

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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## Public hearing set as county mulls tax hike



County Administrator Dale Wagoner detailed the requested increase to the school division's budget and the budget approved by the General Assembly at a meeting Tuesday.

By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Board of Supervisors scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, June 25 at 6 p.m. to receive input on a proposed tax increase that, if approved, will provide additional funding for education.

The county is considering increasing the real estate tax rate from 55.5-cents to 62-cents per \$100 assessed value to comply with the funding level required by the state.

In April, the board adopted a budget that increased school funding by \$4.3 million and brought the total school budget to \$107,018,865, including \$72.6 million in state funds and \$21.6 million in local

funds. Subsequently, the state finalized a budget that increased its portion to \$80.1 million.

Virginia uses a formula called the local composite index (LCI) to determine the amount of funds localities are required to pay for education. Counties and cities with lower LCI scores are determined to have less of an ability to pay for education. Henry County has the 12th lowest LCI score in the state.

Using the state's formula, the county would be required to provide \$20.1 million to match the increase in state funding. This would be an increase of \$3,816,789. (See Public Hearing p. 2)



The Henry County School Board heard the updated budget from Dr. Benjamin Boone.

## School board continues to rework budget

By Taylor Boyd and Jessica Dillon

The Henry County School Board heard an update on its fiscal year 2024-2025 budget at its Thursday, June 6 meeting. The school is receiving more funding from the state, allowing for a larger school budget.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administrative Services Dr. Benjamin Boone said the total projected budget for FY25 is \$116,838,000.

Boone said around \$80 million will come from the state accounts, approximately \$24 million will be from the local funding, \$11 in grants, and approximately \$1.7 in other revenue sources.

"For our expenditure categories, what this looks like is an increase in instruction of \$9.5 million, for our administration, attendance and health account, an increase of \$488,000, for pupil transportation an increase of about \$1.1 million," he said.

For the operations and maintenance category there will be an increase of about \$8 million and an increase of around \$400,000 for facilities.

"For debt service there will be an increase of \$134,000, and for technology it will

be an increase of approximately \$750,000," he said. "So, the total increase from last year's budget to this year's budget is \$14 million.

Boone said the overall increase in state funding from FY 24 to FY25 for all the categories is \$9,688,000.

"For local funding, we have to take into consideration the local share. With the local share, facilities do not count towards what we report to the state, so we have to take into account that local share and what needs to be given in addition for us to have a facilities budget," he said.

Boone said the local share the school division is requesting is the same local share it requested in March, which is \$23,987,617.

The amendments were the result of the budget passed during the General Assembly on May 13.

Boone said the budget includes removal of state funded grants such as Governor's School and alternative education.

"The increase in state revenue compared to the Governor's budget to the Gen- (See School Board p.2)

## Piedmont Arts' Clyde Hooker Award winners announced

By Jessica Dillon

Guy Stanley and Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival were recipients of the Clyde Hooker Award for their contributions to the arts at the annual award ceremony held June 5 at Piedmont Arts. Several educators were also honored for their contributions to students, and students who are pursuing the arts in college were awarded scholarships.

Each year, the Clyde Hooker Award is given to a person of the year and a business. Award nominees are submitted and then evaluated by a board.

Both Stanley and Rooster Walk "have significantly enriched our community and embodied the spirit of the Clyde Hookers Award," said Heidi Pinkston, the executive director of Piedmont Arts.

A past president of the board of directors for Piedmont Arts, Stanley's "efforts laid the foundation for significant growth and development within the organization, setting ambitious goals and inspiring others to rally behind our vision," Pinkston said, adding that Stanley helped to retire Piedmont Art's long-term debts and helped to renovate the museum.



Guy Stanley was one of the recipients of the 2024 Clyde Hooker Award.

Stanley said that several improvements were made to bring Piedmont Arts to where it is today.

"We were able to take a gym and turn it into a shining star," Stanley said, and added that the founders of Piedmont Arts "left their legacy for us to take care of."

He credited many of the donors for their contributions, and noted that he was proud to "keep that legacy alive."



Johnny Buck, executive director and a founding member, accepted the Clyde Hooker Award on behalf of Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival.

Rooster Walk was awarded the second Clyde Hooker Award for its contributions to the community. "Rooster Walk is an inspiring testament to turning tragedy into a beacon of hope and community spirit," said Pinkston. The festival was created to honor Edwin "the Rooster" Penn recently held its 14th event.

"The festival has raised over \$323,000 for lo- (See Award Winners p. 3)

## Runners offer training tips for July race

By Jessica Dillon

Many area runners are preparing for the 2024 Martinsville Mile, a race that while shorter than a marathon, is challenging due to the summer heat expected on race day.

The Martinsville Mile returns to the Dick & Willie Trail on July 20 at 7 p.m., sponsored by Lester Building Supply. This year marks the seventh consecutive year that Miles in Martinsville has conducted a one mile race at various venues around the community.

Joe Philpott, who is helping to promote the event, and seasoned runner Sienna Bailey detailed some of the training that helps athletes prepare for a race.

"You run long and slow to develop that endurance," Philpott said, and added that training is made up of multiple facets. "Some days, you'll go out, and you'll run shorter distances but faster. Some days when you go out, you'll run intervals."

He said that intervals are sections broken up like running 400 meters eight times. This type of training helps to build up your speed and your body.

"For a mile, you have to have some endurance. If you've done long-distance running, you've developed that endurance, but you also need to focus on the shorter, faster runs," he said, adding that if someone wants to run fast, then



Sienna Bailey leads the pack during a local race.

they will need to train fast.

Runners who only focus on running long distances at a slow pace will have a cap on how fast they can run during the mile, Philpott said, but that "doesn't mean that everyone needs to run fast like a high school kid or college runner, but you've got to run faster than you normally do."

The course for the Martinsville Mile is downhill, and he also advised, "You've got to acclimate yourself to the fact it's a downhill course."

Runners will need to practice run- (See Runners p. 3)



Winners of MHC Startup Awards. A total of \$27,600 was awarded.

## Seven businesses receive funding at the Startup MHC Awards

By Jessica Dillon

The Chamber of Commerce held the Startup MHC awards on June 6. The recipients went through an eight-week business boot camp and were selected from a pool of applicants. Each participant pitched their respective business plans and went through rounds of tough advice. The seven winners were awarded funds to help their business grow.

Corre Impact, a woman-owned IT company won the largest share of the award pot with a \$10,000 check. Owned by Corretta Martin, the company has already landed a

\$450,000 yearly contract with a three-year ceiling.

"Corre Impact's dynamic leadership team is passionate about driving meaningful change through technology solutions," said Brenell Thomas, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Assisted Living Home Have Health LLC received \$5,000. The company "will serve female patients aged 65 to 90 years young with individualized care focused on activities of daily living, transportation, and socialization in a caring environment." The

check was accepted by the owner and seasoned medical worker Melody Wood. (See MHC Award p. 3)

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# Public Hearing

(cont. from page 1)

or 23.42 percent, to its previous amount.

On June 6, the Henry County School Board amended its budget to also request \$3.8 million in discretionary funds from the locality, bringing the total local funding amount to \$23.9 million if approved.

The new advertised tax rate the board is considering would provide for the required amount by the state and some additional discretionary funds for the school division.

The school board also requested the locality increase its facilities budget by \$1.12 million from the original adopted budget. Taxpayers support school facilities through the annual budget and a separate fund generated through an additional one percent sales tax. That fund currently has a balance of \$10.2 million and accrues approximately \$5.5 million per year.

The county last approved a property tax increase in 2017.

"In 2017 we increased the real estate tax, the personal property tax, eliminated the decal fee and implemented the motor vehicle license fee all at once. It took effect in fiscal year 2018," County Administrator Dale Wagoner said.

At a Tuesday, June 11 board work session, Wagoner presented four potential funding options to fund the school system.

If "we decide to only give the absolute minimum that we have to give, we have to come up with \$975,845 new dollars, which would still give an increase to the total school budget of \$12,949,052," he said.

Wagoner said that amount would only be enough to pay the school's debt service. The division would have no funds for its facilities line item.

If the board gives everything the school division requested, Wagoner said the discretionary money would increase to \$3,875,545, with an overall increase in the budget of \$14,325,241.

"This would require us, the board, to come up with an additional \$2,352,034 beyond what we've already appropriated and approved in the previous budget in April," he said.

Two additional options Wagoner presented were giving the level funding of discretionary funding, which is \$3,053,903. This would be an overall increase to the budget of \$13,505,599 and the board will have to come up with an additional \$1,532,392.

## School Board

(cont. from page 1)

eral Assembly's budget that was passed will be \$7,467,000. The total increase of the local share from the General Assembly budget compared to the Governor's introduced budget will be \$1,837,000," he said.

Because of the increase in state and local revenue that will be coming to the school system, Boone said there are significant adjustments.

"There are large increases in the at-risk funding that we will be receiving, the allocation for the FY25 compensation increases that have already been implemented, increases in instruction to support additional school-based staff, increases in education direct and capital outlay for all schools to support teaching and learning," he said.

With this, Boone said the division is looking at increasing the schools' education and capital outlay accounts by 25 percent. He said there will also be increases in instruction for special education staffing needs, English as a Second Language (ESL), absorption of various grant funded positions, funding for professional development to support teaching and learning, and others like maintenance and transportation.

"Then we have an increase in technology for infrastructure, in other words for networking needs," he said.

In other matters, the board:

\*Approved a new literacy plan presented by Dr. Elizabeth Motley, Dyslexia and Literacy coordinator, who said the county's literacy rates have improved over the last few years, but "we are trending down again, and less and less of our students are identified as below-benchmark readers."

With the literacy plan in place, "students will effectively read, write, listen, and speak for many purposes in varied settings. Our teachers will use high-quality instructional materials aligned with evidence-based literacy practices to foster students' growth in word knowledge and reading comprehension, developing the ability to think creatively and critically across all disciplines. Our community's focus on literacy will provide all students with the necessary tools to positively impact their world and ensure a successful future," said Motley.

Teachers will be given research-based training, including some return training programs like Lexia Core 5/PowerUp training. Students who are considered at risk will now have a reading plan. "Our reading specialists, their teachers, their



The Henry County Board of Supervisors set a public hearing for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, to gain input on a proposed real estate tax hike. The hearing will be held in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Another option is to give the March meeting funding of discretionary funding, or \$3,359,293, for an overall increase to the budget of \$13,810,989. With this option, the board would have to come up with an additional \$1,837,782.

Wagoner said the funding amount the board chooses could be used from a tax increase, the county's saving account, a reallocation from other departments, or a combination of those options.

Of the options, Pam Cobler, of the Reed Creek District, said she preferred the March funding of discretionary.

"Definitely not take from the department's we've already funded and the great budget you've already presented to us. I think we need to look at raising taxes. It seems the one percent voted on unanimously," she said.

Cobler said she's talked to a lot of her constituents and educators about the issue, and noted they have questions about why the school budget has gotten so high and what the money's going to be used for.

"They want other details, like how the schools are spending the money. I think they had some legitimate questions about why all this is happening, and they want answers from the school system, which I believe the school can provide. When it comes to it though, I don't see another option right now other than taking some of the savings, leave the budget as it is, and then talk about raising taxes as we need to do that at whatever rate that is," she said.

principals, and their parents will come together to talk about, 'hey, what are some things we can put in place to help this child reach reading proficiency,'" Motley said.

Parents will also continue to be supported through events and at-home learning options to help their children advance their reading skills. The schools will work to help "keep parents in the loop," she said, and schools are hoping to see continued growth through the literacy program.

Additionally, an accountability system will be put in place during the 2025-2026 school year. "You will see an emphasis placed on individual student growth," said superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis. When the new program kicks in, students will compare their growth to their previous years' reading level instead of against their peers.

\*Approved the purchase of a weapons detection system to enhance safety procedures at schools. The division is looking into the purchase of new weapon detection devices that are currently being used for major sporting events.

"The OPENGATE system was specifically designed as a result of feedback from the NFL, professional sports stadiums and teams, as well as event venues like Disney and Universal, that were looking for a solution that would enable specific weapons detection and visitor throughput by significantly reducing the nuisance alarm rate, while still accurately detecting weapons," said Boone.

The new detectors would be purchased for secondary schools and are made to specifically pick up weapons instead of reacting to other types of metal.

"The systems that we purchased last year, what are we going to do with those," asked board member Ben Gravely.

The older metal detectors will still be used "as a secondary source," said Boone.

"It's definitely a well-thought-out process," said board member Elizabeth Darden in response to the machine's possible effectiveness.

\*Heard that the division is moving forward to implement "comprehensive plan" cyber security measures to better protect the school system. Last year, 1,537 cyber-attacks targeted K-12 and higher education data breaches.

"Our next steps will be to continue to communicate the plan to relevant committee members, identify programming gaps, prioritize new tactics, training, and technologies and to track and to

Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District, said he favored the level funding of discretionary funds option or the March funding of discretionary funds.

"I think it's inevitable that real estate's going to have to be raised at some point, whether it's now or whether it's the next budget cycle. The budget's not going to get smaller, it's going to continue to increase, so we've got to be able to have funds to do that," he said.

Pruitt said he doesn't want to get into a situation where the board raises the real estate tax rate now, but when the budget rolls around next year, must raise it again "simply because we didn't raise it enough to get to where we needed to be."

Vice-chairman Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, said he would pick the March discretionary funding option.

"The reason being is because in our budget, we have allocated our local discretionary funds \$3,359,293, we've allocated that. To go in and just pull that away, and decrease what the state gives them, I don't think that's the best thing to do," he said.

Bryant added he also doesn't feel comfortable taking the funds from other departments.

Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, said he also preferred that option, and giving the school division the full amount it requested.

"We also have to think when we look at salaries, we're looking at bus drivers, cafeteria workers, we're looking at teacher aides, so it's more than just teachers.

Retaining substitutes has been very difficult, so this money won't just be about the teachers and the administrators, I mean there's a whole lot of other folks that're also in the school system," he said.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, said she wasn't sold on raising real estate taxes.

"It still concerns me that we have reassessments coming up two years from now. I don't want the taxpayers to have 'two tax increases. I think they would probably expect for the real estate, the way it is, to see a' higher reassessment that would result in more taxes, she said.

At the same time, Buchanan said she doesn't think the board should take the funds from the other county departments.

"The next two largest budgets that we would probably look at are law enforcement and public safety. We've added additional manpower in public safety to cover calls, the sheriff's department's working on drug abatement and all that now, so there's plans there. So, if we start cutting the departments, we're going to have to look at the sheriff's department and public safety, and I don't think that's a good idea," she said.

At a starting point, Jim Adams, chairman and of the Blackberry District, said no one wants to cut from other departments.

"We've worked hard to get where we are with that. We all agree in fairness. We've made promises and it may not have been a promise where you raise your hands so to speak, but when you vote you do make that promise somewhat," he said.

Considering reoccurring needs, Adams said he finds it hard to dip into the county's savings.

"We're going to have that need next year, and likely the toughest thing that we're going to be facing is a real estate increase. But we need to probably determine which side of this we're going to fund. Are we going all the way through, or not," he said.

The board also approved a resolution honoring Joey Craig, of the Bassett Volunteer Rescue Squad, for his over 60 years of volunteer service.

Pruitt attended the meeting electronically. Since the board did not adopt an electronic voting policy, he was unable to vote on the motion to schedule a public hearing to potentially have a tax increase.



Elizabeth Fulcher presented information about the security program plan.

track and manage our successes," Elizabeth Fulcher, director of technology and innovation, said.

The schools also heard about four grants the division is eligible to receive from the state. The funds would help to improve basic programs and LEAs, support effective instruction, improve language instruction, and for student support and academic enrichment.

\*Heard from Mary Martin about the numerous calls she's received concerning fundraisers.

"I think there's a misconception on a lot of it that it's not school sanctioned fundraisers, it's people raising money for their travel teams. I think that's where a lot of the confusion comes in," she said.

Martin said there seems to be a lack of transparency regarding exactly where that money goes, who is accountable for it, and what it will be used for.

"I think there needs to be clarification. If you're going to put this out there, that this is not a school sanctioned fundraiser. This is a private thing that they travel to," she said.

\*Heard from the student board members about the student winners 2024 Piedmont Area Young Writers Contest.

\*Heard an update about the school year calendar and the school year calendar magnets, which can be used to track school attendance.

\*Approved the consent agenda.

\*Approved the information security program plan.

\*Approved the purchase of AV equipment and upgrades for the division's middle schools.

\*Approved giving Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Lisa Millner the authorization of signatures in the absence of the superintendent for



Dr. Elizabeth Motley presents the division literacy plan.

the 2024-2025 school year.

\*Awarded a \$101,310 contract to purchase welding equipment from Bakers Gas.

\*Awarded a contract for office supplies to Bassett Office Supply. The division also was authorized to exercise subsequent renewals in accordance with the contract terms.

\*Approved a contract for provision of non-food items to General Sales of Virginia for FY 24-25, with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods if both parties agree.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

### Friday, June 14

Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Room 52 Municipal Building, Building, 55 W Church St., Martinsville.

City Council Meeting, 12 p.m., Municipal Building, Building, 55 W Church St, Martinsville.

### Thursday, June 20

Henry County School Board's Fiscal Closeout Meeting, 9 a.m., Summerlin Room, County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

## Events

### Friday, June 14

Movies on The Plaza - Elemental, event starts at 7 p.m., movie starts at 8:30 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), 191 Fayette St., Martinsville.

Flag Day, 10 a.m., Martinsville Fire & EMS, 65 W Church St, Martinsville.

### Sunday, June 16

Beverly Woody will present "History of Rock Castle Creek" at 3 p.m. Sunday at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. The free program is part of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series.

### Monday, June 17

HDPE Lampshades – Sustainability in Art Form, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### June 17-28

The Martinsville church of Christ is hosting a Gospel Tent Meeting, 308 W. Market St, Martinsville, Va., every night at 7 p.m. "NO COLLECTIONS TAKEN, ALL ARE WELCOME."

### Tuesday, June 18 – Thursday, June 20

HDPE Lampshades– Sustainability in Art Form, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Thursday, June 20

Brain Boosting Smoothies, 1 p.m., Henry County Parks and Recreation Center, 395 John Redd Blvd., Collinsville.

Imagination Lavender Farm field trip, 6 p.m., meet at New College Institute (NCI), 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Friday, June 21

Martinsville Summer Kickoff, noon to 4 p.m.,

BrightView Martinsville, 1836 Virginia Ave, Martinsville.

### June 21, 22, 28, 29

House Band Music Revue, TheatreWorks Community Players, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville, 7 p.m., Tickets \$20, available online at [www.TWCP.net](http://www.TWCP.net).

### Sunday, June 23 and June 30

House Band Music Revue, TheatreWorks Community Players, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville, 2 p.m., Tickets \$20, available online at [www.TWCP.net](http://www.TWCP.net).

### Monday, June 24

Mud Energy, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Tuesday, June 25

Cookbook Showdown, 2:30 p.m., Ridgeway Branch Library, 900 Vista View Ln, Ridgeway.

Mud Energy!, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Wednesday, June 26

Mud Energy!, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Thursday, June 27

Cookbook Showdown, 2:30 p.m., Patrick County Branch Library, 116 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart.

Mud Energy!, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New College Institute (NCI), Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Saturday, June 29

Cookbook Showdown, 2:30 p.m., Martinsville Main Library, 310 Church St. E, Martinsville.

## 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](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

TOPS FIELDDALE 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.

## Award Winners

(cont. from page 1)

cal and regional charities, with a substantial portion benefiting the Penn-Shank Memorial Scholarship Fund," she added.

Johnny Buck, the festival's executive director and one of its founding members, accepted the award. "We wanted to do something to remember our friend. We wanted to celebrate not only their life but life in general," Buck said, and recalled that although the festival started small, it has grown each year.

"The local tourism community has been truly amazing and embraced us from the very jump," Buck said.

Several educators were honored with the 2024 Arts in Education Award, including the

Martinsville City Public Schools Performing Arts Academy, Carlisle School's director of Fine Arts Anne Norman Young, and Bryan Dunn, Magna Vista High School's Forensics Coach.

Three students received scholarships:

Monica Walker, who is studying music and music business at Radford University, was awarded the Nicodemus D. Hufford Memorial Scholarship.

Dylan Royal who is studying music at James Madison University and Ainsley Jones who is studying dance at Radford University were the two students to receive the Harold Knowlton Work Memorial Scholarship.



Students Dylan Royal and Monica Watkins received scholarships at the Clyde Hooker Awards. Monica Walker (not pictured) was awarded the Nicodemus D. Hufford Memorial Scholarship.

## MHC Awards

(cont. from page 1)

Destiny Mitchell, owner Mama D's LLC Daycare Center, received \$4,000 for her business.

She is a mental health provider "who plans to provide the Martinsville and Henry County area with a safe, nurturing environment that encourages children to develop their capabilities and interests at their own pace," said Thomas. The daycare will start by caring for in-

fants and toddlers before expanding to older children.

Starling Cards & Comics received \$3,300. While this shop has been around for years, it was purchased by a new owner named Presley Garrett in 2023. "Starling Avenue Cards & Comics offers a diverse range of retail and event services for enthusiasts of various hobbies." These events include several card tournaments of popular card games like "Pokémon."

SugaMamma's Catering LLC received \$3,000 and is owned by Brenda Moore-Barksdale. "With a rich history rooted in a family tradition of cooking and spreading happiness through food, the mission of this catering team is to create unforgettable culinary experiences that delight the senses and leave a lasting impression.

Bauble Noelle Clothing Boutique, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary,



Corretta Martin (center), owner of Corre Impact, receives a \$10,000 check. Martin is flanked by Jim Adams, Chair of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and Garrett Dillard on the left. Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway and Brenell Thomas (right).

received \$1,300. Chelsey Holland invented the store to "give women of all sizes, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds an opportunity to shop somewhere that is all-size inclusive to make sure everyone feels welcome while supporting local business."

Unicorn AF was awarded \$1,000. "Ms. Fitzgerald is extremely proud of the unique name of her salon, the brightly colored environment, and the welcoming of all who enter, especially the LGBTQ com-

munity," said Thomas, adding that the AF in the name stood for the owner's name Annette Fitzgerald.

Officials said \$27,600 total was awarded, and the program has now 349 individual graduates. Of that number, 96 businesses have been awarded a total of \$693,720.

"We wish each of our graduates much success in your entrepreneurial journeys and we encourage you to continue to reach out and ask for help along the way," Thomas said.

**Rania's**  
RESTAURANT  
BAR AND GRILL

147 East Main Street  
Uptown Martinsville, VA  
Reservations accepted  
(276) 638-4462  
[www.raniasrestaurant.com](http://www.raniasrestaurant.com)

**All Day Specials**

**Tuesday: Prime Rib 8oz. ....\$14.99**  
with potatoes & onions and salad

**Wednesday: Chicken Alfredo .....\$13.99**  
with salad

**Thursday: COHO Salmon .....\$14.99**  
with rice and salad

**Friday: Bay Scallops Alfredo Fettuccini...\$14.99**  
with salad

**Saturday: Fresh Grilled Tilapia .....\$12.99**  
with mashed potatoes and salad

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**SUMMER DESSERT .....\$5.99**  
PEACH MELBA WITH RASBERRY SAUCE AND  
VANILLA ICE CREAM

Open Father's Day 11:30 am to 7:00 pm **FRIDAY** **PIANO MUSIC LIVE**  
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# OPINION

## Fauci and the Case for Lab Leak

On June 3, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) held a hearing with Dr. Anthony Fauci.

This was my second time in 2024 participating in a meeting with Fauci.

Fauci was a leading public health official during the pandemic, as head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Fauci was looked to by many of the American public and news media organizations as a trusted source to navigate the virus.

What's less known about Fauci is his agency's role in coronavirus research that was conducted before the pandemic.

I have been dedicated to getting evidence on the origins of COVID-19.

As discussed in a previous column, I participated in a hearing with EcoHealth Alliance President, Dr. Peter Daszak.

Two weeks after the hearing with Daszak, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it would suspend EcoHealth from receiving any federal funds for its projects and has proposed debarment of the company.

I believe my exposure of Daszak's lies may have been the straw that broke the camel's back on EcoHealth.

However, government agencies, particularly NIAID, who were allocating taxpayer-funded research grants to EcoHealth, were not adequately monitoring their activities.

According to Politico, Fauci's recent testimony was his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since retiring at the end of 2022.

As I have discussed, the makeup of the virus is unique. SARS-CoV-2 contained a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide insertion, highly unusual features for a virus that purportedly comes from nature.

The furin cleavage site is what made the virus so contagious.

A furin cleavage site had never existed before in any known coronavirus, as noted by the online publishing platform Medium in an article.

The article also highlights that Wuhan was already testing MERS CoV, a related coronavirus, as early as 2018.

Another issue with the NIAID grant concerned humanized mice.

EcoHealth's experiments in Wuhan involved infecting humanized mice with chimeric viruses. According to an MIT Technology Review report, Dr. Ralph Baric's lab at the University of North Carolina shared his highly modified humanized mice with Wuhan. NIAID and National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved Baric's lab to do this.

Prior to this, the Chinese did not have access to these high-tech mice.

Giving the Wuhan lab humanized mice allowed them the capability to reproduce their own mice and test viruses.



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

Laboratory mice can reproduce fast.

Additionally the Chinese have not turned over lab notebooks from the tests of coronaviruses on these humanized mice.

The lab notebooks were contractually required to be provided to NIAID!

And remember EcoHealth's required September 2019 report was nearly two years late and was altered after the pandemic struck!

The Chinese were already researching Mers CoV and experimenting with adding a furin cleavage site in that virus.

Let's examine the battle over competing theories between animal transmission and the lab leak.

For natural transmission: you must assume some unknown animal in some unknown location got a coronavirus from a bat, that virus then mutated to have a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide sequence within a few months or years, then that still unknown animal was sold at a wet market.

For lab leak: we gave sophisticated humanized mice to Wuhan to do coronavirus research for NIAID. Wuhan was working on putting a furin cleavage site into MERS CoV. And then a coronavirus with a furin cleavage site shows up in Wuhan.

Did Wuhan do non-NIAID coronavirus research?

Fauci said it was possible.

I think it's likely.

Occam's razor states that the theory with the fewest assumptions is usually correct.

According to that principle, a lab leak makes the most sense.

I am not saying EcoHealth, NIH or Fauci did this intentionally.

But remember that Wuhan never gave EcoHealth the lab notebooks NIAID was entitled to!

Fauci is unable to rule out the theory that COVID-19 originated from a lab leak. He could not account for other research that might be going on in China, and recognized that a lab leak was possible.

The sad truth is we gave the Chinese the tools and ability to experiment with dangerous viruses.

We did this with a Chinese lab that my investigation indicates didn't meet U.S. safety standards.

With the tools we gave them, I believe the Chinese created one of the deadliest pathogens of the modern world.

EcoHealth is being held accountable for its negligence.

Congress should hold federal agencies that were involved accountable too.

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

## Camaraderie, achy feet and a furniture sale

We had been working for ages and ages, and my back was aching, and my feet hurt, and I was exhausted.

I checked the time, because I thought we were nearly halfway through the 4-hour shift. To my surprise, it read 1:22, and the afternoon shift at the Hooker Warehouse Sale had only started at 1 p.m.

Oh, dear, it was going to be a long day.

It wasn't the sale's fault I was so tired and achy. Everyone else was bouncing around energetically and happily, and nothing you read here should discourage you from volunteering the next time the sale is held. I just hadn't planned well. I was already tired because I had started heavy yardwork at 7 a.m. just to have the afternoon free for volunteer work. Instead of wearing proper shoes, I wore too-loose flats that did nothing to support my feet or cushion them from the cement of the warehouse floor. I hadn't had lunch because I didn't want to stop yard work to take the time for it, but after I had been there for about an hour, I did have a slice of the pizza that was offered at the volunteer sign-in table.

Twice a year Hooker Furniture holds a massive furniture sale in its warehouse on 58. The furniture was amazing, and the prices unbelievable – a mere fraction of the retail price. I could have gotten an entire fine, sturdy and comfortable living room suite for the price I recently paid just for the fabric to reupholster my beat-up rickety old living room furniture.

Hooker employees wore matching yellow T-shirts and community volunteers wore matching black T-shirts. Some of the yellow-shirted folks explained to me: The sale opened at 7 a.m. for Hooker employees exclusively; at 8 a.m., each Hooker employee could bring one guest. The sale opened up to the public at 9 a.m.

Proceeds of the sale benefited the SPCA and Boys & Girls Club, tremendous assistance for those two worthy organizations.

General volunteers received \$50 vouchers to use toward furniture purchases, and Hooker employee-volunteers told me they got \$300 vouchers. Hooker kept us fed and refreshed with cold sodas and water, pizza and an assortment of mini candy bars.

As well as benefiting the charities, the Hooker Furniture sale makes having a beautiful home full of fine, useful and built-to-last furniture accessible to people across income levels. What a service to our community.

By the time I arrived at 1 p.m., the sale was over, and it was pick-up time. Groups of volunteers were assigned to one of the docks. I was at Dock 8 with eight or 10 others. We were armed with huge packing foam rolls, two utility knives for cutting it, two sturdy handheld tape dispensers and boxes of clear tape and plastic wrap.

The customer would back up to the dock. One Hooker employee would have that customer's list of purchases and send other Hooker employees to go get them. Once the yellow-shirted experts returned rolling the furniture over on carts, we'd get to work wrapping and taping it.

Sometimes it would be just a couple of pieces. It would get real exciting when it would be a table with many chairs, and especially when it was orders of several differently sized and shaped pieces.

Some people got the furniture wrapped as perfectly as if it were a Christmas gift. Others gave their wrapped pieces the wild shape of a ball of crumpled up paper.

Taping it all up seemed obvious and easy, but: Sometimes when we'd wave the tape dispenser across a package, the tape would get all twisted up and often get dislodged from the dispenser and occasionally even get all tangled up. Sometimes a warehouse worker (who, like the others, was volunteering) would kindly take the tape dispenser and whip it



**Holly Kozelsky**

at lighting speed up and down and around the package, leaving stripes of perfectly placed, even, straight clear tape, then wink in a friendly manner as he gave the dispenser back.

The line that stretched from the warehouse through the parking lot and way on down the road was slow and the day was hot and the wait in line was hours and hours, but all of the drivers we saw were cheerful and excited about the furniture they had gotten, clearly worth well more than worth a little money and a day's wait.

It could get entertaining watching some of them back up to the dock. I chuckled at their attempts while certainly admitting I'd never in a million years want to have to back up a trailer to a target myself.

One car tried, no lie, at least 60 or 70 times to back up to the dock, in a car with a trailer attached. He'd pull forward, then edge back sending the trailer off at some angle or other, over and over and over again. Little by little, we at Dock 8 lined up to watch the attempts which just got crazier and crazier. Had we all not been kind, respectful people, that would have been made into a viral video that would have set the internet into gales of laughter, but all phones stayed in the pockets or purses where they belonged.

When the fellow finally got the trailer close to the dock, but still not lined up, a very strong Hooker employee went over to pick up the trailer, move it slightly to the right, set it back down, and repeated a few times until it was lined up to the dock. The driver got out of the car, and we on the dock applauded.

While the camaraderie was great and the atmosphere light-hearted and cheery, my back, body, feet and eventually head hurt and I didn't think I could take it much longer. I felt guilty for feeling that way, because those yellow-shirted Hooker employees next to me had been working there since 6 a.m.

Our shifts ended at 5 and I couldn't wait to get out. In fact, since 1:22 p.m. I had been counting down the hours and then the 15-minute blocks and finally the minutes until 5. But –

But then word got around that the pick-up line was so long that the pick-up would be extended until 7 p.m., not 5. Hooker volunteers – who had been there since 6 a.m. – were asked to stay.

At 5 p.m. most of the volunteers exploded out of there like fifth graders on the last day of school. I could barely stay awake on the way to the car.

I picked up a delicious, spiced chick pea dinner from Dew Drop Inn behind the Leatherwood Food Lion. At home, I took a Goody's headache powder and changed from the useless flats into sturdy, supportive hiking boots with Dr. Scholl's gel arch-support inserts. My daughter and I ate a quick but delicious dinner.

That boots-Goody's-dinner combination worked miracles. My daughter granted me another couple of hours' worth of absence.

A new woman, refreshed and optimistic, I made it back to the warehouse quickly, and by 5:45 I again was working along with the volunteers, now a skeleton crew of mostly yellow-shirted Hooker employees who had been there since 6 a.m.

We got the last piece on our dock wrapped by 7:30 p.m. and headed out for home.

I would definitely work the sale again, and now I know how to show up better prepared to work.

But instead of preceding my working shift at the Hooker warehouse by yard work, I may precede it by some furniture shopping instead.

## Community Health Workers sought

This is what a trusted grandmother who was visiting the food bank in Worker looks like! A Rocky Mount handed her

grandson to CHW Lucas Tuning so she could shop with hands free.

Community Health Workers in Franklin County/Rocky Mount and Henry County/Martinsville often find themselves helping residents in unexpected ways. Because they come from and know well the communities they serve, they are viewed as knowledgeable, resourceful and trustworthy folks ready to help their neighbors when needed.

To learn more about Community Health Workers and what they do, contact the United Way of Henry County/Martinsville (276) 638-3946, or the United Way of Roanoke Valley (540) 777-4200.

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# OPINION

## Nation's inconsiderate jerks announce annual summit will be held in grocery store aisle

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was announced on Monday that the National Council of Inconsiderate Jerks (NCIJ) will hold their annual summit in the middle of the grocery store aisle.

"It just makes sense," said NCIJ President Rudy Campbell. "Whenever members of our organization happen to bump into each other at the grocery store, we generally find that the best place to hold a long, drawn-out conversation is right in the middle of the aisle. It's spacious and convenient."

However, the vote was not unanimous, Campbell said.

"In the past, we've held our summits while slowly walking shoulder to shoulder on busy city sidewalks," he said. "We've also held summits on moving walkways at airports, standing stock-still, of course. A few members even wanted to bring back the tradition of holding the summit from two cars that have stopped in the middle of a quiet two-lane road so that the drivers can talk to each other. Unfortunately, after the shooting that took place back in '07, we decided that was no longer a safe option."

The agenda at this year's NCIJ summit will be a lengthy one, Campbell said.

"We've got a lot of issues to work through," he said. "For example, one popular topic has been cell phone usage. Is it better to use a bluetooth headset in public and then get angry at people when they think you're talking to them, or is it preferable to put your phone on speaker and scream into it while holding it at arm's length? I'm sure it's going to be a heated debate."

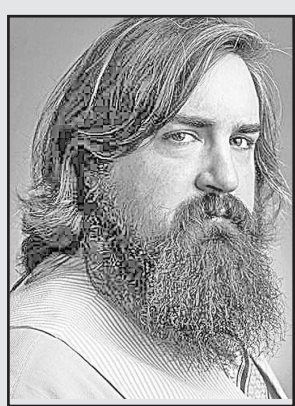
However, Campbell said, past summits have proven very fruitful.

"Last year's summit was focused on ways to save time, or 'life hacks,' if you will," he said. "For example, if you're in a hurry and you need to get on an elevator, don't bother to let the lady who's already on there get off first. Just shove her aside and stomp on in. Also, say you go to a busy gas station and you want to go inside after you pump gas to buy a bag of chips. Don't bother moving your car; it's much faster to just leave it at the pump."

The best life hack that NCIJ members have discovered, Campbell said, is that you can save upwards of 30 seconds by leaving your shopping cart in the middle of the parking lot after you've loaded up your car.

"It's the cart guy's job to collect the carts, so it not only saves time, but it gives cart guys job security," Campbell said. "If they didn't want to collect carts, they should have gotten better jobs. That's why it's OK to talk down to them."

Saving time is important for members of the NCIJ, Campbell



By Ben R. Williams

explained, as they all keep busy schedules.

"Each morning, I usually swing by my favorite fast food place during the breakfast rush, hit the drive-thru, and buy about \$170 worth of food," he said. "I like to use the drive-thru because I'm generally hauling a 20-foot trailer and those things are hard to park. After that, I like to head to the bank, complete my transaction, and then tell the bank teller a long, rambling story about all the businesses that used to exist on the property before it was a bank. After that, I've got a long day ahead of calling up different businesses and organizations and asking them questions that I could easily look up online in a fraction of the time. Finally, at the end of the day, I like to stand on the street outside of my apartment building around 2 a.m. and shout a conversation at a guy across the street. As you can see, I'm a busy man."

While NCIJ members are looking forward to the upcoming summit, Campbell said, there's one part of the event that's always a somber affair: the In Memoriam segment.

"For most people in the U.S., the leading cause of death is heart disease," Campbell said. "For some reason, however, the leading cause of death for members of the NCIJ is being beaten to death in public by a stranger. Whether our members are minding our own business while in line at Subway, struggling to decide what to put on our sandwiches, or whether we're simply offering some neighborly advice to the characters on the movie theater screen, we're constantly in danger of completely unpredictable attacks by members of the public."

When asked if he could imagine a possible solution to the threat of violence that members of his organization face daily, Campbell shook his head.

"I'm out of ideas," he said. "But if anyone can come up with a solution, I'll be more than happy to give them a piece of paper that looks just like a crisp \$100 bill but is actually a Bible tract."

## AEP Foundation supports Appalachian youth in foster care

The American Electric Power Foundation (AEP Foundation), at the recommendation of Appalachian Power, awarded a \$25,000 grant to Comfort Cases, an international 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing hope and dignity to youth in foster care.

Comfort Cases™ are new backpacks or duffle bags filled with several essential items for children transitioning into foster care. The AEP Foundation grant will allow Comfort Cases to distribute several hundred Comfort Cases™ backpacks across Appalachian Power's three-state service territory.

"Youth in foster care want to know that number one, they have a community that loves them," said Rob Scheer, Comfort Cases founder. "That's why we give them brand new pajamas, all the toiletries they need, a book, a blanket, a stuffed animal. We want them to know we believe in them."

Funding from the AEP Foundation is making nearly 500 Comfort Cases™ possible for organizations supporting youth in foster care across Appalachian Power's service territory, including Western Regional CASA and West Virginia CASA for Children.Appalachian

Power employees from Charleston and Huntington and volunteers from both organizations spent time filling nearly 200 Comfort Cases™ with items during a Packing Party.

"I volunteered myself because the children I adopted were previously in West Virginia's foster system," Misty Clark, Appalachian Power distribution work planning manager, said. "While it was unplanned for them to volunteer with me at the Packing Party, they were excited, telling me how happy they were knowing they were helping kids like them."

"There are approximately 438,000 youth in foster care nationwide, with over 10,000 in our service area alone," said Aaron Walker, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. "As a company committed to helping improve the lives of those in the communities we serve, we were proud to help further the mission of Comfort Cases by working together to fill backpacks with needed items."

Additional Comfort Cases™ will be distributed to CASA4KIDS, Inc., in Kingsport, Tenn., Children's Trust in Roanoke, Va., and The Bair Foundation in southwest Virginia.

## Runners

(cont. from page 1)

ning downhill, and Philpott recommends doing downward strides and practicing the proper posture for a downhill trek.

"It takes some time to prepare, I'm going to say a month or two to get ready for a short race," Philpott said. He recommends trying to slowly upping run time each day to "reach your full potential. It's all about acclimating yourself to the race you're trying to do."

Bailey recommends that newer runners work on upping the number of miles that they run, which "helps gain endurance."

One of the biggest trials with running is just getting started, she said.

"The first week, it's going to be rough, but you have to trust that it's going to get better," Bailey said, and noted that it's not easy all the time, but it is always better than when she first started.

Some of the most important work is done before and after running, and Bailey recommends "stretching a lot before and after races" to help keep your muscles in good condition. She said she enjoys running laid-back distances before races to get her legs warmed up and ready for the race.

"A lot of people are like, 'why would you go running before you run the race?' It really does help your body get

ready to be active and start running," she said.

Both Bailey and Philpott recommend doing a short run after a race ends to help runners' bodies to wind down. Heating pads were also recommended after a run to help with muscle soreness for the next day.

The Martinsville Mile will be held at the Dick and Willie Trail. Runners wanting to train for the race can practice on the race course itself to prepare their bodies to run the mile as fast as possible.

For participants who can't currently run but still wish to participate, a non-competitive one-mile walk will be held. Online registration ends July 17. To register, or for more information, visit [www.milesinmartinsville.com](http://www.milesinmartinsville.com).

Paper registration forms are available on the website link and at the front desk of the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA. Completed forms may be submitted to the YMCA. Late paper registration forms may be submitted at the YMCA on Friday July 19, noon – 6 p.m.; and on race day from 3-5 p.m. at the YMCA. There will be no registration or packet pick-up at race start or finish sites. Questions can be directed to race officials by email at [braverunner67@gmail.com](mailto:braverunner67@gmail.com).

## Letter To The Editor

### Enough Alcohol in Martinsville

On May 18th police were called to Tequila's Sports Bar and Grill to investigate a shooting. On May 14th former Martinsville Vice Mayor, Chad Martin, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence. On June 6th a new brewery, Hope Brewery, opened in Martinsville. Ok, guys, - I think we have enough alcohol in town.

Every bowling alley has a bar, most restaurant chains have full bars, and somehow even local coffee shops serve hard liquor: that's why I stopped patronizing The Ground Floor. Man, wine is one thing, but Wild Turkey is another.

I'm just thirty-years-old, but I am a "teetotaler." I do not drink alcohol at all, and quite frankly I don't want to have my family anywhere near men getting a buzz, let alone getting drunk. I'm a Millennial so you can't say, "Ok, Boomer" or whatever. I'm not a religious fundamentalist, Pharisical zealot, etc., ... I'm just a Christian who reads his Bible.

When I read my Bible, I don't find positive notes pertaining to alcohol. Wine's first Biblical appearance is in Genesis 9 when Noah gets drunk, and some form of sexual sin happens between he and his son. Lot's daughters get him drunk to commit incest in Genesis 19. I believe alcohol was involved during Nadab and Abihu's "strange fire" worship of Leviticus 10 considering God issues a prohibition in Leviticus 10:9. King Solomon issues multiple warnings against alcohol in Proverbs 20:1, 23:30, and 31:4-5.

"What about Jesus turning water into wine in John 2?" Some religious folks say, "It's not a sin to drink alcohol, but a sin to get drunk." In John 2 the attendees had consumed all the "wine" and Jesus provided more. John 2:6 says there were six pots containing two to three firkins a piece. A firkin is about nine gallons. So, Jesus made anywhere from 108 to 162 gallons of extra "wine." Do we honestly believe that nobody had gotten drunk yet if Jesus provided alcoholic wine? I know the Bible says that Jesus ate with sinners, but did He enable or contribute to their sin? No way.

Now, from a civil standpoint I don't believe prohibition works. Would I vote for a dry city or county? Yes. Do I believe that would rid us of all alcohol? No. I'm just saying that on an individual basis the Bible would convince us to abstain.

What bothers me most during this saga is the number of "pastors" in Martinsville and Henry County that contradict the Bible regarding Christians and alcohol. Maybe they don't contradict the Bible, but that's only because they never teach on alcohol at all! What's the point in a "church" paying a "pastor" that does not educate the members to live different from the world? Read Romans 12:2 and 1Peter 2:9 and tell me I'm wrong. American sectarianism has watered down the Bible to nothing more than a superstitious rabbit's foot.

I don't need alcohol to have fun, nor do I suffer hangovers the next day.

Caleb Robertson,  
Martinsville

## Clinic offers free online healthcare for all Virginia

Lackey Clinic, a free and charitable healthcare center, launched its brand-new program Lackey Virtual Care—an online medical diagnosis and treatment service operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The clinic is offering it free of charge for all Virginians aged 18 years or older, no matter if they are current Lackey Clinic patients or not.

"This is a huge breakthrough," said Dr. Jill Cottel, the clinic's medical director, "because Lackey Virtual Care gives anyone the opportunity to start the process online for a doctor's visit anytime from anywhere in Virginia. This helps anyone with symptoms such as colds, fevers, dental pain, and more to have direct access to a provider without having to make an appointment or wait in a patient waiting room. Thanks to the support of our donors to cover our current costs, we are able to provide high-quality care free of charge—saving uninsured Virginians both time and money."

Using the platform, powered by the clinic's partnership with industry leader Fabric Health, a patient starts their online visit just if they were explaining their symptoms to their doctor or nurse. One of the clinic's licensed providers reviews the information, makes a diagnosis, and creates a treatment plan.

Within four hours during the clinic's business hours (and often even within minutes) the patient receives their care plan and can select their pharmacy if a

prescription was given. If the provider needs more information, they can reach out to the patient via live chat or live video.

"I had a bad cough and a very sore throat for several days," said Sonia, one of the clinic's virtual care patients. "I was getting concerned and thought I should seek care. I work full-time, and it's difficult to take off from work. I got on the Lackey Virtual Care site, and it went very well. I answered the questions, and then the doctor made a video call with me so she could learn more. I was prescribed medicine, and shortly after the visit I felt better. I am grateful for the help, and I was very relieved I had somewhere to turn so quickly for care."

"Lackey Virtual Care is a gamechanger for us because it is helping us expand the impact of our mission to serve the medically disadvantaged by providing better healthcare access for more people and hopefully improving their health outcomes," Cottel said.

The clinic is a faith-based nonprofit providing free and charitable healthcare to uninsured adults in Virginia. It provides a full range of high-quality healthcare services for free, including primary and specialty medical care, dental care, eye care, virtual care, free and low-cost prescriptions, behavioral health services, diabetic education, and spiritual care.

For more information, visit [lackeyclinic.org](http://lackeyclinic.org).



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**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**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA**  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FY25 SCHOOL BUDGET AND SETTING TAX LEVY**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to §15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE HENRY COUNTY FY24-25 SCHOOL BUDGET as it relates to ADDITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and to CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO THE REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM.  
The School Board is expecting to receive an additional \$7,467,395 from the Commonwealth of Virginia, which necessitates additional local funds of \$1,837,782. Thus, the amended school budget totals \$116,324,042.  
The Board of Supervisors is contemplating a Real Estate Tax Rate of Not More than \$0.62 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

**Amendment to Fiscal Year 2025 School Budget**

	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	Budget Amendment	FY 2025 Amended Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
State Funds	\$ 72,670,916	\$ 7,467,395	\$ 80,138,311
County Funds	21,635,583	1,837,782	23,473,365
Federal / State Grants	11,000,000	-	11,000,000
Other Funds	1,712,366	-	1,712,366
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 107,018,865</b>	<b>\$ 9,305,177</b>	<b>\$ 116,324,042</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Instruction	\$ 66,956,193	\$ 6,187,240	\$ 73,143,433
Administration/Attendance/Health	4,824,493	214,000	5,038,493
Transportation	8,696,918	410,000	9,106,918
Operation & Maintenance	8,671,064	1,380,000	10,051,064
Facilities	100,000	608,937	708,937
Debt Service/Transfers	3,467,747	-	3,467,747
Technology	3,757,450	505,000	3,757,450
Federal / State Grants	11,000,000	-	11,000,000
Contingency Reserves	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 107,018,865</b>	<b>\$ 9,305,177</b>	<b>\$ 116,324,042</b>

The proposed budget amendment does not constitute an obligation on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for any items or purpose. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

**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:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF CHEREE NICOLE DALTON TO HER DAUGHTER, SAIGE NICOLE NORRIS, BORN 1/26/2011, PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 16.1-283.  
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

Email [submissions@theenterprise.net](mailto:submissions@theenterprise.net)

**LEGAL**

**Public Hearing Notice**  
The School Board of Henry County will hold a public hearing Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 9:00 AM in the Summerlin Board Meeting Room, at the County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, VA. The purpose of the hearing is to receive input on the proposal to declare the former bus garage at 119 Coffman Drive, Collinsville, VA, surplus property pursuant to VA Code 22.1-129.

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# County to be featured on Real Virginia program

This July, Virginia Farm Bureau's "Real Virginia" television program will highlight Henry County as part of its County Close-up segment.

Each month, the feature focuses on a different Virginia county and provides an in-depth look at the area from an agricultural perspective. Elijah Griles, video content creator for Farm Bureau, will interview local farmers and others to explore the role agriculture plays in the county, which sectors are most prevalent and how the industry is changing.

The most recent Census of Agriculture, conducted in 2022, found Henry had a total of 258 farms on 44,869 acres, and the market value

of all agricultural products sold that year was more than \$18 million. Livestock, poultry and other animal products account for 81% of all farm income. Crops make up the remaining 19%, with the major plantings in hay, forage, tobacco and wheat. Other commodities produced in the county include corn, fruits, nursery and greenhouse products, and vegetables.

Real Virginia focuses on Virginia agriculture with a consumer audience in mind. The program airs nationwide at 3:30 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month on RFD-TV on Dish Network and DirecTV, and on selected cable outlets around the state. It airs weekly

on WBRA digital channel 15.2, the WHRO World Channel, WVVA Bluefield and WTKR Norfolk, and on the first and third weekends of each month on WVIR Charlottesville, WHSV Harrisonburg, WRLH Richmond and WSLR Roanoke.

Watch Real Virginia anytime online at [youtube.com/user/VirginiaFarmBureau](https://www.youtube.com/user/VirginiaFarmBureau).

With nearly 135,000 members in 88 county Farm Bureaus, VFBB is Virginia's largest farmers' advocacy group. The Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, voluntary organization committed to supporting Virginia's agriculture industry.

## Free books offered by school division



Henry County Schools are offering youngsters free books. The books, suitable for various grade levels, are displayed in the lobby of the Henry County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road.

## Local school district among those to receive No Kid Hungry funds

Henry County Public Schools is among the 14 school districts to receive funds from No Kid Hungry.

As schools close for the summer, school districts and nonprofits are beginning to launch summer meal programs to connect kids with nutritious meals outside of the classroom.

This year, more school districts and nonprofits serving rural communities have a new tool to reach kids this summer: Non-congregate summer meal options. New federal policy changes allow organizations to provide flexible options like multi-day meal distribution and deliveries to reach kids in more remote areas of the state.

To support and expand non-congregate programs in Virginia, No Kid Hungry announced more than \$284,000 in grants this year. Funds will support organizations with staffing, meal delivery, updated equipment, transportation costs and expanding outreach.

In addition to Henry County, others to receive grants are Accomack County Public Schools, Alleghany County Public Schools, Caroline County Public Schools, Dinwiddie County Public Schools, Feeding Southwest Virginia, Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank, Halifax County Public Schools, Orange County Public Schools, Page County Public Schools, Pulaski County Public Schools, Richmond County Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and

Warren County Public Schools.

"Summer should be full of sunshine and playtime, not worrying about empty pantries," said Sarah Steely, Director of No Kid Hungry Virginia. "These summer meal flexibilities offer a tremendous opportunity to reach more children in rural communities, who have traditionally had a much harder time accessing summer meal sites. These grants will help strengthen programs, enabling teams to provide summer meals in the way they know work best for their community."

Approximately 1 in 7 kids face food insecurity in Virginia and summer can be one of the hungriest times of year for the thousands of kids who receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year.

Summer meal programs help fill the gap but have historically only reached a fraction of the kids who rely on them due to barriers like transportation, fuel costs, extreme weather and parent work schedules. Challenges are especially pronounced in rural areas, where children often live far from the nearest meal site.

The latest non-congregate flexibilities are an exciting opportunity to expand the reach of summer meals and provide more children with much-needed nutrition during the summer months, according to No Kid Hungry. To learn more, visit <https://state.nokidhungry.org/virginia>.

**Sounds on the Square 2024**

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## Sounds on the Square to sponsor Blood Drive

Sounds on the Square will sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, June 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at the New College Institute, Lecture Hall C, 191 Fayette Street, Uptown Martinsville.

Each blood donor will receive a \$15 e-gift card and a free drink at a Sounds on the Square event. First-time donors and those reaching milestones are especially welcome. Schedule your appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/driveresults?zipSponsor=mhhs>. If necessary, you may text or call John Phillips, Historical Society President, at (276) 806-5022.

Sounds on the Square is Uptown Martinsville's premier music concert series held on the beautiful

Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse on the first Friday of each month, May through October. The free series is coordinated by the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, Children's First Pediatrics, Deskins, Inc., The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, New College Institute, and Sarver Cleaning Services.

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Each year 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions.

## 6 Reasons Why You Should Get Help For Your Mental Health

**By Stan Popovich**

Many people underestimate the impact that mental illness can have on an individual or family. It can be difficult to admit that you have a mental health problem in your life. Secondly, it can be just as difficult in getting the people you know to understand your situation without making any kinds of judgments.

As a result, here are six reasons why you should make your mental health an important priority in your life.

**1. Your situation will improve if you get help:** Your anxieties and fears can be challenging to manage and more than likely you will need some help. Just as you talk to your doctor about your regular health, you should not be hesitant in seeking help for your mental health. If left untreated, your anxieties and fears may not go away.

**2. Drugs and alcohol are not the answer:** Drugs and alcohol can make your problems more complicated. Many people have said that drugs and alcohol will only add more problems to your situation. Be smart and learn how to cope with your mental health issues by talking to a qualified professional. There are many health professionals in your area that can give you some ideas on where you can go for assistance.

**3. You will save time and money:** Eventually, you will have to confront your fears and mental health issues. Save yourself the time and heartache and confront your problems now rather than later. You will save months of struggling by getting help right away. The sooner you get assistance the faster you will start getting some relief.

**4. You are not alone:** Everyone deals with fear, stress, and anxiety in one's life whether your friends and others care to admit it. In addition, do not be embarrassed that you are getting help. We all learn new things from others on a daily basis and learning how to manage your anxieties is no different. In addition, your goal is to get your life back on track and not to get everyone's

approval. If people start asking you questions, just say you're dealing with stress. Most people can relate to dealing with stress and anxiety!

**5. Do not make the mistake of doing nothing:** There are many people who struggled with anxiety and other mental health related issues, and they tried to ignore their problems. As a result, some of these people struggled on a daily basis and eventually things became more difficult. It can be scary asking for assistance, but the key is to take things one day at a time.

**6. You have a variety of options:** There are many mental health support groups, organizations, and counselors in your area that can help get your life back on track. Talk to your doctor to get more details on where you can go for some assistance. Help is available but you must be willing to make the choice of getting better. Remember that every problem has a solution. You just have to make the effort to find the answers.

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managing-fear.com>.

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# Martinsville City Public Schools Honor Roll, Principal's List, and Counselor's List Students for Fourth Nine Weeks

## Albert Harris Elementary

### 3rd Grade Principal's List

Connor Brecht, Ka'Myrah Stockton, Willie Walker, Kacie Hylton, Tayion Martin, Dennis Moore, Abigail Perez-Zuniga.

### 3rd Grade Honor Roll

Heaven Dillard, Markai Durham, Marley Hairston, Maliyah Sessions, Timothy Giles Jr., Josiah Harris, Carmela Nakhle, Ailana Bravo Flores, Lennette Floyd, Jacob Gilley, Zion Gipson, Camila Lara Diaz, Madyson Scales, Aaden Schmidt.

### 4th Grade Principal's List

Londin Bervine, Miriam Carter, Semaiya Craighead, Navaeh Daniels, Jy'Quirian Hairston, Sofia Marcial, Kaitlyn Nelson, Rania Womack, Daleyza Vazquez.

### 4th Grade Honor Roll

Kyndall Gravely, Amara Hemphill, Ny'Kerius Martin, Sariyah Carter, Ti'Heem Hairston, Aiden Inman, Na'Layah Martin, Jayce Stockton, Mwandishi Tarik, Taevon Turner, Cassidy Coles, Zi'ere Poindexter, Nyseir Preston, Gabriella Murillo, Amina Rumley, Maireny Marchorro, Edward Johnson-Davis, Micah Barton, Adorian Hodges, Antonella Rodriguez, Estrella Velaquez, Tacari Minner, Navaeh Daniels, Jeansiel Reyes-Rodriguez, Elijah Smith, Ruby Zavala Romero.

### 5th Grade Principal's List

Victor Dominguez Machuca, Bryan Perez Zuniga, Yetzel Ramos-Tellez, Jackson Branch, DeCoyia Smith, Nylah-Kay Scott, Jaidence Hairston, Fernando Carrillo, Leonel Reyes, Kendrick Floyd, Aria Lewis.

### 5th Grade Honor Roll

Khamari McRae, Jasmin Nolasco, Yahya Rodriguez, Mariah Mose, Zoe Jones, Yahir Yanes, Melody Farrow, Hayilaa Hairston, Tycoreahn "CJ" Jamison, Safari Manns, Destiny Millner, Riley Moore, Andrea Nowlin, Cameron Price.

## Patrick Henry Elementary

### 3rd Grade Principal's List

Emilia Blankenbaker, Adrielle Dickerson, Aiden Kirby, Allan Meyers, Amreen Narula, DaMari Perkins, Emmanuel Ray, Espen Troncoso, Paris Turner, Jade Venable, Ashton Wells, Kaidance Williamson.

### 3rd Grade Honor Roll

Ashley Bayoumy, Allison Chavez-Dominguez, Aalaysia Dillard, Ashanti Gravely, Gabby Gravely, Brantley Janey, Serenity King, Sebastian LaPrade, Jaylon Palmer, Dantonio Penn, Solomon Ray, Jacob Ratliff, Matteo Rodriguez, Geoffrey Ruschak, Keri Scales, Mackenzie Terry, Zamari Witcher.

### 4th Grade Principal's List

Elena Alvarez-Lozano, Winter Bethany, Aiden Boaz, Adelaide Brent, Zefrina Capulong, Aubree Carter, Amyrah Dillard, Kavany Flores, Holden Hylton, Aubrey Kirby, Adelyn McKenzie, Shania McPherson, Jayona Moore, Mercy Moore, Phoenix Moore, Peggy Morales Zarate, Christian Newsome, Sophia Odberg, Aiden Richardson, Daniel Robinson, Khwaja Sediqi, Margot Sharp, Lilyann Stallard, Aubrey Stone, Emery Taylor, Hailey Turner, Soulionna Walker, Wesley Walker.

### 4th Grade Honor Roll

Brazen Bradner, Cassandra Cardwell, Markus Carter, Kenyon Jones, Dawayne Lawson, Liam Martin, Lanay Pruitt, Emmie Steward, Lilliana Torres, Aryn Turner, Naryah Williams.

### 5th Grade Principal's List

Abbas Bayani, Takeira Beal, Remington Crockett, Archer Deatherage, Lily DeJesus, Andrew Dillard, Deontre Fitzgerald, Alanna Gerlach, Jade Holland-Dallas, Wyatt Hoyer, Josiah Law, J'Amira Lockett, Kennedy Martin, Virgil Moore, Kendrick Moyer, Samuel Olivares-Rosas, Asma Sediqi, Katherine Wall, Dillon Wilson, Mason Wright.

### 5th Grade Honor Roll

Demitri Broadnax, Haylee Clark, Chloe Curry, Tamare Davis, Brooklyn DeShazo, Alania Ferguson, Jadyen Gravely, Ka'Naisia Hairston, Justin Hodge, Jamison Jackson, Kenneth Lucas, Aubree Mahan, Ke'Maya Martin, NiJel Merritt, JaZai Moore, Taylor Moore, Jycere Moorman, Kei'Yauni Morrison, Kayden Price, King Ray, Bradley Richardson, Eli Rueda Balcazar, Kiersten Smith, Kaydien Valentin.

## Martinsville Middle School

### 6th Grade Principal's List

Zariyah Bouldin, Janette Carillo-Llamas, Elaina Hairston, Jairo Mata, Daniya Penn.

### 6th Grade Honor Roll

Kevin Avila-Santiago, Alan Carrillo-Tamayo, Ethan Christopher, Reginald Cobbs, Litzzy Contreras Rosas, Jeffery Cousins, Skyla Euceda, Layce Everhart, D'annah Fitzgerald, James Hall, Jewel-Armani Martin, Freddy Munoz, Quandel Richards, Kyla Steward, Akaysha Thompson, Ma'Kiya Walton

### 6th Grade Counselor's List

Mickeal Belcher, Cassidy Boden, Mariyah Brandon, TKari Breedlove, Jaydah Burnette, Ja'Veona Coles, Maia Eccles, Dania Fields, Nina Giles, Appalania Giles, Jaymi Henriquez Ramos, Alondra Hernandez Hernandez, Luis Hernandez, Kaylee Hightower, Asonti Hodge, Fredy Jimenez Romero, Shanyia Kelly, Taimir Manns, Issac McIntosh, Eduin Mendoza Sanchez, Lixmar Mendoza, Tonydia Millner-Moore, Zaylee Myers-Wells, Isabella Palmer, Bryson Penn, Kyra Penn, Zion Powell, Kendall Price, Ny'Asia Richardson, Selena Stultz, Jordyn Thomas, Maya Williams, Michelle Yanes-Videa.

### 7th Grade Principal's List

Joshua Branch, Bridgette Brent, Olivia Campbell, Christopher Carpio Yanez, Nadia Dominguez Gonzalez, Marisol Garcia-Macias, Renisha Millner, Hazel Moore, Ana Nunez-Torres, America Ramos Tellez, Samson Ray, Adreal Stultz.

### 7th Grade Honor Roll

Tyliric Barbour, Edward Brown, Kayleigh Cristobal, Jahvion Dawson, Ty'Layah Dillard, Keira Frazier, Zoey Hannans, Zachary Harter, Zanaysia Jones, Nathaly Morales, KaVaughn Muse, Jeremiah Porter, London Preston, Ayden Roberts, Maheva Simon, Dayanna Torres-Jose, Jasaan Turner, Kailyn Venable, Arianna Ybarra.

### 7th Grade Counselor's List

Emely Amaya Turcios, Kaleb Briscoe, Jeysson Cabrera Guillen, Mahcori Chapman, Anthony Chavez Dominguez, Mackenzie Church, Fabian Devora Guerrero, Zamauri Durant, Mackenzie Church, Fabian Devora Guerrero, Zamauri Durant, Na'Ziah Flemming, Kaleb Floyd, TaLeah Giles, Marcus Hairston Jr., Dre'dyn Hairston, Kendra Handy, Kirsten Henderson, Amelia Humphrey, Rachiyah Hunt, Kamarii Johnson Clark, Anthony Kinder, Isaias Lopez Valentin, Jayren Marchorro-Macias, NyJurrian Martin, Zy'Jerryah Martin, Amarriyah Matthews, Yarel Mendoza-Martinez, KaMoriya Moore, Mason Newsome, Ayane' Pharr, Josiah Porter, Aurora Rankin, Ja'nasiah Richardson, Diarion Turner, Nathaniel Villasenor, Malik Waller, NyShawn Walton, Nevaeh Wilson.

### 8th Grade Principal's List

William Bela, Jaryus Brim, Abigail Campbell, Brennan Coleman, Kira Compton, Cordell Daniels, Keyara Dillard, Christopher Floyd, Ny'Kerion France, Hudson Grant, Leeayla Hairston, Benjamin Haley, McKenna Mahan, Abraham Michael, Aileen Nolasco, Zion Perkins, Camarion Plunkett, Erzart Shahini, Veronica Smith, Symphony Talley, Zaina Talley, Ja'Corian Turner, Lilly Wall, William Wall, Paris Waller, Addison Williamson, Noah Wright.

### 8th Grade Honor Roll

David Argueta, Cristofer Avila-Santiago, Eland Blankenbaker, Zhedrick Capulong, Chantily Chism, J'Kobe Covington, Kyisere Eggleston, Ja'Da Eggleston-Wade, Jayden Farris, D'Anna Fields, Brandon Gearheart, Leonardo Hernandez Mata, Aubrey Hill, Jonathan Hudson, Isabella Hurd, Demetria Johns, NyKira Johnson, Faith Pack, Kaden Paitsel, Jayden Penn, Colby Robertson, Xavier Rodriguez, Phyllis Thompson.

### 8th Grade Counselor's List

Walter Amador Rios, Latoya Bradner, Keimani Brandyburg, Maine Brown, Carson Cole, Nicholas Davis, Tahli Draper, Harmoni Hairston, Jayvion Harris, Navaih Hood, Timiyah Jones, Jamir Leftwich, Trinity Martin, Niema Merritt, Rickia Smith, A'Vari Waller, Baisley White, Gabrielle Wilson.

## Martinsville High School

### 9th Grade A

Jaden Ayoub, Kyndall Benton, Qa'Sani Calhoun-Davis, Kayra Carr, Sherman Dillard, Fernanda Dominguez-Machuca, Angeliah Eccles, Jordan Foster, Sarah Greene, Kyniah Hairston,

Carrie Hudson, Aniyah Millner, Jazmin Mota-Ocampo, Julie Nguyen, Ariyana Nowlin, Erikka Ortiz-Soriano, Jaden Porter, Trinitee Prunty, Briana Reid, Amyah Richardson, Dulce Romero-Jimenez, Tyrese Smith, Desmond Snyder, NaSir Turner, Caleb Valentine.

### 9th Grade AB

Kavia Brim, Jose Coca Romero, Madisson Cortes, Parris Giles, Kamare Gravely, Abigail Hairston, Sariyah Little, Caden Martin, Gabriella Michael, Sariyah Millner, Joshua Redd, Betty Sifuentes, JaVonna Stubblefield, Jamauri Williams, Karter Winbush.

### 9th Grade B

Brandon Boden, Ta'Mireya Campbell, Ja'Niyah Kellam, Alaiya Price, Jayce Prillaman, Yaretzy Ramos Telles, Logan Richardson, Aaron Scott

### 10th Grade A

Quentin Chism, Sincere Cook, Gabriel Davis, Zaniah Dillard, Jordan Draper, Abigail Hernandez, Shawn Joyce, Aerran Kellam, Jun Olea, Evan Pickett.

### 10th Grade AB

Jemea Craghead, NyKerian Dillard Williamson, Destinee Dillard, Kamori Dillard, Nataly Enriquez-Santiago, Chekiya Galloway, Layla Garrett, De'Nyiran Hodge, Kimora Holland, Ny'Asia Hood, Beyonce Lara Diaz, Nyla Merchant-Williams, Gregory Moore, Jailyn Reynolds, Janetzy Rodriguez, Jayden Stockton, Avianna Watkins, Rilynne Williams, Kaira Womack.

### 10th Grade B

Mykala Akins, Aubrey Blankenbaker, DeJuan Bradner, Shatavia Dillard, Caesar Draper, Nadea Elam, TyShawn Hairston, JMarion Harper, Michael Kirby, Myasia Long, Camarie Niblett, Tynijah Richardson, Jared Santiago-Martinez, Tamarion Siddle, Riley Wilkins.

### 11th Grade A

Adam Aguilar, Elvin Amaya Turcios, Naun Andrade Paredes, Montel Bradner, Esmeralda Castillo-Ocampo, Natalie Dunagan, Ava Grant, Isabella Hood, Taniyah Leftwitch, Zoe Lewis, Gavin Luther, Monserrat Machuca Tiznado, Skyla Martin, NaBria Millner, Rickyah Mitchell-Hairston, Jacey Pamintuan, Terriah Roberts, Brooke Turner, Isabella Vega, Kaya Yates.

### 11th Grade AB

Mairy Amador Rios, Keara Carter, NyAsia Cobbs, Ana Compton, Sontrell Daniels, Elijah Dixon, Cassidy Dodson, Xavier Dunham, Jaquarius Gallant, Kimberly Hernandez, Deniyah Hightower, Kamryn Kirby, Ashley Lintag, Alondra Machuca Tiznado, Saniya Martin, John Nguyen, Asonti Price, Jariyah Smith.

### 11th Grade B

Christian Brooks, Yadira Carrillo Tamayo, Gabriella Chilton, Destinie Dillard, Ruby Flores, Aliyah Hairston, Abigail Haskew, Aidan Hood, Ventson Kent, Gissele Leon-Elias, Leon Martin Jr., Aziah Martin, Honesty Martin, Skyylar Miller, Sayvion Milton, Yash Patel, Naikem Penn, Jamerica Phillips, Timarius Wilson.

### 12th Grade A

Kirsten Blankenbaker, Shamiyah Carter, Johnny Clerc, Kaitlynn Daughtry, Niikko Dews, JKyan Finney, Briana Garcia-Macias, Trevion Gravely, Gabriel Haley, Mackenzie Hylton, Caleb Joyce, Zaylon Lea, Tyasija Long, Natalie Loredo, Zikya Mills, Sulma Navarrette Saligan, Nevaeh Norman, Mason Rorrer, Skyler Spence, Aniya Torrence, Jordan Vaughn, Jackson Via, Monica Watkins, Malachi Williams, Jayden Williams.

### 12th Grade AB

Jaiana Brinson, Ma'layah Brown, Shi'Mora Brown, Tyler Carr, Robert Davis, Ryan D-Mingo, Tiquasia Dodson Waller, NyAsia Drummond, Paris Fulp, Aleeyah Galloway, Jaccob Hairston, Latrell Hairston, Khionna Howard-Hamilton, Sincere Jamison, LynAsshia King, Mallori Lowe, Luke Luffman, Tyshawn Mahan, Aaliyyah Mitchell, Adam Mounkaila, Fonshay Moyer, Martiniano Orozco, Nayti Patel, Elijah Pickett, Cortay Price, John Ratliff II, Kaylee Rea, Jordan Smith, William Stanley, Christopher Talley II, Emarious Tinsley, Tyra Valentine, Destiny Witcher, Sariyah Woods, Reagan Wright.

### 12th Grade B

Cheyenne Eldridge, Sarrah Hoff, Makayla Warren, Whitney Williams.

## Officers participate in Special Olympics Torch Run



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis (with the torch) was among the county and city officers participating in the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Members of the Henry County Sheriff's Office, Martinsville Police Department, Martinsville Sheriff's Office, and others took the "Green

Flag" from Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell to start the 5.1 mile 2024 Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 4. The



Officers from the Martinsville Police Department, Martinsville Sheriff's Office and the Henry County Sheriff's Office participated in the 5.1 mile run/jog.

Special Olympics Torch Run began in 1981 and was designed to help raise money to send kids to Rich-

mond, VA to compete in the Olympic Games.



# Stay safe, and minimize losses during potentially volatile hurricane season

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a busy, above-average hurricane season, and residents are urged to stay vigilant and plan for emergencies.

The Atlantic hurricane season kicked off June 1 and runs through Nov. 30, and forecasters say this could be the busiest hurricane season in 25 years, with 17 to 25 named storms. Of those, eight are predicted to become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or higher.

Forecasters also are predicting four to seven major hurricanes at Category 3 or greater, with winds reaching 111 mph or higher.

According to weather experts, the busier-than-normal season is attributed to a perfect storm of warmer-than-average ocean temperatures combined with La Niña. The warm ocean temperatures fuel storms. La Niña lessens wind shear in the tropics, allowing storms to develop and intensify in the Atlantic basin.

“Severe weather and emergencies can happen at any moment, which is why individuals and communities need to be prepared today,” said FEMA deputy administrator Erik Hooks. “Already, we are seeing storms move across the country that can bring additional hazards like tornadoes, flooding and hail.”

Homeowners should prepare their homes in advance by inspecting roofs, clearing gutters and sealing any cracks or gaps on your home’s exterior to avoid water damage. Trim or remove

weak trees and branches near the house and structures to protect your property from high winds. Ensure sump pumps and drains are working properly, and test generators and power backups.

If a storm is imminent, residents should secure their property by boarding up windows with plywood and batten down or move inside any outdoor furniture and items that could become flying projectiles during storms.

“Take the time to do a household inventory,” to have on hand in case a claim needs to be filed, advised Laurie Gannon, vice president of claims for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. “And review your insurance policies with your agent beforehand to ensure you’re properly covered.”

Keep your family safe by monitoring weather reports and establishing a family communications plan. Virginia Farm Bureau’s Hurricane Preparedness Central provides a free family communications plan for download and has other tips for hurricane preparation.

And as always, have an emergency kit ready, and ensure your car has a full tank of gas in case of an evacuation. Emergency kits should include essential items like a 3- to 5-day supply of food, change of clothes, a first-aid kit, battery powered radio, flashlight and batteries, medication, cash and credit cards. Secure important documents in a watertight container.



The first day of summer is known as the summer solstice, which marks the official start of astronomical summer.

## The summer solstice

Many people anxiously await the first day of summer and look forward to activities that are tailor-made for warm weather. The first day of summer is known as the summer solstice, which marks the official start of astronomical summer. The solstice features more hours of daylight than any day of the year, according to Space.com. The next summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs on June 20, 2024 (the Southern Hemisphere celebrates the solstice on December 21, 2024).

The National Weather Service says the summer solstice happens at the moment the earth’s tilt toward the sun is at a maximum. The sun will appear at its highest elevation with a noontime position that will not move much for several days before and after the summer solstice. The word solstice is derived from the Latin word “sol,” meaning sun.

During the summer solstice, the sun travels the longest path through the sky, which is why it is the day

with the most daylight. The length of daylight depends on the latitude. At the equator, the time from sunrise to sunset is about 12 hours.

Although many people celebrate the summer solstice primarily for the extra hours of daylight, the solstice has historically been assigned deeper meaning in many cultures. In Scandinavian countries, the solstice is celebrated as a holiday known as Midsummer’s Eve, which is observed on a weekend near the time of the summer solstice. Festivities include dancing, singing, drinking, cleaning house, lighting bonfires, and more.

During the summer solstice at Stonehenge in the United Kingdom, the sun will rise behind the entrance to a stone circle and the sunlight will flow into the center of the monument. Researchers believe solstices have been celebrated at Stonehenge for thousands of years.

The summer solstice is soon to arrive, marking the start of summer, which is reason enough to celebrate this unique day on the calendar.

## 100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from June 2024

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

· Austrian Chancellor Ignaz Seipel is shot by a disgruntled worker on June 1. Seipel survives after a bullet is extracted from his lung.

· The Chicago radio station WDAP is rechristened “WGN” on June 1 after it is purchased by the Chicago Tribune. The station’s new moniker refers to the newspaper’s slogan, “World’s Greatest Newspaper.” Both the WGN station and a television station of the same name continue to operate out of Chicago today.

· The Indian Citizenship Act is signed into law on June 2 in the United States. The law recognizes all Native Americans who had been born in the United States or its territories as U.S. citizens.

· Influential novelist Franz Kafka dies in Austria on June 3. Kafka, only 40 at the time of his death, suffered from laryngeal tuberculosis and died from starvation after eating became too painful. Kafka, now considered a literary giant of the twentieth century, was a relative unknown at the time of his death.

· The German Reichstag approves the Dawes Plan on June 6. The plan staggers German reparations payments that were mandated in the aftermath of World War I.

· The United States enacts the Clarke-McNary Act on June 7. The act facilitates the purchase of land to expand the country’s National Forest System.

· Geologist and mountaineer Noel Odell watches British mountaineer climbers George Mallory and Andrew Irvine ascend from their base camp at Mount Everest on June 8. Mallory and Irvine are never again seen alive, and no trace of either man is discovered until 1999, when Mallory’s body is discovered at an altitude of more than 26,000 feet.

· Ecuador extends the right to vote to women on June 9, becoming the first country in South America to do so.

· The Newton Gang carries out the largest train robbery in American history on June 12. The gang makes off with more than \$3 million (the equivalent of roughly \$54

million in 2024) after stopping mail train number 57 near Roundout, Illinois.

· The International Football Association Board legalizes the scoring of a goal by corner kick on June 14.

· On June 16, Italian Fascist politician Cesare Rossi surrenders to police in connection with the kidnapping of socialist and Italian Chamber of Deputies member Giacomo Matteoti earlier in the month. Matteoti’s body is ultimately found in August and signs suggest he was beaten to death. Though Rossi ultimately serves ample prison time for anti-fascist activities, he is not arrested for his involvement in Matteotti’s murder until 1947.

· The Grand National Assembly of Turkey passes the Surname Act on June 21. The act requires every Turkish citizen to have a surname.

· Fritz Haarmann is arrested in Hannover, Germany, on June 23. Prior to his arrest, Haarmann was seen stalking boys, and a subsequent search of his apartment uncovers evidence that Haarmann is a serial killer. Sometimes referred to as the “Butcher of Hannover,” Haarmann is ultimately found guilty of murdering 24 young men and boys and is executed by guillotine in April 1925.

· Publisher William Randolph Hearst launches the New York Daily Mirror on June 24. Hearst launches the paper to compete against the New York Daily News.

· Brothers Jesse Barnes of the Boston Braves and Virgil Barnes of the New York Giants toe the rubber against one another on June 26. The game marks the first pitching matchup between brothers in Major League Baseball history.

· American President Calvin Coolidge’s 16-year-old son, Calvin, Jr., plays tennis on the White House tennis court on June 30. The president’s son plays wearing tennis shoes but no socks and develops a blister on his toe that develops into sepsis. The younger Coolidge passes away on July 7.

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

## Portion of road to be closed to through traffic

Beginning Monday, June 17, a portion of Virginia 692 (Horsepasture Price Road) will be closed to through traffic between both intersections of Virginia 806 (Fall Creek Road) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for pipe

replacements.

Weather permitting, all work will be completed on Friday, June 21.

A detour and directional signs will be used to help motorists during the project.



**Henry County**  
**STATE PRIMARY ELECTION**  
**Tuesday, June 18, 2024**



**THIS IS A REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION FOR:**

**Member U. S. Senate**

SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE

AN APPROPRIATE ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS

Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before voting!

[vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation)

**POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday May 29, 2024:** Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election.

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Henry County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

### IN-PERSON ABSENTEE (EARLY) VOTING

Henry County Registrar’s Office  
located at the Henry County Administration Building  
3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, Virginia 24112  
**Monday – Friday, May 3-June 14, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**Saturdays, June 8, and June 15, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 15, 2024:** Last day to vote an In-Person (early) Absentee Ballot at the Henry County Registrar’s Office

### MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING

Request an Absentee ballot application: [vote@henrycountyva.gov](mailto:vote@henrycountyva.gov) or <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>  
Absentee ballots ARE counted

**Friday, June 7, 2024:** Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail.  
Applications must be received in the Registrar’s Office by 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024: Election Day** ALL **DROPPED OFF** Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar’s Office by 7 p.m. (Virginia/Eastern Standard Time) to be counted.

**Friday June 21, 2024:** ALL Absentee voted ballots that are **returned via mail** must be post marked **on or before** election day and received in the Registrar’s Office by **NOON** (Virginia time) to be counted.

### BALLOT DROP OFF STATIONS

Monday – Friday, May 3 – June 15, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, June 8 & 15, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Henry County Registrar & Elections Office**  
Henry County Administration Building  
3300 Kings Mountain Road #103 Martinsville, Virginia 24112  
**On Election Day Only: All polling places and the Henry County Registrar’s Office**

**Dawn Stultz-Vaughn, Director of Elections & General Registrar**  
3300 KINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD #103 MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24112  
TELEPHONE: 276-634-4698 FAX: 276-632-8278

Email: [vote@henrycountyva.gov](mailto:vote@henrycountyva.gov)  
[www.henrycountyva.gov/178/Elections-Registrar](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/178/Elections-Registrar)





# OBITUARIES

## Edith Cahill Bolen

Edith Cahill Bolen, 92, of Martinsville, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on June 8, 2024. She was born on August 29, 1931 to the late Tommy W. Cahill and Ruby Jones Cahill.

She is also preceded by her husband of 53 years, Benjamin H. Bolen; and brother, William Ralph Cahill.

She is survived by her only son, Marcus W. Bolen and wife, Phyllis now residing in Sata Fe, N.M, nephew; Lance R. Cahill, nieces; Lisa C. Graves, Brenda C. Sherrer, and Cathy C. Davis.

Edith was a faithful wife and devoted mother. She was a loyal and supportive member of



First Baptist Church of Martinsville for many years. There she served in multiple ministries, including the Jubilate Choir, the Helen Horne S.S. Class, and the Thursday morning Bible Study group and other activities. She was a

vigilant prayer warrior up into her late 80's, when she daily prayed for her church, family, and friends.

Edith requested that in lieu of flowers that memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church and Helen Horne S.S. Class.

Graveside service will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024, at 11:00 am, at Roselawn Burial Park with Rev. John Fulcher officiating.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA is serving the Bolen family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

# Appointments for upcoming school year approved by board



Robert "Bobby" Dalton



Paul Hall



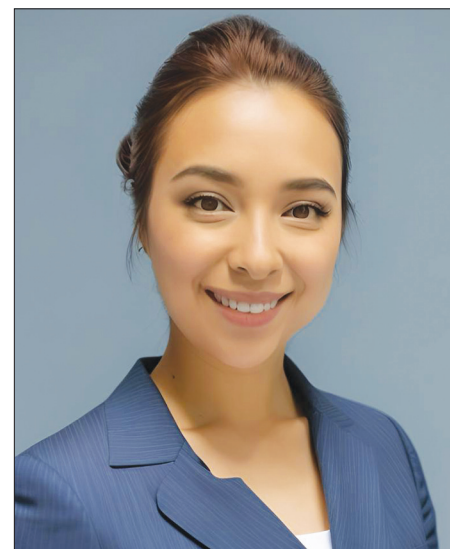
Deanna McLaughlin



Eric Seiy



Robert Stout



Kylie Vater

The Henry County School Board approved Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis' recommendations to fill a number of administrative appointments for the 2024-2025 school year at a June 6 meeting.

Appointments will be effective July 1.

"I am pleased to welcome these administrators to their new roles and to have all our school administrators in place for the 2024-2025 school year," Blake-Lewis said. "Having the right people in place is a critical component of student success. I look forward to the contributions these individuals will make in their respective schools."

Those appointed are:

**Robert "Bobby" Dalton** will be the assistant principal at G.W. Carver Elementary School. Dalton has more than 25 years of experience working with students at both the elementary and secondary levels. He currently serves as assistant principal for Laurel Park Middle School.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Henry County Public Schools, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve the students, parents, faculty, and staff of G.W. Carver Elementary School," he said.

**Paul Hall** will be joining Henry County Schools as an assistant principal at Magna Vista High School. Currently principal at Southeastern Stokes Middle School in Walnut Cove, North Carolina, Hall has served in various roles in education, including teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, and principal.

"I am honored and excited to be joining the team at Magna Vista High School as the new Assistant Principal. With 28 years of experience in education, I am eager to bring my experience and passion for student success to this role," Hall said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff, students, and community."

**Deanna McLaughlin** was named assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. McLaughlin has served as an elementary teacher and a special education teacher, and she currently serves as an assistant principal and school test coordinator at George Washington High School in Danville. She has a diverse background, with experience at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

She said, "it is an honor to join the

team at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. I am here to support our principal and staff in every way I can. Most importantly, I am here to support our students with their academic pursuits and their families with navigating the middle school experience."

**Eric Seiy** was appointed assistant principal at Bassett High School. During his years with Henry County Schools, Seiy has been a teacher, athletic director, administrative intern, assistant principal, and principal and has served as an assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School for the past seven years.

"I am thrilled to be appointed as an assistant principal at Bassett High School," Seiy said. "I am so pleased to be able to continue working with students and their parents/guardians with whom I developed relationships while they were at FCMS. While I will miss my FCMS family, I am ecstatic to return to Bassett High School so I may continue to serve the needs of students, teachers, parents, support staff, and administrative colleagues."

After serving two years as Coordinator for the Regional Alternative Program at the Center for Community Learning, **Robert Stout** was named an assistant principal for Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. Stout has a wealth of middle school experience, having previously served as a teacher at Laurel Park Middle School for fifteen years.

"I have been truly blessed by being part of the Regional Alternative Program and CCL team! I truly appreciate the wisdom shared by Mr. Dillard, the faculty, staff, and students at CCL, and now I look forward to the future as part of the FCMS community," he said.

**Kylie Vater** will be the assistant principal at Laurel Park Middle School. A former social studies teacher who has served as an assistant principal at Magna Vista High School for the past two years, Vater says she is excited for this new opportunity.

"I am thrilled to take on this new opportunity as assistant principal of Laurel Park Middle School! My time at Magna Vista High School has been invaluable, and I will always be a Warrior at heart, but I am excited to continue to serve the community in this new role and join the Lancer family," Vater said.

# Crossing the Lines

## News snippets from outside the city/county lines ...

### From lessons at DeHart Park to the Olympic trials



For Ella Menear, it's been quite a journey, from learning to swim at the DeHart Park pool in Stuart, to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, where she will compete in the 2024 Olympic swimming trials, June 15-23, with a chance to go to the Paris Olympics.

Menear, a rising sophomore at the University of Alabama, got her start at the DeHart Park pool where she learned to swim. Menear also had her first experience swimming competitively there.

"When I was about four or five, I started swimming competitions at DeHart, like summer league, little meets, and that sort of thing. I continued doing that until second or third grade, but once I got old enough, I trained with a team in Martinsville, the Martinsville Marlins."

She continued with the Marlins until moving to Pennsylvania, where she was a highly decorated swimmer in high school, winning multiple state championships. She also played volleyball for her school from seventh to twelfth grade, but said, "I always knew that swimming was my passion and I wanted to continue swimming in college."

### Star Theatre open for private rentals, entertainment

After reopening for events earlier



this year, the Star Theatre is providing a space to offer entertainment to the community. The Town of Stuart, which owns the theatre, selected a non-profit organization called One Family Productions, to operate the theatre.

Chris Prutting, executive director of the organization, said the facility is available to rent for a variety of events, including private meetings, birthday parties, and the like. Rent fees range from \$300 for a full-day rental to \$150 for a half-day, with nonprofit organizations to receive lower fees

## Student Briefs

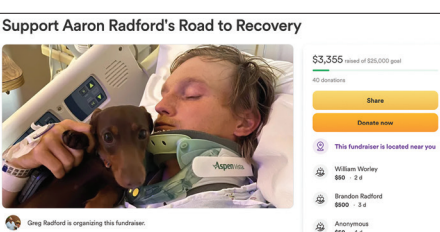
### Hudler named to Dean's List

Jessica Hudler, of Axton, was among the 388 Midway University students named to its Dean's List for the 2024 Spring Semester. To be named to the list, a student must be classified as full-time and obtain a 3.60 grade point average for the semester.

### Tillman Named to Dean's List

Octavius Tillman, of Bassett, was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

For the most accurate pricing, visit [www.OneFamilyProductions.org](http://www.OneFamilyProductions.org) and look under the event calendar, or contact Prutting at [cprutting@onefamilyproductions.com](mailto:cprutting@onefamilyproductions.com).



**Donations sought to help family**  
Greg Radford started a GoFundMe fundraiser called "Support Aaron Radford's Road to Recovery" to help his son, Aaron Radford, with medical bills following a May 1 motorcycle accident. Initially, Aaron Radford was hospitalized for 28 days. His estimated time to recovery is 6 to 12 months.

### Activated Charcoal for Insect Bites and Stings

Anyone who has ever been bitten by fire ants knows it is a painful, itchy experience. These symptoms are not caused by the actual bite, but rather by the venom these industrious little creatures inject. This venom triggers swelling, itching, and even destroys a tiny area of tissue around the injection site.

An effective and inexpensive solution is to take a self-adhesive bandage and apply a little water to the gauze—just enough to dampen it. Next, sprinkle some powdered charcoal on the damp gauze or rub it with a charcoal pill until it is black. Put this small poultice over the sting to counteract the symptoms from the venom. If there are multiple bites, make a larger poultice by cutting some gauze or a sheet. Cover it with plastic (like cling wrap if available) to keep it moist. To find an online supplier of charcoal poultices/dressings, try "activated charcoal dressing" as a search term.

If mosquito and chigger bites are what ail you these applications will work wonders for those too. Even poison ivy rash can be effectively treated with activated charcoal.

The ideal treatment for bee, hornet or wasp (like a yellow jacket etc.) stings is again, a charcoal poultice. If present, remove the stinger with your fingernails, a credit card, or tweezers to gently scrape away or pull out the stinger. Cut a piece of gauze or a sheet. Use water to dampen the material and then add activated charcoal. Place the poultice over the sting site and then cover it with plastic (like a plastic cling wrap) to keep it moist. You may also use the bandage application mentioned above.

Note: Although most insect bites and stings can be treated at home, some people have severe allergies to venom and will require emergency medical attention.

For more, visit [www.theenterprise.net](http://www.theenterprise.net).



# Adams, Hines among those honored by P&HCC



Jim Adams was honored by Patrick & Henry Community College as a Distinguished Alumni and for his contributions to the community. Adams, who is chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, has represented the Blackberry District since 2002. He serves on the Executive Board and is chairman of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. He has previously served on the Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals, the Henry County Schools Facilities Improvement Committee, and the Executive Board of the Smart Beginning for Early Childhood Development. A member of the Sanville Ruritan Club since 1979, Adams served as Zone 1 & 3 Governor and held several other club offices. He is a past recipient of the Ruritan DRM award, a member and serves on the Board of Directors of the Bassett Kiwanis Club, Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department, Marc Workshop and Habitat for Humanity. Adams is the branch manager and oversees procurement for Tarheel Paper and Supply in Martinsville. A member at Stella Christian Church, Adams is married with two children and two grandchildren.

Adams (center) is pictured at the awards banquet with P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Tiffani Underwood, executive director of the P&HCC Foundation.



Henry County Sheriff's Capt. Sandy Hines received the Distinguished Alumni Award 2024 from Patrick & Henry Community College. Hines joined the sheriff's office in April, after serving many years in various roles with the Martinsville Police Department. He currently serves as the Captain of the Investigations Division. Hines graduated with an associate degree in Administration of Justice in 2012. He continued his education earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University in criminal justice: public administration in 2022. A graduate of Patrick County High School, Hines also was assigned as a task force officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Hines has achieved the FBI LEEDA Trilogy: Supervisory, Command, and Executive Leadership, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Institute for Leadership in Changing Times, and Police Executive Research Forum Senior Management Institute for Police. He has been the recipient of the Crime Stoppers Award and ATF Distinguished Service Medal. He is on the Board of Directors for God's Pit Crew, a council member at The Church at Mercy Crossing, and a volunteer-at-large for ValleyStar Credit Union. Hines (center) is pictured with Tiffani Underwood, executive director of the P&HCC Foundation (left), and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

# Milloy named P&HCC Head Men's Basketball Coach



Patrick & Henry Community College has named Dan Milloy to head the Men's Basketball program as its next head men's basketball coach.

Before joining P&HCC, Milloy was an assistant coach for NCAA Division III Ferrum College. During his tenure with the Panthers, Milloy played an integral role in the turnaround of the Ferrum program - improving the Panthers record from 6-19 to 10-17 with a playoff win in the ODAC Tournament during his first season. In his second year with the team, Ferrum jumped to a 16-11 overall record with wins over top 25 opponents, a playoff victory and multiple votes in the DIII National poll.

Milloy played a large role in the development of three second team All-ODAC players during his time at Ferrum (Shone Hicks & Calvin Washington in 2023, Jikari Johnson in 2024). Hicks would later sign a professional contract with Raiders Basket in Finland, and was named Offensive Player of the Year in his league.

"We are excited about the future and continued success of Patriot Men's Basketball as we welcome Dan Milloy to our Patrick & Henry PHamily," said Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement and Athletic Director, Brian Henderson. "After a thorough and timely review of each candidate, Coach Milloy stood out as the right person to lead our men's basketball program on and off the court."

Before his stint at Ferrum, Milloy served as an Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at Bethel High School in Hampton, Virginia under Head Coach Craig Brehon, beginning in 2011. Milloy's highlights at Bethel include finishing with a 24-6 record and a Division 5 state runner-up finish in 2017. While a member of the Bruins coaching staff, Milloy handled various aspects of the program, including film and scouting, team workouts, practice planning, as well as strength and conditioning. Milloy also oversaw the program's summer league team.

While at Bethel, Milloy coached several players that would later play NCAA Division I basketball, including Dajour Dickens (Hampton University), Cam Bacote (Georgetown), Aaron Bacote (ODU), Marcus Banks Jr. (UMBC) and Obinnaya Okafor (VCU). He also coached current Cleveland Browns (NFL) linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah.

"I am extremely thankful and excited to be joining the P&H PHamily and continue the Patriot Way. It's time to get to work! Go Pats!" said Milloy.

Milloy has also worked as a camp leader and skill development coach at the University of Dayton, University of Richmond and Christopher Newport University Basketball camps. Milloy graduated from Concord University, earning his bachelor's degree in Recreation and Tourism Management in 2011. He also completed his master's degree in special education from Radford University in 2019.

# Woody to present "History of Rock Castle Creek" at Sunday Afternoon Lecture

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture, "History of Rock Castle Creek" with Beverly Woody, on Sunday, June 16, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.



Beverly Woody

Woody will discuss the families of Rock Castle Gorge displaced when the Blue Ridge Parkway was built. Rock Castle Gorge runs from Woolwine to Meadows of Dan and is between Belcher Mountain and Rocky Knob. The headwaters for both the Dan and Smith Rivers both start on Belcher Mountain. The Belchers, Woody's descendants, were pro-Union and refused to fight in the 51st Virginia Infantry Regiment until they were drafted to do so. To avoid being drafted, they hid in caves and were unable to be found initially. Family names conscripted from Rock

Castle Gorge to Captain Rufus Woolwine's Company include Woolwine, Lovell, Lee, Dillard, DeHart, Boyd, Belcher, Wood, and many more.

Woody serves as regent of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and on the Board of

Directors of both the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society. She was named "Teacher of the Year 2023" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

"I like to talk a lot about Rock Castle and mountain people because there's been so many ugly stereotypes about mountain people that aren't true," she said in a previous article. "These people were just as educated and just as talented as anybody, any flatlander."

Admission to the lecture is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum will be open following the presentation.

# Cucumbers recalled by Florida company

Fresh Start Produce Sales Inc. of Delray, Florida, is recalling whole cucumbers shipped to certain states from May 17th through May 21st, 2024, due to the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The recalled cucumbers are dark green, approximately 1.5 - 2.0 inches in diameter, and 5-9 inches long. Mini cucumbers and English cucumbers are not included in this recall.

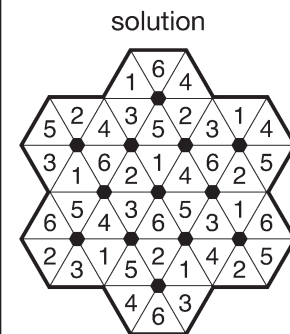
The recall was initiated after the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture informed the company that a product sample tested positive for the bacteria. The FDA is conducting whole genome sequencing to determine if this sample is related to an ongoing Salmonella outbreak investigation.

Although these cucumbers are unlikely in the marketplace, anyone with the recalled product should not consume it and should destroy and discard it or return it to the place of purchase for a refund. Consumers should check with their retailer or place of purchase to determine whether the recalled cucumbers were sold where they shop.

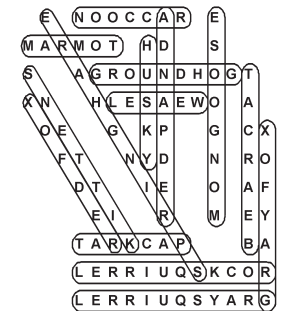
Consumers with additional questions may contact the company at 1-888-364-2993, M-F, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. EDT.

# Puzzle Answers!

## SNOWFLAKES



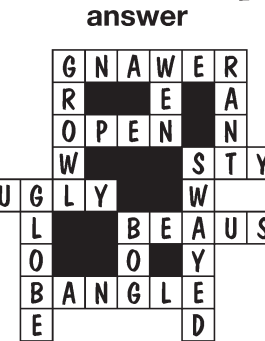
## ANIMALS WITH BUSHY TAILS



## SCRAMBLERS

solution  
1. Peek; 2. Wander; 3. Defend; 4. Score  
Today's Word  
**WEEKENDS**

## FEAR & KNIGHT



## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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E	L	K	A	B	A	A	L	E	C	E	R	A	S	A	B	L	E				
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S					
S	T	O	U	T	E	S	T	I	D	O	L	S	A	G	P	S	A				
R	E	D	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	D	A	T	E	P	I	C	S			
I	L	E																			
S	O	S																			
F	R	A	N	K	T	A	L	K	S	C	L	A	Y	C	O	U	R	T	S		
A	E	R	O	D	Y	N	E	P	A	R	E	H	O	N							
R	A	G																			
C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	B	O	W	L	S	L	A	K	E	E	R	I	E		
E	U	L	O	G	Y	O	T	T	O	I	U	R	E	T	H	A	N	E			
S	P	E	C	I	E	S	H	O	W	S	E	T	D	I	T	E	M				





# PUZZLE TIME

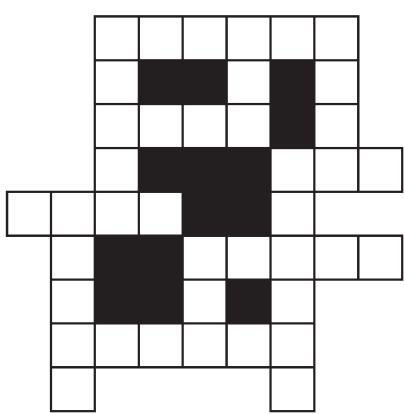


## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- TYS
- BLEGNA
- ♥ SUEBA
- ♥ EONP
- YESDAW
- ♥ EWN
- GYUL
- OGEBL
- ♥ OGB
- WEGARN
- WUGLR
- ♥ ATNR



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 BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Thermometer is missing; 2. Apron bow is different; 3. Cap is missing from bottle; 4. Headboard is taller; 5. Fingers are moved; 6. Leaf is missing from flower.

## MAGIC MAZE ● ANIMALS WITH BUSHY TAILS

U E U N O O C C A R R E P N K  
 M A R M O T I H D G D S B Z X  
 S V S A G R O U N D H O G T Q  
 X N O M H L E S A E W O K A I  
 G O E E C G A K P Y W G U C X  
 S Q F T P E N Y D N L N J R O  
 H F E D T C A I E Y X O V A F  
 U S Q O E I P N R M K M J E Y  
 H F Y T A R K C A P E C B B A  
 Z O Y L E R R I U Q S K C O R  
 C X V L E R R I U Q S Y A R G

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **Wile E. — and the Road Runner**

- Bearcat
- Gray fox
- Groundhog
- Husky
- Kittens
- Marmot
- Mongoose
- Pack rat
- Raccoon
- Red fox
- Red panda
- Rock squirrel
- Springhare
- Weasel

## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Saudi, say
  - 5 Raptors' gp.
  - 8 In a stupor
  - 13 GMC crossover SUV model
  - 19 Reduces the worth of
  - 21 Lead-in to a bit of bad news
  - 22 What ("and") are, for short
  - 23 Capital of South Australia
  - 24 Actress Dennis leaps?
  - 26 Boxer Marciano begins?
  - 28 — Canals
  - 29 Thurman of film
  - 30 Saloon
  - 31 "I could — horse!"
  - 33 Newspaper based in McLean, Va.
  - 37 Racing driver Wallace does some hammering?
  - 42 Singer Benatar replies?
  - 44 This, in Lima
  - 45 Dancer Charisse
- DOWN**
- 1 Jewish month
  - 2 Totally fix up
  - 3 With, in Paris
  - 4 Pitcher's goof
  - 5 Pain in the neck
  - 6 Accessory for a meal fit for a queen?
  - 7 Far offshore
  - 8 Mild aversion
  - 9 Make — buck
  - 10 Buddhist branch
  - 11 Actor George of "CSI"
  - 12 Dehydrate
  - 13 iPhone extra
  - 14 Freeway sight
  - 15 Actress Meyers
  - 16 Make bare
  - 17 Filmmaker Bergman
  - 18 Analyzes
  - 20 Put away for the future
  - 25 Slugger Sammy
  - 27 Islam, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 32 Fourth mo.
  - 34 Meth- ending
  - 35 "Bad boy!"
  - 36 Have debts
  - 37 Gen. at Gettysburg
- 135 Agenda unit**
- 38 "Heaven help —!"
  - 39 Security ticker symbol
  - 40 "Ciao!"
  - 41 "... — baked a cake"
  - 43 On — with
  - 47 Takes care of
  - 50 Ancient Greek city
  - 52 Morales of "Rapa Nui"
  - 54 Baseball's Hersher's
  - 55 Greek harp player of yore
  - 56 "Crawling" internet bot
  - 57 Kay-em link
  - 58 Ending for Peking
  - 60 Pain in the neck
  - 62 Cave effect
  - 63 "Look what I just did!"
  - 64 Missouri tribespeople
  - 65 System
  - 68 Jessica of "7th Heaven"
  - 70 Reclined
  - 73 Wheel center
  - 74 Sporty auto roof
  - 75 Ye — Shoppe
  - 76 — Lankan
  - 77 Phone no.
- 81 Deficient**
- 82 Donkeys
  - 84 Sow's sound
  - 86 Opera song
  - 88 Lima's land
  - 92 Very troubled
  - 93 Opened, as a wine bottle
  - 94 — -cone
  - 95 Approved
  - 96 Sow's home
  - 98 Psychic skill
  - 100 From memory
  - 102 Outrageous comedies
  - 103 Rise on the hind legs
  - 104 Sock pattern
  - 105 Indigo dye
  - 106 Sappho's Greek island
  - 108 Writer Deighton
  - 109 Opening
  - 112 Shining
  - 116 Closet pest
  - 118 Pasty stuff
  - 119 Classic soda brand
  - 120 "I smell —!"
  - 121 Fir relative
  - 122 Appear
  - 124 Part of SSN: Abbr.
  - 125 — Fridays
  - 126 Vote in favor
  - 127 Global commerce gp.

## SUITABLE ACTIVITIES

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The Wright brothers' first flight was shorter than the wingspan of a B-52 bomber.
- Bai Fangli, a tricycle driver for 20 years, donated 350,000 yuan to support the education of 300 poor Chinese students. He announced his last payment at the age of 90, saying that he was no longer fit for work.
- There are tea bags made to look like a goldfish swimming in your mug.
- Are you annoyed by the sounds of wheezing, whistling, chewing, drinking, crunching, slurping, finger tapping and the like? It's not just a quirk, but a psychiatric disorder called misophonia.
- A man spent five months in prison due to being unaware that his bail was just \$2.
- Kenya Railways requires that all trains stop for several minutes before crossing the Mwatate Dam in the southern part of the country. The practice was adopted on the advice of local residents after several mysterious derailments on the dam were blamed on evil spirits inhabiting the reservoir, which townsfolk claimed were angered by the trains not appeasing them by pausing in tribute.
- The world's shortest street, located in Scotland, is a mere 6 centimeters long.
- Jackie Robinson wasn't the first Black player to play Major League Baseball. That honor actually belonged to Moses Fleetwood Walker, a catcher for the Toledo Blue Stockings in 1884.
- The first volume of recipes was published in 62 A.D. by the Roman Apicius. Titled "De Re Coquinaria," it described the feasts enjoyed by the Emperor Claudius.
- India has a bill of rights for cows.
- Relics of saints were so valued in the Middle Ages that when Elizabeth of Hungary died in 1231, her body was quickly dismembered for holy mementos by a crowd.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

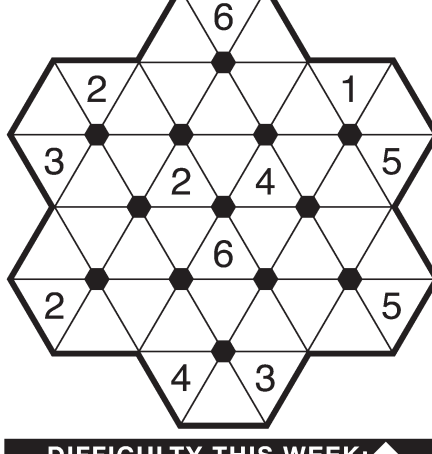
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## SNOWFLAKES

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

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**IT'S TRUE THAT ALL LONG HITTERS RETAIN THEIR WRIST-HINGING UNTIL CENTRIFUGAL FORCE CAUSES THE CLUBHEAD TO TRAVEL MANY FEET WHILE THE HANDS TRAVEL ONLY A FEW INCHES.**

**IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT THIS "LATE" WRIST UNHINGING IS PRODUCED BY STARTING THE THROUGH-SWING FROM THE GROUND UP, WITH THE KNEES AND HIPS — NEVER BY DELIBERATELY HOLDING BACK ON RELEASING THE CLUBHEAD.**

"What I don't understand is why I keep looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_."

### 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!

Glance \_ \_ \_

KEEP \_ \_ \_

Amble \_ \_ \_

WARDEN \_ \_ \_

Shield \_ \_

FENDED \_ \_

Count \_ \_

CORES \_ \_

**TODAY'S WORD**

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# Electric company asks to decrease transmission rates

Appalachian Power last week filed a request with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) to lower the electric transmission cost for customers. The transmission rate adjustment clause, known as the T-RAC, is the portion of a customer's bill that recovers costs for transmission services, fees and new construction.

Transmission costs to improve grid reliability and accommodate load growth are determined by PJM, the independent regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid in 13 states, including Virginia. Costs allocated to Appalachian Power decreased and the lower cost is being passed on to customers.

Appalachian Power is currently recovering about \$413.2 million annually in its T-RAC as approved by the SCC in 2023. In its filing, the company requested to decrease that amount by \$37 million. If approved by the Commission, the change would decrease the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours by \$2.12. The new rate would become effective in early October.

"Appalachian Power works hard to manage costs and ensure filings are made in a timely manner," said Aaron Walker, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. "When costs allocated by PJM were lowered, we took the necessary steps to update the commission and request a change to customer bills."

This report made by American Electric Power and its Registrant Subsidiaries contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Although AEP and each of its Registrant Subsidiaries believe that their expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, any such statements may be influenced by factors that could cause actual outcomes and results to be materially different from those projected.

Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements are changes in economic conditions, electric market demand and demographic patterns in AEP service territories; the economic impact of increased global trade tensions including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the adoption or expansion of economic sanctions or trade restrictions; inflationary or deflationary interest rate trends; volatility and disruptions in the financial markets precipitated by any cause, including failure to make progress on federal budget or debt ceiling matters, particularly developments affecting the availability or cost of capital to finance new capital projects and refinance

existing debt; the availability and cost of funds to finance working capital and capital needs, particularly if expected sources of capital such as proceeds from the sale of assets, subsidiaries and tax credits, and anticipated securitizations, do not materialize or do not materialize at the level anticipated, and during periods when the time lag between incurring costs and recovery is long and the costs are material; decreased demand for electricity; weather conditions, including storms and drought conditions, and AEP's ability to recover significant storm restoration costs; limitations or restrictions on the amounts and types of insurance available to cover losses that might arise in connection with natural disasters or operations; the cost of fuel and its transportation, the creditworthiness and performance of fuel suppliers and transporters and the cost of storing and disposing of used fuel, including coal ash and spent nuclear fuel; the availability of fuel and necessary generation capacity and the performance of generation plants; AEP's ability to recover fuel and other energy costs through regulated or competitive electric rates; the ability to transition from fossil generation and the ability to build or acquire renewable generation, transmission lines and facilities (including the ability to obtain any necessary regulatory approvals and permits) when needed at acceptable prices and terms, including favorable tax treatment, and to recover those costs; the impact of pandemics and any associated disruption of AEP's business operations due to impacts on economic or market conditions, costs of compliance with potential government regulations, electricity usage, supply chain issues, customers, service providers, vendors and suppliers; new legislation, litigation and government regulation, including changes to tax laws and regulations, oversight of nuclear generation, energy commodity trading and new or heightened requirements for reduced emissions of sulfur, nitrogen, mercury, carbon, soot or particulate matter and other substances that could impact the continued operation, cost recovery, and/or profitability of generation plants and related assets; the impact of federal tax legislation on results of operations, financial condition, cash flows or credit ratings; the risks associated with fuels used before, during and after the generation of electricity and the byproducts and wastes of such fuels, including coal ash and spent nuclear fuel; timing and resolution of pending and future rate cases, negotiations and other regulatory decisions, including rate or other recovery of new investments in genera-

tion, distribution and transmission service and environmental compliance; resolution of litigation or regulatory proceedings or investigations; AEP's ability to efficiently manage operation and maintenance costs; prices and demand for power generated and sold at wholesale; changes in technology, particularly with respect to energy storage and new, developing, alternative or distributed sources of generation; AEP's ability to recover through rates any remaining unrecovered investment in generation units that may be retired before the end of their previously projected useful lives; volatility and changes in markets for coal and other energy-related commodities, particularly changes in the price of natural gas; the impact of changing expectations and demands of customers, regulators, investors and stakeholders, including focus on environmental, social and governance concerns; changes in utility regulation and the allocation of costs within regional transmission organizations, including ERCOT, PJM and SPP; changes in the creditworthiness of the counterparties with contractual arrangements, including participants in the energy trading market; actions of rating agencies, including changes in the ratings of debt; the impact of volatility in the capital markets on the value of the investments held by AEP's pension, other postretirement benefit plans, captive insurance entity and nuclear decommissioning trust and the impact of such volatility on future funding requirements; accounting standards periodically issued by accounting standard-setting bodies; other risks and unforeseen events, including wars and military conflicts, the effects of terrorism (including increased security costs), embargoes, wildfires, cyber security threats and other catastrophic events; and the ability to attract and retain the requisite work force and key personnel.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 17,000 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 225,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.6 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with nearly 29,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including approximately 6,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

## FDA issues warning about baby formula

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning to alert parents and caregivers about Cronobacter safety concerns with Crecelac Infant Powdered Goat Milk Infant Formula and other infant formula products imported and distributed by Dairy Manufacturers Inc.

Although the company initiated a recall of the products referenced above on May 24, 2024, because they were not in compliance with all of the FDA's infant formula regulations, the FDA issued the safety alert due to new findings of Cronobacter contamination in a sample of Crecelac Infant Powdered Goat Milk Infant Formula.

As part of its investigation into this matter, on May 29, 2024, the FDA found Cronobacter in a sample of Crecelac Infant Powdered Goat Milk Infant Formula collected from a retail store in Texas.

Separately, the FDA is also alerting parents and caregivers to a recall initiated by Dairy Manufacturers Inc. of the Farmalac products listed above because of their failure to meet U.S. infant formula regulations. Limited sampling of the Farmalac products did not detect Cronobacter; however, the firm has not submitted the required premarket notification to the FDA to demonstrate the safety and nutritional adequacy of the infant formula. The FDA is continuing to work with the firm and its distributors to ensure the recall is effectively executed.

Cronobacter is a bacterium that can cause bloodstream and central nervous system infections, such as sepsis and meningitis, respectively. Complications from Cronobacter in-

fection in infants can include brain abscess, developmental delays, motor impairments, and death.

Symptoms of Cronobacter infection in infants may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice, grunting breaths, or abnormal body movements.

At this time, the FDA is not aware of any illnesses associated with these products and the agency does not anticipate any impact on the supply of infant formula based on the recall of these products.

The FDA is issuing this advisory because infants that consume these products could be at risk of potentially severe infection due to the Cronobacter contamination. The FDA advises parents and caregivers not to feed these infant formula products to infants under their care. If your infant is experiencing symptoms related to Cronobacter infection, such as poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice, grunting breaths, or abnormal body movements, contact your health care provider to report their symptoms and receive immediate care.

If caregivers are looking for an alternative goat milk infant formula for sale in the U.S., they may wish to speak with their infant's health care provider, as there are goat milk infant formulas that either have completed the required FDA premarket notification process or are currently being marketed under the FDA's enforcement discretion policy.

Additionally, parents and caregivers can find more information on safe infant feeding practices on the FDA's infant formula landing page.

## 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, external 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.

## Initial unemployment filings decline

The 1,998 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending June 01, 2024, is 3.3 percent lower than last week's 2,066 claims and 13.8 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,317), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (63 percent) were Accommodation and Food Services (213); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (193); Health Care and Social Assistance (182); Professional, Scientific, and Techni-

cal Services (165); and Retail Trade (143).

Continued weeks claims (15,923) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (15,907) and were 25.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,685). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,410); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,188); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,489); Retail Trade (1,335); and Manufacturing (1,293).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.



# Men charged in connection with stop

Henry County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop near the 1800 block of Virginia Ave. on Tuesday, June 4. The vehicle was occupied by two men. During the traffic stop, a Narcotics K9 alerted to narcotics inside the vehicle. Both men were detained, and the vehicle was subsequently searched.

Authorities allege that during a search of the vehicle, they found pre-packaged bags of methamphetamine and fentanyl, along with multiple items consistent with the distribution of narcotics.

The passenger of the vehicle, Justin Mitchell Harris, 31, of Potat Drive, Ridgeway, was charged with possession of Schedule I or II Drug with the intent to distribute (Methamphetamine), and possession of Schedule I or II Drug with the intent to distribute (Fentanyl).

Harris was held without bond in

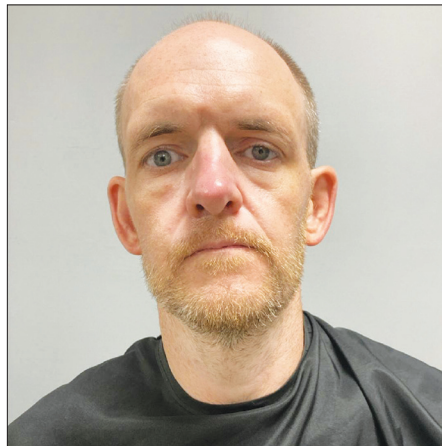
the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

The driver of the vehicle, Zachary Edward Hager, 38, of Spencer Preston Road, Martinsville, was charged with possession of Schedule I or II Drug (Methamphetamine) and possession of Schedule I or II Drug (Fentanyl). He was held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on a \$5,000 secured bond.

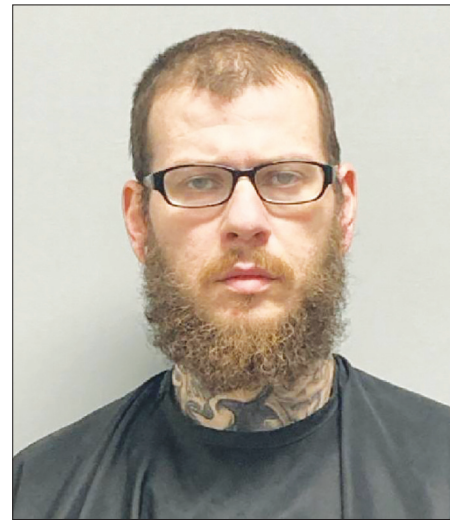
Harris is currently on probation for the distribution of Schedule I/II narcotics, and was released from the Department of Corrections in April 2024, before this recent arrest.

Before his arrest, Hager was on probation for possession of fentanyl.

The Henry County Sheriff's will continue to proactively pursue drug dealers to keep the community safe.



Zachary Edward Hager



Justin Mitchell Harris

Anyone with information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for

information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

## New Exec. Order establishes data sharing protocols to voter list maintenance

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 31 to strengthen Virginia's voter rolls and ensure better data accuracy. This initiative builds on the administration's robust improvements to list maintenance, including establishing one-to-one data-sharing agreements with seven states, conducting two National Change of Address mailings, and streamlining the process for removing deceased voters through an audit of Virginia deceased records.

Executive Order 31 will require the Department of Elections to update data-sharing agreements with several state agencies within 90 days. Additionally, it establishes an interagency work group to improve the quality and security of

voter registration data. Based on the work group's recommendations, the Department of Elections will develop and review data-sharing standards for list maintenance processing.

"I am issuing this Executive Order to ensure the accurate, transparent, and reliable use of data among state agencies, aiming to achieve best-in-class voter list maintenance processes for the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "As we transition to a new statewide voter registration system, it is imperative that every state agency provides accurate and valid data. This Executive Order continues our improvements to list maintenance processes, providing a reliable election system for voters."

## Virginia to leave California Electric Vehicle Mandate at end of year

The California electric vehicle mandate is ending in Virginia, effectively at the end of this year when California's current regulations expire, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said last week.

An official opinion from Attorney General Jason Miyares in response to a request by the Governor and Senate Republican Leader Ryan McDougle confirms that Virginia is not required to comply with expansive new mandates adopted by the unelected California Air Resources Board (CARB) set to take effect January 1, 2025.

"Once again, Virginia is declaring independence – this time from a misguided electric vehicle mandate imposed by unelected leaders nearly 3,000 miles away from the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "The idea that government should tell people what kind of car they can or can't purchase is fundamentally wrong. Virginians deserve the freedom to choose which vehicles best fit the needs of their families and businesses. The law is clear, and I am proud to announce Virginians will no longer be forced to live under this out-of-touch policy."

"Today, I've issued an official Attorney General Opinion that confirms that Virginians are no longer legally bound to follow the emission standards of California," said Miyares. "EV mandates like California's are unworkable and out of touch with reality, and thankfully the law does not bind us to their regulations. California does not control which cars Virginians buy and any thoughts that automobile manufacturers should face millions of dollars in civil penalties rather than allowing our citizens to choose their own vehicles is completely absurd."

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation authorizing Virginia's Air Board to adopt California's "Advanced Clean Cars I" regulation pursuant to Section 177 of the federal

Clean Air Act. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently adopted "Advanced Clean Cars II," set to take effect January 1, 2025, which would require 100% of new cars sold in Model Year 2035 to be electric vehicles. An opinion from Attorney General Jason Miyares confirms the law, as written, does not require Virginia to follow ACC II. Therefore, the Commonwealth will follow federal emissions standards on January 1, 2025.

"Throughout CARB's 'Advanced Clean Cars II' regulation are references to California Governor Gavin Newsom's executive orders and the unique environmental circumstances facing California. Virginia's laws should not be determined by California politicians. Instead, our laws should be decided by Virginians who are elected to serve Virginia and address issues that face our Commonwealth, not a state nearly 3,000 miles away," said McDougle, who co-patroned legislation to repeal CARB's mandate during this year's legislative session along with Sens. Richard Stuart and John McGuire, and Dels. Lee Ware, Tony Wilt, and Buddy Fowler.

Under Advanced Clean Cars II, beginning in Model Year 2026, 35% of the new cars sold would have been required to be electric vehicles, moving up to 100% in 2035. If an auto manufacturer sells a standard automobile out of compliance with California's mandate, they may be required to pay a fine upwards of \$20,000 per vehicle sold. Given that EVs only amounted to 9% of vehicles sold in Virginia in 2023, application of the misguided mandates could have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in penalties. Virginia auto consumers and dealers could be forced to bear these costs. Not only would this leave auto dealers with less money to pay staff, offer raises, and grow their businesses, it could force many small auto dealers to permanently close their doors.

## Report shows VA seniors' physical, behavioral health declines

Edwin J. Viera  
*Virginia News Connection*

A new report showed Virginia's older residents face worsening physical and behavioral health and looks at the possible reasons.

The America's Health Rankings Senior Report finds Virginia has seen sweeping declines in behavioral health and health outcomes of its older population. It said 38% more seniors in the Commonwealth are in "frequent mental distress," which mirrors a national trend.

Dr. Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer and executive vice president of UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual, said economic factors are also worsening and may be at least partly to blame.

"We see some challenges in some economic measures like poverty, in worsening housing cost burden," Randall outlined. "More seniors saying that they have food insecurity, that they're worried about getting access to food."

The report also showed some bright spots, including a national increase in senior health care providers. Virginia also has seen an increase in home health care work-

ers. Randall noted unpaid family caregivers boost the state's services but need support.

In 2023, the General Assembly considered a bill to establish a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for eligible family caregiving expenses, but it failed in committee.

The report found Virginia has improved the quality of care for seniors with increases in cancer screening and flu and pneumonia vaccinations for people 65 and older. Randall emphasized a national increase in high-speed internet access also benefits people in the senior age group.

"Eighty-five percent of seniors in our country have access to high-speed internet," Randall noted. "This is significant because it helps us connect with our family and our friends. It helps us connect with our health care providers, whenever we need to see a doctor or access care remotely."

But as high-speed internet use increases, so do internet crimes. The report showed the percentage of online scams reported by Virginians was slightly higher than the national average of almost 11%.

## Warner among those calling for fentanyl testing in ERs

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) cosponsored Tyler's Law, a bill directing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide hospitals with guidance on how emergency rooms can implement fentanyl testing in their routine drug screens. The bill is named for Tyler Shamash, a teenager who died of an overdose in part because – unbeknownst to the physician – he was not tested for fentanyl upon being checked into the emergency room.

"We know fentanyl is deadlier than other substances. After hearing that a Fairfax County teenager's family had to learn from the medical examiner after his death instead of when he was alive in the emergency room that he was experiencing a fentanyl overdose, I'm proud to cosponsor Tyler's Law," said Warner. "While this law will never bring back Malcolm Kent, Tyler Shamash, or the thousands we've lost too soon to overdoses, in their memory I am glad to push to save more lives by instituting more robust guidance on testing for fentanyl during a suspected overdose."

In January 2023, Malcolm Kent, a 17-year-old Fairfax County resident, went to the emergency room while experiencing an overdose but was not tested for fentanyl. He died of a fentanyl overdose shortly after being discharged. His mother, Thurraya Kent, has advocated for robust measures to test for fentanyl in emergency rooms and expand access to treatment.

Tyler's Law would direct the Secretary of HHS to:

Complete a study to determine how frequently emergency rooms are currently testing for fentan-

yl when patients come in for an overdose, as well as the associated costs and benefits/risks, and

Issue guidance to hospitals on implementing fentanyl testing in emergency rooms.

In 2022, 1,967 Virginians died due to overdose of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, accounting for nearly 79% of all drug overdose deaths in Virginia. Nationally, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids were responsible for just over 63% of all drug overdose deaths that year. Since the start of the COVID pandemic, fentanyl has more than doubled overdose deaths among children ages 12 to 17.

Warner has consistently pushed for robust action to address the opioid epidemic, particularly by expanding telehealth so more Virginians experiencing substance use disorder can access treatment. He leads the TREATS Act, which would permanently (and without any special registration) allow telehealth prescribing of controlled substances to treat opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine. He also repeatedly pushed the DEA to preserve pandemic-era telehealth flexibilities and create a special registration so that quality providers can permanently prescribe controlled substances safely via telehealth. To address trafficking, he recently celebrated passage of the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, a sanctions and anti-money laundering law that targets fentanyl traffickers. He also introduced the Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act, legislation that would increase staffing capacity and technology to detect drugs that are being smuggled through points of entry.

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

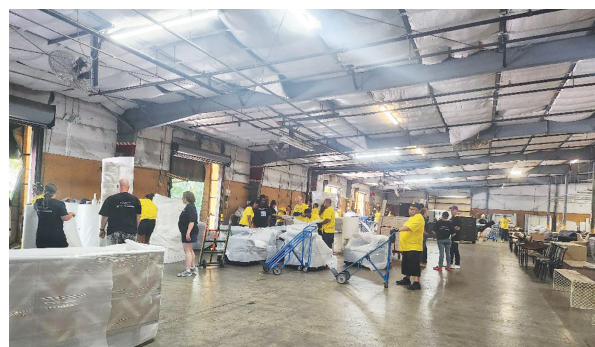


# Honoring Heroes



To acknowledge D-Day, a wreath was placed on the grave of Benjamin Rives Kearfott, a World War II veteran whose body is buried in France. Veterans in Martinsville also were invited to lunch, a treat by Danny Turner, a former Martinsville Mayor and city council member.

## Proceeds from semi-annual sale benefit local charities



Employees and volunteers worked to load furniture into vehicles.

The semi-annual Hooker Furniture Warehouse Sale was held on Saturday, June 8. Proceeds from the sale benefited the United Way, Martinsville Henry County SPCA, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge.

Most of the furniture in the warehouse was purchased and loaded into vehicles throughout the day with the help of employees and volunteers. The sale was so successful that loading went two hours after the projected closing time, and many shoppers had to return on Monday to pick up their purchases.

# Interesting facts about D-Day

## Commemorating



### June 6, 1944

The eightieth anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy, widely referred to as D-Day, during World War II, was last week. On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in France. The Normandy landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history and marked the culmination of planning that began in 1943. D-Day is often characterized as a success that led to the liberation of Europe from the stranglehold of the Nazis, and rightfully so. But the Allied forces paid a heavy price for the victory, as more than 9,000 soldiers lost their lives within the first 24 hours of the landings.

The landings at Normandy have inspired countless books, documentaries and Hollywood productions, but there's still much to be learned about this momentous occasion in world history. The following are some interesting facts about D-Day.

The meaning behind the name "D-Day" remains open to debate and has sparked legions of curious individuals to ask what it signifies. In fact, the United States Department of Defense reports that, "What does D-Day stand for?" is the most frequently asked question at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Though a definitive answer may never materialize, the DoD quotes U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower saying all amphibious operations had what was known as a "departed date," which was often shortened to D-Day. General Eisenhower reportedly noted there were several D-Days during World War II, even if one in particular is more renowned than any other.

Deception plans played a notable role in the planning and ultimate success of the Normandy landings. According to the Imperial War Museums, the D-Day deception plan was codenamed Operation Fortitude, which itself was part of

a larger deception strategy known as Operation Bodyguard. Fortitude North aimed to trick the Germans into believing the Allies were planning to launch an attack on Norway, while Fortitude South was designed to deceive the Germans into thinking the invasion of France would occur northeast of Normandy. These deception plans included the usage of dummy tanks and the fictitious First US Army Group (FUSAG), among other efforts.

Popular western depictions of the Normandy landings often portray largely American and British forces, but the D-Day invasion was a collective success that included troops from many additional countries as well. In addition to troops from the U.S. and Britain, the D-Day invasion involved naval, air and group support from Australian, Belgian, Canadian, Czech, French, Greek, New Zealand, Norwegian, Rhodesian (modern day Zimbabwean), and Polish forces.

A lone meteorologist might have played as significant a role as anyone in ensuring that D-Day was a success. Though his fellow meteorologists did not recommend any delays, Group Captain James Martin Stagg of the United Kingdom advised General Eisenhower to delay the D-Day invasion, which was originally scheduled for June 5, 1944. Various storms plagued the Atlantic and affected the British Isles in the days before the landings at Normandy, and indeed a storm centered north of Scotland on June 5 would have made the invasion of Normandy far more difficult. Though conditions were not perfect on June 6, they were markedly better, confirming Stagg's intuition that a delay was the best decision. That intuition left a lasting impression on General Eisenhower, who reportedly later credited his meteorologist when asked by President-Elect John F. Kennedy why the landings at Normandy had proven so successful.

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# DRBA receives grant to help schools with Virginia Naturally

For the next two school years, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will work with every elementary school in Franklin County, VA to become certified as Virginia Naturally (VAN) Schools, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE).

VAN is the official environmental education school recognition program of the Commonwealth. It is administered by the Department of Wildlife Resources and is recognized as the official environmental education school recognition program by the state Board of Education.

Joseph H. Maroon, Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) said, "VEE is pleased to provide funding to the Dan River Basin Association for this environmental education initiative. VEE has partnered with DRBA in the past and its work has been exceptional: creative, thorough, and outcome oriented. We are sure that "Green Leaves Inspire Clean Water" will make a difference in both the lives of Franklin County students and in the quality of life for Franklin County residents."

The Dan River Basin Association was awarded the two-year grant to provide environmental literacy programming to the same students through their 4th grade year into 5th grade. The project, called "Green Leaves Inspire Clean Water" is in partnership with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Virginia Naturally program.



Krista Hodges, DRBA Education Outreach Manager, discusses plans for place-based outdoor learning at Snow Creek Elementary. (Photo by DRBA)

Krista Hodges, DRBA's Education Manager, said, "DRBA is excited to be the community partner that helps to sustain and connect teachers with environmental education programming available to the schools. Programming provided by local community partners is often turnkey and provides direct insight into that partner's field of work that cannot be provided by teachers alone. Students often benefit by the expertise of the community partner and can envision their career paths better through in-person activities and presentations than what a textbook can provide in a classroom."

The elementary students will focus on community conservation, environmental literacy, water quality protection

and place-based investigations. The first year, students will participate in DRBA's Streamside Trees in the Classroom (STIC) program that partners with the US Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake. Students will root native black willow cuttings in the classroom and take a field trip to plant them around Philpott Lake.

Following the STIC program, students will participate in a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) through this project, in addition to aligning with 2018 VA Science Standards of Learning "Green Leaves" components. The green leaves components are found in the curriculum framework, stating that all students need to complete an investigation project. With the expertise of DRBA and other partners who will assist, the schools will receive in-depth knowledge and curriculum to support the SOL guidelines.

"FCPS is pleased to partner with Dan River Basin Association to provide hands-on exposure and experiences in community conservation, environmental literacy and water quality. These experiences will enable our students to have a better understanding of their community environment and to possibly seek careers in these areas," said Brenda Muse, Director of Curriculum and Instruction with Franklin County Public Schools.

The second year of the grant dives deeper into understanding our natural resources through hands-on water quality testing. This will include an introduction to riparian buffers through a streamside trees or riparian buffer assessment, while also learning about the history of Philpott Lake and the effects of pollution on our precious water resources.

After students complete water quality testing, the place-based investigation of choice will be completed in the classrooms, along with environmental presentations for each school. The Virginia Master Naturalists will serve as a third partner on the project, providing classroom presentations for each school that chooses recycling initiatives and wildlife habitat friendly areas as their place-based investigations.

The culmination of the project will be for all schools to become Virginia Naturally certified at the end of the two years. Virginia Naturally (VAN) Schools is the official environmental education school recognition program of the Commonwealth. The Virginia Board of Education has recognized the Virginia Naturally School program as the official environmental education school recognition program for the state. This program recognizes the wonderful efforts of many Virginia schools to increase the environmental literacy of our youngest citizens.

Courtney Hallacher, Statewide Wildlife Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources said "DWR is excited about the collaboration between DRBA, VMN, and Franklin Co. schools to provide hands-on learning in the local environment over the next two years. We can't wait to read about how this initiative funded by the VEE helps enhance the learning of 4th into 5th grade students and add Franklin Co. Elementary Schools to the list of recognized Virginia Naturally Schools."

To learn more about DRBA's impact and programs that protect and conserve our natural resources, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).



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