

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, December 2, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Personal property tax deadline extended again this year



The Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized four school sports teams at its November 28 meeting.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to extend the payment deadline for personal property taxes until Feb. 5. According to the Henry County Code, all personal property taxes are due by December 5 of each year.

Linda Love, Commissioner of Revenue,

said that her office required an extension to the deadline due to staffing shortages which resulted in a delay in printing the bills. County staff do not anticipate that the delay will have a significant impact on the budget, aside from the loss of some income gained from the interest on the

(See Personal Property p. 2)



Members of the Martinsville City Schools Robotics Team, the TreeHuggers, gave a presentation to the Martinsville City Council. Martinsville Mayor LC Jones is pictured holding the tree. Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls (left) and Councilman Lawrence Mitchell (right) are seen in the background.

Council hears housing development update

By Taylor Boyd

The Martinsville City Council heard an update on housing efforts and the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (DRHA) at its Tuesday, November 28 meeting.

Tarvaris McCoy, of the Real McCoy Companies who is also working with DRHA, said there is a housing crisis across the country at different levels of

affordability.

“Often, when people look at the city, they really look at it as an MSA (metropolitan statistical area) which includes Henry County and surrounding areas. So, often they’ll say, ‘well the median income is \$70,000 for that area,’ but the reality is when we drill down to the City of Martinsville, Martinsville is much

(See Council p. 2)

MHS student wins mascot contest



Spencer Koger (left), director of the Uptown Partnership, presented a T-shirt to Brook Sneed, winner of the Mascot Contest, during a ceremony this week. Sneed is a Martinsville High School student. Her design, ‘Marty’ was selected as the city’s mascot. Pictured beside Sneed are Anne Agee and Kirsten Blankenbaker, who also entered the contest.



The original Ohev Zion Synagogue

Ohev Zion Synagogue adjusts to meet challenges

By Holly Kozelsky

Over its nearly 100 years, the Ohev Zion Synagogue in Martinsville has gone through the stages of growth, strength, and decline – and appears to be on the rise once again.

Dicky Globman, a member of the congregation and grandson of two of

its founders, talked about Martinsville’s synagogue recently during a Sunday Afternoon Lecture at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, sponsored by the MHC Historical Society.

The first Jewish person to come to

(See Ohev Zion p. 3)

Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama returns to Stuart on Saturday

Staff Reports

The Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA’s) biggest show of the year – Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama – will be held at the Patrick County High School Auditorium on Saturday, December 9. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the music will start at 6 p.m.

The show is sponsored by Hopkins Lumber and Patrick County Tourism.

Denny Alley, president of the PCMA, said the Lonesome River Band will head-

line the show along with Nu-Blu.

Since its formation in 1982, the Lonesome River Band has released 15 recording projects. The latest album, Outside Looking In was released in May 2019. Bridging the Tradition, released in 2016, is the group’s highest-performing album peaking at number two on the US Bluegrass.

Group leader Sammy Shelor, a Patrick County native, also has appeared on more than two dozen other albums.

Shelor has devoted more than 50 years to honing his craft.

“My grandfather on my mom’s side played a banjo and my grandfather on my dad’s side loved” to hear banjo music, Shelor said. “I think the two of them decided I was going to be a banjo player before I was born.”

He was exposed to banjo music at an early age, he said, adding when he was 4 years old, his grandfather made a banjo using pieces of an old pressure cooker,

wood rims, bolts, and wire clothes hangers. “It was a very playable banjo,” he said, chuckling.

Shelor was promised a real banjo if he learned to play two songs, “Cripple Creek” and “Old Joe Clark.” After learning them, Shelor visited his grandfather and played the songs for him. His grandfather was as good as his word,

(See Banjorama p. 5)



Sammy Shelor and the Lonesome River Band will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s final show of the year on Saturday.



Nu-Blu, which has a nationally syndicated TV show, also will perform during Saturday Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama.

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Personal Property

(cont. from page 1)

revenue.

The board also heard about two upcoming Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) road projects at its meeting on Tuesday, November 28.

Lisa Price-Hughes, VDOT's Resident Engineer, said projects include intersection improvements at Dyer Street and the Speedway, and Bojangles across Virginia Avenue.

"The improvements are actually minor. Traffic will not be allowed to cross from one side of the road to the other. From Bojangles straight across to Weeping Willow Lane or Dyers Street, or vice versa," she said.

Price-Hughes said this eliminates a signal phase, with the intent to keep traffic on U.S. 220 flowing better and more efficiently. This project is part of a corridor-wide project that includes six other Roanoke and Franklin County intersections.

"All those seven intersections will be included in this project, and again it's to improve the efficiency on 220. That project will again be advertised in December," she said.

Another project, one of the county's old Smart Scale projects, is at U.S. 58 and Dogwood Drive. It too is designed to improve traffic flow coming into Laurel Park Middle School.

"It adds a right turn lane onto Dogwood (Drive), and widens Dogwood itself to allow for two lanes coming out, one for right and the other for straight through," she said. "So, that should improve the efficiency of that intersection."

Price-Hughes said the construction for this project is still a couple of years off so that VDOT can obtain the right of ways needed for the project.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved changes to revenue-sharing agreements with the City of Martinsville and the Henry County Industrial Development Authority related to Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre and the Patriot Centre Expansion. The changes separate the properties into two agreements and provide for future funding of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

- Approved a siting agreement with Rocky Ford Solar Energy, LLC. The agreement will provide the county with an initial payment of \$250,000 and another \$500,000 following the receipt of all required permits and approvals. In addition, the company agreed to pay the county \$20,000 multiplied by the final megawatt capacity of the project.

- Approved its 2024 Legislative Agenda.

- Approved the carryover of more than \$59 million in fiscal year 2023 funds to cover items where funds were committed during the year but not received as of June 30.

- Amended the FY24 school budget and appropriated \$1,494,703 received from the Commonwealth for education.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$980,336 from the 1% Sales Tax fund for architectural services related to the construction of fieldhouses at Bassett and Magna Vista high schools. Approximately \$654,000 will be used to replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment at Rich Acres Elementary School.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$18,448 received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program for overtime hours that provide high-impact law enforcement in areas experiencing increased crime.

- Awarded a \$98,964 contract to RK Chevrolet to buy two Chevrolet Silverado Police Pursuit Vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$20,700 received from miscellaneous refunds and revenues to cover expenses related to clerical positions at the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$25,000 received from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for updates to Bike Barn operations.

- Approved a resolution adopting the county's Emergency Operations Plan.

- Approved a resolution honoring Robert Clark for his 34 years of service to the Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals.

- Recognized the winning teams from Parks & Recreation's football and girls' basketball seasons.

- Reappointed Mike Harris and Kathy Rea to the Public Service Authority Board of Directors for 4-year terms scheduled to end Jan. 5, 2028.

- Appointed Billie White to the Community Policy and Management Team for a 2-year term scheduled to end on June 30, 2025.

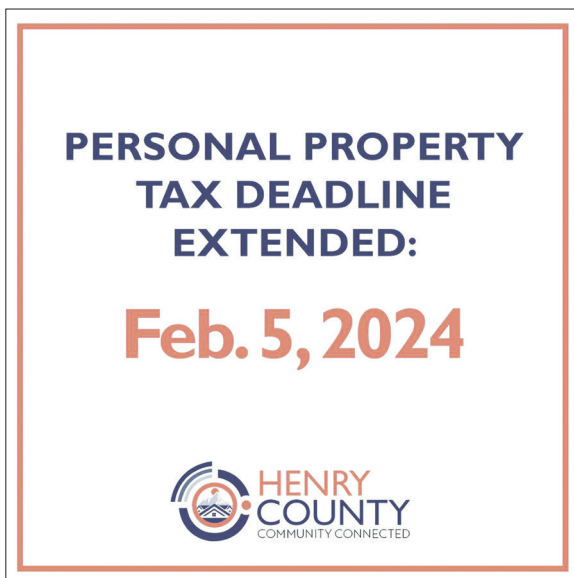
- Reappointed Matt Tatum to the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., to a 3-year term scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2026.

- Reappointed Lee Clark and Bryan McAlexander to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission Technical Advisory Committee to 3-year terms scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2026.

Jim Adams, chairman and of the Blackberry District, did not attend the first half of the meeting.



The Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized four school sports teams at its November 28 meeting.



The board approved extending the personal property tax payment deadline to February 5.



Council

(cont. from page 1)

lower than that," he said.

McCoy said the Five Points single-family house development on West Church Street has already been approved by the city.

He believes it will help to bring a sense of enjoyment across that community, particularly since the development will resemble the "materiality of what's going on across the street to give a similar feel to what's going on there."

McCoy said the development is high quality and will use innovative materials that will allow the project to be built faster at a lower labor cost.

"Also, the affordability factor. Doing it this way also allows the agency to build it in a way and at a rate that it can be naturally affordable, and it's actually sustainable," he said. "No one wants to build something that, in a decade's time, is either not going to be there or is going to be just a shell of what it started as."

If the development is allowed to move forward as proposed, McCoy said the pre-development should be completed by the first quarter of 2024, with construction to begin in the second quarter.

"Of course, that's an aggressive goal, but we do believe that the pieces are in

place to make that happen," he said.

To move forward, McCoy said the DRHA would need to have site control, and the city to allow for tap fees and some permitting fees.

"And lastly, to take a look at if tax abatement is available for this area. If the city would consider that, this tax abatement would allow the project to have a ramp-up period and those taxes would, of course, phase in over time," he said.

McCoy said the DRHA believes a planned development would be ideal on a 42-acre area on Rives Road.

Depending on the type of property built, there could be 5-10 units per acre or more than 200 units.

McCoy asked for DRHA to gain control of the site area so "that the work can be done, and the conversations can be had to really discover the possibilities of the site and put the pieces together to move forward."

City council member Kathy Lawson said it would be an exciting project to watch develop.

"We definitely need the housing, and a lot of people don't want to buy an older house that has to be renovated. They want something new they can just move

into and not have to fix something every other week, so I'm excited about the potential for having the new housing," she said.

Vice-mayor Aaron Rawls liked the idea of Martinsville being ahead of the pack, which historically hasn't always been its position.

"Some of this innovative technology, we've gone and looked at it, put our hands on it, heard the presentations, looked at the science and data, it's really impressive stuff," he said.

The council will consider a land development agreement with DRHA regarding the West Church Street site and the Rives Road site at its December meeting.

In other matters, the council:

- *Appointed all members recommended and listed on the Community Criminal Justice Board for the Halifax-Pittsylvania Court Services Board.

- *Appointed Billy White to the Children Service's Act as the private provider.

- *Reappointed Julian Mabe to the Arts and Cultural Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

- *Appointed the city manager as the Executive Director of the Redevelopment

and Housing Authority.

- *Presented a proclamation to the Veterans Honor Guard of Martinsville and Henry County.

- *Heard a presentation by the Martinsville City Schools Robotics Team, the TreeHuggers.

- *Approved an ordinance to adopt the city's participation in the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program on first reading.

- *Heard an update on the city's parks improvement plan.

- *Approved entering into a memorandum with George Mason University (GMU) after hearing the local government climate action plan, a partnership effort between the City of Martinsville and GMU.

- *Approved a resolution approving the revenue-sharing agreement between the Henry County Board of Supervisors, the Industrial Development Authority, and the city.

- *Heard from John Fuhrman about the need to address the city's kudzu issue.

- *Heard city manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides read a written comment from Ural Harris asking about the project at the BB&T building.



The Veterans Honor Guard of Martinsville and Henry County received a proclamation from the city.



Tarvaris McCoy, of the Real McCoy Companies, spoke about the Five Points housing development and a potential land development project.



Members of Martinsville City Council are pictured at a meeting Tuesday.

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.)

Meetings

Wednesday, December 6

Henry County Planning Commission, 5 p.m. meeting in the Planning, Zoning & Inspection Conference Room #205; 6 p.m. public hearing, 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

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

The 9th Annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Christmas Blood Drive with the American Red Cross will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stanleytown Elementary School Gymnasium, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown, VA 24168. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments have priority. You may schedule an appointment by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org, Sponsor Code: Brenda, or in the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Beware Bassettville!! The Grinch is coming to the Bassett Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett, from 3-6 p.m. Tickets are \$10, that includes a professional 5x7 photo, taken by Ricky Dawson, with the Grinch!! Grinch crafts and activities, with refreshments

Ohev Zion

(cont. from page 1)

Martinsville was Sam Heiner in 1900, Globman said. Fifteen years later, there were five Jewish families: those of Heiner; Sam Kolodny, whose son and daughter-in-law, Harold and Anita, ran Kolodny's Ladies Shop; Max Berlin, the father of Ted Berlin who ran Ted's Men's Shop; Abe Fusfeld; and Abe Globman. Abe and Masha Globman were the proprietors of Globman's, Martinsville's iconic and most famous department store.

By 1927 Martinsville had 25 Jewish people, who formed the core group that built the synagogue, he said.

Kolodny and Abe Globman were the original members of the building committee for the synagogue whose name means "Love of Zion." They chose as its location Moss Street, which was in the area where many of the Jewish families lived.

Not only was being within walking distance convenient, but it was also crucial, in the following of their Orthodox Jewish practices.

Most of the families were first-generation American citizens from Eastern Europe, Poland, and Russia, he said, and observed all the Jewish traditions. They observed strict restrictions against any labor on the Sabbath. That includes cooking, cleaning, washing – and driving.

Construction began in 1927 after \$5,000 had been raised, though the construction estimate was at \$11,000. Donations and a \$3,000 loan from People's National Bank covered the rest. A crowd of several hundred people were present for the laying of the cornerstone in 1927.

As Martinsville grew in the 1930s and 1940s, so did the synagogue's membership. They were a close-knit group, Globman said; pictures from the mid-1900s showed a close-knit community that "did everything together."

The first graduations recorded from Ohev Zion's Sunday school were in 1943, with four. "Sunday school" is the term used for the religious classes which were held on Sundays, while the Sabbath is observed from sundown Friday to after dark on Saturday.

In 1945, the women founded a chapter of Hadassah, an American Jewish volunteer women's organization.

The Ohev Zion Sisterhood operated a fundraising store in the synagogue's social hall. Since several of the members were clothing retailers, much of the merchandise had been donated by vendors. Through the years, the Sisterhood raised over \$200,000 to help with the synagogue's costs and salary for a rabbi.

In 1948, members started the process to get a cemetery; that cemetery, located in Ridgeway, was dedicated on Oct. 2, 1949.

Though it was a comparatively small congregation, Ohev Zion started having a full-time rabbi in 1949, with the first being one who didn't last too long. To help with personal financial problems, Globman said, that the first rabbi borrowed \$500 from the synagogue treasury, couldn't pay it back, and left.

That followed a series of rabbis, whose time ranged from 20 days to several years.

"Hiring a rabbi for such a small congregation was almost unheard of in those days," Globman said.

The congregation bought a house next to the synagogue to be a home for a rabbi to live.

One rabbi who had a great impact on Dicky Globman

for the children! This is a fundraiser for the Bassett Branch Library Project.

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.

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

Health Sciences Career Fair at Patrick & Henry Community College, Frith Exhibit Hall, Room 129, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale that is open to the public in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring your Christmas list and head to the basement to see all the goodies the elves left behind! We have books for entertaining; decorating; DIY crafts for adults & children; coffee table books; fiction; romance; Religious & Spiritual; too many to list!! ALL paperback books are .50¢ & ALL hardback books are \$1, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds go back into the library system. The next sale is Feb. 3.

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 event.



The present home of Ohev Zion Synagogue was built in 1961 on Parkview Avenue in Martinsville.

and his contemporaries was Rabbi Mordecai Thurman, from 1954-1963. He was a dynamic speaker and scholar "and well respected in the non-Jewish community." He formed a youth group that met every Saturday to discuss Jewish topics, then have lunch and go bowling. Later, the congregation had a chapter of United Synagogue Youth.

As the years went on, the congregation let go of some of its Orthodox practices, he said. "Living in a small town, it was almost impossible to keep all the kosher dietary restrictions." They would have had to order most of their food from Baltimore or Charlotte. So the congregation "settled into Conservatism," which was less strict on the old practices, but still had services conducted largely in Hebrew.

"By 1961, members wanted a more modern synagogue in a nicer neighborhood," so they built the one still in use on Parkview Avenue.

"It is in wonderful condition and will probably be our synagogue forever," he said. A house for a rabbi was built next door in 1965.

The synagogue had a robust youth population of around 40 kids in the 1960s and '70s.

After Thurman left, the synagogue had difficulties in finding a full-time rabbi. Ohev Zion asked United Synagogue, the national organization for Conservative synagogues, of which it was a member, for help getting a rabbi.

That was no help, though, so the congregation asked the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, a Reformed organization. It responded that it could not help Ohev Zion since it was not a member. Ohev Zion replied, "You help us find a rabbi and we'll switch teams, and they did, and we did," Globman said.

The men had a chapter of B'nai Brith, a national Jewish men's service organization. Its main branch is the Anti-Defamation League, which is "vigilant in trying to prevent antisemitism."

In the late 1970s, the synagogue held an art auction and continued to remodel and upgrade its building, with extensive renovations including stained glass windows in 1981. By 1985 the congregation was comprised of 45 Jewish families.

"Then the fortunes of our congregation, along with the fortunes of Martinsville-Henry County," began to deteriorate, as major industries closed or moved production offshore. As happened with much of the local population, several of the synagogue's families moved away.

The congregation no longer could afford a rabbi, but

Tuesdays in 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.

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 are welcome. For more information, call Patti at (276) 358-0489.

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, 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.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. 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.

"fortunately ... had an excellent relationship with Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro." From there came a cantor, who led the musical part of service, and a lay rabbi.

A well-loved cantor was Paul Gould, who came from Austria. During the Holocaust, he had escaped from a concentration camp in the bottom of a vegetable wagon. He died in 2016, "a sad occasion ... We miss him to this day."

Ohev Zion had part-time rabbis in Michael White of Greensboro until 2002, then Beth Socol of Greensboro, until 2020. Since then, the rabbi has been Nadav Avital, a history teacher at Weaver Academy in Greensboro.

After a decline that paralleled Martinsville's decline, membership at the synagogue is now on the uptick. However, for a while, it had looked like the synagogue may have reached its final days.

Without any more children in the congregation, the Sunday school closed 20 years ago. In addition to being small, the membership also was aging.

"In 2008 the board got together and began preparation for what is basically called the last will and testament," he said. "We outlined plans for disposition of assets and establishment of a Jewish legacy in our area in case we could no longer function as a synagogue."

Ohev Zion "invested quite a bit of money with the Jewish Federation of Greensboro," a large organization that has member congregations in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia. "They agreed, in case of dissolution of the synagogue, they would take over and fund the management of our cemetery in perpetuity."

The synagogue sold its house on Parkview in 2019.

Members of Ohev Zion are involved throughout the Martinsville community, Globman said. They have been presidents of the Retail Merchants Association, the country club, and the hospital board of trustees; they have been members of the City Council and the boards of various businesses and industries, and mayor.

"Both Barry (Greene) and I have served as president of that great Jewish organization, Christmas Cheer," Globman quipped, as the audience chuckled. "I served as a board member and the president of the YMCA." Barry Greene's father, Dane Greene, helped found Little League baseball, and the football stadium at Martinsville High School is named after him.

Though the congregation now is small, it remains active with service and events, and "our financial position continues to be strong." Recently, "our numbers are starting to tick up," as Jewish families have moved to Martinsville, Henry County, and Eden, N.C.

"We have a last will and testament on file," Globman concluded his program. "Let's hope it stays there." The Museum is at 1 E. Main St. (former Henry County courthouse). Upcoming programs include its annual Christmas Music Program, 7-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, and the Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series continues with "Founders Day," at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 21.

The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and other times by appointment or chance. Keep up with it on Facebook and see videos of its programs on its YouTube channel.

(Kozelsky is the Historical Society's executive director.)

OPINION

Fire Investigation

This fall, forest fires have been significant in the 9th District and causes are yet to be determined.

In September, I held a hearing in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to discuss the devastating Maui fires that occurred this past August. Our focus was investigating what role Maui's electric infrastructure might have played in the events leading up to the fires.

As I said after the hearing, I was disappointed the Committee could not get answers on the timeline leading up to the deenergizing of the power lines on Maui from our witness, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura. The disappointment stemmed from the fact that notice was given to Hawaiian Electric that we were specifically looking at the timeline and Ms. Kimura was not prepared with the answers. Notwithstanding that, in the aftermath of a crisis sometimes it takes leaders time to gather all the appropriate answers.

Accordingly, I followed up with a series of written questions in order to get a better picture of the sequence of events and more information on Hawaiian Electric's fire protocols and procedures. Ms. Kimura has since submitted detailed responses for the record.

I was particularly interested when on August 8th Hawaiian Electric deenergized their power lines. According to Ms. Kimura, Hawaiian Electric was aware of the Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service, meaning there was an increased risk of fire. She said because of this, Hawaiian Electric implemented their Reclose Blocking Procedure. Under this protocol, if a fault causes a line to trip offline (or deenergize), the circuit breaker or recloser cannot automatically attempt to reenergize the circuit. It must be done manually after the line has been inspected and determined to be found "clear and intact".

According to Ms. Kimura's written answers, a power line tripped early the morning of August 8th and, following the protocol, was inspected, and deemed clear and intact. The company reenergized the line at 6 a.m. The same line was then tripped offline again at 6:39 a.m.

What is most concerning about this sequence of events is that the morning fire in Lahaina was reported at 6:37 a.m. Further, the fire was reported in the same area as the tripped line. It is reported that the morning fire was contained by 9 a.m. but, there is speculation that the morning fire might not have been completely extinguished, thus reigniting, and causing



Morgan Griffith

Representative

the deadly afternoon fire.

This leads many to wonder what would have happened if the line hadn't been turned back on. Was it improper for the company to have reenergized the lines at 6 a.m., despite high winds continuing?

The Committee will continue to investigate and will hold more hearings to learn as much as possible about these fires and how to prevent such fires in the future.

One of the other things that came out during the hearing was the use of a "public safety power shutoff" program. This program, created due to fires in western states, including California, uses modern technology to quickly deenergize the power system in areas of high risk. This allows utility companies to cut electricity to specific areas before dangerous weather in order to limit the risk of fires. The program was not used in Hawaii.

My hope is that other power companies in the United States, including those in Virginia, will consider adopting this technology.

This was particularly pressing on my mind the last several weeks because in early November, Cardinal News reported that Virginia had five fires that had consumed more than 1,000 acres each. Of those, four were located in the 9th District. At that time, the Yocum Creek fire in Lee County covered 1,500 acres, the Rocklick Fire in Buchanan County covered 1,200 acres, the Rachel's Chapel fire in Dickenson County covered 1,100 acres, and the Tuggle's Gap in Patrick County covered 1,050 acres.

And as I write this column, the Matt's Creek fire in Bedford County has already consumed over 11,000 acres. I hope to be with the forest service soon and see the damage.

While there is no indication at this time that any of these fires were caused by electric power lines, and while we did not experience high winds prior to these fires as occurred out west and in Hawaii, I believe this technology deserves due consideration.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671 or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

The truth is out there

I was a huge fan of "The X-Files" back in the day, and I was also one of the tens of people who enjoyed its short-lived spinoff, "The Lone Gunmen."

For those tragically unfamiliar with this towering pillar of 1990s pop culture, "The X-Files" followed FBI agents Mulder and Scully as they investigated government conspiracies, aliens, and various supernatural occurrences. "The Lone Gunmen," meanwhile, spent one season following the adventures of a trio of conspiratorial computer hacker geeks who provided comic relief on the main series.

Both of these shows are products of the pre-9/11 era — "The X-Files" initially wrapped in 2002, while the entirety of "The Lone Gunmen" aired between March and June of 2001. In fact, in a bizarre cosmic coincidence, the pilot episode of the latter show involved rogue members of the U.S. government remotely hijacking a plane so they could fly it into the World Trade Center and allow terrorists to take the credit, thereby kicking off a lucrative new cold war. It aired six months and a day prior to the actual attack on the World Trade Center.

And this, unfortunately, is the one reason that neither show has aged particularly well. They come from an era where conspiracy theories were a fun lark and not the reason your uncle wasn't invited to Thanksgiving. Twenty years later, it's not that hard to imagine Mulder going down the Q-Anon rabbit hole and explaining to a skeptical Scully that the Democrats run a child slavery ring out of the basement of a D.C. pizza parlor and that a 106-year-old JFK is going to show up at Dealey Plaza to stop them.

There's a particular episode of "The Lone Gunmen" that I was thinking about the other day. The premise is that the trio are trying to find a car from the 1960s that was alleged to run on water. They finally find the car and want to release the technology to the world, but the car's owner tells them it would be a mistake; if humanity were given the ability to harness a free, limitless fuel source, it would result in overdevelopment, overconsumption, and overpopulation. The Lone Gunmen come to realize that she's right, and decide that the technology shouldn't be released to the public until humanity has the wisdom to use it properly.

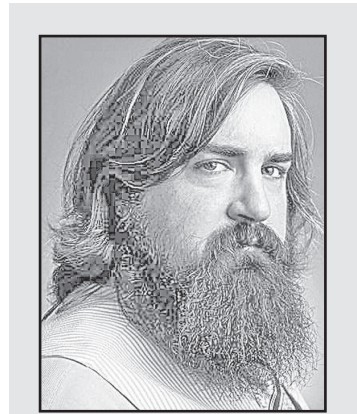
This episode doesn't really work in the age of social media.

I was scrolling Facebook the other day and saw a shared post about solar panels. The post was supposedly written by retired aerospace engineer George Franklin. In the post, Franklin argues that solar panels are only about 20 percent efficient. Worse still, they absorb heat from the sun, and warm air rises and is radiated out into the atmosphere. This, he argues, can cause thunderstorms and tornadoes.

"So I conclude with this," he says. "There is nothing green about green energy except the dirty money flowing into corrupt pockets."

I decided to do some research, beginning with George Franklin. It turns out that there is a retired aerospace engineer named George Franklin. However, he graduated from college in 1950, which would put him firmly in his 90s assuming he's still kicking, and he also got a lot of his own bibliographical details wrong, so I'm going to guess he didn't write this piece.

Next, I looked at the claim that solar panels are only 20 percent efficient. That's pretty much true; it also doesn't matter, given that we have about five billion years before an anticipated shortage of sunlight. Modern gasoline engines have an efficiency of anywhere



By Ben R. Williams

from 20 to 50 percent, while photosynthesis is between 0.1 and 4.3 percent efficient and manages to support all life on Earth.

But will solar farms raise temperatures and cause thunderstorms and tornadoes? I doubt it, considering that asphalt parking lots and highways are also big dark things that reflect heat and they don't seem to change the weather. There is such a thing as the urban heat island effect, which causes cities to be slightly warmer than surrounding rural areas because of the lack of vegetation and the heat reflected by masses of buildings and asphalt, but this has actually been shown to decrease incidents of tornadoes, not increase them.

Whenever the topic of alternative energy pops up, there are a whole lot of folks who are deeply invested in downplaying its usefulness. I hear the same arguments over and over again.

Do wind turbines kill birds? One study showed that U.S. wind turbines kill fewer than 4,000 birds per year. That's not great, but outdoor cats kill 2.4 billion birds per year in the U.S. alone and no one's up in arms about that.

Is mining for lithium and cobalt bad for the environment and the miners? Yes, but it's also horribly destructive to mine for coal or pump oil or natural gas. I'm a big proponent of nuclear power, but that obviously creates nuclear waste, well known for being highly carcinogenic and occasionally creating supermutants. There isn't a method of generating energy that doesn't have some kind of drawback.

How will we generate the electricity to run our electric cars? In the short term, some combination of fossil fuels, nuclear power, hydroelectric, and renewable energy, which is exactly why it makes sense to begin transitioning more and more of our power grid to renewable energy. The wind blows and the sun shines for free.

When I read copied and pasted missives from folks like the ersatz George Franklin, these bad faith arguments against affordable renewable energy, I can't help but wonder who wrote them. It seems to me that anyone who's against a cheap alternative to fossil fuels is someone who has a vested financial interest in the continued use of fossil fuels. If the water-powered car from "The Lone Gunmen" really existed, our heroes wouldn't have to worry that its widespread adoption would cause overpopulation; instead, they would watch in disappointment as oil industry shills generated propaganda to convince the public that water cars are for loser liberals.

It's vaguely tragic that when I look back on "The X-Files" and "The Lone Gunmen," two shows about how the government is lying to you and you shouldn't trust anyone, my chief criticism is that the writers were way too optimistic.

Super Crossword

A TO Z REPEATEDLY

ACROSS

- 1 DUBYA or JFK
- 5 Horse riders
- 12 Bandleader Lawrence
- 16 NBA's Erving, familiarly
- 19 Totally alter
- 20 Visibly sulky
- 21 Pack of yaks
- 22 Coastless inlet
- 23 Monumental
- 24 Of very hilly regions
- 25 Liveliness
- 27 Betray by snitching
- 29 Possible answer to "Who is?"
- 30 Scottish refusals
- 32 Lupe of "Mexican Spitfire"
- 33 With 73- and 117-Across, notable fact about this puzzle's solution
- 37 Antigen-attacking lymphocyte
- 39 Abbr. ending a math proof
- 40 Suffix with form
- 41 Deer relative
- 42 Surgical tool
- 44 Put a levy on
- 47 Smidge
- 49 Des Moines native
- 51 Cry to a lifesaver
- 53 Move in spasms
- 56 "American Pie" actor — William Scott
- 58 Visibly awed
- 60 Tailless cat
- 61 Pop's Grande
- 63 The Beatles' "Eleanor —"
- 65 Gibson liquor
- 66 1847 Herman Melville novel
- 67 Big name in utility knives
- 68 Atty.'s title
- 69 18-wheeler
- 71 Div. of a hoops game
- 73 See
- 33-Across
- 80 Mine, in Italy
- 81 ROY G. —
- 82 Albuquerque-to-Denver dir.
- 83 Chef's hat
- 85 Travel by foot
- 89 Cable inits.
- 91 Reverend Jackson
- 93 Tweak
- 94 Ending for book
- 95 "E!" —
- (nickname of a drug lord)
- DOWN
- 1 Trig. for calc. e.g.
- 99 Acorn trees
- 100 "Incredible!"
- 102 D-Max pickup maker
- 104 Tips, as a hat
- 106 Wd. often ending in "-ly"
- 107 Rho-tau link
- 109 Western treaty inits.
- 111 U.S. spy gp.
- 112 Former Pan Am rival
- 115 Decide you will
- 117 See
- 33-Across
- 121 Part of a ship's hull
- 123 Cartoon hits
- 125 Cool, man
- 126 Some Native Americans
- 127 Getting a laugh out of
- 129 Cool guy on "Happy Days"
- 133 Years, in Italy
- 134 Traffic snarl
- 135 Lawn digger
- 136 Popular place for a piercing
- 137 Give a test to
- 138 Log splitter
- 139 — Out of My League
- 140 Basic nature
- 141 "That's clear"
- 2 Put new concrete on
- 3 Revised copy
- 4 Cholesterol-lowering drug
- 5 Funny Carrey
- 6 Artist Yoko
- 7 "Be quiet!"
- 8 Univ. about 50 miles west of Topeka
- 9 Coating with glossy varnish
- 10 Yang partner
- 11 Office scribe
- 12 Interlaced
- 13 Is
- 14 Third bk. of the Bible
- 15 Roguish behavior
- 16 Group of precision marchers
- 17 Ceremony
- 18 "Run This Town" rapper
- 26 Toon frame
- 28 Laugh syllable from a Stoooge
- 31 Plant — (claim some territory, maybe)
- 34 Writer Mario Vargas —
- 35 Mitigate
- 36 "King Kong" studio
- 38 Solidifies
- 43 "Seminar," for "Marines," e.g.: Abbr.
- 45 River in Italy
- 46 "Kisses and hugs" symbol
- 47 Glide in a rink
- 48 Glaring
- 50 "That's the — goes"
- 52 Med. insurer
- 53 NFL's Jaguars, on scoreboards
- 54 The "E" of 39-Across
- 55 Well-off
- 57 Muslim face veil
- 59 Arouse
- 62 Linguist Chomsky
- 64 Mark over a short vowel
- 68 Pliocene, e.g.
- 70 Big name in infomercial
- 72 Eligible for Soc. Sec.
- 74 Class for an Eng. major
- 75 Little jewel
- 76 Sam of golf
- 77 Judo halls
- 78 Blue hue
- 79 Walrus tooth
- 84 Aliens, briefly
- 85 Tot's glassful
- 86 Yank who wore #13
- 87 Small amount, as of sales
- 88 Jazz saxophonist Dave
- 90 Injure greatly
- 92 People crushing things
- 93 Stick on
- 96 Biblical song
- 98 Points of convergence
- 101 Prizes highly
- 103 Animals: Suffix
- 105 Kismet
- 108 Wolf down
- 110 Suppress
- 112 Pre-litoff expression
- 113 Hot dog
- 114 Judicial inquest
- 116 Book divs.
- 118 Lauder of cosmetics
- 119 Cereal utensil
- 120 Basra citizen
- 121 Mexico's — California
- 122 Huge-screen film format
- 124 In-favor votes
- 128 "Stupid me!"
- 130 Partakes of
- 131 "Grimm" ailer
- 132 Wye follower

Snippets of the 'Teen Years'

Chances are, if you spend any time around high-schoolers, you've forked over \$1 for a World's Finest Chocolate candy bar.

You also may have been amazed that they still sell for the same price they did when we were hawking them to raise money for our own band or drama club or Beta Club decades ago.

A dollar was a lot of money when I was a kid, so when it was time to turn the money in at the end of the sales period I'd be in a real jam, and so would a lot of the other kids. You see, we had to make up the difference between the chocolate bars that we had actually sold and the other chocolate bars that, ahem, weren't in the box anymore.

Now in my house whenever I do a load of laundry a World's Finest Chocolate wrapper falls from the clothes I transfer from the washer to the dryer.

Hmmm. I know what happened there.

My kid is selling those chocolates, and apparently, she's been buying her share of them, too.

She keeps me informed about how different students are ranking in sales. One girl made a killing by sending the box to work with her parents.

I don't encounter near the flow of traffic at my job as that other mother does at hers, but I did set the box out on a side table at a board of directors meeting, and proudly held over the \$3 that earned to my daughter later that night.

Along with keeping me updated on sales progress, she also gives me a running tally on who got money stolen out of their box. Apparently, this is a big problem these days.

The kids either aren't issued lockers, or they are issued lockers but the practice of not using lockers has become so standard among students that it does not occur to anyone to store their things in them. Instead, they carry their bookbags and belongings, including those boxes of chocolates, from class to class. When the kids have to leave their stuff at their desks to work on



Holly Kozelsky

class projects, the eagle-eyed dancing-fingered thieves clean them out.

Three dollars was stolen out of Hunter's box, she reported first, and now he has to pay that back out of his own money.

Everleigh was missing \$8 from her money envelope at the end of groupwork, and now she has to pay that back.

Twelve dollars got gone from Journee's candy box the next day.

Then, finally: After the joy of a couple of landmark sales that morning, my daughter discovered after groupwork that a whopping \$20 was missing out of her box. That loss sure ruined the joy of that morning's victory; if she had not made that big \$12 sale and the other \$5 sale, she only would have had to pay \$3 in the theft loss.

That discouragement knocked the wind out of her salesmanship for a few days, but then her momentum picked right back up.

Last Sunday's church service was the Hanging of the Greens, at the end of which everyone present received a gift bag with some fruit and candies -- including a World's Finest Chocolate bar.

My daughter was astounded: Supplying our whole church with candy bars? Why had that not occurred to her? Could that happen again next year, with her as the salesperson?

It won't be long before she stops carrying around those boxes and I stop finding the crumpled wrappers in the laundry.

But she has an idea:
Why can't they just sell them all year long?
Sigh.

Banorama

(cont. from page 1)

according to Shelor, who said, "I got the (promised) banjo and drug it back (home) across the field."

Shelor has said he "always likes to play for hometown folks," and his appearance at the show on Saturday will be "my great pleasure."

He received the 2001 International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Instrumental Album of the Year award, the IBMA Banjo Performer of the Year

award for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and in 2012, was inducted into the 2009 Virginia Country Music Hall of Fame, and received the 2011 award for the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass.

Alley said Nu-Blu has a nationally syndicated TV show called "Bluegrass Ridge," a countdown of Bluegrass songs. The show is aired in more than 100 million homes worldwide.

"They host the show every Friday night. It comes on at midnight," he said.

Other performers include Jay Adams, Clyde Bailey, Charlie Chaney, Barry Collins, Ronny Harrison, Nessie Hunt, Doug Joyce, Larry Mabe, Hersie McMillan, Tommy Morse, Gene Parker, and Sidney Watson.

Alley said all the performers are "within 30 miles of town" (Stuart).

Admission is free, though donations are encouraged. Prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds used to teach children in the area firearm safety.

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Annual Christmas Music Program to be held Dec. 1

Join the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society for its annual Christmas Music Program on Friday, December 1, at 7 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Featured performers will include Beth Chapman, Regula Daily, Valeria Edwards, John Fulcher, Virginia King, Joanne Linscott, Lynn Pritchett, and Davis Scott.

Peter Marshall will give remarks on the history of Christmas music.

This year's program will be held in conjunction with Martinsville Uptown's

North Pole Jingle. Uptown businesses will be open until 8 p.m., a tree lighting ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m., Santa will be available for pictures, and the Magna Vista High School Choir will perform.

Admission to the annual Christmas Music Program is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum will be open 5-8 p.m., along with the Gift Shop which includes Christmas ornaments, books, fairy stone jewelry, and other gift items.

Martinsville Uptown North Pole Jingle
December 1 5PM-8PM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY - 5:30PM - SANTA & MAGNA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR WILL BE PRESENT & PERFORMING
ACTIVITIES & SHOPPING TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES - 5:00PM-8:00PM

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

- THE 3D SHOP - PICTURE NIGHT LIGHT STATION
- AMERICAN PATRIOT LIQUIDATION
- BLUETATTOO STUDIO - FESTIVE COLORING
- COLLINS-MCKEE-STONE FUNERAL HOME
- FOREVER YOUNGER - PHOTOS WITH THE GRINCH
- GALLERY 22
- GUTZY MERMAIDZ - ORNAMENT STATION & MERMAID HAIR
- THE GROUND FLOOR
- HOLLAND ACCOUNTING - LETTERS TO SANTA
- MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - 7PM
- MARTIN PLAZA - OPEN HOUSE
- MHC ELITE CHEER
- OAKSTONE HEALTH & NUTRITION - HEALTHY HOLIDAY TREAT
- SWEET HEAVEN - FESTIVE COLORING & REINDEER CANDY CANES
- STUDIO 107 - CRAFT STATION
- UPTOWN MARTINSVILLE FARMERS' MARKET - HOLIDAYS AT THE MARKET - SANTA WILL BE PRESENT FROM 6PM TO 8PM
- UPTOWN PARTNERSHIP - ORNAMENT STATION
- UPTOWN ROXIE SUITES - SANTA'S WORKSHOP
- ABE'S FRESH CUTS
- ASHRA JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY - MINI CHRISTMAS PHOTO BOOTHS
- CAMILLE SLAYED THAT
- MITCHELL TAX EMPIRE
- EXQUISITE EMPIRE MARY KAY

BTW **THE LESTER GROUP** **ValleyStar**



Coat Drive for Kids was successful

Debra Buchanan (right), and Garrett Dillard are pictured with some of the coats collected during the 28th annual Coat Drive for Kids. Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, started the drive that provides new and gently used coats to youngsters each year. Dillard represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

City's free app gets high reviews

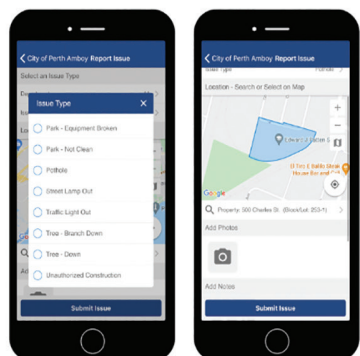
ENGAGE WITH MARTINSVILLE ANYWHERE. ANYTIME.
SDL PORTAL

Connect with Martinsville on your mobile device!

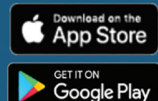
Martinsville has launched SDL Portal, a free mobile app and website where the public can submit complaints and access information 24/7. To get started, download the app and create an account.

Report a Concern

- 1 Select "Report Issue"
- 2 Choose "Issue Type" from the dropdown list
- 3 Search for the location, select off the map, or hit the target for current location
- 4 Upload images and provide complaint details



Download SDL Portal app today on the App Store or Google Play



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CONNECT WITH MARTINSVILLE ONLINE

Martinsville is on SDL Portal, an online hub where residents & professionals can access town data, search properties and submit complaints 24/7.

- ✓ Search Complaint Records
- ✓ Access Property Data
- ✓ Submit City Complaints
- ✓ And more!

SDL PORTAL

visit: sdl.town/Martinsville to get started

If you haven't downloaded the City of Martinsville's SDL Portal, a mobile app and website designed to streamline services, it's not too late to do so. Hundreds of people have downloaded the free app, and it has garnered high reviews on Google Play and the App Store.

The platform allows residents and visitors to submit complaints, access property information, and retrieve vital city information, with convenience and accessibility. The portal's features include:

Online Reporting: The SDL Portal allows residents to easily report non-emergency issues, such as potholes, streetlight outages, or other concerns directly to the city's authorities. This also includes the ability to attach

photos and descriptions.

Search Property Information: Property owners and potential buyers can access property information. This feature streamlines the process of researching properties within the city.

Access Information 24/7: The SDL Portal provides access to a wealth of information about Martinsville allowing users to stay informed and engaged with the community effortlessly.

The SDL Portal is compatible with both iOS and Android devices and can be accessed through any web browser. To learn more and access the SDL Portal, visit <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/476/City-Fix-Martinsville>.
[Sdl.town/Martinsville](https://sdl.town/Martinsville)

Create a Safe Driving Jingle for the Holidays for a Chance to Win Up to \$500



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1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Virginia teens are being encouraged to jingle their way to a safe holiday by creating a safe driving song or tune for a statewide competition and a chance to win cash prizes of up to \$500.

The Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday: Buckle Up and Celebrate Responsibly Contest is happening now across the Commonwealth with a goal to keep teen drivers and passengers safe during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The contest, sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO), the Virginia State Police (VSP), State Farm, and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), is an effort to reduce teen fatalities during what has become a high-risk period for young drivers.

Over the past three years during the month of December, 17 teens aged 15 to 19 have died in motor vehicle crashes in the Commonwealth and 1,235 were injured, according to statistics from DMV. During the same time period, young drivers aged 15-19 accounted for 4,245 crashes and 14 fatal crashes in the Commonwealth

during the month of December. Many of the fatalities occurred when teens were on break for the Christmas holiday.

This fun and educational initiative is designed to encourage teens to buckle up and celebrate and drive safely throughout the holidays. The jingle competition is open to Virginia youth ages 11-19 and involves developing a safe driving jingle (short song or tune) that promotes traffic safety and the holiday campaign theme. Teens are encouraged to enter the contest individually and/or as part of a school club or youth group. Jingle entries must be in video format and no more than 30 seconds in length. Submissions are due to YOVASO by December 7, at 11:59 p.m. The top six jingles in the middle and high school division, as selected by YOVASO staff, will be shared on the Holiday Campaign landing page for public voting December 11-14, 2023. The winning jingle in both divisions will be announced on December 15, 2023, and will be shared on social media throughout the Christmas holiday to remind students to buckle up and drive safely.

The winning jingle in the high school division will receive a \$500 cash prize; second place will receive \$200 and third will receive \$100. The winning middle school jingle will receive \$200 with second place being awarded \$100 and third place \$50. All prizes are made possible by a grant from State Farm. For the official jingle guidelines, winner selection process, and prize information, visit the YOVASO website or Holiday Campaign Page.

"The jingle competition is a fun and creative way for teens to remind each other to buckle up and drive safely during this high-risk period," said Mary King, YOVASO Program Manager. "We know all youth and teens love music and these safe driving jingles are a great way to reach youth statewide. We encourage all teens and youth groups to get creative and have fun while creating a catchy and memorable jingle for the holidays."

For more information on how your teen, school, or youth group can get involved, contact Casey Taylor, Program Development Coordinator at 540-739-4392 or email casey.taylor@vsp.virginia.gov.

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.

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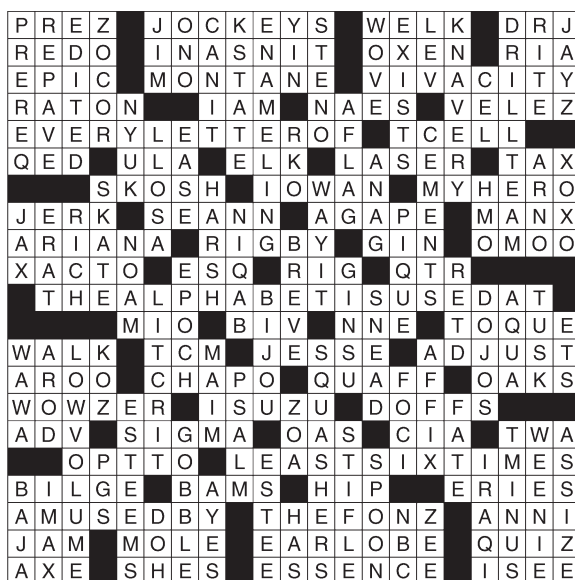
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LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **December 20, 2023 at 1:00 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 citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permit for the following case.

Case S-23-15 Lewis J. and Sandra R. Evans
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 10 RV sites. The property is approximately 4.2-acres, located at 355 Breckenridge Circle in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 22.3/87.

The applications for this request 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

ADVERTISE!

Kendrick celebrates 90th birthday

Eleanor Adams Kendrick, a Patrick County native and an octogenarian, recently became a nonagenarian and celebrated her 90th birthday in Collinsville, at a party at El Ranchito restaurant.

Surrounded by her beloved family members, consisting of her nonagenarian sisters, their children and spouses, her son, Danny Kendrick, and her grandchildren, Meagan and Christopher Kendrick to honor her birthday. Eleanor enjoyed a casual and social afternoon at the local Mexican restaurant El Ranchito. Guests travelled from as far as Eastern Virginia, and North Carolina to attend her birthday celebration.

Eleanor was born on November 20, 1933, and recalls using a horse and buggy to navigate the bumpy roads of Patrick County. She married Otha Kendrick in 1958 and lived faithfully with him in Bassett, Virginia, where they made their home. Blessed with a son, Danny, born in 1964,



she stayed home to raise him. She worked at Hardee's in Bassett, where she was a steadfast employee and retired at the age of 82, after 30 years of service. She was an instrumental part of creating the group of singers and players that Bassett Hardee's was known for. Every Tuesday, a group of musicians gathered at Hardee's to entertain and brighten the morn-

ings of Bassett residents and visitors alike, under the gentle leadership of Mrs. Kendrick. A devout woman, she continues to attend The Church of God of Prophecy in Patrick Springs, where she has attended for many years.

Mrs. Kendrick continues to live independently in Bassett, where she has resided since 1958. Before retirement, she devoted time volunteering at Stanleytown Rehab to help the "old folks" in the retirement center. No one ever wanted to tell her that she was older than some of the residents! Since then, she has enjoyed playing the piano at church every Sunday morning, talking to her sisters on the phone, and hosting visits from her beloved family.

The family wishes to thank the guests who attended her small party, and, importantly, the many members of this community who made her birthday special by sending her cards, calling her, and bringing her flowers.

Quilters sought for history project

The Virginia Quilt Museum is unveiling an ambitious and meaningful project, "Stitching Together History," in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. This groundbreaking initiative will see the creation of 250 quilts, each telling a unique story about the rich history of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The project, set to launch on July 4, 2026, will transform the Virginia Quilt Museum into a vibrant tapestry of historical narratives as told through a specially curated collection of quilts displayed throughout the entire museum until December 22, 2026.

To ensure a cohesive and inclusive representation, the quilts will be based on adaptations of four key themes proposed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for the 250th Anniversary: Unfinished Revolutions, We the People, Power of Place, and Virginia Experiments.

Quilters from all corners of the United States are invited to contribute to this monumental project. The advisory committee, comprising experts in both content and technical skill, will carefully select quilts for display during the exhibition. Subsequently, the quilts will be returned to the artists or offered for sale as part of a fundraising initiative.

Complementing the exhibition, the Virginia Quilt Museum will roll out a diverse array of programming beginning in the fall of 2023 and extending through 2026. The programming will include both virtual and in-person events across the state, with a focus on assisting quilters in their research and creation process. Activities such as lectures, office hours, and discussion groups will be led by historians and museum staff, fostering a collaborative and enriching environment.

Opportunities for public participation will be integrated throughout the project, providing visitors with avenues to suggest topics to be covered by quilters. In addition, an artist-in-residence will be hosted to create a quilt during the exhibition, reflecting the final theme of "Doing History" as outlined by AASLH.

A highlight of the project is the development of a comprehensive book divided into four sections, corresponding to the exhibition's themes. Each section will feature pictures of the quilts alongside historical information, with a prominent figure contributing the forward. Schiffer Publishing, known for their commitment to quality quilt-related books, is being approached as the potential publisher for this significant work.

The Virginia Quilt Museum invites the community, historians, and art enthusiasts to join in this remarkable journey of "Stitching Together History," as the Museum works to weave together the fabric of Virginia's rich and diverse past.

For more information about the project, submission guidelines, and programming updates, please visit vaquiltmuseum.org.

The Virginia Quilt Museum, located in downtown Harrisonburg, Virginia, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the art of quilting. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and community engagement, the museum strives to enrich the cultural landscape and foster an appreciation for the craftsmanship and storytelling inherent in quilts.

Recycle and reduce waste for the holidays

The holiday season is a special time of year. Individuals often spend a little more on gifts, indulge a little more on rich foods and treats and make a concerted effort to enjoy more time with their loved ones during the holidays.

The tendency to overdo things during the holiday season can create a lot of waste. In fact, Americans produce 25 percent more garbage from Thanksgiving through the end of the year, according to Waste Advantage magazine, a publication of the waste and recycling industry. That uptick equates to one million tons of extra trash per week throughout the holidays.

Extra food, plastic and paper waste is generated this time of year, but people can be mindful of the potential to go overboard and take some steps to be more waste-conscious as they entertain.

• Reuse a small portion of wrapping paper or look for other wrapping items. Sunday comics, newsprint, colorful magazine pages, and even pieces of fabric can be used



to wrap gifts in lieu of purchasing new wrapping paper. Otherwise, collect used wrapping paper and reuse it next year, doing the same with boxes and bows. According to researchers at Stanford University, if every American family wrapped just three presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

• Skip disposable party items. It's certainly easy to use disposable plates, napkins and cups when hosting holiday parties, but that is very wasteful. Opt for durable, reusable products that can be packed away and used each year during holiday events.

• Buy durable and reusable items as gifts. Avoid fad gifts and focus

on items that will have staying power. Homemade gifts, such as foods, knitted scarves, artwork, and more, are generally eco-friendly.

• Set up marked trash and recycling receptacles. Remind party guests to recycle the appropriate materials by clearly marking a pail designed for collecting recyclables, such as cans, plastic beverage bottles and glass wine bottles. Most hard plastics can be recycled.

• Remove your name from catalog lists. Call companies and ask to be taken off promotional mailing lists to reduce paper waste.

• Send a photo. Mail photos of the kids or the entire family in lieu of holiday cards. They're apt to save the photos and display them, helping to keep even more paper trash out of landfills.

• Research new recipes for leftovers. With an abundance of food remaining after entertaining, turn leftovers into new meals by exploring recipes from friends or by doing a little research online.

Waste can get out of control during the holidays, but there are ways to tame the excess.

It's not too early to prepare your home for winter

With El Niño returning for the first time in four years, Virginia could be in for a cold, snowy winter.

While last winter was relatively mild and lacked significant snowfall, this year may look different. The 2023-24 Farmers' Almanac forecasts a chilly, wet season for Virginia and the mid-Atlantic, and homeowners should take steps now to winter-proof their homes before the weather arrives.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," said Laurie Gannon, vice president of claims for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "Ensuring your home systems are working properly and efficiently helps protect your largest investment from loss or damage."

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety encourages people to assess their homes' winter exposure, and create a plan for before and after a winter storm. Some older homes, particularly in the South, may be more susceptible to freezing temperatures. It's important to insulate pipes near exterior walls and in hard-

to-reach places like attics and crawl spaces.

IIBSH also suggests scheduling preventive maintenance for home heating systems and to keep homes cozy by caulking and sealing the exterior around windows and doors and adding weatherstripping as needed.

Ensure chimneys, fireplaces and woodstoves are cleaned each year and in good working order to prevent fires and keep carbon monoxide from building up indoors.

And if leaving home, even for a few days, "maintain your heat at a reasonable temperature—over 60 degrees," Gannon advised.

"Around Christmas 2022, some of Virginia had bitterly cold temperatures," Gannon explained. "Many people were traveling, and they turned down their thermostats to save on heating costs. Because there wasn't sufficient heat in the structure combined with the cold, their pipes burst. Imagine returning home from a holiday trip and finding your home underwater!"

Outside the home, check your roof and replace loose, damaged or missing shingles. Fix any gaps

or broken seals around vents, chimneys and roof corners. Roof leaks and ice dams can be avoided by clearing debris from gutters and drains.

Trim tree branches near or overhanging your house, as they can damage the roof, siding and windows. Shut down sprinkler systems, and drain outdoor faucets, irrigation systems and hoses.

Also, take an inventory of your home, and know what's covered, noted Gannon.

"It's always time well spent to review your policy with your insurance agent. Our agents can provide details on any new enhancements to the farm, home or business policies that you may be missing out on." Finally, don't forget to protect yourself. Monitor weather alerts, and plan accordingly. Having an alternate heating source like a generator is recommended in case of a power outage, along with keeping an emergency kit with water, nonperishable food and other supplies.

For more tips on winter preparation, check out the IBHS Winter Ready Home Checklist at bit.ly/3SpDqCT.

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Dec. 3 – 9:

12/4	7 pm Girls Basketball Bassett at Patrick County
	7 pm Boys Basketball McMichael at Magna Vista
12/5	6 pm Wrestling Tunstall at Maga Vista
	7 pm Wrestling Martinsville at Maga Vista
	7 pm Girls Basketball Dan River at Bassett
	7 pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Dan River
	7:30 pm Boys Basketball Carlisle at Lynchburg Home
School	8 pm Wrestling George Washington at Maga Vista
12/6	5 pm Wrestling Multiple schools at Bassett
	7 pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Franklin County
	7 pm Boys Basketball Franklin County at Magna Vista
	7 pm Boys Basketball Virginia Episcopal at Carlisle
12/7	5 pm Swim & Dive Martinsville at Liberty (Bedford)
	5:30 pm Girls Basketball Virginia Episcopal at Carlisle
	7 pm Boys Basketball William Byrd at Bassett
	7 pm Girls Basketball Martinsville at Dan River
	7 pm Boys Basketball Dan River at Martinsville
12/8	5 pm Swim & Dive Magna Vista vs Bassett (at Martinsville YMCA)
	7 pm Girls Basketball James River at Bassett
	7 pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Franklin County
	7 pm Girls Basketball Halifax County at Magna Vista
	7 pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at Halifax County
	7 pm Girls Basketball Tunstall at Martinsville
	7 pm Boys Basketball Martinsville at Tunstall
	TBA Wrestling Bassett at Hidden Valley
12/9	TBA Wrestling Bassett at Hidden Valley
	TBA Boys Basketball Carlisle at Morshead
	8:30 am Indoor Track Bassett at Heritage
	9:30 am Wrestling Martinsville at Alleghany
	3 pm Girls Basketball Carlisle at Covenant

Martinsville's Uptown North Pole Jingle, similar events help build community

The Uptown North Pole Jingle will be held on Friday, December 1, in Martinsville, featuring Holidays at the Market and an Uptown Holiday Open House, from 5-8 p.m. The city's Tree Lighting with the Magna Vista High School Choir is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Events such as these are worthy endeavors because a thriving Main Street can foster a sense of community, encourage entrepreneurs young and old to pursue their dreams and expose residents to a host of new ideas and products. But the benefits of a strong local business sector don't end there. In fact, communities have much to gain economically from promoting Main Street.

Though the numbers vary from year to year, a recent report from the U.S. Small Business Administration indicated that, for every \$100 a consumer spends at a small business, \$48 remains in the community where that business is located. By contrast, just \$14 out of every \$100 remains in the community when that money is spent at a big-box store or national retailer.

With so much to gain from a thriving local business scene, community leaders and residents can plan and embrace events that showcase the many small businesses that make their towns and cities unique. There are many ways to promote local businesses, and the following are three creative event ideas to get locals and non-locals alike excited about the businesses that offer so much to your community.

* Shop local at night: Many communities like Martinsville participate in restaurant weeks that draw scores of visitors to the cafes and eateries in their town. A similar approach can be employed to bring people to Main Street for something other than food. A shop local at night event, such as the annual Small Business Saturday held last week, can feature special discounts during a time of year when business might otherwise be slow. Community organizers can close Main Street to vehicle traffic throughout the week to encourage people to walk around and visit all the small businesses in their communities.

* Holiday festivals: Holiday bazaars may be most often associated with the holiday season that runs



The recent Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade attracted hundreds of spectators to Uptown Martinsville. (Photos by Pat Delaney)

from Thanksgiving weekend to New Year's Day. But there's no reason why communities cannot plan and promote similar festivals during other popular holidays, such as Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. A Valentine's Day festival the week before the holiday can encourage locals to get out and shop for that special someone, while a Halloween festival can encourage people to spend time outdoors patronizing local businesses during a time of year when the weather is welcoming for all.

* Workshop week: Workshop weeks can be a great way for local businesses to inspire interest in their offerings while showcasing the many talented individuals who help them thrive. Each night can feature a different workshop hosted by local businesses. For example, a Monday night restaurant workshop can feature chefs from local restaurants teaching locals how to prepare a certain dish. Another night during the week can feature local artisans offering lessons on the basics of their skills, such as woodworking, framing or gardening. Such an event is a great way for local businesses to put a face on their companies and meet locals who appreciate their talents.

There's no shortage of ways to promote local businesses. Special events in which local businesses are the star are great ways to inspire locals to support the companies that help make their communities unique.



Martinsville UPTOWN
Uptown
North Pole Jingle
December 1
5PM-8PM COME & JOIN US!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

HOLIDAYS AT THE MARKET
5:00PM-8:00PM

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY - 5:30PM
SANTA & MAGNA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR WILL BE PRESENT & PERFORMING

ACTIVITIES & SHOPPING TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES
5:00PM-8:00PM

SCAN THE FOLLOWING QR CODE TO SEE A LIST OF PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

The Uptown North Pole Jingle will be held on Friday, December 1, in Martinsville.

Nomination period underway for the Jack Dalton Community Service Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 23rd annual Jack Dalton Community Service Award.

The award is presented annually to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service.

Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and was serving as the board chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

All nominations must be received by Friday, December 29 at 12 p.m. The recipient of the award will be recognized at the Henry County Board of Supervisors' meeting in January.

Nominations should be based on the candidates' personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping promote the quality of life in the county. Nominees must have performed the ser-

vice for which they are being nominated within the calendar year 2023.

All nomination forms must be submitted online or downloaded and returned to the County Administrator's Office by 12 p.m. on Dec. 29, 2023. Forms can be found online at <https://www.henrycountyva.gov/308/Jack-Dalton-Community-Service-Award>.

Previous award winners include Dr. Calvin Rains, Bill Adkins, Clay Campbell, Mary McGee, Charlie Bradshaw, Bob Petty, Thurman Echols, Nancy Bradshaw, Mary Jordan, Pat Ross, Claude Cobler, Beatrice Bullard, Barry Nelson, J. Smith Chaney, Jr., Paul Kennedy, Bob Norris, John Thomas "Smokey" Pegram, James L. Franklin, Jr., Dr. Joseph DeVault, Charlie "Junior" Lynch, Jr., H. William Martin, and all of the local frontline healthcare workers in 2020.

Jack Dalton

Vietnam Bench now in production

The Bassett Historical Center provided an update on the Vietnam Bench, and noted that it is finally in production. The center reported in October that the project would miss its target date on Nov. 11 because the center had not received a final draft of the bench.

Currently, "we do not have a timeline at this time, nor do we have a potential date of its arrival," Fran Snead, director of the cen-

ter, said in a release. "We will continue to keep you updated when we find out more concerning this project. Again, we appreciate your understanding and patience."

The bench will include the names of 105 veterans. Once completed, it will be placed on the center's grounds in Military Square. The bench is an extension of the Vietnam Monument which was dedicated in 2018.

Collinsville teen dies in crash

Virginia State Police (VSP) are investigating a single-vehicle crash which resulted in a fatality.

The crash occurred Friday, Nov 24 at 1:35 p.m. on The Great Road, one half of a mile south of Dillions Fork Road in Henry County.

A 2003 Ford Explorer was traveling north on Great Road, when the vehicle allegedly ran off the right side of the roadway and overturned. The driver and a passenger were ejected.

The driver of the Ford was a 16-year-old male juvenile from Collinsville. He was not wearing his seatbelt and was taken to Roanoke Memorial Hospital for injuries received in the crash.

The passenger, 14-year-old Serjio Ramirez-Mendoza, also of Collinsville, was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

Speed was a factor in the crash, according to a release from the VSP, and charges are pending.

Franklin County authorities ask for help

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is seeking the community's assistance in gathering information on the whereabouts of a stolen dump trailer and/or the person or persons who stole it.

Between 5:45 to 6:15 a.m. on Friday, November 3, a vehicle entered the property of NexHaul (located at 305 New Plant Road off of Grassy Hill Road) and stole a black dump trailer (as pictured). The vehicle in question appeared to be a light-colored truck that may have lingered in the area before the theft.

If anyone was traveling in the area of NexHaul, Uttermost or the Old Kingery Store on Grassy Hill Road and noticed a vehicle sitting nearby or saw anything suspicious, they are asked to call the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at (540) 483-3000.

Uttermost and the Old Kingery Store are only mentioned as points of reference and are not directly associated with the crime.



Authorities in Franklin County are seeking a dump trailer that is similar to the one pictured.

Home occupant and dog rescued from roof, second dog rescued from inside Forest Street home

Fire crews responding to a blaze on November 29 rescued an occupant of the home at 314 Forest Street, and a dog from the roof, according to a release from Martinsville.

A second dog was rescued inside the home.

The fire call was received at 8:31 a.m., the release stated.

The first engine with Martinsville Fire & EMS arrived on the scene at 8:35 a.m., and identified a structure fire in the two-story single-family dwelling.

Firefighters located an occupant and a dog trapped on the rear porch roof, and were uncertain about the building's occupants. Immediate action led to the rescue of the individual and the dog on the rear porch roof, followed by fire suppression efforts.

Inside the structure, firefighters rescued another dog and confirmed there were no other occupants, according to the release.

The blaze was under control by 9:32 a.m., with operations continuing until 11:34 a.m. to ensure the fire was completely extinguished. No injuries were reported among the occupants or firefighters. However, one occupant was transported by the Henry County Department of Public Safety to SOVAH of Martinsville for evaluation. The American Red Cross provided support services to the

affected occupants at the scene.

The fire caused extensive damage to the second floor and attic, accompanied by water and smoke damage throughout the structure.

The preliminary damage estimate is \$60,000, according to a release. After the investigation, the fire marshal determined that supplemental heating on the second floor was responsible for the blaze. Officials also emphasized the absence of operational smoke detectors in the home.

In addition to the Henry County Department of Public Safety and the Martinsville Volunteer Fire Company, the City of Martinsville Public Works and police department also responded to the scene.

Martinsville Fire & EMS urges Martinsville and Henry County residents to install free smoke detectors. In Martinsville, call (276) 403-5325. County residents may contact Public Safety at (276) 634-4660 for installation.

Additionally, fire officials emphasized the safe use of supplemental heating devices in homes. Precautionary measures include never leaving supplemental heaters unattended, maintaining a minimum three-foot distance from all combustibles, and adhering strictly to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Report finds steep decline in young driver crash rates

Traffic crash and fatality rates for young drivers have improved drastically over the past two decades—even more so than for older drivers, according to a recent report by the Governors Highway Safety Association.

"Young driver crash rates are nearly four times higher than that of older drivers per miles driven, but the good news is that we're making progress," said Pam Shadel Fischer, report author and GHSA senior director of external engagement, during an Oct. 31 GHSA webinar.

The Oct. 2023 report, "Young Drivers and Traffic Fatalities: 20 Years of Progress on the Road to Zero" defines young drivers as 20 years or younger and examined Fatality Analysis Reporting System data for 2002 through 2021.

The young driver crash fatality rate improved in all but three states and Washington, D.C. In Virginia, fatal crash involvement rates per 10,000 licensed drivers under 21 fell 37%.

Fatal crashes involving a young driver fell 38% while they increased nearly 8% for older drivers. At the same time, deaths of young drivers fell about 45% compared to an 11% increase in fatalities for older drivers.

"I believe that young drivers, more than any other age group out there, have the greatest potential for reaching this milestone of zero fatalities," added Fischer. "But it's going to take us doing more to get there."

She outlined the policies and programs responsible for gains in teen driver safety, including Graduated Driver Licensing. This is a three-step system that includes a supervised learner's period, an intermediate phase with restrictions for novice drivers and a license with all privileges.

"We know it's the most effective tool we have in our toolbox for teen driver safety," Fischer noted.

"This three-step licensing process is really responsible for novice driver crash rates falling anywhere from 20-40%."

Other effective tools include parent involvement, driver education, behind-the-wheel training, peer-to-peer traffic safety education programs and the emergence of safer vehicles and teen-specific technologies.

GHSA recommends building upon proven countermeasures, including strengthening GDL laws by raising the minimum permit age to 16 and intermediate licensure age to 17, and applying GDL laws to 18- to 20-year-olds. GHSA additionally recommends making driver education and training accessible to all.

Fischer added that parents and guardians "play a critical role" in their teen's driver education and recommends building a parent education element into state licensing requirements.

Involved parents who set high expectations, as well as nurture their young drivers, will see their children more likely to drive safely at far greater rates than teens with permissive or uninvolved parents, according to research conducted by the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"The most effective safety feature in the vehicle is a safe and engaged driver," added Mike Speck, lead instructor for the Ford Driving Skills for Life program. He encourages parents to remain involved with their teens throughout their learning process and strategize ways to enforce safe driving habits.

GHSA recommends incorporating more information on vehicle safety features into driver education programs.

For the full report, visit ghsa.org/resources/GHSA/young-drivers-spotlight-report23.

Some eye drops recalled due to 'insanitary conditions'

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recalled a batch of eye drops weeks after it warned consumers about more than two dozen eye drop products. The FDA announced that 27 products from brands including CVS Health, Leader (Cardinal Health), Rugby (Cardinal Health), Rite Aid, Target, Velocity Pharma, and Walmart were being recalled due to potential safety concerns "after FDA investigators found insanitary conditions."

Kilitch Healthcare India Limited is voluntarily recalling the eye drops products with expiration dates ranging from November 2023 to September 2025 due to potential safety concerns.

For those patients who use these products, there is a potential risk of eye infections or related harm. These products are intended to be sterile. Ophthalmic drug products pose a potential heightened risk of harm to users because drugs applied to the eyes bypass some of the body's natural defenses. To date, Kilitch Healthcare India Limited has not received any reports of adverse events related to this recall.

These products were distributed nationwide to wholesalers, retailers, and via the product distributor, Velocity Pharma LLC.

Kilitch Healthcare India Limited, is notifying its distributor Velocity Pharma LLC and its distributor Velocity Pharma LLC, shall be further notifying the wholesalers and retailers via mail of this voluntary recall and is arranging for return of all impacted products listed above.

Consumers, distributors and retailers that have any product which is being recalled should cease distribution of the product. Consumers should stop using the recalled eye drops and may return any of the listed products to the place of purchase.

For a complete list of products recalled, visit https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/kilitch-healthcare-india-limited-issues-voluntary-nationwide-recall-various-eye-drops-potential?utm_campaign=20231121_&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Consumers with questions about the recall may email regulatory@velocitypharma.com or regulatory@kilitchhealthcare.com.

Consumers are advised to contact their physician or healthcare provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to taking or using this drug product.

Adverse reactions or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program either online, by regular mail or by fax.

Complete and submit the report online at www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm.

Download the form at www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the pre-addressed form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178.

Planning Holiday Travel? GO with REAL ID



Upgrade Your Driver's License Soon to Fly When Airport ID Requirements Change in 2025

Flying home to visit family this holiday season? Or maybe you're headed to Florida for some fun in the sun for the long weekend. The driver's license you have in your wallet will get you on the plane this year, but soon, you'll need to upgrade to a REAL ID to fly within the United States.

"Federal identification requirements for domestic air travel change May 7, 2025. We don't want Virginians to be caught off guard at airport security," said Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "Visit DMV soon to upgrade your license to a REAL ID so your travel plans aren't interrupted."

Beginning May 7, Virginians who want to board a domestic flight will need to have a REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID or another federally accepted form of identification such as a U.S. passport, passport card or military ID. REAL ID regulations also apply to military bases and secure federal facilities; some military bases are already requiring REAL ID or another federally accepted ID for entry.

To upgrade your driver's license or ID to REAL ID, simply complete your application online and then visit DMV with the documents you selected during the application process. For most folks, those documents are:

*Your state-issued birth certificate or valid U.S. passport

*Your Social Security card (if you've lost the card but know the number, we can verify it for you)

*Two proofs of your current Virginia address, such as your most recent utility bill and your driver's license

"More than 3.2 million Virginians have already obtained a REAL ID, but, if you haven't gotten yours, I ask you to take a moment now to consider whether you'll need one," Commissioner Lackey said. "If you don't have a passport or another acceptable ID and you fly, even occasionally, please visit DMV as soon as you can to apply for REAL ID. You don't want to miss life's special moments because you didn't have the ID you needed to get on the plane."

Full details and the application are available at dmv.virginia.gov/REALID. The cost of a REAL ID upgrade is a one-time \$10 fee in addition to the cost of your license or ID.

State authorities to review officer-involved shooting

A Henry County Sheriff's deputy was on patrol and traveling North on the U.S. 220/58 Bypass around 7:49 a.m. on November 23, according to a release from Sheriff Wayne Davis.

A white Chevrolet pick-up allegedly swerved into the deputy's lane or travel and nearly struck the patrol vehicle. The deputy initiated a traffic stop on the truck near the Irisburg Road exit. During the traffic stop, the deputy observed drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle, and the driver allegedly appeared to be under the influence of narcotics, Davis wrote in the release.

As the deputy attempted to remove the driver from his vehicle, the driver allegedly suddenly fled the scene and then led deputies on a 37-mile-long pursuit. While pursuing the vehicle on Airway Dr., the suspect vehicle went off-road, and a deputy tried to stop the vehicle by pinning it against a tree, Davis said.

The suspect vehicle was temporarily disabled, and deputies exited their vehicle to attempt to take the driver into custody. The suspect allegedly began to flee again, striking a carport, Davis said. At this point, one deputy discharged their firearm at the suspect vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle were not injured and allegedly continued to elude deputies.

The Virginia State Police eventually used spike strips to deflate the tires on the suspect vehicle, and the vehicle came to a stop on the U.S. 220/58 Bypass near the Greensboro Road exit. Both occupants allegedly fled on foot and were taken into custody a short distance away.

Steven Robert Banks, 30, of Dry Fork, VA, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence (DUI), and felony elude.

Banks is currently held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Ashley Diane Payne, 35, of Max Meadows, VA, was arrested and charged with drunk in public and obstruction of justice.

Payne was being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on a \$1,500 secured bond.

As a standard procedure, Davis has requested the Virginia State Police to investigate the officer-involved shooting that occurred during this incident.

Anyone having information about the incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards 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.

Bright Star Touring Theatre returns to Reynolds Homestead

Bright Star Touring Theatre, based in Asheville, N.C., will bring its show, *Holidays Around the World*, to Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead in Critz, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and may be purchased in advance by visiting the Reynolds Homestead website: <https://reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/victorian-christmas.html>. Before the performance, the historic home will be open for docent-guided tours beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The performance is part of the Reynolds Homestead's annual Victorian Christmas celebrations, which also will include a Victorian Christmas Open House from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The free event is open to the public and will offer guided tours of the beautifully decorated home, crafts, holiday music, and photos with Santa.

Bright Star Touring Theatre specializes in literary, cur-

riculum and character-education based performances, and the group has earned a national reputation for high quality performances that play to a young audience's intelligence and meet National Standards of learning. *Holidays Around the World* is suitable for all ages, and features a story of tour guides getting separated at holiday time, during which time a worldwide adventure awaits. As they travel around the world in search of each other, the guides share what they learn about the season from a wide variety of places and cultures. Celebrate holidays from all over the globe – the Lohri Festival, St. Lucia Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and more.

For more information about the event, contact Kristin Hylton, communication and program support assistant at the Reynolds Homestead via email at krhylton@vt.edu. To RSVP for the event and pay at the door, please call Terri Leviner at (276) 694-7181 ext. 21.

Unemployment filings edge up in latest report

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims edged higher in the latest filing week to 1,770 and remained slightly below 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 18, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia was 1,770, which was an increase of 59 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,083, edging downward from the previous week but an increase of 61% from the 7,490 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 (1,814), administrative and support and waste management (1,732), manufacturing (1,276), and health care and social assistance (1,084). 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 18, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 209,000, a decrease of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 231,000 to 233,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 238,677 in the week ending November 18, an increase of 21,239 (or 9.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 248,916 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported increases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. California's preliminary weekly change (+7,911) was the largest increase. Oregon's preliminary weekly change (+2,305) was the second largest increase. Kentucky's preliminary weekly change (+1,940) was the third largest increase. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (+1,480) was the fourth largest increase. Virginia had the 37th largest increase (+35).

Holiday shopping initiative to highlight locally made products

VISITMARTINSVILLE PRESENTS

12 DAYS OF Christmas



VisitMartinsville is launching a holiday shopping initiative in efforts to promote the opportunity to support our local craftspeople and venues this holiday season. We will be highlighting products made in Martinsville-Henry County and local experiences that can be enjoyed with visiting family and friends this season.

KICK-OFF IS DECEMBER 4, 2023

The holiday countdown will be launched on the VisitMartinsville Facebook page on Monday, December 4th, and each day the VisitMartinsville team will reveal local products or experiences that could be given as a gift option this year. At the end of the 12 days, VisitMartinsville will be doing a giveaway from some of the products/experiences being showcased. You could choose to keep this for yourself or give as a wonderful gift this holiday season. See more at www.VisitMartinsville.com

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This campaign will also be on the website in blog form and updated daily with the featured shop for that day.

Movie Town 276-638-4040



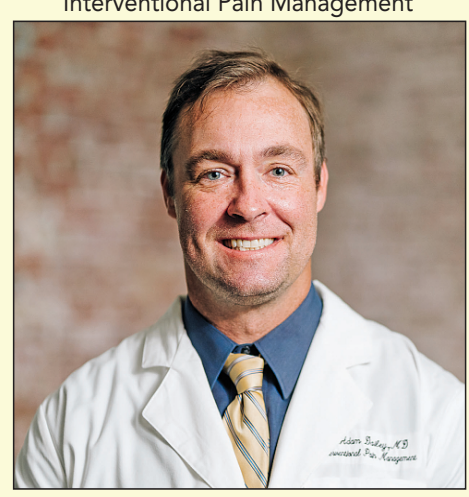
NOW PLAYING:
Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (PG-13),
Trolls: Band Together (PG),
Thanksgiving (R),
The Marvels (PG-13), and
Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13)

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



Meet Our Providers

DR. ADAM DAILEY
Interventional Pain Management



Dr. Dailey joined Spectrum Medical in July 2015. Having been raised in Hillsborough, NC, Dr. Dailey received his Doctorate at the Brody School of Medicine in Greenville, NC. He then went on to attain his residency at Baylor University in Houston, Texas, considered to be one of the of top Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation programs in the country. Dr. Dailey's hard work both medically and academically allowed him to achieve a fellowship at the renowned pain management department at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. With an exceptional reputation for patient care, Dr. Dailey is committed to combining core family values with his experience to provide treatment unique to each individual.

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

SAME DAY X-RAYS

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





NO REFERRAL NEEDED
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE

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

MARTINSVILLE
1075 Spruce Street
276-790-3233

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

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

SAMMY SHELOR'S BANJORAMA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

NEW LOCATION - FREE ADMISSION

at Patrick County High School (Auditorium)

215 Cougar Lane • Stuart, VA

Bluegrass & Gospel acoustic music • Award-winning performers
Doors open at 5:00 pm • Music starts at 6:00 pm

Featuring:

LONESOME RIVER BAND

and

NU-BLU



Nu-Blu

Lonesome River Band



Also including:

Sammy Shelor
Jay Adams
Clyde Bailey
Charlie Chaney
Barry Collins

Ronny Harrison
Nessie Hunt
Doug Joyce
Larry Mabe
Darrell McCumbers

Hersie McMillan
Tommy Morse
Gene Parker
Sidney Watson

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