

Where were you Sept. 11, 2001?

Ceremony planned to remember lives lost, those who continue to serve

Sept. 11, 2015 marks the 14th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington, D.C., and on Flight 93 in Shanksville, Penn.

Less we forget their sacrifices made on that day, join us in a Commemorative Ceremony to celebrate the memories of lives given and honor the dedication of those who without hesitation continue to take on the role of first responders each day to maintain this safe haven we call America and home. Let's join together on Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, which marks the fourteenth anniversary of the terror attacks. From a moment of silence to the playing of "Taps" we can say "thank you" to the families of those men and women who gave their lives as well as to those who continue to serve selflessly in times of tragedy and trauma.

Brunswick Dixie Youth League and Lawrenceville Rotary Club will present a 9-11 Commemorative Ceremony, Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Sonny Wholey Memorial Park behind Elm Acres Community Center, Lawrenceville.

If you would like to participate or contribute a display please call - Della P. Wood at (434) 577- 2793 or Winston Brewer at (434) 294-3781 for further information and details.



Congressman Robert Hurt started his Main Street Tour at the Lawrenceville Town Office. Councilman Robbie Pecht, left, Chief Everette Gibson, Supervisor Bernard Jones, Sr., Mayor of Lawrenceville Bill Herrington, Wendy Wright, executive director of the Brunswick Chamber of Commerce; and Betty Boston with CAWS (Caring Arms Will Support) talked with Hurt about issues facing small towns. (Sylvia Allen/Brunswick Times-Gazette)

Congressman Hurt visits Lawrenceville on Main Street Tour

By Sylvia Allen

Congressman Robert Hurt visited Lawrenceville on Thursday, Aug. 27, as part of a 39-stop tour of Virginia's 5th District main streets. The tour encompasses 39 different towns in 23 counties illustrating the vastness of the district. Hurt first stopped at the Lawrenceville Town Office then walked up Main Street to talk with business owners and constituents.

Hurt said he always enjoys getting out of Washington, D. C. and connecting with the people in the 5th District.

"The district covers approximately 10,000 square miles. Our Main Street Tour gives us the opportunity to talk with people. Small towns are what make our country great. They are the heart of America," Hurt said.

Hurt thanked the elected officials present for their service saying it was not the most lucrative job.

Hurt said he hears people complain about the burden of federal regulations, increasing cost of health-care and taxes.

Hurt asked what challenges communities like Lawrenceville and Brunswick County are facing. Supervisor Bernard Jones, who serves as Vice Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors, said unfunded mandates place a burden on local governments. He also emphasized the important part infrastructure plays in economic development.

Someone mentioned the Bank of America closing the drive up window, a loss of service to its customers. Hurt said he understood their concern and further stated that community banks are important to small towns.

Robbie Pecht who serves on the Lawrenceville Town Council and is a business owner agreed unfunded mandates are a burden.

Betty Boston, Project Administrator for CAWS (Caring Arms Will Support),

said her program is aimed at students who have not had a positive experience in traditional schools. CAWS, Inc. has existed since 2008 and centered its training practices on older adults. Boston said the program could provide training to 90 students each year reaching those who are unemployed, underemployed, veterans, drop-outs, public assistant recipients and the moderately disabled. Boston said she is seeking grant funding. Hurt asked Boston if she had contacted Southside Virginia Community College and she has met with SVCC President Dr. Al Roberts. Hurt asked Boston to provide contact information to his local office for follow up conversations.

Hurt said people are very concerned about the \$18 trillion federal debt.

The conversation turned to the importance of being able to provide infrastructure to attract industry. Someone asked about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the controversy surrounding

it. Hurt said some localities welcome the pipeline while others are organizing campaigns in opposition. He said when property rights are involved people are directly affected. Hurt said FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is looking at the environmental and public safety issues when deciding the route the proposed pipeline will take. He said the natural gas pipeline will be an asset to economic development.

Hurt stopped by the Brunswick Times-Gazette office and said his family has had a long term relationship with Womack Publishing Company based in Chatham. Hurt delivered newspapers while a student following in the tradition of his father and grandfather.

Contact Congressman Robert Hurt at hurt.house.gov or call the Washington office: (202) 225-4711, Charlottesville office: (434) 973-9631, Danville office: (434) 791-2596, or Farmville office: (434) 395-0120.

Two schools receive 21st Century Community Learning Center grants

From staff reports

Brunswick High School and Meherrin-Powellton Elementary School received 21st Century Community Learning Center grants for the 2015-2016 school year. Each school received \$187,197. Southside Virginia Community College was the Co-Applicant.

According to information provided by Division Superintendent Dora Wynn, the Virginia Department of Education awarded 35 new grants. The competitive grants ranged from \$118,000 to \$200,000 and will allow school divisions and community groups to provide students with tutoring, enrichment activities that complement regular academic programs, and literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. The department also is continuing funding of 52 programs that received initial grants in 2013-2014.

The centers will operate before and after school, during school breaks, Saturdays, and during summer vacation. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is

authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Applicants were encouraged to consult with parents, community groups, businesses, arts and cultural organizations, and other youth development agencies to develop successful applications and programs.

In Greensville County Belfield Elementary School received a grant totaling \$118,243 and Greensville Elementary School received a grant totaling \$143,797 with the Boys & Girls Club of Emporia/Greensville County as the Co-Applicant for both grants.

SOL Scores show gains in 15 subjects

Six subjects decline, no change in one subject

By Sylvia Allen

Nancy Hicks, director of curriculum and instruction for Brunswick County Public Schools, provided a comparison of the SOL scores from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015 to the Brunswick County School Board. The chart from the Virginia Department of Education shows scores by school and subject.

The chart shows areas of growth in 15 areas, six areas of decline and remained constant in one

area. (See the chart on page 2).

Brunswick High School showed growth in three subjects, Russell Middle School showed growth in five areas, Meherrin-Powellton Elementary School showed growth in two areas, Red Oak-Sturgeon Elementary School showed growth in two areas and Totaro Elementary School showed growth in three areas.

Division Superintendent Dora Wynn said the goal is to show growth in all areas and expressed pride in the successes shown. Wynn

said the challenge is using the data to make decisions to increase SOL scores.

Schools showing decline are: Brunswick High School - two areas, Meherrin-Powellton Elementary School - one area, and Red Oak-Sturgeon Elementary School - two areas. J. S. Russell Middle School and Totaro Elementary School showed no areas of decline.

In other matters, Richard Rush, director of business services, provided the update on FY2014-2015 that showed a \$0 balance. He recapped the

fiscal year that showed a reduction of \$918,000. The estimated impact of action taken totaled \$855,000. Revenues came in better than expected at \$63,000 resulting in expenses to equal revenue.

The school board approved the Virginia School Board Association policy updates provided at the July board meeting.

The school board approved 12 out-of-district requests discussed in Executive Session and one request for religious exemption also discussed in Executive Session.

Birds

Continued from page 8B

talon then one big ball of eagles. They separated and relax as though nothing had happened.

After lots of eagle pics I head back to the launch area but not before stopping by Buoy No. 3 to get another peak and take 50 more pics of the infamous Brown Booby which is now my logo and a brand for buoy No. 3.

Now I'm thinking, "Who can I get to help me lift this kayak on top of the Tahoe? As I pull ashore and place my camera and binoculars on the dock before getting out there is a man standing there with his binoculars in hand and says, "It looks like the bird let you get close enough to take pictures?"

"Yes he did," I answered.

He'd been watching me and the bird. You never know who is watching you so be careful where you point your binoculars. Come to find out he is

a fellow birder up from Durham to see our newest rare bird. However, we have several in the area like the Red-throated Loon and the Common Merganser. You just have to know where to look. Hey that's a plug for my tours. Want to see some exciting birds check out the website for more info. That's backyardbirdscoffee.com.

Anyway the nice gentleman helped me lift my kayak on top of the car and I head home. What a great birding morning! Hey wait, don't go anywhere. There are two more Mecklenburg is Heaven moments before the day is done. I'm driving on the back roads through Palmer Springs from the dam and before I get to Highway 1 off of Route 711 an adult Bald Eagle flew right in front of my windshield.

Another beautiful view as I observe his white tale, white head and black body fly just a few feet above a sea of green soybeans.

Wow what a picture that would make. So I turn around only to discover that he was gone but there were several Black Vultures tugging at a dead cat alongside of the road. The Eagle was trying to get his share but the vultures won out this time. Perhaps if I hadn't have interrupted this event the Eagle may have had the better outcome. Anyway, that sight of the Eagle in contrast with the soybeans was a Mecklenburg is Heaven moment.

Later in the day after school's out I go to South Hill to pick up Luke from his friend's house. I'm driving down Raleigh Avenue off 47 and what's that rather large bird in top of that dead tree? A quick peek in the rearview mirror, no traffic behind nor any in front so I pull over far to the right, grab my camera, and zoom in. It's a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker just waiting for me. Wow Mecklenburg

is Heaven! A few moments later I flew out of my car and one more take your breath moments happen... my phone fell and hit the pavement. No, it didn't land on the nice soft protective cover. It fell face first and shattered the glass... Wow Mecklenburg is Heaven.

Bird notes and quizzes

September is the peak of the songbird and shore bird migration.

Last week's answer to "What's this Bird?" is a female Baltimore Oriole. The picture was taken on a Saturday morning bird walk at the Backyard Birds and Coffee Shop.

This week's quiz... "whose legs are these?" (See pic).

No winners in a few weeks so don't hesitate to send me an email with your best guesses and any bird stories of your own.

Birding news

Kerr Lake Bird Club

meets Sept. 11 from 7-8 p.m. Social from 6-7 p.m.

See virginiaibirds.net for upcoming trip to Chincoteague on Sept. 11-13.

The next bird walk... Saturday the 12th from 6:30 am to 8:30 am.

Eagle and Brown Booby Kayak tour next Friday the 11th from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Email for reservations and check out the website backyardbirdscoffee.com for more information on walks and tours.

Contact me at joinclyde@gmail.com.

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