

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, May 18, 2024

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

P&HCC grads encouraged to dream, celebrate and 'roost' in MHC

By Debbie Hall

Graduates earning a degree/certification at Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC's) commencement exercise last week were encouraged to remain or return to the area and invest in the communities that have supported them.

During the May 11 graduation ceremony, Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation, shared with those assembled in William F. Stone Hall on the Martinsville Campus, that "being at graduation reminds me of my mom. My mom was the first and only person in her

"Go, see the world. Explore new places and learn new things. But we hope you will eventually fly back here and roost in MHC, where we will be working day and night to make sure that we have opportunities for you." - Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation

family to go to college. In her day, and in her family, there wasn't a need to educate women. She paid her own way, as her dad didn't see the point. I can only imagine the discussions in her home and her desire for her parents to support her dreams."

Things were different during Keller's formative years, she said.

"My mom was the influencer in my family. So, I was raised in a household where going to college wasn't really a choice. It was always the path. When my mom completed college, she became a high school

history teacher," Keller said, and asked whether anyone in the audience had teachers for parents.

To those who do, "you know that continuing your education is typically the pathway out for you. Thirty years ago, last week, I graduated from college and received my Bachelor of Arts, unsure of the pathway ahead. While college was the path, what to study there and beyond wasn't clear."

Noting her own journey, Keller said, "Much to my parents' dismay, I changed from studying finance to (See P&HCC p. 2)



Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation, gave the Commencement Address.



Scenes from before, after and during the May 11 graduation ceremony at Patrick & Henry Community College.

Council hears report about housing issues in the city

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville City Council met on May 14 to discuss the Five Point Housing project and the 2024 Regional Housing Study presented by Sean Campbell, Housing Programs Director for the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC).

Campbell discussed the results of a comprehensive housing study completed in April and conducted in collaboration with the Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech (VCHR) and HousingForward Virginia (HFV).

The study's aim was to address housing challenges and develop sustainable housing solutions for the region, which included taking a look at homeowners and cost-burdened households.

Martinsville currently has 13,457 residents in 5,656 households, Campbell said. He explained that 57.7 percent of households are (See Housing Issues p. 9)



Sean Campbell, WPPDC's Housing Programs Director for the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, presented a housing report at a Martinsville City Council meeting.



Dr. Angilee Downing presented information about the Virginia Literacy Act.

City school board closes out school year, adopts literacy plan

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville City School Board met on May 13 to watch presentations from students and close out the school year. During the meeting, awards were presented to lunch staff, and the Virginia Literacy Act Plan was adopted.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing presented information about the act, which was passed in 2002 by the

General Assembly to address reading proficiency concerns. Since COVID-19 shuttered schools, concerns about reading proficiency have risen.

"The Virginia Literacy Act provides guidelines and resources and requirements for schools division to work on addressing the concerns with reading proficiencies with students," said Downing. "Tailored in-

(See School Board p. 3)



NSBE Celebrates 25 Years of Success

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville Henry County National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) hosted its 25th Year Celebration on May 10. The celebration, held at the New College Institute (NCI), honored the contribution that the NSBE has made to the area, as well as its esteemed members. The event was held shortly after the society celebrated several wins during a large convention in Atlanta.

Helen Howell said, of the NSBE, more than 200 people attended the organization's recent celebration, which was a time to reconnect.

"We saluted our charter and alumni members. We were able to journey through 25 years of educational development and their community impact locally, nationally, and worldwide," she said.

The formal event honored charter and alumni members.

"We were able to journey through

25 years of educational development and their community impact locally, nationally, and worldwide," Howell said. "It's an awesome event. We were grateful so many attended."

The NSBE helps empower young students to seek out careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

During the event, NCI executive director Joe Sumner pledged \$25,000 to the organization, noting that NCI wants to provide support to the next generation of STEM leaders in the community.

Not only does the organization promote professional development, but its members volunteer to help around the area. For example, several members helped out at the Grace Network Mattress fundraiser held the following day.

The NSBE celebrated several achievements during the 50th Anniversary (See NSBE p. 3)

Cybersecurity workshop stresses the importance of online safety

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the New College Institute (NCI) partnered to offer a free workshop on Cybersecurity on May 9. Dr. Ken Russell led the class, stressing the importance of protecting your business and detailing how cybersecurity is being used to assist law enforcement.

Russell discussed the basics of staying safe online and the impact that cyberattacks can have on businesses.

"One-half of IT managers admit to being hit," said Russell. Only a fourth of managers retrieved data by trying to appease the attackers with finances. Generally, the hackers will leave a way to contact them. When contact is established, money will be asked for in exchange for restoring their data.

"Don't believe it. Only a quarter of the time do they get their data back," Russell



Dr. Ken Russell presented information about cybersecurity at a recent workshop held at NCI.

said, and noted that 82 percent of attacks target companies with 1,000 employees or fewer. The average cost to remediate the attack, plus the lost revenue from the attack, totals \$76,000.

Russell pointed out that for a small business, this amount can be extremely damaging. Any business can become the target of an attack, whether they are small or larger multi-billion dollar entities like Target.

One of the most notable attacks was on Equifax, Russell said,

VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
 FOR MORE UPDATES



P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)

political science – a subject that I thoroughly enjoyed studying but a degree that I had no idea what to do with or an obvious path to self-sustainability. What does one do with a poli-sci degree other than going on to more schooling, which of course is eventually what I did.”

After assuring graduates that “it’s okay for those of you out there that still might be trying to figure it all out,” Keller noted that “Your schooling days are a time of exploration and understanding about what interests you. What are your passions? What are your strengths? What do you want to do every day to get out of bed and make you excited?”

“Figuring out the answers to those questions may take you a lifetime, but they are worth the exploration. As a political science major, I wanted to be the president of the United States or Secretary of State. Pretty typical dreams of a young college student,” Keller said. “While I chose not to go down the path of politics, I did eventually become a president. That’s pretty good.”

She encouraged graduates to “use this time in your life to dream big. You’ve worked hard and you deserve the best. These are times to cherish. While they seem hard, balancing all the demands of life, your time here at Patrick and Henry has been all about you and what you need, and that type of focus on yourself is a rarity in life. So today is a very special day.”

“Whether today is a final stop or a stepping stone, we are here to celebrate together with all of you. Those of you that return to school, those of you that did dual enrollment, those of you that balanced family and schooling, and those that are upscaling and those that dove right in after high school. We are here to acknowledge your hard work and your transition to the next phase. We are also celebrating along with the Patrick and Henry community and the Martinsville, Henry and Patrick County communities.

“I’m sure you’re all aware of what a great institution P&H is. This school serves as a backbone and workhorse for our local economy. The Harvest Foundation is a local foundation that serves Martinsville and Henry County, and we invest in efforts that help our youth and community thrive. Our vision is to have

a community in which everyone has hope for their future and can see a positive life for themselves and their family,” Keller said.

In 2021, The Harvest Foundation announced a 13-year, \$10.3 million grant to P&HCC to support the SEED Fund, which will ensure a college education is available at no cost to every high school graduate in Martinsville-Henry County.

Keller noted that funding ensures students can attend P&HCC for up to two years at no cost.

“This long term investment in our youth is a generational game-changer. Every child in our community from the age of 5 knows that college is a viable path for them. Money will no longer be a barrier to further their education, to further their dreams. The investment ensures that tuition, fees and books are all covered,” Keller said.

After sharing some success stories from students helped through the SEED Fund, “we are betting that by investing in you and your future, we are investing in a stronger future for Martinsville and Henry County,” Keller said, and added that data shows that despite success in job growth and better wages, the poverty rate has held steady at about 20 percent for the region.

Upon learning that, “we were and are frustrated,” Keller said. “Turns out that moving people out of poverty is a lot harder than increasing the number of jobs available.”

But that is where the SEED Fund by “providing advanced learning opportunities to a generation of youth by removing financial barriers, maybe we can increase our local workforce and provide jobs with life-sustaining wages. Maybe this initiative can be both a way to help our youth and our community thrive. Time will tell, but it is looking good so far as our largest enrollment of SEED students this school year,” Keller said.

“We also have a new way we are hoping to bring and retain people to our region. Just a few months ago, we launched a brand new program in partnership with our Economic Development Corporation called PASCO,” she said, and explained the localities are struggling to recruit and retain specific jobs.

To tackle those shortages, “we are providing a tuition loan forgiveness

program for professionals who are going to live and work in Martinsville and Henry County” in fields like teaching, health care and advanced manufacturing and engineering. PASCO will pay \$5,000 a year for 10 years towards a student loan for someone in the qualifying degrees. That’s a \$50,000 tuition repayment,” Keller said.

The program is open to anyone, she added, and encouraged students to consider it.

“What I hope you take from this information is that you have a community that is investing in you. That believes in you. That wants you to stay and grow and be successful right here,” Keller said. “Many of you will want to fly the coop, and I completely understand and encourage you to do what you want.”

“Go, see the world. Explore new places and learn new things. But we hope you will eventually fly back here and roost in MHC, where we will be working day and night to make sure that we have opportunities for you,” Keller said.

She also asked graduates that, regardless of where they eventually settle, “engage with your local community. Volunteer your time and your energy to make your local community a better place. So many here have done that for you, so please, pay it forward.”

“Reflect on all you have accomplished. Dream about your future. Like I started with, it’s okay if you’re sitting out still wondering what you really want to do with your life, and no need to be jealous of the person sitting next to you who already knows. We each have our own road to take, and you have successfully made it through part of the journey. Take the time to celebrate, and know that if you keep moving forward and keep looking for opportunities, your road will present itself,” Keller said.

“From someone on the other side of building a career and growing a family, no matter your life path, it will be hard with moments of great joy. Most of you will have several jobs along that path. You will fall in and maybe out of love. You will welcome children and lose loved ones. But my advice to you is as you advance in your career or climb the corporate ladder, surround yourself with people who love and care about you. Be picky about who you partner

with. Be picky about who you keep in your inner circle,” she said.

“Jobs will come and go, and partners may come and go. But at the end of the day and at the end of the career, what’s most important in life are the people you share it with. It’s not the house, the car, the clothes, the title. It is all about the people,” Keller said. “Invest in them, invest in your relationships. Your support system will be there through the bad times and cheer you through the good times, and you will do the same for them. None of us gets out of this journey without scars, but having close friends and family makes the journey doable and definitely more fun. Hats off to the class of 2024.”

“For 62 years, P&HCC has been this community’s college. As such, we have a singular focus. The economic mobility of the students and the community that we serve,” Dr. Greg Hodges, president of P&HCC, said during the welcome and introduction.

In fact, Hodges said, “We declare that very plainly in our institutional vision statement,” which is P&HCC “will be the educational catalyst that provides access to economic prosperity for our diverse community.”

“This means that the students who walk across the stage are not only receiving a credential. They are receiving a ticket into financial stability for themselves and their families,” Hodges said, adding the leadership team and board members who understand P&HCC’s mission of economic transformation and are dedicated to the region’s bright future.

Hodges recognized faculty members receiving awards, and members of the local board attending the ceremony. He noted the annual faculty recognition awards ceremony was held on May 1, and recognized the winners.

P&HCC Distinguished Faculty Member Award, second place, Patty Amos, instructor of Psychology and Human Services. The P&HCC Distinguished Teaching Faculty of the Year Award was presented to Randy Smith, Assistant Professor of Welding.

Jewell Drewery, vice chairman of the P&HCC College Board, offered her congratulations as well, and to the Class of 2024, “best wishes as you begin your next journey.”



Dr. Greg Hodges conferred degrees. Dr. Chris Wikstrom, vice president for Academic and Student Success Services, presented them to Patrick & Henry Community College’s Class of 2024.



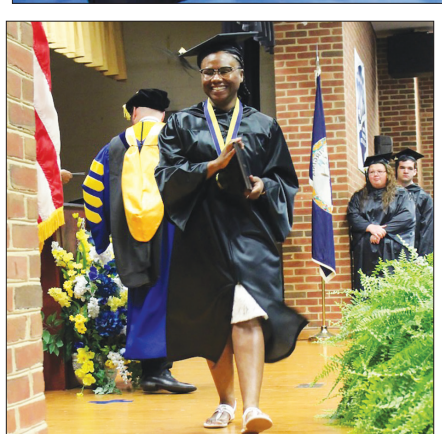
Randy Smith, Assistant Professor of Welding, was the recipient of P&HCC’s Distinguished Teaching Faculty of the Year Award.



The Presentation of Colors was by Bassett High School and the National Anthem Honor Guard under the direction of First Sgt. Lonnie Corley.



Scenes from before, after and during the May 11 graduation ceremony at Patrick & Henry Community College.



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

Monday, May 20

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 11:15 a.m. in room 124 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Executive Committee will meet at 11:45 a.m. in room 125 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall of the Frith Economic Development Center.

Wednesday, May 22

Community Advisory Board Meeting. 6 p.m., Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

Events

Friday - Saturday, May 17-18

Mayo Fire-Baptized Holiness Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Christian View Church, 56 Christianview Church Road, Spencer.

Saturday, May 18

The 9th season of the Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In held 3 to 7 p.m. in Downtown Bassett, with music, food, \$100 cash door prize, and a 50/50 drawing.

Thursday, May 23

Building Stronger Teams, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., New College Institute, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

Monday, May 27

Henry County Memorial Day Ruck 22, 10 a.m., 1094 Virginia Ave, Martinsville.

Thursday, May 30

Marketing versus advertising, the role of First Party Data, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., New College Institute, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

Saturday, June 1

Infinity Acres Ranch 6th Annual Spring Carnival, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Infinity Acres Ranch, 136 Joppa Rd #4242, Ridgeway.

Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) Annual Celebration, 10 a.m. to noon, Dan River Church, 2805 Riverside Dr, Danville. Guest speaker Jessica Smith, Horticulturist and Arborist for the City of Danville, will talk about the reforestation project at Ballou Park. The celebration will also include interactive environmental displays, DRBA items for sale, annual Volunteer Awards, recognition of retiring board members and an update on DRBA's projects and activities planned for 2024.

Storytime! 10 a.m., Spencer Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.

ONGOING

Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program, Monday-Friday, July 8-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. P&HCC Patrick County Site, Stuart and P&HCC IDEA Center, Martinsville.

Bassett Train Station Farmers' Market will be open through September 24 on Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Uptown Farmers Market will be open through November 16 on Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays, July 10 to September 25, from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

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.

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.

TOPS FIELDVALE VA 0626 meets Tuesdays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Bassett Public Library, 3969 Fairystone Hwy, Bassett. New members welcome. For more information, call Patti Farmer (276) 358-0489.

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 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.

School Board

(cont. from page 1)

interventions cultivate perseverance and literacy identities by empowering success through research-based language arts development. We prepare life-long learners ready to effectively communicate ideas that shape their evolving world."

Downing said that literacy is a life skill and has a great influence on students' options going forward.

She also noted the schools will gain access to approved instructional materials. Materials are selected with the help of teachers in K-5.

"We have also trained our special education and English learner teachers in the sci-

ence of reading, we really got a head start on this," said Downing. Patrick Henry Elementary School received a grant to provide professional development for teachers and staff at the school. Once staff completes training, they will bring back the knowledge to schools.

Noting that the state finally adopted a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said, "This is good news for us," because soon, the division will know how much funding the state will provide for the year.

Martinsville City has yet to confirm its budget for the schools, but the city recently had a budget presentation for the public and is

working to finalize it.

A presentation by MHC After 3, Upward Bound, and Talent Search students underscored the importance of educational programs. A robotics demonstration was also put on by middle school robotics students. City schools will close for the summer on May 22.

In other matters, the board:

- *Recognized Robotics Teams Competition.
- *Recognized Odyssey of the Mind Team Competition.
- *Recognized Nutrition Staff.
- *Recognized Liz Lynch as a Virginia finalist for the Presidential Math & Science Teaching Awards.

Cybersecurity

(cont. from page 1)

adding that hackers have made businesses out of hacking companies.

"People hack because they think there's money to be made," he said.

One of the only ways to combat this is by having better cybersecurity and knowing how to handle cybercrime.

An ongoing initiative is underway to provide education about cyber security and to bring more workers into the field, and NCI is working to bolster interest in jobs related to the field by developing new programs to promote its CyberSAFE initiative. The NCI CyberSAFE car will travel to various K-12 schools to help communicate the cybersecurity threat.

NCI also partners with companies, legal teams, and state/federal agencies, as well as works with the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy to offer simulated



The New College Institute's (NCI's) CyberSAFE car.

training and teach law enforcement officers about new technology that can help save lives.

Spatial analytics tools, with the help of AIR-IA, are also currently being implemented to pro-

vide data about active devices in an area.

"If you have a large campus, then spatial analytics will continue to play a large role in what we are doing with cybersecurity," Russell said of the tool that can be used to assist law enforcement identify the location of victims in emergency situations.

One of the most important parts of cybersecurity is assembling the right incident response team.

The chamber is hosting two more workshops at NCI:

"Building Stronger Teams" on May 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

Marketing versus Advertising, the role of First Party Data" on May 30 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To register for an upcoming workshop, email mhccoc@mhchamber.com.

NSBE

(cont. from page 1)

nual Convention in March.

"The students and their parents had the opportunity to participate in workshops, the career fair, college fair, and competitions," Howell said, adding that an estimated 20,000 attended that event, including the Martinsville and Henry County NSBE Jr. Chapter.

Several students placed first in Future City, placed second in KidWind Middle School and were invited to attend the KidWind World, placed third in Black History Middle School, placed second in First Lego League Robotics, placed fifth in MathCounts, and placed 21st out of 35 teams in Ten-80.

NSBE is always open to new members, whether pre-college, in college, or professional. Membership information can be found online at www.nsbe.org. Applications are also available through the school, from members, and at NCI.

Congressional App Challenge underway

The 2024 Congressional App Challenge for Ninth Congressional District students is now open.

To participate in the challenge, middle school or high school students can choose to work individually or in groups of up to four students. Participants may create and submit their own app for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

Students must submit their completed app by 12 p.m. EDT, October 24.

"The Congressional App Challenge allows students to demonstrate their talents, engage their creativity, and explore the fields of STEM (Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education," said Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem. "I look forward to seeing the apps developed by the ingenuity of Ninth District students."

Full details about the contest can be found on the website here. You can determine if you are eligible, create an account, and find additional information on the rules and specifics are available at Congressional App Challenge 2024 CAC Rules.

Faculty, parents, or students may contact Josh Hess at (540) 381-5671 or Josh.Hess@mail.house.gov with any questions related to the competition.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OPINION

Your Words Matter

By Bryan Golden

You are usually conscious of what you say to others. The things you say are based on what you want to achieve.

What you say to yourself is just as important as what you say to others. Yet, too many people are not fully aware of the impact their self-talk has on their own wellbeing.

Your mind follows whatever commands you provide. It doesn't question the directives it receives. It dutifully obeys whatever it is told to do.

If there are areas of your life you want to improve, you must begin by changing what you tell yourself. Your self-talk changes your thoughts.

There are various flawed strategies which people employ instead of striving to say the right words to themselves.

Hoping for circumstances to change is also ineffective. Although there is nothing wrong with hope, it must be combined with action in order to have a positive impact.

Blaming others for your situation puts your fate in someone else's hands. You are responsible for your life. Although you can't

control the actions of others, you do control your thoughts, emotions, and responses.

Doing the same things over and over, while expecting a different result, is one definition of insanity. In order to alter your results, you must change what you are doing.

Don't justify negative self-talk as being realistic. This is another excuse. While you are figuring out reasons for not succeeding, others are doing exactly what you claim is unrealistic.

You can make self-talk a powerful, positive tool which propels you towards your goals. Here are some steps to guide you through this process. Begin with a constant awareness of the words you use when speaking to yourself.

You want a zero-tolerance policy for negative self-talk. There is no room for any discouraging words. Each negative word, or phrase, has a corresponding positive one.

Use the same approach which works when taking a vacation. Start by selecting a destination. Next, figure out how to get there. The way you accomplish any goal is to start with positive self-talk.

Clearly, the words used when speaking to yourself matter. They are the difference between success and failure. They lead to happiness or produce frustration.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2024 Bryan Golden

Is Government Research Safe?

It has been roughly four and a half years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am determined that Congress needs to be fully informed on U.S. government funding of risky research projects, such as the research done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), in order to make sure the same mistakes don't happen again.

During the 118th Congress, I've signed letters pressing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for information and documents pertaining to risky research projects and biosecurity practices past and present, which would obviously include data concerning the origins of COVID-19.

As Chair of the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, I held a hearing in 2023 to review biosafety and risk research.

Also, I have participated in closed-door transcribed interviews with Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Francis Collins of NIH and EcoHealth Alliance President, Dr. Peter Daszak.

Daszak was a leading collaborative figure in applying for NIH grants, and was responsible for providing progress reports on EcoHealth's research.

EcoHealth is the company that received grants from NIAID which in turn gave subgrants to WIV to conduct research on Coronavirus evolution and transmission.

At a November 2023 deposition, I asked Daszak about EcoHealth's very late year-five progress report due to be filed in September of 2019. He said he "tried" to submit the progress report on time but could not get the NIH system to work.

Recall that evidence indicates the virus broke out in November or December of 2019 in China.

The missing report would not be submitted until August of 2021.

During Daszak's November interview, after I asked him specific questions about the report and if there were any changes, he told me first there was no change, then no "significant" change between the September 2019 version he tried to submit and the August 2021 submission.

After the transcribed interview, a whistleblower gave us a draft of the progress report, dated May of 2020, where EcoHealth stated that bat coronavirus spillover was a rare event in South China and Southeast Asia.

However, in their August 2021 official submission of the year-five progress report, despite supposedly using the exact same data as the initial draft, EcoHealth stated that the viral transference of coronaviruses from bats to humans could affect as many as one million people in South China and Southeast Asia.

To me the difference between 'very rare' and a 'million' people is



Morgan Griffith

Representative

a significant difference.

But during the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing on May 1, I asked Daszak why the change between May 2020 and August 2021. Did he have conversations with Fauci or his colleagues at NIAID? Was he pressured by outside sources? Or did they make the changes to hide potential EcoHealth liability?

He claimed the science changed! But that's not what he told me in November of 2023. And I gave him several chances.

Daszak clearly did not tell the truth.

He lied to me and Congress in November! There must be some reason why.

A report from the Select Subcommittee recommends formal debarment of and a criminal investigation into EcoHealth and Daszak.

Unfortunately, I believe this is unlikely to happen under a Biden Department of Justice.

We should let a jury of American people decide if there is a substantial difference between a 'very rare' occurrence and as many as one 'million' people coming down with a virus.

But the guy who Fauci and NIAID entrusted with our taxpayer dollars claims there is no substantial difference.

Further, EcoHealth did not obtain required logbooks from WIV.

We will never be able to eliminate all doubt there was a lab leak at WIV because Wuhan didn't submit crucial data to EcoHealth as required. Moreover, EcoHealth didn't insist Wuhan provide them with the data as contractually required.

And can we even trust the data we actually got?

It comes down to whether you believe 'very rare' or a 'million' cases a year are substantially the same. I don't.

I do not trust information from WIV or EcoHealth.

Additionally, I find it incomprehensible that NIAID continues to fund EcoHealth research.

Not to alarm you, but the government is telling us right now that bird flu transference to humans is very rare.

Sound familiar?

And is NIAID doing risky research on other viruses like the animal poxes?

And if so, who are they collaborating with?

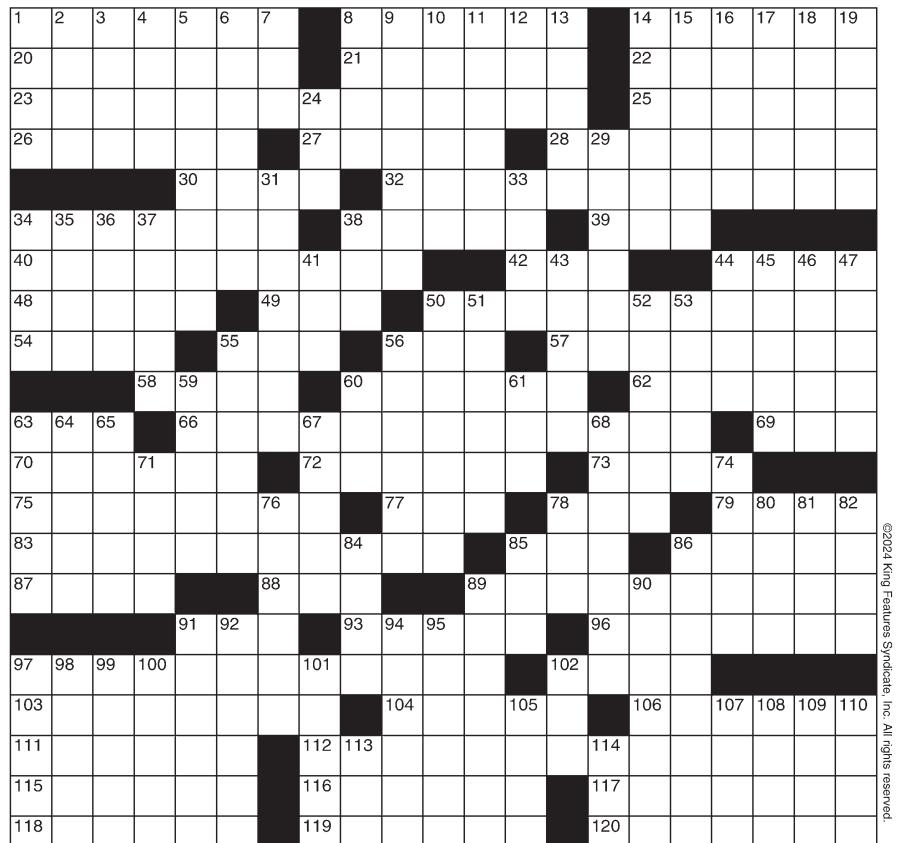
I will continue to dig into the facts and try to make government research projects safer.

Call my offices with questions, concerns, or comments: Abingdon, (276) 525-1405; Christiansburg, (540) 381-5671, or via email at https://morgangriffith.house.gov/.

Super Crossword

INITIAL CONDITIONS

- ACROSS 1 Nineveh's empire 8 Its capital is Kampala 14 12-step affiliate group 20 New Guinea natives 21 Renovates 22 Ketchup ingredient 23 It's used for outlining designs in embroidery 25 Internet newsgroup troublemaker 26 Alloy that's mostly tin 27 1990s Toyota model 28 Grills in stoves 30 Take a stroll 32 Cheerful disposition 34 Carrying of a boat 38 View anew 39 Nonsense song syllable 40 American bird with all-white plumage 42 "So there!" 44 Feels unwell 48 Lawyers: Abbr. 49 Dental floss coating 50 Difficult matter to deal with 54 Saw or sickle 55 Implore 56 Olympic skater Midori 57 Enumerating 58 Oman locale 60 One trapping 62 Shrink back 63 They may have jingles 66 Passionate love affair 69 Hairstyling goop 70 "C'mon, help me out!" 72 "Finally finished!" 73 St. Louis — Bridge 75 Artifacts of Angola, e.g. 77 Ares or Eros 78 Greyhound vehicle 79 Misfortunes 83 The U.S. State Department, informally 85 Sultry 86 Pflfer 87 Casual tops 88 Fancy playing marble 89 Even break 91 "... do say so myself!" 93 "In all probability ..."



Farmworkers get updated heat protection guidelines

Edwin J. Viera Virginia News Connection

Some Virginia farmworkers will have updated heat protection guidelines.

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee is enacting heat and safety protections for all its members. Neither Virginia nor the federal government has comprehensive heat guidelines for workers. It comes as summer temperatures are getting hotter because of climate change.

Mario Vargas, lead organizing development coordinator at the Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice, said being mindful of heat stress is important.

"It should be important every season," Vargas asserted. "There's been some deaths not only in some fields, not only in North Carolina but in some other states, because of these supervisors or contractors, independent contractors, that they push the people to their limit."

The new protections say if temperatures are near 85 degrees, anyone experiencing heat stress or dehy-

dration symptoms should leave the field and seek shade. For temperatures close to 95 degrees or higher, workers should take a break every two and a half hours with water in the shade or as often as needed, regardless of whether a supervisor is present.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates an average of 43 workers died from environmental heat between 2011 and 2021.

Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and said the new guidelines are preventive measures since lawmakers at any level have yet to act.

"The problem with legislation, whether it's federal or state, it takes forever, and enforcement is always an issue," Velasquez emphasized. "We're not talking about big factories with a lot of workers in a big city somewhere. We're talking very remote labor camps, isolated."

He added workers should know how to protect themselves without necessarily filing a complaint with a federal agency.

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

OPINION

Treasure troves of the forgotten or unexpected

Nearly every house has a black hole, a place where things disappear never to be found again.

My mother called it the “utility drawer.” In other people’s houses I’ve heard it called a “junk drawer” but we weren’t allowed to call it that at home.

Well, now I’m the mom, and I have no problem calling a spade a spade.

Every few years the junk drawer is cleaned out and organized and, indeed, it serves wonderfully as a utility drawer for at least several months, until it all starts to disintegrate again.

A junk drawer is a wonder of discoveries. A lot of the stuff is useful, such as safety pins, pens, scissors, Super Glue, the good Phillips head screwdriver, the little bitty screwdrivers you have to use on your glasses every few years when a leg comes a loose. There are regular twisters, those paper-wrapped little wires for holding bags shut, and the really good thick silver-colored ones that come off coffee bags.

Our junk drawer is a little crowded because it also holds a few easy-grab flower shears and the dog’s alternate collar.

Then there’s all sorts of things that seem important when you get ahold of them, so you save them for when you’ll need them.

Rubber bands always seem worth saving, and in the junk drawer they get all twisted up around and among other things. We always collect them and rarely use them.

The king of the rubber bands that really must be saved are those thick, sturdy ones that come around asparagus or broccoli stems. We’re going to need that for something



Holly Kozelsky

one day!

And of course, it’s the home to seasonal items that have shown up after the holiday boxes have been put back in storage: Christmas ornament hooks, tiny Easter eggs, orange crocheted pumpkin shapes we stick over doorknobs during Halloween decorating then around Easter notice are still there.

The catch with all those waiting-for-next-holiday items is: When we’re decorating for that next holiday, will we remember to see what stragglers are in the junk drawer?

The junk drawer also is home to all those tiny things that belong somewhere else but at the moment of stashing do not seem worth crossing the house or going upstairs to put away, such as miniature battery-operated candles that we put on windowsills in winter.

The irony is that when we finally need something from the junk drawer, it’s not there. Where is the good Phillips head screwdriver, the scissors with the red handles, that great twister from the coffee bag that would be perfect to close up the granola bag?

So, except for the every-couple-of-years cleanout, the junk drawer is more of a black hole where things fall off the face of the earth.

Except for the proof that they really haven’t, when there’s so much stuff in there that sometimes you can hardly open or shut the drawer.

Powerful man experiences consequence

NEW YORK, NY — In a turn of events that legal scholars are calling “utterly unprecedented,” a powerful, wealthy man experienced a consequence this week.

Dunston Thurber IV, President and CEO of Applied Dynamic Paradigms, was sentenced to ten years in prison on Tuesday. Thurber had previously been found guilty of insider trading, multiple counts of falsification of business records, and hunting the homeless for sport.

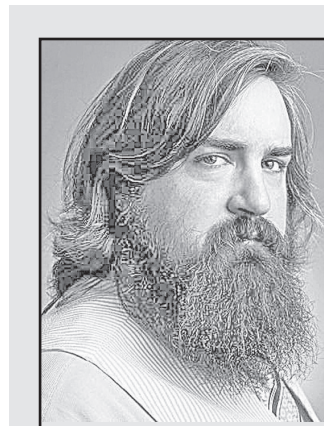
“Of course we’re appealing,” said Jason Kelly, Thurber’s legal counsel. “The judge’s verdict in this case is evidence enough that she did not have all the facts. She is clearly not aware that my client is both profoundly wealthy and also quite influential. We were prepared for a substantial fine, perhaps some community service, but a ten year prison sentence simply does not align with sentencing for other individuals in Mr. Thurber’s position.”

While awaiting his appeal, Thurber has been remanded in custody at FCI Otisville Medium-Security Federal Prison in Otisville, New York. While there, it is highly unlikely that he will be able to obtain any champagne that was not been fermented in a toilet, nor will he be able to make \$3.1 million per year while drifting in and out of consciousness at a desk.

“Frankly, I’m unmoored,” said legal scholar Dr. Joseph Roca. “I’ve been studying the legal system for nearly 40 years, and I’ve never seen anything like this. A sentence like this, you’d assume Dunston Thurber was poor, or a minority of some kind. That’s simply not the case. We’re in uncharted waters here.”

Roca explained that Thurber’s sentence sets a dangerous precedent.

“It’s a slippery slope,” Roca said. “Take me, for example. I’m currently a college professor making \$42,000 per year. But that’s only temporary; one day, I’m going to be an extraordinarily wealthy and powerful man. Once that happens, it’s entirely possible that I’ll engage in insider trading and falsify a bunch of business records, and probably also murder homeless people in order to feel something. If I can’t do all that without facing consequences, then what’s the point of being rich and powerful?”



By Ben R. Williams

“This is going to be absolutely devastating to the smoking hot supermodel wife I’m eventually going to have,” added Roca.

In an interview from prison, Thurber said that the entire situation has left him deeply confused.

“I keep trying to get out of this weird room, but the door is locked,” said Thurber, impotently rattling the bars of his prison cell. “The guard told me I’m being punished because I’ve hurt people. I know all of those words, but I don’t understand what they mean in that order. I just hope I can get out of here before the Belmont Stakes. I’m supposed to be sharing the premium suite with Elon Musk.”

Fortunately for Thurber, he has a powerful advocate: Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who has gone on record as saying that he hopes Thurber’s case will come before the highest court in the land.

“A man in Mr. Thurber’s position should be free to do whatever he likes, whether it’s selling stocks or receiving an extraordinarily expensive RV as a bribe, to pick a random example,” Thomas said. “This is simply wrong. I sometimes feel like there’s a cancer in this country, a malignant force that’s eating the soul of our nation from the inside out. I just wish I could figure out what it is.”

In related news, after learning of Thurber’s imprisonment while entering the courtroom today, former President Donald Trump reportedly tugged at his collar in an exaggerated fashion and made a Charles Nelson Reilly-esque noise of apprehension.

Grace Network benefits from Mattress Warehouse sales



The Mattress Warehouse in Martinsville held a fundraising event on May 11, and gave 10 percent of every mattress to Grace Network. Volunteers from several organizations helped to advertise the event to attract traffic and provide information.

Griffith’s staff to hold office hours

Congressman Morgan Griffith’s Ninth District staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on May 22.

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

ville.

Staff will visit Patrick County from 12:30 – 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

More than \$22 million offered to help farmers

An estimated \$22.3 million is available to community-based and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and Tribal entities that help underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through USDA’s 2501 Program. This program is administered by USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE).

“2501 Program partners are based in local communities and rural areas where they serve a critical role in maximizing USDA’s outreach efforts to underserved communities,” said OPPE Director Lisa Ramirez. “They provide training and technical assistance to help these agricultural producers succeed and also connect them to USDA programs and services.”

For more than 30 years, and in partnership with organizations nationwide, the 2501 Program has helped reach underserved farmers and ranchers. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program to include

assistance to veteran farmers and ranchers. The 2018 Farm Bill increased mandatory funding for the program through fiscal year 2024. With 2501 funding, organizations conduct education, training, farming demonstrations, and conferences on farming and agribusiness.

Since 2010, the 2501 Program has continued to increase access to USDA’s programs and services and has awarded 615 grants totaling more than \$194 million.

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and a range of higher education institutions.

Applications must be submitted through grants.gov and received by Friday, July 5, 2024. Visit the 2501 Program page for more information on the 2501 funding opportunity.

Learn more through upcoming webinars:

Session 1: May 22, 2024, at 2 p.m. EDT

Session 2: June 26, 2024, at 2 p.m. EDT

Children among the injured in crash that resulted in a fatality

The Virginia State Police are investigating a two-vehicle crash, which resulted in a fatality. The crash occurred Saturday, May 11 at 7:10 p.m. on Joseph Martin Highway, three tenths of a mile west of Fisher Farm Road in Henry County.

A 2005 Nissan Frontier was traveling west on Virginia 641, when a 2012 Dodge Ram 3500 which was traveling east, allegedly crossed the centerline and struck the Nissan.

The driver of the Nissan was identified as Gregory Lee Myers, 52, of Martinsville, Va. Mr. Myers

was not wearing his seatbelt and was transported to SOVAH Health in Martinsville, where he later died.

The 32-year-old driver of the Ram was also injured and transported to the hospital. Two juvenile passengers, a 5-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy, were properly secured in child safety seats and were transported by helicopter to Roanoke Memorial Hospital for life-threatening injuries.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash.

Charges are pending.

DOMINION VALLEY PARK

415 DOMINION VALLEY LANE // STUART, VA

2024

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY MAY 24 | 5:30 PM

Down East Boys
Chuck Wagon Gang
Kelly Ratcliff

SATURDAY MAY 25 | 5:30 PM

Karen Peck & new River
The Harvesters Quartet
The Churchmen

SUNDAY MAY 26 | 10:30 AM

Music by Beachy’s Next Generation
Message by Curt Ashley

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY AUGUST 30 | 5:30 PM

The Inspirations
The Churchmen
Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 | 5:30 PM

The Singing Cookes
The Harvesters Quartet
The Browders

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 | 10:30 AM

Music by The Singing Cookes
Message by Ricky Rogers

Presented by Dominion Valley Events

Camping Available

contact information

phone: 276-694-4245

email: DominionValleyPark@gmail.com

website: dominionvalleyllc.com

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS

PATRICK COUNTY
VIRGINIA
Experience the simple life
patrickcountyva.com

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES



and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

FISH/FARMS

Live Fish for stocking ponds. Many varieties available. Delivery to your pond or pickup available. Call Zetts Fish Farm for information 304-995-9202, Cell 304-820-6986.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The bathroom of your

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



dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 6/30/24.) Call 1-877-460-5348

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Español. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.



Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia)

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit dorranceinfo.com/va-press



Weekly Publication
Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher
Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Wendi Craig, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(276) 340-2445

Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

Advertise With Us!

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

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

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.
For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

ADVERTISE!

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

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **May 29, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permit for the following cases.

Case S-24-03 John C. Draper
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction and use of a gymnasium facility on 40+ acres. The property is located on the west side of Spencer Preston Rd, just north of 3101 Spencer Preston Rd, in the Horsepasture District and shown on Tax Map 49.1(2)/3-13,13A,16-18,21. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1. The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Acorn Stairlifts & Liftkar Lifts



ADL-Advances For Daily Living

Sales, Service, Install
New or Used Rentals
Will Service Other Brands

540-353-5869 <https://www.stairliftsadl.com/>

All Positions Available, SALE REP, ACCOUNTANT and MANY MORE

- Bookkeeper • Cashier • Payroll
- Customer Service
- Account Coordinator
- Finance • Business • Marketing
- Admissions Representative
- Office Clerk • Help Desk Assistant

As part of our expansion program, our company is looking for part time Work from home Account Manager and sales representatives, it pays \$1700 monthly plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details. Requirements - Should be computer literate. 2-3 hours access to the internet weekly. Must be over 24yrs of age. Must be Efficient and Dedicated. If you are interested and need more information, contact: Kenneth.bbabraun.com@outlook.com for more details.

Red Cross urges planning ahead of hurricane season

The 2024 hurricane season is on the horizon and the American Red Cross urges everyone to make their preparations now.

"The American Red Cross is taking this year's forecast for an above average hurricane season very seriously," said Allison Taylor, Regional CEO of Humanitarian Services, Red Cross North Carolina region. "The American Red Cross works closely with local, state, and federal officials, along with partner community organizations, to respond to disasters and meet basic emergency needs before, during, and after disasters."

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially runs from June 1 through November 30 and early forecasts indicate there could be a near-record number of storms this year. Experts even warn that the first named storm could form before the season begins. They are calling for as many as 25 named storms with 4 to 6 having a direct impact on the U.S.

"We encourage everyone to take time now to get ready for potential disasters this spring and summer," said Taylor. "You can do so by updating your emergency supply kit, building a plan, and staying informed of weather risks in your area."

GET READY NOW: There are simple steps you can take to be prepared:

- Create an evacuation plan. Plan what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and if you have to evacuate. Coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and your community's emergency plans. Plan multiple routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets. If you already have an emergency plan, update it and review with household members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.

- Build an emergency kit with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for an infant and pets if applicable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of the area and emergency contact information. If you already have a disaster kit, make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are

up to date.

- Be informed. Find out how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.

- Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

In addition to taking these preparedness steps, we also have important safety information available for you on hurricanes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Because of extreme weather, the Red Cross is now launching nearly twice as many relief operations for major disasters than we did a decade ago. This growing need for assistance is prompting us to increase our volunteer capacity so we can continue responding on a near-constant basis.

The need to help during disasters has never been greater. Join us to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for opportunities with your local chapter. Our most-needed disaster positions include supporting shelters and providing health services.

SHELTER SUPPORT: Help at a shelter during a large disaster by welcoming and registering residents, serving meals, setting up cots, distributing blankets and personal hygiene kits, and providing information and other assistance to people in need.

HEALTH SERVICES: We also need volunteers who can use their professional skills as a licensed health care provider to deliver hands-on support, including care and education to people staying at a shelter during a large disaster. Qualified licenses include RN, LPN, LVN, EMT, Paramedic, MD, DO, PA, NP and APRN.

DISASTER ACTION TEAM: While big disasters get the most news coverage, smaller emergencies, such as home fires, are no less devastating to those affected. Join your local Disaster Action Team to help families in need by providing food, lodging, comfort, recovery assistance and other support.

Cassady receives Crime Stoppers Award

Henry County Sheriff's Investigator Blayne Cassady was selected to receive the Crime Stoppers Award. Cassady has been employed at the Henry County Sheriff's Office since 2014. During his tenure, he has contributed significantly to various divisions, including Corrections, Patrol, and is currently assigned to the Investigation Division, Sheriff Wayne Davis said.

Cassady is a vital member of the Henry County SWAT Team, where he has served for three years and is currently a member of the Sniper Team. Throughout his career, Cassady has held several key roles, including Sergeant of Patrol, Firearm Instructor, General Instructor, and Field Training Officer.

Davis added that Cassady has led numerous major cases, including homicides, robberies, breaking



Henry County Sheriff's Investigator Blayne Cassady received the Crime Stoppers Award from Sheriff Wayne Davis (right).

and entering, larcenies, missing persons, and frauds.

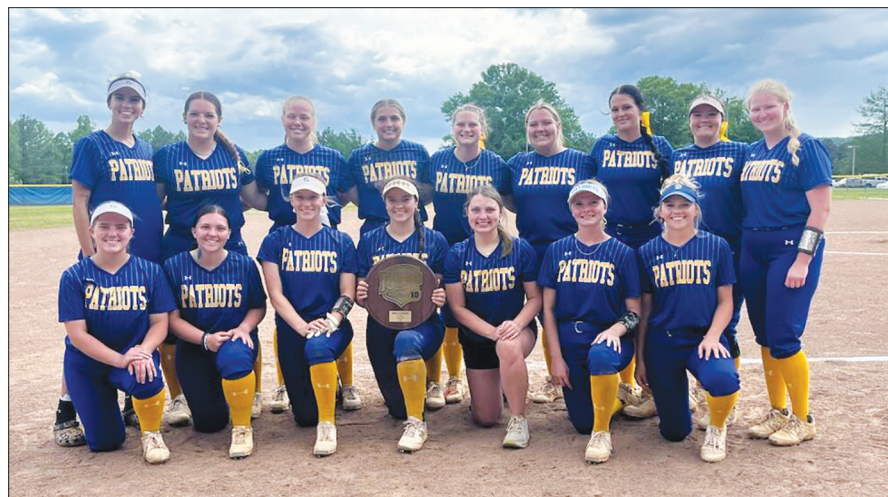
"He consistently goes above and beyond, often coming into work on his days off to serve the public," Davis said.

Currently, Cassady is training to become a Certified Cellebrite Examiner, which will allow him to extract data from cellular devices. Davis said that ability "will significantly enhance digital

investigations at the sheriff's office."

Beyond his service to the county, Cassady also serves the United States of America in the Air National Guard, a commitment he has maintained since 2012.

Cassady is a significant asset to the sheriff's office and Henry County, exemplifying dedication, skill, and commitment to public service.



P&HCC Softball Team earns bid to NJCAA Softball World Series

Patrick & Henry Community College's Lady Pats softball team is heading to Chattanooga, Tennessee to participate in the NJCAA DIII Softball World Series from May 22-25. The team defeated Caldwell Community College 4-0 to win the Region 10 Championship and then defeated Owens Community College 13-2 to win the Appalachian District Championship and receive the automatic bid to play in the NJCAA National Softball Championship Tournament.

Patrick & Henry Community College softball played its inaugural season in 2009. This district championship secures the Lady Pats' first trip to the national tournament in the program's history.

Please support the Lady Pats by donating now to help cover their travel expenses. Your tax-deduct-

ible gift will help offset the costs of transportation, hotels, and food while in Tennessee.

To donate, visit 2024 Patrick & Henry Community College Softball National Championship Challenge at <https://ets.rocks/3ymQLDM> and click donate now. You may also email bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

"Because state policy designates college spending for academics rather than athletics, resources for activities such as the world series must be secured via donations," said P&HCC Assistant Vice President Brian Henderson, adding, "Please feel free to share the link with anyone you know who may be interested in supporting our softball team. We sincerely appreciate any amount you can give to support these dedicated athletes."

State department seeks help monitoring increased cases of avian flu in wild birds

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources is asking residents to report sick or dead birds to help prevent the spread of avian flu.

Recently, wildlife officials have seen an uptick in reports of sick or dead birds in the eastern part of the state. Infected birds have been found in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula and in Hampton Roads.

Numerous species of shorebirds and waterbirds have been reported, but grebes, sanderlings and gulls appear to be the most affected. Preliminary testing indicates that the likely cause is H5N1, or highly pathogenic avian influenza.

"Domestic poultry is highly susceptible to the current H5N1 strain of avian flu," noted Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "Wild bird monitoring for avian influenza by USDA and state wildlife agencies provides an early warning system for the introduction and distribution of these viruses. This allows animal health officials and the poultry industry to take quick action to reduce the risk of disease spread to poultry farms."

DWR is working closely with the Virginia Department of Agricul-

ture and Consumer Services and the Virginia Department of Health to ensure all Virginians and agricultural producers are aware of the increased detection of sick or dead wild birds, noted John Tracey, state wildlife veterinarian.

Waterfowl, and some shorebird and seabird species, often show minimal or no signs of illness when infected. However, these species still can transmit the virus to other birds that may get sick or die from the infection, including domestic poultry, raptors and upland birds.

During the spring months, Virginia experiences numerous species of birds traveling overhead as they migrate to northern states and Canada. This can increase the chances of HPAI being transmitted to local wild populations and commercial flocks.

Notify DWR by calling the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at 855-571-9003, or email wildlife-health@dwr.virginia.gov if any of the following are observed:

- *Five or more dead vultures, waterfowl, shorebirds or seabirds found in the same area;

- *Sick or dead eagles, hawks, owls or turkeys, excluding carcasses found on the road; or

- *Ten or more other wild bird species found dead in the same area.

Cinco De Mayo attracts hundreds

Although it was held a week late due to rain, the first Cinco De Mayo event held in Martinsville attract-

ed an estimated 350, according to Kendall Davis, the city's public information officer.



Asador El Verde prepared food at the Cinco De Mayo Festival held in Uptown Martinsville.



Uptown Martinsville was the site of a Cinco De Mayo celebration, complete with food, vendors, and music.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Cannabis-related hospital emergency visits decline among pediatric patients

The number of pediatric patients visiting Virginia hospital emergency departments due to cannabis exposure, intoxication, and related medical concerns declined in the second half of 2023, a six-month period that coincides with the effective date of a new state law that regulates aspects of the production, sale, and potency of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) contained in commercial hemp products or extracts.

An analysis of statewide hospital emergency department data conducted by the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) shows that the volume of such cannabis-related visits among pediatric patients had generally been on an upward trajectory over the past several years, peaking in late 2022 and early 2023. From 2020-2023, there were 8,401 pediatric emergency department visits attributable to cannabis use, intoxication, and related conditions involving Virginia youths ages 0-18. More recently, the number of cannabis-related pediatric emergency department visits dropped 14.2 percent from the third and fourth quarter of 2022 (1,307 visits) compared to the same time period in 2023 (1,122 visits). Between the first and second half of 2023, cannabis-related pediatric emergency department visits declined 21.5 percent (from 1,429 visits to 1,122 visits).

Those declines occurred in the wake of a bipartisan state law taking effect on July 1, 2023 that establishes health and safety standards for the retail sale of THC and hemp-based products, some of which are sold in packaging which closely resembles that of popular snack items such as candy, cookies, and corn chips. The new law includes state registration requirements for businesses selling such products and empowers the Virginia Department of Agriculture and

Consumer Services (VDACS) to conduct inspections and issue fines as appropriate. The law also requires such products to have clear labels that disclose ingredients. And it places limits on the chemical concentration the products contain to no more than 0.3 percent THC or a 25:1 ratio of cannabidiol (CBD) to THC.

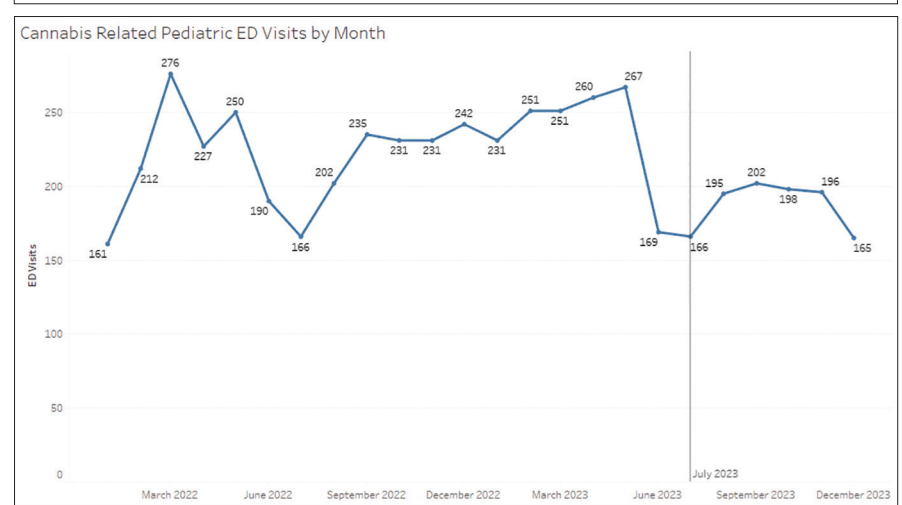
“This law was introduced to protect Virginia children and families from being harmed by ingesting unregulated, intoxicating products that can pose serious health risks,” said Del. Terry Kilgore, R-Gate City. He sponsored House Bill 2294, approved in 2023 to regulate THC-infused products. “So, it is certainly welcome news to see that this policy change appears to be having a positive effect in terms of declining pediatric emergency department visits due to cannabis exposure.”

Support for updating the law came from a wide range of stakeholders participating in the Virginians for Cannabis Safety (VCS) coalition: the Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia Association of School Nurses, the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, VHHA, the Virginia Sheriffs’ Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Virginia State Police Association.

“The recent decline in pediatric hospital visits is a positive sign that last year’s bipartisan legislation is working,” said VCS Spokesman Ryan McKinnon. “Still, much work remains to raise public awareness, enforce existing laws and protect consumers, especially children, from these dangerous products.”

Concern about the trend of rising cannabis-related pediatric emergency department visits has prompted the Virginia Depart-

Summary of Cannabis Related Pediatric ED Visits by Quarter															
2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
546	303	373	351	346	433	369	506	649	667	603	704	733	696	563	559



ment of Health (VDH) to establish “a special surveillance system to better characterize the burden and impact of adverse events due to THC and CBD consumption on children in the Commonwealth.” In a recent letter informing Virginia clinicians about the surveillance program, State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton wrote that reported health impacts on children who consumed those products “have included vomiting, hallucinations, low blood pressure, low blood sugar, altered mental status and anxiety; some hospitalizations have occurred.”

“Protecting the well-being of Virginians is one of the most profound duties entrusted to the Virginia General Assembly and I take this responsibility very seriously, especially when it comes to the youngest and most vulnerable among us. With data clearly showing a troubling pattern emerging of rising pediatric emergency department visits related to cannabis intoxication, it was necessary and appro-

priate for the legislature to act,” said Sen. Barbara Favola, D-Arlington County, who supported HB 2294. “We will continue to monitor this data, and as appropriate, consider further legislative action regarding retail THC products.”

VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton added, “Virginia hospitals are uniquely positioned to identify emerging public health challenges due to their role in providing medical care to patients. As the number of pediatric emergency department visits related to cannabis exposure has grown in recent years, VHHA has worked with hospital members to track this concerning trend and has shared that data with partner organizations, state health agencies, and policymakers working to address this public health challenge. We are proud to be associated with legislators and the coalition of organizations that are focused on safeguarding children from the potential harm posed by these products.”

Chosen Fruit Women’s Conference well attended



The Branches performed at the Chosen Fruit Women’s Conference held May 10 at the Uptown Ministry Center First United Methodist Church.



Pam Cobler was among the featured speakers at the conference, along with Christy Tilley. Cobler, who is pictured with Bassett Ruritan Club members Bernard and Marie Stone, represents the Reed Creek District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Magna Vista High School Choir to be featured in Memorial Day Celebration at Carnegie Hall

The Magna Vista High School Choir, of Ridgeway, and Tehillah Mynye, Director, are among those to be featured in Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, in New York City, NY, on Monday, May 27, at 7 p.m.

“Magna Vista High School Choir received this invitation because of the high level and quality of musicianship demonstrated by its singers. We are thrilled to have them on our roster of distinguished and esteemed musicians,” said Peter Tiboris, General Director, and Music Director of MidAmerica Productions and MidAm International.

MidAmerica Productions, Inc. announced performers will present the timeless melodies of American Folk Hymns featuring conductor Bryant Moxley, the New England Symphonic Ensemble, and. They will perform beloved hymns including “How Can I Keep From Singing,” “Simple Gifts,” “There Is A Fountain,” “Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal,” “When I Can Read My Title Clear,” “Bound For The Promised Land,” and “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing.”

“We are pleased to highlight the dedicated and talented Bryant Moxley on one of the world’s greatest stages,” Tiboris said of the performance that also will include participating choruses from across North America, including Cave Spring High School Chorus, Roanoke, (Bradley Stump, Director), Mercer Christian Academy

High School Choir, Princeton, WV (Alandra L. Brannon Blume, Director), Northeast Piedmont Chorale, Wake Forest, NC (Cynthia Edwards, Director), The Bluefield University Masterworks Chorale & The Bluefield University Variations Chorale, Bluefield, VA (Mark Milberger, Director) and Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, NC (Bryant Moxley, Director).

The concert program will also feature a diverse repertoire of works conducted by esteemed guest conductors:

- Maestro John Rutter, CBE will lead his iconic “Magnificat,” and the world premiere of his latest work, “Celebration” with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, soprano Juliet Papadopoulos and participating choruses including Central Regional High School Choir (Elizabeth Moore, Director), Chœur Classique de l’Outaouais, Gatineau, QC, Canada (Tiphaine Legrand, Director), Columbia Chorale of Oregon, St. Helens, OR (Alice Boyer, Director), Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus, Summit, NJ (Candace Wicke, Director), Fremont Presbyterian Choir, Sacramento, CA (Rachel Jackson, Director), Palisade High School Choirs, Palisade, CO (Matt J. Doty, Director), Roane Choral Society, Harriman, TN (Brenda Luggie, Director), Syracuse Pops Chorus, Syracuse, NY (Lou Lemos, Director), Utah Choral Collective, Bountiful, UT (Brett Levitre, Director) and The Estes Park Chorale, Estes Park,

CO (Denise Stookesberry, Director).

- Maestro David B. Weaver will lead the New England Symphonic Ensemble in Mozart’s Mass in C major, K. 317 “Coronation Mass,” featuring soloists Mary Evelyn Hangley, Linda Baird, John Kun Park, and John Allen Nelson.

- Maestro Melvin Unger will conduct Mozart’s “Vesperae Solennes De Confessore,” featuring Lara McGill, Roselin Osser, Chad Kranak, Nicholas Kilkenny and participating choruses including Candesca, Kelowna, BC, Canada (Alexandra Babbel, Director), H. B. Beal Secondary School Singers, London, ON, Canada (David B. Weaver, Director), Parkland Chorale, Allentown, PA (Alison Lagan, Director), The London Singers, London, ON, Canada (David B. Weaver, Director), The Unger Alumni Choir, Berea, OH (Melvin Unger, Director), The Unger Chorale, Berea, OH (Melvin Unger, Director) with the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Ticket prices start at \$25. For single tickets call CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or visit carnegiehall.org. Box Office is located at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue. For group sales of 10 or more, contact groupsales@carnegiehall.org or call 212-903-9705.

Peter Tiboris created and conducted his first concert in New York on January 7, 1984, at Lincoln Center, featuring The American Symphony Orchestra, soloists, and three choruses, the Louisiana Chorale of Aca-

diana, Camerata Singers of Baton Rouge, and Collegiate Chorale of New York. According to Kathleen Sabogal, archives and museum director for the Carnegie Hall Corporation, “MidAmerica Productions is the most prolific presenter of choral concerts in the history of Carnegie Hall” dating back to May 5, 1891, at the opening of the hall when Tchaikovsky conducted the first concert.

For 41 years, MidAmerica Productions has brought together conductors, soloists, and choral and orchestral ensembles from the U.S. and abroad to appear at New York’s top venues, including Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Weill Recital Hall, and Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall; and Alice Tully Hall and David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center. In addition to presenting orchestral and choral works, MidAmerica Productions has championed contemporary composers with over 1,480 Concerts Worldwide (1,145 in New York), 92 World Premieres, 22 US Premieres, 100 NY Premieres and 3,610 Choral Ensembles.

In 2004, MidAm International, Inc. was formed to support MidAmerica’s growing presence in Europe. Since then, concerts have taken place in countries throughout the world, including Greece, England, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Portugal, Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, and Mexico.

Bassett man charged in after search

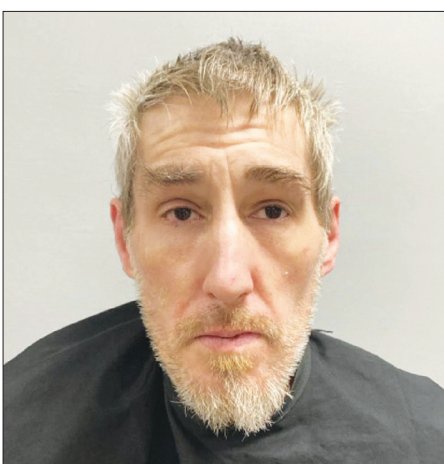
Authorities seized suspected methamphetamine, illegally possessed prescription pills, and U.S. currency were among the items seized on Thursday, May 9, when the Henry County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at 402 Fairmont Dr., Bassett.

The suspected narcotics will be sent to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis.

Jason Wayne Greer, 45, 402 Fairmont Dr., Bassett, is currently held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center on charges of Possession of Schedule I or II drug with the intent to distribute (methamphetamine).

The Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis has said his office "will not tolerate this type of behavior in our communities."

Davis encourages anyone with any information related to this investigation or "narcotics trafficking in your community," to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).



The Crimestoppers Program operates an anonymous tip line that helps local law enforcement agencies by soliciting tips from individuals and forwarding that information to the particular agency. It offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

Housing Issues

(cont. from page 1)

homeowners, but another 25.5 percent are cost-burdened, which means that more than 30 percent of the income of the household goes to paying for rent. Additionally, 19.8 percent are severely 'cost-burdened,' spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing.

"That puts them at a very high risk of homelessness," said Campbell. Cheaper housing alternatives, like manufactured housing or trailer parks, currently aren't allowed in the city of Martinsville.

"This is relatively consistent with the city of Danville, but both cities fall way below the homeownership rates in the counties," said Campbell.

He noted that from 2014 to 2021, home prices in the city almost doubled.

Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls asked Campbell to expand on the current state of manufactured homes.

"On the inside, you can't tell the difference between manufactured homes," Campbell said, and added that modular homes have made many improvements over the years to be on par with standard housing.

"It does not mean what it meant in 1990," Rawls said and asked whether any other localities had found a solution to severely cost-burdened homes.

"I have not seen one local government yet that has found a solution," said Campbell, but looking into potential solutions is a priority.

"The next step after being cost-burdened is not burdened at all, and that's for not the right reason, it's because you don't have a home anymore. We definitely want to try and prevent that from happening," said Rawls.

Suggestions to help reduce the number of cost-burdened households ranged from using lots owned by Martinsville, requesting innovative housing projects from private developers, and working with the WPPDC to identify grant opportunities to offset the costs.

"The creation of a landbank was brought up. The (West Piedmont) PDC can actually acquire properties and act to clear cloudy titles on them so that they are available for development," Campbell said.

The Five Points Housing Project was approved for \$50,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, needed to wrap up the project because previous grant funds have run out. The Harvest Foundation was previously helping the city to expand, but there are still some improvements left, like grass installation and stormwater work.

In other matters, the council: *Heard concerns about the parking along Fayette St. Businesses situated on the street are currently sharing a parking lot with the apartment complex.

"That's a concern that's not going unnoticed with activity not just on that street, but activity on Main St. and Church St. as well, as we continue to grow, so that's something we will definitely look into," Mayor LC Jones said.

*Accepted a change to the zoning ordinance that will allow buildings of any height to be built inside city limits.

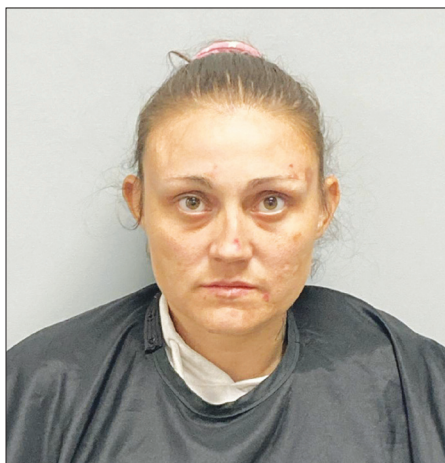
*Heard from Kendall Davis, public information officer, who documented changes to the city's website and explained how the city plans to better market its internet service, MiNet. The city's content strategy has seen more engagement from residents across social media.

He also noted several new events are in the works, including an Uptown Holiday Festival, a Food Truck Pull Up, and a Wine and Hops Festival.

*Recognized Building Safety Month.

*Congratulated Local Graduates.

*Acknowledged and congratulated the National Society of Black Engineers on its 25th Anniversary Celebration.



Adrienne Nicole St. Clair



Gene Branton Vaughn III

Couple charged in Stanleytown incident

Two people were charged in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred at the Food Lion store in Stanleytown, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

Davis said on May 6, his office received a report about lewd acts that had allegedly occurred at the store, located at 951 Fairystone Park Hwy.

"Upon receiving this report, we began an investigation," Davis said.

He noted that on May 3, investigators learned two people were seen in front of the store, "on a pallet of mulch bags, visible to bystanders, depicting lewd behavior that appeared to have been

a sexual act or simulated sexual act. These actions were recorded by civilians and also captured on store surveillance cameras."

Adrienne Nicole St. Clair, 33, and Gene Branton Vaughn III, 39, were identified, and on May 10, both were arrested and charged with indecent exposure, a class 1 misdemeanor punishable by confinement of not more than 12 months in jail and/or a possible fine of not more than \$2,500.

Vaughn III received no bond and is incarcerated at the Henry County Adult Detention Center, while St. Clair received a \$1,500 bond.

One charged in connection with incident at Lowe's

The Henry County Sheriff's Office received a call around 11:20 a.m. on May 12 about an alleged sexual assault at the Lowe's Home Improvement store, located at 1059 Commonwealth Blvd. in Martinsville.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies arrived at the store a short time later and made contact with the victim, who was identified as an employee at Lowe's.

While the employee was working, a man allegedly approached the employee and began speaking with them. After a short conversation, the man allegedly touched the employee inappropriately and made sexual remarks. Deputies worked with officers from the Martinsville Police Department to quickly identify the man.

At 4 p.m., Malvester Penn III, 42, of 1004 Independence Dr., Martinsville was charged with sexual assault in connection with the incident. Penn



Malvester Penn III

also was trespassed from the business.

Penn received a \$2,000 secure bond.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-Crime (632-7463).

Results of public safety surge to combat fentanyl announced

More than 17,000 pounds of illicit drugs and 18,000 pounds of prescription medications during Operation Free Virginia, a 30-day statewide fentanyl operation coordinated through 114 state, federal, county, and municipal agencies to protect the Commonwealth and combat the fentanyl crisis.

"I'm immensely proud of the work done by The Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Virginia State Police," Gov. Glenn Youngkin said. "Through their tireless efforts this first-of-its-kind operation seized enough fentanyl to kill more people than the entire population of Virginia. While we still have a long way to go towards our goal of eliminating fentanyl in the Commonwealth, these results are significant, and proof of the positive work being done in our communities."

Last May, Youngkin signed Executive Order 26 to help combat the fentanyl epidemic in Virginia. The order, amongst other things, directed the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to develop a strategic plan for law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth to combat illicit trafficking and the sale of fentanyl in Virginia. In response, the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security, being led by the Virginia State Police conducted a statewide fentanyl operation focusing on increased enforcement, whole of community training, education,

and partnerships to reduce supply and demand across the Commonwealth.

"Through the leadership of Governor Youngkin and the success of Operation Free Virginia, our Commonwealth has become safer," said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terry Cole. "The Governor's operation brought 114 state, federal, county, campus, and municipal agencies together to protect our Commonwealth. It's a reminder that when we work together in an all of government approach, we can make our communities more secure. I'm happy to see that Virginia is one step closer in our fight to eliminate the deadly impacts of fentanyl."

The data collected from the operation detailed clear and significant positive results in stemming fentanyl's devastating impact in our communities. Operation Free Virginia seized 23.45 kilograms of illicit fentanyl and resulted in a total estimate of denied revenue of over \$1.3 billion.

"The hard work of law enforcement, community partners and stakeholders across the Commonwealth, builds on our continued efforts to make Virginians safer and healthier," said First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin. "We will continue to educate around the dangers of fentanyl — stressing that 'It Only Takes One' pill to take a life and one important conversation to save a life."

2ND ANNUAL Musical Extravaganza

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
146 EAST MAIN ST.
MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024
4:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION
A LOUE OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN

JILL GARDNER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES,
ORGANIST & PIANIST

Featuring the Adult Chancel & Children's Choirs of FUMC
And Special Guests

 BASS TERRENCE TAYLOR	 TENOR HADEEM BREEDLOVE	 ORGANIST REBECCA SMITH	 HANDBELL SOLOIST ANITA MCENTIRE	 CELLIST SAM BRINBLEY	 OBOIST MARTIN BRINBLEY	 PIANIST ANN NICHOLS
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------

Norris
Memorial Services

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

High school students participate in mock proceeding

Martinsville High School students enrolled in a business law class brought real-world cases to life through courtroom simulations on Tuesday.

These young legal minds spent time carefully researching their case and prepared for the roles they would take in the trial - prosecutor, defense attorney, witness, defendant, bailiff, judge, or juror.

This immersive experience not only tested students' legal knowledge, decision-making, and critical thinking, it also challenged them to communicate effectively in a public setting.



Groundcover options abound, but home gardeners are urged to choose wisely

Planting groundcovers to fill bare spots, shore up slopes, serve as lawn alternatives or beautify landscapes presents both ecological rewards and potential pitfalls.

Groundcovers can cool the ground, retain

moisture, and reduce soil compaction and erosion, while filtering and slowing rain runoff. And an appropriate groundcover will reduce yard maintenance as a "green mulch," said Elaine Mills, a Master Gardener in Northern Virginia.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners encourage Virginians to choose native groundcovers suited to local soils and climates. Not only can they add beauty and interest through the seasons, but they also double as

a critical resource for wildlife.

However, non-native groundcovers designated as invasive in Virginia, including English ivy and periwinkle, are widely available to consumers. They can escape cultivation as seeds

are carried by wind or animals into natural areas.

"There, they can invade the understory of forests, spreading further by rampant vegetative growth and producing a dense monoculture that suppresses native

herbaceous plants," Mills cautioned.

But native options abound at garden centers. Thriving in sun, shade or both, groundcovers can be herbaceous or woody, flowery or grassy. They may grow in clumps, mounds, carpets or mats.

"The choice of an evergreen, woody perennial or herbaceous groundcover depends on your preference and scale of the landscape," said Alex Niemiera, a professor at the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

Some species are ideal for edging garden paths, draping over walls or filling in hot, dry curbsides called "hell strips" where other plants can't grow, Mills said.

And if the function of a groundcover is to minimize weed growth, "then the groundcover should be evergreen, and deep and thick enough to deter weed seedling growth," Niemiera added.

Native perennials for sun include Phlox subulata, or moss phlox; Antennaria plantaginifolia, or plantain-leaved pussytoes; Opuntia humifusa, or eastern prickly pear cactus; Salvia lyrata or lyreleaf sage; and Symphyotrichum oblongifolium, or aromatic aster.

Shade-loving groundcovers include Podophyllum peltatum, or mayapple; Polystichum acrostichoides, or Christmas fern; Asarum, or wild ginger; Viola, or violets; and Solidago caesia, or blue-stemmed goldenrod.

Consider grasses and rushes like Schizachyrium scoparium, or little bluestem; Juncus effusus, or common rush; and Chasmanthium latifolium, or river oats.

Low-growing woody natives include Juniperus horizontalis, or creeping juniper; Rhus aromatica, or 'Gro-Low' fragrant sumac; Hypericum prolificum, or shrubby St. John's wort; and Parthenocissus quinquefolia, or Virginia creeper.

Visit bit.ly/3PgDLp5 for a native groundcovers webinar. Read the full story in Virginia Farm Bureau's spring Cultivate magazine at bit.ly/3QuKAUC.

SPECTRUM MEDICAL

PERSONAL TRAINING

Personal training provided by licensed healthcare professionals with experience treating all ages



Train With

CORTNEY HERNDON, DPT, CPT
CHASE SCARCE, PTA, CPT
AARON TAYLOR, MS, ATC

PRIVATE SESSION

\$45

GROUP OF 2-3 PEOPLE

\$35

each

GROUP OF 4+

\$25

each

- ✔ Start a new fitness program
- ✔ Athlete specific training
- ✔ Decrease body fat & gain lean muscle
- ✔ Assistance with meeting fitness goals
- ✔ Increase strength, speed, & endurance
- ✔ Screens Offered: FMS, OnBaseU Pitching & Hitting, FCS, and Y-Balance



WWW.SPECTRUMMED.COM



CHASE.SCARCE@SPECTRUMMED.COM



434-793-4711 OPT 2

For The Full Spectrum Of Other Services - 2 Convenient Locations

Danville

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

Martinsville

1075 Spruce Street
276-790-3233

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM