

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, November 25, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

## Apartments in a former school available for rent

By Taylor Boyd

The inauguration of the School Drive Apartments in the former John Redd Smith School, in Collinsville, was celebrated with a November 16 ribbon cutting that was attended by several county officials, community members, former students, and tenants.

Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District

and vice-chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said the school was one of five new public schools built in the county in the early 1950s to educate the then-burgeoning student population.

“At the time, the region was experiencing an unprecedented era of growth and prosperity. With the return of the

young men from World War II, and the booming furniture and textile industries, our birthrate and population began to dramatically increase,” he said.

While the school closed in 2018, Bryant, a former student, said it saw thousands of children walk through its hallways, along with hundreds of teachers, staff members, and administrators

guiding those students throughout its 66 years of operation.

“Today, the teachers and students of John Redd Smith may be gone, but the building remains. The building history in the community will resonate for many years to come,” Bryant said.

Like in 1950, he said the region is

(See Apartments p. 2)



A ribbon cutting was held on November 16 to celebrate the inauguration of the School Drive Apartments in the former John Redd Smith School building.

Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. addressed those gathered at the ribbon cutting.



Gloria Barbour is pictured with John Reynolds, president of the Patrick County Historical Society. Barbour was the featured speaker at the society's annual meeting.



Photographs of Gloria Barbour's family were displayed at the Patrick County Historical Society's recent annual meeting.

## Ringling in the Season



The 2023 Crown Holdings and Star News' Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade kicked the holiday season off Saturday, with a pre-show hosted by Tammy Cannaday Pearson and Devon Pendleton. The Magna Vista High School Show Choir performed "A Hand for Mrs. Claus," and dancers from Teresa's School of Baton and Dance danced to Mariah Carey's rendition of Oh Santa! The Grand Marshalls were The Warming Center and the Henry County Food Pantry, and this year's parade included 118 entries, an increase from 92 to 93 in 2022. (Photos by Pat Delaney)

(See Ringing in the Season p. 3)

## Retired Martinsville library employee shares life story

By Gabrielle Walker

Gloria Barbour, a longtime Martinsville library employee, was the featured speaker at the Patrick County Historical Society's recent annual meeting. Barbour captivated her audience during the event that was held in the Patrick County Museum, located in the same building as the public library.

A Virginia native, Barbour, and her family moved to West Virginia for her father to work in the coal mines. Barbour remembered visiting family in Patrick County each summer. Going to Patrick County was an adventure for her.

While there, Barbour thought it was exciting that African-American children went to a one-room schoolhouse. She usually stayed with her great-great-grandmother, Dicey Prillman Conner, who was born into slavery on the Prillman Plantation in Rocky Mount. Before Emancipation, Conner gave birth to her white master's child.

Barbour's family moved to Woolwine when she was 13 years old. Shortly after returning to Virginia, Conner moved in

with them.

Barbour explained that her grandmother never freely spoke about her life in slavery, but later in life, dementia brought those traumatic memories to the front of her mind. Barbour remembered that her grandmother used to sit on the front porch and when her mother would pull into the yard, her grandmother would run and hide, begging them not to tell her master. Conner passed when she was at least 102 years old, never having seen a doctor.

Around the time Barbour's family returned to Virginia, and Patrick Central School opened to provide a high school education for African Americans. The one-room schoolhouse for Black children only taught through the seventh grade, and African-American students had to go to a different county if they wanted to continue their education. Barbour graduated from Patrick Central and chose to send her children there until the school closed, rather than send them to Patrick County High School.

(See Retired p. 2)

## Fundraiser set for Friday, Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The Fieldale Recreation Center and Pools will have an Overstock Merchandise Sale on Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2.

The fundraiser will be at the Fieldale Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Center member Michael Jarrett said the event is to help raise funds to "help keep the lights on" at the center.

"Fieldale has two swimming pools that are active, but it requires a lot of maintenance because they're older pools, so they do fundraisers," he said, adding the funds will also be

used to pay ongoing expenses like electricity and taxes.

Jarrett said the organization recently finished another fundraiser, a yard sale.

"In fact, they've had several over the last several months," he said, adding that he anticipates thousands will be raised during the fundraiser this weekend.

Jarrett stressed the fundraiser is a cash-only event. Credit or debit cards will not be accepted.

"There'll be a lot of great items there. People can come and get Christmas gifts or whatever. It's small appliances, mirrors, pic-

tures, and a lot of clothing, towels," he said.

Available items will also include throws, Christmas bows, blankets, leggings, robes, baby blankets, socks, gowns, men's shirts, pajamas for men, women, and children, and other items.

Jarrett said the items would be in the price range of \$2, \$5, and \$10, with no expensive items.

"It's not like you go in and pay \$59.95 or \$105, or \$22, it's nothing like that," he said. "They're all small items, so it's very, very low in price with great bargains."

VISIT  
HTTP://WWW.  
HENRYCOUNTY  
ENTERPRISE.COM  
FOR MORE  
UPDATES



**SPECTRUM  
MEDICAL**

**2 Convenient Locations**

**Danville**  
109 Bridge Street  
4th Floor  
434-793-4711

**Martinsville**  
1075 Spruce Street  
276-790-3233

**NO REFERRAL NEEDED  
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE**

# Apartments

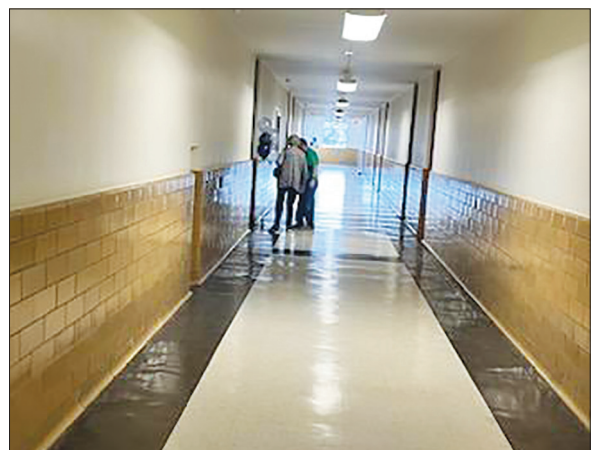
(cont. from page 1)



Several people turned out for a ribbon cutting at the School Drive Apartments, which includes 39 apartment units including seven two-bedroom apartments and 25 one-bedroom apartments.



Photos of some of the interior areas.



Photos of some of the interior areas.



Jim Cherney, developer of JRS Realty Partners, LLC, said 32 of the units are currently being rented.

experiencing an era of growth and prosperity.

Earlier this year, Press Glass, the largest independent glass fabricator in Europe, announced it would invest an additional \$155.2 million to expand its Ridgway facility located in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.

"There are very positive economic indicators, but they do leave us with one major hurdle: How do we accommodate all the growth that's going to be coming to this area," Bryant asked.

The building that was John Redd Smith School emerged as a piece of that puzzle, he said.

"In some ways, the purpose of this building is changing, but in other ways, it's staying the same. Our workers began to start their families, these halls and former classrooms will once again allow children to grow and thrive," he said.

Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Mark Heath said School Drive Apartments will help address the area's need for more housing, and help its growing employment base.

"School Drive adds a modern, vibrant, reformed option as we work to build a workforce for all ages providing the variety of skills needed in today's employee," he said.

Heath said that local historic architec-

ture being preserved is also significant, and is "a key factor that appeals to all ages. People are looking for communities that appreciate their past and incorporate its historic architecture properties like John Redd into the mix, creating a more unique sense of place," he said.

For example, the old schools' chalkboards were kept because of their historic value, according to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

Jim Cherney, co-developer of JRS Realty Partners, LLC, said the completion of this building and the Fieldale School apartments less than a year ago, the company hopes to support the community's vision for establishing and creating workforce housing.

"Not only as a place to store people, but a sense of community around these developments, which John (Garland, co-developer) and I are engaged in," he said. "John and I are firm, community-minded developers, and we feel as though we have a residency here in Henry County-Martinsville."

Garland said several people played a role in making this vision come to fruition, including the construction workers, contractors, tenants, and others involved in the project.

"So, I want to add my thanks to the visionaries of Henry County, because without Henry County deciding to do

what they did, which is to save an old building, we wouldn't be here and this building would be in a landfill somewhere, and what a shame that would be," he said.

When an old building like the school is saved, it's the most environmentally conscious thing that can be done, Garland said.

"It doesn't end up in the dump, building a new building, replacing all this stuff is very environmentally harsh, "as you have to reduce everything, and they're built so well," he said.

The company received a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) and began leasing the 39 apartments in the former school in October, Cherney said of the seven are two-bedroom apartments and 25 one-bedroom apartments.

"Basically, in two to three weeks we had the top two floors rented. We got our Certificate of Occupancy at the beginning of November, and I think we only had about six units left," he said, adding that 32 of the units are currently rented.

"The lease rate is \$895 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$1,095 for a two-bedroom. So, that brings in right in range with what the average median income is for the neighborhood," Cherney said.

This is the second project completed in the series of redevelopments called the Martinsville-Henry County Historical

Collective.

The first was the Fieldale School apartments, which held its ribbon cutting in February. Currently, all 23 apartments in that property are leased.

The other two projects in the Historic Collective are the Fayette Street Lofts, which will include 25 loft apartments, nine studio apartments, and two storefront retail locations.

The other is One Ellsworth which will have 50 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, and one one-bedroom apartments, in addition to first-floor and ground-floor retail spaces, a basement commercial space, and a mountain-view rooftop venue.

Cherney said the next ribbon cutting will be at the Fayette Street Lofts. It is expected to be later this year or early 2024.

Dr. Ben Boone, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administrative Services and former principal at John Redd Smith School, was among the speakers at the event, along with Kate Keller, president of the Harvest Foundation.

For rental information, call or text property manager Hunter Clark at (276) 732-3992, or email hclark@cherneydevelopment.com.

For more information on projects in the collective, visit [www.historiccollective.com](http://www.historiccollective.com).

# Retired

(cont. from page 1)



Photographs of Gloria Barbour's family were displayed at the Patrick County Historical Society's recent annual meeting.



Gloria Barbour's great-great-grandmother, Dickey Prillman Conner, was born into slavery. Before Emancipation, Conner gave birth to her white master's child. Conner passed when she was at least 102 years old, never having seen a doctor.

Storage  
center

Everything You Need In  
One Convenient Location!

- Climate Controlled
- Indoor Units
- Outdoor Drive Up Units
- Small & Large Sizes
- City Center Location
- Tractor Trailer Access
- Business & Commercial Sizes
- Boxes & Moving Supplies
- U-Haul Trucks
- 24/7 Access
- Keypad Security with Personal PIN Code

10 E. Market St., Martinsville, VA • 276-670-7867

She explained that at the time there were many people against school integration, and she wanted to protect her children.

Throughout her life, Barbour has faced discrimination, but she remembered West Virginia as having fewer restrictions. She said, "I never remember the white and black thing in West Virginia. The first time I took my husband back to West Virginia after we had been married for a few years I said, 'When we get to Powtan (Powatan) you can sit beside the white man and drink your beer.' He was afraid but did it anyway."

Working at JD Bassett Furniture Company, she remembered seeing signs for white and Black toilets. Eventually, Barbour attended and graduated from National Business College. At the time, Black people were not allowed in the public library, but her teacher, Mrs. Patterson, went with her to get a library card, which she still carries. After owning and operating a successful beauty shop for 12 years out of her home, Barbour eventually went to work for the Martinsville public library, where she recently retired.

At the end of her talk, Barbour pointed out several family pictures she brought with her to the meeting. As

she displayed each picture she said, "Through all of the past I see no colors. I have one of the most blended families around."

The largest picture was an artist's rendering of a photograph of Dickey Prillman Conner toward the end of her life. Barbour's life may have been scarred by the effects of slavery, but she never let discrimination stop her from enjoying life or pursuing her dreams.

The Patrick County Historical Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Books, maps, and a few other items related to Patrick County history are for sale at the museum. Curator Kayla Webb also offers additional hours by appointment only. Please call the museum at (276) 694-2840 to make an appointment.

Interested in volunteering or becoming a member? Please contact the museum by phone during operating hours or email them at [pcvahistory@gmail.com](mailto:pcvahistory@gmail.com). Board members of the Historical Society were featured on the local Be Real podcast on November 14. The episode will be posted on the YouTube channel @berealthe podcast, on Thursday, November 16.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Event information/calendar items must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the desired publication date. Email to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net).)

## Meetings

**Wednesday, November 29**

Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals, 1 p.m. in the county administration building on Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

**Thursday, December 7**

Henry County School Board School Board's monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m., 1st Floor, Summerlin Room  
County Administration Building, Collinsville. Closed session meeting to follow.

## Events

**Saturday, Nov. 25**

Shop Small on Small Business Saturday. Features an Uptown scavenger hunt. Several boxes will be hidden in Uptown Martinsville which contain FREE Uptown Bonus Bucks. Organizers are hiding a total of \$500 in Uptown Bonus Bucks, with Clues posted as to where to find the boxes throughout the day. Winners can use the bucks right away with our Uptown merchants.

**Thursday, November 30**

Piedmont Arts will kick off the holiday season at 4 p.m. with the annual lighting of the Art Garden Christmas tree in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. This free event will feature holiday music by the Martinsville High School Jazz Band and the First Baptist Church Choir, Gale Buck: Storytelling Santa, hot chocolate and crafts. Just like the sculptures in the Art Garden, the Christmas tree will be a work of art. Created by Ian Hogg using more than 3,000 lights, the tree will be lit at sunset and brighten the Art Garden through New Year's Day.

**Friday, December 1**

The MHC Historical Society's annual Christmas Music Program will be held from 7-8 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse at 1 E. Main St, as part of that evening's North Pole Jingle in uptown Martinsville. Featured performers will be Valeria Edwards, Joanne Linscott, John Fulcher, Beth Chapman, Virginia King, Davis Scott, Regula Daily and Lynn Pritchett. Peter Marshall will give remarks on the history of Christmas music.

Uptown North Pole Jingle, featuring Holidays at the Market, 5-8 p.m. Uptown Martinsville; City of Martinsville Tree Lighting with the Magna Vista High School Choir, 5:30 p.m.; and Uptown Holiday Open House, 5-8 p.m.

Love Lights at the Courthouse, 6 p.m. at the Patrick County Courthouse. Sponsored by the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. Purchase a light in honor or in memory of a loved one for \$5. Use the registration form in this paper.

**Friday, December 1 – Saturday, December 2**

Overstock Merchandise Sale, a fundraiser for the Fieldale Recreation Center and Pools, 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. at the center, 70 Marshall Way, Fieldale. Cash ONLY. New merchandise. Lots of bargains and great Christmas gifts.

**Saturday, December 2**

Busy Bee's Craft Meet, 3 p.m., Piedmont Arts. An informal circle to socialize, learn and share with fellow crafters. Bring your lap-sized handcraft, such as cross-stitch, knitting, crochet, paper crafts, hand sewing, needle felting, etc. Led by Jennifer Reis and Lara Blair. Free to members, \$5 for nonmembers who will pay at the door.

**Sunday, December 3**

Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular, 3 p.m. in the Martinsville High School Auditorium. The most highly anticipated holiday event of the season returns with an all-new matinee performance. This year, David Stewart Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops. Altrusa will collect non-perishable food items for Grace Network in the lobby during the symphony's performance. Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission, and \$5 for students. Tickets are available for purchase at the museum or at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

**Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19, and 26**

Senior Studio, 1 p.m., Piedmont Arts. Seniors are invited to craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating artwork. Bring your own supplies. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

**Thursday, December 7**

Bob Ross Painting Class, 9:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts. Learn Bob Ross's famous painting technique with certified instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse. Students should bring a roll of paper towels, and all other supplies provided. Advanced registration required. December's painting will be Covered Bridge. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$85 for nonmembers. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the museum.

**Friday, December 8**

Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre. The Country Boys will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 pm with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 CASH donation. Concessions, including our ever-popular Spencer Penn hotdogs, will be sold.

**Saturday, December 9**

Dinner, crafts, hot cocoa, and a movie, plus photos with Santa, Spencer Penn Centre. Pre-registration is required. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Yoga in the Galleries, 10:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts, instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. This class is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. The instructor should be paid directly, cash only please.

## ONGOING

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

TOPS FIELDALE VA 0626 meets each Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Rangeley Ruritan Building on 134 Calloway Drive, Fieldale, VA. New members welcome. For more information, call Patti at (276) 358-0489.

The 28th annual Coat Drive for Kids is underway. To donate a new or gently used coat, call Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, organizer of the event, at (276) 358-1463. Drop coats off at Hollywood Cinema or One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road. The deadline for donations is Nov. 30.

Registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading for youngsters aged 5 years through 5th grade, until Nov. 30. Practices begin Jan. 6, with a first game on Jan. 27 and the last game set for March 16. Cost is \$65. All practices and games are held at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. For more information, call (276) 629-2964 or [pastordreed81@gmail.com](mailto:pastordreed81@gmail.com).

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts Rook Music & More on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon. Play Rook, work puzzles, make a craft and listen to a mixture of bluegrass, country & gospel music by different bands each week. If you want, you can bring a snack to share. This event is free to the public. Any donations received will go to the Bassett Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit [brrl.lib.va.us](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed. Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age in-person: Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Community Storehouse, 128 E. Church St (lower level of the old Leggett Building) in Martinsville, or by phone, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate is available to help. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to learn more or for an appointment.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Call (276) 647-9585.

## Ring in the Season

(cont. from page 1)



## Dawson Earns Master of Photography



Rick Dawson Cr. Photog., CPP, AFP of Dawson Photography Inc. in Martinsville and Henry County has earned the Master of Photography degree from Professional Photographers of America (PPA). The degree will be presented to Dawson by PPA president Kira Derryberry, M.Photog. Cr., CPP at the association's annual convention, Imaging USA, to be held in Louisville, KY, in January 2024.

The Master of Photography degree is an achievement of the highest caliber. It means that Dawson has met the standards of excellence set by PPA. He has been awarded this degree in recognition of his superior photographic competence demonstrated through image excellence, advanced education, and service to the profession.

Dawson's degrees—and all the expertise they require—illustrate his accomplishments and talent as one of a select few.

# OPINION

## Thanksgiving Through the Years

Every November, families and friends gather across the country to give thanks for the many blessings they have received during the year.

A holiday that many look forward to every year didn't always have such a predictable nature. It took almost a century and a half for Thanksgiving to be what it is today. Some of our country's most influential presidents even played a hand in establishing Thanksgiving as the holiday we know today.

As some may know, the first thanksgiving was celebrated in Virginia in 1619, when a group of 35 settlers and their leader, Captain John Woodlief, set sail from England for the New World, bound for land in Virginia along the James River. This settlement would be known as Berkeley Hundred. This was two years before the pilgrims held their Thanksgiving in Massachusetts.

Sailing into the Chesapeake Bay on November 28, the group lingered in that area for a few days, weathering a fierce storm, before arriving at Berkeley Hundred on December 4.

Once on shore, Captain Woodlief prayed, offering words that had actually been provided by the Berkeley Company which funded the settlement: "We ordaine that this day of our ships arrival, at the place assigned for plantacon, in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God." Unfortunately, the Berkeley Hundred settlement would last only a few years due to attacks by Native Americans.

Later, in 1777, following the Battles at Saratoga, which were pivotal to America receiving the foreign assistance it needed to win the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress declared the first national American Thanksgiving.

Then, in 1789, President George Washington proclaimed Thursday, November 26, as a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" dedicated to "the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, and that will be."

Though Washington had declared a national thanksgiving in 1789, the holiday had not yet caught on throughout the country and was mainly celebrated in New England.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated a national "day of Thanksgiving and praise," thanks in large part due to the actions by American writer and activist Sarah Joseph Hale. Mrs. Hale is perhaps best known as the author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

In addition to many Members of Congress and Governors, Mrs. Hale wrote



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

to five presidents before Lincoln, failing to persuade them to support a national holiday. Finally, after 17 years of advocacy, President Lincoln was persuaded to designate the final Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hale is also believed to be responsible for popularizing the Thanksgiving menu. One of the chapters in her novel *Northwood: Or, a Tale of New England*, is dedicated to describing the dishes of Thanksgiving, including turkey, gravy, stuffing, pumpkin pie, among others.

With the help of Lincoln's declaration, Thanksgiving became a nationally celebrated holiday. It became federally recognized by Congress in 1870.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared November 23 as Thanksgiving, the next to last Thursday that year. It is said that President Roosevelt viewed Thanksgiving as too late that year and wanted to move it forward to give Americans an extra week of Christmas shopping.

Many Americans were upset by the president departing from tradition and refused to celebrate Thanksgiving on the 23rd. Critics called it "Franksgiving" (Franklin's Thanksgiving).

Two years later, acknowledging he made a mistake and attempting to correct it, President Roosevelt signed a law designating the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. And since 1941, Thanksgiving has since been celebrated as such.

Though it took many years for Thanksgiving to become what it is today, the spirit of the holiday has held true since the founding of our nation. We must not forget to stop to thank the Lord for our many blessings and to thank loved ones for their support and guidance in our lives.

As always, I pray that everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov). Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

## George Santos revealed to be ancient Sumerian warlock

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chaos erupted in the halls of Congress this week when Republican Representative George Santos was accidentally revealed to be an ancient Sumerian warlock.

According to witnesses, the situation unfolded when a Congressional intern began choking on a peanut. While attempting to call for help, the intern made a strangled barking noise that sounded like the phrase "Gebre Kahomet." Upon hearing these words, Santos screamed "Who told you?" and then transformed into a hideous wizard in a flowing blood-red robe.

Dr. Jeff Friedman, a professor at Harvard University and expert in Mesopotamian history, explains:

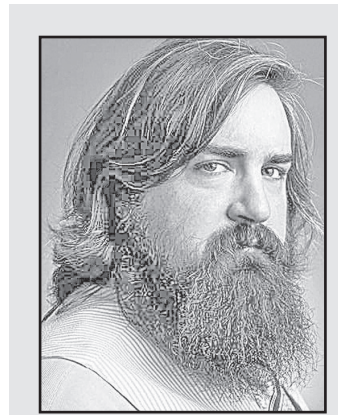
"There are historical records of a Sumerian warlock named Gebre Kahomet," Friedman said, "although his existence was always assumed to be a myth. With the benefit of hindsight, it all makes sense. Kahomet was described as a shape-shifting trickster and a 'king of lies' utterly incapable of telling the truth."

Hated and despised in his native land, Friedman said, this warlock would assume the form of a human, his true nature only revealed when his name was spoken.

"According to the legends, Kahomet's human disguise always felt off," Friedman said. "This is a rough translation, of course, but the disguise was often referred to as 'the uncanny lad,' or 'the wax elf,' or 'the shiny boy.' His very appearance filled people with a sense of confusion and dread."

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, one of Santos' fellow Republican Congressmen said he "was not surprised" to learn that his colleague was an ageless warlock.

"This is a guy who used donor money to buy designer clothing, who lied to Congress, who lied about where he went to high school and college, who has a large amount of money and no one knows where it came from, who swindled a disabled veteran out of his pet dog, who lied about his mother being in the South Tower on 9/11,



By Ben R. Williams

who lied about his grandmother being a Holocaust survivor, who lied about being a producer of Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark, and who may or may not be a Brazilian drag queen," the anonymous source said. "Frankly, it makes sense that he's actually a deranged immortal magician. The crazy thing would be if he were a real human being."

Santos' transformation into an agent of dark chaos has sparked a media frenzy. Within hours, Fox News ran an article titled "Santos' age in question," while the New York Times published an article titled "Why George Santos actually being an ancient Sumerian demigod is bad news for Biden."

For his part, Santos/Kahomet has declined interviews but did issue a statement which appeared in the nightmares of all humans on the evening of Nov. 20.

"At my nativity, the great frame of the Heavens shook with terror!" he said telepathically. "At my expiry, the rivers will flow with blood and the seas will birth horrors beyond mortal comprehension! Time is an illusion and death is a mirror; I will teach this blighted nation the true name of fear!"

"He's still got my vote," said Edna Brock, a member of New York's 3rd Congressional District and previous Santos supporter. "He may be some kind of evil monsterman, but what else am I going to do? Vote Democrat?"

## Koonny Frog's lessons of grace, good cheer and kindness

The letters on the license plate on Koonny Frog's Chevrolet (always a Chevrolet — never a Ford) sounded out to read "Breaking My Heart," a nod to his love for country music.

Now the lovable Vernon "Koonny Frog" Gilbert indeed has broken everyone's heart, with his passing Sunday at the age of 74.

In his later years he would tell you about his various health problems regularly, but then usually end that list with, "But I ain't never had no headache. You know why?"

"No, why?"

"I ain't never been married."

Koonny Frog was known as well for his wit as for his deep kindness and optimism.

If he was down, he wouldn't be down long. He'd be itching to get back to making his rounds, which always included a stop at Leatherwood Grocery, where he'd sit around and talk about our little part of the world with shopkeeper Larry McNeely and customers such as Jesse Jones, Gerald Hodnett and Carroll Garrett.

I met Vernon in 2016 when I wrote



**Holly Kozelsky**

an article about him for another newspaper. There were a few times in my journalism career that I've gone into places that made me afraid, and to be honest, this was one of them. I was to wait on the side of the road for two men I'd never met before, Vernon and Vance Johnson, his friend and advocate, who would drive me off the road to Vernon's dilapidated shack hidden deep in the country.

It wasn't long, though, before I realized that these were two of the finest men I'd ever have the privilege to know.

Vernon lived his whole life in a shack with no electricity nor running water, and Vance was part of a group, which included his wife Gayle Johnson, brothers Rick and Mike Carter, and Lucille

(See Kozelsky p. 5)

## Super Crossword SHADES OF HISTORY

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Holds inside</p> <p>9 Scrams</p> <p>16 Many millennia</p> <p>20 Chart of the Pacific, e.g.</p> <p>21 Eiyore's creator</p> <p>22 "Blue Jasmine" Oscar winner</p> <p>23 Start of a riddle</p> <p>25 Cawing bird</p> <p>26 Collate, e.g.</p> <p>27 Couch potatoes stare at them</p> <p>28 Maple stuff</p> <p>29 Thin coins</p> <p>30 Prayerful plea starter</p> <p>34 Designer Saارين</p> <p>37 Sparks' state</p> <p>39 Riddle, part 2</p> <p>45 Subject for Dr. Ruth</p> <p>46 "Zip — Doo-Dah"</p> <p>47 "... Mac — PC?"</p> <p>48 Hostess snack cake</p> <p>49 Onetime senator Trent</p> <p>51 Hiccup or charley horse</p> | <p>54 Convents and abbeys</p> <p>56 Colored rings of irises</p> <p>58 About 4.2 millimeters, in typography</p> <p>61 Footed vase</p> <p>62 Agnus — (Mass prayer)</p> <p>63 Riddle, part 3</p> <p>66 "This is SO frustrating!"</p> <p>69 Beelzebub</p> <p>70 Tools used in fixing flats</p> <p>72 Huge fad</p> <p>76 To date</p> <p>78 Riddle, part 4</p> <p>80 Ship's swerve</p> <p>83 Brow's curve</p> <p>85 Bygone</p> <p>86 Most speedy</p> <p>87 She won eight Oscars</p> <p>89 "For Best Costume Design"</p> <p>91 "Oops, I messed up"</p> <p>93 Comic-strip light bulb</p> <p>94 Sliding-open car option</p> <p>95 Like below-zero nos.</p> <p>98 "... — it just me?"</p> | <p>100 Highway goo</p> <p>101 End of the riddle</p> <p>106 "Perhaps ... ask me about it later"</p> <p>107 Band with the hit "Whip It"</p> <p>108 — date (plan for marriage)</p> <p>109 Exuding testosterone</p> <p>111 Catch sight of</p> <p>113 Hobbit hunter</p> <p>115 Tide type</p> <p>119 Exhort</p> <p>120 Riddle's answer</p> <p>126 Aspersions</p> <p>127 Carry in the uterus</p> <p>128 They could use a welcome</p> <p>129 Quick flights</p> <p>130 Most bohemian</p> <p>131 Tilted</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Milked beasts</p> <p>2 Dos cubed</p> <p>3 Close by</p> <p>4 Body image?</p> <p>5 Moreover</p> <p>6 Texting shorthand for "I think"</p> <p>7 Anti's call</p> <p>8 Catch sight of</p> <p>9 "Goldfinger" singer Shirley</p> <p>10 French thirst quencher</p> <p>11 Electric guitar connection</p> <p>12 Pointers</p> <p>13 Actor Everett</p> <p>14 Customs worker</p> <p>15 Golf bag item</p> <p>16 Fender bender, e.g.</p> <p>17 Tagged for a particular use</p> <p>18 Plains tribe</p> <p>19 Bullet in fodder</p> <p>24 Iris' layer</p> <p>29 Miles of jazz</p> <p>31 Student transcript no.</p> <p>32 Long-used adage</p> <p>33 Least shallow</p> <p>35 P-shaped Greek letter</p> <p>36 Sculler's tool</p> <p>38 Promising solemnly</p> <p>39 Illinois city</p> <p>40 Size</p> <p>41 "— culpa"</p> <p>42 Oreck product, for short</p> <p>43 St. Pat's land</p> <p>44 Lucy's Arnaz</p> <p>45 BBQ sides</p> <p>50 In present times</p> <p>52 Church topper</p> <p>53 Bishops' toppers</p> <p>55 Greg Evans' long-running comic strip</p> <p>57 Isolated</p> <p>59 Poker IOUs</p> <p>60 Filers' military branch</p> <p>64 Neopagan practice</p> <p>65 Full of racket</p> <p>67 Autos such as Ramblers and Pacers</p> <p>68 Half of Hispaniola</p> <p>71 Tanzanian tourist treks</p> <p>73 Must</p> <p>74 Pant-length measure</p> <p>75 Perfume from petals</p> <p>77 Chevy SUVs</p> <p>79 Chuck Berry title woman</p> <p>80 Rural assent to a woman</p> <p>81 Together, in music scores</p> <p>82 Bringing to a conclusion</p> <p>84 Bracing drink</p> <p>88 Singers executing quavers</p> <p>89 With vehemence</p> <p>90 Genetic ID</p> <p>92 — choy</p> <p>96 Conclusion</p> <p>97 "Goodness!"</p> <p>99 Mil. officer</p> <p>102 Share, as a blog entry</p> <p>103 Web-footed wading bird</p> <p>104 "Me neither"</p> <p>105 Pioneer Boone</p> <p>109 Maudlin sentimentality</p> <p>110 Guthrie of folk singing</p> <p>112 Legendary snow beast</p> <p>114 Hacienda house</p> <p>116 "Orinoco Flow" singer</p> <p>117 Yemeni port</p> <p>118 "Hey, over here ..."</p> <p>120 Org. for club swingers</p> <p>121 No, in Paisley</p> <p>122 Part of TGIF</p> <p>123 "Just joking!"</p> <p>124 Lingerie item</p> <p>125 The, in Arles</p> |
|---|---|--|

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

# SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

**WE OFFER FLEXIBLE ADVERTISING PACKAGES, IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.**

*SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!*

**CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101 OR (276) 340-2445**

## Kozelsky

(cont. from page 4)

Shelton and many more, who were getting him a proper house built.

Vernon was a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. My teenage daughter and I have been sitting next to him on the pew ever since we started going there when she was a girl. In fact, we started going there because we respected how the church looked after Vernon, and other ways it took care of its community.

During the week, you'd usually see him in a blue button-up work shirt with "Koonny Frog" stitched on the pocket. On Sundays, he'd be dressed to the nines in a suit. He handed out the church bulletins.

For the first few years, my daughter didn't understand his banter. When he would see us, a big grin would spread over his face and his eyes would twinkle as he would ask jovially, "How's that lil' ole' mean girl?" She would look alarmed and as soon as we were in private, she would ask me in a panicked voice why he thought she was mean, and I would explain that was his humorous term of endearment.

"You be a good little girl now!" he would tell her whenever we parted ways. (One day in my driveway when a cat jumped down from his pickup and walked away, he called out to her, "You be a good little kitty now!")

As she got older, she grew to understand his way of talking, and to look for him during important moments. He



Vernon "Koonny Frog" Gilbert

came with me to see her in the plays she was in, and she made him his birthday cakes.

Vernon worked hard all his life, as a grave-digger, and pulling tobacco, and in a saw mill. He continued working in recent years, weed eating for friends and for pay.

But also in his later years, he started doing things he'd never done before: going to the library, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, an outdoor concert at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, and live theater.

After church one Sunday, he came with my daughter and me on errands in Danville, including his first (and last) time at a Starbucks. As we drove



Vernon Gilbert helping me with siding. "You're supposed to help people in need," he said.

down Mountain Valley Road from the church to Route 58, he told us who lived in every single house for the full 8 miles, except for one. For years after, I teased him about not knowing about that one house, and he'd always reply, "Well I didn't know who it was then because they had just moved in, but I know now."

Koonny Frog loved to sing karaoke, and even when he lived in that shack without electricity, he had a karaoke machine that ran off batteries. When he moved into his fine modern house, he got a fancy new one. It was kept in a place of pride in a room filled with his more than 300 country music cassette tapes and dozens of CDs.

He also kept an astonishing amount

of records, with notebooks full of topics such as his tobacco work, country music and the weather. He was a walking encyclopedia on the subjects which interested him.

We went out to dinner at Hugo's with a group that included Charles Roark and for some reason, maybe change for the dinner bill, Charles gave Vernon \$65 and Vernon would not accept it and Charles told him to put it in the collection plate on Sunday and that Sunday morning Vernon proudly stuffed it in an envelop, wrote "Koonny Frog" on it and beamed with pleasure as he laid that on the plate.

Early on when we knew each other, I needed help with a house repair, putting up heavy new clapboard where I had removed old, rotted wood. Even though his hands were so stiff he couldn't hold a hammer well, he helped me. Afterward, I held out some pay. "You're supposed to help people in need," he said with gruff emotion, refusing the money.

Vernon has had what anyone would call a very difficult life, but it never seemed to get him down. He played the hand he was dealt with grace, good cheer and kindness. As the community rallied around him in his final years, his life was much easier.

Every now and then, but not too often, God puts a special person like Vernon along your path. Rest in peace, Koonny Frog. You will be missed, and you were and you remain well loved.

## IALR, VT, others create roadmap to guide growth



Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr - CEA Summit East at IALR.

Several partner organizations recently completed the development of a strategic roadmap regarding the economic growth potential for the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, specifically in the 15 localities within GO Virginia Region 3. Analyzing the current state of the industry, this roadmap outlines ways that the partners can support future economic growth among large and small companies in the CEA sector through a variety of initiatives tied to collaboration, research, economic development, workforce training and more.

The development of this roadmap, which was completed by the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement (CECE) in partnership with IALR, was funded through a \$77,000 grant from GO Virginia Region 3.

"While controlled environment agriculture is not a new industry, it is growing quickly and has major economic implications for our region. Intentional partnerships and public-private collaboration are what will allow this important sector to thrive and expand right here in Southern Virginia and across the Commonwealth. Building on the current strength of the region, this roadmap outlines several crucial steps we can take to advance the CEA industry." — Dr. Scott Lowman, Vice President of Applied Research, IALR.

CEA involves a combination of engineering, plant and animal science, and computer-managed control technologies used to optimize plant and animal growing systems, quality and production efficiency. Growing systems range from a basic greenhouse to a fully automated system with controlled lighting, water and ventilation installed. By controlling various elements of the growing environment, CEA can decrease pesticide and water use and allow for year-round production close to consumers. The concept of CEA is not new,

but more recent technological advancements like biotechnology, robotic imaging and machine learning have changed the economics of CEA as an industry.

The primary recommendation of the roadmap is the development and implementation of a comprehensive CEA hub initiative, in conjunction with or led by IALR and the Virginia Tech-IALR CEA Innovation Center. This hub would lead and advance five additional strategies in GO Virginia Region 3 and across the state:

- Conduct CEA awareness and informational campaign
- Enhance CEA-specific new venture and new enterprise development assistance
- Continue and expand CEA technical assistance offerings to firms and to policymakers and economic developers
- Accelerate GO Virginia Region 3 site development with CEA targets in mind

Continue and enhance GO Virginia Region 3 CEA-relevant workforce development and talent attraction activities

"We were excited to find that continued growth is expected in the CEA industry. GO Virginia Region 3 is well-positioned to remain competitive as a location for this growth. In addition, the CEA Hub Initiative would help the region, and the state, to better maximize this opportunity and grow CEA sector jobs of all types, from smaller start-ups to large-scale indoor farming," said Dr. Scott Tate, Associate Director for Community Innovations, Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement.

Due to the technology used in CEA, the skillsets required tend to be more varied than traditional farming and typically appeal to a younger workforce. Although much of CEA is automated, skilled workers are still invaluable for guiding and overseeing the equipment, plant and animal health, and other



CEA hydroponics NFT system.

hands-on work. Some common occupational areas within CEA companies include crop production, animal production and aquaculture, machinery manufacturing and computer and electronic product manufacturing.

Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr recently shared remarks during the presentation of this roadmap at IALR.

"When an organization lacks vision, it is much harder to reach the destination. This roadmap outlines how Southern Virginia can become a hub for the CEA industry and the steps needed to get there. The synergies outlined in this plan, including workforce training, research, increased awareness and site development will make Southern Virginia a CEA leader," Matthew Lohr, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, said.

The partners involved in the study identified a total of 18 CEA companies operating or preparing to open in Virginia, seven of which are larger operators that have 50 or more employees. In all as of 2022, the team estimates there are approximately 35,000 existing CEA-related jobs in the state, 1,750 of which are in GO Virginia Region 3. Virginia has seen an increase in CEA companies locating in the state, with announcements of major projects like Plenty in Chesterfield County in 2022, expected to bring 300 new jobs and \$300 million in investment to the area. Blue Ridge Aquaculture, a Martinsville-based company that is the largest indoor system producer of tilapia in the world, and AeroFarms, a leading vertical agriculture company that established one of the world's largest aeroponic smart farms in Danville-Pittsylvania County's Cane Creek Centre, are the largest existing CEA companies in GO Virginia Region 3.

"One of the primary goals of economic development is increasing household

income, which typically leads a region's residents to experience increased educational attainment, improved health outcomes, housing values, and household discretionary income. While large CEA companies can provide quality and high-wage employment opportunities in GO Virginia Region 3, another critical focus of this strategy is to promote and facilitate CEA-related entrepreneurship and small business opportunities, combining macro and micro approaches to grow this emerging business sector in Southern Virginia," said Bryan David, GO Virginia Region 3 Program Director.

The study identifies the Virginia Tech-IALR CEA Innovation Center, located on IALR's campus, as a "unique and crucial asset and resource for innovators, policymakers and industry in the CEA sector." This facility, which is operated through a partnership with IALR, the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech and the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center, leverages the biotechnology and chemistry research at IALR and serves as a demonstration site and agricultural technology training center that brings together industry, academia and producers.

The CEA Innovation Center also serves as a co-host of the annual CEA Summit East.

"The outstanding work conducted by the whole team in developing the CEA Roadmap will help all of us to effectively work together in our common goal of making Virginia an international hub for controlled environment agriculture and utilizing the growing field of controlled environment agriculture as an economic development engine for Virginia. We are looking forward to exciting collaborations going forward," Dr. Michael Evans, Director of the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, co-director of the CEA Innovation Center.

## General Fund Revenues Remain in Line with Forecasts

General fund revenues for October 2023 remain in line with updated revisions to the official revenue forecast, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced last week.

Year-to-date through October 31, general fund revenues are up 12.1 percent over the prior year. The year-over-year increase is driven largely by elevated non-withholding collections and lower-than-expected individual income tax refunds related to the elective Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET), while other major revenue sources were generally in line with expectations.

"Our prudent forecast for this fiscal year appropriately reflected the economic risks

on the horizon," said Youngkin. "While we are slightly ahead of plan, year-to-date performance reinforces that we must remain measured as decisions at the federal level continue to drive inflation. We must continue our efforts to address the cost of living for all Virginians and drive job growth across the Commonwealth."

"While PTET-related collections and refunds continue to distort overall revenue collections, underlying revenue growth in our major revenue sources such as payroll withholding and sales tax is roughly on plan," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "We are confident in our con-

servative revenue forecast that reflects moderating revenue growth over the balance of the fiscal year, and we are carefully watching a number of economic headwinds, including the possibility of a federal government shutdown, persistently high interest rates, and spillover effects from the military operations in Gaza and the economic slowdown in China. Given these downside risks, we will maintain a cautious outlook going forward."

Among the major revenue sources, payroll withholding taxes were 2.6 percent higher for the month on an unadjusted basis and up 1.0 percent year-to-date through October. Sales tax collections are 0.3 percent higher

year-to-date, and corporate income tax revenues are up 24.4 percent year-to-date.

Adjusting for policy and excluding PTET-related refunds to better reflect underlying economic growth, total general fund revenues decreased 5.3 percent year-over-year in October and are up 1.8 percent year-to-date. For the full fiscal year, the official revenue forecast anticipates a year-over-year decline in general fund revenues of 5.5 percent, including the impact of various tax policy actions adopted in 2022 and 2023, and reflecting the potential for an economic slowdown in the latter part of the current fiscal year.

# CLASSIFIED

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON**

Call (276) 694-3101

**SERVICES**

**Woodwrx, Inc.**  
Est. since 1988  
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net.

If you've read this far, you can see how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work. Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week. Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.

**FOR SALE**

**Thomas Land Solutions LLC**  
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

TWO (2) BURIAL PLOTS IN PATRICK MEMORIAL GARDEN. LOCATION: LEFT CENTER MAIN SECTION. INCLUDES TWO \$1300 VAULTS, CURRENT MEMORIAL GARDENS SALE PRICE, \$4400 - MY PRICE NEGOTIABLE. MSG / CALL - 276-693-0229

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)



## ADVERTISE!

# Initial claims for unemployment insurance trend down

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims edged lower in the latest filing week to 1,711 and remained at typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to data from the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA).

For the filing week ending November 11, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia was 1,711, which was a decrease of 19 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,283, which was little changed from the previous week but an increase of 72%

from the 7,158 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (53 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,834), administrative and support and waste manage-

ment (1,744), manufacturing (1,364), and health care and social assistance (1,121). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending November 11, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 231,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 217,000 to 218,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 215,874 in the week ending November 11, an increase of 1,713 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 200,237 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Oregon's preliminary weekly change (-1,364) was the largest decrease. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-1,221) was the second largest decrease. Pennsylvania's preliminary weekly change (-737) was the third largest decrease. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (-603) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 17th largest decrease (-224).

Your Community, Your Voice  
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

## HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

[henrycountyenterprise.com](http://henrycountyenterprise.com)

**Weekly Publication**  
Published Each Saturday

**Michael Showell, Publisher**  
**Debbie Hall, Editor**  
[dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)  
(276) 694-3101

**Wendi Craig, Advertising Manager**  
[advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)  
(276) 340-2445

**Give us your view:**  
The Henry County 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 Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101

## LEGAL

**Notice of Public Meeting**

A public input meeting will be held on November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112 for those parties in interest to the following:

The consideration of the abandon of an approximately 40-foot wide unopened street space between Forest Street and Virginia Street known as Harvard Street.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, but would like to provide input, please contact Karen Roberts, (276) 403-5182, [kroberts@ci.martinsville.va.us](mailto:kroberts@ci.martinsville.va.us)

## LEGAL

**COUNTY OF HENRY**

**REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on **December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing. **Case R-23-19 Betty Lampkins and Paul Dillard**  
The property is located on the west side of Wedgedale Dr, approximately 500' feet north its intersection with A.L. Philpott Hwy., in the Collinsville District. The property is shown on Tax Map number 43.4/8A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.9-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant wishes to place a double wide manufactured home on the property.

The application for this requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

## LEGAL

**Public Notice - Environmental Permit**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow impacts to wetlands and stream channel in Henry County, Virginia  
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 11/25/23 to 12/27/23  
PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Henry County Industrial Development Authority; PO Box 631, Martinsville, VA 24114; VWPP Permit Application No. 23-0846  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant has applied for a new permit for the Commonwealth Crossing Business Center project. The project is located off of Commonwealth Crossing Parkway, just northeast of the intersection of U.S. Route 220 and Route 692 (Tax Map: 71.7(010)000/032R) in Henry County, Virginia. The proposed activity is the generally consists of the grading of a large pad site and installation of appurtenant utility connections within the existing Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. The proposed activity would affect: 0.47 acre of forested wetlands, and 5,379 linear feet of stream channel. The proposed activity would affect unnamed tributaries to Patterson Branch in the Upper Dan River watershed. To compensate for the surface waters affected, the applicant would purchase 0.94 wetland mitigation credit(s) and 6,962 USM stream mitigation credits. DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts written comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.  
CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Shawn Crist; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153; Phone: 434-316-4031 Email: [shawn.crist@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:shawn.crist@deq.virginia.gov). The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

**LOVE LIGHTS AT THE COURTHOUSE**

**LOVE LIGHTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF LOVED ONES**

A project of the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC

**DECEMBER 1, 2023  
6:00PM  
PATRICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group is excited to announce they are bringing back the Love Lights Program. Purchase a Love Light in honor or in memory of a loved one. An angel ornament with the individual's name will be placed on the Christmas tree at the courthouse. Each \$5 purchase will include the individual's name on an ornament and a card sent to the family. Money raised through the program will be used for Alzheimer's patients in Patrick County and the surrounding areas.

**Love Lights Registration Form**

1) Name placed on Love Light: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please circle one):                      In Honor of                      In Memory of  
Name of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Love Light Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Love Light Family: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name placed on Love Light: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please circle one):                      In Honor of                      In Memory of  
Name of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Love Light Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Love Light Family: \_\_\_\_\_

**Love Lights \$5 Per Light**  
**Checks payable and mail to:**  
**Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC**  
**PO Box 1301**  
**Stuart, VA 24171**

See more at [www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)

## Advertise With Us!

- What we offer:**
- Flexible pricing
  - Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
  - Deeply discounted rates
  - Seasonal Specials

- What we have:**
- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
  - A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

**Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.**

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

# Outdoor Learning Space at Snow Creek Elementary

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has installed an outdoor learning space at Snow Creek Elementary in Franklin County that will allow students and teachers to take learning out of the classroom. The learning space was generously sponsored by the Eco Ambassador Council, a coalition of regional businesses that combine their investment to support environmental protection and preservation opportunities in the Dan River Basin region.

The Snow Creek Outdoor Classroom is an outdoor learning space designed for fourth and fifth grade students and was installed in early fall, nestled near the forest edge, and includes a shelter, picnic tables and native bushes planted by the students. The space will allow students to practice and apply many of the concepts they are learning in the classroom.

"We are thrilled to support the environmental education efforts that are taking place at Snow Creek Elementary," says Tyler Carter, Member of the Eco Ambassador Council. "Teaching our children about the importance of the environment and conservation is essential and we look forward to the many opportunities this new outdoor learning space will provide."

The Snow Creek Outdoor Classroom



**From left to right - Jim Frith, Carrie McCrary, Tyler Carter, Ken Grindstaff, Krista Hodges, Regina Flora, MaryJean Levin, Luann Fitzpatrick, and Dawn Erdman cut the ribbon for the new outdoor classroom at Snow Creek Elementary. (Courtesy Dan River Basin Association)**

is one component of a greater, multi-year DRBA project at Snow Creek Elementary generously funded through the Roanoke Women's Foundation called "Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards." The project began in 2022 and will conclude in 2024.

"An alarming reality of today's children is that a large percentage of their time is spent indoors and on a screen. It is becoming increasingly

more important to give these children opportunities to learn outside and to be stewards of their environment. This is backed by research that shows multiple benefits of a child being outdoors," says Mr. Ken Grindstaff, Principal of Snow Creek Elementary. "Snow Creek Elementary School is grateful to DRBA and the Eco Ambassador Council for the donation of this outdoor classroom which will become the anchor for outdoor learning opportunities."

Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards project will provide an immersive environmental education experience to all grade levels at Snow Creek Elementary. The project integrates environmental education programs into curriculum that is already taking place in the classroom. Programs include classroom presentations on watersheds and natural resource protection, macroinvertebrates, Trout in the Classroom and Streamside Trees in the Classroom.

"DRBA is thankful for this opportunity to educate the hundreds of current students at Snow Creek Elementary and this project will continue to serve students far into the future with meaningful experiences," says Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager of the Dan River Basin Association. "This project would not be possible without the support of the Eco Ambassador Council and the Roanoke Women's Foundation."

In 2024, DRBA also plans to install a nationally certified Monarch Waystation and weather monitoring station near the outdoor learning space.

To learn more about DRBA's environmental education programs, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

## Mentoring Program Focused on New Principals Leading At-Risk Schools

The Virginia Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP) and the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP), announced the Virginia Principal Mentoring Project, a pilot program focused on mentoring principals with a year or less experience and who are leading federally identified at-risk schools.

"Principals are the leaders in their school buildings. They set the tone and are the ones looked to establish a vision for high standards and success," Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons said. "For many new principals, it can be tough, on-the-job training. With this mentoring pilot project, we are focusing on supporting our new principals leading in some of our most challenged schools and equipping them with support that can help them and their schools be successful."

With the focus on principals leading federally identified at-risk schools with a year or less experience in the position, the project will pair current principals with successful recently retired principals best able to share their experience in the position and perspective on overcoming the challenges faced in the current educational environment.

"Studies consistently emphasize the pivotal role of principals in shaping student and school outcomes. School leaders' impact is second only to classroom instruction. They significantly influence

student achievement, attendance, teacher retention, community involvement, and various other aspects," said Krista Arnold, executive director of VAESP. "With the growing national shortage of educators, many principals are assuming leadership positions with limited years of experience. This strategic investment in Virginia's educational future aims to abolish the outdated notion of "sink or swim" for principals and instead offers essential aid and support, providing a partner in what too often can often be an isolating role."

"Mentoring new principals is crucial to improving teacher performance and the learning outcomes of students," said Randy Barrack, chief education officer of VASSP. "This collaborative venture of the VASSP, VAESP, and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership all working with the Virginia Department of Education is a significant step in helping principals be strong instructional leaders for teacher and student success."

Recognizing the crucial need to support new principals in challenged schools, in addition to pairing new principals with mentors, a comprehensive professional development program will be implemented to enhance their leadership capabilities in key areas. Designed to initially work with 24 principals at federally identified at-risk schools, the pilot program is expected to fully commence before the 2024-2025 school year.

## Sheriff asks state to investigate inmate death

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis has asked the Virginia State Police conduct an inquiry into the recent death of an inmate housed in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

Davis said that on November 17, around 2:42 a.m., staff at the center discovered a man suffering from an apparent medical emergency. Additional deputies responded to the inmate's cell and began life-saving measures.

The Henry County Department of Public Safety also responded to the jail and continued those efforts until the man was pronounced dead.

He was identified as Corby Ray

Dillard, 47, of Stultz Road, Martinsville, according to Davis, who added that Dillard reported numerous pre-existing medical conditions upon entering the detention center. Based on his extensive pre-existing conditions, Dillard was placed into an ADA handicap cell.

"The preliminary investigative findings indicate that Mr. Dillard suffered a sudden medical emergency in his cell and passed away," Davis said in a release.

In addition to the state police, Davis said the case will be forwarded to the Virginia Board of Local and Regional Jails for review.



**Band Director Brian Joyce talks to the gathered audience of local preschoolers before the band's next song.**



**The infectious rhythms really struck these children who got up to dance during the concert in the galleries.**

## Preschool in the Galleries jazz concert is a groovy time for local children

Piedmont Arts' Preschool in the Galleries series started off on a high note when Martinsville High School's Jazz Band performed on Wednesday, Nov. 16. Over the span of two performances, over 170 preschool children were introduced to the lively rhythms, melodies, and instruments of jazz. This program is one of many ways that Piedmont Arts offers free arts experiences and education to local children.

Children from Happy Feet Early Learning and Child Center, YMCA Early Learning, and Clearview Early Learning Center were all in attendance for the concert in the galleries. Led by Brian Joyce, the Martinsville High

School Jazz Band has a tradition of excellence and has toured all over the country.

Preschool in the Galleries is a monthly series of programs for pre-K students designed to foster a love of the performing and visual arts at a young age. Performances are free of charge to students and schools and feature performers from various arts organizations and schools in Martinsville-Henry County. A full schedule of events is available on [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org). Reservations for Preschool in the Galleries can be made by contacting Education Coordinator Christiana Jarrett at [CJarrett@PiedmontArts.org](mailto:CJarrett@PiedmontArts.org).

## Two recommended to fill judicial vacancy

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine sent a letter to President Biden recommending both Patrice Holland and Jasmine Yoon to fill one upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, which will be created when Judge Michael F. Urbanski assumes senior status in July 2024.

Patrice Holland was born and raised in Franklin County and has worked at Wood Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC in Roanoke, Virginia since 2007, having first joined the firm as a law clerk and now serving as a Principal Attorney and chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. In addition to her practice, she currently serves as substitute judge in the 23rd Judicial Circuit of Virginia. Ms. Holland dedicates her free time to community outreach and serves on nine bar associations in Virginia.

Jasmine Yoon is the Vice President for Corporate Integrity, Ethics, and Investigations at Capital One Financial Corporation. Prior to this role, she served as Interim University Counsel and Associate University Counsel at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, her alma mater. She also worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, where she investigated and prosecuted over 80 financial crimes and public corruption cases.

"We are pleased to recommend Ms. Patrice Holland and Ms. Jasmine Yoon for the vacancy on the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, following the decision by Chief Judge Michael F. Urbanski to assume senior status effective July 4, 2024," said Warner, D-Alexandria and Kaine, D-Richmond. "Both would serve with great distinction and have

our highest recommendation."

Warner and Kaine said their recommendations are based on Holland's and Yoon's distinguished records and the assessments of an independent panel of attorneys from across the Commonwealth as well as feedback from numerous bar associations in Virginia. President Biden will now nominate one individual for the position to be considered by the Senate

Judiciary Committee. The nomination is subject to confirmation by the full Senate.

Under President Biden, the senators have confirmed 153 federal judges to the bench, including the Honorable Toby Heytens, Patricia Tolliver Giles, Michael S. Nachmanoff, Elizabeth Haines, Jamar Walker, and Robert Ballou for federal courts across Virginia.

## Immediate fire ban issued on all DWR properties West of I-95

Due to exceptionally dry conditions, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has implemented a complete ban on any open burning (e.g., campfires, grills) on all of its properties (e.g., Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Conservation Sites, boat

ramps) west of Interstate-95, effective immediately and lasting until further notice.

For updates on this restriction, visit <https://dwr.virginia.gov/> or the DWR's social media pages as conditions are expected to change.

# DMV shares refresher ahead of enforcement

Heading into the holiday season, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds Virginians to buckle up to arrive alive. Through November 30, law enforcement will bring added awareness to the push to save lives with seat belts with the annual Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign.

"The good news is that fewer people who weren't wearing a seat belt were killed in crashes so far this year, but we can't become complacent," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Buckling up is the easiest and most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and others while driving. In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that it can reduce your chances of dying in a crash by up to 55%. You just have to create the habit. As soon as you get in a car, take those extra three seconds to buckle up securely. Before you know it, buckling will be second nature."

So far this year, fatalities among drivers and passengers who were not buckled up are down 12% from this same time last year (281 in 2023 vs. 319 in 2022). Of the fatalities so far this year, 20% were individuals in their 20s and

73% were male. To help prevent fatalities and serious injuries, DMV is sharing a seat belt safety refresher to start your holiday journeys safely.

**Kids First** – Ensure children are buckled securely into the correct safety seat for their age and size. Find more details on finding the right seat and secure buckling on our website.

**Click It** – Fasten your seat belt over your shoulder and hips and ensure you hear the "click".

**Adjust** – Once buckled, make sure that your belt is tight across your hips and chest. Wearing your seat belt incorrectly (behind your back or under your arm) can cause serious internal injuries in a crash.

**Keep It On** – Even when caught in traffic or waiting in line at a drive-through, keep your seat belt fastened. Crashes can happen anywhere, and your seat belt is your first defense.

**Every Time** – Whether you are in the front or back seat, driving for hours or only minutes, always buckle up.

The simple act of buckling up can save a life. DMV encourages Virginians to buckle up and remind loved ones to do the same. For more information on seat belt safety, visit our newly revamped website, [dmv.virginia.gov](http://dmv.virginia.gov).

## Virginia's Mixed October Jobs Data Reflects National Economic Cross Currents

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"), the labor force in Virginia continued growing this month by 4,285 to 4,615,227, while the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.2 percent to 2.7 percent, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said.

"This month's labor force participation and jobs numbers reflect slowing national trends and the risks posed by inflation and increased interest rates," said Youngkin. "These storm clouds increase the importance of our pro-business economic agenda. Our focus must remain on reducing the cost of doing business, so that companies continue to invest, grow and hire in Virginia, advancing workforce and talent development, and reducing the cost of living so more families call Virginia home."

The labor force participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work, remained unchanged at 66.8 percent in October, which is the highest labor force participation rate experienced in Virginia since April 2012.

According to BLS LAUS, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October increased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.7 percent, which is 0.4 percentage points below the rate from a year ago and 1.2 percentage points below the national rate. The labor force increased by 4,285 to 4,615,227; and the number of employed residents decreased by 1,938 to 4,492,524 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 6,223 to 122,703.

"With unemployment in October at 2.7 percent, well below the national average of 3.9 percent, Virginia continues to outperform most states and continue to provide strong job opportunities for Virginians," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater.

"Since this time last year, there

are nearly 180,000 more employed Virginians," said Secretary of Commerce Caren Merrick. "We are focused on increasing this continued progress for our businesses and labor force."

BLS publishes an additional employment figure from its Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey"). The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under which the employer pays unemployment insurance. The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. Establishment survey data reflects changes for updated seasonal adjustment factors, and industry classification conversions (NAICS), as part of the annual benchmarking process.

The household survey only distinguishes between whether a person is employed or unemployed, whereas CES counts each employee that is on an employer's payroll. CES excludes business owners, self-employed persons, unpaid volunteers and private household workers, and those on unpaid leave or not working because of a labor dispute.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In October, five experienced over-the-month job gains, one remained unchanged, and five experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,900) to 671,300. The second largest job gain occurred in Miscellaneous Services (+2,000) to 195,400. The third largest job gain was a tie between Construction (+1,800) to 212,600, and Health Services (+1,800) to 584,300. The other gain was in Manufacturing (+700) to 245,600. Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

## Local divisions among 483 to receive school security equipment grants

Henry and Patrick counties, and the City of Martinsville are among local school divisions to receive grants announced by the Virginia Department of Education. The state department recently announced \$12 million in state School Security Equipment Grants will be used to protect students, faculty and visitors in 483 schools in 98 school divisions via grants that will pay for security card access systems, visitor ID badging systems, surveillance cameras, security vestibules, two-way radios, voice and video internal communication systems, interior school bus cameras, two-way radios for buses, mass notification systems and other security enhancements.

Grants for the 2023-2024 school year were awarded on a competitive basis to school divisions and grant funds awarded were based on a ranked order on the competitive application

criteria. The criteria developed by the VDOE, and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services gives priority to schools most in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades. Henry County received \$188,000 for upgrades at Campbell Court Elementary, G.W. Carver Elementary, Rich Acres Elementary, Sanville Elementary and Stanleystown Elementary schools.

The City of Martinsville received \$205,222 for upgrades at Albert Harris Elementary, Martinsville High and Martinsville Middle schools.

The school division in Patrick County will receive \$77,617 for Blue Ridge Elementary, Patrick Springs Primary and Stuart Elementary schools.

## OBITUARIES

### Vernon Franklin "Koonny Frog" Gilbert

Mountain Valley has lost one of its finest hearts and most unique characters with the passing of Vernon Franklin "Koonny Frog" Gilbert on Sunday, November 18, 2023 at Mulberry Creek Rehab. He was 74.

Koonny Frog lived off North Fork Road in a house built and furnished for him by his many friends, fans and supporters. Before that, he lived his entire life in the rudimentary shack his father had created by building a porch and a kitchen onto a former farm building.

The shack never had electricity nor water. Vernon heated it with a woodstove using wood he chopped. He filled up his water jugs at Keith Jackson's farm.

At night, he would follow a dedicated schedule of listening to programs on his battery-operated radio and took thousands of pages of notes on country music history and trivia. He also had full notebooks on other topics such as race car drivers, the 66 farms on which he's worked tobacco and the daily weather through the decades.

He also had been a sawmill worker and did maintenance at Roselawn Burial Park.

Despite the rudimentary living conditions, off and on through the years he provided shelter for others in his family when they needed a home, and he was his father's caretaker.

When he was in his late 60s and having a harder time getting around, brothers Rick



and Mike Carter started the process of getting a house for Koonny Frog. Lucille Shelton and the late Jesse Shelton donated the land on which to build it. While the house was being built, Vernon spent the winter warm in a trailer owned by Chad and Kristie White. He would tell stories of how when he woke up in the dark of the night, he'd take his flashlight with him down the hall, forgetting that he now had electric lights.

Despite having difficulty in his later years with his arms and hands, Vernon kept up his love for weedeating. He had done it for pay, and he also did it for free for people he appreciated, such as the late Billie White, who had let him use his truck in years past, and for Gayle and Vance Johnson, who had a close relationship with him.

Every morning, he'd call the Johnsons before 6 a.m., and he'd visit them a couple of hours later. The Johnsons helped him with many things, including his doctor and hospital visits.

In his later years Koonny Frog experienced many firsts, such as going to the library

and museums and seeing live theater.

He attended Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where he handed out bulletins and entertained and inspired with his cheer.

He was predeceased by his parents, Everrette Leonard Gilbert and Annie Frances Carter Johnston Gilbert; sisters Annie Marie Gilbert and Dollie Mae Johnston Shorter and brothers Leonard Wayne Gilbert, Paul Lester Gilbert and Charles Phillip Johnston.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Elsie Gilbert of Martinsville.

Koonny Frog was famous for his sense of humor.

A Chevrolet devotee, he often made jokes against Ford. After a massive heart attack, he spent his last several weeks running like a Ford, before going on to meet his Maker.

Visitation will be from 12:30-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at Norris Funeral Home. Pastors Dean White, Robbie Benfield and Phillip Woods will officiate at his memorial service, which will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, at Norris. (Anyone who would like to contribute to some remaining final expenses may do so through a fund handled by Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 7174 Mountain Valley Road, Axton, Va., 24054.)

He will be buried in Gilbert Family Cemetery on North Fork Road, within walking distance of the two houses where he spent his entire life.



Sen. Mark Warner is pictured at the podium, with Sen. Tim Kaine standing on the right. The photo was taken at a Veterans Commonwealth Coffee event on Nov. 16.

## Senators call for more outreach and action amid rising reports of hate speech and violence

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine wrote to U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Secretary Miguel Cardona to urge the DOE to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia on college and university campuses. Since the onset of the Israel-Hamas crisis, higher education institutions have seen a precipitous rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia, including hate speech, harassment, and violence – creating an environment of fear and vulnerability for students.

"We write to express our concern about the alarming rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia in the United States following the recent violence in Israel and Gaza. These events have had a profound impact on our college and university campuses, where students of all backgrounds come together to learn and engage," the senators wrote.

The letter from Warner, D-Alexandria and Kaine, D-Richmond, draws attention to a few specific and recent examples of Islamophobia and antisemitism on college campuses. At Stanford University, an Arab Muslim student was the victim of a hit-and-run, where the perpetrator shouted vulgar and racist remarks during his attack. At Cornell University, a student posted violent threats online against the Jewish community, subsequently leading to his

arrest.

"In the face of these challenges, it is essential that we stand together as a nation against discrimination, xenophobia, and bigotry. Hate has no place in America, and our educational institutions play a pivotal role in ensuring that," the senators continued. "We look forward to your continued dedication to this important issue. We are hopeful that, together, we can create a safer environment for students at our colleges and universities."

In the letter, the senators specifically call on the DOE to:

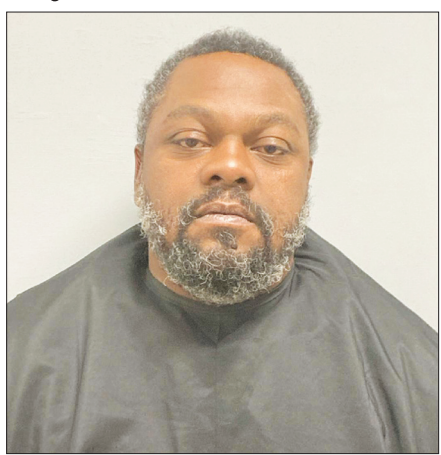
- expand the Antisemitism Awareness Campaign,
- craft an Islamophobia Awareness Campaign,
- conduct additional outreach to Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab student communities, and
- provide resources to colleges and universities from the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

Warner and Kaine have long been vocal advocates against Islamophobia and antisemitism. Earlier this week, they also sent a letter to the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Special Counsel requesting guidance on the self-expression rights of federal workers as related to the conflict and humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.



# Search warrant yields arrest

A Fieldale man was arrested after a search warrant was executed on November 16, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office. Chanton Lamonte Redd, 41, of 155 Waycross Dr. Fieldale, was charged with possession with the intent to distribute cocaine, possession with the intent to distribute hydrocodone, and possession of firearm while in possession of Schedule I/II drug, the release stated.



The arrest was made after the Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team and investigators executed a search warrant at 8:05 a.m. at Redd's home.

During this investigation, suspected cocaine was seized along with illegally possessed prescription pills, multiple illegally possessed firearms, an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency and other items indicative to the distribution of narcotics. Seven vehicles were seized in relation to the investigation.

Redd was found in his bathroom where he was apprehended without incident.

He was transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where

he received a \$4,000 secure bond.

Anyone having information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

# Carlisle School's Scarlett Norman Plays Dorothy at Carolina Theatre in Greensboro

Scarlett Norman, a Junior at Carlisle School, has been selected for the role of Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz show at the Carolina Theatre of Greensboro. Norman has a passion for theater and has been involved in show life since she was three years old. Norman is no stranger to the limelight and has been a part of more than ten Carlisle productions.



The Carolina Theatre of Greensboro productions consist of over 100 talented kids, teens, and adults both on-stage and backstage. This year marks their 28th production of The Wizard of Oz, where the character Dorothy will be portrayed by both Scarlett Norman and Isabella Gore as they alternate shows.

When asked to speak on her experience of playing the role of Dorothy, Norman, who has performed in several shows, said, "Playing the iconic role of Dorothy Gale has been a dream come true. It has been an honor to perform alongside 93 of the most talented

people and to be an ambassador for the Community Theatre of Greensboro. From personal appearances, TV spots, billboards, and the stage - The Wizard of Oz has been an experience of a lifetime. I have truly been blessed and will forever be grateful for this opportunity."

# Congressional staff to visit

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on November 29.

Staff will be in Henry County from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Conference Room 1, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Staff will then travel to Patrick County, where they will be from 12:30 - 2 p.m. in the Patrick County

Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If schools are closed in either location, then its office hours will be closed as well. Contact the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

# 'Tis' The Season of Giving



Charles Williams, of Williams Auction Co., LLC, is celebrating the holiday season. He is pictured on left, presenting a \$1,000 check to Joel Barnes, Treasurer of the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department. The funds will be used for maintenance and upkeep.



Charles Williams (left), of Williams Auction Co., LLC, is pictured presenting a \$1,000 check to LaToya Hagwood, Captain of the Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad. The money will be used for maintenance and supplies.



Pictured L-R: Melvin Clark and his wife, Vicki Clark.

# Ferrum man wins the 2023 Boys Home Raffle

Melvin Clark of Ferrum, Virginia, won the 2023 winner of the P. Buckley Moss print #275 titled "Graceful Autumn Ride." Mr. Clark and his wife, Vicki, are long-time collectors of P.

Buckley Moss art and were delighted to receive this beautiful piece.

This year's raffle raised \$2,720, which will go toward helping the home's students grow into successful young men.

# Health Officials Warn of Rabies Concerns in Danville

The Pittsylvania-Danville Health District issued a notice after a skunk tested positive for rabies in the Burnham Woods Community. The Pittsylvania-Danville Health District asks anyone who may have come into contact with the skunk to call the health district at (434) 433-3545.

animals, especially raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks. Feed your pets indoors and do not let them wander.

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. Rabies can be prevented in cats, dogs, ferrets and some livestock with a rabies vaccination. Rabies kills almost any mammal or human that gets sick from it. The rabies virus is mainly in the saliva and brain tissue of rabid animals. It can be transmitted through a bite or by getting saliva or brain tissue in a wound or in the eye or mouth.

Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies and their shots are up to date. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies.

Steps to prevent the spread of Rabies: To protect pets and their owners from rabies, Virginia law requires that all dogs and cats four months of age and older be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and that vaccinations be kept current.

Teach children to avoid contact with wild animals and pets they are not familiar with.

Health officials are reminding the public to avoid contact with bats, feral cats, stray dogs and wild animals, particularly in the area where the rabid cat was found.

Do not handle sick, injured or dead animals.

Additional Steps to Protect Against Rabies Exposure Include:

Keep wild animals out of homes by capping chimneys with screens and blocking openings in attics, cellars and porches. Ensure trash cans have tight fitting lids.

Do not feed stray animals. Avoid wild

If you observe any stray animals in the area, contact the Danville Animal Control for assistance at (434) 799-5111. Please do not try to trap or handle stray and wild animals.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, do not panic. Wash the wound(s) thoroughly with warm soapy water and contact animal control, your doctor or the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District for further recommendations.

For additional information, visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/) or call the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District at (434) 433-3545.

# Grace Network receives grant from Food Lion to address food insecurity, support nutrition education

Grace Network received \$2,200 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger. The Feeding the Hungry grant supports Grace Network's efforts to help families that have fallen into a financial crisis and are at risk of being unable to feed their families. In addition, the grants support community feeding partners by helping neighbors increase their access to nutritious food and providing nutrition education to eliminate health risks for those experiencing food insecurity.

programs, Kids Café's, and other hunger-relief programs as well as funding for long-term programs to help shorten the lines at food banks. The charitable foundation partners with Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief agency, in addition to local food agencies serving the 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states in which Food Lion operates. For more information, visit [www.foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds](http://www.foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds).

Grace Network's mission is to help those facing eviction, utility cutoff or financial crisis and cannot feed their family. The organization is grateful to its caring volunteers who listen and care for the clients they serve.

Food Lion is an omnichannel retailer committed to nourishing its neighbors during the moments that matter most. More than 82,000 associates across 1,100+ stores deliver an easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience throughout 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Through its 'Count on me' culture, Food Lion fosters a sense of belonging for all associates, promoting a diverse and inclusive environment that has supported LGBTQ+ equality for nearly two decades. Food Lion is the only company in the country to be named an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for 22 consecutive years. It also pioneered a food rescue program to support food-insecure neighbors. Through Food Lion Feeds, the retailer has donated more than 1 billion meals to individuals and families since 2014 and has committed to donate 1.5 billion meals by 2025. Founded and based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, Food Lion is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA, the U.S. division of Zaandam-based Ahold Delhaize. For more information, visit [foodlion.com](http://foodlion.com).

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity across its 10-state footprint. Established in 2001, the foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to feeding local neighbors in the communities it serves. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$18.1 million in grants.

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C. Established in 2001, the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger. The charitable foundation has provided more than \$18.1 million in grant funding, helping to nourish communities with fresh food for backpack

# Smith River Singers set Christmas Concerts

Dr. Pamela Randall will be conducting two musical ensembles, Christmas concerts, the second weekend of December for the Martinsville-Henry County community.

Concert, Joy to the World, also under the direction of Dr. Pamela Randall, will be on Monday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at the Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A L Philpott Highway, Martinsville. The concert features the Brass 5 of Roanoke, the First United Methodist Church Choir and Pianists Beth Chapman and Jill Gardner. Admission is free. An offering will be collected.

The Martinsville Handbell Ensemble's 2023 Christmas Concert, Ding Dong Merrily on High, will be held on Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church, 146 East Church Street, Martinsville. Admission is free. An offering will be collected.

The Smith River Singers' Christmas

A charitable organization, the Smith River Singers is a volunteer, community chorus based in Martinsville.

**Movie Town 276-638-4040**

**NOW PLAYING:**  
**Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (PG-13),**  
**Trolls: Band Together (PG),**  
**Thanksgiving (R),**  
**The Marvels (PG-13), and**  
**Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13)**

<http://www.movietowntheatre.com>  
 or call for showtimes (276) 632-7400

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

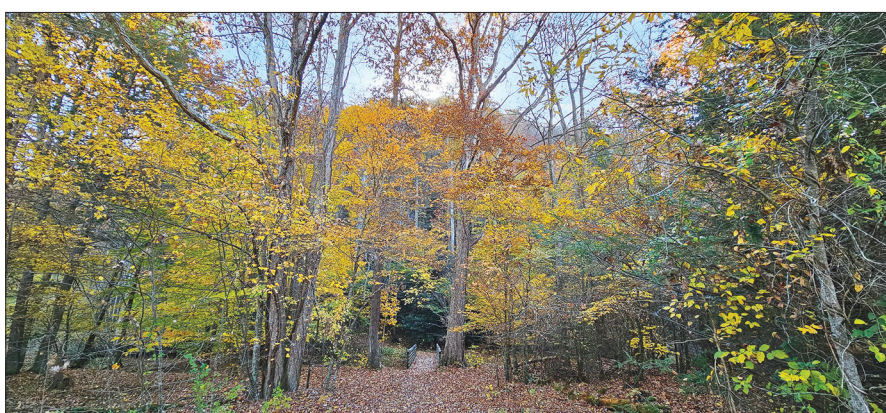
**email us**  
[DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET](mailto:DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET)



Fall hike at Leesylvania State Park.



Fall hike at Natural Bridge State Park.



Fall at Hungry Mother State Park.

## Opt Outside at a Virginia State Park on Thanksgiving weekend

Virginia State Parks will host the annual #OptOutside event to encourage people to take a break from indoor activities and opt to spend time outdoors instead. The campaign will run from Nov. 24 through Nov. 26 at all Virginia State Park locations.

Park guests of all ages can indulge in self-guided and ranger-led activities to create wonderful and lasting Thanksgiving memories. Guests are encouraged to hike, bike or star watch and experience the beauty of nature while enjoying a wonderful experience at one of Virginia's forty-two state parks.

Consider one of these activities:  
 Nature Journaling at Twin Lakes  
 Self-guided trail tours at Mason Neck Jr. Ranger activities at Seven Bends,

Kiptopeke, and Smith Mountain Lake Archery with Park Rangers at Pocahontas

Owl Prowl at Machicomoco  
 Fairy Stone hunt and workshop at Fairy Stone

For a complete list of Virginia State Parks Opt Outside activities, visit the programs and events section of the state parks website.

In addition to the outdoor campaign, there will be a gift certificate sale on the day after Thanksgiving. Gift certificates will be 20% off and only available to purchase online between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 24 at <https://vasp.fun/giftcard>. Gift certificates can be used on camping, cabins, picnic shelters, meeting space and purchases in the park.

## Martinsville Speedway and the YMCA Team Up to Host Holiday Run Festival

Martinsville Speedway is partnering with the YMCA to host a Holiday Run Festival on Saturday, Dec. 2, the same day as the annual Christmas Toy Drive. The track announced the double feature event earlier this year; however, updates to the schedule have been made and are noted below.

The Holiday Run Festival will feature the Southside 10K and the Youth in Motion 5K, with a portion of each entry fee going directly towards the Toy Drive's fundraising efforts, benefiting Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County. This will be the 29th year Martinsville Speedway has hosted the toy drive giving fans the opportunity to drive around the historic half-mile by donating to the cause.

"As we announced earlier this year, the Annual Toy Drive is back at Martinsville Speedway, and this year we've expanded our efforts in bringing the greater community together with the help of our partners at the YMCA," said Clay Campbell, Martinsville Speedway President. "As we get closer to the event, we look forward to welcoming all our friends, families and neighbors to our historic short track for a full day of festive celebrations this holiday season."

Those in the greater Martinsville region can start their morning with the Youth in Motion 5K, beginning at 9 a.m., or the Southside 10K, beginning at 10 a.m., then trade their running shoes for tires during the track laps event at the speedway, now taking place from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Community members can donate a new unwrapped toy or \$25 for the opportunity to drive laps around the iconic Virginia track in their personal vehicles.

For laps around the track, drivers must

sign waivers and be 18 years of age or older with a valid state-issued driver's license. All participants must adhere to Virginia state laws regarding the usage of seat belts and child safety restraints.

"The team at Miles in Martinsville is very excited to partner with Martinsville Speedway to present the 2023 Holiday Run Festival," said Joe Philpott, an official of Miles of Martinsville. "We have historically run a December 5K for the benefit of our local Youth in Motion program. The program is designed to develop fitness and self-esteem in young people through the use of mentors and running. This partnership will allow us to add a 10K competition and create a true festival atmosphere. We think that the opportunity to run at the Speedway will be attractive and exciting to runners of all ages."

The donated toys and monetary donations will be distributed to area children through Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, which is a faith-based, first-stop center for resources for families in crisis. The organization supports those in the community who need support to keep a roof over their heads, homes warm and lighted, and food on the table with short-term assistance and long-term solutions. To learn more about the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, visit [gracenetworkmhc.org](http://gracenetworkmhc.org).

Martinsville Speedway will also host multiple racing events in 2024, including two NASCAR race weekends in both the spring and fall, The Valley Star Credit Union 300 and more.

To view the 2024 event schedule and to purchase tickets online, visit [martinsvillespeedway.com](http://martinsvillespeedway.com) or call 877-RACE-TIX.

## DRBA's First Saturday Outing Hike will be held at I.C. DeHart Park

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will host its First Saturday Outing (FSO) on December 2. The outing is a 4.0-mile hike at I. C. DeHart Park's Woolwine West Trail. Participants are asked to meet at 10 a.m. near the trail head kiosk at 2631 Charity Hwy, Woolwine.

The coordinator for the outing is Wayne Kirkpatrick, an avid hiker and DRBA volunteer.

"This is a definite moderate hike that climbs a total of about 430 feet but has great rewards," Kirkpatrick said. "Every season of the year, this trail has a different appeal - a variety of wildflowers in the spring and summer, fall foliage and the open forest in winter."

The park has benefited from several upgrades - it hosts one of the five Trail Hands artworks, titled Reflections, a VTC LOVE sign honoring the Mountain Biking Championship trails and a new trail head kiosk with a changing facility for mountain

bikers. DRBA, the ECO Ambassador Council and a host of dedicated volunteers have been key to the improvements to the park.

All participants are asked to dress in layers of synthetic fabric, wear hiking boots, be prepared for rain and cold, bring hiking stick(s), lunch or snacks, and water, and sign a waiver.

In the event of inclement weather, check the DRBA web site by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 1, for any announcements regarding the hike.

Directions: From Virginia 8 in Woolwine, take Rt. 40 East for 2.6 miles, turn left into the park; From U.S. 220 at Bassett Forks, take Virginia 57 West to Virginia 8, turn right and follow the directions above.

For trip information, contact trip coordinator Wayne Kirkpatrick, 540-570-3511 or email [wynbytk@embarqmail.com](mailto:wynbytk@embarqmail.com).

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are free and open to the public.



# Meet Our Providers

**Joseph C. Campbell, Jr., M.D.**

The full **SPECTRUM** of Musculoskeletal services in an integrated system... offering the **FUTURE** of Healthcare today.

- ORTHOPEDICS
- RHEUMATOLOGY
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- FAMILY MEDICINE
- SPINE CARE
- CLINICAL RESEARCH
- SPORTS MEDICINE OUTREACH
- PHYSICAL THERAPY

Dr. Campbell is originally from the town of Buena Vista, Virginia. He attended college at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va. and Medical School at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, Virginia. He did his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda Maryland. He was a staff Orthopedic Surgeon at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, NC 1997-1999. Orthopedic areas includes General Orthopedic Surgery. Special Orthopedic Interests include Sports Medicine, Arthroscopic Surgery, Foot and Ankle surgery. Dr. Campbell is a board certified Orthopedic Surgeon.



## SAME DAY X-RAYS

- ORTHOPEDIC WALK-INS ACCEPTED
- SHORTER WAIT TIMES
- CASH PAY OPTION AVAILABLE





**NO REFERRAL NEEDED**  
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE



**2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

**DANVILLE**  
109 Bridge Street • 4th Floor  
434-793-4711

**MARTINSVILLE**  
1075 Spruce Street  
276-790-3233

MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM