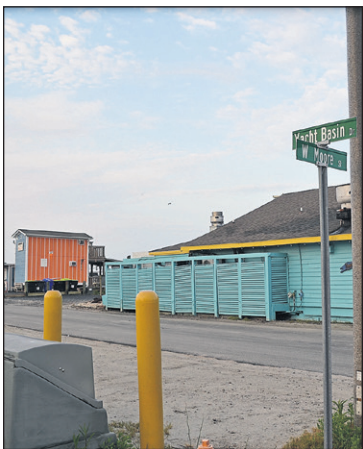




THE BRUNSWICK BEACON



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After 105 years, Shallotte WWI veteran receives Purple Heart

BY DYLAN PHILLIPS
BRUNSWICK BEACON

Robert Bollie Stanley, a Shallotte native who served the United States in World War I and as the only known prisoner of war from Brunswick County during that war, posthumously received his Purple Heart on Saturday, June 17, over 100 years after it was earned.

The Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR and the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range worked to secure Stanley's Purple Heart, along with additional medals he was owed, including the Prisoner of War Medal, the World War I Victory Button and World War I Victory Medal with St Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Battle clasps and France Service clasp.

Those honors were presented to Stanley's descendants during a ceremony on Saturday in Stanley Cemetery, located Briewood in Shallotte, which is built on land the Stanley family once owned and farmed.

Robert Stanley's grandchildren, great grandchildren and other family were in attendance for the ceremony.

"All the things he was entitled

SEE STANLEY/PAGE A3



Dylan Phillips/Brunswick Beacon

Robert Bollie Stanley's family stands at his grave during the ceremony on Saturday, June 17 at Stanley Cemetery in Shallotte.

Pulp Road wildfire continues burning

BY BRUNSWICK BEACON STAFF REPORT

Firefighting personnel are responding to the Pulp Road Fire in Brunswick County. The fire is burning east of NC Highway 211 in the Green Swamp Game Land and Green Swamp Nature Preserve.

The fire, originally a controlled burn, was started by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) on Tuesday, June 13. On Thursday, June 15, NCWRC staff discovered some of the fire had reignited, leading to the wildfire currently burning.

As of 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 18, the fire was burning on 16,355 acres and was 10% contained. Also as of June 18, the Air Quality Index rating for Brunswick County remained Code Red.

"Code Red on the AQI represents unhealthy air quality for everyone. Residents should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors," the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said. "Anyone sensitive to air pollution, including children, older adults and people with asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion altogether."

"Wildland fire engines and large equipment will continue to be on roads in the fire area and traveling to and from assignments," the North Carolina Forest Service said in a statement. "Please use caution while traveling the NC Highway 211 and Highway 17 corridors."

As of this paper's publication, NC Highway 211 is closed between Little Macedonia and Camp Branch roads. Updates to road

SEE WILDFIRE/PAGE A2



Photo contributed
A smoke plume rising from the wildfire on Friday afternoon, June 16.



Savanna Tenenoff/Brunswick Beacon

North Carolina Representative Charlie Miller presented The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award to former Varnamtown Mayor Judy Galloway on June 5 for her service to the community.

Varnamtown leaders awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award

Four former Varnamtown leaders were presented The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, the highest award for state service granted by the Office of the Governor, on June 5 at a private ceremony for the recipients and their families.

North Carolina Representative Charlie Miller presented the awards to former Mayor Judy Galloway, former

Alderman Ada McDonald and former Mayor Pro-Tem Ennis Swain. Each of their awards were signed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.

The three of them served the Town of Varnamtown for more than 30 years each.

Galloway, McDonald and Swain gave remarks after receiving their award and shared their appreciation

for the community. They all said it was an honor to be of service to Varnamtown and noted the many changes the town has been through in their time living there.

Although the town may have undergone physical changes throughout the years, they said the strong bond of community and firm tie to the

SEE LLP/PAGE A2

Calabash lowers tax rate for 2023-24 FY

BY SAVANNA TENENOFF
BRUNSWICK BEACON STAFF WRITER

On June 13, the Calabash Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the town's budget for 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY) with a property tax rate of \$0.058 per \$100 valuation.

The budget includes a general fund total of \$1,941,658, a one-time salary adjustment for all town staff and two

additional staff positions — as well as new materials and equipment for town staff. The approved budget will go into effect on July 1 and end on June 30, 2024.

Commissioners held a public hearing for the new budget at the beginning of the meeting, however, no speakers signed up prior to the meeting and only one resident spoke during

the public hearing about the town needing to do a better job at fully completing projects and construction.

With the general fund budget balancing out at \$1,941,658 and the Powell Bill funds balancing at \$69,000, the town has a total budget that is slightly over \$2,000,000. The Powell Bill fund is to be used for street and sidewalk

SEE BUDGET/PAGE A2

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Novant Health adds access with new medical office building

On June 14, Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center opened a new 34,000-square-foot medical office building at 257 Hospital Drive in Bolivia. As the population continues to grow in Brunswick County, leaders at Novant Health are working to increase access to needed health care services.

This two-story building provides space for heart and vascular services, including cardiac rehab; family medicine; urology; surgical care; and Infusion center.

“We are very excited to extend our current ser-



Photo contributed

Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center's new 34,000-square-foot medical office building at 257 Hospital Drive in Bolivia.

vices as we continue to see rapid growth in southeastern North Carolina,” said Heather King, president and chief operating officer of Brunswick Medical Center. “We are fortunate to be able to expand right here on campus, offering a convenient way



Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center President and COO Heather King speaks during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility on Wednesday, June 14.

to improve access for our patients.” Each service listed above is moving into the new building on a phased approach and will continue to progress in the coming weeks.



Photo contributed

The new space will house heart and vascular services, including cardiac rehab; family medicine; urology; surgical care; and Infusion center.

STANLEY

FROM **PAGE A1**

to long ago are now here,” Caron Myers, with Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR, said. “Here for the family: for the child, the grandchild, great grandchild, the great, great grandchild...the great, great, great grandchild will now get to see his service. Don't ever let them forget it, he was a hero.”

Stanley was called to war on March 29, 1918, one of just 25 Black men from Brunswick County called that day to fight in the Great War, and, of those 25 men, he was only one of three who were called to serve on the front line. He ended up in the Army in the 365th Infantry, 92nd Division, bound for France and the front lines.

Stanley and the regiment reached France on June 19, 1918; by Oct. 29 of that year, Stanley had been reported missing. It was learned he had been captured by the enemy and was not released until Nov. 27.

“When the 365th Infantry embarked in Brest, France, on Feb. 17, 1919, to return to their loved ones in the United States, Private Robert B. Stanley did not join them,” Norma Lee Eckard, President of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, notes in her story about Stanley's life and service. “Instead, he was recovering from a battle in which he was wounded, taken prisoner by the enemy, and suffered the amputation of most of his right leg. He returned to the US over a month later on March 24, 1919, but was not discharged until completing five months of additional recovery. On Aug. 25, 1919, he returned home with a 95% disability classification.”

Following discharge, Stanley returned to Shalotte and the farm, starting a family and ultimately raising five children on his own after his wife, Ethel, died at a young age. Stanley also raised his grandson, Fred “Stan” Stanley, who he adopted.

Stanley died in September 1961 and, at the time of his death, he had not received any of the honors for his sacrifice and bravery, honors that were rightfully his, rightfully earned.

In 2019, the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, along with members of the Brunswick Town Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, secured a military-style grave marker for Stanley. A ceremony for Stanley's family was held to recognize his sacrifice, where the family expressed interest in obtaining Stanley's Purple Heart for his service.

Although the Purple Heart was created in 1782, it was not reestablished as an honor until 1932, but all service members killed or wound-



Dylan Phillips/Brunswick Beacon

Shown are Stanley's honors, including the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, the World War I Victory Button and World War I Victory Medal with St Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Battle clasps and France Service clasp.



Dylan Phillips/Brunswick Beacon

The crowd during the Purple Heart ceremony on Saturday, June 17. Attendees including Stanley's surviving family and community members.



Dylan Phillips/Brunswick Beacon

Robert Bollie Stanley's grave in Stanley Cemetery

ed since April 5, 1917 became eligible when it was reestablished.

Four years later, in May 2023, the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range received word that Stanley's medals and ribbons were on the way, including his Purple Heart.

All of Stanley's honors were on display during the June 17 ceremony for family and attendees to see.

Myers specifically thanked Ron Eckard, with the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, for the work he put into securing the honors owed to Stanley.

“Honestly, Ron is the

one that got this done,” she said. “He really did. He wrote the paperwork and he did it, and we are so grateful for that.”

Stanley's full story can be read in the Brunswick Beacon online at: https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/family-of-pvt-robert-bollie-stanley-receives-purple-heart-after-105-years/article_a7de9b23-a2cd-593e-bdd7-22cc85e240ec.html.

— *Dylan Phillips is the editor of the Brunswick Beacon. Feel free to reach out with comments, questions and tips at dphillips@brunswickbeacon.com.*

Ground broke on Boiling Spring Lakes dam reconstruction



Local leaders and Boiling Spring Lakes Stanford Dam project managers break ground for the dam's reconstruction on Saturday, June 17.

Savanna Tenenoff
Brunswick Beacon

After four long years of Boiling Spring Lakes having no main lake, a crowd joined together with joy at Alton Lennon Road, BSL, on June 17 to celebrate the start of the Stanford Dam reconstruction.

Savanna Tenenoff
Brunswick Beacon



HEALTH & MEDICAL Directory 2023

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