

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, March 23, 2024

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The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board approved a \$50 flat-rate reconnection fee.

Changes coming to PSA reconnection fees

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) met on March 18 to discuss changes to the reconnection fees for the county's water. Previously, the fee could change depending on a variety of factors. The goal was to create a single set fee for reconnection that was more streamlined for the new system, staff, and

customers. The new fee will be a flat rate of \$50, regardless of reconnection history. This change is expected to roll out later in the year with PSA's update to their online billing system in May or June.

Previously, the reconnection fee could range between \$20 to \$50, depending on how many times the

(See PSA p. 2)

Telephone scam prompts sheriff to issue warning

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis issued a warning to residents after learning about an ongoing telephone scam in which scammers pose as sheriff's deputies and threaten to arrest the victim if they do not pay a fine.

The caller may identify themselves as a law enforcement officer who claims the victim is about to be arrested for not paying a fine. The scammer will tell the victim they can avoid being arrested by paying the fine. The scammer will then walk the victim through paying the "fine" by buying a prepaid debit or gift card or making an electronic payment to satisfy the "fine."

These scammers often provide convincing information, including the real name and location of the courthouse, court phone numbers, and case and badge numbers. The scammers may include information such as a potential victim's maiden name, work address, home address,



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis is warning residents about an ongoing telephone scam.

and date of birth. In some cases, they may even spoof the phone number from the sheriff's office. The people conducting this scam can be persuasive.

(See Scam p. 2)

History and future of library system detailed Sunday



Margaret Caldwell prepares to deliver a lecture on the Blue Ridge Regional Public Library system.

By Jessica Dillon

A lecture about the history of the Blue Ridge Regional Library (BRRL) was held on March 17 at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum. Margaret Caldwell, chairman of the BRRL Board of Trustees, hosted the meeting. The presentation lasted around an hour, as attendees walked through the history of the area's library system.

When detailing the beginnings of the library system, Caldwell said the first area library was established by Dr. Clarence Kearfott, a pharmacist, who created a



A model of the upcoming Bassett Library expansion.

leading library in front of his pharmacy in Martinsville.

Over the years, five branches were established - in Patrick County, Bassett, Martinsville, Collinsville, and Ridgeway. A bookmobile also is available in Patrick County and currently has 312,794 cataloged collections valued at \$6,840,074.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the libraries worked to deliver media to homes in the area and expanded their free internet access into library parking lots to ensure that community members had access



An artist's rendering of the upcoming Bassett Library front entrance.

during the pandemic.

Library staff "go above and beyond every single time" in their quest to meet the needs of the communities, Caldwell said.

The libraries also provide various services to the community, including book rentals, internet access, laptop rentals, art classes, and community events. Members can receive day passes to the local YMCA and the Virginia Museum of Natural History to give them a free day out.

(See History p. 2)



Chris Rice, President, Kaulig Racing, Josh Williams, Kaulig Racing Driver, and Clay Campbell, President, Martinsville Speedway, discuss their careers and experiences with P&HCC students.

P&HCC students are encouraged to pursue a career in NASCAR

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville Speedway and Kaulig Racing hosted students enrolled in Patrick & Henry Community College's motorsports program on March 13 at Martinsville Speedway.

Josh Williams, a current Kaulig Racing driver, Chris Rice, president of Kaulig Racing, and Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway discussed the sport and fielded questions in the informal atmosphere of a fireside chat. Most

of the focus was on providing students with a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to get into motorsports and some stories about each speaker's past.

When recounting his experience creating Kaulig Racing, Rice explained that he was on his way to establishing a business after working in the racing scene for years. This plan quickly changed when Matt Kaulig, owner of Kaulig Racing, contacted Rice about starting a

(See P&HCC p. 3)

Gala proceeds tapped for new equipment

By Jessica Dillon

A portion of the monies raised at a recent fundraising event are earmarked to purchase new equipment for the Martinsville Henry County SPCA.

The agency's gala was held March 16 at the Chatmoss Country

Club, with 111 reservations.

Supporters and staff gathered to celebrate the organization's success, mark its 50th anniversary, and raise funds for the coming year - a portion of which will be used to buy an X-ray machine.

The shelter met its

fundraising goal for the machine by night's end, partly due to optional donations directly after the live auction. The live auction was hosted by Duke Says Sold, an auction company from

(See Gala p. 3)



An actor from Imagine Circus dressed like a cat during cocktail hour.

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PSA

(cont. from page 1)

customer had to reconnect and their payment history over the past twelve months. If customers wanted to reconnect their water on the same day the penalty fee was paid, they would need to spend an additional \$50 to have a maintenance worker turn the water back on at their home. This new \$50 fee will include same-day water turn-on services, eliminating the need to pay two costly fees. The board acknowledged that the reconnection cost could be higher for some customers if they had a penalty fee lower than \$50. These changes to the reconnection fee structure will go live simultaneously with the

utility billing software update. The update will allow PSA customers to check and pay their bills online. The flat rate will make reconnecting through the online process easier, with only one set amount. A flat-rate fee will put Henry County on par with other localities that already have a flat-rate fee in place. No impact on PSA's revenue is expected from the change.

Reports from finance, construction, engineering, safety and treatment, and regulatory compliance also were presented.

The PSA is positive in both revenue and expenses. It is currently

eight months into the fiscal year, with promising sales. Water sales are at 66.4 percent, just .3 percent short of the 66.7 percent the service needs to break even. Waste Treatment sales are at 68.9 percent, putting the PSA ahead of budgets.

Water sales are currently a fraction above the previous year, and wastewater sales are 3.47 percent ahead of last year. The total revenue from wastewater is up \$104,000, and water sales are up by \$16,000.

The board also noted that due to the warm weather, fire hydrant painting would start early. This was followed by an announcement

that PSA had received a grant of \$250,000 to cover the cost of this process helping inventory the lead service line. This agency will be putting out bids for new projects and improvements in 2024, including Reservoir Road improvements.

The federally funded Philpott Reservoir relocation study has been signed. A signing ceremony that will be announced in the future will help ensure that the PSA has access to a large water reserve in case of an emergency. The PSA would cover the cost of the reserve, which will be paid off in semi-annual payments.

Scam

(cont. from page 1)

Residents should always be hesitant to provide personally identifying information over the phone, via text message, or email, Davis said.

He added that the Henry County Sheriff's Office does not collect fines. Deputies will not contact residents and demand payment or personal information by phone or email. Law enforcement officers

will never ask for a credit card or debit card number, wire transfers, or bank routing number over the phone.

The sheriff's office also will not call residents and ask for any monetary donations over the telephone or via email.

Davis and his office try to keep the public informed on what types

of scams are taking place and remind residents that most scams originate from outside the United States. If you question a phone call or letter, please call law enforcement before acting on its instructions.

Anyone who has been victimized by a scam or has information on suspected scammers is asked

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

History

(cont. from page 1)

Many events are held around the year to foster a love for reading in children, Caldwell said and cited Saturday, where children can read to an adoptable feline. Library cards can be obtained for free at all five locations, with a valid ID or piece of mail that verifies your address. Digital services are available to library members in the form of Libby for e-book rentals and Hoopla for digital media rentals such as movies

and music. The lecture also included information about the upcoming renovation and expansion of the Bassett Library – both of which are needed, as Caldwell explained, because the branch has outgrown itself and needs ample space to fit more people into the library programs and events.

Currently, the library must turn community members away from some

programs or schedule multiple days to accommodate all participants.

The Bassett Library expansion will ensure enough room to fit the library's growing collection of media and comfortably host events for the community to enjoy. Larger meeting spaces, three study spaces, a designated computer area, and a children's department will also be added. The library will be handicap-accessible, with aisles and bathrooms to accommodate members using a wheelchair and an additional accessible exterior door for entrance. The staff will benefit from the expansion from 6,000 to 10,000 square feet, with additional offices, workspaces, and a break room. A drive-thru also will be added for convenience.

Caldwell explained the need for library support. In 2012, the three jurisdictions - Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville - started with level funding. However, finding and retaining library employees is a challenge due to the rising cost of living. The board, Caldwell said, must work against salary compression, with long-term branch managers making an equal paycheck to that of entry-level teachers, regardless of tenure.

The library received a 5 percent increase last year, and once again is asking for another five percent increase for the coming year.

"To avoid compression, we need to give that increase to our full-time and longer-term employees. We need your support," said Caldwell. She asked the crowd to contact their district representative and ask them to support the library budget.

Caldwell said the board needs two part-time positions at Ridgeway and Bassett branches. Additional staff will ensure a safer environment and staff won't have to work alone.

"The library is not an anachronism. It is a vitally essential service to the residents of Martinsville Henry County that is not being filled by any other organizations," said Caldwell.

ONLINE AUCTION

Recreational Tracts for Sale in City of Danville VA
 Online Auction Ends Wednesday, April 24th, at 3 PM
 Offering #1 - 356 Mimosa St., Danville, VA 24541
 Offering #2 - TBD Hunter St., Danville, VA 24541

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Searching for land for sale in Pittsylvania County, VA? Check out these 2 offerings which total just under +/- 43 acres located in the City of Danville VA. The City of Danville is in Southside VA near the North Carolina and Virginia State lines. Danville is located along the Highway 58 corridor between Martinsville VA and Clarksville VA. Properties adjoin the Danville Golf Club, and the convenience of public water and sewer connections ensures accessibility for prospective residents or developers. Property is being offered in 2 tracts, so purchase one or both to get the acreage you desire! Both properties are zoned SR-Suburban Residential.

PREVIEW DATE: Friday, April 5th at 4 PM

Offering #1 - This offering includes +/-38.279 acres of mostly wooded recreational land.

Offering #2 - This offering features +/-4.655 acres of mostly open land.

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract is required on the day of sale. Close on or before June 7th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on April 24th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BooieD@yahoo.com

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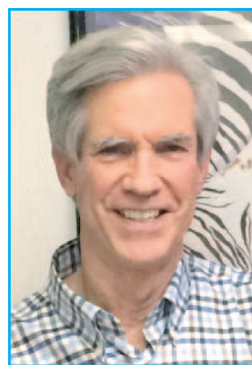
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, March 26

Henry County Board of Supervisors to meet at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Henry County Admin Building Summerlin Room located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Wednesday, March 27

Community Advisory Board Meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the City Municipal Building, 55 W Church St., Martinsville.

Events

Friday, March 22

Water Easter Egg Hunt + Bounce House is from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA, 3 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

Saturday, March 23

Books and Bunnies 2024 starts at 11 a.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

Caturday, featuring cats from the SPCA, starts at 11 a.m. at the Blue Ridge Regional Library located at 310 Church St. E, Martinsville.

Monday, March 25

TheatreWorks Sponsored Trivia, 7 p.m., Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton.

Friday, March 29

Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30 p.m. – Salvador Dali, Citizens and Soldiers, and Works by Meritha Alderman at Piedmont Arts. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education Michael R. Taylor, PhD will present a gallery talk at 6:15 p.m. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments. Live music.

Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m., Jack Dalton Park,

130 Jack Dalton Road, Collinsville.

Easter Egg Hunt, 4 p.m., Stanleytown Health & Rehabilitation Center, 240 Riverside Dr., Bassett.

Saturday, March 30

The Barrow Center Fundraiser Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at The Barrow Center, 231 Church St E # 4, Martinsville.

Saturday, April 20

Spring Craft Show, 9-5 at Bassett High School, 85 Riverside Drive, Bassett. Tickets are \$5. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

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.

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 6 - 10 a.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. All you can eat sausage, fried bologna, eggs, cooked apples, sausage gravy, made from scratch biscuits, made to order pancakes, coffee and juice. Dine in or carry out.

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

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

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait

period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brrl.lib.va.us.

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

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

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

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

Neighbors in the Know. Join staff and volunteers in the Hylton Library at the Spencer Penn Centre for activities and socializing on the first and third Monday of each month. A different presentation and activity weekly, followed by a way to get you moving. The program is an hour long and activities for children will be provided. Every third Monday, 10-11 a.m., a music program will be provided. This free program is perfect for all ages. No registration is required.

Mondays - March 11, March 25, and April 11, at 11 a.m., Holly Kozelsky, executive director of MHC Historical Society, will teach others how to use microfilm to read old newspaper articles at the Martinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)

racing team. That was about 8 years ago.

Rice told students that he went to work on pulling together his newest business ventures and even ran into some troubles while the process was in its early days.

"I learned the ins and outs of how it works from sweeping the floors to being able to win races or not win races," Rice said.

Williams noted his past racing experiences and his path to NASCAR.

The chat began light-heartedly with Williams underscoring his intent to bring home the grandfather clock that's up for grabs for the winner of the DUDE Wipes 250 on April 6.

Of course, he'll be in the field, Williams said.

"I've never done anything else. I've raced for a living my entire life," he said and added that he worked for only \$250 a week and slept on couches to make his dream a reality.

Even his hobby is working on cars outside of the sport, Williams said, adding that he's always thinking about racing and cars.

Campbell recounted the story about his grandpa, who built Martinsville Speedway, and how he began working for him in the 70s. He went over his experience working around the various parts of the racetrack, and how he eventually tried his hand at racing.

"When you grow up around a track like this,

you don't dream of sitting behind a desk and running a track. You dream of driving a racecar," said Campbell. Despite his grandfather's wishes, Campbell ended up behind the wheel of a car and met with victory before deciding that he wanted to be on the other side of the fence.

"I enjoy what I do," Campbell said of running the track for the last 40 years.

Students interacted with the three speakers, including questioning them about what they felt was important about work ethic in the sport.

Rice explained that while drivers focus on their mental state, working behind the scenes is different. He then described his rigorous day-to-day routine: "You will eat, sleep, and think about it all the time. It is your work ethic in anything you do, whether it's NASCAR or going to the grocery store. I always tell my guys and my girls, look good, feel good, race good."

A student also asked Rice how managed to own his own business.

Rice explained that the race team initially had nothing. He walked the students through how he got the team's first 10 race cars, the first truck and trailer, and how the team lost its first location due to a lawsuit.

"We basically felt our way through it," Rice said and cautioned students that it's best to



Patrick & Henry Community College students listen intently to Chris Rice.

have a plan when starting a business. Not having a plan may lead to having to invest more money than is needed, he cautioned.

Rice also directed students to ask themselves how they can do a task instead of just saying 'no' to it if it might seem difficult.

The speakers also encouraged students to keep pushing forward, adding that there were a lot of great opportunities in NASCAR, even if it may be hard to picture at the current moment.

Campbell listed several examples of different careers in NASCAR, like marketing and communication, that students may pursue.

But, he told students, "it's going to take time."

Gala

(cont. from page 1)

Flat Rock, North Carolina. Items up for auction included several catered experiences, such as a stay at the local La Dolce Vita in Stanleytown. Event attendees were each given a numbered sign to bid on the items, with many of them going for more than \$1,000. A call to donate rang out after the auction concluded, starting at the \$5,000 donation level, which was immediately met with several donations.

The donation levels slowly decreased in price, with some attendees offering to match donations. As the donations were winding down, Dr. Jerri Anne Hill, Martinsville Henry County SPCA veterinarian, proceeded to detail the need for an X-ray machine, and a separate fund for the piece of medical equipment was established.

Members of the audience immediately jumped to action to donate the needed funds. An hour later, the SPCA had raised enough money to cover the cost of the new medical equipment. The X-ray machine will help Dr. Hill to detect health problems such as broken limbs, heart issues, and foreign bodies.

Catherine Gupton, chief operations officer, said that the new in-house X-ray machine will significantly increase the chance of saving animal lives and save the center money from purchasing X-rays outside of the shelter.

"Tonight went absolutely beautifully. The support of our community and the amazing group of donors has truly been life-changing for the shelter and the animals we will be caring for. We just want to say thank you from the bottoms of all of our hearts and the animal's

hearts," Gupton said.

Guests also were treated to a presentation that included the history of the shelter and included information about how the current shelter was funded and built and provided a much-needed upgrade to staff working conditions and animal housing.

Officials said the agency has saved more than 40,000 animals and significantly reduced birth rates with its spay and neuter programs. Other milestones, such as the clinic's opening, were also noted. The combined factors have greatly improved the shelter's ability to enhance the lives of community animals.

Attendees were treated to several amenities to help make the night memorable. The shelter hired employees of the Imagine Circus for entertainment during cocktail hour. This entertainment included an employee in a cat costume who walked the gala floor mimicking the behaviors of a house cat, and a dog in a Victorian dress orbited by champagne bottles. The evening included an open bar and sit-down three-course dinner. At the end of the night, music played for any attendees who wished to dance.

The SPCA hosts a formal event each year with a slightly different theme. The next event is slated for 2025, but in the meantime, those wishing to adopt or support the shelter can contact them by phone, website, or drop by their physical location. The shelter is located at 132 Joseph Martin Hwy. in Martinsville. It is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.



SPCA staff members Olivia Boardwine, Tori Martin, Jessica Cumbo, and Dr. Jerri Anne Hill dressed up for the occasion.



Gala attendees bid during the live auction.

Letter To The Editor

Opposite Opinion Dying with Dignity

In 1987 Henry Rosovsky, Dean of Harvard, encouraged students to “learn the value of being vague.” I think I’m allowed to state that an idea has good points and then not actually vote favorably for it. That being said, here are some thoughts on why I might not support Senator Hashmi’s bill, SB280/HB858: “Death with Dignity.”

In 2011 my Dad had stage three colon cancer and went to Chicago to receive treatment at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. He’s been cancer-free since then (thank God). While my Dad was there a young man was there from California where other doctors had deemed him “inoperable” and “terminal.” However, C.T.C.A. disagreed with their assessment and helped that young man. He recovered.

Upon having my teeth cleaned the dentist found, via x-ray, a cavity in my tooth that needed to be filled. I went to a second dentist to fill the cavity. I sat in the chair only to hear the second dentist say to his assistant, “There’s no cavity.” He slapped my shoulder and said, “I can’t fill what’s not there. Get outta’ here.” Now, a cavity is a small matter, but how many incorrect diagnoses happen?

Recently my wife and I read a story of a mother who was told that her pregnancy was a “molar pregnancy,” and the doctors suggested she abort the baby. The mother refused. The doctors did another scanned and, again, labeled the baby as “unviable,” yet the mother refused abortion. A third scan later revealed a heartbeat; the doctors could no longer suggest abortion,

but they still claimed they doubted the baby would live. By twenty weeks these same doctors did a final scan and decided this was a perfectly normal baby that would go to term and live.

Obviously, Bill SB280 does not do well in the realm of “medical opinion.” Just how many stories can we collect where one labeled “terminal” recovered?

Not only does “medical opinion” throw a wrench into this bill, but the “Hippocratic Oath” throws an even bigger one. Before becoming a physician many medical students pledge to “consider the benefit of the patient, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous,” or they pledged to, “have two special objects in view with regard to disease, namely, to do good or to do no harm.” Can these oaths be upheld when a physician is ending the life of their patient? Physicians are supposed to be in the healing business, not the medicating business, and certainly not the killing business.

Here we are discussing the validity of an idea, voluntary euthanasia, that caused a man to serve eight years in prison. In 1998 Dr. Jack Kevorkian was arrested and tried for this very thing. Some people are beginning to say, “Well, maybe we got it wrong with Kevorkian.” I say, “Yeah, kind of like how doctors get diagnosis wrong and prescribe incorrect treatment.”

What if we stop discovering cures for diseases because we become accustomed to terminating those with terminal diseases?

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

Congressional staff set hours for March

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Moran Griffith’s staff will travel to Henry and Patrick counties on March 27.

Henry County’s hours are 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room - Board of Supervisors Meeting Chambers, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Patrick County’s hours are 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street,

Stuart.

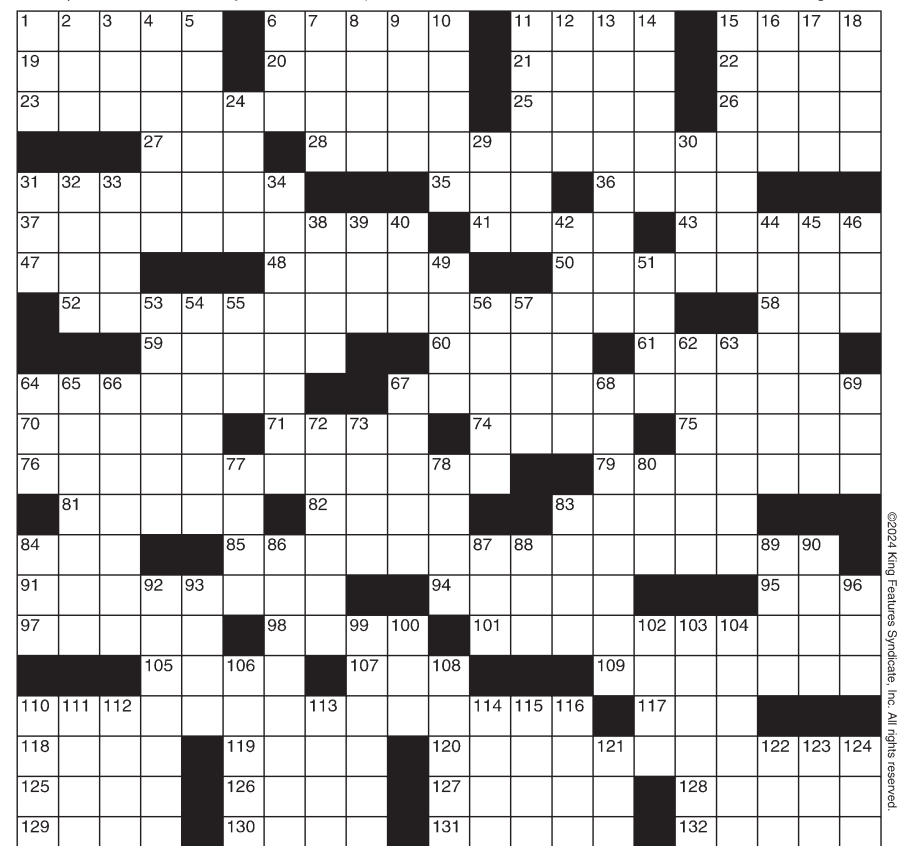
In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a locality’s schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well.

Contact the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

Super Crossword

PHONY-BALONEY

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 48 Thin porridge | 97 Cindy Brady player Susan | 5 Whole lotta | 49 VIP vehicle | 88 Miami loc. |
| 1 Wearing nightclothes, for short | 50 Saw against the main grain, as wood | 98 Former jets to the U.K. | 6 Knightly title | 51 Margarine | 89 Stud money |
| 6 Meanie’s look | 52 Bit of money seized by a Secret Service agent | 101 Bit of non-needled body art | 7 Bulblike base of a stem | 53 Deprives of weapons and Trackers | 90 Old Storms and Trackers |
| 11 In addition | 58 Ecol. monitor | 105 Sour plum | 8 — cat (two-base game) | 54 “Sorry, too busy” | 92 Paraphrase |
| 15 Eyelid hair | 59 MIDDAYS | 107 Stage star Hagen | 9 Neighbor of Minn. and Ill. | 55 Bodily digit | 93 On Sunset Blvd., e.g. |
| 19 Steel, e.g. | 60 Tiny arachnid | 109 Title for Kate Middleton | 10 Jewish potato pancake | 56 Big striped cat, in French | 96 Two, in Chile |
| 20 Ancient Greek region | 61 J. — Hoover | 110 Component of a coated glass-bead bracelet, perhaps | 11 Relative of a guinea pig | 57 A/C output qtzs. | 99 Maintenance job on a car |
| 21 Empty spaces | 64 Like overdue birthday wishes | 117 Even score went on one in a 1991 film | 12 Lion portrayer Bert | 58 Having protruding hearing organs | 100 Indy sponsor |
| 22 World’s fair | 67 Bill & Ted | 118 Forum attire | 13 Feature of Betty Boop’s hair | 59 Yang go-with | 102 Ballet outfit |
| 23 Illegal detention | 70 Wombs | 119 In the past | 14 “— Mio” | 60 City transport | 103 Something very easy |
| 25 Columbus is its capital | 71 Bible book after Prov. | 120 Apt cry of disbelief for this puzzle | 15 Crude sheds | 61 Alcohol in liquor | 104 Vegas casino |
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| 27 “Mind your — business!” | 75 “Spider-Man” director Sam | 126 Rebuke from Caesar | 17 Project detail, for short | 63 Empty | 108 MetLife rival |
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OPINION

Internet Crimes Against Children



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Recently, I attended a Republican Whip meeting where Tim Tebow and members of his organization stopped by to say hello to Members of Congress – Tebow was testifying the next day at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on child sexual abuse.

One of the women who was with him was a familiar face, Camille Cooper, now the Vice President of Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation at the Tim Tebow Foundation.

When we first crossed paths, I was in the Virginia House of Delegates and Camille was working to help Bedford County Sheriff Mike Brown, who assisted with the formation of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program.

The ICAC Task Force Program was formed in 1998 in response to the growing number of children and teens using the internet, the growing number of child predators using the internet in an effort to contact and exploit underage persons, and the explosion of child sexual abuse images available online.

The Program was started by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which works in conjunction with a national network of coordinated task forces, made up of local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

Today, there are 61 task forces throughout the country. Sheriff Mike Brown helped start the Southern Virginia (SOVA) ICAC Task Force when the Bedford County Sheriff’s Office was selected as one of the first ten task forces in the nation in 1998.

Originally called “Operation Blue Ridge Thunder,” the task force covered all of Virginia and West Virginia.

Today, the SOVA-ICAC Task Force covers from far Southwest Virginia to the Delmarva Peninsula on the Eastern Shore and north to Greene County.

Since 1998, the ICAC program has led to more than 134,000 arrests nationwide, based on complaints referred to the program. In 2019 (latest data available), the SOVA-ICAC arrested 291 individuals, identified and/or recused 129 child victims, and examined 745,911 gigabytes for digital evidence.

Though a real and ever-growing threat to our children, the internet and internet related crimes were still relatively new in 1998.

Knowing the importance of the task force, I fought to get funding for Sheriff Brown’s program into Virginia’s biennial budget.

This wasn’t the first time I had done work to combat child sexual abuse.

In 1994, I started drafting legislation relating to civil commitment for sexually violent predators.

Passed in 1999, the law allowed the state to hold certain sex offenders at psychiatric facilities after their criminal sentences if the offenders were deemed “sexually violent predators.” However, the state did not appropriate the money for the program.

In 2003, I once again fought to get funding for the legislation. Joining me in this quest was then-Attorney General Jerry Kilgore and victim advocate Paul Martin Andrews. A native of Virginia, Andrews was kidnapped in 1973 at age 13, held in an underground box and sexually assaulted by convicted child abuser Richard Ausley for eight days. As an adult, he became an advocate for bolstering Virginia law for continued civil commitments for sex offenders after their criminal sentence ended.

Andrews testified about the urgency for civil commitment for sexually violent predators. Andrews spoke about how Ausley was scheduled to get out of prison soon and research data indicated he would offend again. Once the legislature heard Andrews’ testimony, funding for civil commitment of sexually violent predators was passed.

Unfortunately, child sexual abuse and internet crimes against children are still a major problem in our society. As the internet has become more and more a part of our daily lives over the past 30 years, the work to protect our children on the internet remains important.

I continue to look for legislative solutions on the federal level to support victims of sexual abuse and protect our children. For example, I just co-sponsored a bill that would prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls and robots. Currently, people are able to make physical features and “personalities” of robots resemble actual children, even taking their voice from social media to make the robots sound like the child. This can lead to an attitude of normalization for sexual encounters between adults and minors. This bill will help stop that practice and help protect our children.

I am also extremely thankful to the more than 5,400 officials who are part of the ICAC program. They work every day to put child predators in prison and help victims achieve justice.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Davis honored for service



Henry County Sheriff’s Deputy Aaron Davis is the recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation for March. Chopstix Martinsville-Va and Hollywood Cinema provided two free meals and four movie passes along with the Certificate of Appreciation. Deputy Davis (center) is flanked by Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis and Michael Jarrett, of Jarrett Marketing LLC.

OPINION

A startling glimpse of a past self

I got a taste of my own medicine, and I spit it out abruptly and uncivilly rather than take it with grace.

It was at the plant swap I was hosting last weekend at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum, of which I

am the executive director. But at home, I'm a gardener, and I love sharing my plants.

I had been bent over in an unladylike manner over some trays of perennials. As I stood up, I caught sight of Jessica Dillon, the Enterprise's new reporter, taking a picture of me.

With all of the authority of my advancing years – I might be twice her age, my how time flies – and of being the director plus a former newspaper editor to boot, I boomed with authority, “No, do not take my picture.”

With a look of surprise, she lowered her camera.

Surprise and shame flooded me, and those of you who know my previous career are chuckling now: For more than 20 years, I took pictures of people both with and without their permission, and put them in the newspaper and online. Shoot, there's a pretty good chance I have taken your picture.

But there I was, looking dreadful, I was sure. I didn't mind being dirty; dirt is to be expected at a gardening event. Rather, I had not fixed my hair that day, and my lipstick surely had worn off by then, and I was still wearing my glasses, and worst of all, I was not standing straight with good posture and holding in my tummy.

Early on in my reporter days, I had learned that for every one picture I wanted to put in print, I should take about 30 pictures. Each of the 30 pictures should be slightly varied; hold my camera at this angle, shift it to that. The person's head may tilt this way one moment and that the next. It's amazing how the slightest variation can make the difference between a good and bad picture.

Out of those 30, I'd always pick the one in which the lady looked the best. If there were more than one lady, I'd take even more pictures than that, so the ladies' good moments lined up in the same photo. I must say, with men, it's easier, because generally they don't seem to care as much.

And as a woman, I care. I got my lesson the hard way.



Holly Kozelsky

Back when I was starting out, I won an award for professional women in my hometown, and then went on to win a regional award. The moment of shining glory, I was sure, would be when the announcement with my picture came out in the newspaper. (This was before I worked in newspaper.)

To prepare for that picture, I fixed my hair in a way I didn't usually trouble to do: The night before, I twisted my locks and wound them around cotton strips which I rolled up and tied in place, to give myself the curliest of curls.

I didn't know about false eyelashes back then, but if I had, they would have been on me.

I waited all week for the newspaper to come out, and when it did, I turned straight to my exciting announcement.

My heart sank and hot flashes of shame racked my body.

I looked ridiculous. The photographer had crouched before me to take the picture, so I just looked like a huge looming torso topped distantly by a small, skinny face which was surrounded by wiry squiggles poking out from my head.

What should have been one of the biggest thrills of my life was, instead, reduced to an ugly picture I thought would haunt me forever.

As the years went by, the haunt turned into a compassion and care for taking pictures of other people. When it was my turn behind the camera, to put people in the newspaper, I took efforts to make their pictures something they'd treasure, not hide.

Shortly after I had snapped at Jessica, I went up to her and apologized. I tried to joke it off and make amends, and I told her that I, of all people, should have been more respectful a journalist and simply let her do her job.

Dr. Mervyn King, who lives next to the museum, had strolled over to visit with the folks.

“The question is, did she break the camera?” he asked Jessica, laughing.

“I thought I might at that moment,” I replied.

General Assembly Report

Del. Eric Phillips

The 2024 Virginia General Assembly ended Sine Die on March 9th. It seemed like the first weeks crept by and the last weeks flew by as we were in a mad dash to complete our work by the deadline. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, being the Delegate of the 48th District is a blessing and a truly remarkable and humbling experience. As a true history buff, just walking into the Capitol with all its treasured history and beauty gives you a great feeling of pride for our Commonwealth.

Even though I had a late start introducing legislation after being elected in a Special Election, I am pleased that three of my four bills passed both chambers. I am looking forward to the Governor's signature and making these changes to allow the City of Martinsville to update its charter and offer a referendum for reversion to a town, and allow the Department of Education to offer students expedited retakes of Standards of Learning assessments and remediation. To see the final version of my legislation and others, please go to the Virginia General Assembly page at <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>. You can also view the recordings of committee hearings and session as well. I was even more pleased that two of my three budget amendments made it into the House and Senate versions of the budget.

The last week of session was

filled with final passage and failure of bills within each chamber and over 2200 pieces of legislation landed on the Governor's desk. Our last vote on Sine Die was the budget bill which passed the House and Senate. As much as I liked many of the aspects in the budget, I ultimately voted against the final version. There were just too many tax increases, resulting in over \$2 billion in new taxes. At the same time, there is decreased funding for crucial public safety programs as well, which would ultimately hurt the hard-working families of the 48th district. The budget now goes to Governor Youngkin, who will offer amendments or make line-item vetoes of individual spending items. During the Reconvened Session on April 17th, both the House and Senate will consider the Governors proposed changes. The budget is a work in progress. I am hopeful the Governor makes his suggested changes and that we can find consensus in a final version. I remain committed to voting on a budget that will benefit all of our district and the Commonwealth.

As we settle back home in the district, please reach out if you have concerns with any state agencies. Our office is here to serve the wonderful families of the 48th District. We can always be reached at (804) 698-1048 and by email at delephillips@house.virginia.gov. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve.

My favorite critic

I was saddened to learn that a long-time family friend recently passed away: Mr. J. Randolph “Randy” Smith Jr., a man I've known since I was an infant.

In tribute, I'd like to share my favorite Randy Smith story.

About ten years ago, my friend Doug Cheatwood and I decided we were going to make a short film; I had written a script that Doug liked, and he was going to direct it. It was a lighthearted film about a high school girl who cannot afford to go to the college of her choice, so she recruits her pushover father into helping her lure wealthy pedophiles to a hotel room, at which point he will knock them unconscious and she'll rob them. The only catch is that they don't realize that in real life, you can't hit someone over the head with a bat and knock them out like in the movies, so he ends up accidentally beating a man to death. This leads to further complications.

It was the feel-bad movie America was begging for in the comparatively innocent days of 2014.

Doug and I felt good about the script, we had a semi-decent camera, and I had recruited a bunch of my favorite Roanoke-based actors, all of whom were excited to be a part of the project. There was just one catch: in order to cover various costs associated with the movie, we needed to raise the princely sum of \$1,000.

I had recently become a full-time journalist, so it goes without saying that I'd never even seen \$1,000 in one place before. Doug and I needed an investor, someone willing to give us \$1,000 in exchange for the title of Executive Producer. This was a very important job title that carried the sole responsibility of giving us \$1,000.

I asked a couple of very wealthy people I knew if they would be interested in being executive producer. Both declined to even read the script, saying that they just couldn't afford to part with \$1,000. It was difficult for me to hear them over the sound of the beams of their homes creaking beneath the weight of their fortunes.

I asked my dad if he knew anyone who might be willing to invest, and he suggested I call Randy Smith.

Like I said, I'd known Randy since I was a baby. Before I was even born, my dad had worked with him under then-Commonwealth's Attorney John Hartley and they had become friends; Randy would later become Commonwealth's Attorney himself.

I remember Randy coming over for dinner regularly when I was a kid. He was a kind man, and he always had hilarious stories of how he had gotten caught up in some absurd situation through no fault of his own.

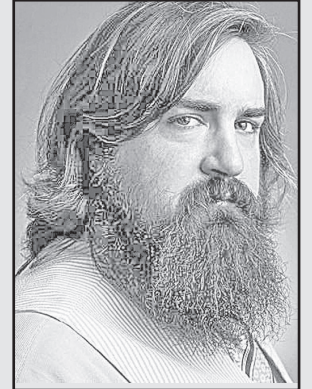
When I graduated from high school, Randy gave me a graduation gift: a nice set of towels, along with a brief note explaining that everyone needs a nice set of towels. And he was right! Those towels did yeoman's work over the years.

My dad told me that Randy had invested in a couple of movies back in the '80s; he'd lost some money on them, apparently, but maybe he'd be interested in trying again.

I called up Randy and asked if I could swing by his house and tell him about the exciting opportunity to become the executive producer of a short film. He said he'd love to know more, and the next day, I was ringing his doorbell, script in hand.

We sat down in the living room and began to talk.

Anyone who knew Randy will at-



By Ben R. Williams

test that the man could talk, and we talked about a wide-ranging number of topics. We discussed my job at the Martinsville Bulletin. He told me about some extensive repairs he was doing to his house at the Outer Banks. We discussed the merits of the Jeep Comanche pickup truck. About two hours in, Randy asked me about the movie.

I handed him the script; I told him I didn't want to spoil anything so I'd let him read it himself, but if he was interested in the project, we would give him a big executive producer credit; all we needed was \$1,000 to cover our expenses. Randy said he would read the script and call me the next day.

Sure enough, just as I was getting off work the next day, my phone rang. I recognized Randy's number and hit the “accept” button, excited to hear what he thought about the script.

He hated it.

When I say that Randy hated the script, I don't mean that he told me he wasn't interested; I mean that he spent 30 minutes detailing every single thing he despised about the script.

He hated the protagonists. He hated the antagonist. He hated the premise. He hated the setting. He hated the tone. And he really, REALLY hated the ending. He said the ending was the most unrealistic thing he had ever read in his entire life. I didn't tell him that the ending was literally the only part of the script that was inspired by a true story.

At the end of the phone call, I thanked Randy for his time and he wished me the best.

You might think I would have been disappointed by this phone call; in fact, I was thrilled. Randy was my favorite critic I've ever encountered.

As a writer, I generally have two main fears: the fear that the thing I've written will be misunderstood, and the fear that it isn't very good to begin with. Thanks to Randy, I was able to dismiss both of those concerns immediately.

Randy didn't pass on the project because he misunderstood the script; he understood it completely, he just despised it. Furthermore, he had no issue whatsoever with the quality of the writing; he told me it was well-written, he just believed I should be writing about something that wasn't so horrendous and morally objectionable.

When you're a writer, the single worst reaction you can receive is indifference. A strong negative reaction is far better than no reaction at all.

When I got off the phone with Randy, I immediately called my buddy Doug. I informed him that we didn't have any money, but we DEFINITELY had the right script.

Longest-running adventure triathlon returns to New River Trail State Park for 25th year

Athletes from across the Mid-Atlantic region will convene at New River Trail State Park on Sept. 21, 2024, for the New River Trail Challenge Triathlon presented by Dominion Energy.

The three-stage, 65.2-mile race, which is a part of the Virginia State Parks Adventure Series, begins with a 40-mile out-and-back bike leg, followed by a 12.1-mile downriver kayak paddle and ends with a half-marathon run along the river.

Registration is limited to 250 participants, and athletes of all fitness levels and age groups are invited to compete solo or in teams of two or three. Overall male and female winners will receive a \$250 Virginia State Parks gift certificate. The fastest team will receive a \$300 gift certificate.

“The New River Trail Challenge is a race for everyone. We have competitors of all skill levels, ranging from world-class athletes to bucket listers from the age of 16 to 72,” said Virginia State Parks Promotions Manager Steve Boyd. “Thanks to our long-time sponsor Dominion Energy and the hardworking crew of New River Trail State Park, the Challenge is one of the premiere adventure races in the Mid-Atlantic region, attracting competitors from 14 states and the District of Columbia.”

Early registration is recommended as the Challenge reached capacity in June last year. Early registrants receive price discounts and are guaranteed a New River Trail Triathlon t-shirt.

To learn more or to register, go to virginiastateparks.gov/nrt-challenge.

Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.

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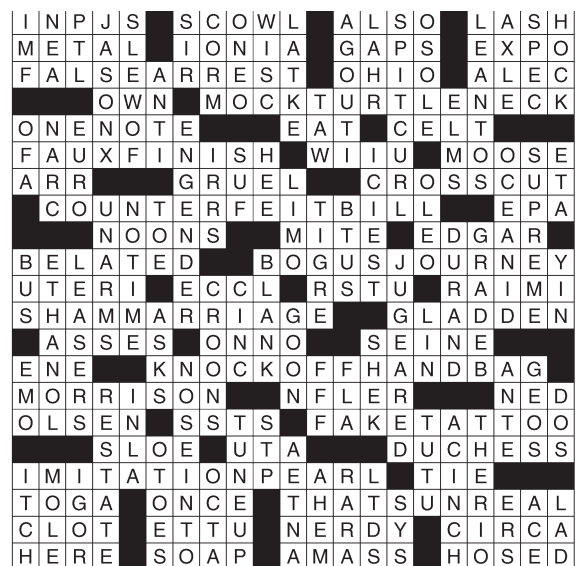
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Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net



ADVERTISE!

'Throwing Shade VA' program offers incentives for planting native trees

Thanks to a new statewide initiative, Virginians can help improve the state's ecosystems, meet a variety of landscaping goals, and save money.

Virginia Department of Forestry has teamed up with retail nurseries across the state to launch the "Throwing Shade VA" program this spring. Now through May 1, or while supplies last, shoppers at participating nurseries can access customer discounts of \$25 on eligible native trees and shrubs valued at \$50 or more. Nurseries are reimbursed for discounts with allocated state water quality improvement funds.

"We wanted folks to get a discount for taking the initiative to plant native," explained Molly O'Liddy, DOF urban and community forestry partnership coordinator, who is managing the program.

By lowering the cost for purchasing native species, DOF officials hope to spread awareness of their environmental benefits and expand biodiversity in the state.

"The overall goal is to get more trees and shrubs in the Virginia landscape, which, in turn, provides so many benefits for water and air quality, wildlife and pollinators," remarked Delaney Long, DOF urban and community forestry project coordinator, who is helping manage the program.

Trees improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, storing harmful greenhouse gases and reducing erosion. Native

trees and shrubs that evolved in Virginia's ecosystems also are more adapted to their natural environment than ornamental species, and more likely to thrive. They also provide essential food and habitat for wildlife.

"Whether it's meeting aesthetic goals, attracting more wildlife or providing shade, you're bound to find something that will fill your need just by learning more about Virginia's native species," Long said.

She added that expert staff at participating nurseries can help identify the right species and growing conditions for meeting specific landscaping goals.

"It's always good to ask a lot of questions to make sure you're planting the right tree in the right place," Long noted.

Customers can receive a \$25 discount on their purchase at a participating nursery by selecting a native tree or shrub with a "Throwing Shade VA" tag, scanning the QR code on the tag to record where the tree will be planted, and showing the cashier that the information on the QR code was collected.

Information collected from the QR codes will help track water quality improvement goals and allocate funding for additional planting projects across Virginia.

Project officials hope to continue the program and open applications to interested nurseries this fall for next spring.

For a list of participating nurseries and more information, visit bit.ly/49TH7GW.

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

Fraud in 2023 By the Numbers

The numbers are in and last year was yet another historic year for fraud. The Federal Trade Commission released its annual compendium of fraud reports from 2023, and the news is shocking. For the first time ever reported theft through fraud topped \$10 billion. The total is 14% higher than what was reported in 2022 and 5 times greater than the reported losses in 2019. Key takeaways from the report include:

More money, \$4.6 billion, was stolen through investment scams than any other type of fraud. Many investment scams were tied to cryptocurrency where consumers reported \$1.4 billion stolen. The most frequently reported scams were impostor scams, where the criminal pretends to be a person, company or government agency you trust. The average victim of an impostor scam had a staggering \$7,000 stolen from them, according to the report. Lastly, the most popular method for criminals to reach their victims in 2023 was email, surpassing text messages and phone calls which led in previous years.

While all these numbers are eye-opening the sad reality is that we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg because the vast majority of fraud goes unreported.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork.

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LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ017800-12-00
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* HERNANDEZ, MARQUS NOE HMDSS v. UNKNOWN FATHER
The object of this suit is to:
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF MARQUS NOE HERNANDEZ, BORN 1/30/2023 TO ANGEL MICHELLE HALL.
It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named Court and protect his interests on or before 04/16/2024 at 10:00 a.m. 03/05/2024

LEGAL

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE
RECORD OWNER:
Fabian Scales
Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Fabian Scales
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -
216 Mars Dr. - Iriswood District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 75.5(002)000B/028A
Account Number - 193980000
County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **March 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Variance and a Special Use Permit for the following cases.
Case S-24-01 Demi Chapman
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Class B Home Occupation. The specific business will be a hair salon. The property is located at 3540 Old Chatham Rd., in the Reed Creek District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 31.8(16)/3.4.
Case V-24-01 Ronak Thoria
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-304 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a gas pump canopy to be located 1.5' from the edge of the right-of-way instead of the required 35'. The property is located at 10128 Virginia Avenue in the Reed Creek District. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 5.5/103.
Case V-24-02 James M. Lyons
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-401 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a free-standing garage that will be located closer to the road (approx. 10' closer) than the main structure on the property. The property is located at 1358 Blue Ridge Yacht Club Rd in the Blackberry District and is zoned Rural Residential District R-R, as shown on Tax Map 13.6/134F. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

LEGAL

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE
RECORD OWNER:
James D Robertson, Jr & Rebekah Lynne Robertson,
Larry Layton Bryant & Rebekah Susanne Bryant
Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: James D Robertson, Jr & Rebekah Lynne Robertson
Larry Layton Bryant & Rebekah Susanne Bryant
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -
6730 Morgan Ford Rd. - Iriswood District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 75.5(000)000 /027
Account Number - 201330000
County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of March 25-30:

3/25	4:30p	Girls Tennis Bassett at George Washington	7pm	Girls Soccer Magna Vista vs Halifax County (at Smith River Complex)	5pm	Track Martinsville vs Multiple Schools (at Bassett)		
	4:30p	Girls Tennis Martinsville at Magna Vista	7pm	Boys Soccer Magna Vista at Halifax County	5pm	Softball taunton River at Magna Vista		
	4:30p	Boy Tennis George Washington at Bassett	7pm	Boys Soccer Martinsville at Tunstall	5:30p	Baseball Martinsville at Dan River		
	4:30p	Boys Tennis Magna Vista at Martinsville	3/27	4:30p	Girls Tennis Patrick County at Bassett (Jaycee Park)	5:30p	Girls Soccer Martinsville at Dan River	
	5pm	Baseball Patrick County at Bassett		4:30p	Girls Tennis Magna Vista at Halifax County	7pm	Boys Soccer Martinsville at Dan River	
	5pm	Softball Patrick County at Bassett		4:30p	Girls Tennis George Washington at Martinsville	3/28	4:30p	Boys Tennis Bassett at Staunton River
	7pm	Girls Soccer Bassett at Patrick County		4:30p	Boys Tennis Halifax County at Magna Vista		5pm	Baseball George Washington at Bassett
	7pm	Boys Soccer Patrick County at Bassett		4:30p	Boys Tennis Martinsville at George Washington		5pm	Baseball Staunton River at Magna Vista
3/26	5pm	Baseball Bassett at Floyd County		4:30p	Boys Tennis Patrick County at Bassett		5:30p	Baseball Martinsville at Mecklenburg County
	5pm	Softball Bassett at Floyd County		5pm	Track Bassett vs Multiple Schools (at Bassett)		6pm	Girls Soccer Bassett at George Washington
	5:30p	Baseball Martinsville at Tunstall		5pm	Track Bassett vs Multiple Schools (at Bassett)		7pm	Girls Soccer Mecklenburg County at Martinsville
	6pm	Baseball Magna Vista at Halifax County		5pm	Track Bassett vs Multiple Schools (at Bassett)		7pm	Boys Soccer George Washington at Bassett
	6pm	Softball Magna Vista at Halifax County		5pm	Track Bassett vs Multiple Schools (at Bassett)		7pm	Boys Soccer Martinsville at Mecklenburg County
	6pm	Girls Soccer Tunstall at Martinsville						

New Va. legislation may spread consumer awareness about invasive plants

By Shelby Warren

Capital News Service

Legislation to educate consumers on invasive plant species passed in the General Assembly, but not without debate over where signage would be placed.

Invasive plant species are not native to the region and can negatively impact ecosystems. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has identified 90 invasive plant species, by rank of most to least invasive. Species on the list include kudzu, English ivy, golden bamboo and periwinkle.

Sen. Saddam Salim, D-Fairfax, introduced Senate Bill 306 and Del. Holly Seibold, D-Fairfax, introduced House Bill 47. Lawmakers at the end of the legislative session smoothed out the differences between the bills and passed a final proposal.

Lawmakers were divided on whether the signage should be at each invasive plant display or at an entrance. The Senate amended both bills to place signage at entrances, but the House rejected the amendment. The original House bill also wanted language at each display that stated: plant with caution, could cause environmental harm and ask about alternatives.

The final bill passed will require any place that sells an invasive plant species to display a sign nearby that warns consumers and encourages them to ask about alternatives. There is a penalty of no more than \$500 for retailers who fail to post the signs and a stop sale order until the signage is posted.

"We can't stop invasive plants all 100% but making it aware to individuals who are purchasing is a step forward," Salim said.

The commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services will determine the format, size and signage content by October. The signage will have a QR code that links to the Department of Conservation and Recreation's invasive species list that is updated every four years.

The sign is expected to be black and yellow for optimal visibility, according to Salim.

Invasive species have cost Virginia as much as \$1 billion annually, according to the Virginia Invasive Species website. This total exceeds \$120 billion nationally.

Current state code prohibits state agencies from planting, selling or propagating any listed invasive plant, unless necessary for "scientific or educational purposes or bona fide agricultural purposes."



Tree of heaven. (Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org, featured on Virginia Invasive Species website)

Pat Calvert, director of clean water and land conservation at Virginia Conservation Network, supports labeling invasive plants. He sees the legislation as an opportunity to educate consumers.

This also creates a responsibility for retailers to be transparent in what they are selling, Calvert said.

Calvert has dealt with pesky English ivy on his property, which, like other invasive plants, spreads quickly through seeding and roots.

"It's just really, really tough to get rid of," Calvert said.

The plants can damage an ecosystem or agriculture. The Southeast Asian tree of heaven is a primary food source for the spotted lanternfly, which has expanded its territory, according to Calvert. The flies damage crops.

The management of these plants is problematic and costly for individuals, localities, parks and farmers, Calvert said.

Friends of the James River Park System in early March hosted Invasive Species Awareness Week. The program educated people on invasive plants through activities like plant removal, nature walks and more. The organization has hosted this awareness event since 2015.

The James River Park System has over 50 invasive plant species that threaten trees, water and soil quality, and also native bugs, birds and flowers, the organization stated.

Lawmakers recently approved a budget that distributes several million dollars across departments to help meet initiatives outlined by the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan, and which includes the hiring of new employees.

The governor is currently reviewing the bud-



Adult spotted lanternfly. (Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org, featured on Virginia Invasive Species website)

get and legislation. The General Assembly will reconvene on April 17 to consider any of his proposed changes.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

Early planting season in bloom



Holly Kozelsky, executive director of the Martinsville Henry County Historical Society, hosted a plant swap on March 16 at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum. Participants brought plants, seeds, and gardening tools to exchange with one another. Tips about growing various plants and a light lunch followed inside the museum. The plant swap is traditionally held twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

Senators hear the case for cutting Americans' work week to 32 hours

By TORRENCE BANKS

Capital News Service

In 1955, Walter Reuther, head of what was then known as the United Automobile Workers (UAW), told a Senate hearing that coming technological advancements would make a four-day workweek possible.

That was the last Senate hearing on the subject for nearly 70 years. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee finally ended the drought Thursday as lawmakers debated legislation, sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, that would reduce the standard workweek to 32 hours without cutting employees' pay.

"...Despite an explosion in technology and a massive increase in worker productivity, nothing has changed," Sanders said. "Think about that, huge transitions we have seen in the economy. But in terms of the workweek, nothing has changed."

Sanders said that the goal of his bill was to ensure that working-class citizens benefit from the revolutionary changes in the workplace over the past seven decades.

Introducing his measure Wednesday, Sanders said that U.S. workers had become over 400% more productive since the 1940s. Even so, people now are working longer hours at lower wages, he said.

UAW President Shawn Fain said that automation now allows a single worker to do what used to require 12 workers. Companies' obsession with



ensuring productivity every second of the day has come at the cost of workers, he said.

"When people reach the end of their lives they never say I wish I'd make more money," Fain told senators. "What they wish for is they wish they had more time. There was a time when this phenomenon was supposed to lead to workers getting our time back, getting some of their lives back."

Forty percent of Americans work at least 50 hours a week, and 18% of today's workforce works more than 60 hours a week, according to research cited in Sanders' statement.

A 2019 study published by the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that working more than 60 hours a week led to a decline in workers'

mental health compared to those who worked standard hours.

"It causes an increase in cortisol levels, which lead to heart disease, cancers, strokes," Fain said about working extended hours during the week. "But given all those facts as someone is lucky enough to get to retire, typically when they weren't willing to work themselves to death their entire life, they face knee replacements, hip replacements, shoulder surgeries, and the rest of their lives, figuring out how they're going to survive."

But Liberty Vittert, a data science professor at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis, said that studies suggesting that working fewer hours leads to happiness are flawed. Vittert said that many of the studies showing an increase in happiness find the effects

are short-term and that long-term studies show that happiness does not increase over time.

In addition, only companies that can cut out extra meetings and coffee breaks during the day participate in these studies, excluding more than 70% of the U.S. job economy, Vittert said.

"If you want to see those same employees really stressed out, just see what happens when their employers lay them off to hire part-time workers instead, or have to close their doors because they cannot make enough revenue," Vittert said.

She also pointed out that older workers who cannot complete the same amount of work in fewer hours are also at a disadvantage.

Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, the ranking Republican on the panel, emphasized that there is no law preventing companies from already enacting a 32-hour workweek and that federal intervention is not necessary.

"Let's give flexibility to workers and employers - don't have government come in and intervene," said Roger King, senior labor and employment counsel at the HR Policy Association.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, gestures during a Thursday hearing on the 32-hour workweek by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Sanders chairs the panel and Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana (left) is the ranking Republican. (Torrence Banks/Capital News Service)

Spot and smash: Residents urged to report and destroy spotted lanternfly egg masses

Cleverly camouflaged as clumps of mud, spotted lanternfly egg masses easily go undetected. State organizations are asking residents to pay attention, and report and destroy egg masses before they hatch this spring.

The Virginia Department of Forestry is hosting a Volunteer Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass survey this March to monitor spread of the pest. Residents living outside of quarantine or known infestation areas who spot egg masses are encouraged to report them using the VDOF online survey form: arcg.is/19mG4K1.

“Spotted lanternfly egg masses are laid in the fall but don’t hatch until the following spring,” explained Lori Chamberlin, VDOF forest health program manager.

She said now is an ideal time to look for them, while trees are bare and branches are easily visible.

The oval egg masses are about 1.5 inches long and a half-inch wide. Shiny gray with a waxy protective covering, the masses eventually turn a dull grayish brown, strongly resembling patches of mud or lichen.

Spotted lanternflies lay eggs on the underside of branches, on tree trunks and on objects like vehicles, homes, lawn furniture, grills, dog houses and decorative yard items. They’ve also been found on fencing, tarps, decking, construction materials and firewood.

“Use binoculars—they can lay eggs in the very tops of trees,” Chamberlin said.

After reporting them, residents

should destroy the egg masses by scraping them into a bag with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.

“If that isn’t possible, smash them with a stick or hard object,” Chamberlin suggested.

The VDOF survey closes March 31, but residents living outside of infestation areas are encouraged to continue photographing and reporting egg masses and SLF sightings to DOF local area foresters or Virginia Cooperative Extension agents.

Subtle and tucked in hidden, protected areas, lanternfly eggs have proven pervasive and challenging to combat. To help the effort, a Virginia Tech program has been training dogs to sniff them out.

“Spotted lanternflies pose a sig-

nificant threat to orchards and vineyards as well as homeowners’ lawns and gardens,” said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “Everyone should be vigilant if they see new insects or egg masses on their property, vehicles or equipment.”

Spotted lanternflies feed on over 100 plant species but largely impact apples, hops, ornamental plants, stone fruits and wine grapes. The honeydew they secrete on plants causes sooty mold to grow—blocking photosynthesis in leaves, stressing the plant, and potentially leading to plant death.

For more information on how to find and manage spotted lanternflies, visit bit.ly/43iN9y7.

Undercover operation leads to arrest

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigative unit began an undercover chat operation on January 4.

During this operation, the investigator allegedly came into contact with Richard Herman Albers on an online forum. Albers allegedly continued to communicate with the investigator on multiple online platforms for many weeks.

The alleged communication between Albers and the investigator allegedly included multiple lewd and sexual-in-nature messages sent to the investigator, who supposedly was a 13-year-old child. The alleged com-

munication was designed to arrange a sexual encounter.

On March 14, Henry County Sheriff’s officers traveled to Forsyth County, North Carolina. Along with the assistance of the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, a search warrant was executed at Albers’ home.

Albers, 63, of 2139 Lauren Woods Drive, Winston Salem, N.C., was taken into custody without incident on charges that include four counts use of communications systems to solicit a juvenile and two counts attempted production of child pornography.

Albers is currently incarcerated at Forsyth County Detention Center without bond. He will be extradited to

Henry County.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said his office takes the safety of children seriously, and the specialized Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigative unit will continue “to aggressively pursue sexual predators and conduct these styles of operations to ensure that we provide the safest environment and community we can for our youth.”

The sheriff also encourages “the community to speak to their children about social media platforms and the potential dangers they could pose.”

Davis and his office also thanked the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office “for their dedication to ensuring our



Richard Herman Albers

children are safe and their continued assistance in this operation,” the sheriff said.

BHS administrator named director for Piedmont Governor’s School

Tiffany Gravely, who has served as an administrator at Bassett High School since 2006, will assume the director’s position of the Piedmont Governor’s School for Mathematics, Science and Technology on July 1.

“I am honored to be appointed as the Director of the Piedmont Governor’s School. I am deeply passionate about education, especially the pivotal role STEM education plays in the future of our society and our economic prosperity,” Gravely said. “Fostering a rigorous, dynamic and inclusive learning environment that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and innovation among our students will be my top priority. I am committed to collaborating with all stakeholders, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and the broader community, to ensure that the Piedmont Governor’s School remains at the forefront of STEM education excellence.”

Gravely began her career with Henry County Public Schools in 2001 and has served students as a reading tutor, special education teacher, school counselor, assistant principal, and principal. She has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice/human services counseling, a master’s degree in school administration, as well as an Education Specialist degree in educational leadership from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

As director, Gravely’s focus will be to work with staff at the Martins-



Tiffany Gravely

ville and Danville Governor’s School locations to continue to maintain the high academic standards of the Governor’s School program, to increase the visibility of the program, and to continue to improve student learning outcomes.

Piedmont Governor’s School governing board members extend a warm welcome to the new director, and look forward to continued growth and opportunities for students and staff under Gravely’s leadership.

Piedmont Governor’s School serves 11th and 12th grade students from Henry and Pittsylvania county schools as well as the cities of Danville and Martinsville.

Fieldale man charged after traffic stop

Henry County Sheriff’s deputies conducted a traffic stop on Thursday, March 14, near the 1500 block of Stultz Road in Henry County.

The vehicle was operated by Bobby Ronell Helms, Jr., 24, of 2234 The Great Road, Fieldale.

During the traffic stop, a Henry County Narcotics K9 unit arrived and assisted with the stop. The K9 allegedly alerted to narcotics inside the vehicle.

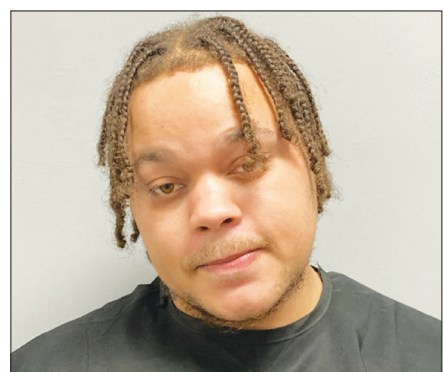
Helms was detained, and the vehicle was searched, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

During the search, multiple items were seized that allegedly were consistent with the distribution of narcotics. Nearly one pound of cocaine, 10 grams of fentanyl (over 1000 lethal doses), and a large amount of U.S. currency were seized.

Helms was arrested on charges that include possession of Schedule I or II Drug with the intent to distribute (cocaine) and possession of Schedule I or II Drug with the intent to distribute (fentanyl), and driving while suspended.

He is currently held without bond at the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

At the time of this arrest, Dabis said Helms was out on bond for three counts



Bobby Ronell Helms, Jr.

of distribution of Schedule I narcotics. Helms had been released on that bond 16 days before this incident.

The Henry County Sheriff’s will continue to proactively pursue drug dealers to keep our community safe, Davis said.

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

Featured Pet of the Week

Eloise is a recent addition to the Martinsville Henry County SPCA. She is great with other dogs and enjoys having a canine companion. Eloise, a seven-year-old mixed retriever, will do best in a patient home who is willing to open their hearts to this sweet girl.

Eloise is up to date on vaccines, including rabies, and she is heartworm negative. She will go to her new home with a microchip. The adoption fee is \$100. To adopt visit the Martinsville Henry County SPCA at 132 Joseph Martin Hwy. in Martinsville, VA, or visit their website to fill out an application.



N.C. Man Admits to Traveling to Virginia to Have Sex with Minor

A North Carolina man, who lied about his age to a 14-year-old girl he met on Instagram before traveling to Virginia to have sex with her, recently pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court.

Rayvon Birden, 26, of Raleigh, North Carolina, pled guilty yesterday to one count of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in sexually illicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, Birden and the government agreed to a sentencing range between 78 and 120 months in prison and that he will be required to register as a convicted sex offender upon his release.

According to court documents, Birden contacted the 14-year-old victim through Instagram direct messaging and represented himself as a 16-year-old named “Nolan.”

Birden and the victim exchanged phone numbers and began communicating via text messages and FaceTime regularly. Over the course of

their conversations, Birden masturbated in front of the victim and, on at least one occasion, asked for nude photographs of her, which the victim sent via text messaging.

Birden then drove from his home in North Carolina to meet the victim at a hotel near her Virginia home where they had sexual intercourse on multiple occasions, at least one of which Birden filmed.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh and Special Agent in Charge Derek W. Gordon of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington, D.C. made the announcement.

Homeland Security Investigations - Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Albemarle County Police Department and the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, is investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jordan E. McKay is prosecuting the case.

Two crashes remain under investigation

The Virginia State Police are continuing their investigations of two recent crashes in Henry County.

A two-vehicle crash that occurred Sunday, March 17, at 10:40 a.m. on Virginia 57, at the intersection with Virginia 687 resulted in a fatality.

A 2007 Hyundai TCN was pulling out from the stop sign and allegedly failed to yield the right-of-way. The Hyundai was struck by a 2013 Honda CRV which was traveling east on Virginia 57.

The driver of the Hyundai, Walter Dietrich Yeaman, 88, of Martinsville, Va., was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital, where he later died. He was wearing his

seatbelt at the time of the crash.

The investigation of a crash that occurred on Friday, March 15 also continues.

The VSP report the incident occurred at 6:24 a.m. on U.S. 220, two tenths of a mile south of White House Road in Henry County, claimed the life of a Greensboro, N.C. woman, according to the VSP.

A 2018 Kia Soul was traveling on U.S. 220, when the vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway, struck a culvert and overturned.

The driver of the Kia was identified as Jennifer Marie Stokes, 61, of Greensboro, NC. She was wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene.

Trio of city officers graduate entry level program

Martinsville Police Officers Andrew Horsley, Justin Havens, and Christopher Astin recently graduated from Entry Level Law Enforcement Session No. 32 with the Piedmont Regional Justice Training Academy, according to the Martinsville Police Department.

The agency extended special recognition to Officer Havens, who ranked 1st in Emergency Vehicles Operation testing.



Three Martinsville Police Officers were among the recent graduates of the Piedmont Regional Justice Training Academy.



Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher is pictured with the three recent graduates - Andrew Horsley, Justin Havens, and Christopher Astin - along with Major C. H. Rhoads and Capt. Sandy Hines.



Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher presented certificates to the recent graduates.

Patrick hospital sells for \$1.6 million

By Taylor Boyd

The former Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick County and property has a new owner, according to a deed filed in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's office on March 14.

Wolf of Wabash, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, paid \$1,600,000 to purchase the property from Foresight HS Property Holdings - Blue Ridge, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, according to the deed.

The assessed value was listed as \$4,534,300.

The 10.078-acre parcel is situated in the Town of Stuart and the Mayo River District.

The deed was prepared by Jason Alan Dunn, of Jason A. Dunn, PLC, a law firm in Virginia Beach. Seashore Title & Settlements, Inc., also of Virginia Beach, handled the property's title. The deed was insured by Fidelity National Title Company.

This conveyance is made together with and subject to any and all rights of way, easements, restrictions, and covenants within the chain of title.

Phillippe Joseph is listed as the registered agent for Wolf of Wabash, which became an LLC on February 23, 2018. The business's principal address is 401 N. Wabash Ave. Apt. 70D Chicago, IL 60611.

Last year, Foresight offered to donate the property to the county in exchange for \$815,000, or about half of the costs the company had incurred. At the time, an April 2023 valuation was noted as the course of the \$3.9 million fair market value.

"I had no idea anyone was looking at it," said Brandon Simmons, chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. "I'm not sure what it will be used for, but I'm glad that it was bought since Foresight was looking to sell. I'm glad things worked out fine for them."

Simmons said he also hopes things work out good for the property's new owners.

County Administrator Beth Simms declined to comment on the transaction.

Attempts to reach Joseph were unsuccessful. Foresight officials declined to comment.

Bassett man dies in Franklin County wreck

Devin Wayne Coleman of Bassett died in a crash that occurred in Franklin County at 7:01 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 on Mount Carmel Road, one tenth of a mile south of Guntree Lane.

A 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling north on Mount Carmel Road when the vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway, overcorrected, crossing the roadway and struck the trees, according to the Virginia State Police.

Coleman, 21, was identified as the driver of the Chevrolet. The release stated that Coleman was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation.



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City school teams sweep competition



Five teams of Martinsville City School students competed this week in the regional KidWind competition, a program that encourages students to explore the science and technology of clean energy as they design, build, and test their own wind turbines and solar structures. The Patrick Henry Elementary School Solar Panthers took home first place in the Solar Challenge. The Albert Harris Elementary School Solar Sailors came in second. City school teams claimed all

three top spots in the Wind Challenge. The Taco Turbines and Breeze Blasters from Patrick Henry Elementary School took home first and second place, respectively, while the Albert Harris Elementary School Wind Rangers earned third place.



Mendota Trail in Bristol, Virginia.

2024 Recreational Trails Program grant round open

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is now accepting applications for \$1.9 million in Recreational Trails Program grants through May 7.

The Recreational Trails Program, or RTP, is a federal matching reimbursement program established to construct and rehabilitate recreational land and water trails and trail-related facilities.

The RTP is an 80-20% matching reimbursement program. Requests must be for a minimum of \$50,000 with a minimum total project cost of \$62,500. Grantees must be able to fund 100% of their project while seeking periodic reimbursements.

Eligible applicants include:
 Counties, cities and towns
 Park and recreation authorities
 Tribal governments
 State agencies
 Federal agencies
 Nonprofit organizations with support from a governmental body
 Applications are due via email no

later than May 7 at 4 p.m.

A virtual informational session and application workshop will be held April 2 at 1 p.m. Visit this page for more information and to register: dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/trailfund. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An updated program manual, application materials and applicant resources are also available on this page.

For more information, email the DCR Recreation Grants Team at recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.

Funding for the Recreational Trails Program is made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. Federal law under 23 U.S. Code section 206 mandates that 30% of available funding be used for motorized recreational trails, 30% be used for non-motorized recreational trails and 40% be used for multiple-use trails.

Heritage Center seeks items for new children's area

The Henry County Heritage Center & Museum is setting up a children's education activities area. A child-sized table and chairs were donated by Ann Martin, and a fine log cabin model was donated by Carolyn Beale.

Does anyone have to donate sewing-style lace-up cards, paper dolls, a dollhouse family and sim-

ple furnishings (which would represent the old days - not modern) and/or a portable cassette tape player (with or without blank cassette tapes)?

If so, please email mhhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, call (276) 403-5361 or visit the museum at 1 E. Main St. between 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

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