

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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(USPS-6)

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Family honors Bassett girl's wish to donate organs

By Taylor Boyd

The life of a 12-year-old Henry County girl was cut short, but her impact on others will be felt for years to come and will help others live fuller lives.

Celeste Adalyn Searce passed away at Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital on Sunday, June 2, after her Honor Walk into surgery to be an organ donor. The walk is a ceremonial event to commemorate a patient whose organs are donated.

"We all knew that that's what she wanted," Brandi Searce said of the donation, and added that her daughter had decided to be an organ donor "years ago with her dad. She had to get like an ID card at Disney World or something. Dave, her dad, asked her if she wanted to be" an organ donor on the card. Celeste "was like, 'yeah.'"

Although honoring her daughter's wish was never in question, "we were not aware of the process. They literally

had to keep her body going for days after she quit breathing on her own," Brandi Searce said.

Celeste was injured in a May 26 car crash in Bassett. She was riding in the backseat of the vehicle at the time and was immediately knocked unconscious. She was airlifted to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital for treatment of an apparent brain injury.

"I don't think she knew what hit her. She never regained consciousness," Brandi Searce said.

One of Celeste's aunts, Ilesha Dumbrell, was driving the vehicle. Another aunt, Sky Evans, was in the passenger seat. Dumbrell's injuries required staples in part of her head, while Evans received some bruising and whiplash. The two women also suffered concussions, Brandi Searce said.

The three were on the way to Brandi Searce's mother's house to get Celeste's hair straightener, Brandi Searce said,

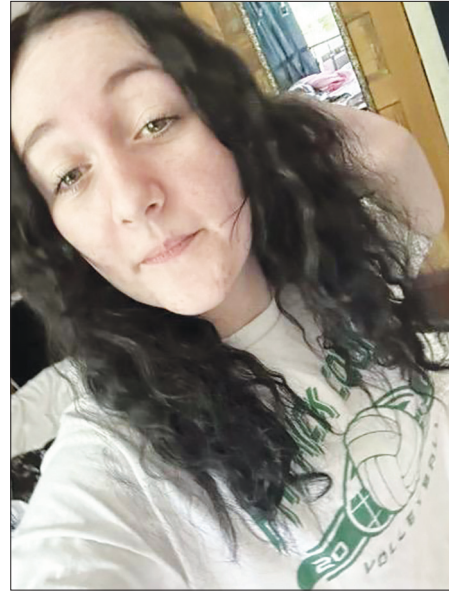
and recalled that Celeste "had just dyed her hair black for the first time."

The incident occurred when the vehicle stopped and prepared to make a turn. It was pushed several feet forward, Brandi Searce said. "I came to the wreck with all my kids in the car and it was very obvious what had happened."

After immediate brain surgery to relieve the swelling and a CT scan, Brandi Searce saw an image of her daughter's brain.

"The whole thing except for the out-sides was dead and damaged, and they said those cells could not grow," she said. "The doctor explained to me more than likely what would happen is that her brain stem was still working, so her heart was still beating through the whole thing."

When she saw Celeste at the scene, Brandi Searce said her daughter looked like herself. However, after arriving at



Celeste Searce, 12, was on the way to her grandmother's house to retrieve a hair straightener when she was in a vehicle crash.

(See Family p. 2)

PSA finalizes deal with USACE to secure future water supply

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) met at Philpott Lake on May 30 to sign a three-million-gallon water storage agreement that provides extra water allotments over a 50-year period to the county to help with economic development or any emergency situations such as water shortages or contamination.

Currently, the PSA manages 380 miles of pipes with over 12,000 households using their services. The Corps manages Philpott Dam, so agreements about its usage are needed between the two entities.

The agreement "will ensure our commu-



Col. Brad Morgan (left), Commander of the 57th District of the Army Corps of Engineers, shakes hands with Dale Wagoner, General Manager of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA), after signing a deal to provide the PSA with an additional 3-million gallons of water storage capacity at Philpott Lake.

community has access to this water for the next 50 years," Dale Wagoner, general manager of the PSA, said before signing the agreement.

"Water scarcity is increasingly becoming an issue for many

communities around the world," said Stuart Bowman, chairman of the PSA Board. "Our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ensures that Henry County

(See PSA p. 3)



Officials from the City Of Martinsville, KMW Builders, and Landmark Asset Services and others formally broke ground on Wednesday, June 5.

Ground broke on apartment complex project

By Taylor Boyd

A groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction for the Aaron Mills Apartment Complex was held onsite Wednesday, June 5. Located at 200 Aaron Street, the Aaron Mills Apartment Complex will become a senior apartment complex with 52 units.

The complex will include 34 one-bedroom units and 18 two-bedroom units. It will also include community areas like picnic shelters, outside sitting areas, a community room, an exercise room, computer rooms,

gathering areas, and more.

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones said the location once housed the American of Martinsville factory, which made furniture.

"My father worked here, a lot of family members worked at this plant or next door. In 2014, we had a fire at one of the two sites and again in 2017 we had another fire," he said.

As a result, Jones said the site sat dormant for several years.

However, as Martinsville began (See Apartment Complex p.7)

Renewal Brewing now open in Uptown Martinsville



A piano from the early 1900s is included in Uptown Underground.

Contributed

Renewal Brewing, a new craft brewery, held its grand opening on Thursday, June 6, with initial operating days to be Thursday through Sunday. The brewery is located at 32 Franklin Street in the heart of Uptown Martinsville. Owned and operated by Herb Atwell and Karl Herzberg,

The business aims to bring new energy into Martinsville's Uptown area, according to a release.

A Multi-Phase Vision

The vision for Renewal began two



The bar in Renewal Brewing.

years ago when Atwell and his wife Peggy Donovan were attending an evening event in Uptown Martinsville.

"We saw how vibrant it could be," Donovan said. "It was a good crowd and a fun night. We looked over

(See Renewal Brewing p. 7)



Visitors to Infinity Acres Ranch feed the capybaras on the exhibit's grand opening.

Infinity Acres Ranch unveils three new attractions at spring carnival

By Jessica Dillon

Three brand new attractions - a Pirate Ship, Gem Mining Station, the grand opening of a Capybara Exhibit and a lower entry cost than previous years - helped attract an estimated 500 visitors to Infinity Acres Ranch's annual Spring Carnival on June 1.

A walk-in exhibit where attendees could feed and pet the world's largest rodents, capybaras, was a big hit. Capybaras are a semi-aquatic species of rodent native to South America that have a gentle temperament.

(See Infinity Acres p. 8)

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Family

(cont. from page 1)



The Bassett girl wanted to donate her organs and help others.

the hospital, half of her head had been shaved to prep for immediate brain surgery – something her mother and the family knew Celeste wouldn't like.

"She is so beautiful, but she was really self-conscious," Brandi Scearce said and added that Dumbrell shaved her head in a show of support for Celeste.

"A nurse's aide did that for her. She was not supposed to do that, but she did, and she came in on her day off so she could personally walk Celeste's bed with her on the walk down to the operating room," Brandi Scearce said.

By May 28, Celeste was no longer breathing on her own and a ventilator was needed to breathe for her.

Celeste was also on fentanyl to ensure she was never in any pain, and her mother said she underwent three or four brain death tests.

On May 30, Celeste was determined to have no brain function and declared brain dead. She was on the ventilator until June 2, when she went into surgery to become an organ donor, Brandi Scearce recalled.

Because her daughter suffered a collapsed lung during the incident, and her lungs were also scarred from a bout with double pneumonia at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, "we didn't think her lungs were going to be able to go" to a donor.

The days Celeste's body was medically kept going after she stopped breathing on her own were "really hard, really weird for a lot of people because we felt her in spirit all around us, and at one point, we didn't think her heart was going to make it because it started failing," Brandi Scearce she said.

She said the heart issue "was after that last brain death test. They did it (test) for 40 minutes, I think it was too hard on her heart."

Brandi Scearce said after medication was administered, an ECHO (echocardiogram, which uses ultrasound to monitor the heart function) found Celeste's heart was normal and strong.

Now, "it should be beating in somebody at Duke. Her lungs I don't think went," but "her liver and other organs went, too," she said.

Remembering Celeste

Besides experimenting with hair color - "she always dyed her hair, she was always trying to dye it," Brandi Scearce said her daughter loved softball, Brandi Scearce said. "She was a catcher, and she liked that position. She played up until this last year when she had to try out for middle school, which was a whole new ordeal because it was actually a tryout. She didn't make it, which everybody was upset about because" she wanted to make the team.

Celeste loved the color purple more than any other color, Brandi Scearce said and added that medical personnel "tried to get everybody to wear purple for her Hero (Honor) Walk. We had one who ... was a nurse aide, and she just really stepped up to the plate. I think the nurses" on the team caring for her "are unbelievably amazing."

Because Celeste liked fake nails "my sister tried to bring some fake nails to the hospital, but they wouldn't let her do it. Lily, my nine-year-old daughter, painted Celeste's nails for her in the bed," Brandi Scearce said.

Celeste, who had attended both Campbell Court Elementary School, and Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, also liked fairies and rap music. "She liked

Support for Celeste's Family in Tragic Times

\$3,653 raised of \$10,000 goal • 63 donations

Share

Donate now

Roxanne Craig is organizing this fundraiser.

Roxanne Craig, a close family friend started a GoFundMe campaign called "Support for Celeste's Family in Tragic Times." As of Tuesday, June 4, the GoFundMe campaign had received \$3,653 of the \$10,000 goal to help the family with bills and final expenses. Donations also may be mailed to 577 Willie Craig Road, Bassett, Va., 24055.

Harry Potter for a while, but she thought it was stupid recently," she said.

While Celeste had always loved art and painting, she had recently developed an interest in photography – something she and Brandi Scearce, a photographer, had in common.

While Celeste originally wanted to be a teacher, Scearce said her daughter changed her mind after she had three other children, "that changed to a brain surgeon, which I think is very weird cause that's what happened to her - it was her brain, it was too damaged," she said.

Brandi Scearce added Celeste's favorite show was "Grey's Anatomy," a medical drama series that premiered in 2005. "She watched the entire show. She got personally involved in it she was telling me," she said, with a soft chuckle.

"She had a lot of friends, a whole lot. She loved them and they loved her. She was very well-loved at her schools. She had an attitude sometimes, but she was 12. It wasn't out of the normal," Brandi Scearce said.

In addition to her aunts, parents, and friends, Celeste was also close to Brandi Scearce's brother, Chris, who was in a motorcycle accident the week before Celeste's.

Celeste insisted on staying at the hospital while her uncle was there.

"She said that she was not going to leave until she talked to Chris, which I feel is kind of crazy, but she didn't. She stayed for like five days sleeping in the waiting room with my mom," Brandi Scearce said, adding that Celeste "had a really, really big heart. It's been unimaginable for everybody. It's been two weeks of just pure shock."

A good sister to her three younger siblings- Lily, 9; Alister, 6; and Kai, 4, Celeste also had a close relationship with her older brother, Blaine, who is 20.

"She was a good sister though she got annoyed with them all. She loved them all to death. We're still in shock," Brandi Scearce said.

Lily, who was more capable of understanding the accident, "was really upset. She was freaking out trying to get them to put her in the ambulance with her, freaking out because she wanted to ride in the helicopter with her.

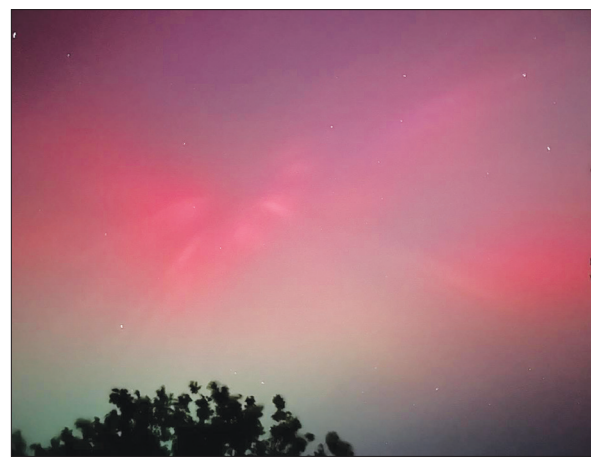
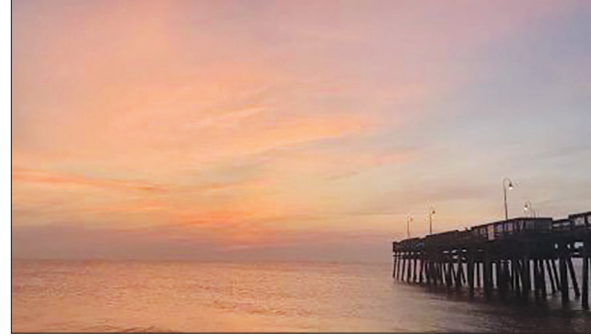
"I had to drive her to the hospital, and she stayed there," Brandi Scearce said, adding despite Lily staying with her paternal grandmother, she returned to the hospital every day.

A Ronald McDonald House was secured for the family to stay in the last couple of days, and while she originally didn't know if she wanted her sons to be at the hospital, Brandi Scearce said she eventually decided to explain it to them and let them make their own decision.

"I wanted to involve them in the process because I didn't just want to come home and tell them that she was gone and they just not really quite understand," she said.

As a result, Brandi Scearce said Celeste's siblings visited her in the hospital and the family did fingerprint artwork with the nurses.

"I put my handprint down in paint, and then they helped me put Celeste's hand on top of that, and then



Celeste took these of a sunset at the beach and of the aurora borealis that was visible a few weeks ago.

I got Lily, and then Alister, and then Kai. So, they did some artwork in there and they saw her, and I explained it to them," Brandi Scearce said, adding the three children were also there for Celeste's honor walk.

"They're okay right now, and they understand," she said.

Before leaving Roanoke, Scearce said she went to Build-A-Bear Workshop and purchased several bears for her family. "The nurses gave me a really good recording of her heartbeat. So we went, and I got a bear for me and all the kids."

At some point last week in Roanoke, Brandi Scearce said she visited a spot by the river near the hospital as she tried to process the tragedy. There, she felt reminded "to remember the beautiful things in this life.

"Maybe it was Celeste coming by to remind me because she saw it," Brandi Scearce said, adding that Celeste "saw the actual beauty of nature" and life.

In fact, Brandi Scearce said she cherishes a photograph Celeste took last year while visiting the beach with her father.

"It was a sunrise on the beach, and it was the most beautiful picture that I've ever seen. It's a really good picture, and it looks professional," Brandi Scearce said and added her daughter "would always stop me or whoever was driving if the clouds were pretty or if the sunset was there. She noticed those things."

Eventually, Brandi Scearce said she wants to hold a memorial for Celeste and her friends.

"I haven't figured that out yet, but I would like to have that at a park outside. I don't want to have a funeral," Brandi Scearce said, adding that Celeste "really appreciated the beauty of the world, which I think is pretty wild for a 12-year-old."

'Mac Daddy' Basement Sale set

Fido's Finds and Kitties Collectibles, located at 119 East Main Street in UpTown Martinsville, will be the site of the 'Mac Daddy' of all basement sales on Father's Day weekend. From 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday, June 14 and 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 explore tens of thousands of items at unbeatable basement prices. With unique collectibles to everyday essentials, Fido's basement sale has something for everyone! And the best part is all of the sale proceeds benefit the SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County.

Fido's BIG BASEMENT SALE



Friday, June 14th
10:00-5:00

Saturday, June 15th
9:00-2:00

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All proceeds benefit the SPCA



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FRIDAY PIANO MUSIC LIVE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Submitted event information/calendar items must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the desired publication date. Email them to dhall@theenterprise.net. Some of the following events are from visitmartinsville.com, the website of the Tourism Office of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. See that website for more information.)

June Meetings

Wednesday, June 12

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

Friday, June 14

Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Room 52 Municipal Building, Martinsville.

Events

1,8,15,22,29 - The Shattered Obelisk 5E Campaign at MarvelFreaks Gaming Comics & Collectibles

2,9,16,23,30 - Dungeons, Dragons & Drafts at Scuffle Hill Brewing

2,9,16,23,30 - Wine Tasting at Hamlet Vineyards

3,10,17,24 - MTG Commander Mondays at MarvelFreaks Gaming Comics & Collectibles

4,11,18,25 - MTG Commander at VS Games

4,11,18,25 - Dungeons & Dragons Homebrew Saga at MarvelFreaks Gaming Comics & Collectibles

5,12 - Martinsville Pokémon League at Starling Ave Cards & Comics

5,12,19,26 - Trivia Night at Scuffle Hill Brewing

7,14,21,28 - Friday Night Magic at VS Games

7,14,21,28 - Friday Night Magic at MarvelFreaks Gaming Comics & Collectibles

7 - Sounds on the Square: Barefoot Modern, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1 East Main Street, Martinsville.

8 - Viva La Blackbox at Blackbox Theatre, 7-10 p.m. - Casino Night Fundraiser to benefit TheatreWorks Community Players (44 Franklin Street, UPTown Martinsville). Enjoy a real Vegas-style "Rat Pack" evening of food, drink, and gaming fun, with Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, and Poker, along with prizes, 50/50 drawing, photo booth, and music. Tickets: \$60/person, includes hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and betting chips, tickets are available at www.TWCP.net.

8 - Hooker Furniture Warehouse Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 8761 A.L. Philpott Highway, Martinsville

8 - World Wide Knit in Public Day, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Hosted by Chix with Stix, this event will also feature a yarn swap. Free and open to all. Please bring

your own chair.

8,22,30 - Martinsville Mustangs vs. High Point Thomasville HiToms at Hooker Field

8 - Music with Riggs Roberson & Griffin Haley at Imagination Lavender Farm

8 - Carolina Rust at Mountain Valley Brewing

9 - Martinsville Mustangs vs. Holly Springs Salamanders at Hooker Field

10 - LIFE: Water Bath Canning at New College Institute

11 - Yoga in the Galleries at Piedmont Arts

11,19,24,28 - Martinsville Mustangs vs. Ashboro ZooKeepers at Hooker Field

14,27 - Martinsville Mustangs vs. Boone Bigfoots at Hooker Field

14 - Music Night at Spencer Penn Centre with The Country Boys. Gate opens at 5 p.m., the band starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions, including the ever popular Spencer Penn hot dogs, chicken salad, BBQ, and homemade desserts, will be sold.

14 - A reception for the new exhibits at the MHC Heritage Museum will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. Wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP attendance (name and number of people in your party) to (276) 403-4697 or mhchistoricalociety@gmail.com by June 11. The exhibits are "Connected Community," "Sew Special" and "MHC After Dark."

15 - FAHI's Juneteenth Celebration at Baldwin Park

15 - Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise In at Bassett Furniture World Headquarters

17 - Martinsville Mustangs vs. Forest City Owls at Hooker Field

ONGOING

Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program, Monday-Friday, July 8-26 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. P&HCC Patrick County Site, Stuart and P&HCC IDEA Center, Martinsville.

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

Uptown Farmers Market is open through November 16 on Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to noon and from July 10 to September 25 on Wednesdays 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 at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bassett Public Library, 3969 Fairystone Hwy, Bassett. New members welcome. For more information, please 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.

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

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

Neighbors in the Know. Join staff and volunteers in the Hylton Library at the Spencer Penn Centre for activities and socializing on the first and third Monday of each month. Registration is not required.

PSA

(cont. from page 1)

will have the necessary resources to continue providing for our residents and to accommodate for future growth in our industrial sector."

According to a 2023 United Nations World Water Development Report, the global demand for freshwater will exceed the available supply by 40 percent by 2030. In 2018, the PSA secured an agreement with USACE to provide 3 million gallons per day of storage capacity. An expansion of the PSA's service area and increased industrial and commercial water usage have driven the need for more capacity.

To ensure local demand can still be met, the PSA proactively purchased the storage rights from USACE for \$904,294. The agreement guarantees that the PSA will avoid any future price increases caused by fluctuations in water markets.

Philpott Lake serves as the primary water source for the PSA through the Smith River. The Philpott Dam is operated by USACE who oversees water flows from the reservoir.

The agreement between the PSA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is vital for ensuring water security, facilitating long-term planning, building community confidence, and

providing legal protection for water withdrawal rights, all of which are essential for addressing the challenges of ensuring access to quality drinking water in the face of increasing scarcity and environmental pressures.

Bowman added the agreement "will allow Henry County the usage or withdrawal of 3 million gallons of water per day for the next 50 years." He noted the agreement "didn't happen overnight," but was in the works 10 years ago, in 2014.

"It took us about five years to get to the point where we could actually go in and do a study," said Col. Brad Morgan, Commander of the 57th District of the Army Corps of Engineers. He added that over the last five years, the project got over the finish line.

"I won't be around when the life of this agreement expires," he added, saying it was a substantial agreement.

Morgan said that Philpott is a beautiful lake that "is near and dear to a lot of the local community's heart." The lake is considered a multi-purpose project. It provides power, recreation, and water to the community.

"This is a monumental occasion for our com-

munity, and it ensures our access to quality drinking water for our community, our residents, our businesses, and our industries for the next 50 years," said Wagoner who was happy to see the completion of the agreement.

"I can't say that it was hard because the Army Corps of Engineers went above and beyond to work with us to do the reallocation study and come to an agreement, but it was a long process," he added.

"While today's event isn't likely to have great fanfare, generations from now will look back and say, 'Hey, they did good. They did the right thing to make sure we had quality water today,'" Bowman said, and added that water is a vital resource. It not only helps with economic development but also ensures food safety, energy production, and survival.

"We can't live without good water, and this is one of the best sources of water that you're going to find," Bowman said, and noted the agreement protects the county from future disputes about access to the water. "You are making sure that the citizens of our communities are having safe drinking water both today and in the future."

Are you Prepared for the 2024 Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season is quickly approaching, officially starting June 1 and lasting until November 30. Researchers are predicting that the 2024 hurricane season is going to be extremely active. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) predicts above-normal hurricane activity in 2024, with 17 to 25 named storms.

The USDA encourages producers to prepare and protect their family and agricultural operations.

1. Develop an Emergency Plan - Ensure your household and employees know your hurricane plan, including meeting points, emergency contact lists, and alternate evacuation routes in case infrastructure is damaged.

2. Remove Debris and Secure Large Objects - Clean out culverts, ditches, and other drainage areas, especially before and during peak hurricane season to reduce water damage. Most injuries to animals, people, or structures during a hurricane are caused by flying objects. To lessen the risk, minimize the presence of equipment, supplies, and debris that may become airborne during high winds or

encountered in floodwaters.

3. Secure Important Records and Documents- Pre- and post-hurricane documentation is extremely important for insurance compensation and recovery assistance. You'll want to have thorough records of damages and losses sustained on your farm as well as documentation of your cleanup and recovery efforts.

• It is critical to document inventory of farm buildings, vehicles, equipment, and livestock before a disaster occurs. Take photos, videos, or make written lists with descriptions. Keep copies of this inventory in multiple places: computer, off-site in a safe location, and on a cloud-based server where information is transmitted and saved weekly.

4. Know Your Insurance Options- Regularly review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including flood insurance, for your facilities, vehicles, farm buildings, crops and livestock. Note, there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect. Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the

policy was not in place before a disaster.

5. Gather Supplies - Have drinking water, canned food, a generator, batteries, a flashlight, and fuel available in case you lose power. For widespread outages, credit and debit cards may not work, so have cash handy.

6. Access Real-time Emergency Information- Download the Federal Emergency Management Agency smartphone app for free on the App Store and Google Play for safety tips on what to do before, during, and after disasters. Subscribe to our text message and email service to receive real-time, local operational and recovery information from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

On farmers.gov, the Hurricane Webpage, Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and NRCS programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

OPINION

Higher Electric Rates Possible!

In May, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a landmark rule related to regional electric transmission.

FERC is the independent Federal agency that regulates most hydropower dam licenses and the wholesale rates and delivery contracts for the interstate transmission of electricity.

Traditionally, cost allocation for interstate transmission projects was relatively straightforward. The state that benefitted the most from the transmission paid for it.

This new transmission planning and cost allocation rule, Order No. 1920, requires transmission planners to consider multiple forward-looking benefits over at least twenty years when they develop their plans. The vague "benefit" definition is geared towards connecting wind and solar facilities to the power grid.

FERC approved Order No. 1920 by a 2-1 vote.

The dissenting vote came from Commissioner Mark Christie.

I have known Commissioner Christie for many years from my service in the Virginia House of Delegates. He was an advisor to a governor and then two speakers of the Virginia House. Subsequently, the legislature elected him to serve on the Virginia State Corporation Commission, a state agency responsible for regulating public utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, and railroads.

Now a Senate-confirmed member of FERC, Commissioner Christie penned a seventy-seven-page dissent explaining his "no" vote.

"This is not about promoting reliability. This rule is a shell game designed to disguise its true agenda, which is about the money. It's a 1,300-page vehicle to socialize the trillion-dollar cost of the rule's sweeping policy agenda."

"The final rule clearly intends to socialize trillions of dollars of costs for the transmission necessary to pursue this transformational agenda...the final rule removes the principle that the states must consent to how and whether these massive costs are imposed on their consumers."

The final rule then requires transmission providers "to socialize the costs of these projects across the entire region, even when states in a region have never consented for their consumers to bear the costs of such projects."

The concern here is that consumers will bear the costs of these renewable energy projects, even if a state's ratepayers do not consent.

For example, states with lofty climate goals, such as California and New York, rely on the development of wind and solar farms to generate power.

However, these states face constraints in building capacity. Therefore, they turn to other states to generate clean power, and wheel that energy back home.

For this to work, other states



Morgan Griffith

Representative

would have to build new power lines and necessary infrastructure.

Accordingly, the energy created at these new facilities would be at the expense of the ratepayers of the other states. In other words, that could be you! You could be paying money to create energy in Virginia that only benefits New York.

Monitoring Analytics of PJM Interconnection finds that transmission now constitutes almost one-third of wholesale power costs, with the cost of transmission service exceeding the cost of capacity for the first time in 2020.

As if American households were not already being squeezed by high power bills!

Solar and wind projects like these are potentially making their way to Virginia's Ninth District.

According to an article by the Washington Post, for the United States to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, one potential option would require over 260,000 square miles of land designated to wind and solar farms.

That is twenty-five times the size of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District!

Among the conflicts that arise from the development of solar and wind farms is environmental disruption. Land conflicts can disrupt landscapes, inhibit productive farmland and harm animals. For example, a 2013 Biological Conservation study on the estimates of bird collision mortality at wind facilities in the contiguous United States found an approximate average of over 200,000 bird fatalities per year.

While Order No. 1920 is a poor rule, I believe something must be done to address regional electric transmission.

Given projections of rising energy demand, we will not be able to use existing power lines to take energy from a facility in one region and move it to another without additional high-capacity lines. While there is broad agreement that the one-hundred-year-old sections of the grid need to be replaced, permitting streamlined, and more regional power lines constructed, making Ohio consumers pay for a line just because Pennsylvania wants Iowa's wind power makes absolutely no sense.

This rule, coupled with the Biden administration's egregious regulations on fossil fuels, including coal, will further drive up electricity costs. These additional costs make it hard on American families to make ends meet.

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

Crypto ATMS -- What to Know

If you're like most Americans, you walk right past a tool used to steal a reported \$35 million from US consumers last year each time you go out for groceries.

Cryptocurrency ATMs are often colorful kiosks that are popping up in supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, liquor stores and even laundromats across the U/S. There are more than 49,000 crypto ATMs in the United States, up from only about 1,200 at the end of 2017.

Criminal scammers are always looking for the quickest way to get money from their victims. As awareness and protections around other payment methods increase, crypto ATMs have become their tool of choice. Because these kiosks

look similar to regular ATM machines, they seem more legitimate to victims who are directed to them. The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has heard from countless victims who have been directed to insert thousands of dollars in cash into these machines to address an "urgent" financial matter.

While there are many different scams, there are only a handful of ways that criminals can get paid. If you are directed to a crypto ATM to address an urgent financial matter, it is a scam.

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

Crocheted chickens and Bible school

It's VBS season, and that little crocheted chicken in pride of place on the shelf takes me back decades, to the time of Bible verses, simple crafts and red punch and circle butter cookies.

The long, hot, dull summer (which seemed so exciting before we actually got to it but then got bored after a few days at home) would be interrupted by the thrills of VBS. Kids would hop from church to church, week to week. Church vans and mothers would drive children between town and country or country and town. Kids in town would walk.

We'd play Bible Bingo, hear Bible stories, make crafts and, of course, have snacks. Some of the churches would be air-conditioned, oh, what a blessed relief. Sweaty kids would pour into a Sunday school room, sit cross-legged on the linoleum floor and, for a few minutes, just bask in the refreshing cool.

I used to get in trouble, though I never meant to. If there was one thing VBS taught me, it was to not ask questions.

I'd be all wrapped up in some story or explanation but be stumped by a seemingly insurmountable inconsistency. After Mrs. Belinda described what Heaven looks like, I – truly perplexed – asked why it's a big deal that the streets are paved of gold if we are not supposed to be materialistic here on Earth and most certainly would not care about gold once we are living above the clouds with God. I was scolded for being impertinent.

It wasn't until I was an adult that I understood that a lot of these concepts are simply beyond the grasp of human understanding, and VBS teachers don't have all the answers. They are just good folks doing their best to help keep children on the right path and enrich their lives a bit.

From being an earnest child afraid to ask questions, I turned into a savvy teenager who understood the economies of the point system.



Holly Kozelsky

When I was in high school, the prize table included a Walkman, that 1980's era radio/cassette player with earphones.

I knew I'd never in my life be able to afford such a luxury, and my only chance to get one was to get the most points at VBS. I was at the edge of my seat for Bible Bingo. Each night, I memorized every single Bible verse we were given, including all the bonus ones. My fingers flew faster than anyone else's when we were in the contest to be the fastest to find a Bible verse.

At the end of the day Friday, I was bursting with confidence that I would be the first person to walk up to that prize table.

And I was. Trying to contain my excitement, but knowing I was blushing furiously, I tried to keep my pace steady so as not to betray how fast my heart was beating as I walked up to the prize table.

I chose that sleek black Walkman, which was priced at an out-of-this-world 1,500 points, and I still had points left over.

The next thing that called my attention was a cute little off-white crocheted chicken. I had to have it. I spent most of the rest of my 300 points on that.

When school started, my best friend and I broke apart the headband which held the earphones. That made one earphone for her, one for me, and we'd listen to radio station G105 on every bus trip to and from school.

That was my last VBS. By the next summer I was working during my school breaks. Eventually, the Walkman broke and then got either lost or thrown out.

But that crocheted chicken still makes me smile.

Letters To The Editor

Homeless or Bums?

This letter is an appeal to city council, county supervisors, and police departments.

Over the weekend we stayed in Charlotte, NC to visit my uncle. Charlotte is a nice city, and the weather was beautiful. So, we did a lot of walking. If we were going to eat, we walked. After eating we went on a walk to help our food settle, and then we walked back home. Do you know what we encountered on every walk? Bums begging for money.

At one point I walked around the city to look at the old church buildings. At the end of my walk a man with sagging pants approached me to help him get an Uber. I said, "No." He walked along side of me telling me how hard his day was, and I said, "Not interested", but he kept talking until I stopped walking and said, "Whatever you're doing here – I'm not doing it with you." The grown man's face pouted up more than my two-year-old son's ever has.

After dinner my wife and I walked to get dessert. As we sat to eat our desserts a man in a "wife-beater" walked up and said, "Hey, man, you help a homeless man out?" I answered, "No." He kept talking and I interrupted, "I said no." The man then turned to my wife and began asking for money, and I said, "Don't talk to her. I said no." He walked away talking trash.

You know what I noticed about one "homeless man"? He was wearing Air Jordans and was scrolling the internet on his smart phone. Charlotte is a beautiful city but has

a massive eyesore that is their collection of vagrant bums. I hope that Martinsville, though much smaller, does not allow a vagrant population to mar our home.

I am a law-abiding, hardworking, contributing member of society and I should be able to walk outside without being bombarded by the non-working, non-contributing, class. Is that too much to ask in America? I don't think so.

"Caleb, you're a Christian. I thought you would have helped these people." Yes, Jesus said, "The poor will always be with you" (Matt. 26:11). However, there's a difference between being poor and being a bum. Paul said, "If you don't work, you don't eat" (2Thes. 3:10). In the Old Testament a man was stoned for being a glutton and a drunkard (Deut. 21:20-21). Well, that describes most of our "homeless."

What happened to old sayings like "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, feed him for life." What happened to loitering and vagrancy ordinances? How is it that bums can always afford cigarettes? Do you know that Goodwill has two slogans, "A hand up, not a handout" and "Not charity, but a chance"? Do we no longer know the term, "enabler"? Beautiful American cities are turning into absolute dumps.

By the way - the sagging-pants-guy was white, and the wife-beater-guy was black. I did not give cash to either.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

Blood Drive to be sponsored by Sounds on the Square

In addition to being Uptown Martinsville's premier music concert series, Sounds on the Square is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive. Each donor will receive a \$15 e-gift card and a free drink at a Sounds

on the Square event. Schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html?drive-results?zipSponsor=mhhs. If necessary, you may text or call John Phillips, president of the Historical Society, at (276) 806-5022.

OPINION

The Joro spider and sensationalized media

(A note from the author: this column originally ran in March of 2022. For some reason, a bunch of news websites have decided to start fearmongering about Joro spiders again, so I figured this was a good time to rerun this column explaining how and why they're all full of it.)

I hope you're sitting down because I'm about to tell you something so surprising, so shocking, that it may shake you to your very foundation:

Some media sources are dishonest.

Feel free to take as long as you need to get your heart rate back down and clean up after your comical spit-take.

As evidence of my bold claim, I'd like to submit the Joro spider.

The Joro spider (*Trichonephila clavata*) is a large, colorful spider that can be found in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and parts of China. Back in 2013, it started popping up in Georgia — likely due to individuals that stowed away on shipping containers — and it's since spread from Georgia to parts of South Carolina. It's believed that eventually, this spider could spread across most of the Eastern seaboard given its tolerance for cold weather.

If you're an arachnophobe, that may seem pretty bad. But if you've read any of the insane, fear-mongering headlines about the Joro spider, it might seem like the end of civilization is at hand.

"Everything we know about the Joro - the giant flying spiders multiplying across the East Coast," reads a headline from *The Independent*. "Giant spiders expected to drop from sky across the East Coast this spring," crows *Axios*. And then there's my personal favorite, a *USA Today* column titled "Giant spiders are invading the East Coast! This is not a drill! Evacuate to Toledo! Now!" After reading this column, I felt much better about my own abilities as a columnist and much worse about the current state of *USA Today*. They're truly living up to their slogan, "USA Today: America's favorite newspaper that comes free when you get a room at the airport Holiday Inn."

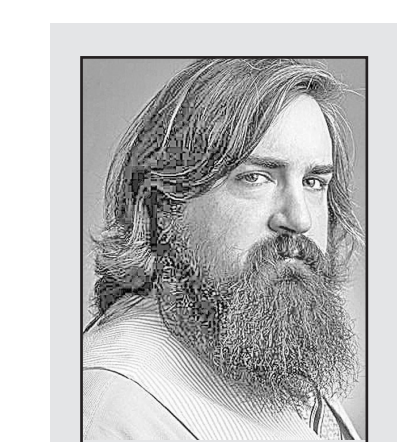
Based on these headlines, it sounds like the Joro spider is incredibly dangerous, at least a foot long, and inexplicably capable of flight. If you see a headline suggesting that deadly five-pound spiders are about to start raining from the sky, you're probably going to click the link. It seems like important information.

I know a decent amount about spiders, so let me lay your fears to rest: the Joro spider is not a big deal. Number one, it's not aggressive, and even if you do somehow get bitten by one, it has fairly mild venom. Also, this isn't a spider you're likely to find in your house; it's an orb weaver, meaning all it wants to do is build a web outside, sit quietly in the middle of it, and wait for bugs to blunder past.

Two, it's kind of a big spider, but it's nothing we haven't seen before. Have you ever seen those big yellow garden spiders we have in Virginia? The Joro spider is about the same size as those guys and no more dangerous.

Third, it can't fly. Nearly every article mentioning Joro spiders says that they engage in "ballooning," which means they produce little silk parachutes that catch the wind, allowing them to disperse. What these articles fail to mention is that they don't do this when they're full-sized; they do this when they're tiny baby spiders. You might remember Charlotte's babies doing the same thing at the end of "Charlotte's Web." Many species of spiders engage in ballooning; it's nothing new.

Fourth, we're not going to see these things any time soon. Based on an article I found from



By Ben R. Williams

Penn State which includes stuff like "research" and "actual scientific information," these spiders are expanding their range in the U.S. by an average of 10 miles per year. We're not going to wake up one day this summer and see them blanketing Virginia like in the 1977 William Shatner eco-terror classic "Kingdom of the Spiders."

So why all of these fear-mongering headlines about the giant flying death spiders?

Because these publications want you to click their links, and there's no better way to make someone click a link than by making them scared or angry. The only reason I'm even remotely worried about the Joro spider is that like many invasive species, it could have an impact on our native insects and spiders. But nobody's going to click on a headline that reads, "Ecological impact of invasive spider remains unclear."

And that's the problem with real news versus sensationalized news. I try to get my news from reliable sources like Reuters. Reuters is one of the gold-standards for unbiased reporting. And you know how you can tell they're reliable?

Because they're boring.

Let's look at a few Reuters headlines I randomly selected on the day I'm writing this column:

"U.S. ready to take diplomatic steps Ukraine will find helpful, State Dept. says."

"D.C. Circuit orders FERC to revise assessment of pipeline upgrade."

"EXCLUSIVE: Chile tax reform to focus on individuals, natural resources, finance minister says."

You will notice that no one is "clapping back" at anyone. No one is getting "blasted" or "destroyed" or "slammed." Reuters is not telling you that "you won't believe" the information contained in the story, nor are they offering "ten reasons why" you should do something.

This also extends to TV news. On election night, I generally tune into C-SPAN. C-SPAN features unbiased information presented as it's happening. When you watch C-SPAN, you will not see anyone screaming at anyone else, nor will anyone tell you reasons why you should be afraid of something or angry at someone. C-SPAN is fantastic.

It is also, and I say this with all due respect, so boring that it could serve as a prescription sleep aid.

But journalism isn't supposed to be entertainment. It's supposed to be unbiased, factual information, and it's up to the reader or viewer to think critically about that information and decide how they feel about it. If you're watching a news channel for entertainment, you're watching an entertainment channel.

The problem, of course, is that entertainment is a much easier sell than journalism. Brian Lamb, the founder of C-SPAN and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, has an estimated net worth of \$1.2 million. Meanwhile, Tucker Carlson, a man who screams made-up grievances into the void each night, has an estimated net worth of \$30 million.

It's enough to make a man wish the killer flying spiders really were on the way.

Digital campaign hopes to attract recent nursing school grads

Each year, the arrival of spring brings warmer days, blossoming plants, and cap and gown season. The annual crop of graduates typically includes thousands of new nurses seeking clinical roles. To encourage recent nursing school graduates to establish their careers in Virginia, On Board Virginia has launched a geographically targeted marketing campaign showcasing hospital employment opportunities in the Commonwealth.

The campaign is centered on promoting hospital nursing career opportunities to graduates of nursing programs at Virginia-based colleges and universities as well as nursing programs at educational institutions in neighboring jurisdictions such as Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. This initiative is the latest project of On Board Virginia, an effort the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) and its members established in 2022 to promote health care workforce recruitment and retention amid ongoing workforce shortages across clinical roles. In the past year, the On Board Virginia website has been viewed more than 46,200 times. Meanwhile, the targeted digital ads focused on recent nursing school graduates have reached nearly 60,000 people in the target audience in the past month.

Health care staffing shortages have been a persistent challenge that were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As aging segments of the U.S. population transition into retirement, health care service utilization is expected to grow in the years ahead, resulting in greater demand for trained professionals to occupy clinical roles. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects registered nurse employment growth of "6 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations" with a forecast of "193,100 openings for registered nurses...each year, on average, over the decade" due to rising demand for health care services among older patients and the

need to replace nurses who retire or transition to other roles.

"Nurses are essential members of patient care teams and the heart and soul of the health care delivery system," said VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton. "Today, there are more than 9,100 open hospital jobs in Virginia, including more than 3,400 nursing roles. Filling those positions with trained, compassionate caregivers is vital to ensure patients in need can access timely care. This On Board Virginia marketing campaign will run during the spring and summer with an emphasis on reaching new nursing graduates to make them aware of the many great career opportunities available in Virginia."

In addition to On Board Virginia efforts, VHHA and member hospitals and health systems have worked with the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Glenn Youngkin to strengthen health care workforce development efforts in the Commonwealth through public policy, educational opportunities, and other programmatic initiatives. One example of that is the Virginia Earn to Learn (ETL) Nursing Education Acceleration Program funded by the General Assembly to support education and health care facility partnerships to provide registered nurse and licensed practical nurse students with paid employment during nursing studies to increase clinical education opportunities and the number of practice-ready new graduate nurses.

Virginia is currently home to nearly 128,000 licensed registered nurses, 107,355 of whom are active in the workforce, according to the Virginia Department of Health Professions. The median age of nurses is 44 and 27 percent of the population is 55 or older. Further information about Virginia health care openings, including the average time to fill nursing positions, the educational credentials required, and more can be accessed through the interactive Virginia Health Care Workforce Data Dashboard.

EARLY DEADLINE SET

Due to the July 4th holiday, we have an early press deadline for the July 6th edition. Submissions for the July 6th edition MUST be received no later than 1 p.m.

on Tuesday, July 2. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net or submissions@theenterprise.net. Call (276) 694-3101 for additional information.

Proper food handling ensures safe summer cookouts

It's the season for backyard barbecues, picnics and potlucks. But before firing up the grill or setting out the deviled eggs, it's a good idea to brush up on summertime food safety.

With its blazing sun and hot weather, summertime can bring risk of serious food-borne illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that rates of food poisoning rise during the warm summer months as bacteria flourish and grow faster.

"Safe food handling when eating outdoors is critical," said Melissa Wright, a food safety expert with Virginia Tech's Food Science and Technology department.

To keep family, friends and yourself from getting sick, Wright emphasizes four food safety principles—clean, separate, cook and control.

Always keep hands and surfaces clean, especially when outdoors. Before beginning any food preparation, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and clean food prep surfaces and eating areas.

"If the surface isn't cleanable, consider using disposable tablecloths," Wright suggested.

Fruits and vegetables should be rinsed before preparing, but meat should not. Washing raw meat can cause water and juices to spray—spreading bacteria onto other foods, surfaces and utensils.

Keep raw meat and seafood separate from other foods to avoid bacteria cross-contamination. Separate dishes and utensils should be used for handling, and marinades and sauces that touch raw meat or seafood should be thrown away.

When cooking, keep a food thermometer on hand and ensure food is cooked thoroughly to kill germs.

Steaks, roasts, pork and fish should be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 145 degrees; ground meats like hamburgers and hot dogs to at least 160 degrees; and poultry to 165 degrees or higher. Visit bit.ly/4bxduMr for a detailed food temperature chart.

Finally, control the temperature. Raw meat should be kept cool at 40 degrees or below until ready for grilling. After grilling, keep it hot by moving it to the side of the grill rack, away from the coals.

"Use coolers with ice or ice packs," to keep cold dishes cold, and cover the food, advised Tammy Brawley, chef and owner of The Green Kitchen and host of Heart of the Home culinary segments on Virginia Farm Bureau's Real Virginia television program.

Dishes like cut fruits and vegetables, deviled eggs, potato salad and desserts should maintain a temperature of 40 degrees or below. When serving chilled foods, keep the containers in a shallow container set in a deep tray filled with ice.

"Even if in a shaded area or under a tent or porch, put it on ice," Brawley said.

Hot dishes like casseroles and dips can be kept in an insulated carrying case while serving to ensure they stay at or above 140 degrees.

And finally, refrigerate any leftovers within two hours. If it's an especially hot day and food is exposed to temperatures 90 degrees or higher, refrigerate within one hour.

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Give us your view:

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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

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ014825-08-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NORRIS, SAIGE NICOLE HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS
The object of this suit is to:
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS TO HIS DAUGHTER, SAIGE NICOLE NORRIS, BORN 1/26/2011, PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 16.1-283.

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his interests on or before 09/09/2024 at 9:45 AM.
05/23/2024

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ014825-09-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NORRIS, SAIGE NICOLE HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. CHEREE NICOLE DALTON
The object of this suit is to:
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IT IS ORDERED that the defendant CHEREE NICOLE DALTON appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before 09/09/2024 at 9:45 AM.

05/23/2024

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **June 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **June 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing: **Case R-24-10 Jerry Cecil Stump**

The property is located at 2129 Reed Creek Dr, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.5(40)/9. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.6-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to build additional accessory buildings on the property.

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



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Apartment Complex

(cont. from page 1)



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones said the site, formerly the American of Martinsville factory, was dormant for years.



Landmark Asset Services Director of Development and Construction Management John Stiltner said the project officially started in 2018.



KMW President Josh Blevins believes the Aaron Mills Apartment Complex will be a great addition to the area.



Del. Eric Phillips said the project is progressing.

to grow, change its vision, and look at its need for housing within and outside the community, Jones said the Martinsville City Council at that time came up with the idea to work with Landmark Asset Services, a development and ownership company based in Winston-Salem, N.C., “to see what this could look like and fulfill the need, not just in housing, but for a lot of the elderly in our community.”

Jones said this project has been four years in the making, with a lot of state, federal, and local partners to make it happen.

“Today marks a great day not just for Martinsville, but for the state of Virginia,” he said. “As Martinsville grows and we have people come into this community from all over, it is a pleasure to be able to welcome them to something that we’re working so hard to build.”

Once completed, Jones said the apartment complex will be a live-in community that’s affordable and welcome to all.

Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, said he loves the smell of turned dirt because it means the project is progressing.

“I know it’s been a while. We had COVID, and

interest rates, and all the things that went on, but so proud of our community and this project, and all the hard work that so many have put into it,” he said.

Phillips said he previously worked with Landmark Associates on some hotels in South Carolina, and vouched for the company.

“They’re a wonderful company,” he said, and he is “looking forward to getting this thing kicked off and started, and seeing the final result. It’s good for our community.”

While it may take a while from the time the project starts until it finishes, Phillips said it doesn’t mean people aren’t working hard behind the scenes.

Landmark Director of Development and Construction Management John Stiltner said in 2018, the company formed a public-private partnership with Martinsville to not only create senior housing but also to revitalize the area.

“It’s been a long road. We were awarded tax credits in 2019, construction took off, COVID happened,” and “we had to go get some more money, and a lot of people stepped in on the money including the City of Martinsville ... to

help us push this along and get us to closing faster,” he said.

Stiltner said Landmark is excited about the site’s amenities and bringing a community into a small site it will help create.

“We’re really excited to get this project underway after five years. It’s been a long time coming,” he said.

At the end of the day, Stiltner said he and Landmark are proud and humbled by what is being created - giving much needed housing to a demographic that’s at the highest risk in the community.

He also thanked the numerous people who worked on this project behind the scenes including West Piedmont Planning District (WPPD), Virginia Housing, KMW Builders, and others.

KMW President Josh Blevins said he believes the Aaron Mills Apartment Complex will be a great addition to the area.

“This is our first project in Virginia, I’m really looking forward to it and glad it’s here in Martinsville. I think everybody’s going to be excited for it,” he said.

Renewal Brewing

(cont. from page 1)



Uptown Underground.



Another angle of the bar.



A seating area.

at Franklin Street and thought how great it would be to see all those storefronts lit up and open at night, to have places for the crowd to go once the event was over.”

Phase one of the brewery’s opening will feature a speakeasy and brewhouse in the basement level of the historic 1893 building that was constructed with Carnegie steel. The building, which has housed various businesses over the years including an A&P grocery store, has undergone a meticulous renovation and is now set to become a cornerstone of Uptown Martinsville’s revitalization.

The three-phase renovation and opening will celebrate Martinsville’s past, present, and future. The downstairs speakeasy, also known as the “Uptown Underground,” is complete with an upright grand piano from the early 1900s, which harkens back to Martinsville’s past.

Phase two, which the team hopes to complete later this year, will be a modern-day brewpub with food options, and phase three will be a

rooftop space where, Atwell said, people will be able to look out at Martinsville and the mountains beyond and imagine what the future will hold for the city.

A Community Hub

Renewal Brewing takes its name from the owners’ hope that the brewery will inject new energy into Uptown Martinsville and help spur revitalization efforts in the area. The team aims to help increase foot traffic uptown by creating a lively and welcoming community space. The brewery features twelve unique craft beers on tap, all brewed on-site with Herzberg overseeing the brewery operations.

While Atwell and Donovan plan on a full schedule of live music, theme nights, and even dueling piano events, they also look forward to relaxed evenings where customers come to enjoy the cozy speakeasy vibe and enjoy time with friends. The space will also be available

for private event rentals.

“We see what Martinsville can be,” Atwell said. “There’s potential here for everyone to thrive and grow. We hope that opening this brewery will inject new energy into Uptown and help spur on revitalization efforts. We want Martinsville to be a destination.”

To learn more, follow Renewal Brewing on Facebook for the most up-to-date hours and information.

Free grief camps offered for youngsters, teens

When children experience the loss of a loved one, they often grapple with complex emotions and challenges as they navigate grief and try to make sense of their feelings. Mountain Valley, a local hospice and palliative care organization, is here to help. Through the Love’s PEAK program, which stands for “Providing Empathy and Assurance for Kids,” the organization offers both pediatric hospice services and bereavement support for children who have experienced a loss.

This year, Mountain Valley’s Love’s PEAK grief camps are being offered in two locations - Jack Dalton Park in Collinsville, (July 12) and Dobson First Baptist in Dobson, NC (July 19). The grief camps are a fun, free day for children (5 - 12) and teens (13 - 16) who have experienced a loss or expect a loss in the near future. Through art, music, and other fun activities kids come together in a thera-

peutic environment, learning that mourning is not a process of forgetting but a way of remembering with less pain.

“Grief Camp is important because it provides a relaxed, fun-filled environment where a child can express their sorrow while making connections with other children who have experienced similar loss,” said Kristie Byrd, director of patient advocacy.

Love’s PEAK camps are free to all families with children and teens who have or are experiencing grief. Learn more about the camps and register through the Mountain Valley website at <https://www.mtnvalleyhospice.org/camp2024/>.

In the meantime, the Love’s PEAK program also offers continuous support for young individuals who are grieving over the loss of a loved one. For more information on Love’s PEAK, contact Kristie Byrd or Stephanie Tilley at 1-888-789-2922.

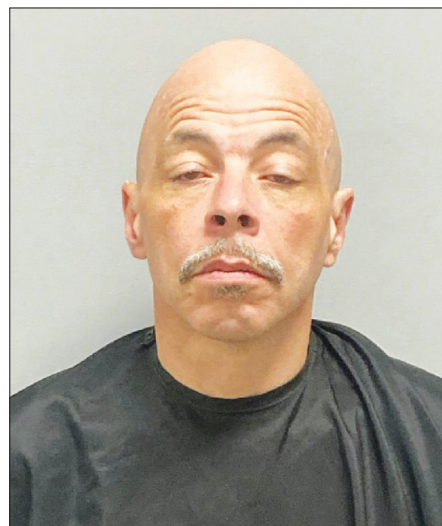
Collinsville man held with no bond in connection with bank robbery

The Eden Police Department Investigations Division began conducting a high-priority armed robbery at Truist Bank on Friday, May 31. The branch was located at 680 S Van Buren Road, Eden, N.C., according to a release.

Officers arrived at the scene and learned a suspect had entered the bank and brandished a handgun at the clerk, demanding money. Afterwards, a man allegedly fled in an unknown direction with an undisclosed amount of money. The tellers were shaken but uninjured, according to authorities.

The Henry and Patrick county sheriff’s offices began assisting the Eden Police Department in reference to this robbery on June 3, and developed a suspect. A short time later the suspect was identified as Bobby Dobbins, 53.

Dobbins was located and arrested in Collinsville. Henry



Bobby Dobbins

County Sheriff’s deputies issued a Fugitive of Justice warrant based of the charge on felony robbery from Eden, North Carolina.

Dobbins is currently held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Infinity Acres

(cont. from page 1)



Mining for gems at the new gem mining truck. (Contributed)

"They had a blast," with the visitors "and they really enjoyed all the attention that they were getting," said ranch owner Laura Steere.

The capybara duo came from other zoos, with local ranch personnel working to maintain a social connection to get them ready for the grand reveal.

"They are really gentle animals," said Steere, who also acknowledged they require a lot of care. The duo won't be available to travel to events, but Steere said if they have offspring, then the young animals would travel for a period of time.

The Gem Mining Station was also a hit, giving kids and adults an opportunity to collect gemstones.

"This was the maiden voyage for the gem mine. It started off a little slow, but as soon as people tried it, we had a line," Steere said, adding the station is mobile enough to be featured at events and is easy to use for both children and adults.

The Pirate Ship Playground was also a hit with youngsters. The ship, which was funded by Woodmen's Life Insurance Company, is surrounded by a playground. Many children took to the ship to pretend that they had become pirates.

Of all the new additions, Steere said that the capybaras were her favorite. "They are so sweet



Three United Way Interns are helping out at the Infinity Acre Ranch. (Contributed)

and affectionate; they have my heart."

She said the ranch is always considering trying new things, and she was impressed with the number of new attractions. "Three surprises for this year is way overreaching our usual goal."

The ranch had many other animals on display, and families could walk a llama around a short obstacle course run by Hannah Young, one of the three United Way interns. Volunteers and interns talked to attendees about the various animals and helped them interact. Snacks were also sold under a shelter, where an open mic was available for aspiring musicians.

"Seeing the community come out and support Infinity Acres Ranch gave me the biggest joy. I was so pleased with that," Steere said.

Many families also offered to help during the festival. "It's a great opportunity for people to come together and share some family fun," Steere said, and added that she loved being able to capture pictures of children enjoying their time on the ranch.

The entry fee for the carnival was reduced to \$5 due to the economic situation of the community. "Everything is costing more now, so we decided to do something different and drop our fee for this year's event," she said.



Woodmen Life Insurance Company helped to fund Infinity Acres's pirate ship. (Contributed)



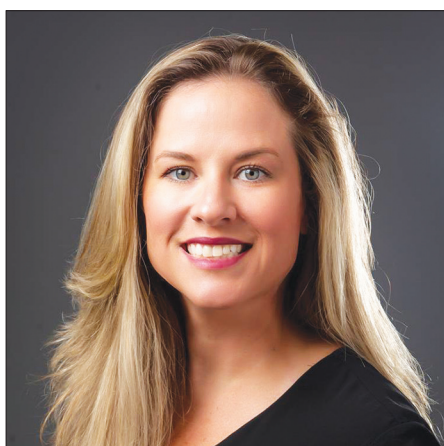
United Way intern Hannah Young with the walkable llamas at the ranch's Spring Carnival.

Infinity Acres's next upcoming event is their Animal Adventure Summer Camp, with three different dates. A Different Abilities Camp also will be offered. It is free for qualified families. Additionally, the ranch is always looking for volunteers. Those interested may visit www.infinityacres.org for more information and to fill out a volunteer application.

Two named to SB&D Magazine's list



Spencer Johnson



Leigh Carter Cockram

Spencer Johnson, of the Martinsville Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), was named to the Southern Business & Development Magazine's "Under 50 to Watch" list. Individuals named to this list are helping to secure job- and investment-gen-

erating projects. Johnson is the EDC's Director of Research & Operations.

Leigh Carter Cockram, who lives in Henry County and is the director of Economic and Tourism Development in Rockingham County, N.C., also was named to the list.

Martinsville business featured on international news

ActivWall Systems, a custom window and door manufacturer in Martinsville, Virginia, was recently highlighted on the French news program "Good Morning Business." The program aired on BFM Business throughout France and featured a news segment about the social media app TikTok and its impact on businesses in the United States, like ActivWall.

ActivWall has been using TikTok as part of its digital marketing strategy since October 2021 and was recognized for effective marketing on the platform the following year. This month, officials at TikTok connected Antoine Heulard, an International correspondent for BFMTV, with ActivWall for the story. Heulard visited ActivWall's showroom and production facility in Virginia to learn how the growing business uses the TikTok platform and the positive impact a well-performing video can have on leads, sales, and brand recognition.

Jennifer Doss, ActivWall's Marketing Director, was interviewed in the story while several staff members were shown at work. Doss shared the excitement generated the first time the company's videos went viral on TikTok and how that and subsequent

viral videos have led to increased sales, new business partnerships, and expanded product lines.

In the story, Sales Representative Katie Whitlow demonstrated several ActivWall products, including a Gas Strut Window, a Bi-Fold Window, and a Pivot Door, as Doss filmed a promotional TikTok. Doss explained to Heulard that while ActivWall uses a variety of social media platforms for advertising and marketing, "TikTok has been by far the most effective and cost-efficient way for us to reach new customers." The business currently has more than 32,600 followers on the platform, significantly more than any competitors in the industry.

Duke Ferrell, ActivWall's President and CEO, said he has been surprised and impressed by the business growth generated through TikTok. He told Heulard that "increased employee morale has been an unexpected added benefit of the platform, as our staff members enjoy participating in TikTok videos."

While the future of TikTok in the United States is uncertain, both Doss and Ferrell plan for ActivWall to continue using the platform to promote its products for as long as possible.

Student Briefs

Martinsville resident graduates with honors from James Madison University

Rya Hall of Martinsville graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree(s) in Elementary Education - BS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in May 2024.

Hall was among more than 4,482 students who received undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Minter earns degree from Hollins

Lidia Soto Minter of Martinsville received the BA in English, cum laude, during Hollins University's 182nd commencement ceremony on May 19, 2024.

Six local students among JMU's spring grads

The following students graduated during James Madison University's May 2024 commencement exercises:

William Fisher of Martinsville received a degree in Biology - BS.

Kaden Knight of Ridgeway received a degree in Statistics - BS.

Nathalie Mateos of Martinsville received a degree in Biology - BA.

Ulises Sarabia of Bassett received a degree in Mathematics - BS.

Alyssa Sechrist of Axton received a degree in Elementary Education - BS.

Lucas Wilson of Martinsville received a degree in Economics - BS.

Five named to JMU's Dean's List

The following students were among those named to James Madison University's Dean's List for

the spring 2024 semester.

Addison Belongia of Collinsville, who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.

Ian Betton of Martinsville, who is majoring in Engineering - BS.

Sydney Witcher of Martinsville, who is majoring in Engineering - BS.

Dylan Shelton of Axton, who is majoring in Intelligence Analysis - BS.

Cole Curtiss of Harrisonburg, who is majoring in International Affairs - BA.

Shenandoah Announces Spring 2024 Dean's List

Fabiola Vazquez Becerra, of Martinsville, is one of 989 students who earned a spot on the Dean's List at Shenandoah University for the Spring 2024 semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher. Dean's List students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher also qualify for the university's President's List.

Becerra also was one of 444 students named to the President's List at Shenandoah University for the Spring 2024 semester.

To qualify for this prestigious academic recognition, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and attain a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher. All President's List honorees are also recognized on the university's Dean's List, which includes students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Service available for seniors who need help cooling

The Southern Area Agency on Aging's Senior Cool Care Program is for eligible seniors who need cooling in their homes. SAAA is accepting applications for the program, which provides

fans and air conditioners to qualifying older persons. Must be 60 years of age or older and meet eligibility requirements. To find out if you are eligible call (276) 632-6442.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Annual Juneteenth event set for June 15

By Taylor Boyd

The Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) will hold its third annual Juneteenth event from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, in Baldwin Park, located at 500 Swanson St., in Martinsville.

Charisse Hairston, FAHI's executive director, said the Juneteenth Homecoming is a free community event that will include food trucks, live music, entertainment like dance, art, bounce houses, a black-owned winery, and more.

"It's a great opportunity for the community to come out and have a good time. We're trying to expose the community to things they didn't know exists, while at the same time celebrating this awesome holiday and provide something for the community as well," she said.

Juneteenth is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. It was first celebrated in Texas, where the last enslaved people were freed on June 19, 1865, after the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation. Hairston said Juneteenth has been celebrated in Texas for a long time.

"Now in the last few years, it is something that has gained the attention, I would say, of the entire United States and the whole world," she said.

While the enslavement of African Americans is a large part of Juneteenth, Hairston said FAHI and the festival also will focus on the perseverance.

"So, in doing that, during Juneteenth festivals, we try to showcase the different diaspora of the African American heritage to the type

of music," she said. "A lot of people don't understand we have so many different types of music, and that's why we're doing like an old school gospel, then a new school gospel - a more contemporary form. Then we also have like the praise dance you will see in some of our churches, but then we also have an African-style dance, and" then there's R&B music and its styles.

Hairston estimates 1,000 people will attend the event; last year, that number was estimated at 800-1,000 people.

"I just want people to come out, and actually support it in person. That would be great," Hairston said.

There will be about half a dozen food trucks on site as well as a dessert truck, dessert vendors, fresh lemonade vendors, and other food and craft vendors.

"It will be a big variety of things. You don't have to purchase anything to come to the festival, but those things will be there," she said.

"The festival is free, so all the entertainment, the singing, the dance - all that's free just to come and bring you a lawn chair. We also have the bleachers at the park," she said.

Musical and dance performances are scheduled by Larnell Starkey & the Spiritual Seven, Fresh W.I.N.D., Christoff Hairston of America's Got Talent fame, RockSteady, and Kuumba Dance Ensemble, Inc.

The guest host will be The Incredible DJ Joe. from 102Jamz Drank on the Rox Morning Show.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/FayetteAreaHistoricalInitiative.



City now accepting applications for food truck event

By Taylor Boyd

The City of Martinsville is accepting applications for its August 10 Food Truck Pull-Up that will be held on Main Street from 2-7 p.m.

Public Information Officer (POI) Kendall Davis said the city is partnering with Heads of State Entertainment to also hold a cruise-in.

"They do a lot of car shows and festivals in the area," he said.

So far, Davis said the city has received over 20 applications from food truck vendors. There is currently no set application deadline.

"We are also reaching out to individual food trucks that we are targeting. We're looking to have 25 to 30 food trucks, but we're not just going to accept every food truck that comes in because we want to have a variety of different options," he said.

Davis said there will also be business vendors and brick and

mortar stores out on the street selling their wares.

"We will be having a 'Kid's Row.' Walnut Street will be devoted to kids, so we're talking about balloons, kids' musical acts we're trying to book right now," he said.

Davis said the city expects this to be one of the biggest events in the Martinsville-Henry County area this year.

"We're excited to bring it back. There was one in 2019 that wasn't organized by the city, but it was a hit. From what we've heard from people since we announced, they missed that event. There's just a lot of excitement about bringing this back," he said.

He added other announcements will potentially come, and asked people to stay up to date.

Food truck vendors interested in participating in the event should go to www.martinsville-va.gov/foodtrucksignup.

Blood and platelet donors needed now

The American Red Cross critically needs blood and platelet donors now following a concerning decrease in donations as the country has experienced an increase in severe weather systems and historic travel. In fact, over the past month about 20,000 fewer blood donations were collected than needed to maintain the Red Cross national blood supply.

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), five of the busiest travel days ever happened this month and more record-breaking travel is expected this summer - a busy time when many regular donors may be unable to give. Additionally, as the U.S. approaches what AAA calls the "100 deadliest days" of summer for auto accidents, it is critical hospitals have lifesaving blood products on hand for all trauma and accident victims who count on transfusions when there is no time to waste. In some of the most-dire situations, medical teams may need to use hundreds of blood products to save a life.

Storm response efforts The Memorial Day weekend brought the busiest severe weather day of the year so far, with 26 reported tornadoes across 10 states. For example, in western North Carolina, strong storms and high winds in counties like Madison and Clay resulted in dozens of homes and structures being destroyed and over 130 people needing assistance, including over 30 overnight stays in an emergency shelter. Red Cross teams continue to provide food, aid, and assistance to residents affected by the severe storms.

Just three weeks ago, an EF-1 tornado hit Cleveland and Gaston Counties, causing thousands to lose power and resulting in at least one death. An intense hail storm in Rock Hill, S.C. in April toppled trees and damaged numerous homes and cars, causing millions of dollars in financial damage according to local officials. Recovery efforts for these individuals and families affected by the disaster continue.

With the most active year for tornadoes since 2017, hundreds of Red Cross disaster workers and partners are working around the clock across multiple states to make sure people affected by this severe weather have a safe place to stay, food, relief supplies and emotional and spiritual support. Emergency shelters are open in some of the hardest hit areas.

Meanwhile, in the North Carolina region and across the country, Red Cross disaster workers are continuing to help assess the damage where it is safe to do so with preliminary reports indicating nearly 3,000 homes either destroyed or with major damage.

The Red Cross is monitoring the

weather and standing by to open additional shelters if needed. Should new communities be impacted, the organization will be on the ground providing help in the days and weeks to come.

How to help Individuals are urged to help those facing emergencies - whether a need for a lifesaving blood transfusion or a need for shelter from the storm.

*Make a blood donation appointment by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

*Help people affected by disasters like flooding and countless other crises by making a financial donation to Red Cross Disaster Relief today at redcross.org or via 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small.

*Put on a red vest and join us as a volunteer today to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for local opportunities. With the NOAA prediction of an active hurricane season for 2024, the North Carolina Region is especially welcoming those interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

*Sheltering - Volunteers are trained to help provide aid, support, and assistance to individuals and families at Red Cross emergency shelters. Opportunities for deployment are available.

Disaster Relief - Volunteers are trained to provide immediate aid, support, and assistance in the field to those individuals and families affected by disaster.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Tetris, creators of the iconic, best-selling video game, to celebrate their 40th anniversary and build the blood supply for patients in need. In commemoration, all who answer the call to help May 20-June 9 will get an exclusive Tetris® + Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to New York to meet Tetris creator, Alexey Pajitnov. See RedCrossBlood.org/Tetris for details.

Correction

Ray Preston, a member of Martinsville High School's Class of 2024,

was misidentified in last week's edition. We regret the error.



Planning sessions set for Ignite Hope Project

The Harvest Foundation's small grants program Project Hope returns for a third year, continuing to bring hope and positive changes to neighborhoods in Martinsville-Henry County.

"In a time where challenges often overshadow optimism," said India Brown, program officer at The Harvest Foundation, "Project Hope reminds us of the power of collective action. It provides community members with an opportunity to create their own bright spots, showing that small actions can lead to big change."

Four Ignite Hope Project Planning meetings will be held throughout the month of June at locations across Martinsville-Henry County. These meetings are designed to brainstorm and workshop ideas that will bring hope to local neighborhoods. All sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. and all members of the community are welcome to attend.

Session #1 - June 3 at Grand Fiesta Venue, located at 6812 Greensboro Road in Ridgeway.

Session #2 - June 6 at Spencer Penn Centre, located at 475 Spencer Road in Spencer.

Session #3 - June 10 at 207 at the Plaza, located at 10 E Church St. in Martinsville.

Session #4 - June 20 at the HJDB Event Center, located at 3289 Riverside Drive in Bassett.

Submissions for this year's grants program must fall within the following theme: Community Connections: Creating inclusive spaces,

fostering meaningful interactions, and empowering community members to learn, grow and connect. These projects should be volunteered and bring people together by promoting interaction and empowerment.

Examples could include cultural diversity and arts initiatives; educational programs addressing community challenges, such as health awareness and prevention; peer support groups providing a supportive environment for shared experiences and learning; beautification and/or enhancement of gathering spaces that are accessible to the public; and the establishment of safe places for vulnerable groups such as the youth, unhoused, etc.

Project Hope launched in 2022 as a way to celebrate The Harvest Foundation's 20th Anniversary. A 13-member committee comprising local "hope builders" reviews grant applications and allocates funding for the program. Project Hope 2023 awarded nine recipients a total of \$91,287 for local, volunteer-led projects.

To find out more about Project Hope 2024, visit our website and read the RFP (request for proposals) here: www.theharvestfoundation.org/project-hope.

Email
submissions@
theenterprise.net



Members of the community are invited to attend an Ignite Hope Project Planning session throughout the month of June. Pictured are participants from the 2023 Ignite Hope meeting.



Pictured are grant recipients from Project Hope 2023.

Planning sessions set for Ignite Hope Project

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Sounds on the Square to feature Barefoot Modern



Sounds on the Square will celebrate its second night of the 2024 season with Barefoot Modern on Friday, June 7, on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, 7-10 p.m.

Admission is free. Beginning at 6 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers, and A Heavenly Sandwich will sell food. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Invite your friends and family for an evening of live music at Uptown Martinsville's premier concert series.

Barefoot Modern is a Boone, North Carolina,

favorite and voted best local band in The Appalachian's Best of Boone 2021 edition. The performance will be by the acoustic duo making indie-pop music that gives off an exciting vibe. They will also perform the best of British bands from the 1960s and 1970s, from the Beatles to the Stones to the Police and Queen and beyond! In 2019, Barefoot Modern won the Best Alternative Indie Award for their musical submission at the Richmond International Film Festival, beating out more than 2,000 bands.

Coordinated by the Martinsville-Henry Coun-

ty Historical Society, Sounds on the Square is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, Children First Pediatrics, Deskins, Inc., The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, New College Institute, and Sarver Cleaning Services. A finalist in the Best of the Blue Ridge 2024 as Family Friendly Festival, Sounds on the Square is enjoyed by patrons of all ages, generations, and cultures. This will be the fourth year of the series and continues to be some of the most popular Uptown offerings generating vitality and community engagement.

Animal breeder pleads guilty to animal welfare, other crimes

Envigo RMS LLC pleaded guilty to conspiring to knowingly violate the Animal Welfare Act, and Envigo Global Services Inc. pleaded guilty to a felony of conspiring to knowingly violate the Clean Water Act. Both pleas are in relation to a dog breeding facility located in Cumberland County, Virginia, from which the Justice Department secured the surrender of over 4,000 beagles in 2022.

As part of the resolution, Inotiv — of which Envigo RMS and Envigo Global Services are subsidiaries — will guarantee more than \$35 million in payments, be subject to increased animal care standards and be subject to a compliance monitor. This resolution marks the largest ever fine in an Animal Welfare Act case.

"Envigo promoted a business culture that prioritized profit and convenience over following the law. This callous approach led to dire consequences: the inhumane treatment of animals and the contamination of our waterway," said U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh for the Western District of Virginia. "The historic monetary penalties and significant compliance measures as part of these guilty pleas send a clear message: every company, in every industry, must have compliance and corporate responsibility as a critical part of their business model."

According to court documents, Envigo RMS conspired to knowingly violate the Animal Welfare Act by failing to provide, among other things, adequate veterinary care, adequate staffing and safe living conditions for dogs housed at the Cumberland County facility.

In addition, Envigo Global Services conspired to knowingly violate the Clean Water Act by failing to properly operate and maintain the wastewater treatment plant at the Cumberland County facility, which led to massive unlawful discharges of insufficiently treated wastewater into a local waterway and also impacted the health and well-being of the dogs at the facility.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, the entities will serve from three to five years of probation and pay a total criminal fine of \$22 million — that is \$11 million for each violation. In addition, the entities will pay ap-

proximately \$1.1 million to the Virginia Animal Fighting Task Force and approximately \$1.9 million to the Humane Society of the United States for direct assistance provided to the investigation.

An additional \$3.5 million will be paid to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to benefit and restore the environment and ecosystems in Cumberland County, at least \$500,000 of which will be spent on purchasing riparian wetland or riparian land located in or near Cumberland.

The entities will spend at least \$7 million to improve their facilities and personnel beyond the standards imposed by the Animal Welfare Act.

Finally, the entities will pay all costs associated with a compliance monitor, which will oversee the entities' compliance with these enhanced animal welfare standards, the Animal Welfare Act, the Clean Water Act, a nationwide compliance plan and additional terms of the agreements and probation.

The "settlement represents an enormous victory for animal welfare, as the perpetrators of horrific abuse against innocent dogs will pay a historic settlement for their negligence," U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine said in a release.

In March 2022, Warner and Kaine expressed horror and demanded immediate and aggressive action by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) following more than 70 animal welfare violations at the Envigo breeding and research facility in Cumberland. After these calls for action, the federal government stepped in, seizing 446 beagles in acute distress and eventually helping facilitate the surrender of nearly 4,000 dogs to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which worked to place these dogs into homes.

"After our advocacy for these animals, we've been deeply heartened to hear stories of their adoption into loving, safe homes, and this settlement takes another step critical towards justice. We're glad to see Envigo held accountable for its crimes, and we'll keep pushing to root out animal abuse across Virginia," said Kaine, D-Richmond, and Warner, D-Alexandria.

"Our nation's animal welfare and clean water laws exist to prevent suffering and harm," said Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "That's why we secured the transfer of thousands of beagles from Envigo's Cumberland facility into adoption, and that's why today's plea agreement is so significant. The plea agreement includes the largest ever fine in an animal welfare case as well as heightened standards of care for facilities across the country."

"The provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) were designed to protect animals from any type of inhumane treatment. Even in those instances of animals being bred for scientific and medical research purposes, they still must be provided with safe and sanitary living conditions," said Special Agent in Charge Charmeka Parker of the Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General. "AWA violations remain an investigative priority for us, and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to investigate and assist in the criminal prosecution of those who fail to adhere to the provisions of the AWA."

"Envigo compounded the heartbreaking nature of its animal welfare crimes by committing egregious Clean Water Act violations that undermined public health and the wellbeing of the animals in their care," said Assistant Administrator David M. Uhlmann of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Everyone victimized in this precedent-setting animal welfare case deserved better: the workers, the beagles, the environment and the community. Envigo deserves every dollar of its record fine."

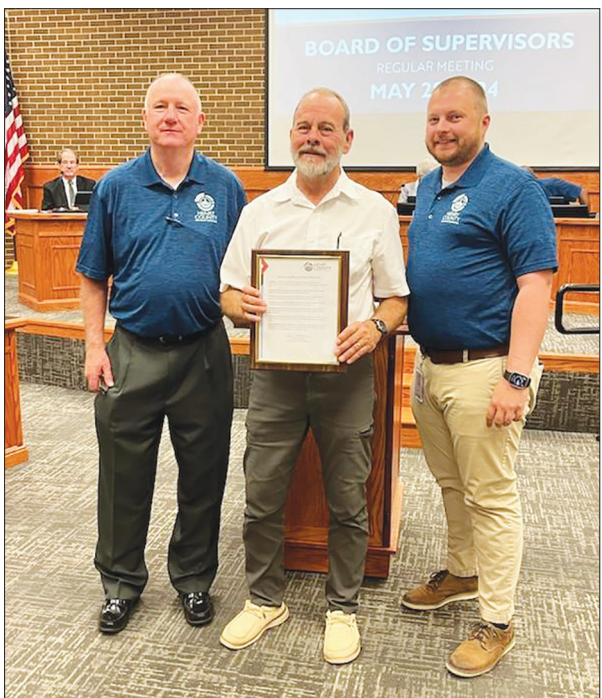
"Envigo's violations of the Clean Water Act and the Animal Welfare Act directly resulted in the contamination of local waterway, negatively impacting the health and wellbeing of the community, and the horrible suffering of over 4,000 beagles. This precedent-setting case emphasizes the power of collaboration between local, state and federal authorities," said Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares.

Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 7.

Board approves request from emergency response agency



The 65th Anniversary of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce was commemorated with a resolution.



Staff member Mike Arnold was honored for his 35 years of service to Henry County.



The Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized May 2024 as National Foster Care Month.

By Taylor Boyd
The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution establishing Ques Transport, LLC, as a designated emergency response agency at its May 28 meeting.

County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the company's owner, Brandon Quesinberry, indicated that he intends to provide inter-facility transport services for Sovah Health in Martinsville and other medical facilities.

"This service will not be dispatched by our 911 Center or be eligible to respond to emergency calls," he said.

Regarding billing, Quesinberry said he plans to bill directly to insurance companies first and then work with patients after that. If an individual cannot come up with the funds, Quesinberry said he has no desire to do any hard billing.

"We don't have any desire to do judgements or anything like that," he said. "I've done paramedic for 16 plus years, and this is service that's greatly needed. There's enough money on the table with revenue recovery from direct insurance billing that that is unnecessary, so we don't have a desire to do that because we know how bad this is needed."

Quesinberry said he wants to work with patients, and he's talked with his team about just doing payment plans "or whatever they can do." At the end of the day, "we have to make money to pay the insurance and rent, but we don't have any desire to" to pursue judgements "or anything like that," he said.

Quesinberry noted several insurance companies he's partnered with were the brokers he worked with.

"They have lots of guidelines and several of the community funded insurance plans will not allow you to do that type of hard billing. So, we're looking at partnering with all of the insurances and for several of them that's not on the table if you want to be able to provide services to those clients with that policy," he said.

Quesinberry added he knows of three insurance companies that do not allow hard billing, which is "why it's easier just to make that soft billing policy."

Jim Adams, chairman, and of the Blackberry District, said he was told by several people in the community that this is a needed service.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from school board member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, about school funding. While he wears two hats, one as a county resident and another as a school board member, Gravely asked the board why it was so hard to provide funding for the county's youth.

"From a personal standpoint, I am addressing you this evening because of the education I received from Henry County Public Schools and thereafter. It has constantly been said by county leaders and community leaders in our community about further strengthening our workforce by educating ourselves," he said.

Gravely said it's also been said that businesses

are reluctant to locate in the county unless it has a strong educational system. His first concern was a comment that the state should provide funding for education, and it should not rest with local government.

"I may be presumptuous here, however based upon that comment, if it were not for state laws requiring localities to provide funding then the school system wouldn't exist. I sure hope I heard it wrong," Gravely said, adding people are constantly saying 'the children are our future.'

"Help me understand why it's such a challenge to provide funding for our children," he said.

Wearing his school board hat, Gravely said he was somewhat offended by comments made during the April request for lump sum funding regarding transparency.

"Do you realize the implication that we're making? We are elected officials just like you all, and the message that I perceived from that and from how your communities is like we can't manage our budget. Are we doing something wrong... (do) we need oversight? That bothers me," he said.

Gravely said comments were also made about the school board and board of supervisors working together.

"I have no problem with that. I don't see that as an issue; however, I do ask that you trust us. Trust us. I've had several people come up to me and ask me what's going on," he said.

Federal fraud charges levied in alleged pandemic unemployment benefit scheme

A federal grand jury in Abingdon on May 21 indicted 17 with conspiring to defraud the United States by filing fraudulent claims for pandemic unemployment benefits.

An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The grand jury has charged Josef Ludwig Brown, Crystal Samantha Shaw, Jonathan Scott Webb, Christopher Kirk Webb, Stephanie Amber Barton, Haleigh McKenzie Wolfe, Terrence Brooks Vilacha, Cara Camille Bailey, Jessica Dawn Lester, Brian Edward Addair, Russell Eric Stiltner, Joseph Frederick Hass, Daneil Wayne Horton, Justin Warren Meadows, Jason Dale Worley, Jeremy Blake Farmer, and Clinton Michael Altizer with conspiring to defraud the United States, fraud in connection with emergency benefits, and conspiring to commit mail fraud.

"The COVID-19 global pandemic significantly influenced the world economy and caused increased unemployment and jobless claims throughout our country," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "Many Virginians who lost their jobs due to the pandemic were able to endure because of the CARES Act."

He alleged that "some cheated the system and diverted resources in-

tended to help those most affected by the pandemic, and my office remains committed to not only recovering fraudulently obtained funds, but also vigorously prosecuting those responsible."

Court documents allege that in March of 2020, Josef Brown, Jonathan Webb, and Crystal Shaw began a scheme to steal money intended for legitimate victims of the severely impacted Virginia economy by gathering the dates of birth, social security numbers, and other personal identification information of friends and acquaintances incarcerated at Haysi Regional Jail in Dickenson County, and then filling out pandemic unemployment claim forms for each of the ineligible inmates via the Virginia Employment Commission's website dedicated to pandemic relief.

In all, the group allegedly received \$341,205 in pandemic relief to which they were not entitled.

"Special agents from our office teamed up with our federal and local law enforcement partners and the United States Attorney to take down a conspiracy of incarcerated individuals alleged to have defrauded the unemployment insurance benefits program under the CARES Act," said Brian D. Miller, Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. "SIGPR will remain dedicated to holding accountable those who tar-

geted pandemic recovery funds."

"These defendants took advantage of a global pandemic that caused immense suffering across the country and exploited relief programs intended to help those in dire need. We remain committed to holding criminals accountable for their crimes," said FBI Richmond Special Agent in Charge Stanley M. Meador. "We are proud to have worked this investigation with our law enforcement partners and the United States Attorney's Office to bring justice to these victims."

"Bad actors seized on the opportunity to exploit the chaos and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic and shamelessly pocketed CARE Act funds intended to support unemployed Virginians whose lives were uprooted by COVID-19," said Attorney General Jason Miyares. "Collaboration among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies yield results, and I'm proud to be one step closer to justice."

As part of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) Task Force, this investigation was conducted by the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. The PRAC's 20-member Inspectors General identified major risks that cross program and agency boundaries to detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the more than \$5 trillion in COVID-19 spending.

Agencies that assisted with this investigation included the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney M. Suzanne Kerney-Quillen, a Senior Assistant Attorney General with the Virginia Attorney General's Major Crimes and Emerging Threats Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Stone are prosecuting the case for the United States.

Program on county's 'Special Police' to be held at Bassett center

The early twentieth century saw the communities of Bassett, Fieldale, and Stanleytown in Henry County growing rapidly around the developing furniture and textile industries in the area. Industry leaders in these areas wisely saw the need to care for their workers, and built towns around their manufacturing facilities which included housing, churches, shopping, and recreational opportunities.

The need was soon realized for law enforcement for these towns, as the county's deputy sheriffs and constables were few and stretched very thinly over large areas of the county. Beginning then, in 1922, Henry County began benefitting from a unique form of law enforce-

ment known as "Special Police Officers." These officers were appointed and given their legal authority by the Circuit Court Judge and had county-wide jurisdiction. However, their primary focus was on their respective communities because they were actually employed by and reported to the local industries.

Join the Bassett Historical Center on Tuesday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m. as author, Ron Stowe discusses his new book and the history of Henry County's Special Police. This program, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. Copies of the book, "Henry County's Special Police: The History," will be available for purchase from the author.

Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES
solution

SOFT THINGS

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Total; 2. Stale; 3. Genre; 4. Prime
Today's Word
RAISE

FEAR KNIGHT
answer

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

2	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	5
3	1	7	2	9	5	4	8	6
8	4	5	3	6	1	2	7	9
9	2	1	5	7	8	6	4	3
5	3	8	6	2	4	7	9	1
6	7	4	9	1	3	5	2	8
4	9	3	8	5	2	1	6	7
1	5	6	7	4	9	8	3	2
7	8	2	1	3	6	9	5	4



PUZZLE TIME

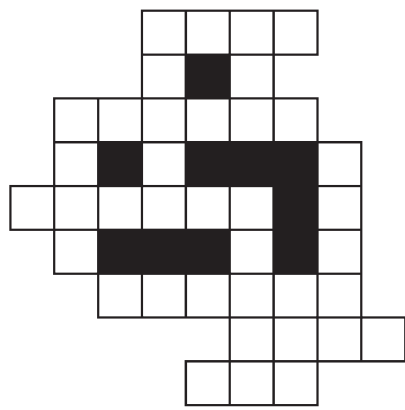


FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

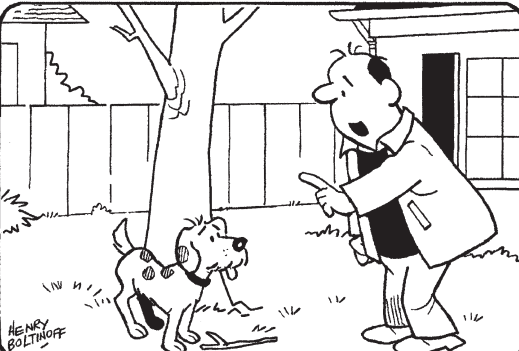
- GFO
- RHICED
- OAFOL
- ♥EFER
- ZOGABE
- AGZ
- TDFA
- RUDLI
- ♥BGA
- OGAFER
- ♥DORCE
- ♥EZLA



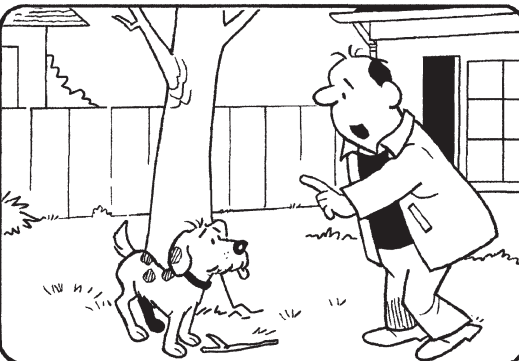
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Dog's tongue is moved. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Ear is moved. 5. Tree limb is higher. 6. Sweater is shorter.

Super Crossword

DOWNFALL

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Washed-up star | 1 Lock holder |
| 8 Baryshnikov's nickname | 2 Food for Fido |
| 13 Exhortations | 3 Thin |
| 20 Fast, in music scores | 4 Software test version |
| 21 Foppish scarf | 5 "By Jove!" |
| 22 Hangs around | 6 Novelist Hemingway |
| 23 Punctilious attention to neatness | 7 Tacit assent |
| 25 Contrary to | 8 Language of New Zealand |
| 26 Perfumed hair dressing | 9 Honshu, e.g. |
| 27 Time of note | 10 —-fi movie |
| 28 Special attention, in brief | 11 Horse farm attendant |
| 30 Beginning | 12 Oakland ball team |
| 31 Krispy Kreme offering topped with colorful bits | 13 Tony winner Hagen |
| 36 Enlarged | 14 Seasoned stew |
| 41 Classic no-calorie soda brand | 15 Farm with its buildings jointly |
| 42 Deep anger | 16 From Galway, say |
| 43 Stimulate | 17 "Brooklyn —" (sitcom) |
| 44 Missy, glazed dessert | 18 Made a hand motion |
| 47 Court events | 19 Old booming jet, for short |
| 48 Arthroscopic surgery site | 24 For each |
| 49 Garden plants with heads of clear blue blooms | 29 Stat on a bank sign |
| 52 Euro divv. | 32 Bouncy stick |
| 53 Feats | 33 DIYers' sets |
| 54 "Gotta run!" | 34 Lubricants |
| 55 Logger's chopper | 35 Leisure shirts |
| 56 China's Mao —-tung | 36 Pitcher's asset |
| 57 Mary — cosmetics | 37 "Where — sign?" |
| 58 Stimulate | 38 Tools for light cleaning |
| 60 Neighbor of Rwanda | 39 Will topic |
| 63 Family dog, e.g. | 40 Artful |
| 64 Env. contents | 45 In the know |
| 67 1984 Eurythmics hit that's apt for six related words in this puzzle | 46 Luxury brand of Toyota |
| 72 See 58-Down | 48 Lock opener |
| 73 French painter Jean | 50 Toils away |
| 74 Egg white | 51 Hertz car, say |
| 75 Tach stats | 53 Info |
| 76 Gore and Unser | 56 Cravat clasp |
| 77 Everybody | 57 Dog refuge |
| 79 Atty.'s org. | 58 With 72-Across, "Actually, I do!" |
| 80 & others | 59 —-haw!" |
| 82 Sight-related | 61 Ref's cousin |
| 85 Pay money for | 62 FedEx rival |
| 86 Spongy, glazed dessert | 63 Pizzeria order |
| 90 Hotel offering | 64 Port in east Argentina |
| 91 Weather phenomenon with a more famous "brother" | 65 Apple's Cook |
| | 66 Hosp. staffers |
| | 68 Advanced math, in brief |
| | 69 Puzzle cube creator Erno |
| | 70 Astound |
| | 71 Confers honor on |
| | 76 Pitcher's asset |
| | 77 "The Wizard of Oz" lady |
| | 78 Resting atop |
| | 81 "Bill & — Bogus Journey" Journey |
| | 82 Spheres |
| | 83 Dismiss as foolish |
| | 84 From the capital Lomé, e.g. |
| | 85 Roseanne of "Roseanne" |
| | 86 Year's 365 |
| | 87 Actor Billy of "Titanic" |
| | 88 Barbie's guy |
| | 89 Hosp. areas |
| | 91 "Fist City" singer Lynn |
| | 92 Foul-smelling |
| | 96 Daintily little |
| | 97 Packed away |
| | 99 Enjoys a lot |
| | 101 Slugged in water |
| | 102 Gorbachev's wife |
| | 103 Addams family cousin |
| | 108 Cherry holder |
| | 109 Duke Ellington's "Take — Train" |
| | 110 Small peak |
| | 111 1, 102, to Livy |
| | 112 Retail giant in furniture |
| | 113 Old PC screen |
| | 114 In the dumps |
| | 116 French article |
| | 117 Old spy gp. |

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- "Witch windows," or diagonal windows, exist almost exclusively in Vermont. Their moniker comes from the superstition that witches can't maneuver their broomsticks through slanted windows.
- More than 70 species of mushrooms glow in the dark.
- A 67-year-old woman named Dorothy Fletcher had a heart attack on a plane. When the stewardess asked if a doctor was on board, luck was on Dorothy's side: Fifteen people on their way to a cardiology conference stood up! Dorothy survived.
- A killer fog that swathed London in 1952 and left as many as 12,000 people dead led to Parliament's passing the first Clean Air Act in 1956.
- "Percussive maintenance" is the technical term for hitting something until it works.
- Richard Anthony Jones spent 17 years in jail on a robbery charge until talk by some of his fellow inmates revealed he had a doppelganger with the same first name in the same jail. This second Jones was actually the guilty party.
- Before his acting career took off, Harrison Ford worked as a roadie for The Doors. That gig proved so intense that he humorously claimed he was "one step away from joining a Jesuit monastery" after it ended.
- Black cats are considered to bring good luck in Japan.
- While doing research for the film "Castaway," William Broyles Jr. isolated himself on a beach for a week to immerse himself in the survival experience, which lent authenticity to the screenplay.

Thought for the Day: "By seeing each day and each situation as a kind of training exercise, the stakes suddenly become a lot lower. The way you interpret your own mistakes and the mistakes of others is suddenly a lot more generous." — Ryan Holiday

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9		8				1
3					5			6
	4		3			2		
		1		7		6		
5			6					9
	7			3				8
4				5				7
		6			9		3	
	8		1			9		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

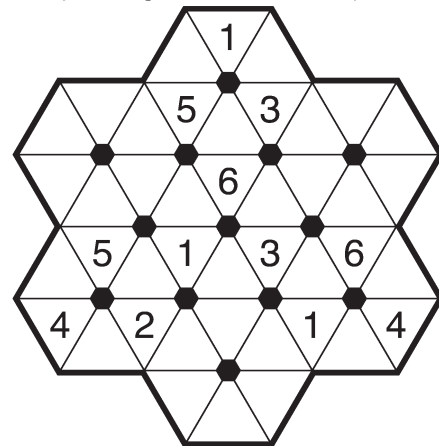
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

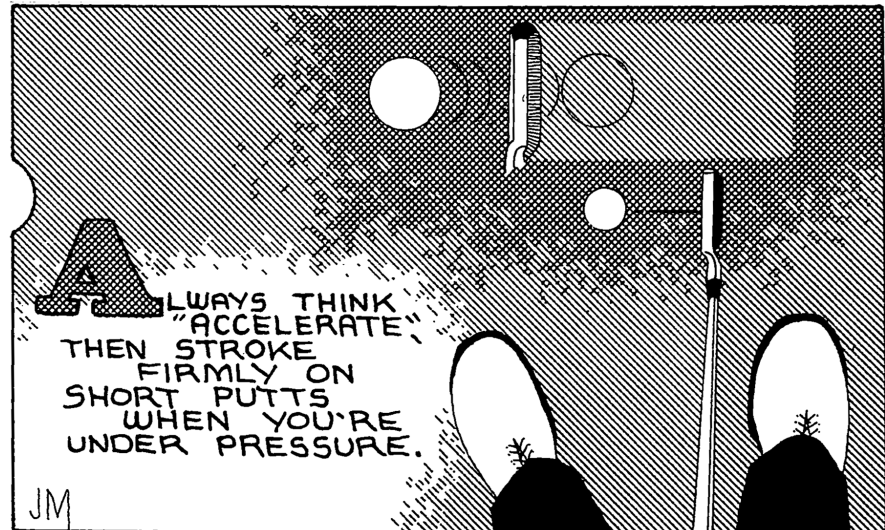


DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult
- ♦♦♦♦ Very Difficult

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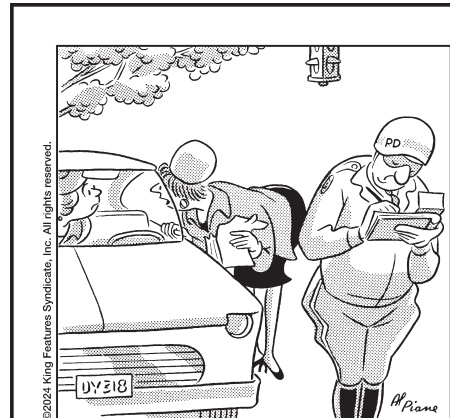
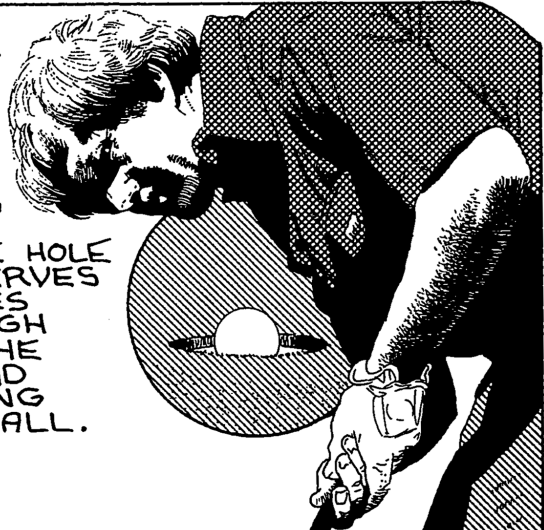
Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



ALWAYS THINK "ACCELERATE" THEN STROKE FIRMLY ON SHORT PUTTS WHEN YOU'RE UNDER PRESSURE.

FIRST, BOLD STROKING "FITS" YOUR STRONG ADRENALIN FLOW AT SUCH MOMENTS.

SECOND, TRYING TO "DIE" THE BALL INTO THE HOLE WHEN YOUR NERVES ARE TIGHT MAKES IT VERY TOUGH TO KEEP THE PUTTER HEAD ACCELERATING THROUGH THE BALL.



"And when I asked him if he realized I paid his salary, he asked me for a _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Entire **LOTTA** _____
- Rank **TEALS** _____
- Style **GREEN** _____
- Choice **IMPER** _____

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Former EDA Director sentenced last week

The former executive director of the Economic Development Authority of Front Royal and Warren County (EDA), who was convicted in November of stealing more than \$5 million dollars in authority funds, was sentenced last week to 14 years in federal prison.

Jennifer Rae McDonald, 45, of Front Royal, Virginia, was convicted following a 9-week jury trial in November 2023 of seven counts of wire fraud, six counts of bank fraud, sixteen counts of money laundering, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

"For more than four years, Jennifer McDonald used EDA funds as her personal piggy bank, diverting public funds to purchase real estate and to pay her personal expenses" United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. The "sentence reflects how serious this office takes fraud and the misuse of public funds. I am thankful to the FBI and the Virginia State Police for the tireless work they did to untangle the web of lies spun by this defendant."

"The FBI is committed to investigating elected officials who abuse their positions for personal gain," Special Agent in Charge Stanley Meador of the FBI's Richmond Division said today. "I am proud of the work our team and partners did to uncover Ms. McDonald's complex fraud scheme and to bring her to justice."

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, McDonald was the Executive Director of the EDA, a public entity designed to attract and support businesses in Warren County and the Town of Front Royal. The EDA was overseen by a Board of Directors and supported by an administrative assistant, but at the center of the EDA was McDonald.

Beginning in 2014, McDonald began stealing money from the EDA and, for more than four years, McDonald used the bank accounts and credit facilities of the EDA to divert public funds to purchase real estate and to pay for her personal expenses. She falsified documents in order to mislead the EDA's Board of Directors, ex-

ternal auditors, and Warren County and Front Royal government officials so she could continue her scheme.

When confronted by law enforcement and others, McDonald drafted fake loan documents, encouraged others to lie before a grand jury and fabricated an outrageous story, alleging the fraud was part of a "secret settlement" and invented more fake documents to cover-up her fraud.

In the end, McDonald pilfered the EDA's bank accounts and is responsible for \$5,201,329 in losses.

At trial, evidence was presented that at least \$2.4 million of the money McDonald stole was used to fund her gambling - including net losses of more than \$750,000.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Virginia State Police investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sean Welsh and Rachel Swartz and Trial Attorney Andrea Broach are prosecuting the case for the United States.

A pursuit that began in N.C. ended in Henry County

Several charges were filed in connection with a pursuit that began in North Carolina and ended when a Henry County deputy successfully performed a Precision Immobilization Technique (P.I.T. Maneuver) on the vehicle.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said around 10:35 a.m. on June 3, his office was notified that the Rockingham County (NC) Sheriff's Office was pursuing a stolen 2007 yellow Toyota sedan and was heading towards Henry County on Axton Road.

A Henry County deputy intercepted the vehicle while it was on Axton Road, near A.L. Philpott Hwy. The vehicle allegedly was traveling at a high rate of speed when the deputy began pursuit. The vehicle turned right onto A.L. Philpott Hwy. and continued heading eastbound into Pittsylvania County.

During the time the suspect vehicle was on A.L. Philpott, it allegedly swerved recklessly in and out of traffic, with speeds reaching 100 miles per hour. The pursuit continued on A.L. Philpott Hwy. until it reached Stoney Mill Road.

While on that road, the deputy performed the P.I.T. Maneuver, and once the vehicle came to a stop, the driver allegedly fled on foot, and was subsequently apprehended a short time later without incident.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Marcus Ledell Prunty, 51 and currently homeless. Prunty was charged in Henry County with felony eluding and driving under the influence.



Marcus Ledell Prunty

Additionally, Prunty had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant from Pittsylvania County, and he was served on that charge. He is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond.

Multiple agencies were involved in this pursuit. The Henry County Sheriff's Office, Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, Caswell County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ensuring the safety of our community and will continue to work diligently with neighboring jurisdictions to apprehend individuals who pose a threat to public safety. Anyone having information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-Crime (632-7463).

Ruffin man held with no bond

On June 2, around 12:24 a.m., authorities in Henry County were notified that Eden (North Carolina) Police Department were on Highway 87 heading toward Henry County in pursuit of a wanted individual.

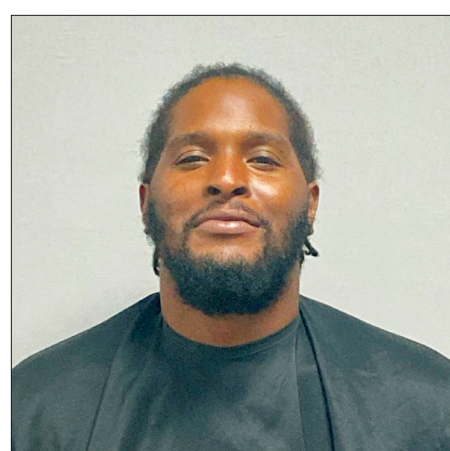
Upon reaching the Virginia state line, Eden Police Department officers discontinued their pursuit.

The Eden Police Department had informed county deputies that Devron Jacqua Dillard, 30, of Ruffin, N.C. was wanted and allegedly had illegal narcotics in the vehicle.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies observed the suspect vehicle, a 2005 Ford Explorer, traveling north on Morehead Ave. in Ridge-way at speeds allegedly exceeding 100 mph. Deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the vehicle allegedly fled, accelerating to speeds over 100 mph on Morehead Avenue. When the vehicle reached the intersection of Morehead Avenue and Greensboro Road, it attempted to turn and travel South on Greensboro Road. Due to the alleged reckless driving and the potential threat to public safety, a Henry County Sheriff's deputy executed a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle, which came to a stop against the guardrail. The driver allegedly then broke the window of the vehicle and climbed out, leading deputies on a short foot chase.

Dillard was taken into custody without further incident. During his arrest, deputies allege they found illegal narcotics, including cocaine and crack cocaine, in his possession.

Dillard was charged with felony eluding; manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing



Devron Jacqua Dillard

with intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute a controlled substance, and fleeing law enforcement officer. He was held without bond in Henry County.

Dillard also had eight outstanding warrants from the Danville Police Department, which were served, and he was held without bond on those charges as well. The Eden Police Department is also expected to issue charges.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said his office remains committed to ensuring the safety of the community and will continue to work diligently with neighboring jurisdictions to apprehend individuals who pose a threat to public safety.

Anyone having information pertaining to this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2500.00 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

Duo of new business host ribbon cutting in a single day

By Jessica Dillon

May 29 was a big day for the Chamber of Commerce which had back-to-back ribbon-cutting ceremonies only an hour apart from each other. These ribbon cuttings were for a new hair salon called Imani Styles and a new real estate company called Sarver Properties. Both ceremonies took place around lunchtime at new business respective locations.

Imani Styles was founded by Imani Hairston, who has been working on hair for three years.

"I had this idea to have all these different beauty services in one play, to make a one-stop shop," said Hairston, who hopes to book out booths to make Imani Styles a cosmetic hub. She currently has several booths up for rental at her shop which is situated in Martinsville.

She was raised by a hairstylist and spent most of her life around salons. She enjoys doing "big transformations" that have a makeover effect and hopes to have several locations in the future, with hopes of expanding into North Carolina. She eventually hopes to move from just being "Behind the chair" into a more hands-on role managing her business. Of course, Hairston said that she still wants to keep doing hair along with any future role.

Hairston added that she has been working independently for many years and had brought several clients along with her to her new location. Imani Styles is located at 914 Brookdale St, Martinsville. Those looking to book Hairston for their next hair day can call the salon at (276) 806-6792.

The second ribbon cutting of the day took place in Collinsville at Sarver Properties, which is owned by Richard Sarver who has been in real estate for 20 years and already has a lively staff ready to serve the community. The event featured free food from Rocky Mount SmokeHouse and a drawing. The company focuses on selling real estate and does not handle property rentals.



The ribbon cutting for Imani Styles took place in Imani Hairston's personal booth.



Imani Hairston's styling booth.



The Sarver Properties team celebrates their grand opening.



Sarver Properties storefront in Collinsville.

The team has already sold some properties in the area.

"We're off and running, with eight full-time agents and a great office staff, and we're here to support the community," Sarver said, adding the business has been open about a month, and the community's response has been positive. Some nearby houses even have the new company's 'For

Sale' signs placed in their yards.

Sarver said the real estate agency was "the next chapter" for him after a successful career. He said that the housing market is currently strong, and "anyone who's looking to buy or sell can give them a call." Sarver Properties is located at 5006 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville. To contact the office, call (276) 647-7667.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Heritage Center Museum offers several exhibits



Connected Community: The “Connected Community” exhibit at the MHC Heritage Museum is about all the ways people stay in touch — including local newspapers, radio, TV and company newsletters. It also showcases media and business equipment that was used years ago — such as a unique typewriter that requires the user to type not across the page horizontally, but down the paper vertically, one letter at a time.

If you haven’t been in a while to see what’s new, it’s time to visit the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum (formerly the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum).

The museum, located in the Historic Henry County Courthouse at 1 E. Main St., Martinsville, has three new exhibits plus a new children’s area:

Among the exhibits is “Connected Community,” which shows the ways people of the area have remained in touch and in the know. They include local newspapers, TV stations, radio stations and company newsletters. Highlights of the exhibit include:

- The Aug. 11, 1961, edition of the Martinsville Tribune, a newspaper by and for black residents during the Civil Rights era. Its front-page article describes how the four Martinsville lunch counters were integrated on Aug. 8, 1961. That article, plus an article on the same topic by the mainstream newspaper, the Martinsville Bulletin, are printed out and on display.

- An Amberola record player which plays cylindrical, not disc-shaped, records, on loan from Walter Shepard of Martinsville.

- Early radios, along with four front-page newspaper articles from 1922, the year the first radios came to Martinsville, describing the wonder of radio and who was listening to what



Sew Special: “Sew Special” pays tribute to the ways homemakers have made their family’s clothes through the generations. Highlights include exquisite dresses made by four generations of the family of Mary Ann Elizabeth Moore, and the resourcefulness of women in the early 1900s who made clothes from feedsacks.

on the radio.

Another new exhibit, “Sew Special,” celebrates how homemakers in years past sewed the clothes their families wore. Highlights include:

- Dresses made by four generations of the Mary Ann Elizabeth Moore family, lent by her granddaughter, Judy Epperly.

- Sewing machines and sundries through the years.

- Sewing tutelage book and supplies owned by Rosa Boyd Austin, who had been the seamstress for the R.J. Reynold’s family, lent by her granddaughter, Barbara Parcell Shively.

A third exhibit, “MHC After Dark,” is about mid-century nightlife and other events at Paradise Inn and Club Martinique. This exhibit is upstairs, paired with a selection of dresses and fur coats worn by women in the mid-1900s.

The Children’s Area started with a child-sized table and chairs donated by Ann Martin. It has activities for children, including a miniature log cabin donated by Carolyn Beale of Martinsville, lace-up cards, foam blocks and other pastimes.

People who have lent and/or gifted items for these exhibits include:

- Carolyn Beale of Martinsville
- Dora Bennett of Martinsville
- Ann Crenshaw of Martinsville
- Alex Crowder of Fieldale



Cabin 2: This cabin made by Lawrence Penn of Fieldale, donated by Carolyn Beale, is one of the items for kids to play with at the MHC Heritage Museum’s new children’s area.

- Linda Demarcey of Martinsville
- Judy Epperly of Martinsville
- Regina Flora of Ridgeway
- Steve Isom of Fieldale
- Debbie Hall of The Enterprise/Henry County Enterprise
- Tiffany Hayworth of Martinsville
- Cheryl Hedgecock of Spencer
- Dr. Mervyn King of Martinsville
- Holly Kozelsky of Dyer Store
- Sheila Martin of Bassett
- Myrna McCrickard Ferguson of Collinsville
- Steve Merricks of Stanleystown
- Joe Prater of Fieldale
- Barbara Parcell Shively of Martinsville
- O.G. Reid of Martinsville
- Charles Roark of Star News
- Davis Scott of Bassett
- Kathy Shelton of Spencer
- Walter Sheppard of Martinsville
- Brenda Williams of Martinsville

Admission to the museum is free. A reception for the new exhibits will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, June 14, at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. Wine, beer and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP attendance (name and number of people in your party) by June 11 to (276) 403-4697 or mhchistoricalociety@gmail.com.

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