

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, January 6, 2024

(USPS-6)

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## Warming Center prepares for inclement weather



Up to 30 men and women can be housed nightly in different rooms.

By Taylor Boyd

As the temperatures dip and with winter weather in the forecast, the Martinsville-Henry County Warming Center increases its activity to provide the area's homeless population with a warm and safe place to sleep during the winter months.

The National Weather Service in Blacksburg predicted low temperatures of 22 to 25, with a snow and sleet mixture on Friday that transitions to a wintry mix on Saturday.

Alisha Waller, the center's coordinator, said the agency that is located in the Salvation Army building in Martinsville is open if it's 40 degrees Celsius or below at night.

The center opened for the season on October 31 and will remain open through May 15. Guests can check in at the center from 7-10 p.m. and must leave by 8 a.m. There are smoke breaks for guests at 1 a.m., 3 a.m., and 5 a.m.

Guests know whether the center is open when the white flag outside is raised.

"We're here if they need us. It's a safe place, it's warm, we provide a meal every night, and we also have resources," she said.

Waller said the center has some regular guests that come every night or almost every night.

"We can hold up to 30 people, but (See Warming Center p. 2)



Cartography specialist Zack Fleming gives a presentation to the MHC Historical Society.

## Wart Mountain, Irvine River, and other county histories

By Holly Kozelsky

If you live in northwestern Henry County, it's only by a near miss that you don't have to say you live on Wart Mountain.

That's the original English name of Chestnut Knob. Another early difference is that the Smith River used to be called the Irvine. Those and other details were revealed by Zack Fleming,

in his program "The Maps of Thomas Jefferson," which he gave recently as part of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series.

Fleming runs a YouTube channel, @GeographyGeek, with geography videos, with his favorite being on historical maps, he said. They have "geography, (See County Histories p. 2)

## Cartwright mounts bid for 48th District

By Taylor Boyd

Melody A. "Mel" Cartwright is seeking the Virginia House of Delegates 48th District seat in the January 9 special election against GOP nominee Eric Phillips.

Cartwright, 66, of Henry County, is listed as a Democrat. She said she was endorsed by the National Organization of Women (NOW), VA, and the National Women's Political Caucus, Virginia Chapter.

She decided to seek the position after the son of Dr. William Ferguson Reid, the first African American to be elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1968, called her on December 15 and said that somebody needed to step up.

"I had no plans or aspirations" to run. "I got a call and was recruited, and the position was somebody needs to step up because Democrats haven't won in so long," Cartwright said. "I think as people step up and we renew our energy, our stats are going to increase, but it might take more than one try to get back up in it to win it."

Cartwright said one issue facing the district is the need to pull more jobs to the area.

For example, she said Gov. Glenn Youngkin "dropped the ball on the Berry Hill project," an industrial site in Pittsylvania County.

"That was devastating for us. Even though it was not Martinsville, it's still in the district area, or just outside of it, which would have provided a lot of jobs to the entire area," she said. "Because people don't mind driving 30 to 40 miles



Melody A. "Mel" Cartwright is seeking the Virginia House of Delegates 48th District seat as the Democratic candidate.

if they have a good paying job, and that would have been a good paying job."

It is early in her candidacy, and Cartwright said she's not going to pretend like she knows everything, "but I am doing a lot of research and I've lived here almost all my whole life, so I see what's going on. I see the good things that are happening."

While she knows there are efforts to upgrade Uptown Martinsville, Cartwright knows the district needs to do a lot more to get upgrades for the entire district. She added there also are (See Cartwright p. 3)

## Phillips battles for 48th District seat

By Taylor Boyd

Eric Phillips is seeking the Virginia House of Delegates 48th District seat as the Republican nominee in the January 9 special election.

Phillips is endorsed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin; Attorney General Jason Miyares; State Senator Bill Stanley, R-Moneta; Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville; and Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, and locally by Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis and Aaron Rawls, vice-mayor of the City of Martinsville.

Phillips, 47, who will face Melody A. "Mel" Cartwright, in the election, said he decided to run because he believes this is a pivotal point in the history of the area.

"There's a lot of good things going on, we've got a lot of positive momentum that we haven't had in quite a number of years. Particularly with new businesses and higher-paying jobs. Wage growth is up in our area," he said.

Phillips said the entire region is actually outpacing the rest of Virginia when it comes to wage growth, and the decrease in unemployment. While he notes that this is in part because the region has a lot more room to grow because it was lagging behind the rest of the state, Phillips said it still represents the progress that's being made.

"As someone who owns businesses, creates jobs, likes economic development, and serves on development boards and the Chamber of Commerce, and all the things I do, it's a passion of mine," he said. "I want to see it not only continue, but I want to see us take that momen-



Eric Phillips (center) is seeking the Virginia House of Delegates 48th District seat as the Republican nominee in the January 9 special election. He is flanked by supporters that include U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith and Del. Danny Marshall. (Photo by Ray Reynolds)

tum and boost it up another notch, and try to bring good things home to our area."

One challenge he feels the area is always facing is continued workforce development and people actu-

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 FOR MORE UPDATES



## Winter weather to coincide with the last day of early voting

Henry County Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn is reminding eligible voters that Saturday, January 6, is the last day of Early In-Person Voting for the Special Election that will be held on January 9.

Ice and snow in the weather forecast will create hazardous driving conditions, Stultz-Vaughn said, and encouraged those planning to vote early to do so before Saturday, and in advance of the winter forecast, which may not

permit safe travel.

Those who wish to cast a ballot in the 48th District race between Eric Phillips and Mel Cartwright may also vote in person on Tuesday, January 9, at their respective precinct.

# Storage center



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# Warming Center

(cont. from page 1)

here lately it's been about 18-20 per night," she said.

Center volunteer Nancy McMillan said men and women sleep in different quarters. The center averages 23-25 guests each night.

"Normally, what she (Ariel Johnson) does, and she did last year and the years before she usually puts them in a motel if they have children. Because we don't know the background of everybody here, just for their safety," she said.

McMillan said more men than women use the center. "We've been averaging probably 15 or 16 men a night," she said.

If extra cots are needed, volunteers can grab them from the linen closet in the women's room.

Besides the sleeping area, the men's room includes a small dining area, a makeshift kitchen, and a table for guests to be served dinner and breakfast.

McMillan said the meals are brought in from the community.

"They get like BBQ chicken legs, spaghetti, meatloaf, they get pizza a lot. People sign up to bring them meals," she said. "We tell the people out in the community when they bring food to bring enough for 30 people because some of them like seconds. Almost all of them eat seconds."

Waller said people and businesses can sign up to bring food for guests by visiting the center's website at [www.warmingcentermhc.org](http://www.warmingcentermhc.org).

"All you have to do is click on it, and it kind of gives you the steps and you sign up that way. If you have any questions or concerns, you can also contact us, and we can do it for you because I know some people aren't the greatest at doing everything online," Waller said.

In the makeshift kitchen, guests get access to a snack table during the night. Before they leave, they are given snacks to eat during the daytime. Frozen breakfast items are kept in the upstairs area.

McMillan said there are lockers available in the lobby area if guests wish to store their belongings overnight.

Men and women also have separate bathrooms.

"They don't have a shower, but many of them do wash off," she said.

McMillan said when guests check in for the first time, they are given tote bags filled with a hygiene kit that includes deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, a washcloth, snacks, and other necessary items. Guests also receive a small booklet that details other community resources.

"And then we ask them every night when they come in what they need. Some will say toothpaste, or you know, different things," she said.

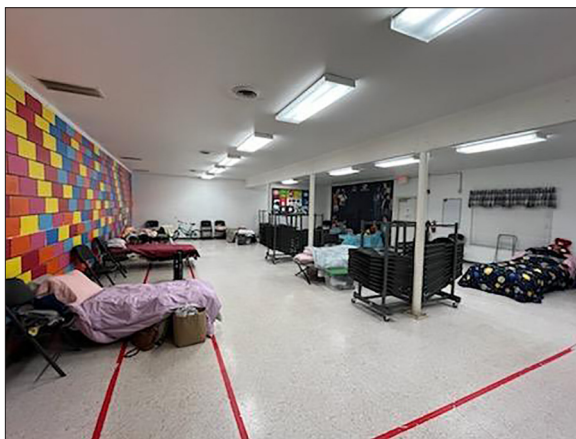
In the mornings, McMillan said mittens, hand warmers, socks, blankets, and other items are distributed to guests.

"We go through a lot of hot hands. They can put them in their socks too to keep them warm," she said.

McMillan said all of the items are donated by the community.

Johnson "usually puts it on Facebook, what we need and what we're asking for. Like right, now we need jackets for them and jeans too," she said.

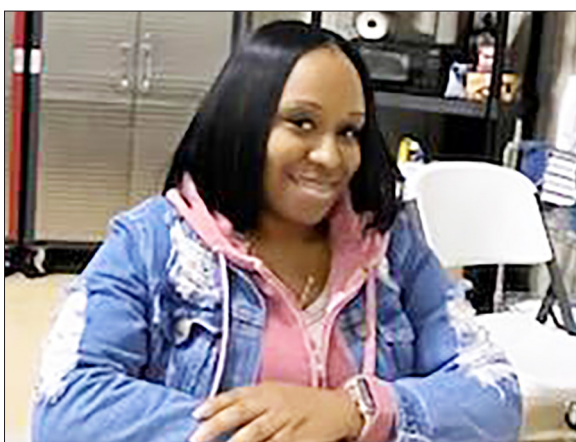
Waller said the center can also always use coats, hats, gloves, and hand warmers, "because



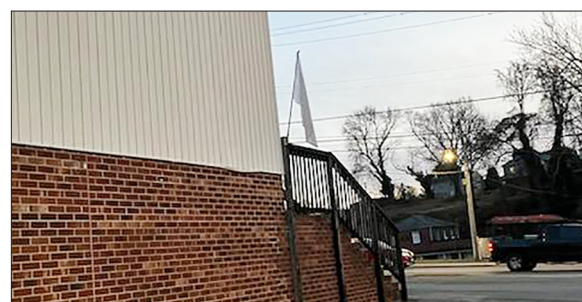
Up to 30 men and women can be housed nightly in different rooms.



The MHC Warming Center is located in the Salvation Army building in Martinsville.



Volunteers help guests sign in when the MHC Warming Center is open. The center opens nightly when the temperature falls to 40 degrees Celsius or below.



Guests know the center is open when the white flag is visible out front.

we do provide a meal every night, but the paper plates, the paper cups, and the utensils go fast, and the paper towels cause again, they're using that stuff every day."

Those wanting to donate can drop items off at the center after 5:30 p.m. Donations also are accepted at Bo Knows Wireless, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; at Luna Moth Tattoo Studio, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; at First Baptist Church of Martinsville, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at Spencer Group Real Estate & Auction.

Checks can be made out to the MHC Warming Center, and mailed to P.O. Box 3449, Martinsville, VA 24115.

For more information, visit [www.warming-centermhc.org](http://www.warming-centermhc.org) or call (276) 208-9660.



Volunteers prepare items for distribution to guests. Donations are accepted, and the center can always use coats, hats, gloves, and hand warmers.

# County Histories

(cont. from page 1)

history, and art all in one." It also is interesting reading the primary sources to see the world from the point of view of people discovering it for the first time, he said.

Jefferson (1743-1826) was a Founding Father, the primary writer of the Declaration of Independence, the third president of the United States, a lawyer, an architect, and much more. An overlooked side of his personality and achievements is his interest in cartography (maps), Fleming said.

"Jefferson's library at Monticello was the most extensive in the world on the subject of geography," he said.

Jefferson learned surveying, geography, and cartography from his father, Peter Jefferson. "Peter Jefferson arguably created one of the most important maps during the Colonial era, and certainly for Virginia," he said.

An early map of the area that is now Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties was made by a survey team put together in 1728. Their mission was to define the sometimes unclear border between Virginia and the Carolinas because back then, many colonists on or near the border didn't pay taxes to one colony, claiming that they lived in the other colony, Fleming said.

What is now Smith River was then called Irvine River, which the map shows, along with the Mayo River Dan River, and Matrimony Creek between the Irvine and the Mayo. "There was a little bit of confusion between the Dan River and the branches of the Mayo," he said.

As settlers continued moving west, more maps were needed, "and that's where Peter Jefferson came in." Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry, a William & Mary College professor, were chosen to continue the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina, in 1749.

That map shows more information on the local area, between the Irvine River in present-day

Bassett and the Dan River, in North Carolina just north of and parallel to the colonial (now state) border:

The Great Wagon Road, now called The Great Road, perpendicular to the Irvine

Blackberry, which meets the Irvine

Reedy Creek, now called Reed Creek, which meets the Irvine after it has turned more sharply south,

Leatherwood Creek, southeast of Reedy Creek, and meeting the Irvine Sandy River, in present-day Axton, running into the Dan Crooked Creek, more west, meeting the Mayo South Branch Wart Mountain, now called Chestnut Knob.

Wart Mountain was named by William Byrd on the 1728 map, though he didn't mark it on that map. He named it that because "he said it simply looked like a wart," Fleming said.

The Great Wagon Road was a "semi-improved colonial road that went from Pennsylvania all the way down to Georgia."

The first map to completely outline Virginia was the (Peter) Jefferson-Fry map, first published in 1753. Fleming gifted the Historical Society a framed copy of the French version of that map.

"The Jefferson-Fry map went on to be the source of many, many other maps," he said. The most notable of those was the John Mitchell map, which has been called "the most important map in American history."

That map was used as propaganda for disputes between the French and British, cited by some "as one of the reasons the French-Indian War occurred." Another reason for its importance was that it was used by the British, Americans, and Spanish for the Treaty of Paris in 1783 at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War to decide the borders that would become the United States.

In 1784 Thomas Jefferson was appointed as Minister to France,



This 1749 map by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson shows details of the local area.

and while in Paris he used his father's map to compile his own map, which accompanied the only book he ever wrote, "Notes on the State of Virginia," written in 1781.

One of the sources Thomas Jefferson wanted to use but couldn't get was John Henry's 1770 map of counties. John Henry was the father of Patrick Henry.

Thomas Jefferson "made some of his own interesting additions to the geography of the region," Fleming said. "He proposed three new states."

A decade after his map, Thomas Jefferson became president, and in that role, he oversaw five major expeditions, all of which came back with new geographic information, which affected how maps would be made.

A video of Fleming's presentation can be seen on the YouTube page "Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society" with the title "The Maps of Thomas Jefferson."

Fleming's YouTube page, "Geography Geek," has 89 videos on geography and maps. He also has a website, [zacksmaphop.com](http://zacksmaphop.com).

The Sunday Afternoon Lecture

Series is held at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum at 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. Upcoming topics are:

"Founders Day: Film," Jan. 21  
 "Toys of Colonial Times" with Gail Vogler, Feb. 18

"The Blue Ridge Regional Library: Enriching Our Communities for 110 Years" with Margaret Caldwell, chairman of the BRRL Board of Trustees

(Holly Kozelsky is the executive director of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society. She welcomes visitors to the Society's Heritage Center & Museum, at 1 E. Main St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.)

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

### Thursday, January 11

Martinsville School Board meets at 6 p.m. in the School Board Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville. The board will consider the first reading of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

## Events

### Saturday, January 6

Storytime, 10 a.m. at Spencer Penn Centre. The monthly program includes special readers, crafts, and other fun activities related to Let's Build It! Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages. No registration needed.

### Tuesday, January 9

Free Estate Planning 101 with Sarah Bridwell, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Spencer-Penn Centre. Pre-register now by calling (276) 957-5757.

Chix with Sticks, Knitters are invited to work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. Advanced registration required. Free to members, \$5 for nonmembers who will pay at the door.

### Friday, January 12

Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre. Hard driving old-time string band, Gap Civil, will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 CASH donation. Come enjoy some great mountain music and dancing! Concessions, including our ever-popular

## Cartwright

(cont. from page 1)

problems with crime and drugs in the area.

To help address these challenges, Cartwright said representatives need to be aware and look into President Biden's recent infrastructure plan "and ask for large portions of that to help out our area."

She also questions why the Berry Hill project was blocked.

"That would have paid for a lot. It would have paid for people's cost of living. Apparently, I just read, the area has slightly improved on jobs, having a little bit higher level of job opportunities. I don't know how much those job opportunities pay though, so that Berry Hill project would have paid well," she said.

A supporter of public involvement in political office, Cartwright said if elected she would keep constituents apprised of everything going on during the session and likely would use weekly or monthly emails to constituents and allow newspaper and television stations access to the information she's garnered, and ask citizens for their opinions.

Cartwright also plans to be transparent and have

## Phillips

(cont. from page 1)

ally taking advantage of it.

"All these additional companies and jobs that we've having, we also need to be able to fill them," he said, adding a lack of housing is another issue the region, and even the nation, is facing.

Phillips said he is already working on that locally with the Martinsville Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and wants the organization to have the authority to get more involved in housing projects.

"And doing something about that at the legislative level. Because there's not a lot of big builders anymore, there's not a lot of people out there building entire neighborhoods," he said.

To address this issue, Phillips said some municipal help or some funding might be needed, particularly due to the cost of infrastructure, which is the third leg of economic growth, and the area where the region is lacking.

"The development cost is really prohibitive for people to come in to do a large-scale neighborhood in our areas. A lot of guys are building one or two houses, but nobody's going out there and speculating 30 houses because it'd cost them several million dollars before they ever start building the first house, just to get the stormwater management and all" of the other infrastructure in place, he said.

To address the issues, Phillips noted there's a lot of money in Richmond that goes to a lot of places.

Spencer Penn hotdogs, will be sold.

### Saturday, January 13

The Bassett Ruritan Club, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, will be having their monthly breakfast from 6 am to 10 a.m. The breakfast is all you can eat and includes sausage, fried bologna, eggs, apples, gravy, biscuits, pancakes (buckwheat and regular), juice and coffee. The cost is \$8, \$4 for kids 12 and under.

### Monday, January 15

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### Monday, January 22

Meet and Greet hosted by Ridgeway District Supervisor Travis Pruitt, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Ridgeway Rescue Squad, 108 Magnolia St., Ridgeway. Guest speakers will be featured, and light refreshments will be served.

## 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

an open-door policy, if elected.

"If I can hire or garner, get together, a staff that I trust, I would expect them to understand that transparency is a priority. Of course, I would have an open-door policy to any citizen in the district, and would be more than willing to set up a time to discuss any matters with them," she said.

In addition to the area lacking proper jobs that provide salaries for residents to support their families, Cartwright said healthcare is another issue the 48th district is facing.

"Data came out of this area, which is my district, that the average age that people die here is 67.2," she said. "We really need help. If our average age of people dying is 67.2 and in Northern Virginia, the average age is like 80, that's a huge difference and that's a huge problem."

Cartwright said the SOVAH Hospital in Martinsville no longer has a maternity ward. "That to me, if I was going to have a baby now, I'd be very concerned," she said.

While she believes some progress is being made, in part because of the national policies, Cartwright

thinks Virginia needs to be more aggressive on state policies, "and to really seek out things that will make us excel, that will help us excel. Of course, part of that does include the local people being willing and approving of the policies we attempt to set forth."

A graduate of Martinsville High School, Cartwright received credits from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

Cartwright began her career as a staff member at a private club in Richmond before she worked as an advertising manager with Miller and Rhoads Department Store until it closed in 1990.

She then worked for a newspaper in the South Boston area and the Virginia Museum of Natural History for more than 25 years as a graphic and exhibit designer before retiring.

Cartwright is one of six children. She has a daughter and is raising her deceased sister's son.

In her free time, she likes to garden and be an activist.

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.

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.

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 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.

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

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# Slaughter reflects on board tenure

By Taylor Boyd

After 16 years on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, officially retired from his service to the county.

Throughout his tenure on the board, Slaughter said he was proud of getting the county's paid Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff and ambulances.

"Benny Summerlin (former County Administrator) and I talked about that when I first started out, and he had the idea and I told him the same thing. I was thinking there were a lot of older folks that were sitting at home dying because they didn't have the money to pay the bills, pay an ambulance," he said.

While he knows the usage and cost of the ambulances has increased, Slaughter said he still thinks it's a great thing for the county.

"That's one of the main things, one of the most important things that I've been involved in," he said, and added with a chuckle that being able to make it 16 years was also an accomplishment in itself.

Projects he wishes he could have accomplished include infrastructure like paving roads and the like.

"Before I went on, each supervisor got so much money every year, and they could use it towards

(road) projects," he said, and recalled the funds could be spent in the person's district or "either they (the board) would get together and do a big project" in one community or district, "and next year in another district."

Slaughter said this was a great option when the county had the extra funds.

"Then the economy took a nosedive and we had to take that money away to balance the budget, or try to get it closer, and so we lost all of that," he said.

As a result, he said the little roads that need to be re-paved, or regraded haven't been.

When he first came onto the board, Slaughter said he originally intended to just serve one term, or four years.

"Then at the end of that four years I was looking, 'well, I'd like to see this one (project) through'" and the process kept repeating, he said.

A self-described nosey person, Slaughter said he'd miss knowing what's going on in the county the most.

"And the camaraderie between the other board members. Cause you know, you get to know a lot of secrets you can't say to nobody else except those" people, he said.

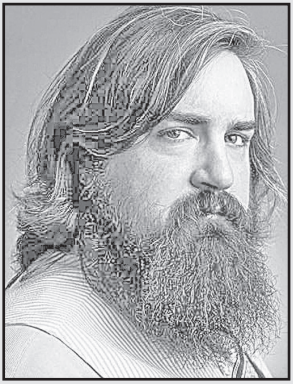


**Tommy Slaughter stepped down from the Henry County Board of Supervisors after serving the Reed Creek District 16 years.**



# OPINION

## A tribute to Walter Loy



By Ben R. Williams

Whenever someone writes about a beloved former teacher, the story usually follows a familiar template. When the person was a young student, there was only one teacher who truly believed in them and supported them, and it was because of that teacher that they followed their dreams.

This isn't one of those stories, but it's still a story about one of the best teachers I ever had.

The year was 1999 and I had just entered the ninth grade. I was scheduled to take physics, which seemed like some kind of divine punishment for sins I had committed in a previous life. My science teacher in the seventh and eighth grades had been the worst teacher I would ever experience, holding her students to impossibly high standards and instilling in me a level of constant anxiety that probably rivaled overworked Japanese businessmen in the 1980s. She was one of two ninth

grade physics teachers, and I was terrified that I would end up in her class for a third time.

Fortunately, fate intervened, and I instead found myself learning physics from Mr. Walter Loy.

Mr. Loy was in his 40s, a fireplug of a man with jet-black hair, a thick mustache, and glasses. He walked with a cane, which seemed to be more of an affectation than a necessity. He was — and I say this with all due respect — an absolutely enormous nerd.

Fortunately, I was an enormous nerd too, so I quickly took a shine to Mr. Loy.

Mr. Loy had a curious path to teaching. He had gone to graduate school at MIT and then became a Commissioned Officer in the Navy, teaching nuclear physics at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando. Somehow, he then wound up teaching high school physics in southside Virginia.

As an MIT graduate and former professor of nuclear physics, Mr. Loy was smart. Profoundly smart. Given that, I have to imagine that teaching a bunch of dumb ninth graders about Newton's Laws of Motion was a pretty boring gig.

Because of this, it took virtually no effort to get Mr. Loy to go off-track, which quickly became a favorite pastime for me and my classmates.

For example, there was one class period where I didn't really feel like learning about kinetic energy or whatever, so I raised my hand and asked Mr. Loy if it was possible to build a working time machine. Not only did he say that it was possible, he spent the remainder of the class explaining how to do it while drawing a rough blueprint on

the chalkboard. The time machine was largely theoretical because it involved an artificial wormhole stabilized by dark energy and a giant concrete tube running the length of the nation, but still, it was way more interesting than our scheduled classwork.

On another occasion, Mr. Loy mentioned that he had the uncanny ability to detect magnetic north. One of my classmates said he didn't believe him, so Mr. Loy brought us all outside and had us blindfold him and spin him around randomly; he pointed to north every time. During another class, someone brought a VHS copy of the Michael Bay movie "Armageddon" to school, the one about oil drillers being trained as astronauts so they could blow up an asteroid. Mr. Loy agreed to let us watch it in class on the condition that every time something scientifically inaccurate happened, he would pause the movie and explain why it was stupid. I think we made it about four minutes in.

Because Mr. Loy went off-track frequently, you might think it would have been a detriment to the students when it came time for a test. This was not the case; we discovered that if you got stuck on a test question, all you had to do was go up to Mr. Loy's desk and keep asking him for help until he got so frustrated that he'd just tell you the answer. I was a good student, but I'm not ashamed to admit that I used this method on multiple occasions. I passed that class with flying colors.

I liked Mr. Loy so much that I joined both of the clubs he ran; unsurprisingly, they were chess club and astronomy club, although you would be forgiven for assuming he ran a club involving

dungeons and/or dragons.

Mr. Loy left the high school to return to his native Pennsylvania when I was in 10th or 11th grade, but I kept in contact with him for awhile. One time, I emailed him to ask how those little top hat wearing drinking birds work; another time, I asked him what he thought about the paradoxes of the Greek philosopher Zeno of Elea. On both occasions, he sent me thoughtful novella-length responses.

I lost contact with Mr. Loy sometime in the early 2000s, but every year or so, I would look him up online to see if I could find a Facebook page or an email address. I always struck out.

Last week, I realized it had been awhile since I'd looked up Mr. Loy. Unfortunately, I found his obituary; he passed away in April 2023.

Back in '99, I think my friends and I — no matter how much we liked him personally — would not have characterized Mr. Loy as a great teacher. With the benefit of hindsight, I realize we were wrong. I may not remember much about basic physics, but I vividly remember his deep dives into high-level scientific concepts that wouldn't have been out of place in a 400-level college course.

Perhaps most importantly, that class managed to wash away the anxiety I had felt about the sciences; he demonstrated every day that science didn't have to be a painful slog, it could be fun, too.

It's a shame I never got another chance to catch up with Mr. Loy. Maybe one of these days, someone will get around to building that time machine.

## Letter To The Editor

2024 is more than an election

Have you ever had New Year's resolutions that lasted longer than February? Aside from resolutions, do you have anything to look forward to in the new year, anything important? I hope so.

This year my nephew and his wife will welcome their first child, which means my son will get a new cousin. I have two other married friends that will be giving birth in 2024. I'm very excited for all of them. Babies change your world; have as many as you can. I hope you have a new life to await.

I'll be very much involved in my work through the year. I work with the church of Christ, which involves teaching the Bible on television, in the auditorium, reaching out to non-believers in the local community, and I'll do a lot of writing. I'm very happy with my work. In the summertime the whole congregation, and Christians from other states, will work together to put on a two-week-long "tent meeting" in an attempt to reach non-believers and unify believers. Are you religious? Are

you involved with the Lord's people?

Here's what I really want to say today: I sure hope you're not just looking at 2024 as an Election Year. My goodness — it's one Tuesday out of the whole year. Someone says, "Yeah, but there's a lot on the line this year." They say that every election year. Someone else says, "We've got to get these corrupt people out of office." How many of your neighbors think your candidate is corrupt?

Hey, man: vote, do your civil duty. I'm just saying I sure hope you've got more to live for this year than the election. I'm all for fewer, lower, taxes, getting rid of the state car inspection, etc., ... I obviously have my political views. I'm just asking, what are you going to do with that saved tax money when you die? Someone says, "Leave it to my kids." What are they going to do with it? Squander it? Who knows? There's more to life than money, politics, and taxes.

May I make some suggestions for the new year?

Meet new people by 'going to church', don't just 'go to church', but really attempt to develop "Christian character," quit any current vices, invite newly made friends into your home for dinner, go to the local library and check out literary classics, go on walks and appreciate the scenery (God's creation and man's innovations), volunteer to stay overnight at the local warming shelter, instead of giving to some unknown, distant, "charity," give financially to those in your immediate circle that need help (doesn't have to be a lot, but something).

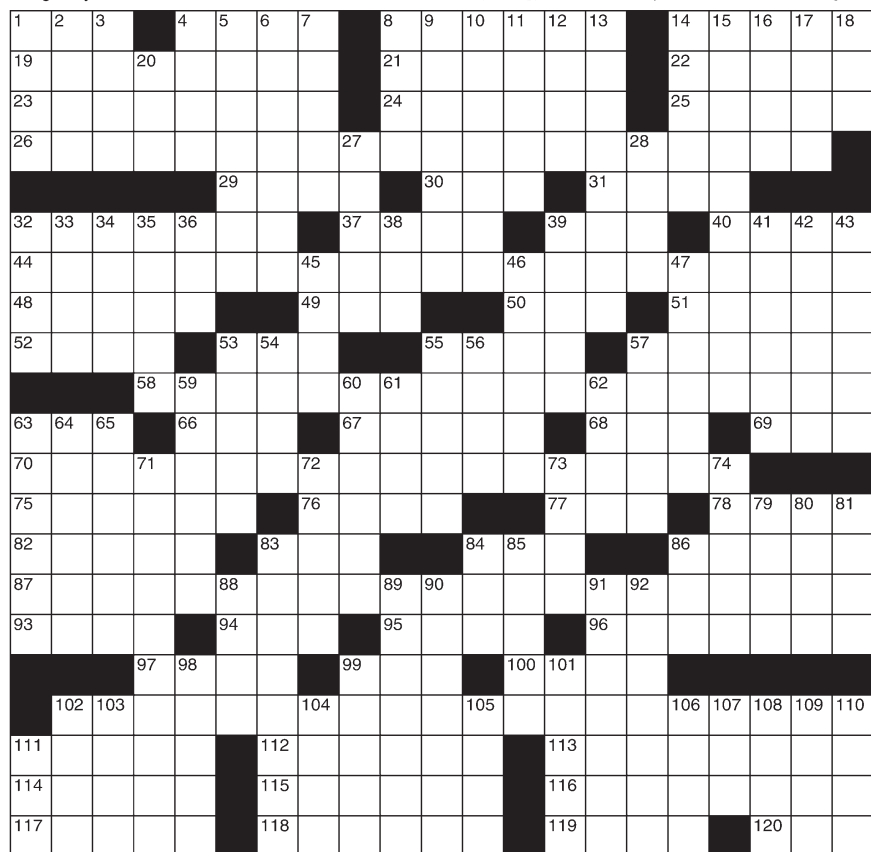
This list could go on and on, but that's a start. I think most people really are not getting all that they could out of life, and it has nothing to do with their income. Life is beautiful, people are beautiful, yet somehow, we feel unfulfilled. Enjoy your year; challenge yourself in the new year.

Caleb Robertson,  
Martinsville

## Super Crossword

### CALCULATING CHARACTERS

- |  |   |                             |                                    |   |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                              | 49 See 83-Across                                | 84 "Yes" vote               | 5 Drunk                            | 39 "— say more?"  | 71 Like animals that don't roam        |
| 1 Pet doc                                  | 50 Corp. leader                                 | 86 Early arcade giant       | 6 Writer Gogol                     | 41 Actresses Vivien and Janet                                 | 72 So-called "fifth taste"             |
| 4 "Come again?"                            | 51 Skip over, as a vowel                        | 87 End of the riddle        | 7 Third-largest city in Israel     | 42 In — res (mid-plot)  | 73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps |
| 8 Treats maliciously                       | 52 World War II film, when tripled              | 93 — Flush (bathroom brand) | 8 Ride a wave                      | 43 Clay pigeons to be shot, informally                        | 74 Mesh well                           |
| 14 Tennis player Borg                      | 53 Charged bit                                  | 94 Architect I.M. —         | 9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky | 45 Three x three  | 79 Piquancy                            |
| 19 Narcissist's problem                    | 55 Place — (be active on eBay, say)             | 95 Made angry               | 10 Like a hajji's religion         | 46 Frozen spear   | 80 Ontario tribe                       |
| 21 Actress Andress                         | 57 Cheap cigar                                  | 96 Florida fruits           | 11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma | 47 Eats away at   | 81 Cat's warning                       |
| 22 Ate, as prey                            | 58 Riddle, part 3                               | 97 R&B great Marvin         | 12 Charles Lamb's alias            | 53 "Were — it all over again ..."                             | 83 Pittsburgh footballers              |
| 23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko           | 63 Simile                                       | 99 Not at all new           | 13 Bay Area California city        | 54 "It can't be!"   | 84 "Chances —"                         |
| 24 Arrive on wheels                        | 66 Chaney of film                               | 100 Golf club               | 14 Equivalent of A sharp           | 55 One of the Three Musketeers                                | 85 "Catch my drift, bro?"              |
| 25 Frankie or Cleo of song                 | 67 Song-beltling Merman                         | 102 Riddle's answer         | 15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell" co-star | 56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"                     | 86 Pie-mode link                       |
| 26 Start of a riddle                       | 68 On a pension, maybe: Abbr.                   | 111 Stalin-era labor camp   | 16 Like praiseful co-star          | 57 Derisive smile   | 88 1974 CIA parody film                |
| 29 Noise in a comic book gunfight          | 69 Military draft gp.                           | 112 Polecat's kin           | 17 Gossipy Barrett                 | 59 One of the three Furies                                    | 89 More lacteal                        |
| 30 Exotica singer Sumac                    | 70 Riddle, part 4                               | 113 Urge against            | 18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dir.       | 60 R&R alone  | 90 Not cardinal, as a number           |
| 31 "The Human Stain"                       | 75 ZZ Top                                       | 114 Muscat native           | 20 Letters before 39-Across        | 61 "— boy!"   | 91 Plundering                          |
| 32 Cure-all                                | 76 Hamm and Farrow                              | 115 Do over                 | 27 Swiss watch brand               | 62 Pisa's river   | 92 Writer Sábato                       |
| 37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella | 77 Neither's partner                            | 116 Office squawker         | 28 Clueless                        | 63 Nuclear trials, for short                                  | 98 Patronage                           |
| 39 Some sorority letters                   | 78 Tingly feeling                               | 117 Fender dings            | 32 Fizzle sound                    | 64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling      | 99 "— Loompa"                          |
| 40 Donations to the destitute              | 82 Totally tired                                | 118 Mimics a mad mutt       | 33 Sleek, informally               | 65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People" | 101 Half-diameters                     |
| 44 Riddle, part 2                          | 83 With 49-Across, touter of green eggs and ham | 119 Helper of Frankenstein  | 34 Hair removal brand              | 102 Journalist Brit   | 103 Zing                               |
| 48 Like much greasy food                   |   | 120 Inventor Whitney        | 35 Top squad                       | 104 Lucy Liu's "Kill Bill" role                               | 105 Insect traps                       |
|  |   |                             | 36 Mooer's mouthful                | 106 Exploiter   | 107 Mongrel                            |
|  |   |                             | 38 On the — (fleeing)              | 108 Frilly material   | 109 Shrine figure                      |
|  |   |                             |                                    | 110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"                                      | 111 Shrine figure                      |



## The after Christmas slump

"Doing Christmas" is like having a baby.

When you're in the midst of doing it, it's difficult and overwhelming, and sometimes you think you just can't take it anymore, but you keep on pushing through.

When it's all over, though, you forget how difficult it was, and you're filled with desire for another.

So, it is in the days after Christmas. In that eerie week between Christmas and New Year, you wander about in a sort of shock. Life's not back to normal in many ways; we're still suspended in that slower pace of the holiday season. Yet Christmas is over.

How are we all of a sudden on the other side of yet another Christmas? How did it end so quickly? How is it already over?

And now that January has started for real, and the holidays are truly over, it's packing-up time. We're taking ornaments off trees, untangling and rolling up lengths of lights, gathering up the garland. Green and red knick-knacks come off the tabletop, mantles and shelves, and perhaps some special holiday art comes off the walls.

Yet as you get out the boxes to put it all away, there may be some neglected decorations at the bottom. In the far reaches of the outbuilding or attic there may be some boxes of goodies that never even made it out this season.

As we put things away, we are haunted by ways we could have, should have, done it better. More garland should have been hung. The outdoor lights should have extended even further out in the yard. The ornaments that a couple

of months ago didn't seem shiny or pretty enough this year to take out of the box suddenly beckon, again worthy of display.

If only. The regret tortures: We should have done Christmas better.

The next 11 months stretch ahead, seemingly interminably, before we can redeem ourselves by decorating as we really should have.

Or baked more Christmas treats, decorated more cookies, made the wreaths ourselves, sent out more Christmas cards.

Somehow, the constant unbearable hassle of the past several weeks fades from the mind. For a month, or perhaps even longer, it was a constant struggle to get boxes out and put boxes away, to decorate, to attend parties, perhaps to give a party, to cook, to drive kids places, to go to holiday programs, to buy, to wrap, to send cards.

In the days after Christmas, we forget how hard it is to make the holiday magic happen, and just want to make it again.

But here we are in January, perhaps the slowest month of the year. Let's just take a deep breath, and relax.

Though it's certainly OK if you spend some of this time shopping the 75% off Christmas sales to add to what you do next year!



Holly Kozelsky

See more at  
www.henrycountyenterprise.com



# City department seeks help to identify lead

Martinsville's Utilities and Water Resources is asking for the community's help to identify potential lead sources in home plumbing.

The department is inspecting all 120 miles of piping throughout the city, and said help from homeowners and renters is being sought to identify water service line pipe materials that led into their homes.

The service line is where drinking water enters homes through a pipe that connects the water meter and is typically

located in a home's basement or utility closet. The department is asking that all customers self-report their service line materials.

This initiative aligns with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision, ensuring compliance and transparency. Initial tests confirmed lead absence leaving the treatment facility.

More information on identifying and reporting piping materials is available at [//www.martinsville-va.gov/479/Pipe-Materials](http://www.martinsville-va.gov/479/Pipe-Materials).

## November Land Transfers

The following land transfers were recorded in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's office in November:

Adkins Construction Corporation to Ronald L. Cox, 0.281 acres, Iriswood District.

Stanley Earl Adkins to Robert Satterwhite, lots, Collinsville District.

Helen Davidson Ashley to Clayton Dean Baker, lots, Ridgeway District.

Kimberly M. Ayers to Rapid Property Solutions LLC, lot, Collinsville District.

Blanche M. Barrow to Laclarissia Manns, lot, no district given.

Darren W. Bentley, PLLC, to John G. Maxwell, 0.947 acres, Iriswood District.

Randolph C. Campbell Sr. to Andrew Palmer, lot, Reed Creek District.

Tammy Gibbs Cardwell to Tristan Joseph Mitchell, lot, Reed Creek District.

Michael Lane Clark to Larry W. Roberts, lots, Iriswood District.

William F. Clearly, III, to Christine M. Galiazzo, lot, Collinsville District.

Commonwealth Trustees, LLC, to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp, 4.754 acres, Ridgeway District.

Nancy Marie Corbin to Evans Investment Properties, lot, Ridgeway District.

Cynthia Lynn Cundiff-Cross to Walter Graves, 1.906 acres, Iriswood District.

Bruce E. Dearborn to Ronald C. Furrow, 5.00 acres, Iriswood District.

Joseph Henry Dillon to Walter J. Jones, 1.296 acres, Horsepasture District.

Charlott Dixon to Earnest Leroy Valentine, 0.4 acres, Horsepasture District.

Jason Lane Edwards to Felicia Sebastian, 0.504 acres, Collinsville District.

Equity Trustees, LLC to Bank of New York Mellon Trust, 0.737 acres, Reed Creek District.

Tracie L. Fain to David J. Ragatz, lot, Iriswood District.

Anzel L. Fallen to Catherleen Dillard, 1.262 acres, Iriswood District.

Chad Everett Ford to Jason Davis, 0.042 acres, Ridgeway District.

Shannon R. Foster to Frank E. Cali, Sr., 3.766 acres, Reed Creek District.

Patricia Freeman to Natasha D. Bailey, lots, Horsepasture District.

Robin D. Gray to Courtney Martin, lots, Collinsville District.

H & C Fine Homes, LLC to Joseph I. Doran, lot, no district given.

Jannie L. Hagwood to Shannon Nicole Hairston, 2.665 acres, Horsepasture District.

David Preston Haley to Michael P. Hardy, lot, Collinsville District.

Wahneeta F. Hamilton to Hopco, LLC, 131.007 acres, Horsepasture District.

Thomas F. Hensley to Chanton L. Redd, 3.120 acres, Blackberry District.

Terry Lee Holley to Bradley D. Holley, 9.894 acres, Reed Creek District.

Barry Keith Holt, Devisee to Philip Timothy Sparks, 12,432 sq. ft., Collinsville District.

James A. Hurd, II to Jesse D. Cahill, 24.92 acres, Reed Creek District.

Billy Gray Kallam to Roger Leon Clark, 0.335 acres, Ridgeway District.

Clyde E. Keffer to Patricia A. Lewis, lots, Horsepasture District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lot, Horsepasture District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lot, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, 0.35 acres, Horsepasture District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, Blackberry District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, no district given.

Seth R. Konopasek to AF Investments, LLC, lots, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek, spec com to Rans Place, LLC, lot, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek, spec com to Rans Place, LLC, lot, Martinsville District.

Seth R. Konopasek, spec comm to Maddy Holdings, LLC, lot, Martinsville District.

Malcolm A. Landi to Travis Lane Evermoore, lot, Iriswood District.

Patricia Lewis to Brendan Karel Shreve, 1 acre, Blackberry District.

Reyna Guadalupe Romero Lopez to Jonathan Hernandez, lot, Horsepasture District.

David L. Maine Jr., to Patrick County Rentals LLC, 5.127 acres, Blackberry District.

David T. Martin to Mehesh Srinivasaiah, 0.82 acres, Blackberry District.

Mary Jane Fields, AKA Mary P F to Douglas W. Greer, lot, Martinsville District.

Joseph J. Mayo to Clarence F. Shelton, lot, Horsepasture District.

Monroe and Novellia Light, LLC, to Frances L. Stone, 1.5 acres, Blackberry District.

Donald Ray Morrison to Johanne G. Nixon, 0.55 acres, Collinsville District.

Barry L. Nelson Jr., to Sarah L. Sutphin, lot, Martinsville District.

Jeffrey L. Nelson to Jeffrey L. Nelson and Deborah R, lots, no district given.

Jeffrey Wayne Newman to Victor L. Jones, Jr., lots, Blackberry District.

Timothy Michael O'Hare to Dustin Todd Hussey, 2.988 acres, Iriswood District.

Harry A. Prillam, Jr., TR to Matthew Daniel Kendall, 15.000 acres, Collinsville District.

Leeland V. Prillaman to Matthew Daniel Kendall, 70.5 acres, Collinsville District.

Sara R. Rakestraw to Christopher Praino, lot, Ridgeway District.

Johnsey Z. Reynolds; sole devis to Martin Enterprises NC, LLC, lots, Horsepasture District.

Angela Carol Scarce to Skyler Mack, 5.2 acres, Iriswood District.

Cynthia J. Scott to Grant Temple, 3.4 acres, Horsepasture District.

Janette Riley Smith to Robert Watkins, lot, Iriswood District

SU&P Property Management Inc. to John J. Sullivan, lot, no district given.

Grant Temple to Malissa R. Hendricks, 3.520 acres, Horsepasture District.

James M. Thomas to Yamani Muse, lots, Reed Creek District.

Donald E. Townley to Joe Elton Sumner, 3.5 acres, Horsepasture District

Chadwick T. Trammell to Jason Harbour, 28.8 and 2.624 acres, Reed Creek District.

Avis Ellen Turner to Paul T. Kennedy Jr., lots, Reed Creek District.

United States of America to Jose De Jesus Escobar, tracts, Iriswood District.

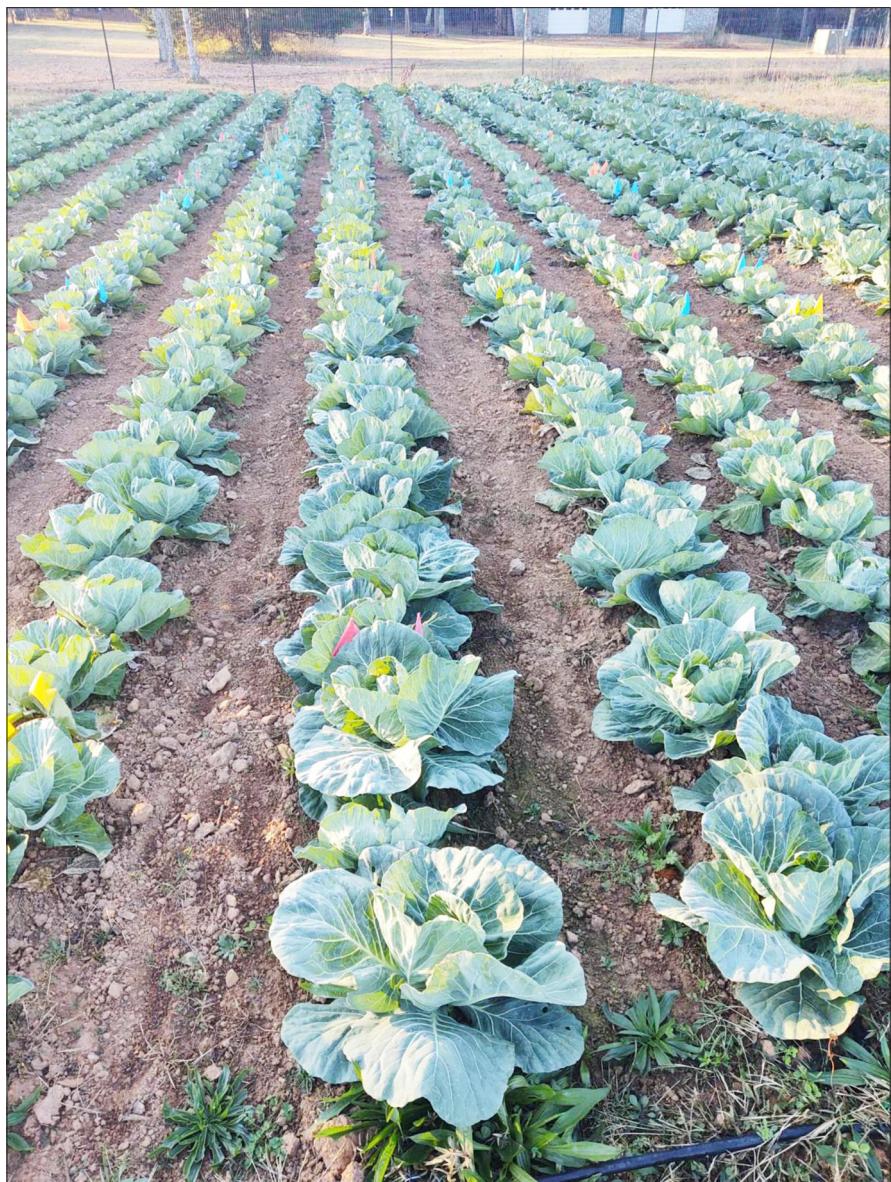
Jose Angel Valderrama to Margarita Tamayo Chacon, 0.254 and 0.143 acres, Iriswood District.

Earl C. Waller to Nelcy Vanessa Alvarez, lots, Iriswood District.

Reginia R. Worrell to Jasmine Walker, 0.30 acres, Blackberry District.

Janice Albury Wright; sole heir, to Leon J. Hairston, 20.32 acres, Blackberry District.

Deborah C. Youngman to Kevin V. Nelson, 2.00 acres, Ridgeway District.



## Farm in Bassett partners with college students in Field and Forage Crops course

Piedmont Farmacy in Bassett partners with Ferrum College on its 'Field and Forage Crops' course taught by associate professor of Crop Science Tim Durham. Students learn about agronomy, crop management, and concepts of field and forage cropping systems through different crop varieties and cultivation practices.

Because this course is offered at the tail end of the traditional field/forage crops season, it's impossible to cultivate a corn or soybean crop from start to finish. Instead, the semester-long, hands-on capstone project is a fertilizer trial delivered more as an olericulture, or vegetable science class, using cabbage as the classic cool season crop.

Durham said Mark Prescott, proprietor of the Bassett farm, kindly lets the college use his farm, and this marks the third time a class plot has been established. Over the course of the semester, students visit the farm three times for planting, fertilizing and harvesting, and Prescott keeps any overplanted cabbage as an in-kind consideration for his generosity.

Durham said the project allows students to take full responsibility for the entire process from start to finish. "It covers a comprehensive exercise that includes varietal selection, spacing, weed management, irrigation, comparative input costs, pest management, fertilizer

calculations, growing degree days, and estimated net receipts."

"Students also learn about basic field plot design, flagging, and replication, culminating in a final harvest and data logging. They crunch the numbers and learn to interpret statistical analyses to determine which fertilizer rate (0 (white flag), 50 (blue), 100 (yellow), 200 (orange), and 400 (red) pounds of nitrogen per acre) makes the most financial sense from a cost/benefit perspective," said Durham.

"It brings classroom theory and best practice ethics to field fruition. They present their findings via a digital poster session. Most importantly, they got to sample the fruits of their labor by taking home as much as they wanted at the semester's end, as did the campus community - about 10 bushels were gone in one afternoon," he added.

Ferrum College president Dr. Mirra Martin said the course is one of many examples of experiential learning that gives Ferrum Alumni an extra edge when they enter the workforce or graduate school. "Field and Forage Crops gives students the irreplaceable, hands-on learning that is the core of Ferrum College. They get the science as well as the art of the agricultural process. No matter where their career takes them, the practical expertise they gain in these courses will serve them well."

## Sales campaign underway for award-winning PC Magazine

The Patrick County Magazine won the "Best Magazine Guide" award at the 2023 Southwest Virginia Tourism Awards, and you have the opportunity to participate in the next volume.

The Patrick County Chamber and Tourism department are now gearing up for Volume 3, Spring 2024 edition. Like the 2023 editions, the magazine will feature articles about well-known and best kept secret spots. Residents and visitors will continue to enjoy reading about Patrick County. The

magazine is circulated across the region at events, regional visitor centers and local businesses.

The chamber is responsible for selling the advertisement spaces in this magazine. Don't miss the opportunity to market your business, event or organization to current residents, new residents and visitors.

Contact the chamber for more information at (276) 694-6012 or email [director@patrickchamber.com](mailto:director@patrickchamber.com). Ads must be reserved by January 20.

## Man died in Dec. 28 blaze

A blaze in Collinsville claimed the life of a man, according to Henry County Fire Marshal Lisa Garrett.

The Henry County Department of Public Safety, the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, and the Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department responded to a structure fire call at 175 Conestoga Court in Collinsville on Dec. 28 at about 10:23 p.m.

Upon arrival, the fire department found a single wide trailer on fire. A man was found while the fire was being extinguished. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His remains were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke.

His name will not be released until family members can be notified.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.



# CLASSIFIED

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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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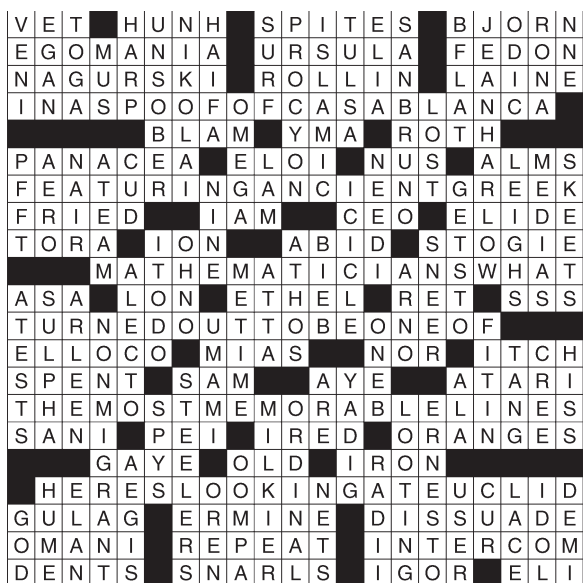


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## ADVERTISE!

# Applications are now open for Piedmont Arts scholarships

Piedmont Arts will once again be offering two prestigious scholarships for area art students. Eligible students are those who are attending or graduated from a high school in Martinsville or Henry County and are attending college to study visual or performing arts. Applications must include a personal statement, an academic transcript, letters of recommendation, and a portfolio or audition. More information about the scholarships and the applications can be found on [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org). Applications are due on April 30, by 5 p.m. Interviews and auditions will be held on May 8. Questions about the scholarships should be directed to Education Coordinator Christiana Jarrett at [CJarrett@PiedmontArts.org](mailto:CJarrett@PiedmontArts.org).

Named in honor of famed portrait artist Nicodemus Hufford, the Hufford Memorial Scholarship is available to high school seniors who plan to pursue a degree in the visual or performing arts. Members of Piedmont Arts' Scholarship Committee determine the number and amount of yearly awards based on their evaluation of the applicant interviews, portfolios or auditions, and information contained in applications. Up to \$1,000 is available to Hufford Memorial Scholarship awardees.

The Harold Knowlton Work Memorial Art Scholarship was established by Julia Ascough Work in her husband's name to help students pursuing a degree in the arts continue their higher education studies. This scholarship is available for rising college sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The Works shared a lifelong passion and respect for education and the arts. This gener-



2023's scholarship recipients smile during an award ceremony at the museum.

ous memorial scholarship will ensure that their legacy of learning and imagination lives on by supporting the artists of future generations. Members of the Piedmont Arts Scholarship Committee determine the number and amount of awards based on their evaluations of the applicants' auditions, transcripts, personal statements, and letters of recommendation. Up to \$2,500 is available for Work Memorial Scholarship awardees.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum, located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

# Funding boost on the way for VA child care centers

Edwin J. Viera  
*Virginia News Connection*

In the new year, a new plan will put \$448 million toward early childhood education in Virginia.

Known as "Building Blocks for Virginia Families," Gov. Glenn Youngkin's plan provides funds to help child care centers address staff shortages and help families struggling to pay for care.

A Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission report found about three in four Virginia families cannot afford child care.

Allison Gilbreath, senior policy and progress director at Voices for Virginia's Children, said the money fills the gap left when federal pandemic funding ended.

"When those dollars stopped back in June, many child care centers in Virginia were facing hard decisions of whether they were going to be able to stay open," Gilbreath recounted. "Because their families could not afford to pay the subsidy that they were receiving from the federal government."

The Economic Policy Institute reported infant care in Virginia costs more than \$14,000 a year. While the money remedies certain problems, Gilbreath noted child care is still in short supply. The



plan is expected to bolster parents' choice of home providers, church programs and private day care centers.

Some \$25 million of the funding will go toward eliminating child care deserts, which are a big problem in Virginia, according to the Center for American Progress.

Gilbreath stressed the conversation about how lack of care affects families in rural areas must be more inclusive.

"There are a lot of grandparents raising grandchildren, especially in our more rural parts of the community, and they need access to child

care, but affordable," Gilbreath explained. "It really helps lessen the stress within a household, and it helps children develop those social and emotional skills they really need to thrive."

Facilities known as "early learning hubs" will be launched to help fill the gaps. If Youngkin's plan is successful, Virginia can buck long-standing trends in early childhood education. The Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Book finds more than half of Virginia 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds are not enrolled in preschool programs, reflecting a national trend.

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# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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

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## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL23001315-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT  
3160 KINGS MOUNTAIN RD, 3RD FL., MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112  
JAVIER SARABIA LOPEZ v. ELIA PEREZ GARCIA  
AV. BORDO DO XOCHIACA, MEXICAN IO LOTE 35 Esado de Mexico 56353

The object of this suit is to:  
TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII  
It is ORDERED that ELIA PEREZ GARCIA appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before FEBRUARY 11, 2024  
DECEMBER 13, 2023

*Jennifer Adams*  
[ ] JUDGE [X] CLERK

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# Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Jan. 8-13:

1/8 7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Salem  
7pm Boys Basketball Chatham at Carlisle

1/9 5pm Swim & Dive Martinsville at Hargrave Military Academy  
5pm Girls Basketball Roanoke Catholic at Carlisle  
6:30p Boys Basketball Roanoke Catholic at Carlisle  
7pm Girls Basketball Halifax County at Bassett  
7pm Girls Basketball George Washington at

Magna Vista  
7pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Halifax  
7pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at George Washington

1/10 5pm Wrestling Bassett, Magna Vista & George Washington at Magna Vista

1/11 3pm Indoor Track Bassett (Meet at Roanoke College)  
6:30p Boys Basketball Carlisle at New Garden Friends  
7pm Girls Basketball Bassett at Altavista  
7pm Girls Basketball Martinsville at James River  
5pm Swim & Dive Magna Vista at Halifax County

5pm Swim & Dive Martinsville at George Washington (Danville YMCA)  
7pm Girls Basketball Mecklenburg County at Bassett  
7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Martinsville  
7pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Mecklenburg County  
7pm Boys Basketball Martinsville at Magna Vista  
TBA Indoor Track Bassett & Magna Vista (Meet at Liberty University)  
TBA Boys Basketball George Washington at Carlisle  
9am Wrestling Martinsville at Morehead High  
4pm Girls Basketball George Washington at Carlisle

## Monthly Employment, Labor Force, and Unemployment Indicators

(000s, unless otherwise stated)

	Employment - LAUS		Labor Force - LAUS		Unemployment - LAUS			Non-farm Payroll Employment - CES	
	Level	Δ	Level	Δ	Level	Δ	Rate %	Level	Δ
Jan 2022-Dec 2022*	4,261.6	69.0	4,390.5	79.8	128.9	10.8	2.9	4012.7	99.2
January 2023	4,342.7	12.1	4,487.6	17.3	144.9	5.2	3.2	4128.0	16.1
February 2023	4,359.5	16.9	4,505.4	17.8	145.9	1.0	3.2	4133.1	5.1
March 2023	4,385.5	26.0	4,529.1	23.7	143.6	-2.3	3.2	4136.7	3.6
April 2023	4,410.6	25.1	4,550.8	21.8	140.3	-3.3	3.1	4140.0	3.3
May 2023	4,439.9	29.4	4,574.3	23.5	134.4	-5.9	2.9	4143.5	3.5
June 2023	4,463.1	23.2	4,588.3	13.9	125.2	-9.2	2.7	4145.7	2.2
July 2023	4,481.2	18.1	4,597.5	9.3	116.3	-8.8	2.5	4150.1	4.4
August 2023	4,488.5	7.4	4,601.6	4.1	113.1	-3.2	2.5	4157.8	7.7
September 2023	4,494.5	5.9	4,610.9	9.3	116.5	3.4	2.5	4164.5	6.7
October 2023	4,492.7	-1.7	4,615.5	4.6	122.8	6.3	2.7	4166.2	1.7
November 2023	4,492.8	0.0	4,624.8	9.3	132.1	9.3	2.9	4172.4	6.2
EoP	4,492.8	231.2	4,624.8	234.4	132.1	3.2	2.9	4172.4	159.7

\*Levels reflect the January 2022 level. Deltas refer to change in each statistic over the January 2022 - December 2022 period. End of period ("EOP") deltas reflect the cumulative change in economic indicators from January 2022.

## Labor market shows continued strength with moderate job growth in November

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"), the labor force in Virginia continued growing in November by 9,331 to 4,624,846, the number of employed Virginians increased by 47 to 4,492,761 while the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.2% to 2.9%.

"While more Virginians are working than ever before and participation in the labor force continues to climb, this month's flat jobs report suggests the cautious approach we've taken in our economic outlook remains appropriate," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "Since day one our economic agenda has resulted in aggressive growth in labor participation and job creation, and we must take bolder steps, as my budget laid out this week, to unleash opportunity for all Virginians."

The labor force participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work, increased to 66.9 percent in November, which is the highest labor force participation rate experienced in Virginia since March 2012.

According to BLS LAUS, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November increased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.9 percent, which is 0.3 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 9,331 to 4,624,846; and the number of employed Virginians increased by 47 to 4,492,761 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 9,284 to 132,085.

"Over the last year, all regions of the Commonwealth have seen employ-

ment growth," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "However, with 254,000 job openings in the Commonwealth, our commitment remains with providing the tools Virginians need to improve their job situation and our employers with employees to fill these jobs."

"Through our innovative framework, we are driving Virginia's economy for the jobs of today leading to the future," said Secretary of Commerce Caren Merrick. "We are encouraged by the number of Virginians continuing to seek job opportunities and to be an active participant in strengthening the vitality of the Commonwealth."

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

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

## Food service, accommodation employees lead initial unemployment claims

Employees in the accommodation and food services sectors were the leading industries reported among those filing initial unemployment insurance claims, according to the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDVA).

The number of initial claims increased in the latest filing week to 2,019 but remained slightly below typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, the agency added.

For the filing week ending December 23, seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia were 2,019, which was an increase of 302 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,341, which was little changed from the previous week but an increase of 33 percent from the 9,286 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (58 percent) of continued claims were from administrative and support and waste management (1,769), professional, scientific, and technical services (1,741), manufacturing (1,205), and health care and social assistance (1,087) and construction (894). 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 December 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 218,000, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 205,000 to 206,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 272,610 in the week ending December 23, an increase of 31,570 (or 13.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 269,877 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 (+5,594) was the largest increase. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (+4,556) was the second largest increase. New Jersey's preliminary weekly change (+4,554) was the third largest increase. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (+2,593) was the fourth largest increase. Virginia had the 24th largest increase (+252).

## National average price of gas projected to see yearly decline in 2024 for second straight year

GasBuddy, a PDI company, today released its annual Fuel Price Outlook with some good news for drivers: expect lower gasoline and diesel prices in 2024. The outlook highlights key trends in gasoline and diesel prices, forecasting that, after two years of above average gas prices, 2024 will bring relief at the pump for consumers as several factors contribute to less of a pinch at the pump. GasBuddy expects the yearly national average will drop from \$3.51 per gallon this year to \$3.38 in 2024.

Highlights from GasBuddy's 2024 Fuel Outlook:

- Gas prices still could fall below a national average of \$3 per gallon this winter before starting to rise in late-February, getting close to \$4 per gallon as summer approaches, then mildly declining into summer, with hurricane season presenting uncertainty in late summer.
- Drivers in some California cities could again briefly see prices above \$6 per gallon if major refinery issues develop during the summer, although most major U.S. cities will see prices peak at or slightly below \$4 per gallon in 2024.
- Americans are expected to spend a combined \$446.9 billion on gasoline in 2024. Average yearly spending per household will fall to an estimated \$2,407, down 2% from 2023, and over 12% less compared to 2022.
- Electric vehicles (EVs) and the 2024

presidential election have the potential to impact fuel prices in the year ahead, with a potential slowdown in the EV transition at stake.

• Memorial Day will be the priciest 2024 holiday at the pump, with the national average price of gasoline expected to be \$3.56-\$4.04 per gallon on the holiday.

"As 2023 fades away, I'm hopeful those \$5 and \$6 prices for gasoline and diesel will also fade into memory," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "The global refining picture continues to improve, providing more capacity and peace of mind that record-setting prices will stay away from the pump in 2024. I anticipate that we'll still have some volatility, unexpected outages and disruptions, and potentially weather-related issues, but I do not expect it to lead to record prices. Offsetting OPEC+'s production cuts is contributing to the rise of U.S. oil production, which now stands at record levels. Combined with Canada, North American oil production could further stabilize countries that have decided to curb oil production."

The outlook forecasts the highest prices will be seen at the peak of the summer driving season in May, with the national average potentially rising as high as \$3.89 per gallon. More uncertainty is expected with hurricane season in late summer. Diesel prices are also predicted to fall incrementally from 2023, peaking at \$4.13 per gallon in March 2024.

## TRRC Grant tapped to expand healthcare training at P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has been awarded \$149,140 from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission to expand healthcare training capacity in Nurse Aide, Clinical Medical Assistant, Medication Aide, and Phlebotomy Technician programs. These programs lead to short-term credentials that quickly allow students to enter high-demand health careers in the region.

"We are grateful for the continued support of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. Their partnership and support of P&HCC ensures our students have access to programs and training that lead to high demand careers in our area," said P&HCC Foundation executive director Tiffani Underwood.

The expansion of programming both on P&HCC's main campus and in partnership with programming at The Franklin Center in Rocky

Mount will increase credentials and help place medical professionals in jobs in the area.

"Career opportunities in the healthcare industry are abundant and pay well, providing economic mobility for our graduates and their families. Patrick & Henry Community College has a strong history of preparing students for these careers, and we are excited to partner with Franklin County and the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission to offer healthcare certification programs at The Franklin Center. Once a faculty member is hired, P&HCC plans to offer healthcare programming that meets both the interests of students and needs of employers," said P&HCC vice president for workforce, economic and community development Rhonda Hodges.

P&HCC Foundation will provide a dollar for dollar match to supplement TRRC funding.



Pictured: Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) students practice skills such as feeding patients to prepare them for the work they will do upon receiving credentials.

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





## Report shows chronic conditions on the rise in Virginia

Edwin J. Viera  
*Virginia News Connection*

Virginia lost ground in a national health report. The state ranked 19th in this year's America's Health Rankings report, down from 14th in 2022.

This is due in part to increasing chronic conditions among Virginians.

The state Department of Health finds this increase has been coming for some time. Between 2016 and 2021, obesity, diabetes and arthritis have steadily risen among Virginians.

Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual, described why this increase is occurring.

"When we look at states, the states that have the highest rankings in behavior," said Randall, "so, those are things like are we getting physical activity, are we smoking, things like obesity, for example - have a tendency to do better on the chronic conditions."

But this increase in chronic conditions comes when there are fewer primary-care professionals in the workforce. This has been particularly hard

on rural Virginia communities.

A Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform report finds nine hospitals are at risk of closing due to staff shortages.

Nationally, 107,000 primary care professionals left the workforce this year, due in part to burnout.

The state has made progress in other ways such as reducing air pollution, which brought down some respiratory illnesses.

Randall noted that with the new year on the horizon, people should consider any health-related habits they want to change.

"This is a good time of year for people to start thinking about what do you want to change in your lifestyle, right?" said Randall. "Is it a difference in the nutritious food? Is it a difference in your physical activity? Have you not been to the doctor for a while?"

She added that the new year would also be a good time for policymakers to examine what health-care legislation needs to be worked on. For Virginia, this means more public health funding.



## 100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from January 1924

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped shape the world in January 1924.

- Millionaire oil broker Courtland S. Dines is shot in the abdomen at his home on January 1. When police arrived on the scene, they found alcohol on the premises, causing a scandal during the Prohibition era.

- Flooding causes the water level of the Seine to rise in Paris, forcing the closure of railway stations on January 2.

- The exiled King Ferdinand is granted permission to return to Sofia by the Bulgarian government on January 2, prompting an immediate objection to the move by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

- On January 3, the governor of the Mexican state of Yucatán, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, is executed by rebels fighting for General Adolfo de la Huerta. de la Huerta was attempting to overthrow the government of President Alvaro Obregón, and Carrillo and three of his brothers were among 11 people killed by the rebels.

- The automobile manufacturer Walter P. Chrysler introduces his first car, the Chrysler Six Model B-70 sedan, on January 5 at the 24th Annual New York Automobile Show.

- Turkish President Mustafa Kernal Atakürk survives a bomb attack at his home on January 6. A visitor to the president's home asked to see him and then threw the bomb when Atakürk appeared.

- The British submarine HMS L24 sinks during a training exercise on January 10. The sub collided with the battleship HMS Resolution, and all 43 crew members aboard perished in the accident.

- Bengali activist for Indian independence Gopinath Saha shoots and kills Englishman Ernest Day, a civilian, in Calcutta on January 12. Saha believed he was shooting Calcutta police commissioner Charles Tegart, who was helping to lead the fight against the independence movement. Saha is arrested and subsequently tried and sentenced to death.

- The SMS Berlin embarks on a two-month tour of the North Atlantic Ocean on January 15. It is the first German Navy warship since the end of World War One to depart on an overseas voyage.

- On January 16, Argentine engineer Raúl Pateras Pescara breaks his own record for helicopter flight. Pescara keeps his model 2F aloft in the air for eight minutes and 13.8 seconds at an altitude of around 15 feet near Paris.

- Ailing Russian leader Leon Trotsky is rumored to have been arrested on January 18. Despite the rumors, Trotsky is ultimately revealed to have been traveling to the Black Sea in an effort to overcome his illness.

- Richard Connell's short story "The Most Dangerous Game" appears in the weekly magazine Collier's on January 19. The story's theme of the hunter who becomes the hunted has since been adapted for countless stories.

- Following a stroke, semi-retired leader and founder of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin dies on January 21 at his estate in Gorki.

- On January 23, Britain and the United States sign a treaty that allows American authorities to search British ships suspected of rum running.

- Oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny testifies on January 24 that he lent Senator Albert B. Fall \$100,000. Doheny's admission exacerbates the Teapot Dome Scandal that enveloped the administration of United States President Warren G. Harding.

- The first Winter Olympics open in Chamonix, France, on January 25.

- Prince Regent Hirohito marries Princess Nagako in an elaborate royal wedding in Tokyo on January 26. Within two years, Hirohito would become the 124th Emperor of Japan, a position he would retain, despite controversy, until his death in 1989.

- Lenin is laid to rest in a state funeral in Moscow's Red Square on January 27. Mourners brave frigid conditions, as the temperature drops to -35 F during the funeral.

- Benito Mussolini addresses 10,000 Blackshirts in the Palazzo Venezia in Rome on January 28. Mussolini predicts complete victory for the Fascists as he campaigns for a general election in Italy.

- On January 31, within weeks of his wife's death, Prussian state executioner Paul Spaethe dresses in formal evening wear and lights 45 candles. Each candle signifies a person Spaethe had beheaded, and once each candle is lit, Spaethe takes his own life with a revolver.

## Woman charged in alleged barricade incident

A Collinsville woman was charged in connection with an alleged barricade incident, according to a report from Henry County Sheriff Wane Davis.

The alleged incident occurred around 8:03 a.m. on December 29, when the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center received a report of a woman armed with a firearm inside of a home located at 1116 Daniels Creek Road in Collinsville.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and made contact with the woman through a window. The woman allegedly told deputies that she was armed with a firearm and would not exit the residence. The responding deputies began trying to persuade her to surrender peacefully, Davis said.

Due to the nature of the incident, the Henry County Sheriff's SWAT Team and negotiators responded to the scene. Negotiators established contact with the woman and communicated with her for a period of time, Davis said, and alleged the woman still refused to come out of the home.

When negotiations were unsuccessful, the SWAT Team deployed chemical munitions into the home and subsequently entered the house.

The woman, identified as April Manning, was taken into custody at



April Manning

10:50 a.m., Davis said. She was transported to SOVAH Health Martinsville for treatment of what Davis referred to as minor injuries.

Manning, 52, of the Collinsville home, was charged with a felony count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and a misdemeanor count of obstructing justice, according to the sheriff.

## Youngkin unveils budget and reforms Tax Code

Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled his proposed "Unleashing Opportunity" budget recently during a presentation to the General Assembly's Joint Money Committee. The budget proposal modernizes Virginia's tax code and bolsters investments in job growth, workforce development, needed behavioral and mental health support for Virginians, safe communities, good governance measures, and ushers in the largest education budget in Virginia's history.

"I am proud to present our 'Unleashing Opportunity' budget as part of a bold, necessary path forward. Virginia is on the verge of winning the fierce competition among our peer states for jobs, innovation, residents, and opportunity," said Youngkin. "Unleashing Opportunity means allowing Virginians to keep more of their hard-earned money, being prepared to take good jobs with a great education, in safe communities, where they can find the resources they need when they need them, in a state that understands what taking care of God's natural resources means, with a government that works efficiently for all Virginians."

Youngkin's proposed budget supports critical initiatives, including:

- **Tax Reform**  
\*Provides Virginians an additional \$1 billion in tax relief over the biennium.

- Cuts income tax rates for all Virginians by 12%.

- \*Enables low-income Virginians to claim an enhanced Virginia Earned Income Tax Credit, equal to 25% of the federal EITC on top of their 12% individual tax rate cut.

- \*Modernizes Virginia's tax code and diversifies the tax base by closing the big tech tax loophole and increasing the sales and use tax.

- **Unleashing Opportunity**

- \*Invites and challenges our General Assembly members to eliminate the personal property tax on vehicles.

- \*Unleashes \$100 million to grow high-wage high-tech jobs in Virginia's emerging "Research Triangle" focused on biotechnology, life science and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries.

- \*Provides \$150 million to bring state IT systems into the 21st century.

- **Further Drive Excellence in Education**

- \*Proposes the largest education budget in the history of the Commonwealth, with a record \$24 billion investment in our public schools with a nearly \$1 billion increase to support our teachers, students, and parents compared to the previous budget.

- \*Provides \$60 million in ongoing support for Lab Schools to help the operating costs of new and innovative schools throughout the Commonwealth.

- \*Allocates \$40 million to estab-

lish the "Diploma Plus" program, to help ensure that every student can obtain an industry-recognized credential in a high-demand field.

- \*Appropriates \$17 million for campus safety and security in coordination with the State Police's Fusion Center.

- \*Provides a one percent bonus for K-12 for state funded instructional and support positions.

- \*Supports reading specialists with \$61 million over the biennium; a \$53 million teacher bonus, on top of the 2% early raise in teacher salaries, starting next month that carries into 2025, and another \$122 million supporting a 2% raise in 2026.

- **Ensuring a Quality Environment for Our Children and Empowering Working Parents**

- \*Provides over \$448 million for the "Building Blocks for Virginia Families" initiative to provide high quality early childhood programs for low income families.

- \*Ensures that the families of the 27,000 children, currently at risk of following the discontinuation of federal pandemic relief funds, will have alternatives available for their childcare needs.

- \*Provides \$25 million in funding for an incentive grant program to create early learning hubs in partnership with our institution of higher education and localities.

- \*Allows greater capacity at our childcare centers by continuing the successful use of greater flexibility relating to child-to-staff ratios.

- **Right Help, Right Now**

- \*Delivers more than \$335 million to help meet the Governor's promise to eliminate the Priority 1 wait list for Developmental Disability Waiver slots.

- \*Allocates more than \$138 million dollars as part of the Right Help, Right Now initiative, allowing more money for start-up expenses of additional new crisis centers, increasing the number of mobile crisis units, offering student mental health services, and increasing the pay for hard-to-fill roles in our state mental health facilities.

- \*Improves the safety, security, and quality of our long-neglected state mental health facilities with nearly \$60 million in repairs and upgrades at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

- **Safe Communities and Bold Blue Line Plan**

- \*Advancing the Bold Blue Line Initiative, the Governor's budget provides nearly \$26 million to address compression for law enforcement, \$18 million for law enforcement recruitment and wellness, and allocates \$33 million for increased salaries for deputy sheriffs and regional jail officers.

- \*Appropriates \$25 million in FY 25 and \$18 million in FY 26 for return the Lawrenceville Correctional Center to state management.

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



# A homeowners' guide to ice dams

Cold weather contributes to many different conditions that can affect homes. When winds are blowing fiercely, homeowners may soon discover deficits in insulation or in caulking around windows and doors. Icy conditions can cause walkways and stairs to become slick.

One winter condition can cause extensive headaches and damage and could be a mystery to many homeowners. Ice dams occur when warm air in the attic heats up the roof and melts accumulated snow. Water from this melt runs down the roof and re-freezes when it reaches the colder roof edge. A mound of ice forms at the lower edge of the roofline as a result.

Ice dams may help create a picturesque winter vista, with icicles hanging and glinting in the sunlight, but they can cause significant damage. According to experts, ice dams can weigh hundreds of pounds if they get large enough, potentially affecting the structural integrity of roof eaves. In addition, ice dams can cause melted runoff to back up under roof shingles.

This water can eventually make its way inside, ruining ceilings and walls. The roof, gutters, insulation, interior drywall, and other home surfaces can be damaged if ice dams are left unchecked.

The following are some conditions that make a home vulnerable to ice dam formation:

1. The presence of snow on the roof.
2. An average outdoor temperature that is 32 F or lower.
3. A roof surface temperature above 32 F at its higher points and below 32 F at the lower end.
4. Indoor heat making its way to the underside of the roof.

Homeowners should take a few steps to address ice dams. The first is preventing future ice dams from forming. According to First American Roofing and Siding, LLC, improving insulation in the ceiling below the attic and addressing any inefficiencies in the home is necessary. A professional can do a blower door test, which works by depressurizing the home and using a thermal camera to find areas



Snow-covered roofs and landscapes can be beautiful, but also dangerous if conditions that cause ice dams to form are not addressed.

where insulation is poor. In addition, adequate ventilation under the roof deck is necessary so cold air can circulate and prevent the attic from getting so warm that it will melt the snow on the roof.

The next step is to remove excess snow from the roof with a roof rake and keeping gutters clear. If ice dams have already formed, hire a professional to remove them, as it can be dangerous to do it oneself.

## Does tea have medicinal properties?

The common cold can strike at any time of year, but most people likely associate colds with winter. Colds tend to spread more easily in winter, when people typically spend more time indoors with windows closed, thus making it easier for colds and other viruses to spread.

Many people have their own remedies when it comes to treating colds, and those strategies may include a daily glass of tea. Tea has been a beloved beverage for quite some time. According to the UK Tea & Infusions Association, tea can be traced all the way back to 2737 B.C. in China. As the legend has it, Chinese Emperor Shen Nung was sitting beneath a tree when some leaves blew into some boiled drinking water his servant had been preparing for him. The emperor tried the concoction, and the rest is history.

Since tea was first (accidentally) consumed, it has become an integral part of many people's daily lives. That's even more so when people feel a little under the weather, which might prompt some to wonder if tea actually boasts any medicinal properties or if it's

all just legend. According to Penn Medicine, various types of tea do, in fact, provide some notable health benefits.

### White tea

A comparative study published in the Journal of Food Science in 2010 found that white tea might be the most effective cancer-fighting tea thanks to its robust antioxidant content. Penn Medicine also notes white tea is a source of fluoride, catechins and tannins, which means it could help to strengthen teeth and fight plaque.

### Herbal tea

Harvard Medical School notes the curious distinction that herbal teas are not technically tea, as they typically lack the leaves or leaf buds of tea plants. Herbal teas are in fact made from tisanes, which are blends or infusions of dried fruits, flowers, spices, or herbs. Harvard Medical School advises speaking with a physician prior to drinking herbal teas, as they can cause problems among individuals with certain medical conditions. If a doctor gives the green light for herbal teas, people may be happy to learn that they've been linked to

a host of health benefits, including improved sleep, reduced stress and lower blood pressure, among others.

### Green tea

Penn Medicine notes that green tea is high in flavonoids, which are a type of metabolite found in plants. Flavonoids have been linked to improved heart health because they can help to lower levels of bad cholesterol and reduce blood clotting. In addition, a 2014 study published in the European Journal of Nutrition concluded that green tea and its catechins can help to

improve blood pressure.

Should certain teas be avoided?

Though white tea, herbal tea, green tea, and other forms of the popular beverage have been linked to various health benefits, Penn Medicine notes other types of tea are best avoided. For example, detox teas, which Penn Medicine notes are often laced with laxatives, can be harmful to overall health. Bubble teas also tend to be high in sugar and calories. In general, it's best to discuss tea with a physician before making it a part of your daily routine.





Dr. Ruberte Thiele initially pursued a career as a biomedical engineer in the medical device industry and academia. Interested in directly impacting patients' quality of life, he applied to medical school with the singular goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. After completing additional training in robotics and navigation for partial and total joint replacement as well as revision arthroplasty, returns to the area eager to help patients get back to doing what makes them happy. When not attending one of his kid's swim meets or soccer games, he enjoys outdoor activities like biking and hiking as well as recreational basketball.

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# New exhibits to be displayed in Piedmont Arts galleries



Members of the Gee's Bend Quilters pose with their quilts for a photo taken by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Piedmont Arts is preparing for the newest slate of exhibits that will grace the galleries. The Gee's Bend Experience, Jonathan Lee's 'Antiquity Second Hand,' and works by Karen Despot will be on display from Saturday, Jan. 27 to Saturday, March 26.

The community is invited to join Piedmont Arts for a free opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits on Friday, Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made on PiedmontArts.org or by calling the museum by Jan. 22.

Known for its bold, improvisational designs and the use of recycled fabrics, Gee's Bend's patchwork quilting tradition began in the 19th century and continues today. These quilts constitute a crucial chapter in the history of American art. The residents of Gee's Bend, Alabama (also known as Boykin) are direct descendants of the enslaved people who worked the cotton plantation established there in 1816 by Joseph Gee. After the Civil War, the ancestors of Gee's Bend's residents remained on the plantation working as sharecroppers. When cotton prices fell during the Great Depression, the community faced ruin until the Federal Government purchased 10,000 acres of the former plantation and provided loans enabling residents to acquire and farm the land. Unlike the residents of other tenant communities, who could be forced by economic circumstances to move — or who were sometimes evicted in retaliation for their efforts to achieve civil rights — the people of Gee's Bend could retain their land and homes. Cultural traditions like quilt making were nourished by these conti-

nuities. Today, the non-profit organization Sew Gee's Bend Heritage Builders works to promote the quilters of Gee's Bend and has fostered collaborations with major fashion houses like Greg Lauren, Chloe and Marfa Stance and exhibitions at major museums around the world including the Whitney Museum of American Art.

'Antiquity Second Hand' is an exhibit featuring the works of Jonathan Lee. Lee is an artist and librarian living and working in Richmond, Virginia. His studio practice explores ephemeral memory, secret histories and social constructions; often through abstracting activated materials. His social practice utilizes multi-modal approaches to engage individuals, small groups, and communities with ideas through discussion, art making and display. Lee's work is made predominantly from used, discarded or repurposed materials. By altering their original form and function, Lee investigates how information is created, interpreted and renewed through individuals, communities and systems. By engaging in both art making and the research process, he solves problems of his own design while reflecting on problems in the world. Lee's work responds to both the materials and the maker, a collection of personal and communal experiences where patterns and connections are both made and broken.

The Lynwood Artists Gallery features works by Karen Despot. What makes Despot unusual is her multidisciplinary expertise. She is equally skilled as a seamstress, a portrait painter, mural designer and painter, furniture design painter, jewelry designer and maker, wedding plan-



A piece created by Jonathan Lee titled, 'Mazarine', made out of record covers, wood panel, and paint.



A still life by Karen Despot, whose work will be on display in the Lynwood Gallery.

ner (including designing and creating the gowns of the bride and wedding party), graphic designer and art instructor. Her interest in the arts has been life-long and varied, she has produced and taught, and opened the first gallery in the area to showcase and promote local artists as well as her own school of art.

The Lynwood Artists Gallery is curated by Lynwood Artists, an organization for practicing artists in the Martinsville-Henry County area. Its members share a desire to

stimulate understanding and enjoyment of fine art and the artistic process, while providing area artists with opportunities to exhibit and further develop their talents.

Exhibits are sponsored by Betty Blessin, Imogene and Isadore Draper, Ben Gravely, Mallory and Richard Joyce, Debra Poirier and George Mehaffey, Jennifer Reis and Pete Mannen, Joan and Monty Montgomery, Madie and Jim Rountree, Gail Vogler, Brenda and Joe Williams, and Lynwood Artists.

## Fill up on healthy eating pointers

Diet and exercise are the key components of maintaining a healthy weight and protecting yourself against chronic disease. According to the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, eating smart and being active have similar effects, including reducing risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, some cancers, and diabetes. In addition, these healthy living strategies can improve personal appearance and improve overall well-being - helping people live longer and maintain their independence.

People may wonder how to eat better when faced with many diets, each of which promises great results. It can be confusing when navigating all of the options, and there is no magic formula to eating better. Common sense can come into play when attempting to eat better, and individuals also can

consider these strategies to make diet work for them as they seek to live healthier.

- Eat colorful, varied, nutritionally dense foods. Medical News Today says each meal should be 50 percent fruit and vegetables, 25 percent whole grains, and 25 percent protein. Select an array of colorful foods that will provide most of the nutrients needed.

- Choose fiber-rich foods. Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes are good sources of fiber. Fiber helps people maintain digestive health and can help you to feel fuller longer, reducing the potential for overeating, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Note how you feel after eating. Create a food journal where you jot down notes about how you feel after eating certain foods. If you notice that certain foods or ingre-

diets trigger adverse reactions, it may be worth avoiding that type of food or looking for an alternative. Stomach upset or bloating after eating dairy, for example, may indicate an intolerance for lactose.

- Explore the Mediterranean diet. While you should avoid fad diets that often produce short-term but unsustainable results, a Mediterranean diet has stood the test of time. According to the authors of a new study published in JAMA Network Open in October 2023, middle-aged and older adults with overweight or obesity and metabolic syndrome lost visceral fat (belly fat) and showed a greater reduction in the percentage of total fat while adhering to a Mediterranean diet. They also had delayed loss of lean body mass, which often comes with aging. Mediterranean diets prioritize legumes, seafood, vegetables,

and "good" fats like olive oil.

- Control portion sizes. Sometimes it's not what you eat but how much you eat that affects health. Weighing and measuring food can help you control portions and understand how many calories you're consuming each day. The National Institutes of Health says eating plans that favor 1,200 to 1,500 calories per day for women and 1,500 to 1,800 for men are good targets to lose weight at a healthy pace when combined with moderate exercise.

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