

10th annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Blood Drive set for July 13

By Taylor Boyd

The 10th annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Christmas in July Blood Drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, in the Bassett High School Auditorium.

Event founder Teddy Martin II, said that although Riggins was his aunt, all his brothers and sisters knew her as ‘granny.’

“She even listed us as her grandchildren in her obituary. She beat cancer once, and it returned. The very first thing that she said and thought when she was diagnosed was that she was not able to give blood anymore,” he said.

At the time, Martin said he had never given blood before or thought too much of doing so.

“Seeing how much it meant to her and how much she meant to me and my family and everything else, and how selfless he was, I told her, ‘You might not be able to, but I can.’ So, I gave blood,” he said.

Martin noted that him giving blood was actually on Riggins’ bucket list.

While he joked, and “pointed out you can’t



Teddy Martin II said his aunt donated about 16 gallons of blood throughout her life.

make me when I said I was going to,” Martin said he donated “and I kind of compared here’s my do-

nation versus her 16 gallons,” and discovered “it’s like to carry this on, I’m going to need some help”

Martin said he thought having a drive in her memory was a good idea, and one that the community rallied behind. The drives started at the beginning of 2015.

“We’ve been carrying them on ever since,” he said.

As Riggins “knew she wasn’t going to make it to December,” and loved Christmas, Martin said two drives are held each year - one as a Christmas in July and one in December.

“We tend to do some Christmas decorations at each drive, because of the theme. Also, some of her Red Cross memorabilia that she gathered, her pins, her apron, and all kinds of little things from her many years of donating,” he said.

Martin said Riggins gave blood almost every time she could throughout her entire life.

“I’ve been giving now for a decade, and I’m only up to four gallons,” he said.

Across all the drives and people pledging to (See Blood Drive p. 2)

Several candidates seek open council posts

Stories by Jessica Dillon

Five people are campaigning for the three

seats on Martinsville City Council in November, including Rayshaun Gravely, LaNita Herlem,

Kathy Lawson, Julian Mei and John Wilson. Their stories follow:

Gravely brings fresh perspective to the council race

At 25, Rayshaun Gravely is ready to take his first jump into politics. He is hoping to bring fresh takes to city topics, and has a steadfast passion for community interactions. His platform is based on open communication and helping to make Martinsville a better place for all generations.

Gravely is a Martinsville native with a background in law enforcement. Instead of going to college, he joined the Henry County Sheriff’s office at the age of 19. Currently, he owns a landscaping business and works in in-home healthcare.

“My passion is two things, mental health and law enforcement,” Gravely said, adding that his decision to seek office is linked to enjoying people and the need for a younger perspective.

“We need fresh blood and new ideas. I’m coming in as an individual. I don’t know any insiders. I don’t know anything about what’s going on,” Gravely said, noting that he



Rayshaun Gravely offers a fresh perspective to voters. (Contributed)

isn’t connected to the current council or officials.

(See Gravely p. 2)

Herlem turned tragedy into bid for a council seat

LaNita Herlem, 56, is taking her first foray into politics after years of volunteer work with military widows. She is interested in more community policing, revitalizing uptown, and has a keen interest in utilities.

Herlem’s life was heavily altered by the death of her husband. She was a veteran for around two years before getting discharged due to an injury. Afterward, she traveled with her husband, who was also in the armed forces. The pair moved from place to place until tragic news came in 2006 that her husband was killed while on patrol.

“It was such a huge part of my life,” she said. This tragedy pushed Herlem to work to help other military widows through the American Widow Project. “I even started a Facebook page where other Gold Star widows helped each other.”

She also used the GI Bill to go to school to pursue a master’s degree in history, living in Charlotte, N.C.,



LaNita Herlem is a military widow seeking a council seat.

with her nieces before moving back (See Herlem p. 2)

Lawson wants to continue work, seeks another term

Kathy Lawson is hoping to retain her seat on Martinsville City Council. She has been a longtime supporter of the city, has actively worked to improve it, and she’s not done.

Lawson, 70, currently works as a personal lines manager for Burton & Company Insurance. She also has a long list of volunteer activities, including being on the investment review board of the Martinsville Henry County Sector of the United Way, is the current president of Christmas Cheer, and serves as a board member at the Southside Survivor Response Center.

Lawson has previously been working with the council to improve the infrastructure of uptown and will continue to do so if reelected.

“I recently suggested putting aside



Kathy Lawson is ready to take on another council term. (Contributed)

funds to modernize homes to be more

(See Lawson p. 2)

Wilson brings a new set of eyes to politics

John Wilson III is ready to take his very first steps into politics by running for city council, driven by concerns about livability and affordability, ensuring good infrastructure, lower housing costs and utility rates.

Wilson, 70, was a Greensboro, N.C. native who spent 20 years working for DuPont and then for Nolan Company, with a background in procurement. He then moved back to Martinsville with his wife, and noted that people elsewhere “were not as friendly and courteous,” and he loves the friendly, helpful atmosphere of Martinsville.

Wilson said that he got interested in running after speaking with friends and realized an election was on the horizon.



John Wilson III wants to provide Martinsville residents with a financially stable city.

“I talked to my wife and a friend (See Wilson p. 3)

Giving voice to residents is center of Mei’s platform

Julian Mei is a face many voters will know from real estate. He has now decided to take his first foray into politics with goals for open communication. He envisions a prosperous city, with grievances given the attention they deserve.

Mei, 43, works for Berry-Elliott Realtors. He also has a history in the entertainment and hospitality industry and obtained a degree in graphic design. He worked in fashion design and lived in New York before eventually coming home to Martinsville. He currently serves on the Arts and Culture Committee and pursues other interests.

Mei said he considered running in the

previous election.

“I had thought about it two years ago, and I wasn’t quite ready yet. There was so much volatility in the last election,” he said, adding he attributed that to a combination of personalities, reversion, and anxiety over a new potential administration.

Mei said he wanted to feel prepared before his first run, but two years ago, “I didn’t feel knowledgeable enough about a lot of subjects.”

He said he decided to run this year because he feels people needed a voice.

“I’ve been working for a long time to get Martinsville to appeal to the accomplish- (See Mei p.3)



Julian Mei wants to ensure city residents’ voices are heard.

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UPDATES



Blood Drive

(cont. from page 1)



The drive was started 10 years ago in honor of Brenda Riggins, who is pictured here with family members that include Teddy Martin.

donate in Riggins’ memory, Martin estimates there have been 960 donations.

“Our best day ever was 65. We average in that upper 40-50 number. Ironically, we actually did better in COVID,” he said with a laugh. “I think part of it was the Red Cross was doing that whole like, ‘we’ll test your blood for antibodies and people were like, ‘I want to know if I have COVID.’”

There are currently 50 pledged donations for the Christmas in July drive.

Martin said the community’s response to the blood drive has been really inspiring.

“I think it kind of reflects the selflessness and caring of Brenda. I think some people have told me it’s hard to say no to that story, which I remind them that people can say no to me all the time,” he said, chuckling.

Gravely

(cont. from page 1)

“They say Martinsville is a good place to retire, but once the old generation moves on, there’s no one left but young people. So, if you don’t start setting it up for not only the retired people, but also the younger generation to enjoy, then Martinsville is going to die,” he said.

To help with this, Gravely said he wants to look into bringing back the parks and rec program and see the trade programs expand.

“I’m coming in with a fresh brain and a fresh and fresh start. I want to try and make a difference. People need someone they can trust to get the job done,” Gravely said, and he feels like he is that person.

“I’m not just going to sit in the council seat,” he said. “I want to give a voice to each individual, to keep pushing the city forward.”

He also wants to see the school system succeed and he has a vested interest - Gravely graduated from Martinsville High School in 2018.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley “is doing a wonderful job of moving the school system forward, we have wonderful teachers and a wonderful administration,” Gravely said. In fact, he feels that the division “is doing all that

Herlem

(cont. from page 1)

to Martinsville. “I couldn’t justify the cost of staying down there, so I came back here. When I moved back, I decided I wanted to get involved.”

She got involved with both the American Legion and Amvets when she returned before being approached by council member Tammy Pearson to run for council.

“Basically, my platform consists of appropriations, communications, and relations,” Herlem said. She believes that money from the budget should go towards the “health and safety of the people in the area,” and that the city “should have a better line of communication with city residents about” the services offered, and she also wants to see more police interactions with the public to increase morale and understanding.

“I’ve also been looking into the electric grid, and we have some transformers that are 50 years or older, and they are reaching the time

Lawson

(cont. from page 1)

energy efficient,” she said, and also is exploring ways to alert citizens to utility complications.

“The city has been behind the times,” she said, stating that there are steps that can be taken to improve communication in the city. “We can do anything that any other community can do.

“My focus for Martinsville has always been making this a great place for our citizens to live, work, and raise their families,” Lawson said, adding that she has made sure that all citizens’ voices are heard as she focuses on improving quality of life.

She praised the Martinsville Police Department, noting that “all of our crime statistics are down,” respects for Police Chief Rob Fincher, and said, “we pretty much have an open door discussion with one another, I’ve known him forever and I can just be perfectly frank with him.”

As for the school system, Lawson currently has several family members attending school. She feels that “supporting our children to ensure they have quality education is of utmost importance.”

Lawson said she believes that youth should be given a platform to grow to “provide them the stepping stones to be successful adults.”

During her previous term, Lawson supported reversion, but her views have since changed. “Reversion, if you go back to 2018 and 2019 and look



Brenda Riggins loved Christmas, and as a result, two annual blood drives are held in her honor - a ‘Christmas in July’ drive and another in December.

The event was first hosted at Hope Presbyterian Church, which Martin said helped get the blood drive started. It also was held at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and Stanleytown Elementary School.

“I have to thank Henry County Schools because when the pandemic happened and everybody else was shutting the doors on having these drives, Dr. Strayer (then superintendent) let us in,” he said.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments will have priority.

they can for the students. That’s part of my platform - to continue on the education of children in this area.”

Gravely said he also holds law enforcement close to heart.

“A lot of the city guys I know well,” he said, adding that while he is aware of recent criticisms, “sometimes, from the outside, looking in, if you don’t know how it’s run or structured, you won’t understand why things are done the way they are. They’re doing a great job. The crime rate is down.”

He also praised the county sheriff’s office for its work. As a former officer, Gravely said he started in corrections, and wants to see enhancements to public safety that will keep the community feeling at ease.

Gravely says since he’s been campaigning, he’s heard complaints about electric costs.

“I tell people if I’m elected, once I get in, I will do my best to see if there are other options,” he said, adding he wants to work towards finding a solution to high electric bills.

He is against reversion and believes Martinsville will continue to grow, wants to find a bal-

ance to ensure that both the older and younger generations have places to enjoy in the city, and would love to see some of the conveniences of downtown Greensboro brought to Martinsville.

“You can never get too many restaurants. People love to eat. We need some more name-brand shopping centers,” he said.

Additionally, he wants to see more jobs and affordable housing in the city.

“We have lots of buildings that could turn into something like date centers and affordable housing,” Gravely said, adding that he believes that Martinsville needs to support its community better.

“A lot of people are struggling, so we need some investors in, or government funding where we could have affordable housing,” he said.

Gravely, who said he has an open-door policy, is looking forward to meeting people and working with the community.

Even if he doesn’t get elected, Gravely said he plans to stay involved.

“You won’t just see me not get elected and then run off,” he said. “I want to be active in this community.”



Each blood drive is decorated with Christmas decor.

Schedule appointments by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org by using the sponsor code: Brenda. People can also schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Donor App.

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come to the area.

“I grew up here in the 90s, so I remember Globman’s,” she said, noting that she also remembers the economic crash.

Since the area survived, thrived and now seems to have turned a corner, “I love how it’s going. I want to see something similar to Globman’s” to locate Uptown, she said.

“My mom and dad worked in a factory, so going to Globman’s was a special thing,” she said, adding that she loves that Fayette St. is having new life breathed into it, and really wants to see the Patrick Henry Mall area of the city revitalized.

“I feel like that part of the city has been left out,” Herlem said.

Overall, “I felt since I started this that I’ve felt better about myself in a long time, I think I’ve found a niche that I’m comfortable with,” she said.

and for charities like Christmas Cheer.

“I love helping people, and as long as God continues to give me health, and I have the ability to do so, I will continue to do so,” Lawson said.

Meanwhile, she encourages voters “to look at the facts. I serve with honesty and integrity, and my goal is to better serve our citizens and businesses to make this a greater than it already is, and to be able to grow.”

She wishes her competitors well.

“I wish everyone luck,” Lawson said. “It is an opportunity to serve. Be warned and understand that it can be thankless. There are people that won’t understand where you are coming from. You have to open your eyes and listen to what they are saying.”



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, July 11
Henry County School Board School Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Rd, Martinsville.

Monday, July 15
Patrick & Henry Community College Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center, 645 Patriot Ave., Martinsville.

Events

Saturday, July 6
Community Event, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hope Ministry, 1844, Virginia Ave, Martinsville.

Sunday, July 7
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Monday, July 8
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Tuesday, July 9
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Etiquette Made Easy, 2:30 p.m., Ridgeway Branch Library, 900 Vista View Ln, Ridgeway.

Wednesday, Jul 10
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Etiquette Made Easy, 2:30 p.m., Collinsville Branch Library, 2540 Virginia Ave, Collinsville.

Thursday, July 11
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Etiquette Made Easy, 2:30 p.m., Patrick County Branch Library, 116 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart.

Friday, July 12
Vacation Bible School, 6:16 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd. Bassett.

Etiquette Made Easy, 2:30 p.m., Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Hwy,

Wilson

(cont. from page 2)

of mine, and then I thought, ‘I want to try and do that. I want to try to be a part of what’s going on here. I want to see if I can help find solutions and help things keep going in the right direction for Martinsville,’” he said.

Wilson wants to see community policing expand to “continue to expand community policing and enforce littering as well as unkempt properties.” He’s also interested in seeing traffic violations enforced to keep the roads safe.

He wants to expand existing businesses and attract new ones by “enhancing business-friendly policies to attract and retain businesses.” He also plans to bring new ideas to help the city grow. “I would love to see more businesses come. I’m a business-friendly person.”

Wilson wants to increase attention to the roads, including “paving, re-surfacing, or repairing aging asphalt streets,” while working to help develop an infrastructure upgrade plan and a “fiscal pathway for the city to invest and improve infrastructure on an ongoing basis.”

Wilson said the city needs to be focused on im-

provements, and “with a new set of eyes, maybe we could find some new ways to do stuff.”

He worries about the accessibility of affordable housing in the city and is interested in increasing the housing stock.

“I know they are doing the new apartments for seniors, and that’s great, and I know there are some new apartments here in Uptown,” he said. “I don’t want to say they are too expensive, but there’s not much affordable housing, based on the folks here in town. We need to focus on providing that.”

Wilson also wants to see jobs grow, and while he doesn’t expect the factories to return, “if we can get 10 companies that employ anywhere from 10 people to 100, that’s around another 1,000 people going to work.”

He does not favor reversion. In fact, “I, for one, am glad that the city decided not to do that, it’s not a good thing for the City of Martinsville to become a town.”

Wilson also wants to help lower utility costs by exploring hydroelectric production capacity and

working with the city to “advertise and implement energy audits to assist residents in curbing electric rates.”

Wilson’s children and grandchildren, who he’s watched go through school, want to “invest in our future,” and he said he wants to do all he can to support the school division so it can “be up to snuff and offer what our children need.”

In short, “I want to do everything possible to make Martinsville a better place for everybody here,” Wilson said, adding that he also is part of the city, and whether he wins or loses, he believes that there is a board that he can get on to help.

“I’m not looking to just do this and if it doesn’t work out,” for people not to talk to him anymore, Wilson said. “I want to do all I can to be helpful to the city and for the city.”

He is up front with voters, and added that this is his first foray into politics.

As such, “I’ve got a lot to learn and I know there’s a lot of questions I can’t answer right now,” Wilson said. “But I’m trying to study up as much as I can on everything.”

Mei

(cont. from page 2)

ments of its locals, but also to people from outside of the community,” Mei said, adding that residents bring with them “not just their physical selves, but also their experience.”

He said he feels newcomers don’t feel sure how to “get engaged” in the community, and “that Martinsville’s old identity is blending with its new identity.”

Mei said that he gets feedback from others, and “a majority is positive, I don’t get a lot of complaints.” The biggest things he feels voters have asked for are keeping the city safe, clean, and continuing on the trajectory towards prosperity.

He loves the growth that Uptown has received and believes that the continued expansion “is the key to unlocking the full potential of this community.” He believes it’s important to have a central hub that can attract new community members, and that having shops within walking distance of housing is a big attraction for the younger generation.

“Martinsville is a destination for people trying to get away from the congestion and the hustle and bustle of dense metropolitan living,” Mei said.

He also vowed to stand with residents on various issues.

Bassett.

Saturday, July 13
Etiquette Made Easy, 2:30 p.m., Martinsville Main Library, 310 Church St E, Martinsville.

Friday, July 19
Water Bath Canning For Beginners, 1:00 p.m., Henry County Parks and Recreation Center, 395 John Redd Blvd, Collinsville.

Franks + Drinks, 6 p.m., Gravely-Lester Art Garden, 207 Starling Ave, Martinsville.

Saturday, July 20
Stephen Mark Rainey Booksigning, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, Magnolia & Main Books, 810 Main Street, Ridgeway.

ONGOING

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

Bassett Train Station Farmers’ Market will be open from April 30 through September 24 on Tuesday’s 5-7 p.m.

Uptown Farmers Market will be open April 27 to 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.

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

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

Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brrl.lib.va.us.

TOPS FIELDALE VA 0626 meets each Tuesday at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Bassett Public Library, 3969 Fairystone Hwy, Bassett, VA . NEW MEMBERS WELCOME For more information, please call Patti Farmer (276) 358-0489.

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

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

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

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

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

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

working with the city to “advertise and implement energy audits to assist residents in curbing electric rates.”

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As such, “I’ve got a lot to learn and I know there’s a lot of questions I can’t answer right now,” Wilson said. “But I’m trying to study up as much as I can on everything.”

Mei said.

After attending city schools and graduating from Martinsville High School, “I am 100 percent behind our students and our teachers. Our best hope for our future is that children are equipped with the skills and education to enter the world, excel, and, if inclined, bring some of the fruits of their adult experiences back to their homes,” Mei said.

He wants to ensure the school division is “getting the resources they need, without over taxing the residents,” and would work to ensure safety at businesses open during the late night hours.

Mei encouraged voters to “remain optimistic about our city’s trajectory. We are doing really well. It’s getting bigger and better and stronger all the time.”

He also added that even if he loses in November, he will continue serving in volunteer roles to help the city grow.

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

OPINION

Independence and the Ninth District

A newsletter from 2017 entitled “Independence and Southwest Virginia” was one of my favorites. Many of you have told me over the years it was a favorite of yours too.

Because of redistricting, the Ninth District has added some communities and lost some communities. So, I thought it might be of interest to review locations in the Ninth District named for influential figures during the American Revolution era.

On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, the anniversary of when fifty-six men pledged “[their] Lives, [their] Fortunes and [their] sacred Honor” by adopting the Declaration of Independence. We honor them on Independence Day, but in Southwest Virginia, their legacies can be found every day. One can simply look at a map to find them.

Three of the counties contained in the Ninth Congressional District are named after signers of the Declaration. Wythe County is named after George Wythe, who taught Thomas Jefferson law. His name appears first among Virginia’s signatures.

Carroll County’s namesake, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, represented Maryland. He was the only Roman Catholic signer and the last survivor among the fifty-six, living until 1832.

In 1785, Virginia gave birth to Franklin County. Honoring one of the most famous Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin was a renowned intellectual respected in the United States and the Western World.

The Declaration was a big step, but some had demanded independence before 1776. One of the boldest was Patrick Henry, who famously declared before the Second Virginia Convention, “Give me liberty or give me death!” He has two county names honoring him: Patrick and Henry. For a time, Henry resided in Leatherwood, Henry County.

To make independence real, it needed more than the Declaration. It needed individuals who were willing to fight and, if necessary, die for the cause. Two such patriots are honored in our area by county names. Richard Montgomery led the invasion of Canada and died at the Battle of Quebec in 1775.

Casimir Pulaski was a Polish count. Like the French-born Marquis de Lafayette and the Prussian Baron von Steuben, Pulaski was a European nobleman who was drawn to the American cause. As he wrote to George Washington, “I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.” Pulaski fell at the Battle of Savannah in 1779.

William Grayson also fought in the war, serving as an aide to Washington and rising to colonel, but he survived the war to become one of Virginia’s first U.S. sena-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

tors, and now has Grayson County named in his memory.

Furthermore, the City of Martinsville was founded by Brigadier General Joseph Martin who contributed to American Revolutionary battles at Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

Russell County was named for William Russell, but which one, the father or the son? Both were soldiers of the Revolution. The elder Russell’s service included Point Pleasant, when frontiersmen led by Andrew Lewis defeated Shawnee Chief Cornstalk and helped clear the way for Daniel Boone and others to settle beyond the Appalachians.

William Russell’s son was one of the Overmountain Men, frontiersmen who rallied from hundreds of miles away to fight the British. Their victory at Kings Mountain helped turn the tide of the war in the South. The Abingdon Muster Grounds, where 400 of the militiamen began their journey, marks the northern trailhead of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Then there is Washington County. George Washington led the Continental Army to victory against the powerful British Empire. That victory led to a sense of liberty in the colonies and in 1782, the Village of Liberty (now known as the Town of Bedford) was formed.

Later, Washington served as president of the Constitutional Convention and subsequently as our first president under the new Constitution. After two terms, he returned home. Truly, Washington was:

“First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

That description came from Washington’s colleague Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee, who, sure enough, is the namesake of Lee County.

In Southwest Virginia, we are proud of our patriotic heritage. The names of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration, the other statesmen who worked for independence, and the soldiers who fought for it hold an honored place in our memory. But their legacy consists of more than names in history books or on maps. It is found in our democratic republic, in the freedoms we enjoy, and the great nation we have become.

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

Barnes honored with certificate



The Henry County Sheriff’s Office along with Jarrett Marketing LLC, and Chopstix Martinsville-VA, congratulated Deputy Jessica Barnes (center) for being selected as the recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation for July. Barnes is

pictured with Capt. Tim Compton (left) and Michael Jarrett.

Chopstix Martinsville-Va, Hollywood Cinema, and Livy’s ice cream shop provide free meals, movie passes, ice cream and the certificate.

From the ordinary to the extraordinary, museums hold vast treasures

No matter what you like, there’s probably a museum for it.

You yourself might have what it takes to make a museum on your unique or obscure interest.

An easy drive away is the Simpson Funeral Museum in Chatham. It’s run by Scott Simpson, a casket-maker who opened it in 2014 in an old undertaking parlor. The museum is at 16 Main St., Chatham. Opening hours have been advertised as 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays; call 434-432-1085 or email simpsonfm@comcast.net to confirm. Meanwhile, the largest funeral service museum is the National Museum of Funeral History, which covers 30,500 square feet in Houston.

In Martinsville, we had a museum dedicated to fairy stones until it closed just a couple of years ago. Don Hopkins became fascinated by fairy stones when he lived in Patrick County. First, he collected them, and then he sorted his collection into big ones, little ones and medium ones, and then he got even more detailed in his sorting and displaying, and sharing them with the world, on the first floor of a two-story building on A.L. Philpott Highway in Horsepasture.

I liked that museum, because I respect anyone who follows his passion and does something about it. When I was a kid, my parents enrolled me in a class on rocks, and our instructor had a rock museum of sorts in the basement of his home. On the last night, we went there on a fieldtrip. That magic basement full of sorted and labeled rocks was great, and very a very exciting place for a fifth grader.

When my daughter and I travel, we pull off the highway to tour any museum for which we see a sign. That’s what brought us to our favorite one so far, the American Museum of the House Cat in Sylva, North Carolina. She still asks me to take her back there.

I like potatoes. Do you like potatoes? Just yesterday, I had potato salad at lunch and a baked potato at supper. If we were in Blackfoot, Idaho, we most definitely would have stopped by the Idaho Potato Museum, but alas, we were way over here on the East Coast.

At the International Spy Museum, visitors experience as much as they look at things: They arrive at a briefing center, are issued a cover identity and are encouraged to remain undercover and gather information in ways such as crawling through an air duct to spy on others and cracking codes. Before they leave, they go through a debriefing exercise that evaluates their spying success.

The International Cryptozoology Museum in Portland is all about unknown and mysterious animals such as bigfoot, Sasquatch, mermaids and Santa Claus. The Clown Hall of Fame and Research Center is in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Neon signs can be seen practically everywhere, but nowhere so much as in Las Vegas. Thus, it makes sense that the Sin City is home to the Neon Museum, home of more than 250 historic Las Vegas signs. The Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and the Celebrity Lingerie Hall of Fame is in Los Angeles.

The National Mustard Museum in Middleton, Wisconsin, showcases 6,000 mustards from 70 countries.



Holly Kozelsky

The SPAM Museum, dedicated to that canned meat product, is in Austin, Minnesota.

Where in the world else would you expect to find the International UFO Museum and Research Center than Roswell, New Mexico, the site of a 1947 crash of a flying saucer that the US military claimed was a weather balloon but remains fodder of speculation?

The Computer History Museum is in Mountain View, California, and the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History is near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The National Videogame Museum is in Frisco, Texas.

If we see graffiti in Martinsville, it would be bad. If you saw it in Miami, however, you may be inside the Museum of Graffiti, which has 11 outdoor murals, a fine art gallery and exhibits. It also offers graffiti classes for both children and adults.

The American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore is for the works of self-taught, not professionally trained, artists – and then there’s the Museum of Bad Art in Somerville, Maryland.

There’s a particular type of museum housed inside the Good Vibrations store in San Francisco (of course!), but I would be too embarrassed to tell you the name or nature of the museum, and you wouldn’t want to read those words unprepared, either. Just suffice it to say that there really is a museum for anything.

Worldwide, there’s the Beijing Tap Water Museum in China, Avanos Hair Museum in Turkey, Bread Museum in Germany, British Lawnmower Museum in England, Dog Collar Museum in England, an instant ramen museum in Japan, a museum for curried sausage in Berlin and a museum of death in Thailand.

For a small city, Martinsville packs a mighty punch in terms of culture. We have turned into a museum city, with the standard trifecta of museums: science, art and history, with the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Piedmont Arts and the MHC Heritage Museum, which already covers the former Henry County Courthouse but is about to expand into the new 13,000-square-foot building behind (and connected to) the courthouse.

When is the last time you’ve been to a museum? Summer, with the kids out of school, is a great time. It’s a fun way to spend time together while learning about life and people and society and broadening your horizons.

Our museums are the classics, but if you do want to see some weird things, we can accommodate. At the MHC Heritage Museum, where I am the director, I could show you the typewriter that types a letter per line at a time down a page, rather type in order across the page; or things that look like maracas but really are sewing machine attachments, or a record player that plays records that are tubular, in the shape of a soda can, rather than flat, as society knows records to be. You’ll find some neat stuff at Piedmont Arts and VMHN, too.

Summertime Door-to-Door Scams

Summer is officially here, which means door-to-door sales crews are too. But buyers beware because what they’re selling isn’t always legit.

These scams can show up in a variety of forms. Sometimes it’s solar panels for your home at a can’t-be-beaten price or it’s a student selling magazine subscriptions to help fund their school program. Other times it’s a construction worker who says they stopped by because they just happened to be working in the neighborhood. One thing they all have in common is pressure to sign up or pay upfront.

Any “deal” that you have to sign up for right away or that you have to pay for in advance is likely no deal at all. Your best bet is to proactively seek out the services you need. And consider making a deal with yourself to never do a deal with someone before you’ve had time to do your research.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you’ve been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

OPINION

The Ten Commandments; surely, we are willing to try

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Governor Jeff Landry of Louisiana recently signed into law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in Louisiana’s classrooms. This is the first law of its kind in the country since 1980, when a more moderate Supreme Court ruled a similar Kentucky law unconstitutional.

The new law gives schools until Jan. 1 to display the Ten Commandments on “a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches by fourteen inches” in every classroom. The commandments have to be the display’s “central focus” and be “printed in a large, easily readable font,” the law says.

Debates and legal challenges are to be expected on Louisiana’s decision. Will it stand if it ends up in front of the Supreme court? Probably not because the Ten Commandments are part of the Bible, and our nation threw that out of the classroom a long time ago. We won’t have federal support to reinstate The Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments. Other religious groups who don’t adhere to the Bible may demand placement of something from their teachings and so therefore the law will most likely be struck down eventually. However, it’s interesting that it’s up to the states to decide about abortion.

Personally, I would like to see the Ten Commandments placed in every classroom, federal building, and state building in America. If you don’t remember them, go the Bible and find the book of Exodus. Go to chapter 20. It’s sad that we have to demand that our schools and teachers do what the homes and churches won’t do. How many homes in America have the Ten commandments hanging on a wall? Many of the churches in America don’t have the Ten Commandments posted. Walk into any local church in your town and see if you can find them posted anywhere in the church building.

Most of America’s young people

aren’t in church and they aren’t paying much attention to mom and dad, so I guess we are desperate for America’s teachers to do what the parents and the churches aren’t doing.

We had The Ten Commandments in some of our classrooms in elementary school. I don’t ever remember them being read in class, but they were there. We did have a wonderful lady who taught us the Bible one day a week in elementary school.

It’s difficult to have it both ways. Churches and biblical related entities support separation of church and state on certain issues. Especially when it comes to the idea of taxing churches or other religious groups. Such an endeavor would eliminate 80 percent of all religious organizations. However, when it comes to having prayer, Bible reading and The Ten Commandments in the classroom, the idea of separation of church and state becomes a bit muddled in the minds of those who believe in prayer, Bible reading and The Ten Commandments.

In recent years there has been an explosion of Christian and other private schools in our country.

Today, many are crying for answers to school and other mass shootings. Many cry for stricter gun laws. The sixth commandment says “Thou shalt not kill.” Some of the other commandments say, “Honor your father and mother,” “Don’t steal,” to name a few.

What if posting The Ten Commandments would stop one school shooting or save one life from being heinously taken? Then it would be worth posting them on every school wall in the country. Surely as a nation we are at the point where we are willing to try.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is read in over 800 newspapers, blogs and other media sources in all 50 states. Learn more at GlemmnMollettem.Com Follow him on Facebook and find his books and music on all book and music websites.

NCI to host inaugural First Responders Summit







JOIN US FOR OUR INNAUGURAL

FIRST RESPONDERS SUMMIT

July 10, 2024

09:00am - 04:00pm

Keynote Speaker Joshua Proby!

A minister, author, and speaker using his experiences of trauma and adversity to inspire hope and compassion in others



 **New College Institute**
Baldwin Building
191 Fayette St.
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 **MUST PRE-REGISTER:**
<https://forms.gle/duMD2YyHUcC8LpMYA>
Registration closes July 5th, or until spots are filled

AGENDA INCLUDES

- ✓ Breakfast and Lunch
- ✓ Wellness hour
- ✓ Luna Moth Tattoo Studio Giveaway and More!
- ✓ Educational Opportunity
- ✓ Keynote Speaker: Joshua Proby
- ✓ Compassion Award
- ✓ In-service credits available for Law Enforcement and Dispatchers

The New College Institute (NCI) is excited to host the inaugural First Responders Summit on July 10, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., in the Martin-Lacy Lecture Hall.

Drug-Free MHC Coalition, Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition, Epic Health Partners, NCI and other community partners recognize the trauma and stress that First Responders experience each day within their respective fields. These community partners are coming together to provide this one-day conference to provide education and resources around supporting the mental health and safety of our first responders. This conference will also encourage these essential workers to do their part in creating a trauma informed community while engaging with individuals struggling with substance use or experiencing mental health concerns, trauma, or adversity.

Participants will hear from keynote

speaker, Joshua Proby – a minister, author, and speaker – who is using his experience of trauma and adversity to inspire hope and compassion in others.

Breakfast, Lunch and afternoon refreshments are included. In service credits are also available for Law Enforcement, Jailers, Dispatchers, and EMS, and all participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Compassion awards will be given out to honor first responders who exemplify compassion when interacting with individuals experiencing trauma and adversity.

Registration is required to attend, and spots are limited. Those interested can register at <https://forms.gle/duMD2YyHUcC8LpMYA>. Registration closes when all spots are filled.

For more information on the event, email Tobie Panos at tpanos@piedmontcsb.org.

Trump and Biden discuss “Ghostbusters” (1984)

DONALD TRUMP

Remember the proton accelerators, folks? Having proton — my uncle was a professor at MIT, very smart, good genes, and he told me all about the protons. Nobody understands the protons better than I do. Ten years ago, no one had ever heard of a proton, the power that ... and ghosts HATE the protons, let me tell you. Egon Spengler comes up to me, a great man, tears in his eyes, and he says, “Sir, sir, how do you know so much about the protons? I invented the protons and you know more!” But Biden loves the ghosts. He’s let a billion ghosts into this country. I would never do that with the ghosts. I was there when Walter Peck shut down the containment unit, folks. Biden was there, he was cheering. He was cheering the ghosts!

JOE BIDEN

The idea that ... look, the containment unit, they should have shut ... shouldn’t have shut it down. But the EPA ... President Nixon, that was the best thing he did. The containment unit was dangerous, but I was not for releasing the ghosts. Period.

TRUMP

He loves the ghosts. He’s giving the ghosts the jobs that should belong to angels. And the terror dogs! Remember when the dog came out of the lady’s refrigerator? Remember that, folks? Biggest dog I’ve ever seen, anyone’s ever seen. It goes to the nerd’s apartment and ruins his party. The nerd says he’s writing the party off as a promotional expense, he invited his clients. People laughed, can you believe it? He was smart. But the dog, he loves the dog, and the green one too.

BIDEN

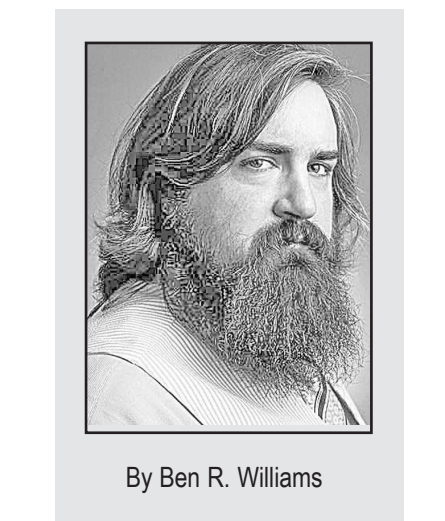
I didn’t ... the idea ... I supported Peter Venkman busting the green ghost. It was, the hotel, he had too. He gets on the radio, “It’s looking at me, Jack.” He gets slimed. I grew up sitting around the kitchen table, and when people, with the grocery prices, they don’t want to get slimed. We’re going to fix that, or we did.

TRUMP

He loves the terror dog folks, everyone knows he loves the terror dog. And what the terror dog did to the nerd, can you believe it? Attacked him right in front of Tavern on the Green, beautiful New York City restaurant. Nobody did anything. Under Biden, folks, we had 400 million people get attacked by the terror dog just last year. He let it happen.

BIDEN

That’s more people than ... look, here’s the deal. Gozer the Trav-



eler, he’s going to come in one of the pre-chosen forms. During the third reconciliation ... I’m sorry, during the rectification of the Vuldrini, the traveler came as a, a large and moving Torg. And then ... with the McKetrick supplicants ... excuse me ... the giant Sloar ... the Shubs and Zuuls knew the Sloar ... we beat Medicare.

TRUMP

And the marshmallow man! He let the marshmallow man destroy New York City, folks. I saw it happen. Everyone was saying, “you’ve got to cross the streams, that’s the only way to stop the marshmallow man.” He didn’t want to cross the streams! You had Gozer, the dogs, the marshmallow man and he ... “Oh no, don’t cross the streams,” that’s what he said. When I’m back in office, we’re crossing the streams, folks.

BIDEN

The idea that ... look, crossing the streams ... you’ve got total protonic reversal, you’ve got ... molecules exploding at the speed of light. But the swing ... I should say, the door swings both ways, and that was the only way ... but most of the time, you don’t want to ...

TRUMP

“I love this town!” Remember that folks, when the guy says that after they kill the marshmallow and the weird lady? Biden doesn’t love this town. He hates this town. He loves the ghosts, folks. Believe it. But we’re going to be hard on the ghosts like nothing you’ve ever seen. We’re gonna build the biggest ghost trap, and the ghosts are gonna pay for it. And let me tell you, Biden’s going to be soft on Vigo the Carpathian too. He’s not going to stand up to Vigo the Carpathian.

BIDEN

That’s malarkey. You met with Vigo the Carpathian. You supported him ... he said he would usher in a season of evil.

TRUMP

It was a beautiful, perfect conversation.

Fire, EMS agency recognizes accomplishments



The Martinsville Fire & EMS Department recognized and congratulated several staff members, including:

Lt. Ben Dalton, who graduated from the Virginia Fire Officer Academy.

Capt. Brandon McAlexander and Assistant Chief Diana Foley, who graduated from the Virginia Chief Officer Academy.

The agency also thanked Joseph Smallwood for his work performing duties related to logistics for the Virginia Fire Officer Academy.

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

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

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

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

LEGAL


Notice of Public Hearing
A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on July 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:
1) **APPLICATION for CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS-**
Application of Hairston Funeral Home, Applicant, and LKC Inc., Owner, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for the addition of windows, awnings, and signage to the existing building located at 301 Fayette Street. Exterior changes to buildings within the Historic District require review by the Architectural Review Board and the granting of a Certificate of Appropriateness.
Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us.
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing
A public hearing for the City of Martinsville Planning Commission will be held on July 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request: **REQUEST for RIGHT of WAY ABANDONMENT-** Application of Derek Brown, Applicant and Owner, requesting the city's abandonment of an approximate 2500 square foot section of the right of way at property located at 406 James Street. The abandonment of streets, alleyways, right of ways or easements are a request that require review and approval of the Planning Commission and City Council, as it will amend the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan.
Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us.
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist


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 PUTA-
TIVE FATHER, BENJAMIN WASHINGTON AND THE RESIDU-
AL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER AND IN
THE EVENT BENJAMIN WASHINGTON IS NOT THE BIOLOGI-
CAL 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 PUTA-
TIVE FATHER, BENJAMIN WASHINGTON AND THE RESIDU-
AL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER AND IN
THE EVENT BENJAMIN WASHINGTON IS NOT THE BIOLOGI-
CAL FATHER OF JAYCE DALTON, A CHILD BORN TO MOTH-
ER, 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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Master Deputy Dean Comer, of the Martinsville Sheriff’s Office, recently retired from his post as Schools Resource Officer at Albert Harris Elementary School. Comer is pictured with T.J. Slaughter (right), director of School Safety and Emergency Management.

SRO retires from city school

Master Deputy Dean Comer retired from his post as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Albert Harris Elementary School. Comer has been with the Martinsville Sheriff’s Office for 25 years and has been a beloved figure at Albert Harris Elementary for the past 5 years.

Of his many years serving our community as a law enforcement officer, the 5 that he’s spent at AHES have been the most enjoyable and fulfilling, he said, adding that he has enjoyed spending time with students, mentoring them

and helping to ensure they are heading in the right direction.

T.J. Slaughter, director of School Safety and Emergency Management, commended Comer for his service to the district.

“I can always reach out to Dean for anything that needs to get done,” Slaughter said. “He has been an integral part of our school safety upgrades over the years, and he will be greatly missed.”

Comer said he is looking forward to spending time with his family during his retirement, as well as fishing, and kayaking.

Buss begins term as chairman of the VMNH Board of Trustees

Mark J. Buss, of Manakin-Sabot, has begun a 2-year term as chair of the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Board of Trustees. Buss, who has served as a museum trustee since 2021 and previously served as vice-chair, succeeds Lisa L. Carter, of Urbanna, who had served as chair since 2022.

“It has been a pleasure serving the Commonwealth of Virginia as a trustee of the Virginia Museum of Natural History these past three years and as vice-chair this past year,” said Buss. “The museum experienced tremendous success during Lisa’s leadership, and I look forward to working with my fellow trustees and the museum staff, as we continue to make great strides in growing the museum’s impact and recognition as one of the premier scientific research and education institutions in all of Virginia.”

Buss has held numerous leadership roles throughout his career and currently serves as Chief Commercial Officer for Drinkmate, Inc., a role in which he leads company sales, marketing and product development. Prior to being appointed to the museum’s Board of Trustees by then Governor Ralph Northam in 2021, Buss had extensive board level leadership experience, including having served on the Board of Directors of SharkNinja, as well as the Board of Directors of the International Housewares Association.

“The museum is positioned for success over the next two years under Mark’s leadership,” said



Mark J. Buss

VMNH Executive Director Dr. Joe B. Keiper. “His background in business and board experience will be an asset to the museum.”

Other officers beginning terms effective July 1 include:

Dr. Melany R. Clark, of Ridge-way, Vice-Chairman

Lauren B. Woodson, of Roanoke, Secretary

Cord L. Cothren, of Danville, Treasurer (re-appointed)

As the governing body of the museum, the Virginia Museum of Natural History Board of Trustees manages, controls, maintains, and operates the museum, appoints the director of the museum and prescribes such duties, and prescribes rules and regulations for the museum’s operation.

To learn more about the museum, visit www.vmnh.net.

DRBA receives VA NAP Credits

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) has received tax credits from the Virginia Department of Social Services’ Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). This program allows Virginia taxpayers to receive state tax credits for up to 65% of their donation to approved non-profit organizations. Virginia taxpayers who donate to DRBA a minimum of \$500 between July 1 - December 31 are eligible to earn these Virginia state tax credits. These credits can be used to reduce your state tax responsibilities for 2024. All NAP donations require special docu-

mentation that will be provided by DRBA upon a NAP donation.

If you are interested in making a donation of \$500 or more to receive NAP credits, please confirm your interest and donation amount by August 1 by emailing thaworth@danriver.org. Please note there is a limited amount of credits available, and the award of these credits and the percentage of credit received is based on first-come, first-serve policy.

For additional information, contact Tiffany Haworth at (276) 340-0422 or thaworth@danriver.org.

Youngkin Issues Executive Order Reestablishing Maternal Health Data Task Force

Gov. Glenn Youngkin last week reaffirmed the Commonwealth’s commitment to supporting and advancing maternal health care for women and their families throughout Virginia, per Executive Order 32. In alignment with the administration’s goal to improve prenatal care, this directive is centered around enhancing the quality of care mothers and infants receive, to best ensure healthy outcomes.

“Improving health outcomes for mothers and infants is foundational to making Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family,” said Youngkin. “Mothers play an incomparable role in the lives of their children and families, and it is imperative that we do the necessary, collective work to ensure they are receiving the care they deserve. This begins with knowing where we need to improve, so that we can better ma-

ternal health policies throughout the Commonwealth and promote the well-being of women, children and families.”

Executive Order 32 will reestablish the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures in order to collect and evaluate maternal health data as to better inform policies in the Commonwealth. In addition to analyzing the data to determine the need for additional benefits to protect women’s health, the Task Force will also examine quality of care, and the barriers that prevent the collection and reporting of timely maternal health data, especially in underserved communities. Through interagency collaboration, the group will develop recommendations for standard quality metrics on maternal care and report their findings to the Governor and General Assembly.

Summer safety tips from the NFPA

With summer upon us and the 4th of July holiday just around the corner, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is reminding people about potential electrical hazards that exist in swimming pools and hot tubs, onboard boats, on docks and piers, and in waters surrounding boats, marinas, and launch ramps.

While most people are unaware of electrical dangers posed in water environments such as electric shock drowning (ESD), each year people are injured or killed from these hazards. ESD can occur when improperly installed or maintained electrical systems within marinas or boat electrical systems result in electrical current in the water, which can then pass through a person’s body, causing a level of paralysis that can ultimately cause serious injury or drowning.

“Because ESD is not well known, NFPA continues to raise awareness about the presence of electrical hazards in water to help prevent deaths and injuries from happening in pools and waterways,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach & Advocacy. “Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard, and have a qualified electrician inspect your boat, swimming pool equipment, hot tub, and spa before engaging in any water activities to ensure all life-saving measures and protection systems are functioning properly.”

Following are tips for swimmers, and boat and pool owners:

Swimmers

- *Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard.
- *While in a pool or hot tub look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker, or work intermittently.
- *If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in the direction you are heading. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

Boat owners

- *Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. These areas can contain stray electrical currents in the water, possibly leading to electric shock drowning or injury from shock, including death.

Each year, have the boat’s electrical system inspected by

a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including those set by the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs, if recommended. Follow the same steps after any major storm that affects the boat.

- *Check with the marina owner about the marina’s electrical system and whether it has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code® (NEC®).
- *Have ground fault circuit protection (GFCI and GFPE) installed on circuits supplying the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including “Y” adapters) that bear the proper listing mark for marine applications when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.
- *NEVER modify the electrical system on a boat or shore power to make something work. The code-required safety mechanisms in place are intended to alert people if something is wrong with the boat and with shore power. Find a licensed, qualified professional to help determine the cause of the problem.
- Pool owners**
- *If you are putting in a new pool or hot tub, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations and that the completed work is inspected by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
- *Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and — where necessary — replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.
- *If there are overhead electrical lines, make sure they have proper clearance over the pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

The NFPA has several resources for swimmers, boat, and pool owners, including videos, tip sheets, checklists, and a new NFPA Podcast episode, “Hazards in the Water,” that can be downloaded and shared. Please visit nfpa.org/watersafety to learn more.

Initial claims decrease, but are higher compared to last year

The 2,205 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending June 22, 2024, represent a 5.2 percent decrease from the previous week’s 2,325 claims, but is 8.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,038), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 80 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were

Administrative and Support and Waste Management (221); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (218); Health Care and Social Assistance (210); Manufacturing (160); and Accommodation and Food Services (158).

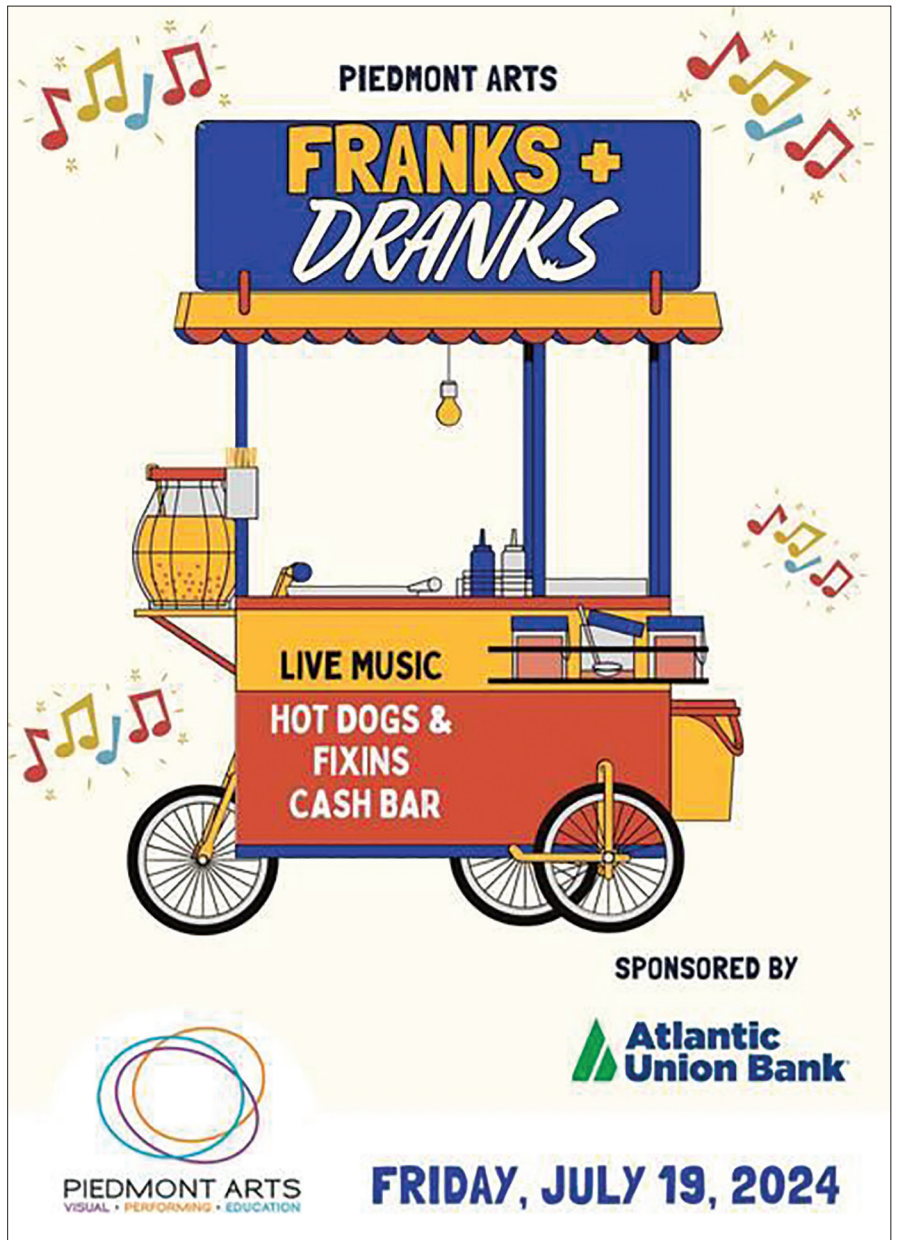
Continued weeks claims (16,046) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (16,034) and were 19.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,381). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-re-

ported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,377); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,207); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,574); Retail Trade (1,365); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,332).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment

files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for unemployment insurance benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

Piedmont Arts’ summer tradition, Franks + Dranks, to take place in Art Garden




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Franks + Dranks, Piedmont Arts’ annual summer concert and cook-out, will take place Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the event. Admission includes a hot dog dinner, a cash bar, and live entertainment by Jake Earles. You can purchase your tickets now at PiedmontArts.org or at the museum. In case of inclement weather, this event will be held indoors at Piedmont Arts. Franks + Dranks is sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank.

Featuring a delicious hot dog dinner prepared by celebrity chefs Will Gravely and Shane Pinkston and live entertainment by local favorite Jake Earles, you will not want to miss Franks + Dranks. Taking place in the picturesque Gravely-Lester Art Garden with great entertainment, Franks + Dranks is the perfect Martinsville summer tradition.

Jake Earles is a singer and guitar player from Axton, Va. He spent 20 years living in Nashville, Tn. — playing everywhere from honky tonks to the Grand Ole Opry — and has toured the country with acts like Tim McGraw. Earles brings a mix of country, Americana, folk and soul to the stage.

Please bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket for seating. No outside food or beverages are permitted.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art



Jake Earles is all smiles at the Gravely Lester-Art Garden.

museum in Martinsville, Virginia that inspires and engages the diverse Martinsville-Henry County community and surrounding areas through visual arts, performing arts and arts education. Piedmont Arts is a statewide partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Piedmont Arts programming is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Piedmont Arts is located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

VA doctor gives advice on staying heart-healthy in heat

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

Virginia doctors are reminding people how important it is to stay heart healthy in extreme heat.

Temperatures across the U.S. have skyrocketed, and climatologists estimate 2024 will surpass 2023 as the hottest year on record. Virginia’s average temperature has gone up almost 3 degrees in the last 20 years.

Dr. Deepak Talreja, clinical chief of cardiology at Sentara Health in Norfolk, said rising temperatures can be hard on your heart.

“The heart muscle is really susceptible to problems from heat, especially when a person gets dehydrated, or when they’re not drinking enough fluid and they get their electrolytes off,” Talreja explained. “That can cause rhythm problems, changes in blood pressure, and an increase in the risk of passing out.”

Enough stress on the body ultimately leads to heart attack and stroke. Drinking water often is key to maintaining good heart health in the heat. While doctors said people should drink eight glasses of water daily, Talreja thinks people should drink 1.5 times that during extreme heat to stay hydrated.



Other drinks high in electrolytes are helpful for hydration but Talreja noted you should check the sugar content. High blood sugar with or without heat is harmful to the heart. He added there are misconceptions about caffeinated drinks in intense heat.

“Drinks with caffeine in them actually act as diuretics, they make you pee more and so, you have to be careful about heavily caffeinated beverages,” Talreja advised. “Also, you have to be careful because you want to avoid beverages with a lot of sugar; sodas that cause excess weight, excess blood sugar.”

Talreja noted another problem is not planning ahead and being in more heat than you may realize. He recommended anytime you go out, you should grab some water and know where to find a cool, shady spot.



Student borrowers affected by courts pausing SAVE program

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

Virginia student loan borrowers will feel the effects of federal courts blocking more student loan forgiveness.

The Biden administration forgave around \$3.5 billion of the state’s student loan debt, but borrowers will not see reduced payments on July 1, due to court injunctions which could upend the SAVE program. Student loan debt creates burdens whether the borrowers earn their degree or not.

Kelsey Coweger, press secretary for the advocacy group Progress Virginia, said the debts have tanked homeownership rates for younger generations.

“One of the criteria that you’re gauged on is how much debt you have and the ability to pay those debts back,” Coweger explained. “There is a whole generation of people who are losing these really critical wealth-building apparatuses that have been available to older generations, that will make things harder for them in the long run.”

The average Virginia borrower’s debt is just under \$40,000 but the state’s total student loan debt is \$43 billion. Coweger feels student loan forgiveness has been misunderstood. She noted people using

the program are not the ones attending expensive private colleges or getting what some see as “worthless” degrees.

Some blame students’ inability to budget as a reason student loan debt has grown. But Cowger pointed out systemic changes have played a role, like states not funding public schools and universities the same way they used to. Now, most of a college’s budget comes from tuition.

She argued the federal government could take different steps to help students graduate in a better financial position.

“The government could expand its access to Pell grants,” Cowger suggested. “The government could stop taking interest on the student loans that it provides. You know, I don’t know that the government should be in the business of making money off the backs of students trying to get an education.”

Cowger added a federal regulatory framework could be established so student loans are not predatory. She thinks states funding public colleges should be seen as an investment in an educated workforce, with loans which can and will be repaid. One-third of federal student loan borrowers defaulted on their debt in the last 20 years.

Historical events from July 1924

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

· Full-time airmail service begins on July 1. A fleet of airplanes are used to transport mail day and night, and the time to send mail between New York and San Francisco is 35 hours, a reduction of 50 percent.

· A political dispute prompts a sword duel between Álvaro de Castro, the Prime Minister of Portugal, and Flight Captain Teófilo José Ribeiro da Fonseca on July 2. Ribeiro suffers a wounded arm during the duel.

· The Caesar salad is created in Mexico on July 4. Italian-born restaurateur Caesar Cardini is inspired to create the dish by Americans crossing the border into Tijuana to legally purchase alcohol from his eatery during the holiday weekend.

· The opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympics are conducted at Colombes Stadium in Paris on July 5. The Organizing Committee decides against inviting Germany for the second straight Olympics.

· English Jew Harold Abrahams wins the 100 meter sprint at the Summer Olympics in Paris on July 7. Abrahams, who was the target of antisemitic prejudice during the Games, is later profiled the 1981 film, “Chariots of Fire.”

· Panama receives diplomatic recognition from Colombia on July 9, more than 20 years after the country seceded from Colombia at the urging of the United States.

· The Kimberly-Clark Corporation files the original trademark application for Kleenex on July 12.

· Horacio Vásquez is inaugurated as president of the Dominican Republic on July 13, officially ending the United States’ administration of the island.

· Éamon de Valera and other political prisoners are released from incarceration by the Irish Free State on July 15.

· The legend of “Bigfoot” begins on

July 16 when The Oregonian publishes the first nationwide news story about a tall and hair-covered “apeman.” The creature is not described as “Bigfoot” until 1958.

· The United States Vice Consul to Iran, Robert Imbrie, is beaten to death by an angry mob in Tehran on July 18. Imbrie photographed a well in the city’s bazaar where a miracle was believed to have occurred, and some who assaulted him believed he poisoned the well. Imbrie survives the initial beating and is taken to a hospital, but the mob follows him there and beats him again, leading to his death.

· Herman “Hi” Bell of the St. Louis Cardinals pitches all 18 innings of the St. Louis Cardinals’ doubleheader on July 19. Bell earns the victory in both contests, and remains the last Major League pitcher to pitch all 18 innings of a twinbill on the same day.

· Film catches on fire in a movie house in Veracruz, Mexico on July 23. Twenty children are subsequently trampled to death as patrons attempt to flee the fire.

· Greece announces the expulsion of 50,000 Armenians on July 25.

· American League umpires are ordered to cut short arguments about balls and strikes in an effort to speed up the pace of play on July 25. The directive, issued by league president Ban Johnson, also prevents players from taking too much time inspecting baseballs for signs of tampering.

· Rebels affiliated with the Brazilian Army quietly withdraw from Sao Paulo on July 28. The rebels are gone for five hours before the government realizes they had quit.

· The prosecution rests in the Leopold and Loeb case on July 30. Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb are subsequently each convicted of the murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks and sentenced to life imprisonment plus 99 years, though Leopold is released on parole in 1958. Loeb is murdered in a prison shower room in January 1936.

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH



Families who are watching their pennies but still want to vacation this year can rest assured there are ways to travel without breaking the bank.

Make your next family vacation more affordable

The cost of everyday items continues to stretch many people’s budgets, even as financial experts note that inflation is cooling off. When individuals feel a pinch in their wallets, non-essentials, such as vacations, often are on the chopping block. But they may not have to be.

After remaining below 3 percent for a long time, the U.S. Consumer Price Index began to rise in 2021, ultimately reaching 9.1 percent in June 2022 (it has since fallen to more manageable levels, hitting 3.5 percent as of March 2024), according to Forbes. Although inflation may be “deflating,” typically once the costs of goods and services rise, they are more likely to remain that way. It still may be a few years before consumers grow accustomed to these prices.

Higher prices are exacerbated by the fact that the cost of living is still outpacing what people are bringing home. A 2023 survey from Bankrate revealed that, of the workers surveyed whose wages rose, only 33 percent said their income kept up with or exceeded increases in household expenses due to inflation.

Families who are watching their pennies but still want to vacation this year can rest assured there are ways to travel without breaking the bank.

Visit a national park

National Parks are located throughout the country and around the world. The U.S. National Park Service says that entry to many of these parks is free, and those that are not free charge much lower entrance fees than typical family attractions like theme parks.

Be a visitor in your own city - or one nearby

Who says you have to travel far to have a good time? Enjoy the sights closer to home that you may never have experienced. Some day trips to attractions within driving distance can cut costs when a family is traveling together.

Split a rental home cost

Rental sites like Airbnb and VRBO give you plenty of options when traveling. It may be more cost-effective to rent a large home at a particular destination with several bedrooms or sleeping areas and take a vacation with extended family or friends to divide up the costs.

Buy or rent an RV

The RV lifestyle has grown by leaps and bounds. While always a popular way to see the country, RVing interest exploded during the pandemic, when people wanted safer options for getting away. An RV is essentially a hotel on wheels, so the opportunities for affordable vacations are innumerable once the initial RV investment is made. Plus, people who purchased RVs at the height of COVID-19 may be looking to unload their relatively brand-new vehicles at discounted costs.

Tailor splurges

If you want to splurge on a more expensive vacation, cut back on other luxuries, such as limiting how many meals you eat out or how many new vacation outfits you buy. Put dollars toward the most important elements of the trip.

Money is still tight for many people, but smart vacationing allows families to get away.

United Way pushes literacy with Week of Reading



Erica Jones reads to children during Story Time at the Spencer-Penn Center.

By Jessica Dillon

The United Way of Martinsville Henry County has been working hard to improve literacy rates in the area. Through several programs, they have worked in classrooms and at early childhood education centers to engage children with the art of reading in creative ways. To push this further, the Week of Reading has been brought back for 2024 and will take place the second week in June.

The Week of Reading is a five day event running from July 8 to July 12. During this time, 20 early childcare and summer camp sites, including the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs, will have volunteer readers interact with students to present story time. The event was previously held in 2019, before a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are bringing it back to our community, the beauty of it is that it focuses on the love of reading,” said MHC Partners for Children Director Melanie McLarty. “This has been going on for ten plus years.” Previously the event was only a day long, but previous success helped the team to decide to expand the event to the current week.

The age ranges for the event are three to seven. Reading to children helps them gain affinity for literacy, opens them up to explore new worlds and gives youngsters an opportunity to expand their literacy knowl-

edge by hearing new titles, and observing the fun behind reading.

Literacy rates have suffered in recent years, with both the county and city schools looking at literacy plans to help increase literacy scores in schools. The United Way has several other programs that help with literacy in early childhood development including interaction with childcare centers and helping to sign families up for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

During 2022 and 2023, 73 percent of kindergarteners in Henry County and the City of Martinsville met the Fall Literacy benchmarks. However, only 5.8 percent of third graders in the county and 47.11 percent in the city were reading at grade level, officials said.

Erica James, the MHC Partners for Children early literacy coordinator, has been especially diligent in assisting teachers in the area.

“Children learn at different paces, but as long as they’re excited about learning, that’s the most important part,” said Jones.

Volunteers interested in participating in the week of reading can call 276-618-4737 or email Jones at erica@united-wayofhcm.org for more information. Community members who wish to sign up may do so by making an account on EngageHCM and completing the event volunteer form.

Agriculture organizations, farmers urge farm bill passage

Agricultural organizations and farmers are urging bipartisan support for a new farm bill tied up in Congress as the September expiration date looms.

After Congress issued a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill late last year, some progress has been made toward a new farm bill. But intense negotiations continue around the comprehensive legislation that sets policy for an array of vital programs that ensure the security of the nation’s agriculture sector and food supply.

Earlier this spring, the U.S. House of Representatives’ version of the farm bill passed out of the House Agriculture Committee after a 13-hour markup session. The bill is awaiting a floor vote. More recently, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and ranking member Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., both released their outlines for the new legislation.

“This is encouraging progress in the Senate, but there is much work to be done,” said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. “There are stark differences between the two outlines, and we urge chairwoman Stabenow and

ranking member Boozman to find common ground on the important issues that farmers and ranchers face.”

After the pandemic and resulting economic turmoil of the past few years, farmers are grappling with inflation, increased supply costs and volatile markets. A modernized farm bill that improves and expands crop insurance, subsidies and investments in crop programs can address the new economic environment and help farmers weather challenges.

“We urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to use these outlines to draft a bipartisan farm bill that updates the farm safety net and makes crop insurance more accessible, and to schedule a committee markup soon,” Duvall continued. “The farm bill benefits every family in America. They’re relying on Congress to get the job done.”

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation also is urging passage of the farm bill. “The future of American farming depends on investment in the next generation, and support for existing operations through vital farm bill programs,” said Ben Rowe, VFBF national affairs coordinator. “We urge Congress to

take action to support farmers across the country by passing a bipartisan farm bill this year. Farmers cannot afford continued delays by Congress.”

Earlier this month, young farmers testified in Congress before the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management and Trade to emphasize the importance of passing an updated farm bill.

Their testimony outlined unique challenges young and beginning farmers face and how the farm bill ensures success of future generations. The legislation includes tools and resources to help these farmers get established in agriculture—including access to affordable credit and risk management programs like Dairy Margin Coverage.

Additionally, the farm bill includes funding and support for conservation programs and sustainable farming practices. The farm bill also encompasses nutrition programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which ensures healthy food access for low-income families.

Video Visitation Access Expanding at State Farm Work Center

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and partners ViaPath and Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) have expanded video visitation at State Farm Work Center. The expansion took effect at approximately 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 25.

Every living area at the facility is now equipped with video visitation equipment, allowing inmates to conduct visits from their living areas.

The hours of operation for the general population will be 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekends.

Any previously scheduled visit outside of those hours will need to be rescheduled once the new hours are implemented.

If two inmates in the same living area are scheduled for a visit simultaneously, one visit will remain and the other will be canceled. For

the canceled visit, the visitor can reschedule their visit in the Visitation Scheduler.

Video visitation will not be available when facilities are operating on lockdown status.

The following facilities have also expanded access to video visitation in 2024:

State Farm Correctional Center expanded video visitation in early June. Sussex I State Prison and Cold Springs Correctional Unit expanded video visitation in May.

Keen Mountain Correctional Center expanded its visitation in April, following Deerfield Correctional Complex (April 3) and Pocahontas State Correctional Center (April 9). Earlier this year, the VADOC expanded video visitation at Virginia Correctional Center for Women (January 29) and Baskerville Correctional Center (February 6). In late 2023, video visitation expanded at Green Rock and River North correctional centers.



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Correctional facilities close as scheduled

Four VADOC facilities are now officially closed, according to Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) Director Chad Dotson. The closings of Augusta Correctional Center, Sussex II State Prison, Haynesville Correctional Unit #17 and Stafford Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) were announced in December, a decision made to enhance employee, inmate, and probationer safety, to address longstanding staffing challenges, and in consideration of significant ongoing maintenance costs. The VADOC confirmed that every employee who wished to remain employed by the agency was able to stay with the department, thanks to the diligence and dedication of the VADOC's Office of Human Resources. This fulfills the goal set by VADOC when the fa-

cility closures were announced. Affected inmates and CCAP probationers were relocated to other VADOC facilities across the state, based on security level and classification. "I want to place on the record a sincere thank you to the Virginia Department of Corrections team members, both past and present, who helped to make Augusta, Sussex II, Haynesville CU, and Stafford CCAP such positive forces for safety, security, and reentry," said Dotson. "Where you work can help form your identity, and I know this decision was not an easy one for many corrections team members. I value their patience and professionalism as we navigated this difficult, but necessary decision that ultimately enhances public safety and increases opera-

tional efficiency." "I also thank our Office of Human Resources team for their commitment to ensuring every person who wanted to stay with the agency was able to do so. The VADOC is nothing without its corrections team members and I thank those who chose to stay. I hope the employees who accepted transfers are enjoying their new work locations, and wish those who either sought other employment opportunities or accepted enhanced retirement or severance benefits the best in their future endeavors," he added. The agency will continue to uphold its mission of ensuring public safety by providing effective incarceration, supervision, and evidence-based reentry services. More information can be found on the VADOC website.

NC man sentenced in federal court

A North Carolina man, who sent a nude photograph to an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation whom he believed to be a nine-year-old girl, recently was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison. Willy Alexander Korthals, 30, of Beaufort, North Carolina, waived his right to be indicted and pled guilty earlier this year to a one-count Information charging him with attempted transfer of obscene material to a minor. According to court documents, in May 2022, Korthals was in a Kik chat room for "Active Parents," in a group titled "Loving Family," when he responded to a public group thread that read, "Anyone want to come to Virginia to have sex with my daughter?" Korthals reached out to the individual who posted the thread and inquired about the age of the "daughter" and was told she was nine years old. Unbeknownst to Korthals, the thread was posted by an undercover FBI employee posing as the girl's father. In an effort to coax the daughter to send him pictures, Korthals sent a photograph. For over a year, Korthals chatted with the undercover FBI employee and requested "live" photographs of the nine-year-old as well as other sexually explicit photographs

and videos. Korthals also attempted to FaceTime with the undercover father and daughter in order to watch the sexual abuse of the child. Additionally, Korthals described specific acts of sexual abuse he wanted the father to perform on his daughter. In preparation for an in-person meeting with the undercover father and his daughter in August 2022, Korthals sent laboratory test results of his sexually transmitted disease status to the undercover father so that Korthals could have unprotected sex with the nine-year-old. Korthals also described in graphic detail the sex acts he wanted to have the child perform. Two days before the planned meeting, Korthals canceled it. The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identity and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

New DMV laws now in effect

Laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly set into motion changes for DMV customers that were effective on July 1. These changes and updates include the uninsured motor vehicle fee, permanent DMV-issued farm use placards, disabled parking placard duration and conversions of manufactured homes. Below are details on what is new and what customers need to do to prepare. **Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee** Effective July 1, the option to pay a fee rather than maintain insurance coverage for your vehicle will be eliminated, and DMV will no longer collect the Uninsured Motor Vehicle (UMV) fee. All vehicles registered in Virginia will be required to obtain an insurance policy that meets Virginia's liability limits. If Virginia DMV cannot verify the insurance information provided with the insurer, customers should be prepared to show proof of insurance when requested by the Virginia DMV. If you previously paid the UMV fee, you will need to obtain an insurance policy that meets or exceeds Virginia's liability limits. **Farm Use Placards** Permanent DMV-issued farm placards are required for unregistered farm use panel trucks, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles beginning July 1, 2024. This requirement is a result of legislation passed by the 2023 General Assembly. The DMV-issued placards replace, in most cases, the unofficial farm use tags typically purchased at a local store for use on these three types of unregistered farm vehicles. Placards cost \$15 and are good for the lifetime of the vehicle but are not transferable. An additional \$15 may be required if the owner does not already hold a title for the vehicle. Placard transactions are not available online. Please bring the completed application

to your local vehicle-only DMV Select or make an appointment to come to your local full-service customer service center. Use this chart to determine which farm use plates or placards are right for your vehicle or for more details on placards for unregistered farm vehicles, please visit our website. **Disabled Parking Placards** As of July 1, there is not a fee for disabled parking placards. Previously applicants paid a \$5 fee for a disabled parking placard. In addition, temporary placards now have a validity period of up to 12 months, if a medical provider certifies the temporary placard will be needed that long. This is double the previous maximum of 6 months. To apply for a disabled parking placard or license plate, you must submit a completed Disabled Parking Plates or Placard Application by mail or return it to your local vehicle-only DMV Select. **Manufactured Home Conversion** Also, effective July 1, manufactured homeowners who are not listed on the title as the owner of the manufactured home will be able to submit a deed, court order or decree, or other legal document or record establishing that the manufactured home was transferred by the owner listed on the title to the current manufactured homeowner. If the owner listed on the title did not transfer ownership directly to the current owner, the current owner will need to provide records establishing a chain of successive ownership of the manufactured home. Owners will also need to submit documentation proving that any existing lien on the manufactured home has been released. For more information about any of these changes or for more information on the many transactions, please visit the DMV's website.



Nadia Kriger Photography

P&HCC Productions to present The Wizard of Oz, advance tickets now on sale

The 85th anniversary of the movie "The Wizard of Oz" will be a magical journey like never before, as P&HCC Productions bring the timeless musical to life, reimagined with a modern twist, and the promise of an enchanting experience for audiences of all ages. Directed by Justin Hall, in partnership with Ray Hollingsworth Dance and Arts Studio and Smith River Singers, showings will be held: July 25-27 & August 1-3 at 7 p.m. July 27 & August 4 at 2 p.m. Performances are held in the

Walker Fine Arts theatre on the campus of Patrick & Henry Community College, located at 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville, VA. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.phccpatriotplayers.com/tickets, and \$25 at the door. Children 3-years-old and younger get in FREE but must sit in the lap of a ticket holder. The event is being sponsored by Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, Martinsville Smiles, PLLC, Smith River Singers, Stifel, Stateline Aesthetics, and Carter Bank & Trust.

One charged after child was injured

On June 28, around 10:52 p.m., the Martinsville/ Henry County Communication Center received a call about an individual with a gunshot wound to the leg at the address of 101 Preston Scales Road, Martinsville. Henry County Sheriff's deputies responding to the call made contact with a nine-year-old girl who was suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to her right leg, just above her ankle. Deputies immediately began performing first aid until the Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Unit members arrived. The girl was eventually airlifted to a medical facility in Virginia, where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. While at the residence, deputies began the investigation, and met the girl's brother while checking one of the bedrooms in which the incident occurred. The brother allegedly told investigators that he left one of his loaded firearms unsecured on the bed, and another child accidentally hit the trigger on the firearm, causing it to discharge. As a result of this investigation Kevon Smith Hairston, 19, 101 Preston Scales Road, Martinsville was charged with



felony child endangerment and reckless handling of a firearm. There also were two outstanding warrants for his arrest - one from Martinsville City for unauthorized use of motor vehicle and the other was a contempt of court from Henry County. Hairston is currently being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond. Anyone having information about this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

Email submissions@theenterprise.net

Bipartisan legislation will support Virginians with developmental disabilities



Governor Glenn Youngkin participates in a bill signing ceremony in Roanoke, on June 25, 2024.

Youngkin celebrated the signing of 18 bipartisan pieces of legislation that enhance support for Virginians with developmental disabilities and improve accessibility across various spheres from education to recreation, law enforcement, and transitional services.

Additionally, Governor Youngkin recently signed the biennium budget which provides \$247 million for 3,440 priority one waiver slots, bringing the total number of additional slots under Governor Youngkin's leadership to 4,540 slots.

"For far too long, Virginia has underserved this community and as Governor, I committed to transform our level of care, support and resources available to Virginians with developmental disabilities. I will always advocate, champion and speak up for Virginians and I'm pleased this legislative package and our Right Help, Right Now plan has instituted life-changing impacts that will benefit Virginia families, this community, and transform our level of care for Virginians with developmental disabilities for decades to come," said Youngkin.

The budget also allows for flexi-

bility of Medicaid benefits for assistive technology, includes \$1 million each year for rental subsidies, increases consumer-directed facilitation rates and provided additional staff at DBHDS and DMAS to administer the waivers, among others. Since the launch of Right Help, Right Now, a total of \$574 million has been invested in Virginians with DD/ID waivers.

"Community support and inclusivity are at the heart of the administration's efforts," said First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin. "Yesterday, we celebrated expanded care for Virginians with developmental disabilities and the family units that support them."

"This legislative package represents a significant advancement in our mission to provide comprehensive support for individuals with developmental disabilities," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Littel. "By focusing on innovative solutions, such as the Virginia Individualized Education Program system Vocational Rehabilitation program and expanding training for law enforcement, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also laying



Governor Glenn Youngkin participates in a bill signing ceremony in Roanoke, on June 25, 2024. Official Photo by Lori Massengill, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

the groundwork for a more inclusive and supportive future. Our goal is to ensure that every Virginian has the opportunity to live a fulfilling and independent life."

Additional details on the 18 bills include:

House Bill (HB) 577 and Senate Bill (SB) 610 extend the time period that individuals may hold their waiver while they look for a provider to ensure that those granted a waiver can fully utilize it.

HB 908 and SB 676 adjust financial considerations for those with developmental disability waivers to expand resources available.

HB 909, SB 488, HB 1318 increase flexibilities for reimbursements so that loved ones can care for those on a waiver by modifying Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver rules.

HB 509 and SB 21 direct the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to study and make recommendations regarding access and accommodations for those with disabilities at public higher education institutions.

HB 1040 and SB 85 increase access for participation in public body



Governor Glenn Youngkin participates in a bill signing ceremony in Roanoke, on June 25, 2024. Official Photo by Lori Massengill, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

meetings by ensuring voting rights and remote access for participants with disabilities.

HB 1089 and SB 220 establish a process for drafting uniform standards across the Virginia Individualized Education Program (IEP) system and establish special education liaisons in local school boards to support families and students.

HB 1165 adds definitions related to disability rights, ensuring accessibility and removal of barriers.

HB 1186 establishes a pilot program for all-terrain power wheelchairs in state parks, enhancing accessibility for individuals with limited mobility.

HB 1246 and SB 547 require law enforcement training on communication, crisis prevention, and de-escalation techniques for with individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.

SB 51 directs the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to disseminate resources for individuals with disabilities transitioning from school to post-school activities to give them the support to help them succeed.

Virginia allocates record \$207 million for soil and water conservation

A record \$207 million has been allocated to the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program (VACS) for fiscal year 2025. This historic level of funding provides farmers and producers with unprecedented support to adopt conservation practices designed to protect water quality throughout the commonwealth.

The cost-share funding for FY 2025 is an \$82.1 million increase over FY 2024's previous record of \$124.6 million.

The VACS program offers financial incentives for farmers to adopt best management practices aimed at reducing nutrient pollution, sediment and waste from entering waterways. These voluntary practices can provide a long-term boost to an operation's bottom line through increased productivity and reduced labor and input costs.

Farmers can receive up to \$300,000 in state cost-share reimbursement for more than 60 best management practices, including:

- Cover crops
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Forested or herbaceous buffers
- Livestock stream-exclusion systems

"The previous two years' historic levels of funding for soil and water conservation continues this year, increasing our support for the agriculture community and environmental stewardship," said Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. "The VACS program is a testament to the administration's commitment to meet our water quality goals while empowering farmers to voluntarily safeguard Virginia's natural resources."

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers

the cost-share program in partnership with Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), allowing farmers to receive tailored technical assistance and funding opportunities that meet the specific needs of their operation.

"The VACS program is a vital resource for our farmers, providing the tools and financial support needed to implement effective conservation practices," said DCR Director Matt Wells. "This record funding demonstrates our collective effort to promote cost-effective conservation practices while protecting Virginia's natural resources. We will continue to collaborate with Virginia's soil and water conservation districts and agricultural producers to ensure the success of this program."

Virginia's SWCDs work directly with farmers to distribute cost-share funding from the VACS program and

provide technical assistance for its implementation.

"Virginia's soil and water conservation districts are the central resource for state cost-share sign-up and practice implementation," said Dr. Kendall Tyree, executive director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Districts. "We commend the governor and the General Assembly for their unprecedented support of voluntary conservation initiatives and look forward to continuing to assist Virginia's agricultural community through our district offices."

Farmers interested in applying for funding should contact their local SWCDs. A map of local conservation districts and contact information can be found here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/swcds>.

The 2025 fiscal year began on July 1.

Unemployment rate in Va. drops as national rate Increases

Monthly Employment, Labor Force, and Unemployment Indicators (000s, unless otherwise stated)									
	Employment - LAUS		Labor Force - LAUS		Unemployment - LAUS			Non-farm Payroll Employment - CES	
	Level	Δ	Level	Δ	Level	Δ	Rate %	Level	Δ
Jan 2022-Dec 2023*	4,250.8	189.5	4,373.6	206.1	122.8	16.6	2.8	4,002.9	188.4
January 2024	4,448.6	8.3	4,588.4	8.7	139.8	0.4	3.0	4,199.3	8.0
February 2024	4,451.8	3.2	4,591.5	3.1	139.7	-0.0	3.0	4,211.8	12.5
March 2024	4,454.6	2.8	4,588.7	-2.8	134.2	-5.6	2.9	4,230.0	18.2
April 2024	4,455.1	0.6	4,584.5	-4.2	129.4	-4.8	2.8	4,236.7	6.7
May 2024	4,454.2	-1.0	4,578.5	-5.9	124.4	-5.0	2.7	4,245.5	8.8
EoP	4,454.2	203.4	4,578.5	204.9	124.4	1.6	2.7	4,245.5	242.6

*Levels reflect the January 2022 level. Deltas refer to change in each statistic over the January 2022 – December 2023 period. End of period ("EOP") deltas reflect the cumulative change in economic indicators from January 2022.

*Levels reflect the January 2022 level. Deltas refer to change in each statistic over the January 2022 – December 2023 period. End of period ("EOP") deltas reflect the cumulative change in economic indicators from January 2022.

According to BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"), Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to decline, reaching 2.7 percent in April, 0.1 percentage points below the rate from last month, and 1.3 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.1 percent to 4.0 percent over the month, Gov. Glenn Youngkin noted last week.

"We continue to see the results of our pro-jobs strategies with Virginians joining the workforce in record numbers, having the most Virginians employed in the history of the Commonwealth and Virginia's unemployment rates declining for the third consecutive month," said Youngkin. "The underlying strength of Virginia's economy is clear, but with persistent inflation continuing because of federal policies, we will continue to exercise caution and remain laser-focused on fostering an environment to expand job growth, opportunities and build a workforce for the future."

BLS' Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey") reported non-farm payroll em-

ployment gains of 8,800 jobs in the month of May, totaling 242,600 jobs added since January 2022. According to BLS' household survey, the number of Virginians working decreased this month modestly by 974 to 4,454,159, resulting in 203,000 more employed Virginians since January 2022. The labor force decreased by 5,946 to 4,578,538, and the labor force participation rate decreased to 66.3 percent, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,972 to 124,379. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population aged 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

"The Commonwealth's unemployment rate continues to decline, which is positive – but we remain focused on increasing labor force participation leading to economic mobility for even more Virginians," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater.

"Our overall economy remains strong, and we continue to see elevated interest from businesses looking to grow and invest their next dollar right here in Virginia," said Secretary of Commerce Caren Merrick. "This is demonstrated by the continued employment increases we have seen in non-farm payroll over the last several months."

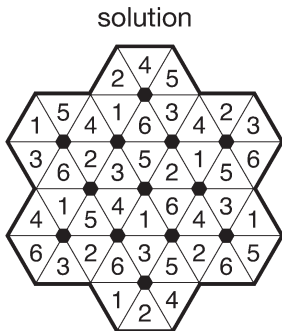
The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under

which the employer pays unemployment insurance. The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the BLS and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. The household survey only distinguishes between

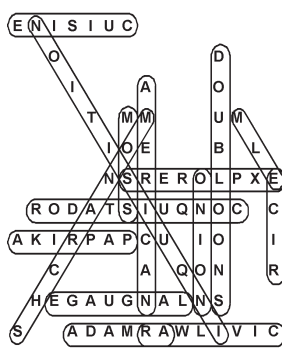
whether a person is employed or unemployed, whereas CES counts each employee that is on an employer's payroll. CES excludes business owners, self-employed persons, unpaid volunteers and private household workers, and those on unpaid leave or not working because of a labor dispute.

Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES



SPANISH —



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Aligns; 2. Angel;
3. Terse; 4. Sprite

Today's Word

SILENT

FEAR & KNOT

answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR
By: rj
johnson

KNOT
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

FXO
ONTURA
♥ITTSW
♥ISET
SNOXTE
NWI
AXFU
ALFRO
♥TSI
♥TNSEFI
HESWO
FWTE

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

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is added. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Fence is not different. 4. Sleeve is missing. 5. Release lever is missing. 6. Hair is not different.

MAGIC MAZE ● SPANISH

ENISIU CXUROLJGD
AXOVSPNTKIFDCAX
VSQIOLEAJHEOCAX
VTRPTLM MN LJUMHF
DBYXEIOE VTRBPLO
MKIMGNSREROLPXE
ERODATS IUQNOCD C
AKIRPAPCUBIOZXI
WUCTRQO ANQONLJR
IHEGAUGNALNSGFD
SCAADAMRAWLIVIC

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **Fried and Folded Beaten Eggs**

American Armada Civil War Conquistador
Cuisine Doubloons Elm Explorers
Inquisition Language Monarchs Moss
Onion Paprika Rice

Super Crossword

TV REPLACEMENT

ACROSS

1 Small order of greens
10 Weighing devices
16 Hostility halter
20 Preach from place to place, perhaps
21 Arm bones
22 Nights before
23 People who yearn to take part in a lunar landing?
25 "Tall" story
26 Wd. division
27 Scratch, e.g.
28 Give help to
29 Divvy up
30 An award-winning new device?
38 With little space in between
40 Crosswalk user, in brief
41 "Hear, hear!"
42 "I refuse to repeatedly forgo this rule for you?"
48 Scratch (out)
49 Cartoon "Explorer"
50 Ruby-colored

51 Notes after sol
55 Boxing weapons
58 Wild, irrational talk of the highest quality?
64 Be a suitor of
66 Great delight
67 New Delhi-based flag carrier
68 Greek city near Athens
72 Traffic tangle
74 Symbolize
75 Plan to pay later, as for bar drinks
77 Go very fast
79 Gaming cube
80 Vacillate
83 Spandex brand
87 Polar vehicle
88 Age
89 Couples
91 "Inferno" director
92 Venue for a large conference?
99 1987 Hoffman-Beatty film

103 Mex. matron
104 Gofers' tasks
105 Football passer who hasn't eaten all day?
111 Swing's Shaw
112 Liquid in un lac
113 Wee bit
114 4G — (cellphone standard)
117 Wee bit
118 Booking to stay at a humble hut?
125 Sacked out
126 Tot's bodysuit
127 Entered surreptitiously
128 That gal's
129 Letter-shaped metalworking grooves
130 Alienates

DOWN

1 Unleashes (on)
2 "That's my goal"
3 Telephone sounds
4 Stamped thing: Abbr.
5 Look at
6 Part of ETA: Abbr.
7 "Leaving — Vegas"
8 Wee particles
9 Make lean, as meat
10 "Quiet down!"
11 Actor's nudge
12 Jordan's capital
13 Pope before Benedict III
14 Eat away at
15 Ungodliness
16 Oinker kept at home
17 "Elena of —" (Disney series)
18 Pop diva
19 Fearsome fly
24 Common motif
29 Antlered male
31 Pres. after FDR
32 Comics cry
33 Ran, as colors
34 "Beauty is in the — the beholder"
35 Not many
36 Lupino of old Hollywood
37 Writer Anaïs
38 B-G linkup
39 Trickster god
43 Stiffly formal
44 R&B singer
45 Writer Levin
46 Aloe —
47 Actor Elba
51 Actress Laura
52 Me, myself —
53 9-to-5er's cry of relief
54 "Oho, old chap!"
56 Interwoven
57 Sub tracker
59 Painter Max
60 Pathogenic bacterium, for short
61 Factor of nine
62 Rainless
63 Night watch
65 Filmmaker
66 Dairy animals
68 Iridescent gemstone
69 Sounding like a potato chip bag
70 Dream, in French
71 "— got a deal for you!"
73 Caused
76 Swiss capital
78 Sunup
81 Maze-running rodent
82 U-Haul renter
84 Sounding like a potato chip bag
85 Big crucifix
86 Writers Rule and Radcliffe
90 Belgrade native
92 Cover with tar
93 "... — quit!" (threat ender)
94 Columbus sch.
95 Monkly title
96 — blanche
97 Gun rights org.
98 Tic-toe linkup
99 Book before Jeremiah
100 Disco flasher
101 "Mad" man of Wonderland
102 Basic chords
106 Some garish lights
107 Judicial mallet
108 Spanish for "cheese"
109 French for "cup"
110 Paradises
115 Carry along
116 Baseball Hall of Famer
118 Peppery
119 Eng. course
120 Apt., e.g.
121 Road furrow
122 Outmoded
123 RCA product
124 Element #50

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In October 1969, in a forest in the Palloneva region of Finland, farmer Heino Seppi split an aspen log and discovered its middle was rotten, forming a hollow that contained a dry fish around 1.3 feet long. No one knows how the fish got there.

• Christopher Columbus' first transatlantic voyage traveled at a rate of around 2.8 miles per hour.

• Several of Aristotle's writings have survived thanks to the men of a Roman army who invaded Asia Minor around 80 B.C., found a number of his manuscripts in a pit, and took the papers to their general, Sulla. It turned out that no other copies of many of them existed, and Sulla had them taken to Rome and recopied.

• Queen Berengaria of England, the wife of Richard the Lionheart, was the only English queen who never actually set foot on English soil.

• The Eiffel Tower in Paris, the City of Light's best-known monument, was saved from demolition in 1909 only because there was an antenna of great importance to French radio telegraphy mounted at the top of it.

• Allergy sufferers will not be surprised (nor like) to hear that pollen is one of the few natural substances that does not deteriorate.

• British Rail's engineering division applied for and received a patent for a flying saucer capable of carrying 22 passengers in 1972, but apparently lost faith in the feasibility of the project just four years later, and allowed the patent to lapse.

• Although "Shoeless Joe" Jackson was barred from baseball's Hall of Fame for his alleged role in the 1919 Black Sox Scandal (he pleaded innocent), his spiked, black leather shoes can still be found there.

Thought for the Day: "Don't count the days, make the days count." — Muhammad Ali

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

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!

Order
SIGNAL
Cherub
GLEAN
Brief
TREES
Fairy
PRIEST

TODAY'S WORD

ADVERTISE!

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

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

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

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

Calling parents of preschool aged youngsters



Preschool applications are still available for youngsters to attend Martinsville City Public Schools. If your child will be 3 or 4 years old by September 30, they are eligible for admission to the Clearview Early Learning Center.

Clearview is part of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), welcoming curious young 3- and 4-year-olds into vibrant, fun-filled classrooms. The school also provides specialized Early Childhood Special Education for young learners who need a little extra support. Each year, it welcomes more than 100 of the Martinsville community’s youngest learners and their



families into the Clearview family to help lay a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Clearview is free to attend, and all students receive free breakfast and lunch each school day.

Applications are available at the Clearview office (800 Ainsley Street, Martinsville) or online at https://bit.ly/PreK_Applications

For more information, call the Clearview office at (276) 403-5800.

City honors Water Resources Department

The City of Martinsville recently honored crew members in its Water Resources Department with a luncheon and tour for their efforts to address issues throughout the city after a water main break. Crews worked overnight to repair the break that occurred on June

21, and restore water service to residents.

After the luncheon, officials that included Mayor LC Jones, Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls and City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, toured the city’s Water Treatment Facilities.



Several members of the city’s Water Resources Department are pictured left to right: Randy Belcher, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Cody Gilley, Utility Locator; Jackson Mullins, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Dillon Johnston, Water & Sewer Maintenance Work Coordinator; TJ Dunbar, Crew Supervisor; Mandy Muse, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Jesse Turner, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Alan Pruitt, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; David Johnston, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Landis Griffith, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Josh Setliff, Water Resources Utility Maintenance Worker; Gary Setliff, Crew Supervisor and Ricky Hundley, Crew Supervisor.



Randy Millner, Water Plant Maintenance Technician; City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls and daughter, and Mayor LC Jones.



Andrew Reavis, Water Treatment Plant Manager; Mayor LC Jones; Robert Floyd, Budget Analyst; Destiny Johnson, HR Intern; and Randy Millner, Water Plant Maintenance Technician.



LC Jones, Mayor, and Robert Floyd, Budget Analyst.

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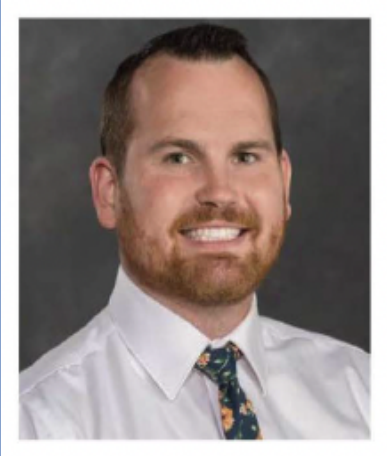
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How To Convince Someone To Get Help For Their Mental Health

By Stan Popovich
There are many reasons why some people are reluctant to get help for their mental health or addiction issues. In addition, many people are

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not sure what to do when encouraging someone to get the help they need for their mental health.

As a result, here are seven suggestions on how to convince a person struggling to get some assistance.

1. Talk to the person instead of talking at them: Nobody wants to be lectured or yelled at. The person who is struggling is scared and they need help in overcoming their fears and resistance to getting some guidance. Treat others the way you would want to be treated if the roles were reversed.

2. Find out why the person won't get help: Ask the individual who is struggling the reasons why they are reluctant to get some assistance. Although most people may not admit it, a sense of fear of the unknown and/or some kind of frustration are usually the main factors. It might take a few tries, however, try to find out what is stopping your friend from getting treatment.

3. Address the reasons why the individual won't get help: Once you get the reasons why he or she won't get some help, the next step is to find the ways to address those factors that are preventing the individual from getting assistance. Addressing one's fears and concerns may convince them to take some action that will get their life back on track.

4. Get some advice from a professional: Talk to your doctor or a mental health counselor for recommendations on how you can help someone who is struggling. A medical professional in the mental health field will be able to give you some ideas and options that you can use to help convince someone you know to get some help.

5. Find someone who understands: Try to find someone who used to struggle with their mental health for their advice. For example, a person who used drugs and alcohol in the past could use their past experiences and insights to convince the individual to seek treatment. A person who used to struggle with addiction or their mental health may be better able to relate to the person who is struggling.


6. Get them to attend a support group: Another way to convince someone to get help is to get them to go to a mental health support group. This may or may not work depending on the individual, but it is still worth a try. A person who goes to a support group can at least listen to those who are also struggling, which may convince the person to get some assistance.

7. Be persistent: Continue to be persistent with your loved ones in getting them the help they need. Keep in contact with your doctor and any mental health counselor on your progress. If things do not improve, continue to find other alternatives in getting the person some help.



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>

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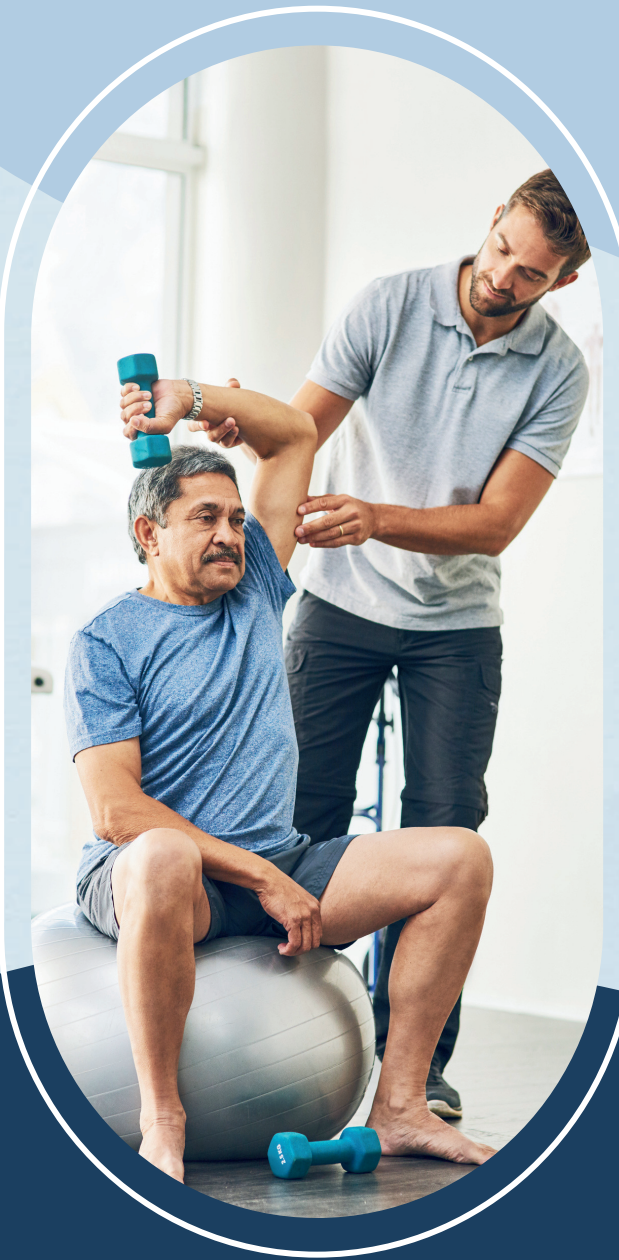
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