink more water." But what does the research actually say about how changes in water intake affect our mood, and does it matter how much you habitually drink in the first place? A landmark peer-reviewed study published in PLOS ONE (Pross et al., 2014) addressed exactly this question, yielding striking findings that challenge a one-size-fits-all approach to hydration.

Who Are "High" and "Low" Drinkers?

Before diving into the findings, it helps to understand how researchers defined their groups. The study recruited habitual high-volume drinkers (HIGH), defined as those with fluid intakes of at least 2 liters per day, and low-volume drinkers (LOW), defined as those consuming less than 1.2 liters per day. These weren't extreme outliers; they represent a real spectrum of everyday drinking habits found in the general population.

During a two-day baseline period, HIGH participants consumed 2.5 liters of water per day, and LOW participants consumed 1 liter per day. Over the following three controlled intervention days, HIGH had their water intake restricted to 1 liter per day, while LOW had theirs increased to 2.5 liters per day. To measure mood, researchers administered several validated scales, including the Bond & Lader Visual Analog Scale, the Profile of Mood States (POMS), the Karolinska Sleepiness Scale, and a Thirst & Emotional Visual Analog Scale, at multiple time points throughout each day.

What Happens When High Drinkers Cut Back?

The results for the HIGH group were sobering. Restricting water intake in high drinkers led to a significant increase in thirst and decreases in contentedness, calmness, positive emotions, and vigor/activity. In other words, it wasn't just physical discomfort; their emotional landscape shifted meaningfully in a negative direction.

Habitual high drinkers who were forced to reduce their daily water intake reported being thirstier, less calm, less content, less vigorous and described experiencing fewer positive emotions. These weren't trivial fluctuations. The changes in calmness and positive emotion reached statistical significance, suggesting a genuine psychological cost to under-hydrating when your body is accustomed to more.

The researchers had anticipated this outcome based on prior dehydration literature. It was hypothesized that a water decrease in HIGH would negatively impact sleep/wake-related moods, consistent with the effects seen in fluid deprivation studies. The data bore this out and extended the finding beyond just sleepiness into broader emotional well-being.

What Happens When Low Drinkers Drink More?

The LOW group told a different, but equally compelling, story. The intervention demonstrated that a daily water intake increase led to a significant mood improvement in habitual low drinkers, who reported less fatigue, less confusion, less thirst, and who tended to be less sleepy.

Specifically, increased water consumption in the LOW group resulted in a significant decrease in confusion bewilderment scores, and lower sleepiness was also observed as a trend. For people who chronically underdrink, simply bringing their intake up to a more adequate level appears to have a meaningful positive effect on how alert, clear-headed, and energized they feel day-to-day.

The hypothesis had been that increased water intake would positively affect alertness and happiness ratings in LOW, as previously demonstrated in adults and young children, and the results supported this expectation.

(Part 2 will continue in a future edition of The Enterprise for the conclusion of this article.)

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

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

Registration set for 2026 Fall College for Older Adults









Photos courtesy of Reynolds Homestead

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead will kick off registration for its 2026 Fall College for Older Adults (COA) with a special launch event on Monday, August 31, at 10 a.m. at Reynolds Homestead. The four-week fall session will run Monday, September 28, through Friday, October 23, offering adults ages 50 and older a wide variety of educational, recreational, and social opportunities.

College for Older Adults is designed for lifelong learners who enjoy exploring new interests, meeting new people, and staying active. Whether participants are looking to learn a new skill, revisit a favorite hobby, or simply connect with others in the community, the program offers something for everyone.

The August 31 launch event gives prospective participants an opportunity to preview the full lineup of classes, hikes, and special outings planned for the fall semester while registering before classes fill. Many offerings have limited enrollment, making early registration highly recommended.

"College for Older Adults is about much more than attending classes," said Melanie Gilbert, assistant manager for community engagement programs at the Reynolds Homestead. "It's about building friendships, discovering new interests, and creating meaningful experiences together. We see participants leave each semester with not only new knowledge but also new connections that often last well beyond the program."

This fall's schedule will feature a diverse selection of classes and activities, including guided hikes, cultural and culinary experiences, tai chi, book discussions, arts and crafts, and other engaging educational programs. The complete schedule of classes and activities will be available on the Reynolds Homestead website beginning September 1.

The College for Older Adults fall semester registration is $50 and includes tuition for all weekly classes as well as many specialty programs offered throughout the session. Some classes, including arts and crafts, make-and-take workshops, and field trips, may require additional supply or transportation fees. Participants interested in outdoor recreation may also register for the guided hiking series for $20, which includes four guided hikes during the semester.

Registration may be completed online using a credit or debit card or by mailing a check payable to the Treasurer of Virginia Tech. Online registration and printable registration forms will be available through the Reynolds Homestead website and Facebook page. Printed course catalogs will be available at the beginning of September and may be picked up at Reynolds Homestead, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, and the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

For more information or to request accommodation, contact Melanie Gilbert at mtgilbert68@vt.edu or call 276-694-7181, ext. 22.

Annual

(cont. from page 1)





An estimated 1,500 attended last year's derby. Organizers said the event attracts teams locally and from other areas, including Danville and North Carolina. (Contributed)

Gates open at 4:30 p.m., with the children's Power Wheels Derby set to start at 6 p.m. (Contributed)

and Six-Cylinder.

"Generally we pull in lots of local teams and also folks from North Carolina and Danville and places just in the general area," she said.

There also will be two Power Wheels Derby classes for children ages 3-5 and 6-9. A cash prize will be awarded to the winner of each class.

Lester estimated at least 1,500 people attended last year's event.

"It was packed, it was a beautiful evening. We're hopeful for nice weather because it's very weather dependent," she said.

The Pickle & Ash Food Truck, the Patrick County Band Boosters and the Woolwine Ruritan Club will sell concessions during the event.

Participants are still being accepted for the Derby, Lester said.

"Some people will just drive to the event and enter that evening," she said.

The entry fee is $50 per vehicle, and pit passes are $20 each.

Tickets are $10 for ages 13 and older, $5 for ages 7-12, and free for children 6 and younger.

The rain date is Friday, Sept. 4.

For entry forms and more information, visit www.patrickcountyfair.com or www.sarge-demo-derby.com.

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STEP participates in federal meal program

STEP Inc. participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provides reimbursements for nutritious meals served to eligible children and adults in participating care programs.

Meals are provided at no separate charge to participants at the following STEP locations:

- 200 Dent St., Rocky Mount
- 4559 Wayside Road, Stuart
- 75 Road 954, Patrick Springs

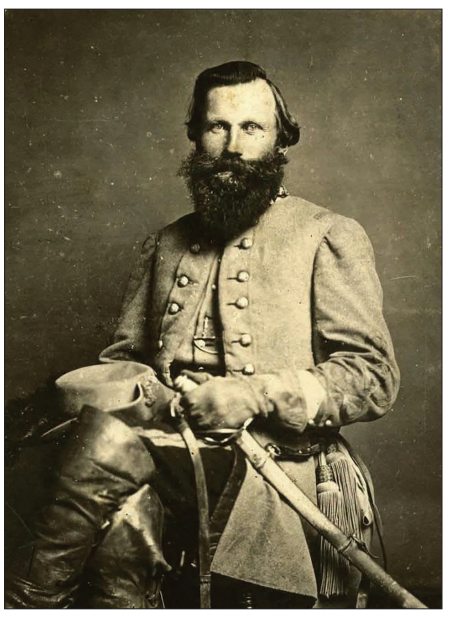
Participating centers receive free or reduced-price meal reimbursements based on household income. The current income eligibility guidelines are effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

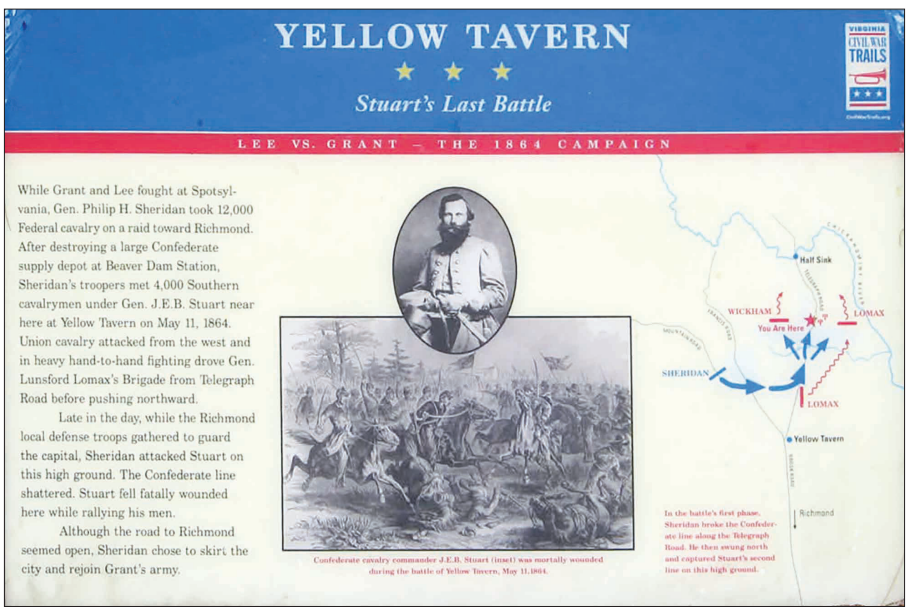
Children who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or who participate in Head Start, may be automatically eligible for free meals. Foster children also may qualify.

For more information about the Child and Adult Care Food Program, contact the Virginia Department of Health's Special Nutrition Programs team at cacfp@vdh.virginia.gov or 1-877-618-7282.

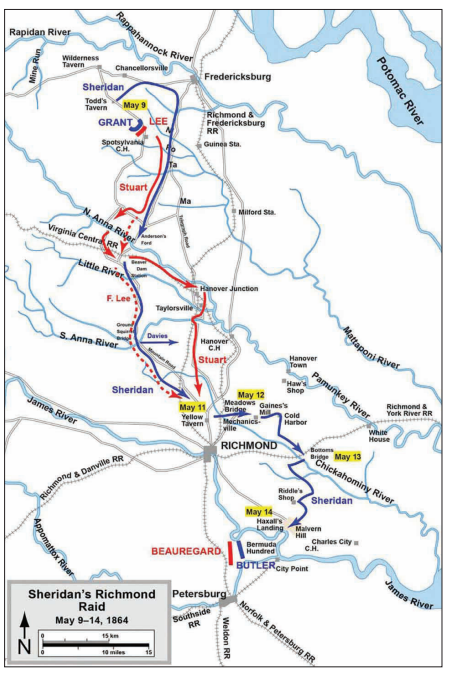
John Huff Didn't Do It: Who Shot J. E. B. Stuart















By Tom Perry

"As they retired, one man who had been dismounted in the charge, and was running out on foot, turned as he passed the general, and discharging his pistol inflicted the fatal wound." J. E. B. Stuart's staff member and first biographer, Major Henry McClellan, wrote of Stuart's mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern.

I have met many people over the years while researching the Civil War, particularly James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart. I once got a photo through the mail of the grave of John Huff, a Michigan Cavalryman, who was credited for years as being the man who shot Stuart at the Battle of Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864, with a joking note stating, "Tom, I know how much this will mean to you."

Pvt John A. Huff was born on November 14, 1819, in Hamburg, Erie County, New York. He died a month after Stuart on June 23, 1864. Find A Grave states that Huff "was shot in the head during battle at Hawes Shop, on May 28, 1864, in Hanover County, Virginia, seven miles east of Yellow Tavern. After several weeks in a military hospital, he was sent home by train to die."

In studying the Civil War, you learn that not everything you have learned is true, and if a lie is told enough, it becomes the truth. I do not believe that John Huff shot J. E. B. Stuart. John Huff served in Company E, 5th Michigan Cavalry. He was one of George Custer's men.

"Two months after Yellow Tavern, Colonel Russell Alger, the commander of the 5th Michigan, claimed John Huff was the man who shot Stuart. Alger stated Huff opened fire on an officer 'accompanied by a large staff and escort, carrying a battle flag.' George Custer took his subordinate at his word and repeated the claim in his own report of the campaign. Further credence was given to these claims since Huff was a former member of 'Berdan's Sharpshooters' and considered a crack shot."

Now if George Custer wrote it, I tend to find it suspect. As my mother always said, "Crazy Horse was a great American." Stuart was alone with the 1st Virginia Cavalry when he was mortally wounded and did not have his staff or his battle flag with him at the time of his wounding.

I am not the only one who thinks that John Huff is not the man who shot Stuart. In an Emerging Civil War blog, "Unwritten History: Who Shot J.E.B. Stuart?" by Daniel Davis, posted on May 11, 2017, and quoted above. He wrote, "…the 5th Michigan was not one of the units employed by Custer to spearhead the main attack. The regiment launched their attack to the right of Stuart's location and outside of the general vicinity where he received his wound."

In the best article I have ever read on Yellow Tavern, Robert E. L. Krick wrote in an essay, J.E.B. Stuart's Last Ride and Sheridan's Raid, in Gary Gallagher's The Spotsylvania Campaign, published in 2010, that John Huff's regiment was not near Stuart when he was shot. I will always take the word of a Krick over a Custer.

Footnotes are always the most interesting place to learn history. Krick wrote in a footnote on pages 164-65. "Huff's regiment likely fought a little farther west than the Telegraph Road. More significant, nearly all Confederate sources (with no agenda and nothing at stake in this instance) noted that Stuart was shot by a man who had been unhorsed and who was making a fighting withdrawal with others in a similar plight. The 5th Michigan fought dismounted on May 11. If the Confederate accounts are correct, it would seem more likely that the shooter came from either the 1st or 7th Michigan, as they both fought mounted that day and were in the Telegraph Road. Finally, and most damning, the only original claim for Huff came from his colonel, Russell A. Alger. Alger gave an elaborate description of the circumstances that unfortunately bears almost no resemblance to the known facts. I see absolutely no reason to accept the Huff identification, and consider it very likely that whoever shot Stuart did so unwittingly. On the other hand, Stuart reportedly told his doctor that the Yankees, "evidently recognizing his well-known person," purposely shot at him. The doctor's account reported that Stuart returned this fire with all six rounds from his revolver before falling wounded.

We will probably never know who shot Stuart. With what is known and the location of Custer's regiments on the field, it is more likely that a trooper from the 1st Michigan shot Patrick County's most famous Southern soldier. As Davis wrote, "After the war, a trooper from the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry who fought at Yellow Tavern best summed up the circumstances surrounding the event: It seems rather strange to me that so important an occurrence, if the facts were definitely known, should have remained unwritten history all these years."

After he was wounded, Stuart was taken into his brother-in-law, Charles Brewer's, home on Grace Street in downtown Richmond. Brewer had taken care of Stuart in 1857 when a Cheyenne shot Stuart. Stuart died on May 12, 1864, around 7:30 pm. Today, the site is the Richmond Police Department's parking deck. Stuart was buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, high on the hill above the James River, named for another James Stuart, King James I of England.



