THE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 150 No. 35 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 USPS 523-500 $1.50

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

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Blue dye reaches Stuart wastewater plant

By Taylor Boyd

Blue dye entered the Town of Stuart's wastewater treatment plant last month after a reported discharge from Faith Mulch into the town's sanitary sewer system, according to a report submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

In an email to DEQ, Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons said wastewater treatment plant staff observed strongly colored blue influent arriving at the plant Aug. 12.

"The source of the color has been reported to the Town as a discharge made by Faith Mulch to the Town's sanitary sewer collections system. The color carried through the treatment train and was visible in the final effluent at the Parshall flume on August 13, which was the peak of the event," Simmons stated in an emailed report.

Simmons said the colored influent diminished markedly Aug. 14, and a sample collected Aug. 15 was colorless. As of Aug. 18, no blue or blue-green color remained in the effluent.

"Throughout the event the plant continued to operate through its normal treatment train. The clarifiers settled normally, the weirs remained clean, and no solids carryover was observed. The color observed was dissolved rather than solids-associated, which is consistent with a soluble dye and is not removed by settling," Simmons stated in the report.

In an Aug. 18 email to DEQ, Simmons said the town was unable to determine or estimate the volume of dye-bearing material discharged.



An influent grab sample from the sewer plant laboratory on Aug. 12.



The influent grab sample was clear Aug. 15.

"No adverse effects on aquatic life were observed and no fish kill was

(See Blue Dye p. 7)

PCPS ranks ninth in state for SOL scores

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County Public Schools (PCPS) ranked ninth among Virginia school divisions in Standards of Learning performance, marking the fifth consecutive year the division has ranked among the state's top 10.

Superintendent Dr. Jason Wood credited the division's teachers, staff, students and families for the continued performance.

"It's a combination of outstanding teachers, but also the care and support that any of our staff members give them from the warm smile from the bus driver and a cafeteria employee to the custodian checking in on everyone. Definitely the relationships that our staff members bring and build with our students is one of the keys to our success," he said.

Wood said the division also works to create a positive environment for staff and students.

Noting that children don't learn from people they don't like, Wood said the division works to ensure the work environment is a place that staff members like to be every day.

"The old saying, 'you don't work a day in your life if you love what you do,' and so I think we truly have that atmosphere and culture here in our schools," Wood said.

According to Standards of Learning data from the Virginia Department of Education, the statewide average for reading is 74% and 73% for math.

PCPS students had an average score of 82% in both reading and math, or 8 and 9 percentage points higher than the state averages, respectively.

(See PCPS p. 7)

Reynolds Homestead recommended for $700,000 ARC grant

By Debbie Hall

The Reynolds Homestead in Critz has been recommended for a $700,000 grant to support development of a 1,500-square-foot Shared-use Kitchen and Agribusiness Incubator facility.

The funding is part of $8.4 million in grants announced Aug. 27 by Gov. Abigail Spanberger through Virginia's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) program.

"The governor's recommendation does not guarantee funding - the final funding will be approved and announced by the federal director of the Appalachian Region Commission, and grant awards will be announced later this year," Julie Walters-Steele, director of the Reynolds Homestead, said.

The Reynolds Homestead Shared-use Kitchen and Agribusiness Incubator 2026 project is a partnership between the Reynolds Homestead and the Virginia Tech Foundation.

"The new kitchen, to be located adjacent to the Reynolds Homestead Community Engagement Center, will meet needs expressed by community members who seek cooking and food preservation

instruction as well as a space for entrepreneurs interested in prototyping agricultural-based food products, or developing or expanding food establishments including restaurants, food trucks and catering services," Walters-Steele said.

"We are excited about the opportunities this

(See Reynolds p. 3)

Brightspeed expands support for P&HCC students

Brightspeed is expanding its support of Patrick & Henry Community College students through a year-long partnership with the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation for the 2026-27 academic year.

The partnership includes a $2,500 student scholarship, sponsorship of the college's athletic program and P&HCC Productions' summer show, "Trolls Jr.," as well as support for the Patriot Pantry.

The scholarship will be awarded this fall to one student and can be used toward tuition. To qualify, students must be enrolled in or enrolling at Patrick & Henry Community College, have a GPA of at least 2.5 and live in Martinsville, Collinsville, Fieldale, Horsepasture, Ridgeway, Axton or Stuart.

The company also is providing new equipment and uniforms for the P&HCC athletic program and helping provide pre- and post-game meals for student-athletes. Its logo will be displayed on Wingett Court in Stone Hall during volleyball and basketball games.

The Patriot Pantry has served 114 students through 267 visits in 2026, distributing 4,134.4 pounds of food. Brightspeed's support will help the pantry provide food and hygiene items to students.

The company also sponsored P&HCC Productions' summer production of DreamWorks' "Trolls Jr." The production involved 57 participants, who worked with props and set pieces and received snacks through the sponsorship.

"We are delighted to continue our partnership as a partner with Patrick & Henry Community

(See Brightspeed p. 6)



PCHS graduate Jeb Kreager recently completed a Broadway run in "The Fear of 13." Photo by Tricia Baron.

PCHS grad takes Patrick County roots to Broadway

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County High School graduate Jeb Kreager recently wrapped up a 16-week Broadway run of "The Fear of 13," a production based on the true story of a man who spent more than two decades on death row for a crime he did not commit.

Kreager, who moved to Patrick County with his family as a baby, graduated from PCHS in 1993.

"The Fear of 13" tells the story of Nick Yarris, who spent 22 years on Pennsylvania's death row before being exonerated by DNA evidence.

"In fact, he was one of the first inmates in the state of Pennsylvania to be exonerated by DNA," Kreager said.

Kreager said the play touches on Yarris' childhood, when he was in and out of trouble, as well as his time in prison.

"He basically lied to get out of a lesser charge and then ended up getting railroaded into a conviction for the abduction, rape, and murder of a woman in Delaware and went to prison. He was in prison for a total of 23 years and I think 22 of that was in solitary," he said.

The play also focuses on Yarris' relationship with Jacki, a prison advocate who interviewed inmates about living conditions and fair treatment in prison.

(See Broadway p. 13)



Agency warns increased beef imports could harm Virginia cattle herd recovery

A federal plan to allow an additional 300,000 metric tons of imported ground beef into the U.S. market is drawing concern from farm leaders who say short-term efforts to lower grocery prices could create long-term damage for cattle farmers and the nation's food supply.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said the proposal would come as the U.S. already is importing beef at record levels. He warned the added volume would represent nearly a 60% increase in imports over the next 90 days, further pressuring U.S. cattle markets impacted by resumption of Mexican cattle imports and the recent closure of several large, domestic beef processing plants.

"Further undercutting a fragile recovery by swamping markets with foreign products and attempting to manipulate prices threatens to wipe out any progress that has been made," Duvall said.

Virginia's cattle producers understand the pressure families face from higher grocery costs, said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation President Scott Sink. However, he continued, increasing imports does not address the supply challenges contributing to those prices or strengthen the domestic cattle industry.

"Increasing beef imports without addressing the underlying challenges facing the U.S. cattle industry is not a long-term solution," Sink said. "Strong cattle prices are providing much-needed stability and giving producers an opportunity to rebuild their herds. Policies that create uncertainty or artificially pressure cattle prices could undermine that progress and make it more difficult for farmers to invest in the future."

Beef cattle are raised in every Virginia county, with approximately 575,000 head statewide. The Virginia Beef Industry Council notes the average Virginia herd size is just 30 head. Sink said this underscores how many small, family-operated farms would be affected by policies that disrupt cattle markets.

In a recent letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger voiced opposition to suspending tariffs on foreign-produced beef to be sold at 25% below the market rate.

"This handout to foreign competitors has already caused a negative reaction in cattle markets," she wrote, "While providing no guarantee of retail price relief for consumers."

Both state and national Farm Bureau leaders warned that greater reliance on foreign beef could create



more vulnerability in the food supply chain. Duvall said dependence on foreign-grown food could ultimately lead to higher costs and greater reliance on other nations for food security.

"Virginia's farmers stand ready to work with the administration on solutions that support consumers while strengthening the American cattle industry," Sink said. "A strong domestic food supply benefits everyone."

Heavy traffic expected at Hillsville Flea Market

Drivers should expect heavy traffic and delays in Hillsville during the Labor Day weekend flea market, scheduled for Sept. 4-7 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, according to a release from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Thousands of visitors are expected along a one-mile section of U.S. 58 Business, resulting sidewalks crowded with pedestrians and bumper-to-bumper traffic that is expected to move at a crawl throughout the area, according to VDOT.

Drivers who are not attending the flea market are encouraged to avoid the area.

Motorists traveling through the area should use caution, watch for police directing traffic and follow electronic message boards.

For current traffic and road work information, call 511 or visit 511 Virginia.

Applications accepted for Beehive Distribution Program

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is accepting applications for its annual Beehive Distribution Program through Sept. 9. The program provides free beehive assembly equipment to Virginia residents, to help expand the number of actively managed honey bee colonies throughout the Commonwealth. Recipients of the equipment are selected at random from qualifying applications received during the application period.

Applicants and prospective beekeepers are strongly encouraged to take an introductory beekeeping course prior to starting a colony to ensure successful hive management. Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honey bees within one year of receiving the equipment. VDACS does not provide honey bees or tools for managing the hives, such as personal safety equipment or honey processing equipment.

Only residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, aged 18 years or older at the time of application, qualify for the random drawing. Entities such as businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies are not eligible to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals with the same mailing and/or physical address (household) may apply to the program; however, distribution of beehive units will be limited to no more than three beehive units per household or mailing address in the same fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

"Honey bees are valued pollinators for our ecosystems and agricultural operations across the Commonwealth," said State Apiarist Keith Tignor. "The Beehive Distribution Program provides residents with an engaging way to participate in increasing the number of pollinators and enhancing the quality of our environment for present and future generations."

VDACS distributes approximately 1,000 beehives to 400 or more individuals across the state each year. The program received more than 6,400 applications in 2025, and distributed 1,002 hives to 415 individuals. Individuals who receive beehive equipment have access to education programs, support, and technical skills sharing through Virginia Cooperative Extension and local beekeeping organizations across the state.

To learn more about the Beehive Distribution Program or to submit an application on or before Sept. 9, please visit the Virginia Beehive Distribution Program webpage. Individuals interested in applying to receive beehive units through the program should review the complete application instructions within the Guidelines and Requirements.

For more information about the Beehive Distribution Program, contact the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-8938 or email vabees@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Blue Ridge Folklife Festival returns Oct. 24

The Blue Ridge Folklife Festival will return to the Ferrum College campus Oct. 24, with a new arts and crafts show among this year's additions.

The festival, now in its 53rd year, will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, although parking costs $20 per family vehicle, $50 for vans or shuttles and $100 for buses.

Produced by Ferrum College's Blue Ridge Institute & Museum for more than 50 years, the festival celebrates the traditional music, crafts, food and customs of the Blue Ridge region.

More than 100 artisans are expected to participate in the new arts and crafts show, featuring jewelry, folk art, woodworking, pottery, textiles and other handmade items.

The festival also will feature four stages of live music, storytelling sessions with Henry Lee Law & Friends, folklife demonstrations and children's activities.

Traditional demonstrations will include horse pulls, mule-jumping contests, coon dog races and antique tractors. The Thunder in the Blue Ridge Car Show also will return.

The Children's Area will include a petting zoo, face painting, cornhole, a mechanical bull and a fair-style ride. The Agriculture Student Showcase will feature projects and produce from Ferrum College students.

Festival activities will be spread across the campus, including the lakeside area and the 1800s-style farm museum, as well as Franklin Hall, Bassett Field and the Franklin Hall Quad.

Ferrum College President Mirta Martin said the festival provides an opportunity to preserve regional traditions while introducing new artisans and activities.

The festival was named a 2026 Best of the Mountains award winner by Blue Ridge Country Magazine.

More information is available at ferrum.edu/blueridgefolklifefestival.

Pets of the Week



Calling all Redbone fans! Many beautiful pups and young mixes available for adoption.



This female tortoise shell kitty is young, sweet and she would make a purr-fect pet.



This adorable young black and white male is such a sweet pup.

URGENT: *The Patrick County Public Animal Shelter is overcrowded with wonderful adoptable dogs, pups, cats and kittens.*

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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1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778
Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com


Reynolds

(cont. from page 1)



Itm	Qty	Description
1	1	Walk-In Cooler
2	Lot	Shelving
3	3	Tray Rack Carts
4	4	Utility Carts
5	1	Ice Maker w/Bin & Water Filter
6	8	Mixer
7	8	Food Processor
8	8	Work Top Refrigerator
9	11	Hand Sinks
10	4	Hood, Fire & Exhaust Sysyem
11	8	Range - Electric
12	4	Prep Table
13	4	Filler Table
14	5	Splash Guard
15	4	45" High Wall Panel
16	1	Soiled Dishtable & Rack Shelf
17	1	Disposer
18	1	Dish Machine
19	1	Clean Dishtable & Rack Shelf
20	1	Pot Sink & Pot Rack
21	8	Work Table
22	1	Refrigerator
23	1	Proof, Cook-N-Hold Cabinet
24	1	Bakers Table & Overshelf
25	3	Ingredient Bins
26	1	30 Qt. Mixer
27	1	Prep Table
28	1	Slicer Cart
29	1	Slicer
30	1	Hood, Fire & Exhaust System
31	1	Double Half Size Convection Oven
32	1	Hot Plate
33	1	Refrigerated Base Equipment Stand
34	1	24" Griddle
35	1	Char-Broiler
36	1	Double Deck Combi Oven
37	1	Prep Table
38	1	Demonstration Bar
39	12	Seating
40	2	Work Top Refrigerator
41	Lot	Hood, Fire & Exhaust System
42	1	Range

The groundbreaking for the shared-use kitchen and agribusiness incubator was held during the homestead's anniversary celebration in June 2022. Among those attending were Virginia Tech and Reynolds Homestead representatives, along with members of the Reynolds family. The project was recently recommended for a $700,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant.



Renderings of the new of a 1,500 square-foot shared-use kitchen and agribusiness incubator facility.

project will provide to residents in our region," she added.

The recommended funding is among 22 projects across Southwest Virginia that would support infrastructure improvements, job creation, small-business development, downtown revitalization and workforce development.

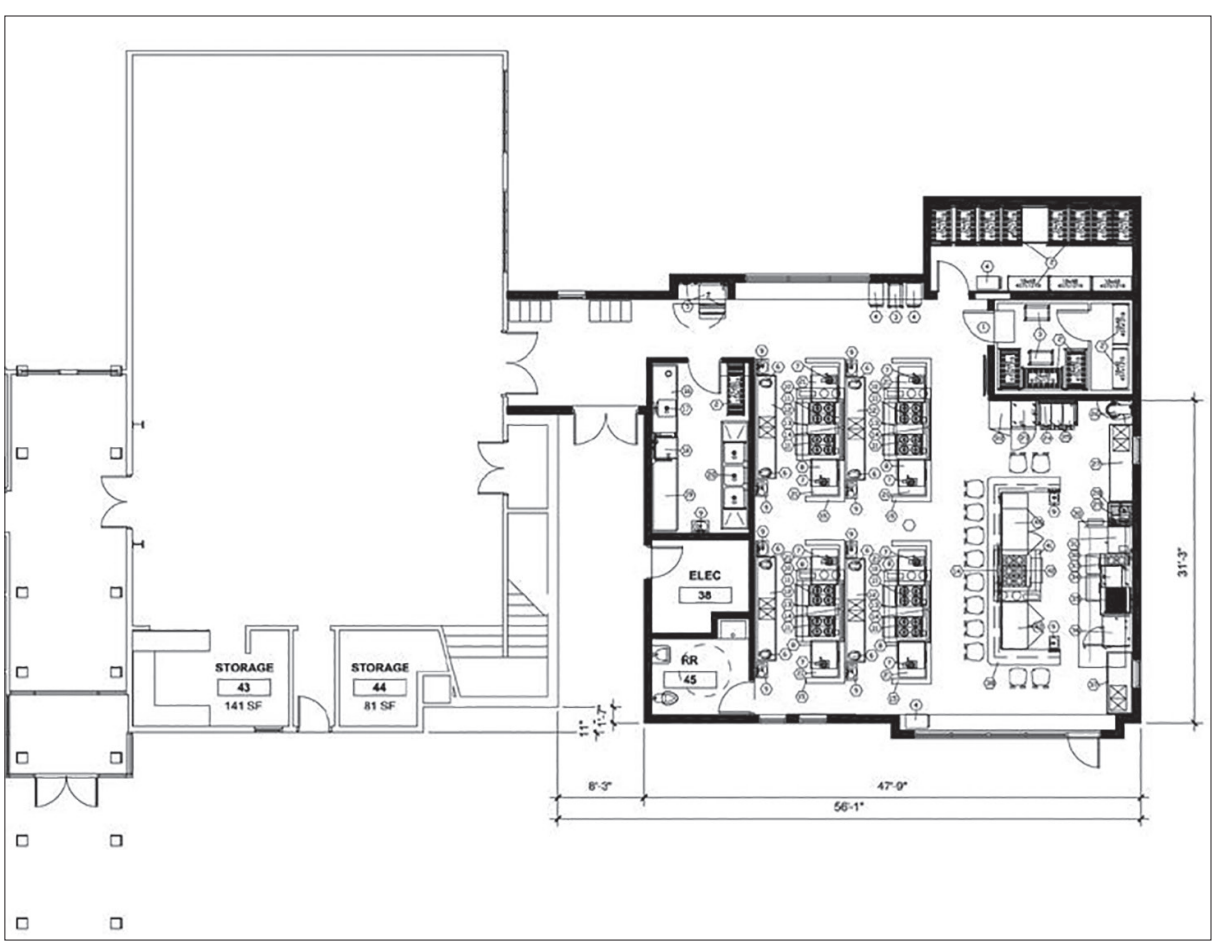
"I'm feeling positive about our chances to receive full funding. We had 10 letters of support with our grant including four from individuals who want to use the kitchen to prototype new products, or to create or expand a new food-based business," Walters-Steele said.

"Our next step is to work with" the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (VA DHCD) "to complete any additional federal paperwork and make any recommended modifications," Walters-Steele said.

The DHCD works with localities and stakeholders to develop projects for consideration by the state and federal ARC.

"If we do receive full funding, we will be able to move forward with architectural and engineering drawings, followed by Virginia Tech putting the project out to bid, then selection of a contractor."

Once a contractor has been selected, construction is expected to take 12 months or more, "depending on weather and other factors," Walters-Steele added.



Design of the Shared Kitchen at the Reynolds Homestead.

According to the state, the projects collectively are expected to serve 1,240 businesses, provide 11,500 households with new or improved infrastructure and create 58 jobs.

"With these new investments, we are strengthening the foundations of local economies, expanding workforce opportunities and good-paying jobs, and improving the quality of life for families across Southwest Virginia," Spanberger said. "I am proud to support these efforts and am grateful for the regional leaders, organizations, and residents who continue to build a stronger future for Appalachia."

The Appalachian Regional Commission program is a federal-state partnership designed to support economic development in the 13-state Appalachian region. Virginia's ARC region includes 25 counties and eight independent cities in Southwest Virginia.

"The 2026 awardees represent some of the most innovative and high-value proposals we've seen," said Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., DHCD director. "Our team works closely with applicants to ensure projects are strong, strategic, and responsive to regional needs, from infrastructure to entrepreneurship to downtown revitalization."

ARC grants support projects involving business development, workforce training, infrastructure, cultural and natural assets and community capacity building. Other regional projects recommended for approval include $700,000 for the City of Galax's Rex Theater Revitalization Phase II and $1 million for a passenger rail station in Christiansburg.

The Mood in Your Water Glass - Part 2

(See Part 1 in a previous edition of The Enterprise for the introduction to this article)

The Bigger Picture: Why Does Water Affect Mood at All?

This study doesn't stand alone. A broader body of peer-reviewed evidence connects hydration status to mental and emotional function.

When dehydration reduces body mass by more than 2%, it has been consistently reported that mood is influenced, fatigue is greater, and alertness is lower, though the effects on cognition have been less consistent.

Current findings in the field suggest that particular cognitive abilities and mood states are positively influenced by water consumption, with the impact of dehydration on cognition and mood being particularly relevant for those with poor fluid regulation, such as the elderly and children.

Dehydration of 2% or more body mass loss can increase perception of fatigue, induce impairment in cognitive functions such as memory and attention, and alter mood. Researchers have also begun investigating the consequences of mild dehydration, well below the 2% threshold, that many people may be experiencing in their daily lives without realizing it.

On the neurological side, despite the lack of behavioral changes in cognition, neural activity in brain regions involved in attention and executive function has been shown to increase when individuals are mildly dehydrated compared to when they are fully hydrated, suggesting the brain works harder just to maintain normal function when water is insufficient.

Key Takeaways: It's Not Just "Drink More Water"

One of the most important insights from the Pross et al. study is that hydration recommendations should be personalized. The results suggest that an increase or decrease in habitual water intake has, respectively, an improving or worsening effect on mood and sensations, depending upon an individual's habitual drinking habits.

Put simply: if you normally drink a lot of water, cutting back, even moderately, can dampen your mood in ways you might not immediately associate with thirst. And if you're a habitually light drinker, simply drinking more can lift the mental fog and fatigue you may have learned to accept as normal.

Increasing water intake has a beneficial mood effect, especially on sleep/wake feelings, whereas restricting water intake can deteriorate mood, and even though the results were observed in young adults, they can still be of importance to the healthy aging population.

Conclusion

The science of hydration and mood is still evolving, but the evidence is clear enough to take seriously: water intake shapes how we feel, and the effect depends on what your body is used to. Whether you're a habitual high drinker whose mood dips when you can't get enough, or a low drinker who has quietly lived with unnecessary mental fatigue, your water glass may be more powerful than you think. The next time you feel irritable, foggy, or worn out, it might be worth asking when you last had a drink of water.

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)

Labor Day and Memories of Tragedy



Morgan Griffith

Representative

On September 7, Americans will celebrate Labor Day.

The American worker serves as a backbone for our economy. Thanks to the fruits of their labor, our communities reap the rewards of more opportunity, business growth and expanded access to goods and services.

Even in times of hardship where industries face new challenges, and when innovative technologies emerge, the American workforce shows resilience by adapting.

This resilience takes shape in the belief that hard work is central to our communities. We see numerous investments that drive this belief for our region's workforce.

In the last year, Henry County celebrated various company investments resulting in a cumulative total of more than $100 million.

There is also Narro Trucks which recently launched in Pulaski County. The electric utility vehicle company will power new jobs for the New River Valley.

Further, thanks to a new industrial investment, Bland County's Virginia Steel and Fabrication is set to expand operational capabilities.

Earlier this year, I toured the Virginia Steel plant in Bastian to receive updates on its operations and leadership.

These industry decisions, among others, will support regional job, generate friendly climates for small businesses and deliver renewed hope for our communities.

Because these investments mean so much, I am an advocate for federal policies that help the American worker access opportunity for work.

From job programs, including ones that develop skills, to friendly tax environments, we can use policy to strengthen this access.

As we rest for Labor Day weekend, join me in celebrating the American worker.

Days after Labor Day, I will join our communities to recognize solemn occasions.

September 10 marks the one-year anniversary of the assassination of a conservative icon. In broad daylight on a college campus, Turning Point USA CEO Charlie Kirk was murdered by an individual seemingly indoctrinated by radical gender ideology.

My family shared the shock and grief with millions of Americans stunned by Kirk's murder.

Following the slaying, I supported Kirk's legacy and memory, visiting Virginia Tech with Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears for a candlelight vigil.

Outside of my DC office along with countless other Congressional offices, I displayed a poster of Kirk.

Additionally, I voted with 309 of my House colleagues to honor Kirk's life and legacy. It was disappointing to see more than 100 Democrats refrain from supporting the House resolution, but I remain committed to protecting the conservative values and freedoms that Kirk constantly worked to defend.

Perhaps nothing meant more to Kirk's movement than the freedom of speech, a cornerstone of our country's founding and the U.S. Constitution.

We must never forget that disagreements, discourse and debate are healthy for our government. Kirk provided a venue for our younger generations to recognize this fundamental truth.

Silencing Americans is never a solution. I will continue to support policies that protect the freedom of speech.

Please join me on September 10 to not only pray for Charlie, but to ask that God helps with healing for Charlie's widow, Erika, their two young children and the entire Kirk family.

Americans will also reflect on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

To this day, the attacks are a painful memory for millions of Americans as well as many across the entire world.

I have the memory of working that morning in my law office when my bookkeeper, Terry Haynie, grabbed my attention. She informed me that a plane struck a Tower of the World Trade Center.

After turning our eyes to the television to see the events live, we watched the second plane crash into the South Tower.

The Pentagon was also hit, while a thwarted attempt resulted in a plane crash in Pennsylvania.

When passengers of Flight 93 knew the end was coming, they would not allow that plane to be used to attack America. It is believed that plane was headed for the U.S. Capitol where I now work.

In total, more than 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us that day.

While the terrorists sought to strike fear, they failed to break the enduring spirit of the American people.

Following the tragedy, I drove to Salem's Kmart store to buy an American flag. I proudly displayed it outside my office.

I plan to attend a 9/11 wreath laying with former Governor Glenn Youngkin at the National D-Day Memorial.

With these events on the horizon, it will be an emotional time for many.

But over the Labor Day weekend, we will rejoice that the American worker is the most efficient, hardworking labor force in the world.

Blue Ridge Class of 1966 celebrates 60th reunion



From left, Dennis Martin, Horace Bondurant, and Director of the Reunion Jack King.



From left, Teacher and Basketball Coach Conrad Mack George, Bryan George, and Teacher and Basketball Coach Maxine Smith.



From left, 1st row: Dennis Martin, Ruby Smith Watford, Vera Smith Reynolds, Billy Ray George, Horace Bondurant, 2nd row: Richard Semones, Mary Dellenback Hill, Doris Clement Surrat, Dorthy Dawson Hall, Cleo Slate George, Janet Harold Hawks, Reva Dalton Priece, 3rd row: Jack King, Bob Allen, Robert Smith, Velda Bowman Marshall, Pat Dunkley Simmons, Linda Goins Newman, Hazel Marshall Easter, Ardith Montgomery Maxwell, Leonard Easter, David Young, David Dawson, Bobby Bowman, Roger Jessup, and James Ayers.

By Mary Dellenback Hill

The Blue Ridge High School Class of 1966 celebrated its 60th reunion Aug. 22 with 27 classmates and two former teachers and coaches attending.

Among those attending was Vera Smith Reynolds, the first Black student to attend and graduate from Blue Ridge High School. Reynolds, a member of the Class of 1966, spoke about her experiences at Blue Ridge and the impact her education had on her life.

Former teachers and basketball coaches Conrad Mack George and Maxine Smith also attended the reunion.

The gathering included fellowship, hot dogs and fixings, chips, assorted soft drinks, bottled water and homemade desserts.

The reunion was directed by Jack King.

Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill.

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

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

The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County

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

The Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

Commission announces proposed individual, small group health insurance premiums for 2027

The State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance is providing an opportunity for members of the public to view and submit comments on proposed health insurance rates in Virginia's individual and small group markets, as submitted by insurers for plan year 2027. The public also may view information related to Virginia's health insurance market as a whole, key factors in insurance rate changes for 2027 and the rate impact or change for identified health insurance products that insurers have proposed to offer in the individual and small group markets.

The bureau has been delegated with the authority to review and approve rates for health benefit plans issued in Virginia in the individual and small group markets. Additionally, the bureau – with assistance from the Virginia Department of Health and the SCC's Virginia Health Benefit Exchange – performs plan-management functions required to evaluate health benefit plans and standalone dental plans for participation in Virginia's Insurance Marketplace (Virginia's state-based health insurance exchange), in accordance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As part of its review of rates, the bureau confirms that premiums are reasonable in relation to the benefits provided, and that the actuarial assumptions are reasonable and supportable, projecting to hold carriers' loss ratios within the required limit. The bureau will complete its review of Qualified Health Plans for the 2027 plan year by September 1, 2026.

Each year, the bureau coordinates a presentation of insurance companies' proposed premium rates before providing the results of its review of Qualified Health Plans and finalizing form and rate approvals for health insurance products for sale and use in Virginia - both on and off Virginia's Insurance Marketplace. The presentation provides an overview of the range of rate impact or change for identified health insurance products proposed to be offered in the individual and small group markets for use in Virginia as of January 1, 2027. The bureau provides the presentation as a way to help consumers make informed decisions about their health insurance choices as well as educate the public about the health insurance market as a whole and key factors in rate changes.

To view the plan year 2027 rate presentation, visit Virginia SCC - ACA Rate & Form Filing Information and review "Past Workshops, Presentations and Meetings." To view rate summary information, visit the dedicated page on the website of the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Information

(See Commission on p. 6)

Patrick Pioneers

D. W. Scott's History of Meadows of Dan—Part I

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Every once in a while, a piece of Patrick County history comes along that is truly a treasure.

Charlie Bowman recently passed one of those treasures along to me—an in-depth history of Meadows of Dan written in 1949 by Daniel Webster "D. W." Scott, a lifelong Patrick County resident who was then eighty-four years old. Scott would pass away five years later, but fortunately for us, he took the time to put his memories and knowledge of his beloved mountain community on paper.

In light of the changes that have taken place in Meadows of Dan over the years, Scott's account seems more important than ever to preserve. Some of the places he described have disappeared from the landscape, and generations of the people he knew have passed on. Yet the mountains remain, and so does the spirit of the people who called them home.

Scott's history is much too valuable to rush through in a single column. Therefore, I will share it in several parts, allowing his words and stories the time and respect they deserve. Following each installment, I will attempt to identify and provide genealogical information about the people Scott mentioned, hopefully connecting these names from the past with descendants and families who still know them today.

We will begin with D. W. Scott's own introduction, written in 1949.

In the Words of Daniel Webster "D. W." Scott

The author of this brief history of Meadows of Dan is now eighty-four years old and taught in the public free schools of Patrick County for twenty-eight years, but now I am so nervous and my eyesight is so bad that I can scarcely see or read. I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Crystal W. Cruise for copying and assistance in other ways in writing this history.

The facts and figures in this brief history of Meadows of Dan aside from which the author knew to be correct have been secured from reliable sources and prepared with care and accuracy with the single aim in view of making it interesting as well as educational to the rising as well as the present generation.

Meadows of Dan is situated on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the extreme western part of Patrick County, Virginia, joining the counties of Floyd and Carroll on the west; thence southeast on the brink of the mountains, including the Rock Wall, Lovers Leap, and the Waterfalls of Smith River; thence continuing with the brink of the mountains to the Floyd County line. This section of the county contains approximately one hundred and twenty square miles.

The Indians once roamed through this section of the county, as evidenced by finding Indian arrows, pieces of clay pots, tomahawks and other things known to be used only by Indians.

Also, when digging the grave of Katie Spangler, wife of W. W. Spangler, near the Pinnacles of Dan, white streaks were found in the clay which were thought to be bones of an Indian buried perhaps centuries ago. Found also in the grave were a tomahawk, a peace pipe, and pieces of pottery. The Indians thought that after death they went on to the happy hunting ground.

The first settlers had many wild animals as well as Indians to deal with, as evidenced by Peter Wood who lived one mile east of Meadows of Dan post-office. One cold, snowy night the family was frying fresh meat. A bear scented the meat frying and tried to break open their door to get the meat. Mr. Wood and family barred the door to keep the bear out.

Also evidenced by Paul W. DeHart, who had a dog about the color of a panther. He was out hunting one day and saw a deer coming toward him being chased by the dog, as he thought. The panther caught the deer near Mr. DeHart and he, thinking that it was his dog, jumped on the deer to help his dog. Instead, it was a panther which got very excited and ran off. The dog's name was Caesar.

And with that unforgettable story of Paul DeHart, Caesar, and the panther, the first portion of D. W. Scott's history comes to an end.

But who were these people whose names Scott recorded more than seventy-five years ago? As is so often the case with Patrick County history, once we begin following the names, we discover families whose roots intertwine throughout the mountains.

Daniel Webster "D. W." Scott was born June 24, 1865, in the Round Meadow community of Meadows of Dan. He was the son of community blacksmith Daniel S. Scott and Martha Ann Spangler Scott and was the youngest of at least nine children:

John W. Scott, 1844–1927
Joseph G. Scott, 1848–1932
Winfield Spangler Scott, 1851–1935
Jennie Lind Scott, 1852–1932
Samuel S. Scott, born 1858
Sarah "Sallie" J. Scott, 1859–1880
Thomas B. Scott, born 1859
Abraham Lincoln Scott, 1863–1940
Daniel Webster Scott, 1865–1954

D. W.'s paternal grandparents were Thomas Scott and Sarah Shelor Scott of Meadows of Dan. His maternal grandparents were John B. Spangler and Susannah Hudnall Spangler.

On January 26, 1888, D. W. married Miss Susan Mary Scott, daughter of Thomas Delaplane Scott and Lucinda Ellen Sandifer of the Round Meadow community. Lucinda's birthplace was recorded simply and beautifully as along the "Waters of Dan."

Susan's paternal grandparents were also Thomas Scott and Sarah Shelor Scott, while her maternal grandparents were Gabriel Penn Sandifer and Martha Howell.

One of my favorite things about the wonderful old Patrick County birth records beginning in the 1840s is the way locations were recorded. Instead of the street names and numbered addresses we expect today, our ancestors were sometimes described as having been born along the "Waters of Dan," "Waters of North Mayo," or "Waters along Russell Creek."



D. W. and Susan Scott and 5 of their 9 children. Photo from Ancestry

Those few words paint a picture all their own. And thank heavens, these old records have been digitized so that we can still find and study them today!

D. W. Scott lived long enough to see tremendous changes come to the mountain community he called home. Five years after he prepared this history, his obituary appeared in the Enterprise, Volume 78, Number 31, August 5, 1954:

Daniel Webster Scott, 89, former Patrick County merchant and a schoolteacher for 26 years, died Wednesday at Vesta. He retired from public life about ten years ago due to ill health. A native and lifelong resident of Patrick County, he was the son of the late Daniel and Martha Ann Spangler Scott.

Funeral services were held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church in charge of Rev. Wayne Dietz, pastor, and Rev. Robert J. Mann, pastor of the Stuart Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are: three sons, T. O. and R. H. Scott of Charlottesville and D. H. Scott of Stuart; and four daughters, Mrs. Estelle Highfield of Charlottesville, Miss Dora Scott of Bristol and Mrs. Calla K. Williams and Mrs. B. G. Rodgers, both of Stuart.

Interestingly, Scott stated in his 1949 history that he had taught in Patrick County's public free schools for twenty-eight years, while his 1954 obituary credited him with twenty-six years as a schoolteacher. Whatever the exact number, education clearly occupied a significant portion of his long life.

D. W. Scott made a point of acknowledging Mrs. Crystal W. Cruise, whom he credited with copying his manuscript and assisting him in preparing his history.

Mrs. Cruise also had another connection to Scott: she succeeded him as teacher at the Free Union School in Vesta.

Crystal was the daughter of Sparrell Jacob "Boss" Williams and Rose Anne Turner of Stuart. She married Levi Joseph Cruise of Vesta.

It seems especially fitting that a teacher helped another teacher preserve this history for future generations. Without Mrs. Cruise's assistance, Scott's failing eyesight and nervous condition might have prevented these memories from ever being recorded.

Scott next mentioned Katie Spangler, wife of W. W. Spangler, whose grave was being dug near the Pinnacles of Dan when what were believed to be evidence of an earlier Indigenous burial were discovered.

The woman Scott referred to as Katie Spangler was likely Frances Eunice Langhorne, daughter of James Steptoe Langhorne and Elizabeth Rachael Omohundro Langhorne. W. W. Spangler was Wallace Wolford Spangler, son of Richard Spangler and Lucretia Scott Spangler.

Her obituary appeared in the Enterprise, Volume 60, Number 45, November 5, 1936. Like those of so many married women in newspapers of the early twentieth century and before, the obituary did not even identify her by her own given name. She was simply "Mrs. W. W. Spangler."

The obituary read:

MRS. W. W. SPANGLER PASSES

Mrs. W. W. Spangler, 81, one of Patrick's oldest and most respected women died at her home near Meadows of Dan, Friday, October 30 after an illness of several months.

Funeral services were conducted at Meadows of Dan Baptist church on Sunday afternoon by Rev. A. E. Estall assisted by Eld. Joel E. Marshall and Rev. C. W. Childress, and interment made in the Spangler cemetery near Mayberry.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Hon. C. L. Spangler of Meadows of Dan and J. W. Spangler of Richmond, and three daughters, Mrs. Lizzie L. Cody of Mt. Airy, N.

(See Patrick Pioneers on p. 7)

Social Security Matters

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

Dear Rusty: I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider. The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts? *Signed: Concerned Senior*

Dear Concerned Senior: Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income (from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits) has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020. Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone. In 2020, there was nearly $3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about $2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all. Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devasting to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality. As a result, we are beginning to see serious (even bipartisan) discussions in Congress about reforming Social Security to restore it to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.

For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations, and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff. Our proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

At AMAC, we are closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032, and we will continue our vigorous efforts and our vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency. We are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and you can stay informed of our efforts by watching our AMAC Social Security information website – www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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).

Cougars fall to Martinsville, 44-8

By David Morrison

The Patrick County Cougars fell to the Martinsville Bulldogs on Friday night at John D. Hooker field by a score of 44-8.

Defensively the Cougars were led by Wheeler Helms and Jayden Corns with 9 tackles each followed by Josiah Shelor with 6 tackles, and Jackon Handy, Andrew Miller, and Jacob Spencer with 5 tackles each. Brayden Hylton, Ernesto Ponce, Perry Hicks, Logan Brown, Briar Branch, Wesley Kruse, and Ethan Gibson all recorded tackles for the Cougars with Hylton recording his first interception of the season.

Offensively the Cougars were led by Jayden Corns on the ground with 8 carries for 51 yards, Noah Cain had 4 carries for 16 yards, and Brayden Hylton added 8 yards on one carry. Corns went one for 6 passing for 24 yards and 1 INT. Jackson Handy led the Cougars in passing throwing for 93 yards on 5 of 9 passing with 1 touchdown and a 2 point conversion. Leading receivers for the Cougars were Brent Errichetti with 3 catches for 79 yards and a 2 point conversion, Brayden Hylton had 1 reception for 24 yards, Jayden Corns added 1 catch for 15 yards , and Josiah Shelor had one reception for 5 yards and a touchdown.

The Cougars will be back in action on Friday night across the line in Surry County North Carolina as they travel to take on the North Surry Greyhounds.

Brightspeed

(cont. from page 1)



Brightspeed's Sabrina Anderson presents a sponsorship banner to P&HCC's Tiffani Underwood, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement/P&HCC Foundation Executive Director, and Brandon Johnson, Director of Athletics & Student Engagement.

College Foundation. Our cross-campus support of P&HCC students exemplifies our company's mission of empowering the community," said Sabrina Anderson, local marketing manager at Brightspeed.

"We are so grateful for the generous support of such a wide variety of P&HCC students and programming. The impact felt by each member of our PHamily is truly significant as they pursue their dreams and build a future that embodies the values Brightspeed holds," said P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood.

Entries sought for 2026 Veterans Day Student Essay Contest

The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond is now seeking entries for its Virginia War Memorial 2026 Veterans Day Student Essay Contest. This annual competition is open to all Virginia middle and high school age public, private, and homeschooled students. One winner will be selected from among all middle school entries (grades 6-8) and one from high school entries (grades 9-12).

This year's essay topic is "A Virginian Who Served in The Military Who Inspires Me." Students may consider a member of their family, of their community, or any Virginian who served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, anywhere in the world, from World War II to present day as their subject.

The two winners will be invited to come and participate in the Commonwealth's 70th annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond on Wednesday, November 11, 2026. Each winning student will also receive a $500 cash prize donated by the nonprofit Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

Essays should be 500-750 words in length and utilize interviews and primary sources whenever possible. Students may contact Sylvia Marshall, Virginia War Memorial Archivist (Sylvia.Marshall@dvs.virginia.gov) for additional resources regarding Virginia military veterans. Entries will be judged on clarity of thought, adherence to the contest theme and guidelines, proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Detailed information regarding rules, guidelines and how to enter are available online at https://vawarmemorial.org/learn/contests-scholarships/essay/.

All entries must be submitted through the Virginia War Memorial website by 11:59 p.m., Monday, October 12. For additional information or questions, please contact Elizabeth Oglesby, the Memorial's Education Outreach & Programs Manager, at Elizabeth.Oglesby@dvs.virginia.gov or by calling 804-786-9700.

IRS issues reminder to extension filers

The Internal Revenue Service today encouraged taxpayers who requested an extension to file their 2025 federal tax return as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the Oct. 15 deadline.

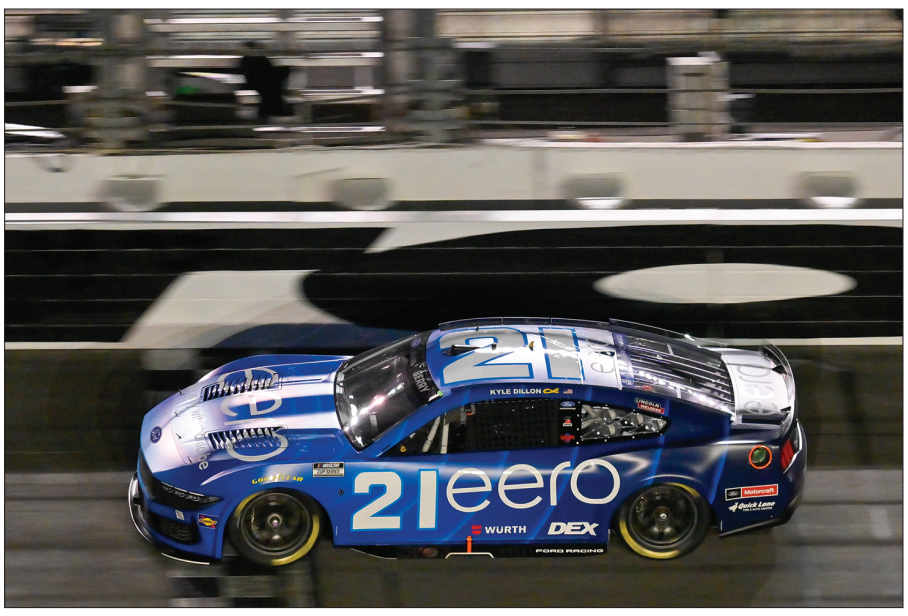
IRS Free File remains available through Oct. 15, 2026, and offers free guided tax preparation for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of $89,000 or less in 2025. Taxpayers can prepare and e-file federal returns securely with IRS trusted partners at no cost. Taxpayers with income above the threshold can use Free File Fillable Forms if they are comfortable preparing their own tax returns.

Filing over the summer helps taxpayers avoid the fall rush and gives them more time to resolve issues or arrange payments, if needed. An extension gives taxpayers more time to file but not more time to pay. Taxpayers who owe tax should pay as much as they can as soon as possible to limit penalties and interest.

IRS Free File provides a secure, convenient way to file from home. The guided software includes step-by-step instructions and built-in error checks, and some trusted partners also offer free state tax return preparation and filing for eligible taxpayers.

Taxpayers who are due a refund can get their refund faster by filing electronically and choosing direct deposit.

To get started, visit IRS Free File: Do Your Taxes For Free on IRS.gov.



Race Report: Daytona International Speedway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Josh Berry and the No. 21 eero team extended their streak of consecutive top-10 finishes to five with a ninth-place finish in Saturday night's Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway.

Berry and the eero team started the regular-season finale from 24th place and elected to ride near the rear of the field during the early stages, avoiding the potential trouble that came with a tightly packed field frequently running three-wide.

Berry finished 36th in Stage 1 and 25th in Stage 2. During the second stage break, the eero team elected to pit later than many of its competitors, allowing Berry to rejoin the field in 28th place with a full tank of fuel.

Berry briefly worked his way forward to 15th before falling back as far as 38th. As the laps wound down, however, he began a steady charge through the field and broke into the top 10 with 10 laps remaining in the scheduled 160-lap distance.

Berry was running seventh when a late caution for an incident involving Carson Hocevar sent the race into overtime.

On the ensuing restart, Berry made a move to the outside line and surged to fourth on the final lap before several cars ahead of him became involved in a multi-car incident. Berry was collected in the melee, leaving the front of the No. 21 eero Ford Mustang Dark Horse heavily damaged.

Despite the damage, Berry was able to make it to the finish and secure a ninth-place result – his third consecutive ninth-place finish at Daytona – while extending his current streak of top-10 finishes to five races.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team now turn their attention to Darlington Raceway and next Sunday's Cook Out Southern 500.

Sports Briefs

Cougars roll past Bassett

Patrick County picked up a home victory over Bassett on Aug. 25, led by strong serving and contributions from several players.

Avery Hubbard recorded five aces, three kills and three digs, while Savannah Fain added six aces.

Addy Foley contributed five assists and five digs, and Kinsleigh Harris finished with four kills.

The Cougars' strong serving helped set the tone throughout the match.

Cougars sweep Bassett in season opener

Patrick County opened the volleyball season with a 3-0 sweep of Bassett.

The Cougars won the first set 25-23 before taking the final two sets by identical 25-16 scores.

Chloe Hubbard led Patrick County with six kills, two aces and three digs. Bailey Thompson also recorded six kills and added five digs.

Reese Horton finished with five kills, five digs and two aces, while Brook Barner had six kills and two blocks.

Kendra Penn contributed 13 assists and four aces. Meredith Wood added 14 assists and one ace.

Patrick County improved to 1-0 on the season.

Cougars fall to Galax in five-set battle

Patrick County battled Galax through five sets Thursday before falling 3-2 in a hard-fought volleyball match.

The Cougars dropped the opening set 25-23 before responding with a 25-22 win in the second. Patrick County took the third set 26-24, but Galax answered with a 25-12 victory in the fourth set and edged the Cougars 15-13 in the deciding fifth set.

Chloe Hubbard led Patrick County with 14 kills, 14 digs, one block and two aces. Brook Barner also recorded 14 kills and added three blocks.

Allison Clark finished with seven kills, while Bailey Thompson had 15 digs and Mariah Scott added 12.

Kendra Penn recorded 24 assists and four digs. Meredith Wood contributed 14 assists, five aces and helped keep the Cougars in the match throughout the night.

Patrick County is now 1-1 on the season.

Commission

(cont. from page 6)

and instructions on how to submit public comment are provided as part of the rate presentation.

Nine insurers plan to participate in Virginia's individual market in 2027, and they have requested rate increases above their 2026 rates that range from 3.9% to 22.7%, with an average per member per month rate increase over 2026 rates of 16.7%. Insurers have identified the elimination of enhanced federal subsidies, market uncertainty, hospital and pharmacy costs, and utilization as driving factors for the proposed increases. These factors are affecting rates in the individual health insurance market across the country, including Virginia. In Virginia's small group market, insurers are requesting to increase rates an average of 11.7% for 2027, based on rising costs of care.

Virginia consumers purchasing coverage in the individual market will have continued access to the Commonwealth Health Reinsurance Program. This program was established by the General Assembly in 2023 and has reduced rates on average 15% or more below what Virginians would see without the program. The program, which is funded by both the federal government and Virginia, will remain in place through plan year 2027. As directed by the General Assembly earlier this year, the bureau has started the process to extend the program for an additional five years.

Eligible consumers also will see premium reductions under the new Virginia Premium Savings Program established by the 2026 General Assembly and Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger. The program, administered by the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, will provide $150 million in state subsidies that directly reduces monthly premiums for eligible consumers purchasing qualified health plans through Virginia's Insurance Marketplace.

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 Continental Army was created by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. George Washington was appointed to serve as General and Commander-in-Chief the following day. A special military unit called The Commander-in-Chief's Guard, was organized to protect General Washington as well as the money and official papers of the Continental Army. Washington wanted a "corps of sober, intelligent, and reliable men." There were usually 180 men in the unit, although it was temporarily increased to 250 during the winter of 1779-1780, when the army was encamped at Morristown, New Jersey where the army was close to the British Army. Because it was an honor to belong to the unit, care was taken to ensure that soldiers from each of the thirteen states were represented in the Guard. Labon Landon, patriot ancestor of DAR member Diane Putnam Ross, was a member of the Guard.

Laban Landon, son of William and Mercy Landon, was born January 13, 1759, in what is now Hackettstown in old Harwick Township, New Jersey. He enlisted as a Private in 1776 in the New Jersey State Troops. Landon served in several companies until 1781. When he was in Valley Forge, he was transferred to General Washington's Guard in March 1778. During his service he was in Yorktown October 19, 1781, when Lord Cornwallis surrendered, and in which engagement Landon was wounded in both arms.

After the war Landon married Elizabeth Gilless March 15, 1784. They had at least eleven children. Records from Tioga County show that he "bought fifty acres of land" there. He died June 28, 1828, in Troy Township, Bradford County.

Information for this article is from Records of the Pension Bureau, Wahington; Adjutant-General, Trenton; Godfrey's "The Commander-in-Chief's Guard., p. 20; and Wikipedia.

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.

Patrick Pioneers

(cont. from page 5)

C. and Mrs. Lili Webb and Miss Mary Spangler of Meadows of Dan.

Mrs. Spangler was a cousin of Lady Nancy Astor of England, a member of the British House of Lords.

The final sentence contains an interesting error in the original newspaper account. Nancy Astor was actually a member of the British House of Commons, becoming the first woman to take her seat there. I have left the wording above as it appeared in the Enterprise so that the historical record remains intact.

The Peter Wood described by Scott was probably the son of John Wood and Lydia Bryant Wood.

Following the death of her husband, Lydia and her children were recorded in the northern district, Rock Castle Post Office area, in the 1850 and 1860 United States censuses. Her children included:

Harriett Wood, born 1830
Joel Wood, 1832–1918
Eletha Wood, born 1834
Peter Wood, born 1837
John Wood, born 1839
Francis Wood, born 1845

The family later moved to Putnam County, West Virginia.

Perhaps the most colorful story in this first installment belongs to Paul W. DeHart—and a dog named Caesar.

The Paul W. DeHart mentioned by Scott was probably the man who lived along what is now Cherry Creek Road in Vesta. He was married to Lucinda DeHart, 1813–1904, and their children included:

Thomas DeHart, 1832–1917
John W. DeHart, 1834–1896
Paul W. DeHart Jr., 1838–1868
Miss Lucinda DeHart, 1844–1880
Aaron Wyatt DeHart, 1848–1947
William Lawson DeHart, 1853–1935

One can only imagine how many times the story of Paul and the panther was repeated around firesides and dinner tables in the Meadows of Dan community before an elderly D. W. Scott finally put it on paper in 1949.

And perhaps that is what makes Scott's manuscript such a treasure. He did not simply record names and dates. He preserved glimpses of a Meadows of Dan that was already disappearing in his own lifetime—a place of isolated mountain homes, wild animals, old burial grounds, country schools, and families whose names remain familiar throughout Patrick County today.

Scott wrote that his purpose was to make his history "interesting as well as educational to the rising as well as the present generation."

More than seventy-five years later, I believe he accomplished exactly what he set out to do.

Next time, we will continue with another installment of D. W. Scott's history of early Meadows of Dan and learn more about the settlers who made their homes atop the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Thank you again to Charlie Bowman for recognizing the importance of this wonderful document and for passing it along so that D. W. Scott's words—and the stories of the people he remembered—can be shared with another generation.

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

PCPS

(cont. from page 1)

The state average for science is 71%, compared with 81% for PCPS. In history, PCPS students averaged 80%, compared with the statewide average of 70%.

The results also show strong performance among economically disadvantaged students.

PCPS is one of the top three divisions in SOL performance among divisions with a relative poverty rate above 70%, according to the data.

For economically disadvantaged students, the state average in reading is 62%, compared with 78% in PCPS. The state average in math is 60%, compared with 77% in PCPS.

In science, PCPS students averaged 77%, compared with the state average of 57%. In history, PCPS averaged 75%, compared with the statewide average of 57%.

Wood said the results demonstrate the division's commitment to student achievement.

"While assessment results are only one measure of success, I am incredibly proud that our students continue to perform at such a high level. These results do not happen by accident. They are the product of talented teachers and staff, hardworking students, supportive families, strong school leadership, and a community that believes deeply in its schools," he said.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Andrea Cassell said the division's continued strong performance reflects the work of teachers, staff, students and families.

"While we are proud of these results, we know that student achievement is only one part of our commitment to excellence. We will continue to build on our successes, address areas of need, and provide the support and opportunities our students need to reach their full potential," Cassell said.

Blue Dye

(cont. from page 1)

reported. The known number of fish killed is zero," he stated in the email.

Simmons said he made Faith Mulch aware of the color showing up at the sewer plant and planned to meet with a company representative during the week.

"He did tell me they have switched to a food grade dye and will provide me the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) sheets for reference," Simmons said.

He is unsure of the type of dye the company used before the switch.

"I don't know if it was a recommendation or whatever, but I guess after the last time they have switched over to two different dyes. They had a green dye and now they are mixing a blue and a yellow dye to make the green," he said adding the new food grade dye should be safer.

After concerns about the dye's toxicity after a July accidental dye spill, Simmons said the company decided to switch.

"I think it was the dye that had gotten directly into the river. There were concerns about its potential toxicity, which is why they switched over. I assumed that it was nontoxic but I know they have made this switch to essentially make sure that if any dye does get into either the river or the sanitary sewer, it is completely non-toxic," he said.

Simmons said he believes the town is in full compliance at this time.

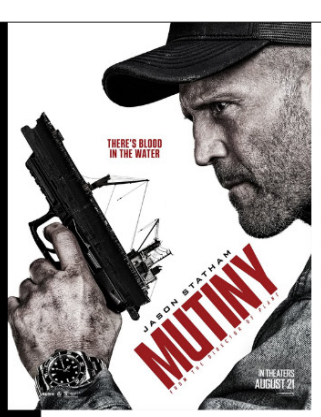
"I do intend on talking to the owners of Faith Mulch on ways that we can hopefully resolve this issue," he said.

The company was previously issued a corrective action plan by DEQ following an accidental dye spill into Campbell Branch, a tributary of the Mayo River, in July.

Faith Mulch did not respond to requests for comment.

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OBITUARIES

Bonnie Lee Lankford



Bonnie Lee Lankford passed away peacefully on 8/19/2026 at the age of 83. She was the best wife and mother anyone could ask for. Her hobbies included cross-stich, baking, painting, miniatures, and doll collecting. Throughout her life she volunteered with many church activities. She was also a proud graduate of Virginia Tech.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents B.C. Hamlin and Norma Margaret Pearce, and her sister Cheryl Chadwick.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years Ronald Lankford, her brother Burney Hamlin, and her children, Ronnie & Elizabeth Lankford, Ryan & Angela Lankford, Robyn Lankford and Rani Lankford, and grandchildren Tristan Lankford, Klara Lankford, Keiko Klisiewecz, Kole Klisiewecz and Natalie Klisiewecz.

The family is planning a private memorial. Condolences can be sent to Bonnielankford1943@outlook.com.

Joseph Howard "Joey" Pinkerton



Mr. Joseph Howard "Joey" Pinkerton, age 69 of Ferrum, passed away Thursday, August 27, 2026 at SOVAH Health-Martinsville. He was born in Oak Hill, West Virginia on May 27, 1957 to the late Kenneth Ray Pinkerton and Lena Mae Foster Pinkerton. In addition to his parents, Mr. Pinkerton was preceded in death by two brothers, Cletis Pinkerton and Dennie Pinkerton; and two sisters, Peggy Greer and Linda Crosier. He loved watching NASCAR Racing, his Camaro, riding his boat, sitting and relaxing on his front porch enjoying the outdoors, and spending time with friends.

Mr. Pinkerton is survived by his wife of 41 years, Deborah Griffith Pinkerton; a daughter, Shannon Huff and husband Charles; a grandson, Gabriel Huff; two brothers, Jerry Pinkerton and Ronnie Pinkerton; and a sister, Diana Pinkerton.

Funeral services for Mr. Pinkerton will be held Monday, August 31, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor James Cockram officiating. Burial will follow in the Jeff Turner Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1079 Spruce Street, Suite C, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Shirley Jean Margo Ore Keene

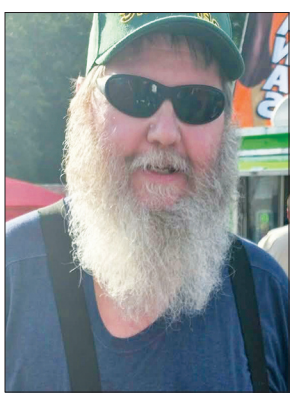


Mrs. Shirley Jean Margo Ore Keene, age 83 of Stuart, passed away Sunday, August 30, 2026 at Sovah Hospital of Martinsville. She was born in Patrick County on September 10, 1942 to the late James Marshall Ore and Pearlie Austin Ore. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Keene was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Lee Keene; two brothers, James Albert Lee Ore and Donnie Dexter Ore; and two sisters, Caroline Ore Burchette and Jewel Ore Wilson. Her passion was being a seamstress. She was very talented in creating civil war era dress designs which were shared all over the United States. She had served as President of the J.E.B Stuart Birthplace Trust for many years and also volunteered at the Reynolds Homestead.

Mrs. Keene is survived by a son, Robert Wayne Lawrence and wife, Robbin, of Evington, Virginia; two granddaughters, Whitney Wagman (Brandon) and Courtney More (Hunter), all of Hurt, Virginia; four great-granddaughters, Peighton, Teagan, Callie and Aurora; one sister, Linda Conner (Wayne) of Martinsville; and a close friend, Pat Jones (Lloyd) of Stuart.

A memorial service for Mrs. Keene will be held Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 1:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Dewayne Troutt officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to J.E.B Stuart Birthplace Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 1210, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

David Neal Marshall



Mr. David Neal Marshall, age 57 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. He was born in Mount Airy, North Carolina on April 21, 1969, to the late Henry Layton Marshall and Lorine Mabe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, David Riley Marshall; one grandson, William Turner; the mother of his sons, Lisa Woods Grona; and one sister-in-law, Mary Marshall.

David was a hard-working man; be it hauling something in a truck or working the farm; he could be found putting in the hard work. He was a very intelligent man and could do anything he set his mind to. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten by his family and friends.

Left to cherish the memories of David Marshall are his son, Reece (Beth) Marshall of Tobaccoville, NC; his beloved companion, Bonnie Roberts of the home; two daughters, Ashley (James) Turner Nelson of Danbury, NC, and Amber Niday of Charlotte, NC; two grandsons, Joseph Turner and Papaw's little buddy, Ryley Nelson; brother, Danny Marshall of Mt. Airy, NC; sister Lisa (Michael) Padgett of Independence, VA; grandmother-in-law, Theresa Goins of Tobaccoville, NC; and a host of other family members and dear friends.

A private graveside memorial service will be held at later date. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Yvonne Justine Ullrich Johnson



Ms. Yvonne Justine Ullrich Johnson, age 96 of Patrick Springs, Virginia passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, August 24, 2026. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 2, 1930 to the late Erwin Ullrich, Sr and Marie Seidl. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Erwin Ullrich, Jr. Yvonne faithfully served in the United States Marine Corp. She was a very spiritual person, who was diligent in her tithing efforts. She started working as a nutritionist for Allen Bradley in Milwaukee, WI. She also worked as a journalist where she wrote, directed and hosted a weekly consumer program for a small cable station. She then worked in sales for the Washington Star, a gemologist/jeweler. She also started her own business as a pet and family photographer. Her final years were spent with Walmart in Fair Oaks, VA where she started as a team safety coordinator and finally a cashier before retiring for good during covid. She enjoyed her pets through the years and loved her family dearly. She will be greatly missed.

Left to cherish the memories of Yvonne are her son, Mark Johnstone and Charlotte Brown, whom she always referred to lovingly as her daughter in law; two grandsons, Matthew Johnstone and Timothy Johnstone; and two dear friends, Adonay Alvarez and Jennifer Barrios.

Services for Ms. Johnson will be announced at a later date. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, Virginia has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservcies.com.

NRCS Application Deadline Set for Oct. 30

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.

"Virginia agriculture is incredibly diverse and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to conservation," said NRCS Virginia State Conservationist Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez. "Our job is to listen, bring the right technical expertise to the table and work alongside producers to find solutions that strengthen their operations while conserving the natural resources we all depend on."

While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers in Virginia should apply by Oct. 30, 2026, to be considered for funding during Fiscal Year 2027. Programs include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): This component of ACEP enables producers to protect their agricultural land from development by enrolling it in a permanent Agricultural Land Easement. The Wetland Reserve Easement component of ACEP helps landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP provides producers with the technical and financial resources they need to address resources concerns on their land including improved water and air quality, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion, improved natural vitality and more.

NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices by making a single application for EQIP and CSP.

Additionally, producers can apply to participate in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project by Oct. 30, 2026.

- RCPP 2462 - Virginia Headwaters Restoration Initiative (Trout Unlimited)
- RCPP 2381 - Preserving Working Farms and Securing Urban Ag (Capital Region Land Conservancy).

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Dangers of Unbelief

By Alan Dean, *retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor*

Chapter 4 of the book of Hebrews tells us that Israel never achieved the spiritual rest that God intended them to have and it was because of their unbelief. And they seldom achieved the land rest in Canaan during their history either. Joshua valiantly had led them into Canaan, but after his death there were still many areas in which pagan tribes still held control of the land.

Paul is telling us that it was their unbelief that prevented their accomplishing their goals. But God had clearly told them that He would be their God and be responsible for giving them their victories in Canaan. However, their unbelief caused them to lose battles and to become discouraged.

In Jesus' day Israel was in deep bondage to the Romans. The leaders still did not believe that God was the answer to their needs. They were trying to do it their way and in their own strength. When Jesus came He still had a great future for the Jews. They were still His chosen people. He spent nearly 100% of His time solely with these people explaining the kingdom of God and the way they could enter in. Jesus said that their sights were not to be set on an earthly kingdom but rather on a heavenly kingdom.

Jesus explained to them in various ways that He had come to manifest the true God and then to suffer and die for all mankind by being the sacrificial Lamb of God. Jesus hoped they would believe His message and after His death and resurrection, they would be God's spokesmen to take the "good news" to the whole world.

But, as we know, the Jews as a nation refused to believe the gospel. Near the end of Jesus' ministry this becomes obvious to Him. In Matthew 21: 43 Jesus tells them plainly that Israel as a chosen nation was coming to a close. He said this privilege would be given to a nation who would bring forth fruits, referring to the fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5: 22, 23. The nation to receive this chosen status was the Christian church. If we read the first chapters of Acts these fruits of the Spirit were clearly seen in their works of love.

In 1 Peter 2: 9 Peter specifically says to the Christians that they are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation".

But individual Jews today are still to be invited to accept Christ and His salvation, just as Peter invited them on the day after Pentecost. Jesus says in John 3: 16 that "whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." This wonderful promise is still for everyone today.

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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Worship Services 11 am

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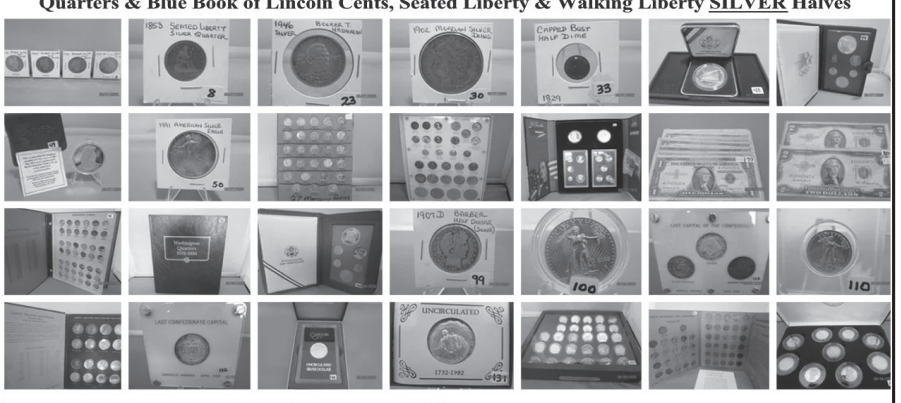
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FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. **LOOK FOR SIGNS**

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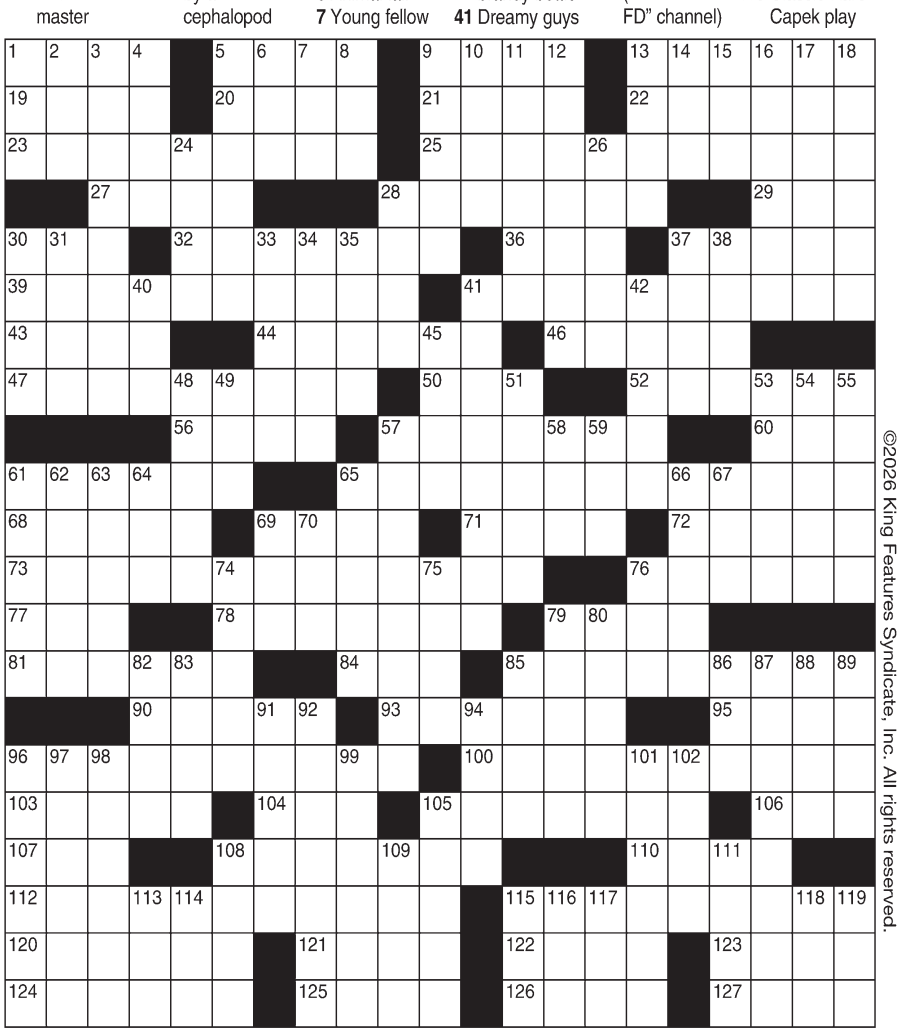
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Super Crossword

SHORT MONTHS

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

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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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, 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

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.

Friday, Sept. 4 - Saturday, Sept. 5
Creasey's Chapel, 73 Creasey Chapel Rd., Stuart, will hold a yard, antique, and consignment sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 5
The Meadows of Dan Women's Club Bingo, at the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. There will be food available for dine in or take out.

Sunday, Sept. 6
The Haynes Reunion will be held, 1 p.m., Smith River Church of the Brethren.

Monday, Sept. 7
The Growing Patrick County Foundation will host an Open Mic Night at Stagecoach Coffee from 5-7 p.m. Those interested can text 276-299-0318 to register, or just show up.

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.

Saturday, Sept. 26
The Genealogical Society of Rockingham & Stokes counties will hold its semi-annual Genealogy Fair at the Madison-Mayodan Library. Doors open at 10 a.m., and activities will run until 3 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.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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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

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
3165 AYERS ORCHARD RD
STUART, VA 24171

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $170,000.00, dated June 22, 2022, and recorded as Instrument Number 220001163 in Patrick County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171-0148 on October 08, 2026 at 2:30 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE TOWN/CITY OF STUART, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE MAYO RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:
CONTAINING 4.746 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "R. KENNON CLARK AND RUBY V. CLARK," PREPARED BY R. CLEVE LAWSON, LS, DATED MARCH 18, 2008, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 10002108.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind. TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
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(470) 321-7112

THANK YOU FOR READING

Despite increase in food recalls, Virginia consumers don't panic



Ready-to-eat meals, pasta, and multi-ingredient packaged foods have the most recalls, followed by fresh produce and dairy products. (Adobe Stock)

By Zamone Perez
Virginia News Connection

A wide range of food products have been the target of recalls in the U.S. this year, including eggs, salsa, lettuce and baby formula. Despite the rise in such warnings, a new report highlighted most consumers are not changing their habits in response.

The U.S. has seen 162 combined warnings from the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture this year, according to the report "Food for Thought 2026."

Teresa Murray, consumer watchdog director for the Public Interest Research Group Education Fund, said the report raises questions about the lack of clear information about life-threatening outbreaks. However, panic and worry often evolve into ambivalence about the overall safety of the U.S. food supply. Murray explained the shock value of food warnings has dwindled over time due to recall fatigue.

"There can be this feeling that there's just nothing safe out there and that's not a good place to be. We all have to eat. You can't constantly think that there's some kind of bacteria boogeyman living in your refrigerator or in your pantry," Murray emphasized.

Food contamination alerts still grab headlines, especially if they are attached to a well-known or recognizable brand or if the warnings result in mass illnesses, Murray pointed out. A leading example was the cyclosporiasis outbreak this summer. Murray added some consumers may take recalls more seriously if they affect products they frequently buy.

Some experts and lawmakers argued federal funding cuts have affected food safety programs and put Americans at further risk of foodborne illness. Food safety accountability could be channeled in several directions and examining the food supply chain is one place to start, Murray argued.

"Are some of these companies taking the steps that they should be taking to make sure that the products that they're selling to others downstream are safe? Clearly, not enough is being done because otherwise we wouldn't have all this stuff," Murray contended.

One of the latest food safety warnings in Virginia concerns consuming frozen blueberries and mixed berries from Publix locations, which threaten exposure to E. coli. According to an update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in late July, the outbreak sickened more than a dozen people.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL26000157-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
PATRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
SHAVONDA REDD TEAGUE v. THOMAS B. TEAGUE
The object of this suit is to:
TO PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO THE DEFENDANT
It is ORDERED that THOMAS B. TEAGUE
appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before
September 25, 2026
8/20/2026
Clerk

Crowd attends August Seniors meeting







By Joanne Hill

The Patrick County Seniors met at the John D. Hooker building on August 13, with 119 in attendance. Charles Bowman, with his usual line-up of a variety of musical entertainment including Lester Flatt's "Backing up to Birmingham," provided a very enjoyable performance.

Birthday gifts and door prizes were given and a report regarding the COA program at Reynolds Homestead was presented. Free blood-pressure checks were available from BRTC and Landmark.

The hit of the day, a delicious lunch consisting of desserts and salads donated by the attendees was then enjoyed by all. A special thanks goes out to Judy Lacks and the planning committee, the Patrick County Recreation Department and the Stuart Rotary Club for making this delightful event available. The Seniors luncheon will not be held in September due to scheduling of the Patrick County Fair.

FIND THE ENTERPRISE ON FACEBOOK

Demolition derby brings the noise

Saturday night belonged to roaring engines, crashing cars and drivers willing to take a few hits as competitors squared off in the annual demolition derby. Photos by Tiffany Hall.











Broadway

(cont. from page 1)



Jeb Kreager played about nine different characters in "The Fear of 13." Photo by Emilio Madrid.



Jeb Kreager has guest-starred on television shows including "Person of Interest," "Law & Order: SVU" and "Chicago Med." Photo by Emilio Madrid.

"They got to talking and struck up a relationship and actually fell in love and got married. He just hit roadblock after roadblock in his exoneration fight, and she finally just couldn't do it anymore and after, I guess at least a decade of fighting, she sort of left the picture. At that point he was well on his way to having the wheels in motion to getting his conviction thrown out," Kreager said.

Yarris was played by Academy Award winner Adrien Brody, while Golden Globe Award winner Tessa Thompson played Jacki.

The action of the play literally swirls around Yarris, Kreager said, with the character remaining seated on a prison stool for almost the entire show.

"Tables get moved in and all of a sudden he's sitting at a judge's table or he's sitting at a table in a courtroom, and the scene changes and he's sitting at a table talking to his lawyer. So, the other characters in the play, play many different roles," he said.

Kreager is listed in the program as Man #2 and played about nine different characters.

"All the male characters who play inmates all play other characters in his story. So for instance, I play a death row inmate, but I also play one of the head guards at the prison. I also play one of the police officers who he escapes from on the way to his appeals trial, he was on the run for a month at one point, and I played both the cop who loses him and the cop who finds him," he said.

Kreager also played Yarris' father and the widower of the man he supposedly killed.

This was Kreager's first time performing in a show with a character track, or acting as multiple characters.

"It's really fun, and it takes you out of your head. Sometimes when you're doing theater it's easy to kind of get overly technical about it or get kind of in your head about a character or a role. It was kind of freeing, it was nice to do a show like this where what you're really doing is just sort of representing all these people that he encounters along the way," he said.

"The Fear of 13" ran for 16 weeks, with eight shows performed each week.

Kreager said two shows were performed on Wednesdays and Saturdays, along with a late matinee on Sundays.

This was not Kreager's first Broadway production. He also starred in "Oslo," a play about the Oslo Peace Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, in 2017.

"We ran off Broadway in 2016, and then found out literally the day after opening that we were moving to Broadway. So we did the run of that show off Broadway in 2016 and then started up again in February 2017 until the middle of July of that year," he said.

"Oslo" won the Tony Award for Best Play and Best Featured Actor in a Play for Michael Aronov at the 71st Tony Awards.

"That was fun to be a part of, even just a small part, because I have a lot of love for that show," Kreager said.

Kreager said he became interested in theater while attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He was a communications major with dreams of becoming a broadcaster, but switched to theater after taking and enjoying a stage acting elective for non-majors.

"We did our final scenes for the semester, and my scene was from 'The Odd Couple' by Daniel Simon. It was great, it was fun, got laughs, and it was the first time I ever really experienced that," he said.

While at Virginia Tech, Kreager fell in with a group of actors and a director who often worked together. They eventually moved to Philadelphia and started the New Paradise Laboratories theater group.

"I was in Philadelphia for 11 years, and we did maybe 16 shows with that company. Then I moved to New York in 2009 just to see if I could make a dollar and a cent doing more tv and film- there wasn't really much tv and film going on in Philadelphia at the time," he said.

Since moving to New York, Kreager has recurred and guest-starred on several television shows, including "Marvel's The Punisher," "Person of Interest," "Law & Order: SVU" and "Chicago Med."

Kreager said his biggest television role came in "Mare of Easttown," an HBO miniseries starring Kate Winslet.

His movie credits include James Gray's "Armageddon Time," Gareth Edwards' "The Creator," "Hell House LLC" and more.

"I have done a bit more theater in the last few years, which has been really nice because I'd really love to sort of bounce back and forth just because one is sort of a palate cleanser for the other," Kreager said.

Since "The Fear of 13" ended, Kreager said he already has work lined up for January, when he is scheduled to shoot an FX show.

"I shot a pilot last May for FX that got picked up, and we'll shoot that in January of next year. I'll recur on that show, I'm not a series regular, but I'll show up in several episodes of that. That'll shoot out in Vancouver as of right now," he said.

While Kreager fell in love with theater at Virginia Tech, his first taste of the stage came much closer to home.

He performed in a PCHS production of "The Sound of Music," playing Friedrich von Trapp.

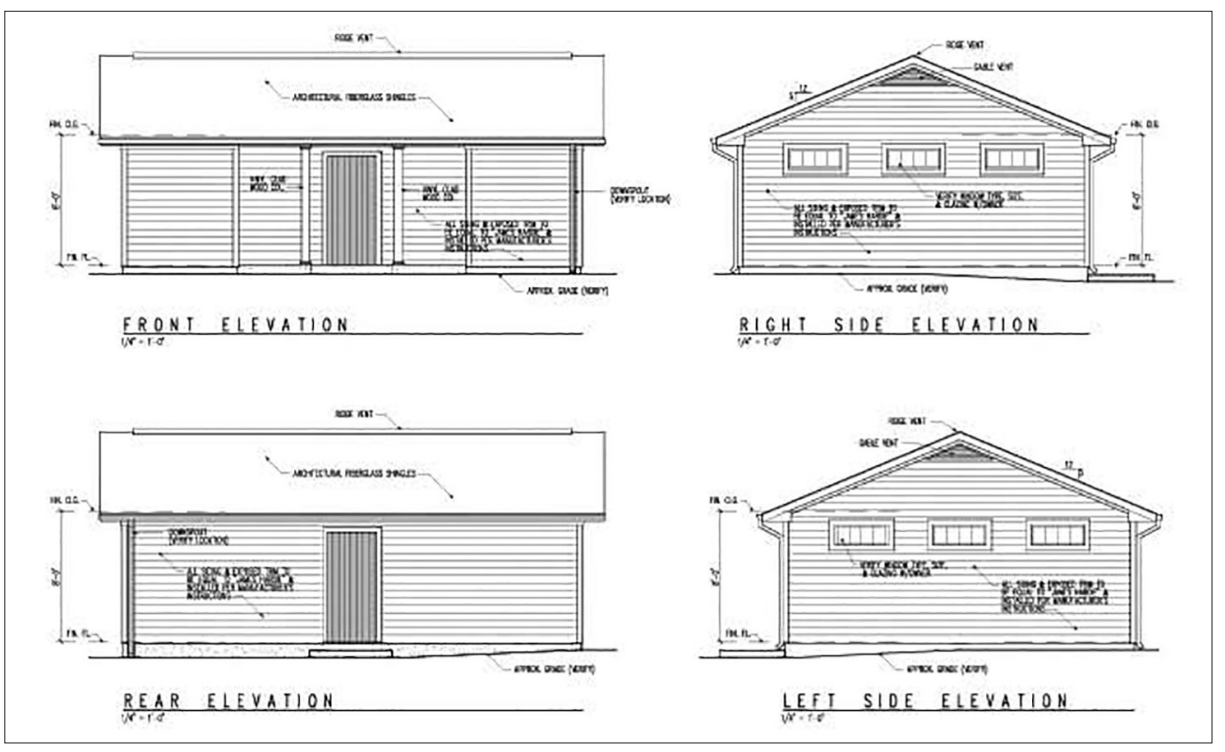
A Laurel Hill Progress Report







A Memorial Service will be held at Laurel Hill for Stuart Trust Vice-President David Lusk at 2 p.m. on Sept. 12.







By Tom Perry

This week, work began on restrooms at Laurel Hill, the Birthplace of Civil War Major General James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart. David Lawson and Son Builders is doing the construction. Shown here with the Stuart Concrete truck are Mike Young, Bill Carter, and D. J. Lawson pouring the footer.

Plans are in the works to eventually build a visitor's center attached to the restrooms. The J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc., the 501(c)(3) corporation that owns the 75-acre Laurel Hill Farm, is an all volunteer organization that continues its mission to share the many histories this land holds and give visitors a good experience. It does not take government funds for any of this work.

This organization started in 1990 and raised the money to purchase the property from the Brown and Dellenback families. The site is now on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Many people use the property to get close to nature, with multiple walking trails that take visitors down to the Ararat River and back. The site is part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail system. The property is open dawn to dusk for visitors to wander around. I see people walking their dogs at Laurel Hill and recently saw a couple with a Maine Coon Cat on a leash taking in the property.

The property interprets many histories, starting with the Native American life discovered when the College of William and Mary conducted archaeology on the property. This work helped the property be listed on the Virginia and National Registers.

The Civil War Encampment will be held the first full weekend of October since 1991. This year's event is October 3-4. Children under 12 get in for free.

On June 29, 2026, Laurel Hill hosted the kickoff in Patrick County for the American 250 celebration, focusing on the history of the American Revolution at William Letcher's grave. We were pleased to host this event, and over 200 people attended to eat BBQ, learn about the history, and see fireworks.

Letcher was killed on the property on August 2, 1780, by a pro-British Tory in front of Letcher's wife, Elizabeth Perkins Letcher, and their daughter, Bethenia. Mrs. Letcher later married George Hairston and became the matriarch of the Hairston Family Dynasty living at Beaver Creek, the home still standing in Martinsville, Henry County, Virginia. Laurel Hill was in Henry County then, as Patrick County did not come into existence until 1791, a full decade after Letcher's death. Letcher was J. E. B. Stuart's great-grandfather.

Laurel Hill was placed on the registers because of its Antebellum farmstead designation. The Stuarts lived on the property from the mid-1820s to 1859, when Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart sold the property to two men from nearby Mount Airy, her doctor Joseph Hollingsworth and Robert Galloway, who built the Opera House still on Main Street in the "Granite City."

As part of that Antebellum history, the Stuart Trust does not shy away from the history that involves slavery. There is a slave cemetery with a marker acknowledging the contributions of the African Americans who lived on the land, along with an interpretive sign about these people who also called Laurel Hill home.

The Stuart Cemetery is located near the house and kitchen sites at the top of Laurel Hill. Several of the Stuart children are buried here. Archibald Stuart, the husband of Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart and father of J. E. B. Stuart, who died in 1855, rested here until 1952, when he was moved to Saltville, Virginia, to be buried beside his wife and other children, including William Alexander Stuart and Mary Headen Stuart.

After the Stuarts, the history continued as the Mount Airy and Eastern Railway came by the property on its way from Mount Airy to Kibler Valley, mainly to haul the virgin timber cut along the Dan River. A few years ago, a new exhibit and interpretive sign were placed along the old roadbed that went from Mount Airy toward what is today Stuart, Virginia.

A pavilion with interpretive signs discussing the role J. E. B. Stuart played in the War Between the States, including his relationship with his wife, Flora, is also along the old roadbed. The five interpretive signs, written by Author and Historian Robert J. Trout, sit on a floor of brick pavers that people may order to honor anyone they wish. The brick pavers are $50, and you can find more information at https://www.jebstuart.org/pavilion.cfm.

Laurel Hill is on several Civil War Trail systems, including the Virginia Civil War Trails and the Civil War Discovery Trail, which connects the site to many other related places across the nation. A Civil War Trail sign is near the building at the entrance.

Finally, two Virginia Historical Highway Markers stand at Laurel Hill. The original sign from 1932, written by Douglas Southall Freeman and donated by Gerald Via and me, is placed along the old roadbed. For many years, this sign was the only thing that denoted the land's historical importance. The newer sign from 2001 sits at the entrance along the Ararat Highway and was written by me.

We invite you to "Jine the cavalry" and join our efforts to preserve this important part of Patrick County history through a membership https://www.jebstuart.org/membership.cfm.

On September 12 at 2 p.m., a Memorial Service will be held at Laurel Hill for Stuart Trust Vice-President David Lusk, who recently passed away. No one loved Laurel Hill more than David, and we invite you to join us in remembering our friend.

The Laurel Hill website is www.jebstuart.org, and the Facebook page is https://www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust.

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