

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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## Input sought on proposed tax hike in Tuesday hearing



Teddy Martin II, chairman of the Henry County School Board.



Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner.

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 25, to get input on a proposed real estate tax increase, from 55.5 cents to 62-cents per \$100 of assessed value. The hearing is set to get underway at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room, 1st floor of the Henry County Administration Building.

Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner recalled the pro-

posed tax increase was one of three options shared with the board at a June 11 work session.

"It's not a definitive option, it was one of the options shared with the board as a way to generate the additional revenue needed to meet the required funds for the school system," he said. The other two options presented at the meeting include using funds from the county's saving account and reallocating funds from other

(See Tax Hike p.2)



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis fielded questions about an officer involved shooting on Monday, June 17. He is flanked by Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher (left) and a Virginia State Trooper.

## State authorities to investigate officer involved shooting incident

**By Staff Reports**  
The Virginia State Police were asked by local law enforcement agencies to investigate an officer involved shooting incident that occurred on Monday, June 17 in the Ridgeway area of Henry County.

According to Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis, the incident occurred Monday when the U.S. Marshals Service and officers from Henry County and the City of Martinsville tried to serve an outstanding warrant on a man in the area. (See Shooting Incident p. 2)

## Heritage Center & Museum opens new exhibit, unveils portion of annex

**By Jessica Dillon**  
The Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum is celebrating two major achievements. The first is a new display depicting news through the ages in a "Connected Community" exhibit. The second is an expansion project — a new annex which will host one of the largest artifact collections on the East Coast.

On June 14, the new display opened, and a sneak peek of the first floor of the expansion was offered.

The museum has expanded to include a new section with three floors. The first two floors will house exhibits, while the third floor will be used for storage.

Those items on display will include a toy collection.

"We have the largest Martin Toy collection on the East Coast," said Dr. Mervyn King, who is among the museum's longest standing supporters. The collection will include several model trains. King donated the



Modern-day media representatives Charles Roark, of Star News, and Debbie Hall, of The Enterprise and Henry County Enterprise, are featured in part of a new exhibit at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum called "Connected Community." More than 70 people attended the opening.

toy collection and has been collecting antiques for years.

Many firearms will also be on display, with some as old as 500 years. Na-

tive American artifacts will also be on display, as well as a gambling parlor that is on display at Jeff-

(See New Exhibit p. 3)



American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 is seeking donations to repair flood damaged areas to its building. (Contributed) A video also is posted online at www.henrycountyenterprise.com.

## Post continues to seek donations to repair building

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 is seeking donations through a capital fund campaign to repair areas that were damaged by a flood earlier this year.

Organization Adjutant Curtis R. Millner Sr. said the building's parking lot was washed out in January.

"It was the fifth time since we've been in that location - we moved there in 2007. Three times was the result of hurricanes that came to this area, other times it was just major rainstorms," he said.

Millner said the organization was

told the only alternative is to pave the parking lot, "for that we do not have the funds."

The last estimate the organization got for the paving was approximately \$35,000.

Millner added the kitchen floor inside the organization's building also deteriorated due to the flood waters.

"We need to get that repaired. That cost, the last estimate we got on that was \$15,000," he said.

Because of the group's tax filing status as a 501c19 organization, Millner said it is unable to obtain grants. (See Donations p. 3)

## City Council fills seats on several boards and commissions

**By Jessica Dillon**  
Much of the Martinsville City Council's work sessions and regular sessions on June 14 were filled with discussions surrounding city committees and boards, plus the appointment of new members for many of them. This also included the announcement of several candidates for the upcoming two vacant school board seats.

The current school board chairman, Yvonne Givens, may be considered for re-appointment to the board. Michael Kirby, Kathy Carter and Tony Jones are three new members being considered as the seats for Givens and Cody Williams will expire on June 30. Interviews for the board seats begin at 9 a.m. on June 25.

The council also appointed 17 people to boards and commissions.

(See City Council p. 5)



Flags were placed around the city to celebrate Nation Flag Day.

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# Tax Hike

(cont. from page 1)

departments, or a combination of the three options.

"I know no one likes a tax increase. It's tough on many of our residents, it's really tough for many of our residents to have this trouble paying their electric bill, food, and other things and adding a tax increase on it makes it tough," Wagoner said.

However, just like the other county costs have increased, so have the school system's costs, he said.

"You really only have a couple of options, you've either got to raise taxes or you're going to cut costs," he said. "Because it's mandatory to provide the funding to the schools, any cut costs would have to be to other county services - whether it be law enforcement, public safety, parks and recreation, or any of the other categories."

Teddy Martin II, school board chairman and of the Reed Creek District, said his issue with the real estate tax increase is the way the supervisors are presenting it.

"In the sense that they're presenting it as the school's fault, or that they were unaware of the potential for this, or many of these things. I mean you've heard me for a while say the state's going to come in, the state's probably going to do a three percent increase, our budget's going to change, the numbers are going to change, and so on and so forth," he said.

Martin said he also has a problem with the notice that the funds were all discretionary funding.

"I didn't know that paying for Meadow View debt services was discretionary. I didn't know we had the option to default on that," he said, and also noted the one percent funding is solely for facilities, but it is limited to certain expenditures, new school construction and major renovations.

"It's not for day-to-day items, it's not for, 'hey we had that fire at the school and preventative maintenance on this, that, or the other could have addressed that.' It's not for that. So, I think there's a misunderstanding. You just can't go, 'oh, the one percent money exists,'" he said.

# Shooting Incident

(cont. from page 1)

ing warrant on Timothy Brian Howell, 43, who was wanted on charges of malicious wounding, use of a firearm in commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in connection with the March 2 shooting of Shannon Edward Bryan, 51, at 5269 Mitchell Road, Ridgeway.

Since then, the sheriff's office, in conjunction with their counterparts in the city and the United States Marshals Service, had been searching for Howell, Davis said.

Howell was located last week at a camper at 805 Wright Road, in Ridgeway, the sheriff said Monday during a press conference held after officers attempted to serve the warrant.

Davis alleged the wanted man turned aggressive soon after the officers arrived at the scene, which was described as rural, with poor radio and cell reception.

"This was an extremely rural area, and the officers were professionals from the very beginning to the end," Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher said at the joint press conference.

Once at the camper, officers announced themselves, and a weapon was subsequently pointed toward them. As a result, officers fired their weapons, striking the suspect multiple times.

"The officers immediately started performing life-saving measures that I am certain saved this individual's life today," Fincher said.

Martin said he understands the county has limitations and must spend a certain amount of money for the sheriff's office and other departments.

"You just got to understand it's the same for us, too. It's not 'you get one rule we get another set of rules.' I don't like to finger point, I don't like any of this, just work together," Martin said. "Be upfront and honest. That's my thing."

Henry County last approved a real estate tax increase in 2017, but has managed for seven years to avoid another, even as other costs have increased, including pay raises.

Wagoner said county staff received a five percent cost of living (COL) salary adjustment in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024; a six percent COL salary adjustment was given in FY23, and a five percent COL salary adjustment was given in FY22.

There was no salary adjustment in FY21.

"In FY22, Sheriff's deputies pay was increased on Jan. 1, 2022, by \$4,160. However, it became part of their pay with the six percent on July 1, 2022," he said.

Under the Evergreen Compensation and Classification Study presented to the board last year, Wagoner said the county chose the Hybrid Year option, which was capped at 10 percent.

"We chose that option because it was the least expensive, but it also let us address compression within the organization," he said.

For example, Wagoner said an employee that had 28 years of service would not automatically get placed on Step 28. Instead, they got a portion of that to a maximum of the 10 percent pay raise.

Wagoner said the county chose the Hybrid Year option because the fully implemented plan would have cost the county millions.

"We knew we would never get funded for that, so we took a less costly approach so we could address the issues somewhat, and the main thing, address pay equities in comparison to other localities like starting pay," he said. The substantially less pay

for sheriff's deputies when compared with other localities is what really started the discussion.

On average, Wagoner noted the county's implementation of the pay study cost an overall pay increase of 4.5 percent.

"But no individual got more than a 10 percent increase. That was basically, solely, as a cost containment measure because we only had \$400,000 to implement it," he said.

Wagoner said the school division decided to implement the Class Year Parity option.

From his understanding, Wagoner said for someone who has been a teacher for 25 years, parity means they would be on Step 25 of the table.

"So, it was a year for year. For county employees we didn't implement that because we capped it at 10 percent per employee. No employee got more than 10 percent on the county side," he said.

Wagoner said the school system's recommendation basically addressed all compression issues while the county's only partially addressed compression issues.

"That was a huge issue that we had. From my understanding the school system already had a pay classification plan, we did not. So, teachers and administrators were already on the table, they were already getting STEP increases, and things like that over the years, while our employees had never even gotten the option for any of those," he said.

During public sessions, Wagoner noted it's been said the starting pay for teachers in the county's school system would be among the most competitive in the region. "Even in the original budget before they got the additional money."

Martin said school staff received a six percent raise last year, and they will receive a five percent raise for the upcoming school year.

"Actually, they've done pretty good on raises in my time, but before that, they didn't get raises for like ever. So, in 2022-2023 it was a five percent increase, 2021-2022 it was roughly a three percent increase, 2020-2021 it was no increase because of COVID," he said.

For FY 2019-2020, Martin said there was a 3.5 percent increase, a one percent increase from 2018-2019, and basically no increases from 2010 to 2018.

"There were sometimes some modest adjustments, but folks weren't getting 'Steps,' which meant that people were falling behind on the scale," he said.

Martin said the Evergreen study noted that even with some of the pay increases in the division since about 2017, the school system is still an estimated 6 to 7 percent behind most comparable divisions in the region.

"Even with the increase we're proposing here, where we're going to do five percent, and the state's doing three, we're only gaining two. So, functionally, our teachers are still going to be four percent behind the others around us," he said.

According to the study, Martin said the division is 6.7 percent below market midpoint for teachers across the averages for positions.

"We're 18 percent behind on principals, 24.1 percent behind on assistant principals, 21.6 percent behind on assistant superintendents, and 23.6 percent behind on directors. So, the admin side, our folks get snapped up," he said, adding one administrator is going to work for Roanoke City and will make about the same as the county's school superintendent.

Martin said the plan the school board chose from the Evergreen study means that the division will try and address some of its compression concerns, particularly regarding the upper end teachers.

They make nearly "\$70,000+, and my admins are roughly right there, so there are teachers that have flat out told me, 'I don't want to go to administration, I'd lose money. It's a lot more responsibility, why would I do that,'" he said.

In addition to addressing the compression component, Martin said the school board is also trying to be more attractive to new hires and have an equitable spread across all positions so there will roughly be the same increase year after year.

Howell was airlifted and was reportedly in stable condition, Davis said.

Authorities said numerous firearms, as well as suspected methamphetamine, were located in the camper.

"When an officer is presented with a firearm, it takes away the ability to use the less than lethal options," Davis said, adding "I stand behind those officers 100 percent."

To potential critics, Davis said, "they can pin a badge on, they can complete the necessary training, they can come out and put their life on the line day in and day out before they pass judgment on anyone."

He declined to release the names of the officers involved, citing possible retaliation and the feelings of the officer and their loved ones.

"As a practice, the sheriff's office has never released the name of one of the deputies involved in a shooting before, we don't intend to begin now," said Davis.

"On average, an officer will shoot about a 96 percent on paper, but when it comes to a real-life scenario, the hit rate is more like 15 percent," Fincher said. "We shoot to stop, we don't shoot to kill. That's the way that we train them, they're shooting to stop, not to kill."

As soon as the immediate threat is gone, officers switch into life-saving mode, authorities said.

"This incident is very traumatic

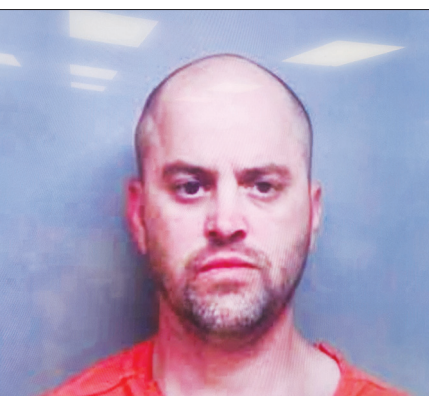


Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher comments on the incident.

to the officers involved," Fincher said. "One of the first things the state police do in addition to saying, 'we are going to investigate this to make certain the officers did everything appropriately' if they also come in with people to counsel our officers and make sure they are doing okay mentally."

Fincher also praised the officer's efforts to tackle the high-stress situation. He explained that officers are trained to aim for center mass due to the reduction of hit rate in a real-life scenario.

As soon as the threat is contained, officers switched into a life-saving mode, Fincher said, and



Timothy Brian Howell was wanted in connection with a March 2 shooting incident in Henry County.

reiterated that he was certain the officer's efforts helped.

# Congressional staff to hold local office hours

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in the City of Martinsville and Patrick County on June 26.

Staff will be in Martinsville from 10 - 11:30 a.m., in City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church Street.

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

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

# EARLY DEADLINE SET

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

than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2. Email to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) or [submissions@theenterprise.net](mailto:submissions@theenterprise.net). Call (276) 694-3101 for additional information.

# 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).)

## Events

### Through June 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."

### 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 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).

### Saturday, June 22

Blue Tattoo Pride event, noon to 8 p.m., Blu Tattoo Studio, 50 East Church St, Suite 4, Martinsville.

### 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., 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., NCI, Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Wednesday, June 26

Mud Energy!, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 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., 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 a.m. – 4 p.m. P&HCC Patrick County Site, Stuart and P&HCC IDEA Center, Martinsville.

Bassett Train Station Farmers' Market will be open 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 FIELDALE 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.

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.

## Donations

(cont. from page 1)

"We are a 501c19, which means that membership in our organization is restricted, and restricted to veterans only," he said. "We try to point out to people that even though membership in our organization is restricted, what veterans have done and are still doing is not restricted to anyone. The sacrifices that were made, and the contributions we're making now, are open to everyone."

Millner said he finds it difficult to understand that people cannot make a tax-deductible donation to the post.

"Most grants, like the Harvest Foundation, refuse to give us a grant because of our tax filing status," Millner said, adding the organization cannot change its IRS designation because it applies to all posts nation-wide.

"There are a couple of bills before Congress now" including "HR1662 that would make a change to that so that 501c19 organizations can get grants," he said.

In the meantime, the group relies on membership dues, donations, fund raisers like fish fries, and an annual raffle for operational expenses.

Since the capital fund campaign started, Millner said approximately \$5,000 has been raised.

"We have sent letters to most of the businesses, churches, and other organizations that normally make contributions to such" fundraisers. "So, far, we have received six replies," he said.

Millner noted the largest contributor so far is Vesper Energy, the company that is constructing the solar farm in the eastern part of Henry County and the western park of Pittsylvania County.

The Post currently has 174 members including two World War II veterans, 14 Korean war veterans, and 54 Vietnam War veterans. Other veterans and organization members were involved in Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Gulf War, and the War on Terror.

In addition to supporting veterans and their

dependents, Millner said the group also supports local youth like high school Junior ROTC, offers annual scholarships, and sends youngsters to the American Legion Boys & Girls State and the American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program.

Millner said the organization recently gave scholarships to a student at Bassett High School and a student at Martinsville City High School. Also recently, "we gave awards to the Junior ROTC at Bassett (High School) and Magna Vista (High School)." They were "military excellence and scholastic excellence awards," he said.

Millner emphasized that any funds raised from this capital fund campaign will only go to capital projects.

"It will not support our other endeavors," he said.

Donations can be sent to American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 P.O. Box 342, Martinsville, VA 24114-0342.

## New Exhibit

(cont. from page 1)

erson Plaza. The display will boast the sixth-largest collection of antique tools in the United States.

Previously, the renovated area housed the courthouse jail, but the renovations have turned it into a modern-looking museum which hopes to help attract tourists and business to the area.

"It's good for the entire community," said King. He believes that the size of the new collection will entice people from all around. "The more they get to see, the farther they come, the farther they come, the longer they stay, the longer they stay, the more money they spend."

The annex includes a kitchen, research room, meeting room, and entertainment area. The museum can be reserved for weddings and events. The completed expansion won't be ready for another six months, but when it is finished, it will greatly increase the display area of the museum.

Holly Kozelsky, the executive director of the museum and a former jour-

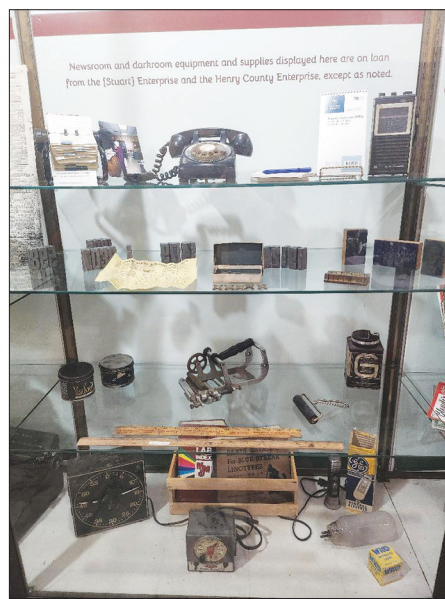
nalist, created the newest exhibit, said, "If there's one thing I understand, it's local media."

She donated some items to the display from her previous post with the Martinsville Bulletin. The display features items from bygone and current news outlets, including the Martinsville Morning Post, Martinsville Standard and Henry County Journal. Kozelsky worked with local media outlets to source other items. For example, artifacts were donated by The Enterprise, and Charles Roark, of Star News, donated some tapes. An Amberola record player was also on display and donated by Walter Shepard, who had the piece in his living room for 50 years.

John Phillips, president of the center, said he is especially excited about the new exhibit.

"To have something fresh, to have new reasons for people to come to the courthouse is nice," he said, adding that he also looks forward to getting to know the new businesses around town.

"Once we establish partnerships and



Artifacts from an old newspaper machine are among the items featured in a new exhibit at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum.



get to know one another and complement each other, it will definitely benefit everybody," Phillips said.

Dr. Mervyn King gives a tour of the first floor of an expansion to the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum.

## Student Briefs

### Watkins named to Dean's Honor Roll

Whitney Watkins of Martinsville was named to the Abilene Christian University Spring 2024 Dean's Honor Roll. Watkins is a junior majoring in Healthcare Administration.

Watkins was among more than 1,500 students named to the Spring 2024 Dean's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

### Belk named to Dean's List

Bridget Belk of Martinsville, was named to the College of Charleston Spring 2024 Dean's List. Belk is majoring in Finance and Marketing.

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

To qualify for the Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

## Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Henry County Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Henry County Enterprise.

## OPINION

## Swine of a Time



Pigo is taking on the world.

Finally, after a year and a half on this earth, Pigo is control. He is exploring, indulging himself, discovering new places.

And perhaps, just perhaps, he's searching for Mrs. Pigo, whether he realizes that specifically or is just pushed ahead by some blind innate instinct we all have for companionship.

Pigo and I made acquaintance on a Tuesday evening in my yard. I had been mentally prepared for this, as someone who lives up the road messaged me that there was a pig in my yard.

The last time there was a pig loose on our road, it wandered here and there for a few days before meeting an unfortunate end through an encounter with a truck on the road. I didn't want this poor innocent creature to face that fate.

I spotted him as I was getting out of the house. Pigo wouldn't win any beauty contests, that's for sure. As far as size, he came up to my knee.

I went in quickly and grabbed all I could find easily — a tomato and two slices of bread. Back outdoors, he and I gingerly approached each other.

We danced around my yard and the neighbor's yard for about an hour. The pig approach just enough to eat a chunk of tomato I tossed on the ground in front of him, and even let me touch him once, but I could never catch him. I even got out a net and a rope, but Pigo is shaped like a wide torpedo and there didn't seem any way to lasso him.

I went over to the only neighbor I saw outside, a man new to the neighborhood. He has always been gentlemanly and put out the offer that he'd help if we ever needed anything, so he probably was expecting me to say I had car trouble or something.

For about an hour we chased that pig in loops around the yard and hayfield and even into the woods, trying to corral him into the chicken coop, but that pig outran and



Holly Kozelsky

outsmarted us.

In the course of that valiant effort, the helpful neighbor lost his phone and a \$100 tool, both of which had been in his pockets, in the hayfield. He only found his phone.

Three other neighbors came out to help, and eventually the pig ran into the chicken coop, where I left him with water and food.

Then I had to leave for Richmond for meetings the next day. I arrived to my hotel at 1:15 a.m. Whew.

The next morning a neighbor texted me that Pigo had gotten out, and later in the day, Pigo's owners were found. Meanwhile, neighbors said, Pigo had been hit by cars two separate times but each time managed to wobble away.

That next evening, the owners and the wildlife-catching team they had hired were stationed in my yard, hunting down the pig. It turned out that Pigo was a pet pig who, the owners admitted, probably should have been taken to be neutered a while back; he'd been getting restless and wanting to roam.

Pigo kept giving the slip. His cage and food and water are set up in my yard still, but last we heard, he had made his way down the road and was hanging out in the pastures and paddocks of Martin Stables.

"He'll be fine," said Horace Martin, who had seen Pigo around but hadn't had any contact with him. "He ain't hurting nothing."

So now Pigo continues his search - for love? For freedom? To see what the world has to offer?

Fortunately I haven't seen him hit on the side of the road.

If you encounter Pigo, send me a Facebook message or email me through this newspaper and I'll pass on the message.

## Chevron Doctrine

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided some notable cases in 2024.

Donald J. Trump v. Anderson was a unanimous decision by the justices to allow President Trump on this year's ballot, despite efforts from states like Colorado and Maine to remove him.

National Rifle Association v. Vullo arises from a New York state official accused of coercing banks and insurers into cutting ties with the NRA by threatening regulatory action.

The justices voted 9-0 to protect the NRA's right to free speech and allow the NRA to move forward with their lawsuit against the New York official for First Amendment violations.

Among Supreme Court cases set for decision this summer are Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo and Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce.

Loper and Relentless, Inc. represent commercial fishing groups whose operations encompass the Atlantic herring fishery. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires the fishermen to abide by a litany of regulations.

Amongst these regulations are ones requiring the commercial fishermen to alert regulators before they set out to fish. The fishermen's locations are tracked. Sometimes, the fishermen have to allow a government-mandated federal observer to be present on the boat to collect data and information about their catch!

But wait, there's more!

NOAA's budget from Congress did not provide funding for NOAA to do on-the-boat observation of the fishermen's activities.

So what did NOAA do?

They forced the fishermen to hire third-party monitors and made the fishermen pay the third-party monitors' salaries!

USA Today states this rule costs the fishermen up to \$700 a day. If they do not pay, they are further penalized.

NOAA Fisheries justifies these actions as "necessary and appropriate" for the "conservation and management" of fisheries.

Even though Congress never specifically authorized these actions to be a part of "conservation and management", the fishermen bear these burdensome requirements because they were upheld under the "Chevron Doctrine" at the appellate level.

This rule comes from Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, 467 U.S. at 842-43.

The "Chevron Doctrine" states if an agency asserts that it has jurisdiction to take action in order to fulfill its overall purpose, that deference would go to the agency unless a claimant could prove that the action was not a "permissible construction." This is true if Congressional language is in any way ambiguous.

Apparently a "permissible construction" allows NOAA to force commercial fishermen to pay to have NOAA third-party agents aboard their ships.



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The "Chevron Doctrine" at one time even saw the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) try to claim that trailers for a tractor-trailer were self-propelled motor vehicles, notwithstanding there is no motor. The EPA backed down, but it shows just how far some activists inside agencies will push the boundaries of the "Chevron Doctrine."

I have long advocated for the 1984 Chevron ruling to be overturned or legislatively eliminated. The original 1984 ruling was an improper shift of authority from Congress to administrative agencies.

When Congress delegates regulatory authority to agencies, it should be clear and authoritative. When the authority is unclear or not specifically granted to an agency, the Courts should rule against the agency. Congress will then either let the Court decision stand or take action to grant the agency specific authority.

In 2016, I was an original cosponsor of H.R. 4768, the Separation of Powers Restoration Act, a bill to restore the balance of power between all three branches of government and codify measures to rein in the executive branch, including a reversal of the Chevron rule. It passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016 but no action was taken in the U.S. Senate.

This Congress, I voted for similar legislation, H.R. 288, the Separation of Powers Restoration Act. The legislation passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last year. The U.S. Senate should take up this bill and send it to President Biden's desk.

Because of Chevron, activist bureaucrats can interpret statutes according to their political agenda, expanding their bureaucracy's powers without Congressional approval.

The outcome of Loper will have tremendous implications for the American people and our government.

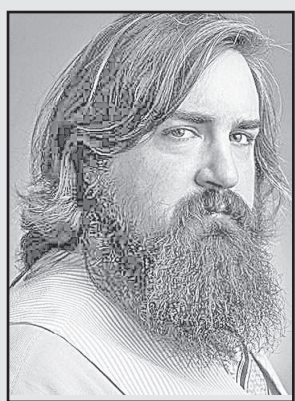
Duke Law Journal estimates that the Supreme Court has cited Chevron 238 times and invoked the rule in over one hundred decisions.

Litigation cases generally cost a small fortune and take years to decide. Even if the Court overturns an agency action, many times companies have already complied with expensive and egregious regulations. These regulations cost consumers.

We will see if the 239th instance where the Court cites Chevron restores balance of power between our branches of government.

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

## An open letter to the ultraprogressives



By Ben R. Williams

Dear ultraprogressives,

Hello, it's your old buddy Ben here. Life been treating you all right? Had any good ancient grains lately? Is the Prius holding up OK? Hey, I kid. Let's rap a minute.

I like you, ultraprogressives. On a great many issues, I am one of you. But I've been hearing a rumbling lately from some of you that has me concerned.

I have a few friends — people I respect a great deal — who have been saying that they'll never vote for Trump. That comes with the territory of being an ultraprogressive, so no surprise there.

But then they add that they just can't bring themselves to vote for Joe

Biden in November. They think he's been too lax in the Israel-Hamas war, and that he should be taking a much stronger stand against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

They cannot in good conscience vote for Biden, they say. It's a moral issue. They don't want the blood of dead Palestinians on their hands. And so, this November, they will simply not vote.

Now look, ultraprogressives, I get it. I used to believe in things, too. I'm not thrilled with Biden's handling of this situation. In fact, there are a lot of things about Joe Biden I'm not thrilled about. I'm tired of every Presidential election being a choice between a corporate Democrat who doesn't care about me and a guy who actively wants me to die.

But this upcoming election is probably the best example of the trolley problem I've ever seen.

If you're unfamiliar, the trolley problem is a thought experiment. Imagine you're standing near some railway tracks. A little further along the tracks, there are five people tied up, unable to move. Suddenly, a trolley comes barreling along, and it will surely kill them unless you do something. There's a lever in front of you, and if you pull the lever, you'll switch the trolley to a different set of tracks. However, there's one guy tied to that set of tracks, too.

You have a decision to make: do you pull the lever and play a role in killing

one guy, or do you do nothing and allow five people to die through inaction?

There has been much debate over the years concerning what the ethical choice is when faced with the trolley problem, although surveys show that about 90% of people would pull the switch, sacrificing one life to save five. This is the side I come down on as well.

You could make the argument that the whole trolley situation isn't your doing; you're an innocent bystander to the whole mess. You didn't tie anyone to the tracks. It's not your responsibility to pull the lever.

However, I tend to defer to an esteemed trio of Canadian philosophers, collectively known as "Rush," who held that "if you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice."

I would never tell anyone how to vote, but everyone needs to understand who they're voting for. If you don't vote, you're voting for Trump. If you vote third party, God forbid, you're voting for Trump. And if you desperately want to vote for a progressive candidate who's better than Biden, you should vote for Biden because there's a pretty solid chance that you'll never get another opportunity otherwise.

Do you think that our two party system is fundamentally broken? I agree completely. That's why we should all be lobbying for ranked choice voting when it's not an election year instead of researching the Green Party in mid-

October.

If you have a moral issue with Biden's inaction regarding Israel, you should have a much bigger issue with whatever Trump is going to do to Gaza if he wins.

Do you care about gay rights? Trans rights? Abortion rights? Minorities in general? Climate change? You're ultraprogressive, so I know you do. I guarantee you a Biden presidency is going to be better for all those issues than a Trump presidency. And I'm not saying that to rile up Trump supporters, I'm describing the man's campaign platform, such as it is.

Now I hear you out there, ultraprogressives. You're saying that morals are all we have at the end of the day and you're not going to compromise your integrity, consequences be damned. And to that I say, there's a word for that kind of thinking.

Privilege.

Because there's one thing I've noticed about the people who are saying they won't vote for Biden over moral concerns: they're not going to be affected either way. They're not the folks in the firing line.

It's pretty easy to play around with thought experiments and moral objections when there aren't any personal consequences. As for the rest of us, we're going to be pulling that switching yard lever with everything we've got.

# City Council

(cont. from page 1)



Martinsville City Council members honor the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's 65th year.

"In my earlier time in this council, we were pulling teeth to get people to serve on these boards and commissions. I think you can see the positive turn that is taking place in the city," council member Tammy Pearson said, adding there were too many applicants for all the seats.

"The volunteers and our citizens are what make the city great," she said, thanking those who were interested and adding that she looks forward to working with those who were appointed.

Two people appointed to the Architectural Review Board - Jess Jarrett and Jonathan Martin. Five were appointed to the Arts and Cultural committee board - Tracie Heavner, Shane Pinkston, Karen Despot, Kathleen McEvoy, and Jessica Dil-

lon. Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper joined the Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program. The terms for all of these committee members will expire on June 14, 2027.

The Planning Commission received two new members, DeShanta Hairston and Mack Evans. The Patrick Henry & Community College Board welcomed Pamela Allen. All three of these terms expire on June 14, 2028.

Cindy Frank and Billie White were appointed to the Children Services Act. The Emergency Housing & Community Support Commission welcomed Richard Harris, Ariel Johnson, and Craig McCloskey. The Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency Board welcomed Lydia Martin. All these appointments were



City council celebrates the Patrick & Henry Community College softball team.

along with appointments, the council officially approved the Special Use Request for 1048 Independence Drive, which will allow artist Tony Williams to have a live/work art studio at the location.

Each board has its own requirements for appointments, and interviews are conducted to choose which citizens will fulfill the roles.

"We still have some interviews scheduled for a few remaining seats on some of these," said vice mayor Aaron Rawls. More announcements will be made at the next council meeting on June 25.

Along with appointments, the

council officially approved the Special Use Request for 1048 Independence Drive, which will allow artist Tony Williams to have a live/work art studio at the location.

In other matters, the council:

- \* Recognized the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's 65th anniversary.
- \* Recognized Patrick & Henry Community College softball team for winning nationals.
- \* Recognized National Flag Day.

## Basketball Clinic set

The 6th annual Michael C. Jarrett Basketball will be held at Fort Trial Baptists Church on July 29 and 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m..

The clinic is for youngsters aged 6 to 16. The cost is \$20 per day or \$30

for both days.

Former Globetrotter George Bell will return as a coach.

For more information, call Jarrett at (757) 237-5644 or email mcjarrett4833@gmail.com.

**6th ANNUAL  
Michael C. Jarrett  
BASKETBALL CLINIC  
Fort Trial Baptist Church  
July 29 & 30  
11am - 1pm  
5pm - 7pm**



The clinic is for boys and girls ages 6-16 years old. Each year coaches with a gifted specialty for the sport contribute their knowledge and skills to the youth.

### COACHES

**George Bell:** Former Globetrotter, television and screen actor and is 7'8" tall. All participants have the opportunity to take a picture with Mr. Bell!

**Bill Adkins:** Former basketball player at Carver High School and Averett College. He has assisted coaching boys and girls basketball for 15 years.

**John Martin** Played ball for Martinsville High School. He is currently a coach for J. D. Bassett High School

### CAMP INCLUDES

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- Amazing skilled coaches for instruction
- Discount when you register for both days
- Chance to take a picture with George Bell
- Adjustable goals for the younger participants
- Snacks provided

**WHEN** July 29 & 30  
6-10 yr. old 11am-1pm  
11-16 yr. old 5-7pm

**WHERE** Fort Trial Baptist Church  
170 Oak Level Rd., Stanleytown, VA

**WHO** For Boys & Girls ages 6-16 years old

**COST** \$20 per day or \$30 for both days

**CONTACT** Michael C. Jarrett 757-237-5644 or MCJARRETT4833@gmail.com

**REGISTRATION  
(CASH OR CHECK ONLY)**  
Registration begins the day  
of camp at 10am each day

## Blood Drive to be held Monday

Sounds on the Square is sponsoring 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.redcross-blood.org/give.html/drive-results?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 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.

## Coming soon: Movie in the Park!

Henry County Parks and Recreation will begin their Movie in the Park Series this summer with the first movie on Friday, June 21 and the feature will be "The Super Mario Bros. Movie." Mario and Luigi are transported through a mysterious pipe to a magical new world for an epic adventure. Featuring the voices of Chris Pratt, Jack Black and more.

The movie is shown next to the picnic shelter at Jack Dalton Park and admission is free. Music and

games will start at 7:30pm and the movie will begin at 8:55pm. Candy, snacks, water, soda and other items will be available for purchase. If the parking lot in Jack Dalton Park is full, you can park in the administration building parking lot and access the park using the steps behind the administration building.

Call Henry County Parks and Recreation at (276) 634-4640 for additional information or questions.

**Sounds on the Square 2024**  
7:00-10:00 P.M.  
Opens at 6:00 P.M.  
Free admission  
All ages welcome  
Food and other beverages available  
Craft beers by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company  
Bring a chair  
Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville

**Friday, July 5, 2024**  
**The League of Ordinary Gentlemen**  
Food by Tammy's Grill

## The League of Ordinary Gentlemen to perform Uptown

Sounds on the Square will continue with the third month of the 2024 season with Barefoot Modern on Friday, July 5, on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 7-10 p.m.

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

"The League of Ordinary Gentlemen" will play your favorite hits from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, 10s, and today, along with a few originals. The extraordinary cover band received the "Readers' Choice for Favorite Band Award" from the Danville Register & Bee in 2021 and 2022 and a "RAVE Award" from the Showcase Magazine in 2022. One fan recently stated, "What an awesome band! Super talented group of guys. We sang along to everything from

Eminem to Smashmouth to the Stones. Everyone seemed to really enjoy their music and funny, yet chill vibe. Highly recommend!"

Like their page at [www.facebook.com/TLOOGDANVILLE](http://www.facebook.com/TLOOGDANVILLE) or visit [www.theleagueofordinarygentlemen.com/](http://www.theleagueofordinarygentlemen.com/).

Coordinated by the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, Sounds on the Square is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, Children First Pediatrics, Deskins, Inc., The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, New College Institute, and Sarver Cleaning Services.

A finalist in the Best of the Blue Ridge 2024 as Family Friendly Festival, Sounds on the Square is enjoyed by patrons of all ages, generations, and cultures. This will be the fourth year of the series and continues to be some of the most popular Uptown offerings generating vitality and community engagement.

## WPHD Honored for Increasing Equity Via CHW Program

The West Piedmont Health District (WPHD) has received recognition from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its work in collecting data to understand the needs of underserved populations.

The program, called "Community Health Workers as Data Collectors Provides Equity in Rural Virginia," deployed community health workers to take live surveys in neighborhoods that were typically underrepresented. Through a partnership between the health department and the United Way agencies in Henry County/Martinsville and the Roanoke Valley, community health workers serve localities within the West Piedmont Health District (Henry County/Martinsville, Patrick and Franklin counties).

After a rigorous peer-evaluation, WPHD's program was selected as a Model Practice because it demonstrates an exemplary response to a local public health

need. It was also chosen for its ability to reflect the positive impact local health departments have on communities.

As an award winner the health district has been invited to attend the NACCHO360 Conference in Detroit, MI to be held in late July. WPHD will also have the opportunity to showcase this project via a three to five-minute video presentation and also during a special live session at the conference. This session is called "2024 Award Winning Best Practices from Local Health Departments" and will feature the "best of the best" Model Practice winners using a four to five-minute TED Talk-style format that will include a live question and answer component.

NACCHO serves 3,000 local health departments across the country by providing professional resources and programs to support effective local public health practice and systems.

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

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

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ014825-08-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NORRIS, SAIGE NICOLE HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS TO HIS DAUGHTER, SAIGE NICOLE NORRIS, BORN 1/26/2011, PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 16.1-283.  
IT IS ORDERED that the defendant HOUSTON EVERETTE NORRIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his interests on or before 09/09/2024 at 9:45 AM.  
05/23/2024

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ014825-09-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NORRIS, SAIGE NICOLE HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. CHEREE NICOLE DALTON  
The object of this suit is to:  
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

## LEGAL

**Town of Ridgeway Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing Notice**  
Pursuant to Code 15-2-2204 of the Code of Virginia and Town of Ridgeway Zoning Ordinances a public hearing has been scheduled for July 15, 2024, in the conference room of the Ridgeway Mayor's office, Main Street, at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this hearing is to receive citizen input into the revoking Special Use Permit 02-02 issued by the Town of Ridgeway BZA on June 18, 2022.  
Case 1-2024 Town of Ridgeway  
A Request was received under Section 21-215 of the Town of Ridgeway Town Council to revoke Special Use Permit 02-02 issued by the Town of Ridgeway BZA on June 18, 2022.  
Craig A. O'Der, Jr.  
Mayor

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ018039-03-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* DALTON, JANYAHA HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. BENJAMIN WASHINGTON  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF PUTATIVE FATHER, BENJAMIN WASHINGTON AND THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER AND IN THE EVENT BENJAMIN WASHINGTON IS NOT THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF JANYAHA DALTON, A CHILD BORN 9-17-2023 TO MOTHER, BRANDI DALTON.  
It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 07/29/2024 at 2:00 p.m..  
06/18/2024

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ018040-03-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* DALTON, JAYCE HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS v. BENJAMIN WASHINGTON  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF PUTATIVE FATHER, BENJAMIN WASHINGTON AND THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER AND IN THE EVENT BENJAMIN WASHINGTON IS NOT THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF JAYCE DALTON, A CHILD BORN TO MOTHER, BRANDI DALTON.  
It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 07/29/2024 at 2:00 p.m..  
06/18/2024

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## May Land Transfers

Following are the land transfers recorded in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in May:

Emma P. Alderman to James Seale, 1.41 and 1.87 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Joey Rogers Arrington to Kendall Reed Cope, parcels, Iriswood District.  
 Warren D. Barton to Matthew P. Tuggle, 1.292 and 0.715 acres and lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Beginnew LLC to AF Investments LLC, lot, Iriswood District.  
 Beginnew LLC to AF Investments LLC, lot, Iriswood District.  
 Hobart Vern Bell to Veronica C. Groves, 0.305 acres, no district given.  
 Dianna Lynn Boles BOS to Karen E. Hairston, lots, Iriswood District.  
 James C. Branscome to PD2, LLC, 2.533 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Broadway 400, LLC to Luis Lopez Lopez, 2.2 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Crainston Bulgin to Renee D. Richards, lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Christ's Church Trustees to Top Ground Properties, LLC, 8.892 and 6.108 acres, Iriswood District.  
 Marilyn T. Clark to Michael Chase Pruitt, 0.597 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Franklin L. Coles, Jr. to Latasha S. Jones, lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Kaylan E. Cowher to Laurie Davis, lots, Collinsville District.  
 Mark Cox to Bobby C. Taylor, 1.000 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Katherine O. Craig to Michael R. Adams, 21.979 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Katherine O. Craig to Kenneth L. Craig, 6.340 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Janice Manning Crowe to James C. Wright, 0.4656 acres, Blackberry District.  
 James Kennedy Dalton to Consulting Worldwide L.L.C., lot, Collinsville District.  
 Edwin R. Dolinger to Jonathan Beckett, lots, Reed Creek District.  
 Dominion Woodlands LLC to Montana27 LLC, 2,301 and 1.97 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Done Deal Home Buyers, LLC to Lori Jarvis Mason, lot, Reed Creek District.  
 Done Deal Home Buyers, LLC to William Pierce, portion of lot, Reed Creek District.  
 Jeanine D. Draper to Eugene C. Madonia, lot, Martinsville District.  
 Shiv Annand Dyal to Alexandria Michael Pulido, lots, Reed Creek District.  
 Lisa Beck Dyer to Austin White, lot, Reed Creek District.  
 Equity Trustees, LLC to PHH Mortgage Corporation, 0.567 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Estate of Rufus Gerald & Sylvi to Terri Michelle Trammell, lot, Collinsville District.  
 Michael Lane Eubank to Blue Ridge Property Buyers, LLC, lots, Reed Creek District.  
 Tracie L. Fain to Ignacio Martinez Ramos, 5.394 and 5.038 acres, Iriswood District.  
 Family Latitude, LLC to Jonathan Barnes, 33.110 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Farha Realty LLC to Stanleytown NP LLC, 10.541 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Charles R. Flynn to Lee A. Withers, 0.760 acres, Ridgeway District.

Clyde Junior Foster to Clyde J. Foster, III, lots, Collinsville District.  
 Gerald W. Franklin to Tylon Brumfield, tracts, Reed Creek District.  
 Ronnie Dee Freeman to Ellen Fisher, 2.530 acres and parcel, Horsepasture District.  
 Donald E. Fulcher, Jr. to Jerry C. Rigney, lots, no district given.  
 Dwayne Gerard Gravely to Gabriela Suarez Orozco, tracts, Iriswood District.  
 Robert Hairston, Jr. to Amanda Zapata, lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Daniel Lee Hanks to Monique Loving, 0.214 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Jay P. Harrison to Maddy Holdings, LLC, 0.37 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Mary Ann Hayes to Carson T. Stone, 9.897 acres, Collinsville District.  
 Travis Wayne Hazelwood to Sugar Hill Investments, LLC, 0.36 and 0.77 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Jonathan Hernandez to Margaret Surma, lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Aaron C. Herring to Kaci Huff, lots, Irisburg District.  
 Carol W. Hill to Latisha Lynch, 1.848 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Michael Allen Hoffman to Nancy Anne Severance-Cole, 1.210 acres, Iriswood District.  
 Wilfred Lee Hussey, Jr. to John Warren Hylton, lots, Ridgeway District.  
 Dustin L. Hylton to Olivia L. Manns, 0.059 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 James Andrew Boone Trust Dated to Jonas J. Swarey, 220.95 acres, no district given.  
 Deshawn Jefferson to New Venture LLC, lots, Collinsville District.  
 Tammy M. Jividen to Vaught Investments, LLC, lot, Ridgeway District.  
 Harry Ronald Jones TR to Richard Ray Burtgart, lots, Reed Creek District.  
 Tammy Cannaday Joyce to Clara Elizabeth Veler, lots, Blackberry District.  
 JSC Properties, LLC to Kim Thong Ho LLC, 0.464 acres, Collinsville District.  
 Steven D. Jumper to DMS Investments, LLC, 1.215 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Michael L. Koloda to Roger Michael Cochran, 0.501 and 0.042 acres, no district given.  
 Elizabeth S. Kosoff to Broadway 400, LLC, lot, Collinsville District.  
 Michael E. Lavinder to Beecher C. Beam, 0.423 acres, Collinsville District.  
 Lavonda Harmon Eggleton, Execu to Carol Meredith, 0.537 acres, Collinsville District.  
 Lofton Leasing, LLC to Zackary Sharpe, lot, Iriswood District.  
 Latisha Walker Lynch to Donald E. Fulcher, JR, 0.266 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Jerone Mabe to Jeffrey R. Mitchem, 1.21 and 10.54 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Marrowbone Properties Inc., to AF Investments LLC, lot, Ridgeway District.  
 Mace McClellan to James Thompson, 4.141 acres, Blackberry District.  
 MCPP LLC to Yo Daddy's Properties, LLC, parcels, Collinsville District.  
 Richard K. Meredith to Carly E. Cockram, 0.30 acres, no district given.  
 Marsha P. Montgomery to Michael E. Brad-

shaw Living Trust, 4.000 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Oak Realty, LLC to Adaryll Plunkett, lot, Collinsville District.  
 Dwane Allen Pack, administrator, to Victoria S. Lovell, lots, Ridgeway District.  
 David R. Patterson to Deante Perkins, 0.989 acres, Iriswood District.  
 Johnny Ray Penn to John Jefferson Hairston, Jr., 1.1250 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Piedmont Companies, Inc., to Marcus Johnson, 1.354 acres, Iriswood District.  
 Joseph Edward Pigg, Jr. to Marshall Neal Clark, 1.981 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Joseph Edward Pigg, Jr. to Stephen Neal Clark, 2.156 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Priority Investment Properties to William Westley Westberg, Jr., 1 5/7 acres, Town of Ridgeway.  
 Abel Ramey to Dana Oshane Silver, lot, Collinsville District.  
 Rapid Property Solutions, LLC to Ashley Nemi Velazquez Rios, lot, Collinsville District.  
 William Andrew Reynolds to McKinley D. Smith, lot, Ridgeway District.  
 Ridgeway Tire and Auto, LLC to JE Logistics, LLC, 0.865 and 0.551 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Roanoke Homes and Rehab, LLC to Richard Dawson, lot, no district given.  
 Joseph Michael Sams to Mark T. Bowling, 11.5 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Roxie Spencer Scales to Thomas Donahue, 0.9 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 SB Servbank, DBA to Lucy Matherly, lot, Blackberry District.  
 James Lee Smith to Terry Carter, 64 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Mark A. Spencer to Deborah Lynn Curry Lampkin, 0.261 acres, Collinsville District.  
 Maynard L. Spencer to Christopher L. Young, 2.935 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Stanleytown Properties, LLC to CH+W Properties VA, LLC, 21.467 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Joyce Ann Stewart to Mandy B. Ayers, 1.761 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Hubert Elliott Stone, Jr., to Arthur John Petrie, lot, Reed Creek District.  
 SWH Rentals, LLC to Edgewood VA, LLC, lots, Ridgeway District.  
 Kenneth D. Thompson to Gwendolyn Daniels, 1.097 acres, Horsepasture District.  
 Kathleen Ann Tovsen to Done Deal Home Buyers LLC, 0.820 acres, Ridgeway District.  
 Chadwick Trammell to Kara Marie, LLC, 14,760 sq. ft., Collinsville District.  
 Nancy M. Vaughn to George R. Conner, 1.968 acres, Iriswood District.  
 John David Wagoner to Harvey Burns, 0.228 acres, Blackberry District.  
 Wayside Baptist Church to Kaylee G. Farrar, lot, Ridgeway District.  
 Carole Lynn Webb to Leanne Shelton, lot, no district given.  
 Charles E. Williams, Jr., to John R. McCoy, lot, Horsepasture District.  
 Timothy L. Wood to Conner Morgan Jones, 0.280 acres, Reed Creek District.  
 Xrphoenix Investments LLC to Andrew C. Palmer, 1.486 acres, Reed Creek District.

## P&HCC releases academic lists

The following Henry County students were named to the Dean's and Honors lists at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) this spring:

### Dean's List

**Axton:** Emiliano Carrillo-Juarez, Teresa Diaz, Saniya Dillard, Joshua Eanes, Tiquise Fitzgerald, Jane Lavea, Trinity Lewis, Jovany Ramirez Devora, Brandon Wyatt

**Bassett:** William Alverson Jr., Joshua Alverson, Cole Byrd, Jackson Cardoso, Morgan Cassell, Dakota Clark, Jacquelyn Coronilla-Ortega, Maddox Crowe, Cloe Fackler, Benjamin Flores, Cassidy Foley, Christina Hairston, Jeremiyah Hairston, Megan Harris, Mari Haynes, Jayla Holloway, Keira Kennedy, Peyton Lewis, Dylan Mabry, Emily Moorefield, Dashawn Nichting, Madysen Parks, Landon Prillaman, Austin Rigney, Ethan Roldan, Bailey Stanley, Kaylee Towler, Meriah Wolford, Alan Zuniga Marban

**Collinsville:** Alex Arellano-Ortiz, Nicolas Blanc, Breanna Boyd, Joao Victor Gomez, Tony Gonzalez Santiago, Carleigh Gravitt, Raylan Harizi, Noah Harper, Porter Hodnett, Sydney Howell-Wampler, Teegan James, McKayla Jamison, Caroline Knouse, Austin Martin, Kasia McClenden, Kaitlyn Miner, Jakayse Monroe, Ella Montgomery, Zoie Pace, Krishna Patel, Bryan Pearson, Blake Petersen Jr., Tyler Powell, Sherman Roberts Jr., Laila Rodriguez, Jose Sanchez, Hannah Schelling, Khamari Tatum, Adriana Telles, Sarah Tolbut, Emily Vaught, Charity Whitfield

**Fieldale:** Katlyn Barbour, Brianna Blake, Jeremiah Callaway, Jared Fleming, Damaris Foddrell, Linzie Mullins, Reagan Wright

**Martinsville:** Anastasia Adams, Kathryn Alexander, Kaley Bassett, Latoya Blackwell, Cassidy Blair, Marcel Breedlove, Kaylee Brooks, Hunter Brown, Nakya Chism, Samiah Clark, Kaydence Compton, LeAnn Compton, David Cooley, Amabeli Da Silva, Mayra Dela Rosa Cruz, Brandon DeShazo, Laura Dillard, Kassidy Dodson, Tracey Fitzgerald, Paris Fulp, Matthew Gilley, Breona Gravely, Trevion Gravely, Brit-tany Hairston, Maria Jacob, Arlette Jaramillo-Mata, Jonathan Jimenez-Chavez, Teniah Jones, Austin Lamkin, Kaleigh Lawson, Candice Lucas, Dakiya Martin, Patrick McCrickard, Precious Meadows, Sarai Melendez, Nathaniel Overton, Jada Penn, Elijah Pickett, Joshua Price, Veri-

conia Ramey, John Ratliff II, Adam Reed, Glen Revel, Miranda Reynolds, Cameron Robertson, Kevin Rodriguez-Rosas, Lindsay Sandoval-Campuzano, Laura Sutphin, Eden Turner, Tyra Valentine, Mario Velazquez-Olamendi, Ava Walker, Jalyn Waller, Cynthia White, Catherine Woods, Tyasia Wright

**Ridgeway:** Owen Amos, Callie Ferguson, Lindsey Guerrero, Bryce Hairston, Jarrett Hairston, Bryan Hird, Ava Knight, Ashley Lawson, Emily Lemons, Anh Nguyen, Rickyah Penn, David Romero-Reyes, Noah Royster, Brianna Scales, Caleb Sunkins, Michael Thompson, Andrew Wheeler, Helaina Wright

**Spencer:** Matthew Bowman, LeAndra Carson, Kansas Cutchins, Kursten Hylton, Raegan Lane, Sheena Mabe, Qualeak Pride, Nash Thompson, Mary Williams

**Stanleytown:** Olivia Dillard

### Honors List

**Axton:** Carlee Ashworth, Elizabeth Caro Tamayo, Ingrid Carrillo-Juarez, Dakota Carter, Perla Contreras, Cristian Espinosa, Joselinne Hernandez-Romero, Hannah Moxley, Liam Nies, Jessica Ortiz-Espana, Kevin Tiznado Marmolejo, Alexis Tiznado, Chevon Trotter, Hannah Young

**Bassett:** Kiara Brown, David Craig, Lani Craig, Tiffani Dillion, Austin Fields, Brayden Foley, Carson Foley, Aleeyah Galloway, Emily Gilley, Autumn Handy-Harrell, Paulo Hernandez, Zachary Johnson, Olivia Keaton, Allison Kitzmiller, Logan Manley, Eunela Manzano, Daniel Marshall, Alexa Martell-Rios, Grace Naff, Kreg O'Hara, Nolan Poperowitz, Jacob Sebastian, Logan Surber

**Collinsville:** Emiliano Nolla Maldonado, Cailyn Bouldin, Lauren Carter, Laken Collins, Ethan Duke, Brendon Easley, Michael Foley, Annamarie Hodnett, Noah Keeler, Scott Manning Gustavo Moreira, Kyndall Nelson, Bradley Pegram, Valery Smith, Sergio Traitel, Perla Vasconcelos Martinez, Kayla Wood

**Fieldale:** Eling Cheng, Holden Draper, Candice Lockard, Rickyah Mitchell-Hairston Jonathan Nolen, William Shilling IV, Hunter Spencer, Cole Wilkinson, Emily Williams

**Martinsville:** Adam Aguilar Jr., Andrea Amaya-Lopez, Naun Andrade, Carina Aquilo, Karli Barker, Laiken Barnes, Brianna Board, Adreiana Bowers, Esmeralda Castillo-Ocampo,

Johnny Clerc, Karli Compton, Zachary Craddock, Preston Davis, Blake Dillon, Xavier Dunham, Baileigh Easter, Jonathan English, Heaven Garten, Ava Grant, Ariana Gravely, Aleisha Hagwood, Colby Hairfield, Angel Hairston, Dakota Hairston, Gabriel Haley, Holden Hendricks, David Hernandez-Arteaga, Jonathan Holt Sr., Isabella Hood, Sienna King, Jazmyn Lafollette, Alondra MacHuca Tiznado, Haylee McBride, Kennedy McPherson, America Mendoza-Sanchez, Kinya Moore, Nicholas Moore, Emma Nester, RG Olea, Nayti Patel, Andrew Peitz, Tyrese Perkins, Elizabeth Poe, Kayla Preston, Kristian Preston, Alannah Pruitt, Ailyn Rivera Hernandez, Alan Rodriguez Rosas, Olivia Ross, Crystal Santacruz-Sanchez, Caden Shively, Karlee Shively, Skyler Spence, Ryan Stewart, Sydney Stimpert, Mekhi Stockton, McKenzie Tate, Kurstin Tucker, Eva Underwood, Isabella Vega, Destiny Walker, Braden Webb, Peiton Whorley, Destiny Witcher, Chloe Wray, Kinza Yasar

**Ridgeway:** Jordan Caldwell-McGhee, Jacob Conway, Grace Edwards, Wesley Eggleston, Joseph Fincher, Jakob Foley, Zachary Jones, Anne Laine, Tahlia Machuca, Xitlalli Mena, Chandler Motley, Thomas Powell, Carlie Pritchett, Elizabeth Smith, Mikayla Thomas, Khailey Toney, Khamren Toney,

**Spencer:** Allie Brown, Hayley Deshazo, Joshua Graham, William Marshall, Lauren Murphy

**Stanleytown:** Tiasia Dillard

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# Celebrating Expressions 2024 winners

Expressions, Piedmont Arts' annual exhibit showcasing the creations of local artists, opened on June 1. On Friday, May 31, more than 200 artists and arts lovers gathered in the galleries to honor the start of this exhibit and attend an award ceremony.

Judged by Jennifer Reis, a textile and mixed media artist and assistant professor of arts administration at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, awards were given in multiple categories. These categories included watercolor, photography, oil and acrylic, 3D, drawing, and student work. In addition to these medium-based awards, Best in Show award, sponsored by Virginia Glass & Mirror was presented. The Lynwood Artists award was also presented to a work created by a member of the Lynwood Artists.

Best in Show, sponsored by Virginia Glass and Mirror was awarded to "A Crow's Gift" by Lauren Thornhill. The Best Lynwood Artist was awarded to Donna Koger for her piece, "Becoming Taos."

## Drawing

- First Place, Sponsored by Randy Robertson – "Autumn Trail", Lee Farley

- Second Place, Sponsored by Rebecca & Mark Crabtree and Mallory & Richard Joyce – "Guilt(one hundred and one monsters)", Candi Finley Hall

- Third Place, Sponsored by Helen & Terry Carter, In Memory of Arlene Smith – "Untitled", Jon Handy

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "Enso-Realization of Emptiness", Scott Kitts

## Photography

- First Place, Sponsored by Suzanne & Rusty Lacy – "Enchanted", Steffanie Pinner

- Second Place, Sponsored by Toy & Joe Cobbe – "Good Ol' Virginia", Artemisia Blankenship

- Third Place, Sponsored by Dottie & Davis Lewis – "Pemaquid Reflection", Jerry Reeves

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "Worn Out", Joan Norman

## 3D

- First Place, Sponsored by Sandra T. Ford, In Memory of Jim Ford – "10/31/2016 Chemo Treatment #12", David Lunt

- Second Place, Sponsored by Theresa Bechtel & Dave Meyer – "Betty", Kelly Stanley

- Third Place, Sponsored by Roslyn & Max Wright – "Dreaming a Blue Horse", John Erickson

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "60 Million Year Old Carbon", Nell Wheeler

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "Sunday Afternoon", Sandie Hundley

## Mixed Media

- First Place Sponsored by Olivia & Pres Garrett - Where Wild Things Grow, Kelly Willard

- Second Place Sponsored by Theresa Bechtel & Dave Meyer - Ancient History, Cheryl P. Mackian

- Third Place Sponsored by Share & Greg Peitz and Ellen Wood - Malala, Meritha Alder-



All of the award recipients present at the Expressions 2024 opening reception and award ceremony pose with their ribbons in the gallery.

## man

- Award of Distinction Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt - Flowers Under the Moon, Gina Louthian-Stanley

## Oil and Acrylic

- First Place, Sponsored by Joe & Brenda Williams – "Coastal Treasures", Lauri Waterfield Callison

- Second Place, Sponsored by Rebecca & Mark Crabtree – "Meditation of the Sun", LJ Wagler

- Third Place, Sponsored by Imogene & Isadore Draper, in Memory of Chaney Thomas – "La Vita Splendita", Ashley Ullstein

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "Matrix", Kelly Gravely Mattox

- Award of Distinction, Sponsored by Annette & Paul Huckfeldt – "Bird-Headed Arroyo", C. Knighton

## Watercolor

- First Place, Sponsored by Lucy & AC Wilson – "Hidden Treasures #1", Patricia Carr

- Second Place, Sponsored by Margie & Paul Eason – "Koi", Paula R. Melton

- Third Place, Sponsored by Linda & Ran Isley, In Memory of Sally Jordan – "Dendritic", Nancy White

## Student Award

- Piedmont Arts Guild Special Student Award, Sponsored by Piedmont Art Guild – "Inconsistent Perfection", Ivan Torres

- First Place, Sponsored by Toy & Joe Cobbe – "Gallop", Liliy Ebranhimi

- Second Place, Sponsored by Ben Gravely – "A Mother's Bound Soul", Alexis Cannaday

- Third Place, Sponsored by Ben Gravely – "Exploration", Emma Metzger

## Purchase Award

- Purchase Award, Sponsored by Chris's Custom Framing – "Copper Matte Temple Jar", David Lunt

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Nancy Spilman – "Exploration", Emma Metzger

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Theresa



Best in Show winner Lauren Thornhill is all smiles as she poses with Executive Director Heidi Pinkston. Thornhill's winning mixed media piece, "A Crow's Gift" is on display in the galleries until July 26.

Bechtel & Dave Meyer – "Wildflower Garden", Sherry Moore Pope

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Bill & Alicia Lantz – "Snazzy Pants", Terry Mitchell

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Jackie Thornton – "Sunset Through Branches", Ashleigh Pritchard

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Jackie Thornton – "Frolic", Donna Koger

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Drew Parker – "Shadow Beast", Nadezhola Drogaleva

- Purchase Award Sponsored by Anonymous – "Out to Dry", Susan Kanode

One award, the People's Choice Award, remains to be presented. Visitors who attend the exhibit can vote for

their favorite piece before they leave. Ballots are available on the desk in the galleries.

Expressions is on display at Piedmont Arts from now until July 26 and admission to the galleries is always free.

# Distinguished Alumni named by P&HCC

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored thirteen P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at the awards dinner on Friday, June 7, at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have completed a minimum of twenty-four credit hours at P&HCC, have demonstrated success within their field of expertise, and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.

This year's award recipients are Jim Adams, Sharon Clark, Andrew Doss, Van Drewery, Shani Gaylord, Shaun Hagwood, Tiffany Renee Hairston, Sandy Hines, Steve & Diana Martin, Dave Santoemma, Houston Stutz, and Susan Warren.

Adams completed credits towards his associate degree from P&HCC in 1973. He is the branch manager of Tarheel Paper and Supply. He has also represented the Blackberry District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors since 2002 and is the current board chairman.

Clark graduated with her Associate's degree in accounting from P&HCC in 1994. She continued her education earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Averett University in 2005. Clark retired in March after forty years of employment at ValleyStar Credit Union.

Doss earned his Associate's degree in information systems technology from P&HCC in 2003. He continued his education, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Averett University in 2009 and a Master of Science degree in information technology from the University of the Carolinas in 2022. Doss currently serves as the director of development, data, and integration at Bassett Furniture Industries.

Drewery graduated from P&HCC in 1975 with his Associate's degree in business management. He continued his education with continuing education certificates from Louisiana State University, University of Maryland, and the University of Virginia. Drewery is a retired adjunct instructor from Patrick & Henry Community College.

Gaylord earned her Associate's degree in information technology from P&HCC in 2016. She continued her education by earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 2017 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro,



In the photo: (L to R) Steve Martin, Diana Martin, Dave Santoemma, Andrew Doss, Sandy Hines, Tiffany Renee Hairston, Jim Adams, Sharon Clark, Houston Stutz, Shaun Hagwood, Shani Gaylord, Van Drewery, Susan Warren.

a Master of Arts degree in healthcare administration in 2018 from Fayetteville State University, and a Doctorate in educational leadership in 2022 from Liberty University. Gaylord is a senior project manager at Inside Edge Consulting Group in Princeton, New Jersey.

Hagwood graduated from P&HCC in 2005 with an Associate's degree in science. He continued his education at Averett University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice and a minor in sociology in 2007. Hagwood currently serves as a student support specialist with Roanoke City Public Schools.

Hairston earned her Associate's degree in information system technology from P&HCC in 2014. She continued her education earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University in information technology: application and database development in 2020 and a Master of Education in instructional design and technology from Regent University in 2022. She is currently taking classes in Master Commissioner of the Revenue with the State of Virginia. Hairston is the Commissioner of Revenue for Henry County.

Hines graduated with his Associate's 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. Hines currently serves as the captain of investigations for Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Steve Martin earned a certificate in welding

from P&HCC in 1985 and Diana Martin earned a certificate in computer machine operation in 1984. Steve and Diana Martin are the owners & operators of Steve Martin's Trenching, Inc.

Santoemma earned his certificate in general education and his Associate's degree in business administration from P&HCC in 2013. He continued his education at University of Phoenix, earning a Master of Business Administration in 2017. Santoemma serves as the chief executive officer at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford, North Carolina.

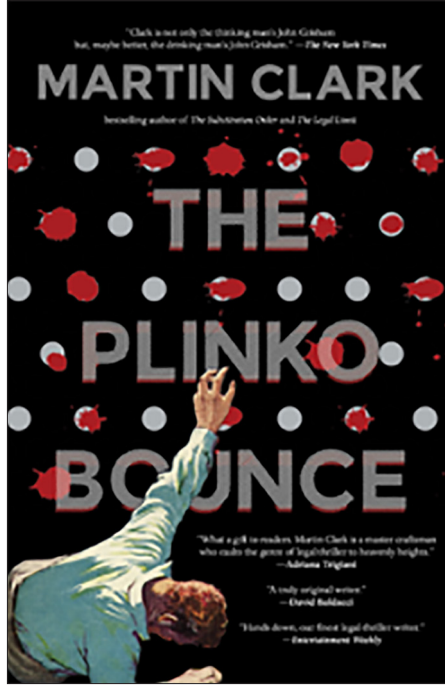
Stutz graduated from P&HCC in 2010 with an Associate's degree in general studies by participating in the ACE Program, being dual enrolled in high school and college. He continued his education at James Madison University, earning a bachelor's degree in media arts and design with a journalism concentration and minors in sports communication and coaching in 2014. Stutz is the operations and marketing coordinator for the Smith River Sports Complex, operated by Henry County Parks and Recreation Department.

Warren completed credits toward her Associate's degree in general studies in 1980. She continued her education at Longwood University, earning a degree in recreational therapy in 1983. Warren is the executive director of Tackfully Teamed Riding Academy.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Distinguished Alumni Awards program, please contact the P&HCC Foundation at 276-656-0250.



## Clark's latest book is a finalist for People's Choice Award



Martin Clark's *The Plinko Bounce* has been announced as a finalist for the 2024 Library of Virginia's People's Choice Award in fiction.

Clark's latest book was released on September 12, 2023. The kick-off event was held at the Patrick County Public Library, where Hollins University student Melissa "Missy" Hazard was awarded a \$16,000 scholarship in memory of Clark's teacher and mentor Ann Belcher.

The *Plinko Bounce*, set in Patrick and Henry counties, became a national bestseller and was selected as a New York Times Editors' Choice and a New York Times Best Thriller of 2023.

Voting for the award is done

online through a secure portal and is open until July 31 at <https://lvafoundation.org/people-choiceawards/>

The Library of Virginia established the People's Choice Awards in 2004 to give readers an opportunity to share their enthusiasm for favorite works by Virginia authors and on Virginia topics. Finalists for the People's Choice Awards are chosen from the books nominated for the annual Virginia Literary Awards.

## Hodges offers highlights of P&HCC's Year

By Dr. Greg Hodges

As president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), I am delighted to provide our community with a year-end report highlighting another successful academic year (2023/2024) for our institution.

We are thrilled that our enrollment growth continued this year with a 1.5% increase in academic enrollment over the previous year, coupled with a 51% surge (as of June 3) in workforce/short-term credential enrollment. This marks the first time in fourteen years that P&HCC has experienced two years of back-to-back academic enrollment growth.

The college also had a strong year of bringing on new programs and initiatives. These include a new powerline program (in conjunction with Wytheville Community College), which has already celebrated the completion of two cohorts. Thanks to funding from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, P&HCC is honored to partner with the Franklin Center in Franklin County to launch healthcare certification programs as well.

Additionally, the college celebrated in December the grand opening of the second building of our Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology (the MET) Complex, a 103,000-square-foot facility that is dedicated to good-paying jobs in our service region. This new building triples our welding capacity and also includes precision machining, virtual welding, and robotic welding.

The success of the college has been noticed across the community, Commonwealth of Virginia and country. In November, P&HCC was named the Entrepreneurial College of the Year by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), awarded to us because of our StartUp and Grow programs delivered in conjunction with the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Just a few weeks later, P&HCC was awarded the prestigious title of Leader College of Distinction with Achieving the Dream, an honor bestowed on only six colleges this year and provided to us because of our ability to help students achieve economic mobility. In February, we were elated to learn that that P&HCC had for 2023 awarded the most Festo National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) Industry 4.0 certifications of any college in America.

We were equally overjoyed to learn that Patrick & Henry Community College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The college won honors in six categories this year: Job Satisfaction & Support, Professional Development, Compensation & Benefits, Mission & Pride, Faculty Experience, and Confidence in Senior Leadership. P&HCC was also named to the Great Colleges Honor Roll, a status granted to only 42 colleges each year who are highlighted most across the recognition categories.



Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

We are also extremely proud of the accomplishments of our student athletes. P&HCC boasts the NJCAA Region 10 and Atlantic District soccer champions, earning the team their second appearance at nationals. Additionally, both outdoor track & field and wrestling sent students to nationals. Finally, the women's softball team swept their region and district en route to becoming the national champions in their first appearance.

As always, the highlight of the year is celebrating the accomplishments of our students at our annual graduation ceremony. For many, they are not simply graduating; they are walking into a world of financial stability for themselves and their families. To that end, we are thrilled to announce that 460 students earned 650 academic credentials this year, with 220 of these students participating in our graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 11. These numbers mean that more students are getting the education, skills, and training they need to acquire good paying jobs in the communities served by our college.

The economic renaissance in our region is very real, and P&HCC is a critical part of this resurgence. An economic impact study by Lightcast reveals that the college contributes \$75 million annually to our service region while athletics programs contribute an additional \$2.5 million. With this kind of impact, it is no surprise that *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (the nation's leading college publication) heavily featured P&HCC in its article entitled "Building the Rural Work Force: How Rural Colleges Meet the Needs of Nontraditional Students."

For 62 years, P&HCC has been this community's college. Now, more than ever, we are singularly dedicated to our mission of economic mobility for our students and their families. We accomplish this goal by providing our students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful employees and employers.

It is indeed the honor of my lifetime to serve as the president of Patrick & Henry Community College.

## Fraud Alert - Moving Scams

Summer seems to be the season for moving. Whether you're relocating for work, downsizing or sending a child off to college, who you hire to help with the move matters a lot. Cutting corners to save money on your move could lead you right to a criminal scammer.

Moving scams are committed by rogue operators that exist primarily online. They solicit business by offering lowball estimates, often without so much as laying an eye on what's to be moved. They might demand a hefty deposit, or even full payment in advance.

With your deposit in hand, the "movers" might simply not show up at the appointed time and place. Or

they'll try to change the deal at the last minute by raising the price. Worst of all, some companies will pick up your belongings but then demand more money to deliver them.

To avoid these scams, make sure to get multiple quotes and check the references of any company you hire. While we are all looking to save money, when it comes to moving your personal goods safely and securely, cheaper isn't always better.

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

## Sheriff issues stern warning about gel blasters

After receiving several complaints involving the use of certain gel blasters, Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said there has been a dangerous social media trend called the "Or-beez Challenge" that encourages shooting strangers with gel blasters.

"These air-powered blasters are designed to fire gel projectiles or small, water absorbing beads. The beads sting the individual and can cause serious injury when fired from the air-powered blasters," Davis said, adding getting hit in the eye has the potential to cause serious problems.

Additionally, many

of the gel blasters look like "real-functioning firearms," Davis said. "There is a severe danger that a law enforcement officer could mistake one of these blasters for a real gun. That danger goes up exponentially if someone chooses to use these in a public area, such as a business or school."

Besides law enforcement officers, Davis said residents could also mistake the blasters for "real weapons," further endangering everyone involved.

Noting that many people in the area are licensed to carry concealed weapons, Davis said "we are concerned that people

may retaliate or protect themselves, not knowing if there is a danger to themselves or others.

"These gel blasters were designed to be fun for kids when used appropriately, such as in your backyard with willing participants. It can become a criminal act punishable by law to shoot unwilling participants," the sheriff added.

He said that he and his office "will work to identify and arrest anyone who uses the gel blasters to assault people or cause fear or panic in our community."

The sheriff also encouraged parents to discuss the dangers with their youngsters.

## Trailhead closed for sewer maintenance



Henry County reported that the Virginia Avenue Trailhead of the Dick and Willie Trail will be closed from June 19-21 while the City of Martinsville does maintenance on a sewer line nearby the entrance to the trail.



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# MHC Pride Coalition plans to raise funds with pride event

By Jessica Dillon

After months of talks, the new non-profit, MHC Pride Coalition, has been established to support members of the LGBTQIA+ community and host events to connect those who are part of it. The coalition is hosting its first fundraising event at Blu Tattoo Studio in Uptown Martinsville, from noon to 8 p.m. on June 22 at 50 East Church St, Suite 4, Martinsville.

"It's still a baby getting started, but it's happening," said Blu Tattoo owner Lara Blair. A board has been established, and its members are already hard at work creating events and a place of belonging. "I want to create a platform and a safe space, and I want to see this area have more support for LGBTQIA+ people."

Blair said there are concerns for people who openly present as LGBTQIA+.

"There are people who are afraid, especially of this area. There are people who are afraid to be out and proud, afraid to just be themselves," she said, adding that many think members of the community fear how their family and coworkers would react, which causes unfair stress.

"Just being a mother makes

you not like that," said Blair, who said she would be concerned with possible bullying if her children turned out to be trans or gay. The LGBTQIA+ has a few sparse events throughout the county and the city, but nothing concrete like a non-profit or consistent Pride event.

"There's no agenda to make anyone gay. The agenda is to be seen and to be heard," she said, and added that there are many interesting and talented individuals who don't step into the spotlight simply because of who they love because "they fear that heat."

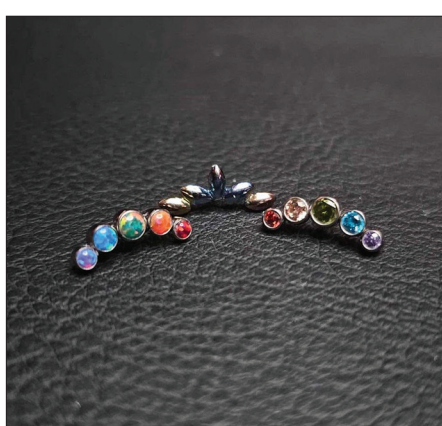
"Being able to meet in a space with like-minded people is important. I think being able to be a part of the queer community feels safe. Not only to those who are presenting as gay and queer but to those who haven't quite figured it out yet. At least they can come and explore, at least they can come and listen," she said.

Blair provides the space for the coalition to meet, and so far, the group hasn't had any negative reactions.

"We are prepared for pushback," said Blair, adding the group intends to have a police presence at its events, because while the coalition doesn't intend to upset



Lara Blair tattoos a client at Blu Tattoo.



Pride jewelry is prepared for the event.

the community, it acknowledges there may be challenges.

"The point is that if we at least shine a light on the people who are hating for no good reason other than just for their purpose of hate, then all the other people who are on the fence about it, I feel like it will make it easier for them to choose a side," said Blair.

"We don't want there to be physical harm, obviously, but we don't want there to be verbal abuse either," said board member Elizabeth Bailey, adding that the coalition wants to create a united front against hate by promoting love and respect.

"It's our mission statement," said Bailey, adding the official statement of the non-profit can

be found on its Facebook page.

"The MHC Pride Coalition is dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive space that uplifts and celebrates the voices and presence of the LGBTQIA+ community within Martinsville-Henry County and surrounding areas."

The first event will do just this by inviting community members to get special flash tattoos, piercings, discounted haircuts, and try some rainbow cakes from a new local bake shop, Baby Cakes. A portion of the proceeds of all sales will benefit the coalition.

All are welcome to stop by the event. LGBTQIA+ people or their allies can reach out to the coalition on Facebook or call Blu Tattoo Studio at (276) 403-5055.

## Crossing the Lines

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

#### School board approves revised budget

The Patrick County School Board approved its revised fiscal year 2024-25 budget and honored retirees at a meeting on Thursday, June 13.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the revised budget sees an increase of Required Local Effort (RLE) and Required Local Match (RLM) of \$225,806 from the county to the school system.

"That has been communicated to the county administrator. We had a discussion about the current compromised budget, which we're working under where we provide a SRO (School Resource Officer) reimbursement," he said.

In the revised school budget, Wood said there is an increase of SRO reimbursement by an additional \$100,000, "which would bring the SRO reimbursement up to \$375,000."

This adjustment makes the county's new RLE and RLM to the school system \$7.2 million instead of the \$6.98 million that it previously approved.

"So, you can see that increase of \$225,000. We've increased our SRO reimbursement, so it should not be as large as a financial burden for them to adjust their budget to meet that Required Local Effort and Required Local Match," he said.

The new net contribution from the county after the SRO reimbursement is \$6,831,79.

#### County's attempts to improve healthcare access have multiple layers

While Patrick County searches for a company to help with the construction of its mobile health units, Connect Health + Wellness, of Henry County has stepped up to assist the community with its healthcare needs.

Emergency Medical Services

(EMS) Coordinator Scottie Cassell said two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been put out for bid, with no bid received that would sufficiently cover the necessary equipment for the mobile units.

"Because it has to have certain things to be compliant with" the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) "and everything like that, that's what we're having trouble with getting everything that needs to be in the trailer right design wise," he said.

No local funds were used for the build project, Cassell said. "This is all federal money. This is a federal grant we applied for, and I think it was \$600,000 we received" in August 2022. "There is no county money going into this at all. This is all federal grant money to help rural America get healthcare access."

#### None of the Above to headline PCMA show

A five-piece group from North Carolina, None of the Above, is set to headline the Saturday, June 22 show hosted by the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA). The event will be held at the Rotary Building in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the music will start at 6 p.m.

Charlie Chaney and some of his music students will start the show during the 'Charlie's Corner' segment and before None of the Above and Corn Meal Revival take the stage.

Admission is a \$5 donation at the door. Prizes will be awarded throughout the night. Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area firearm safety.

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

## DOC's Mental Health Program to serve as a model

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) Community Mental Health Program has been selected as one of 10 inaugural sites that will serve as model examples for the national Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Sites Program.

The VADOC's Community Mental Health Program is a groundbreaking initiative that will be facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchanges, fostering innovation, and serving as mentors for other agencies who are passionate about criminal justice and behavioral health reform. Strategies will also be offered for issues including crisis response through courts, jail, reentry, and community supervision.

The program was launched in 2023 as part of the Council of State Governments' Justice Center, to serve as a peer-to-peer learning program for law enforcement agencies seeking to build collaborative responses for people with mental health needs.

"This selection as a Criminal

Justice-Mental Health Learning Site is a well-deserved recognition of VADOC's innovative approach to addressing the mental health needs of people on community supervision in the Commonwealth," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "We are very proud of the work being done by our qualified mental health professionals here in our Department."

"The VADOC is honored to have been selected to share our best practices and experiences with other states who are interested in developing community mental health supports via district and regional mental health clinicians through the Council of State Governments," said Dr. Denise Malone, VADOC Chief of Mental Health and Wellness.

To learn more about the Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Sites, visit <https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/criminal-justice-mental-health-learning-sites>.

More information about VADOC Mental Health and Wellness services can be found on the VADOC website.

## Eye syphilis on the rise, health officials say

With syphilis cases in the U.S. at alarming numbers, health officials are concerned about recent cases of ocular syphilis, which if left untreated, can progress to blindness. Severe eye symptoms have appeared in patients who reported no other initial symptoms. Last year, doctors reported 17 new cases of eye syphilis to the Chicago Department of Public Health. In Michigan, five women were diagnosed in 2022 with ocular syphilis traced back to the same male partner.

The 'simplest explanation': In

the U.S., syphilis cases are increasing across the board, with 200,000+ Americans infected in 2022. Experts fear that the rise in ocular cases means that the disease has been allowed to spread so widely that "what used to be considered a fringe event might not be so rare anymore."

Confidential testing for Sexually Transmitted Illness - Education, counseling, screening tests, exams and treatment are available through WPHD. Call your local health department for clinic times.

## Federal indictments returned for Moneta man

A federal grand jury in Roanoke returned an indictment yesterday charging a Moneta, Va. man with sexual exploitation of a child, stalking, and possession of child pornography in relation to his leadership role of a group of individuals who extort and "swat" individuals online.

Evan Strauss, 26, a.k.a. "Reaper" and "Kobe Deonsens," was indicted on two counts of sexual exploitation of a child, and one count each stalking, coercion and enticement, and possession of child pornography.

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

According to court documents, on November 1, 2023, Strauss and "Minor A," a 17-year-old girl from Wyoming, allegedly met online and began to engage in regular communication. Over the course of several months, Strauss allegedly used various interactive computer services, electronic communications services, and other systems to harass and intimidate Minor A and to place her under surveillance.

In one instance, after the victim refused to provide nude photos or videos of herself, Strauss allegedly became controlling and would scream at her. Later, he discovered the victim's home address and threatened to "swat" her if she did not send him nude pictures or cut

herself. Court records allege that Strauss then threatened to show up and kill her, her family, and her cat. As proof of his sincerity, he allegedly boasted that he had killed animals before.

Concerned for her family, the victim gave into the demands. Among other things, the victim, at Strauss's alleged direction, carved Strauss's online username, Reaper, into her upper thigh.

On January 24, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed Strauss while conducting a search of his residence. Among the evidence seized as part of the search was an iPhone containing multiple videos and images of young girls who are naked and/or cutting themselves. These include pictures of Minor A with "Reaper" carved into her thigh and with other cuts on her legs, as well as a surreptitious recording that Strauss allegedly took of Minor A.

Court records allege that when Strauss admitted that one of his online usernames was "Reaper," he also claimed to be an active member of a group of approximately 200 individuals known as the "Community," and that he operated a sub-group within the Community known as "Purgatory." According to Strauss, the Community allegedly participates in a variety of criminal activities online, including placing swatting calls, hack-

ing, blackmailing individuals for money, and extorting women and girls to obtain explicit photos or videos of themselves and to commit acts of self-harm.

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# Health officials issue Schruumz warning

The CDC, FDA, America's Poison Centers, and state and local partners are investigating reports of severe acute illnesses potentially associated with consuming Diamond Shruumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, and gummies marketed as containing a proprietary blend of mushroom.

U.S. Poison Centers have received reports of severe illness potentially associated with consuming Diamond Shruumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, and gummies marketed for "microdosing" and containing a blend of mushrooms that do not include magic mushrooms (psilocybin) or other hallucinogenic mushrooms. Products containing psychoactive compounds, such as mushroom extracts, are increasing in availability, and might contain undisclosed ingredients, including illicit substances, or potentially harmful contaminants that are not approved for use in food.

As of June 13, 2024, poison centers have received 25 reports of illness, including 12 patients with more severe illness who sought medical attention after consuming the products. Ten patients were hospitalized and several required

intubation, mechanical ventilation, and admission to an intensive care unit. No deaths have been reported.

Symptoms reported include seizures, central nervous system depression (loss of consciousness, confusion, and sleepiness), agitation, hallucinations, abnormal heart rates, high or low blood pressure, and gastrointestinal effects (nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain).

The public is advised to:  
\*Check freezers and pantries for these products and discard if found.  
\*Do not eat, buy, sell, or serve any flavor of Diamond Shruumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, and gummies.

\*Store edibles and mushroom-containing products up high and out of reach of children, who may mistake gummies for candy.  
\*Report adverse events related to Diamond Shruumz™ chocolate bars, cones, and gummies to FDA MedWatch.

If you become ill after consuming Diamond Shruumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, or gummies call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. Inform your local poison center you have recently consumed these products. Poison Help is available 24/7, free, and confidential.

# Number of veterans enrolling in VA health care increases

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that more than 53,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care nationwide between May 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20% increase over the previous year and the largest enrollment year for women Veterans on record. In Virginia, a total of 3,806 women Veterans enrolled over the same period, marking a 23% increase over the previous year.

Health care enrollment of women Veterans increased across all 50 states, with the greatest number of enrollments in: Texas (6,507), Florida (4,666), California (4,318), Virginia (3,806), Georgia (2,937) and North Carolina (2,776). Women Veterans are currently the fastest growing patient population in VA. This historic enrollment of women Veterans into VA health care and benefits is driven in large part by the PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law in August 2022, empowering VA to deliver record health care and benefits to millions of Veterans exposed to toxins while serving in the military.

Expanding access to benefits and services for women Veterans is a key priority for VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration. This is critical because Veterans who come to VA are proven to do better. VA health care has consistently outperformed non-VA care in Veteran trust, patient satisfaction scores, overall quality ratings, and affordability.

"On this day in 1948, women were granted a formal place in our country's military. Today, the more than 2 million women Veterans living in the U.S. make up our fastest growing Veteran population," said VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher. "It's important to all of us here at VA that every woman Veteran knows she belongs at VA."

"It's our goal for every woman Veteran to receive all the benefits she has earned, and that includes world-class health care," said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D. "We want women Veterans to know that VA has invested in more services for women Veterans than ever before. VA can now offer women the best and most accessible options for all their care needs, and we want them to apply for the health care they deserve today."

VA is leading the way in specialized health care for women Veterans. VHA's Office of Women's Health oversees these dedicated health care services. Today, there is a women's health program led by a Women Vet-

erans Program Manager at every VA health care system across the nation. Additional specialized women's health staff include: Women's Health Medical Directors, Women's Health Primary Care Providers, Women's Health Patient Aligned Care Teams, Maternity Care Coordinators, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Coordinators, and Women's Mental Health Champions. Women's health teams are also supported by LG-BTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinators, Intimate Partner Violence Coordinators, and Military Sexual Trauma Coordinators.

Over the past two years, VA has dramatically expanded health care services dedicated to women Veterans. This includes expanded breast cancer screenings and mammograms for Veterans with potential toxic exposures, increased access to reproductive health services, and expanded maternity care coordination for Veterans from pregnancy through 12 months post-partum. All of this work contributes to VA's equity action plan and broader efforts to ensure that every Veteran gets the care and benefits they deserve.

VA is also delivering disability compensation benefits to an all-time record number of women Veterans, with 717,141 women Veterans receiving disability compensation benefits in the U.S. today. Over the past five years, an additional 197,667 women Veterans have begun receiving benefits, representing a 28% increase. In Virginia, an additional 11,962 women Veterans received benefits over the same period, marking a 26.3% increase. More than 89% of women Veterans nationwide who have applied have received disability benefits from VA for at least one condition, on average receiving \$27,109 in earned disability compensation benefits per year. In Virginia, 92% of women Veterans who have applied have received disability benefits from VA for at least one condition, on average receiving \$27,597 in earned disability compensation benefits per year.

VA's dedicated Women Veterans Call Center is here to support woman Veterans in navigating all the services they may need, including health care and benefits. Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636) or use the online chat feature. For more information specifically on how the PACT Act is helping Veterans and their survivors and to apply for care or benefits today, visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

# PSA seeks to improve Koehler sewer system



The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors approved a funding proposal Monday that will address inflow and infiltration issues with the Koehler Sanitary Sewer System.

The organization was recently awarded financial assistance from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for the improvements.

As part of the project, the PSA will rehabilitate 80 sewer manholes and more than 9,000 linear feet of its sewer line in the Koehler Sanitary Sewer System.

The total cost of the project will be \$3.56 million with approximately \$1.07 million of that amount eligible for principal forgiveness. That would leave \$2.49 million to be financed at a 0.5 percent interest rate for 30 years. The PSA will make an annual payment of \$89,545.

Inflow and infiltration are common terms used to describe ways that stormwater runoff and groundwater make their way into sewer pipes. Inflow refers to stormwater that enters the sewer system through sources such as foundation drains. Infiltration can occur when groundwater gets into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky pipe joints or deteriorated manholes. When too much inflow and infiltration occur, this can overload the sewer system and cause overflows, backups and other problems.

This project aims to increase the PSA's capacity by reducing sanitary sewer overflows within the system caused by inflow and infiltration.

- In other matters, the board:  
• Approved the write-off of uncollectible utility billing accounts for 2023 estimated at approximately \$46,732.  
• Accepted monthly reports.

# Ridgeway man charged in vehicle thefts

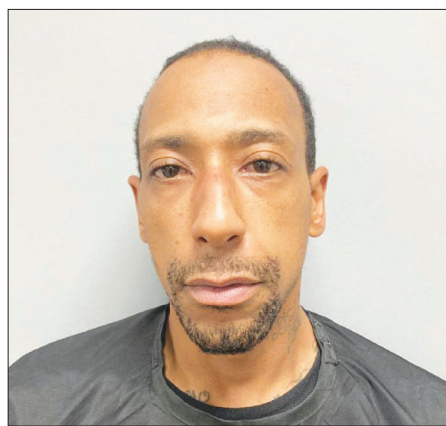
On June 14, around 09:08 a.m., the Martinsville/Henry County 911 Communications Center received a call about someone stealing a 2012 Blue Subaru Abreeza from the Family Dollar, located at 2540 Virginia Ave. Collinsville. The owner of the vehicle witnessed the incident and described the suspect as a black man wearing gray shorts, and a blue shirt. At 9:18 a.m., another vehicle was reported stolen from 95 Printers Lane in Collinsville. The owner of the vehicle reported that he saw a black man, also wearing gray shorts, but no shirt, take his

White 2010 Toyota Prius. The same day around 9:44 a.m., the Henry County Sheriff's Office recovered the stolen 2012 Subaru Abreeza at the Collinsville Library, located at 2540 Virginia Ave. Collinsville. As deputies were recovering that vehicle, a worker at Auto Tech located at 1730 Virginia Ave. Collinsville, VA, reported that a black man, dressed in gray shorts, parked a white Toyota Prius at the business and took off running across the street towards the Econo Lodge, located at 1755 Virginia Ave. Collinsville.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies responded to both locations. The stolen 2010 Toyota Prius was located at Auto Tech and a man fitting the witnesses description was found, allegedly hiding in a restricted area of the motel. He was taken into custody without incident.

Deangelo Tywan Waller, 42, of 138 Elam Dr. Ridgeway, was charged with two counts of felony grand larceny in connection with the incidents.

Waller is currently being held without bail in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.



Deangelo Tywan Waller

# Keiper receives certificate by Lions Club

Dr. Joe Keiper, Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History and President of the Martinsville Henry County Rotary Club, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his willingness to be a recent guest speaker at the Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club.

Keiper gave information about new additions and upcoming events at the museum, including the Jean S Adam's Pavilion, Young Explorers Center, VMNH Waynesboro, and Dino Festival, which will be held on July 26-27. He also gave updates on the Rotary project to replace the playground equipment at Patrick Henry Elementary School.



# Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES solution: A hexagonal grid puzzle with numbers 1-6 at vertices. CLOSE TOGETHER: A crossword puzzle grid with words like SREXVAL, LHPUG, GSEI, IUCSS, KNKNA, MOATECI, IE, ACNEE, GKH, AKRDTA, RDS, NC, BED, SPAA, AI, DU, SEPE, YVEB.

SCRAMBLERS solution: 1. Style; 2. Slumber; 3. Phase; 4. Waste. Today's Word: BEAUTY.

FEAR & KNOT answer: A crossword puzzle grid with words like SWEAR, DI, ANTI, OVA, VIEWER, LAD, L, S, NEWS, N, R, H.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer: A 9x9 grid with numbers 2, 7, 4, 6, 5, 1, 3, 9, 8 in the first row.

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

A large crossword puzzle grid with words filled in, including ANANIAS, AMA, ASP, ABHOR, VALERIE, LOBE, ICE, NEALED, IFTHER, EWORE, MAR, CLAUDE, ATOR, AXELS, NICHOLAS, ASUPERVILLAIN, WHOWENT, AHOY, LVI, I, RNAR, YTTRIUM, AMBLING, CESAR, AROUNDSPRAYING, SLY, YARNS, HERMES, THEEDGE, GNUSTANCE, BOARD, EER, PEOPLWITHAPRODUCTFOR, EDULIAR, NEEDSONOER, PYTHONS, ROSETO, LINGO, AYE, REMOVINGMILDEW, REBID, BASEFEE, EASESIN, ACE, PRIOR, ANIL, WHATCOULDTHEYNAMEHIM, DEMOLISH, AIDAN, ATOP, ALINE, HUM, TIL, EXLUTHOR, TONGA, OBI, ITT, EARHOLE, ANGST, NSA, TSA, SONATA, S.



# PUZZLE TIME

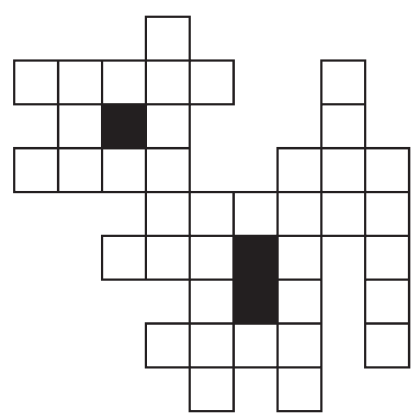


## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

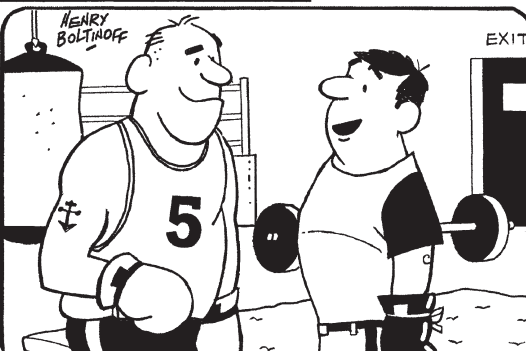
- ALD
- HOLSWI
- ♥NORSA
- ♥ENSW
- ♥VALSIA
- VAO
- NITA
- ♥DERLI
- ♥ANW
- ♥WEVERI
- ♥REWSA
- ♥EVDI



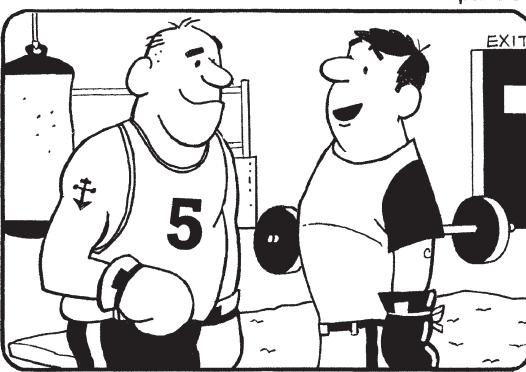
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's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

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

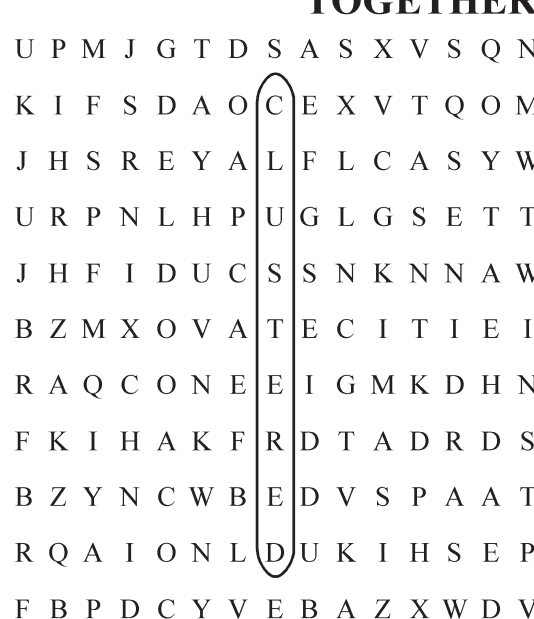


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Door is larger. 2. Tattoo is moved. 3. Punching bag is missing. 4. Mat is larger. 5. Man is larger. 6. Middle rope is missing.

## MAGIC MAZE • CLOSE TOGETHER



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: IDENTICAL —

- Bananas
- Bevy
- Bricks
- Buddies
- Clustered Couples
- Dead heat
- Family
- Layers
- Pages
- Parking lot
- Pickets
- Sardines
- Shingles
- Stitches

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Biblical figure slain for being a 69-Across
- 8 G.P.'s gp.
- 11 Dangerous snake
- 14 Detest
- 19 Actress Bertinelli
- 20 Throw slowly in a high arc
- 21 Cola-cooling cubes
- 22 Novelist Zora — Hurston
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Blemish
- 26 Gave hints to
- 27 With 15-Down, no higher than
- 28 Skating feats
- 30 "Jolly old" saint
- 32 Riddle, part 2
- 37 "Hello, sailor!"
- 38 58, to Nero
- 39 Viral gene material
- 40 Silvery metallic element
- 44 Moseying
- 47 TV "dog whisperer" Millan
- 49 Riddle, part 3
- 51 Sneaky

**DOWN**

- 52 Knitters' supplies
- 53 Greek herald of the gods
- 54 Perilous thing to live on
- 58 Big antelope
- 59 Position while batting
- 61 Bristly swine
- 62 Always, to bards
- 63 Riddle, part 4
- 68 Academic URL ender
- 69 Person not telling the truth
- 70 Liam of "Schindler's List"
- 71 Above, to bards
- 72 Dangerous snakes
- 74 Met, as the challenge saint
- 76 Jargon
- 78 Pro vote
- 79 Riddle, part 5
- 82 Up one's auction offer
- 85 Starting charge, as on a utility bill
- 86 Enters warily
- 87 Master pilot
- 88 Former
- 89 Dark blue dye
- 90 End of the riddle
- 99 Completely destroy
- 100 "Reckless" actor Quinn
- 101 Above
- 103 Flaring dress
- 104 Noise from a beehive
- 106 Riddle's answer
- 110 Country east of Fiji
- 111 Geisha's sash
- 112 Old sitcom cousin
- 113 Opening in some helmets
- 114 Unsettled feeling
- 115 Hush-hush intel org.
- 116 Baggage inspection org.
- 117 32 Beethoven piano pieces

**7** Catch a glimpse of

**8** Soccer Hall of Famer

**9** Prized mushroom

**10** Clear as —

**11** Intention

**12** Reading digitally

**13** 18th-century powdered hairpiece

**14** — chili (pepper variety)

**15** See 27-Across

**16** Transporting trucks

**17** David Mamet play or film

**18** Antares or Arcturus

**24** Like some permed hair

**29** — Mae (loan provider)

**31** The Windy City, for short

**33** Tylene targets

**34** Barak of Israel

**35** CD — (PC inserts)

**36** Political columnist Molly

**40** "Wahoo!"

**41** Awful event

**42** Detached roughly

**43** Accumulate, as debts

**44** "Well, — you special!"

**45** Take part in a parade

**46** Via

**47** Deaf school co-founder

**48** Body blinker

**50** "Why Can't I?" singer Liz

**51** "Hey Deanie" singer Cassidy

**54** Hurry-scurry

**55** Protects

**56** 18th-century English king

**57** Have it wrong

**59** French river

**60** — not to be

**61** Particle in quantum mechanics

**63** Lively spirit

**64** Sir Andrew — Webber

**65** Irk

**66** Knot anew

**67** Linen fabric

**73** "Bali —" (show tune)

**74** Put new turf on

**75** Mafia's code of silence

**76** Glove thread

**77** Have

**79** Major train terminals

**80** Rowlands of "Hope Floats"

**81** Hurt badly

**82** Initial input to be processed

**83** Level of command

**84** Having a big smile

**85** Apply with a bristly tool

**88** Luau paste

**89** Singer Murray

**91** Salad bar utensil

**92** Gripper on a shoe bottom

**93** "Start playing the song!"

**94** Revises

**95** Crimean resort port

**96** Kind of yoga

**97** "Some Like —"

**98** Cash, informally

**102** Corp. honcho

**105** Soccer Hall of Famer Hamm

**107** Marks, as a ballot box

**108** Philosopher — tzu

**109** Big vase

## SINISTER SQUIRT

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

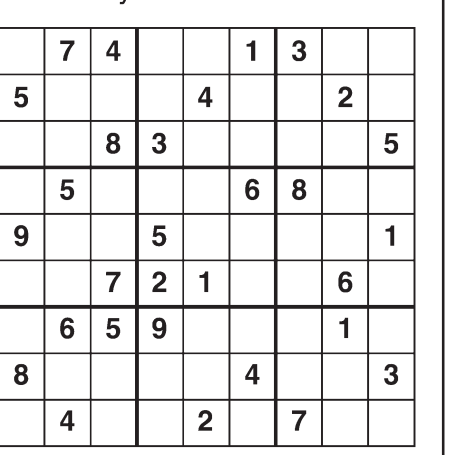
- In 1865, William E. Brockway printed a counterfeit \$100 bill that was so perfect, it left the Treasury Department with the sole option of withdrawing all authentic \$100 bills from circulation.
- The official name for Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, is Krung Thep Maha Nakhon, which is an abbreviation of its ceremonial name: "Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Nopparhat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit." Which is why we just call it "Bangkok."
- Plastic surgery first took place in India around 600 B.C., when it was used with skin from the forehead to reconstruct the noses of criminals that had been amputated as punishment.
- In 1928, the German engineer Herman Sorgel proposed increasing Europe and Africa's land mass by slowly draining the Mediterranean Sea, via a dam across the Strait of Gibraltar. Unsurprisingly, the idea never made it past the drawing board.
- The word "dunce," meaning a dull-witted or ignorant person, comes from the name of John Duns Scotus, one of the greatest minds of his time.
- Jean-Baptiste Lully, the first documented conductor, was the first musician to use a baton — a six-foot-long staff that he pounded on the ground in time to the music. Sadly, he accidentally stuck the staff into his foot during a concert, developing fatal gangrene as a result.
- The quagga, a close relative of the zebra but with stripes only on its head and neck, became the first extinct animal to have its DNA studied, in 1984.
- The 13th of the month is more likely to fall on Friday than on any other day of the week.

**Thought for the Day:** "One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time." — André Gide

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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: ◆

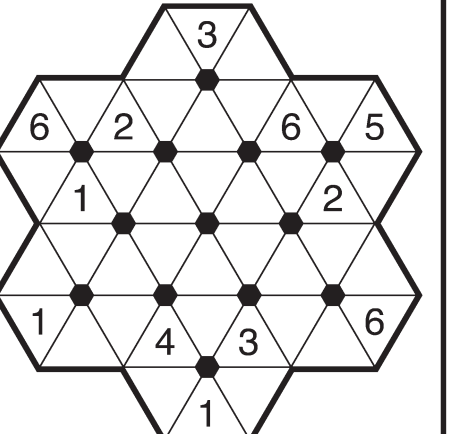
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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

**W**HY DO I START BACK WITH THE CLUBHEAD HELD SLIGHTLY ABOVE GROUND? ONE REASON IS THAT THIS REDUCES THE CHANCE OF INCURRING A PENALTY BY INADVERTENTLY MOVING THE BALL.

**G**UARDING AGAINST STUBBING THE CLUB IN THE GRASS BEHIND THE BALL, WHICH WOULD DISRUPT THE ENTIRE SWING, IS ANOTHER REASON.

**T**HE FINAL AND MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THAT NOT GROUNDING THE CLUB PROMOTES SMOOTH INITIATION OF THE SWING.



"I'm writing another check for the \_\_\_\_\_ salon— when are they going to finish the job?"

## 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!

- Design **SLYTE** \_\_\_\_\_
- Doze **RUMBLES** \_\_\_\_\_
- Stage **SHAPE** \_\_\_\_\_
- Refuse **SWEAT** \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Deputies graduate D.A.R.E. Training Center



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis (center right) and Capt. Sandy Hine (center left) are shown with the six local deputies who completed D.A.R.E. training.

Six Henry County Sheriff's deputies recently graduated from the Virginia D.A.R.E. Training Center in Culpepper, Va., after successfully completing an intense two week training course.

Sheriff Wayne Davis thanked each officer for their dedication to serving the community and protecting children.

"These deputies volunteered to

make personal sacrifices and spend two weeks away from their own families to ensure Henry County can provide the D.A.R.E. program to our students," Davis said. "These highly trained deputies are ready to build relationships and educate our youth on a wide array of topics such as drug and alcohol awareness, vaping, online and social media safety along with bul-



Henry County Sheriff's deputies were among those to successfully complete a two week training course at the Virginia D.A.R.E. Training Center in Culpepper.

lying prevention and teen mental health."

This modern day D.A.R.E. curriculum is the most comprehensive K-12 prevention education program in the world, Davis said of the program that focuses on general life skills education to encourage and support good decision making

for a safe and healthy life.

"The need to educate the youth of this community about these issues is paramount to the Henry County Sheriff's Office. We believe that educating our youth about these dangers is the first step in preventing the next generation of substance abusers," the sheriff added.

## New partnership will expand support for business owners

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) is partnering with SOVA Innovation Hub to further develop the RISE Collaborative in the region. RISE Collaborative connects entrepreneurs with resources to start and grow businesses by offering entrepreneur resources, meetups & events, programs for new and growing businesses, and student & educator programs.

Le'Bryan Patterson, RISE Collaborative's P&HCC Community Navigator, will work alongside businesses in the region to improve community knowledge of the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem and establish relationships with businesses, individuals and other organizations interested in supporting entrepreneurs. Patterson will develop and maintain a referral pipeline of potential entrepre-

neurs and innovators aligned with traded sector and/or scalable business opportunities and maintain a referral network of local service providers, business resources, state and federal agency resources, and financial institutions for emerging and growing business owners to access.

Business owners participating in the Start Up and Grow MHC programs will work with Patterson in their courses as well.

"We need the community's help in identifying potential high-growth, traded sector businesses and entrepreneurs to work with Le'Bryan, P&HCC, and RISE. Whether entrepreneurs are just starting or if they are already established and need assistance with growth and scaling, the RISE Community Business Navigator program is a

new resource," said SOVA Innovation Hub team member Lauren Mathena.

Mathena and her colleagues are eager for the community to know Patterson is on the entrepreneurial ecosystem team and available to help entrepreneurs access capital.

"We are interested in recruiting potential entrepreneurs from an idea to those currently in business. We offer bootcamp programs and small business support services that will help guide businesses to success. My goal is to get familiar with our resources to share while networking with potential or current business owners. I will be the connection that links businesses to the resources that aligns their purpose with their future goals. I want to get to know people and learn what is next for them, so we can

offer or engage in those resources within our community and region," said Patterson, adding, "The vision for entrepreneurs in our region is to start and grow their business. We provide supportive services to entrepreneurs that will help guide them to success. As a program, we aim to bring more businesses and jobs to this great community."

Small business owners and entrepreneurs can connect with Patterson at P&HCC's Thomas Dalton IDEA Center in Uptown Martinsville.

"We're so glad to have Le'Bryan at P&HCC and are excited for the work he will do to continue to strengthen small businesses in the region," said P&HCC Vice President for Workforce, Economic and Community Development Rhonda Hodges.

## DRBA plans to Paddle on Talbott Reservoir

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will paddle on Talbott Reservoir near the Blue Ridge Parkway for its July 6 First Saturday Outing. Meeting at 9 a.m. at the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church, 77 Baptist Church Lane, Meadows of Dan, participants will carpool to the

put-in near Talbott Dam.

The coordinator for the out-and-back paddle is Wayne Kirkpatrick. "Talbott Lake is an experience you don't want to miss. Crystal clear water, lush mountain scenery and great fishing. It is not unusual to spot an Eagle gliding by."



Photo by DRBA

### The History

Located in the wild Dan River Gorge south of Meadows of Dan in Patrick County, Virginia, the reservoir is the primary catchment and storage area for the water that drives the Northbrook Pinnacles Power Plant at the head of Kibler Valley. The hydroelectric plant, built in 1938, and the surrounding 3600 acres, was owned by the City of Danville for 80 years. Visitors to the area are required to have a permit, which DRBA will secure, and for safety reasons, park regulations do not allow swimming, camping, hunting, firearms, pets, or alcohol.

Water released from Talbott Dam, referred to locally in Meadows of Dan as the Upper Dam, spills into a natural stream bed before being diverted six miles downstream by Townes Dam, known as the Lower Dam. Both reservoirs, with Talbott being the larger, are located near the scenic Pinnacles of Dan mountain peaks rising from the Dan River Gorge.

At over 2,600 feet of elevation, Talbott Reservoir, called a "well-kept secret," offers some spectacular scenery that few people ever see. Access is gated and restricted to hand-carry boats, assuring a clean, quiet, and undisturbed setting for paddlers.

Only a short distance upstream

from Talbott Dam is the Great Bend of the Dan, just one of the many meanders of the river through the gorge. A few meanders further upstream is Big Ivy Creek, site of Willie Knowles' Bottom, which Forrest Altman, author of The Dan River Book, notes is a favorite launching place for local fishermen.

### What to Bring

Participants in the outing should arrange to supply boat, paddles, life jackets, water and lunch; wear water-shedding artificial fabric (not cotton, and certainly not blue jeans). All participants will be asked to sign a waiver.

Directions: Take US 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway) to Meadows of Dan. Continue on Jeb Stuart Highway, US 58 Business, toward Blue Ridge Parkway for 0.8 mile. The Meadows of Dan Baptist Church is on the right traveling West and on the left traveling East. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

For more information about the trip, call trip coordinator Wayne Kirkpatrick at (540) 570- 3511, or email wynbtyk@embarqmail.com. For more information about the Dan River Basin Association visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

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# 21 Mental Health Facts That Can Help Someone You Know

By Stanley Popovich

I dealt with fear and anxiety for over twenty years and there are 21 facts that I discovered during my mental health struggles that can help anyone who struggles with fear and anxiety.

Knowing these important mental health facts can save someone you know a lot of time and money in the long run.

Getting help for your mental health is the best thing you can do.

Ignoring your mental health issues will only prolong the problem.

Running away from your mental health issues does not work.

There is no such thing as a quick fix when it comes to your mental health.

There is nothing wrong in asking for assistance for your anxieties and stresses.

Your situation is not hopeless regardless of what you may think.

Focus on your recovery rather than trying to please others.

Go to the nearest hospital if you

are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

You have to make an effort in finding the answers to your mental health issues.

Focus on the facts of your situation rather than your fearful thoughts.

Joining a support group is a great way of finding people who can relate to you.

Follow the advice from the professionals, rather than your friends.

Do not try to manage your mental health problems all by yourself.

Determine the source of your anxieties and then find ways to overcome them.

Do not make assumptions regarding your current mental health situation.

Do not underestimate the power of God when it comes to your mental health.

Learning from your past mental health experiences will help you in

the present.

Drugs and alcohol are not the answers. They just make things worse.

It takes practice in managing your mental health. Be patient but persistent.

Do not be afraid to ask questions when dealing with your mental health.

If you happen to struggle with fear, anxiety, or any other mental health related issues, it is important to admit that you have a problem and get some help.

Your doctor or other mental health professionals in your area will know of some qualified mental health professionals who can give you some assistance.

The key to overcoming your mental health issues is to “learn” effective techniques to manage your anxieties and stresses and “applying” these skills to your life. The best way to learn these techniques is by talking to a mental health professional.



Everyone deals with stress and anxiety sometime in their life. You are not alone and there is nothing wrong with asking someone for advice on how to deal with these mental health related issues.

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.managingfear.com>.

## Turn to turkey for meals

Turkey doesn’t garner much attention outside of Thanksgiving or other holidays when a roasted turkey is the centerpiece of a large family meal. However, turkey is a lean, tasty and versatile protein source that can be used in many meals. If you’re interested in reducing the fat and calorie content of some of your favorite dishes, opt for turkey over red meat.

This is the case for “Turkey Burgers,” from “The New Trailside Cookbook” (Firefly) by Kevin Callan and Margaret Howard. Turkey substitutes for ground beef in juicy burgers that can be cooked on the trail or in the backyard.

### Turkey Burgers

Makes 4 patties

1 pound lean ground turkey (or chicken)

1/3 cup panko crumbs or dried bread

crumbs

1 egg, beaten

1/4 cup sour cream or plain yogurt

2 green onions, chopped

1 teaspoon each dried thyme and oregano

1/2 teaspoon each salt and freshly ground pepper

4 whole wheat buns, halved

In a bowl, combine chicken, crumbs, egg, sour cream, onions, thyme, oregano, salt, and pepper. Gently form into four evenly shaped patties. Wrap each patty in plastic wrap or foil to keep separated. Refrigerate or freeze until ready to use.

When ready to enjoy, cook burgers 6 minutes per side and serve on toasted whole wheat buns. Garnish with favorite toppings.



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