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After United 93, travelers react to threats

The Associated Press

DETROIT — They heard a pop that sounded like fireworks. They saw a glow of flame followed by a rush of smoke. And that was enough for passengers on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 to pounce. From several seats away, Dutch tourist Jasper Schuringa says he jumped to extinguish a fire ignited by a quiet man who just moments before

allegedly told passengers his stomach was upset and pulled a blanket over himself. Schuringa said his first thought wasn't to signal a flight attendant or wait for an air marshal to break cover, but rather, "He's trying to blow up the plane."

"I basically reacted directly," Schuringa said Saturday in an interview with CNN. "I didn't think. I just jumped. I just went over there and tried

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- Nigerian was listed in terrorism database.
- Security on airlines tightened.

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to save the plane."

Aviation safety experts once would have called Schuringa's actions a mistake and cautioned passengers against fighting back during hijackings and other crises in the air. That

was before the Sept. 11 attacks and the actions of passengers on United Flight 93, who learned while aloft about the hijacked jets that slammed earlier that day into New York's World Trade Center.

They staged a cabin revolt against the al-Qaida terrorists who had taken control of their flight and died when their plane crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pa. But they succeeded in keeping the jet from

destroying another building that day, and their story became legend.

"I don't think people are going to sit back and let somebody kill them in the process of fulfilling their extremist agenda or whatever it happens to be," said Dave Heffernan, who helps oversee self-defense training for commercial flight

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Haiti beckons to Valley

Patrick Eugene studies computer science at James Madison University, but teaching comes naturally. His father teaches math and history in the family's native country, Haiti. His parents asked each of their five children to get as much education as possible — then come home.

Haiti needs them.

In his classroom in Staunton, however, Eugene does not employ computers or any technology, just a textbook, a small whiteboard and a room filled with students of all ages eager to learn Haitian Creole. They each have ties to Haiti, most of them service-oriented.

Haiti needs them, too. Across the Shenandoah Valley, dozens of organizations are helping in Haiti. Most of the groups are churches, but there are also civic groups, schools and colleges.

In this series, we tell the stories of a handful of those groups, how Haiti

beckoned them to her shores and why they continue to return.

Haiti needs them, but in many ways, they have grown to need Haiti as well.



Efforts improve outlook for country



TOP, ABOVE: Patrick Eugene of Saldedere, Haiti, teaches a language class Dec. 6. The Haitian Creole class at the Staunton Language and Cultural Center at Shanti Om yoga studio is so popular a second class has been added. Eugene plans to return to Haiti once he earns his degree at James Madison University.

It's no small thing, going to Haiti. Anti-malaria pills and inoculations against typhoid and hepatitis are advised, and it's not uncommon to learn a violent uprising will postpone a planned journey. Every few years, the U.S. State Department advises against travel because of political turmoil.

However in spite of the challenges, Americans go to help establish businesses, treat patients and dig wells. They usually are drawn because someone they know has gone or because there is so much to do.

About the size of Maryland, Haiti makes up the western third of the island of Hispaniola, and it is the very description of destitute. Most of its 9 million people live in dire poverty, making less than \$2 a day if they're lucky enough to find work, and maybe eating one meal a day.

Parents sometimes send children as young as 6 to live with families in the cities in hopes they will be given

Story ■ Cindy Corell
Photos ■ Pat Jarrett



Hope for Haiti

How the Valley is helping

sufficient food and housing. About 225,000 of these child servants, known as restaveks, perform household duties in urban homes, and in many cases, are beaten and sexually abused.

Haiti's high mountains, once green and lush, are nearly bald because people cut the

Editor's Note

This is the first in a five-part series
 ■ **On Monday:** The work
 ■ **On Tuesday:** The people
 ■ **On Wednesday:** The faith
 ■ **On Thursday:** The hope

Inside

- Partnerships create safety net in the country
- Staunton classes teach the Creole language
- Map of the country

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trees to use as charcoal. Without flora to hold the precious topsoil, rain washes it from the hillsides making agricultural endeavors nearly impossible and further polluting creeks and rivers where most people get their drinking water.

It adds up to make Haiti the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Among the thousands of organizations that want to help are hundreds of people from the Shenandoah Valley.

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Market for blood-alcohol self-tests spikes

By Katharine Lackey/staff
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A growing number of people are turning to personal breathalyzers to test themselves, underage family members and friends for alcohol impairment after they've been drinking, despite some opposition from driving safety advocates.

Susan Eustis, president and CEO of WinterGreen Research,

which does market analysis and forecasting for industries such as health care and telecommunications, said a report prepared by her company for release early next year has the personal breathalyzer market valued at \$215.2 million, up from \$27.9 million in 2005. The report estimates by 2016, the market value will grow to \$641.9 million.

Both AAA and law enforcement officials question manufac-

turers' claims of accuracy and reliability of the devices and discourage their use in making decisions about sober driving.

AAA national spokesman Troy Green said the devices are more likely to provide inaccurate and inconsistent readings than those police use because they depend on a good breath sample, which

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Pulse!
Good Morning!
We try to be perfect, but we're human. When we make a mistake, we correct it.

Corrections and our policy on Page **A2**

