

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Official says local economic development efforts are inspirational



James Campos (at podium), executive director of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, addressed local officials and toured the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre on Tuesday.

By Taylor Boyd

Upon learning about the economic development efforts underway in Martinsville and Henry County, as well as past successes, the executive director of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission said the community's work to increase its economic development provides a lot of optimism.

"Visiting these areas and understanding these concerns, these needs, seeing the progress that has occurred, hearing about the progress, and meeting individuals like yourselves who are so dedicated ... it's inspiring, and it's first class," said James Campos, an American

political, business consultant and speaker on energy issues who recently co-founded Right Energy Group and Right Energy Services, was in Henry County on Wednesday at the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC).

Campos, who also served as the director of the office of economic impact and diversity for the Department of Energy during the Trump administration, noted that Virginia has experienced tremendous success over the past three years and record job growth.

He added that "a lot of these companies donating over \$74 billion in capital investments for major cor-



Local and other officials watch from the back side of Tract 2 as grading work continues.

porations, \$5 billion in tax relief for all Virginians, reforming workforce development efforts to focus on job creation, preserve Virginia's right to work status, implementing all American all-of-the-above energy plan."

Campos also toured the CCBC, and Tract 2 - the newest site being developed and ready for construction.

While a definite tenant for the site has not yet been identified, Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), said "hopefully something big" will take up residence in Tract 2,

which is situated near the operations of Crown Holdings, Inc. and Press Glass, Inc.

Heath said that much of the dirt used for grading comes from a nearby section of the property. He also explained that Tract 3, a 100-acre ungraded site, will be situated beside Tract 2. Tract 5, a seven-acre pad, will be located near a one million gallon water storage tank.

The CCBC includes electricity and a substation inside the park, with a 100+ megawatt (MG) capacity, natural gas with a 27,000 MCF per day capacity, and one terabyte per second of fiber served by Mid- (See Economic Development p. 2)

Kaine stops in Martinsville on campaign swing

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee hosted U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine at The Ground Floor in Martinsville on Tuesday, July 16. There, Kaine discussed Pres. Joe Biden's second presidential bid and several other topics - including rural health care and the recent assassination attempt on former Pres. Donald Trump.

An incumbent, Kaine is seeking reelection in November. He is being challenged by Hung Cao, who won the Republican nomination.

When voicing his support for Biden's reelection bid, Kaine, D-Richmond, said, "If Joe Biden says look, I'm putting the country first, and I've got this. Then, we're going to make sure Joe and Kamala (Harris - his running mate) not only win Virginia but win this race."

Kaine said that Biden would "level with us" if there comes a time when the current president does not feel that he's fit to do the job.



The Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee hosted Sen. Tim Kaine at The Ground Floor in Martinsville.

"You don't need to worry about him doing the patriotic thing and putting the country first. As long as he's in this race, we're with him," Kaine said. "If he decides he can't do it, he'll tell us, and then we will go a different direction."

The failed assassination of Trump "just brought up a lot of bad memories," Kaine said. "I grew up in

the age of JFK being assassinated, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy, and it just reminded me of that chaos. I'm so grateful that President Trump wasn't badly injured."

An investigation needs to be done to determine the cause of the security lapses at the rally in Butler, Pa., Kaine said. "We (See Tim Kaine p. 2)



9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith poses with Steve Heatherly and Tory Sheperd of SOVAH.

Griffith discusses rural healthcare, tours SOVAH

By Jessica Dillon

Ninth District Rep. Morgan Griffith toured SOVAH Martinsville on July 15, and later addressed the rural healthcare crisis along with the recent assassination attempt on President Trump.

Griffith, R-Salem, serves on the health sub-committee of energy and commerce, which prompted the invitation to Martinsville.

"The committee has jurisdiction over CDC (Centers for Disease Control), NIH (National Institutes of Health), CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), HHS (United States Department of Health and Human Services)," Griffith said of federal health agencies. "I sit on the committee with policy jurisdiction."

He said that he felt that it was im-

portant to visit hospitals, and added that meeting the people working at the hospitals was the most important thing.

"I was very impressed by the folks that I met," Griffith said, and explained that rural health is a challenge, with both Henry and Patrick counties as well as the City of Martinsville, considered rural areas.

Patrick County's Pioneer Community Hospital closed in 2017 after its owners filed for bankruptcy in 2016, Griffith said, adding the hospital property was later sold to Foresight Health.

"If anything was done that was criminal or not, I do not know," he said. "I have known for some time, and alerted some people that they (See Morgan Griffith p. 2)

Board accepts policy changes

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County School Board met on June 11 to discuss several topics, including changes to policy revisions. Several of these changes were targeted at improving safety for students during an emergency situation. A major change to the JROTC credit was also put in place to help students considering a potential military career after high school.

Each school now has to include "provisions that seek to maximize the ability for students with mobility impairments to evacuate the school building along with their non-mobility impaired peers," said director of human resources Christy Landon. Schools are also now required to hold fire drills during school sessions that match the statewide prevention code.

Health classes will now focus on mental health conflict resolution and take a look at hazing.

JROTC classes will now be counted as P.E. classes for those who take them.

"How is that going to affect the program in our high schools? How is this going to affect P.E. programs?" asked board member Ben Gravely.

"There is such a heavy physical education component to the JROTC program that this particular policy will allow the JROTC's physical training component to count for that P.E. credit," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis.

The JROTC program has a component of physical development. "This is for JROTC to serve a dual purpose," Blake-Lewis said. "I don't think it will be a detriment to our P.E. program because our enrollment in JROTC is not hundreds of students. This just simply makes it easier for those students who want to pursue military as their potential pathway after high school to be able to earn that P.E. credit through JROTC."

"You have the health component with P.E. in order to get the full credit," said Gravely.

Blake-Lewis stated that the JROTC instructors will "pick that piece up as well." Students

who take this path would miss out on driver's ed. "They would need to make allowances for that."

Blake-Lewis said that changing the program in the schools to include the P.E. credit isn't absolute, but "gives them options. It doesn't mean that we have to do it."

She said that students who want driver's ed can still do P.E., but for students who aren't interested and wish to take that course outside of the classroom, "it gives the option."

(See Board p. 2)

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Economic Development

(cont. from page 1)



Grading work is underway on Tract 2 of the CCBC. As of Tuesday, about 57 of 150-acre pad have been graded.

Atlantic Broadband, Heath said.

The site also has a sewer and water capacity of three million gallons per day, the nearby one-million-gallon water tank, and is adjacent to the Norfolk Southern Mainline railway line, he added.

The total investment to the CCBC to date is \$111,314,957, including \$28 million from Appalachian Power, and \$25,273,955 from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), Heath said.

The Harvest Foundation invested \$16,860,000, Virginia Tobacco Commission invested \$16,543,793, and the Southwestern

Virginia Gas Company invested \$9,000,000. Henry County donated \$7,937,509, \$2,710,000 is from New Markets Tax Credit Program, and \$2,230,600 is from the M-HC Economic Development Corp.

The City of Martinsville invested \$1,959,100, and the Small Business Administration has invested \$800,000.

Heath noted work on the CCBC site first started in 2008. It has since expanded to include the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center and two tenants who have expanded and brought over 300 jobs to the community.

Tim Pace, director of Engineering & Mapping,

said that so far, about 57 acres of 150-acre pad has been graded.

"They've only been working for about 60 days, because they're actually starting to bring this" site up now. It "will come up to about the elevation we're standing," Pace said during a tour of the site Tuesday.

"This is only about 30 percent of the pad. They're just getting started and then all of what you can see... will be cleared and part of the 150-acres," Pace said, adding the contract for completing grading is the end of 2025. However, he believes the work will be finished around mid-2026.



Tract 2 is situated near the operations of Crown Holdings, Inc. and Press Glass, Inc.

Tim Kaine

(cont. from page 1)



Several waited for the arrival of incumbent Sen. Tim Kaine, who visited Martinsville on Tuesday.



just have to try to better as a society, so these shocking instances of gun violence aren't just happening again, and again, and again."

He said that the economy is one of the biggest issues on the minds of potential voters, but Kaine indicated that there is good news for the economy in Virginia.

"Unemployment rates are at historic lows, inflation rates are down, 401K's are up, manufacturing jobs are up," Kaine said, and indicated

that while there's no quick fix for the economy, policies helping with student loan forgiveness, prescription drug costs, and childcare costs can help ease the burden on Americans.

"That's a way to really address voters' concerns," he said.

Health care in rural Virginia is another area of concern, Kaine said, noting "it would be great if we could do more to attract health care providers to rural areas." He said that the

Care Act was used to expand coverage in rural Virginia, and "what we've done on the prescription drug side has also helped people, seniors."

When addressing the border crisis, Kaine said "border crossings are dramatically down in the last few months. They would have been down more if Republicans had joined with the bi-partisan plan that we negotiated in February. They decided to bail and not support the plan."

Morgan Griffith

(cont. from page 1)

weren't doing things the way that they should be done."

Griffith, who had a hand in getting the hospital in Lee County reopened, is "ready to do it in this one" in Patrick County, he said. However, the company representatives did not contact him or Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner.

Griffith said that the local government would be the ones to take hold of the hospital if it turned into public property.

"Right now, they (local government) don't have control of the building," Griffith said, although he has heard "some interest."

An incentive program to attract health workers to rural areas has been discussed, but Griffith said he doesn't expect movement within the next year.

"You pay people to come into areas that are underserved. I'm a proponent of that. I would support that. You've got to find the votes" to pass it, Griffith said.

To gain ground and attract attention, Griffith suggested a coalition of people from the underserved communities need to voice their needs to get real movement.

"Right now, I don't think we have the votes to vote in that (incentive) bill," Griffith said.

Griffith also voiced his support for President Donald Trump, who was the target of a foiled assassination attempt while conducting a rally in Butler, Pa., Griffith noted that rhetoric found online sometimes pushes individuals towards extreme acts.

"The internet and social media have people believing that if you're not with me, you're evil," Griffith said. However, "I am a big believer that, while I think my Democratic colleagues are misguided - and while there's always a few evil people - 99 percent of the people are pretty good people just trying to do what's right."

He said what triggered the attempt on Trump's life, but people should "take a deep breath. The United States of America is a great country if we don't divide ourselves and turn to violence at every turn, we can work out our issues and our problems."

Griffith said that the country is lucky that Trump wasn't killed or badly injured.

The country has been strained recently by in-

flation, an issue that Griffith said is his constituent's number one issue. With America setting on a huge wealth of energy, he said he felt it was being squandered, and pointed to recent policy changes that force ratepayers to foot the bills for the switch to solar and wind energy.

Protecting the border is also a major point of concern at the moment, Griffith said.

"The border is a mess. It didn't have to be a mess," Griffith said, adding that in previous administrations, including democratically controlled ones, "the border wasn't this bad. So, what's the difference? The implementation of policy at the federal level by the president."

There will be some ongoing issues at the border, even with better policies in place, because "you can't seal it off completely," Griffith said. "I'm a big believer in building the fence, but you can't seal it off completely."

It is possible, however, to direct the flow, which is not a possibility under the current policies.

"We do not have control of the border," he said, adding that the cartels are currently controlling the area and that it's "outrageous."

Board

(cont. from page 1)

Three policies are being added to comply with the Virginia Literacy Act, along with the approval for school board members to join a board or committee meeting remotely. SOL standards will also be updated to comply with Virginia Literacy.

Along with this, fentanyl information and education will now be distributed to students in grades 9 through 12. This will happen "annually in the first two weeks of school," said Landon. Special education liaisons will have their information posted publicly. Some other policies have been removed that are no longer applicable to current standards. A change was also made to the consideration of applying for special placement.

Bassett and Magna Vista high schools will be getting new fieldhouses. Quality Construction from Danville will build Bassett's,

while Concrete Foundations from Gretna will do the construction at Magna Vista.

Additionally, updates were provided on many changes and renovations, confirming that many ongoing projects are currently in progress to improve school facilities.

In other matters, the board:

- * Recognized Monique Holland as the VSBE Media Honor Roll winner.

- * Recognized players from All District Basketball.

- * Recognized players from All District and All District Regional boys' track.

- * Recognized runners from the Track Teams.

- * Recognized players from the Soccer Team.

- * Recognized Coach Sam Suite.

- * Recognized members of the VA Association of Teachers.



Christy Landon presented a flurry of policy changes to the board.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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

Tuesday, July 23

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, 3 p.m., administration building, 3300 Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Henry County School Board Retreat, 1 p.m., New College Institute 191 Fayette St., Martinsville.

Wednesday, July 24

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 1 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Events

Friday, July 19

Water Bath Canning For Beginners, 1 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.

Pack the Bus Weekend, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Martinsville Walmart, 976 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

Movie in the Park, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Jack Dalton Park, 130 Jack Dalton Rd, Collinsville.

Saturday, July 20

TheatreWorks presents "Hardly Working, at 7 p.m. for general admission and 9 p.m. for 18 and up. Tickets are \$5 per show, and available only at the door, 44 Franklin Street (UPTown) Martinsville.

Stephen Mark Rainey Book signing, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Magnolia & Main Books, 810 Main Street, Ridgeway.

Pack the Bus Weekend, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Martinsville Walmart, 976 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

49th annual Elgin Reunion at Fairystone Fire Station, Stuart. Potluck starts at noon.

Sunday, July 21

Pack the Bus Weekend, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Martinsville Walmart, 976 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

Tuesday, July 23

Back2school Registration, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., email emailback2school@gmail.com or call 276-565-8234 for more information.

MHC Longwood College/University Alumni are invited to join other alumni for a Happy Hour and Dinner on July 23. Happy Hour begins at 5 p.m. and Dinner at 6 p.m. (Dutch Treat) For more information, check the Facebook group or email mmargrave@yahoo.com.

Thursday, July 25

Cricut Creations: Design Space & Permanent Vinyl, 5:30 p.m., NCI, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

Monday, July 29

6th annual Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 6 to 10 years old, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 11 to 16 years old, Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleystown.

Tuesday, July 30

Fill the Back Packs, 6 p.m., 700 Commerce Court, Martinsville.

6th annual Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 6 to 10 years old, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 11 to 16 years old, Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleystown.

ONGOING

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

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

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific

Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 6 - 10 a.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. All you can eat sausage, fried bologna, eggs, cooked apples, sausage gravy, made from scratch biscuits, made to order pancakes, coffee and juice. Dine in or carry out.

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Buchholz joins Northern General Surgery

Northern Regional Hospital is pleased to announce the addition of General Surgeon, Dr. Carl Buchholz.

Born in Waukesha, WI, Dr. Buchholz's journey to becoming a general surgeon marks a passion for medicine and a dedication to serving rural populations. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Bachelor of Science in Physiology at the University of Arizona before earning his Medical Degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. Buchholz then completed his General Surgery Residency at Virginia Tech School of Medicine in Roanoke, Virginia, where he honed his surgical skills and commitment to patient care.

Dr. Buchholz's approach to patient care emphasizes listening and collaborative decision-making. He tailors treatment plans to meet each patient's unique needs. He is eager to introduce innovative techniques to enhance surgical outcomes, including less invasive approaches to procedures like inguinal hernia repair.

"I strongly believe that geography shouldn't limit access to quality healthcare," said Dr. Buchholz. "I am excited to become a trusted healthcare provider in Mount Airy, building lasting relationships with my patients and the community."

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Carl Buchholz to our team at Northern Regional Hospital," said Dr. Jason Edsall, Chief Medical Officer at Northern Regional Hospital. "His dedication to patient-centered



Dr. Carl Buchholz

tered care and surgical excellence, combined with his commitment to our community, will undoubtedly enhance our ability to deliver comprehensive healthcare services."

Dr. Buchholz joins colleagues Dr. Elizabeth Bond and Dr. Scott Corbin at Northern General Surgery. He looks forward to learning from their expertise and contributing to the hospital's mission of providing exceptional care in a compassionate setting.

Dr. Buchholz moves to Mount Airy with his wife Sarah and their one-year-old Leora. Outside of medicine, Dr. Buchholz is a passionate outdoorsman with diverse hobbies, including cycling, gardening, and orchardry.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Carl Buchholz, please visit Choose-Northern.org or contact 336-789-9176.

Community health workers attend summit

The Henry County-Martinsville United Way Community Health Workers attended the recent First Responders Summit held at New College Institute, where they were provided tools and support on how to not only take care of people in the community, but how to be mindful to care for themselves as well.



See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Student Briefs

Gilbert Named To ODAC All-Academic Team

The Shenandoah University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics set a new school record with 329 student-athletes on the 2023-24 Old Dominion Athletic Conference All-Academic Team in selections released by the conference on July 11. Jacob Gilbert, of Collinsville, was among the Hornets to earn the honor.

This year's total is an increase of 33 student-athletes from SU's previous best of 296 set during the 2022-23 academic year.

Overall, 3,175 ODAC student-athletes represented their schools on this year's all-academic team, which is a new high for the con-

ference. SU ranks second among the 17 institutions featured, with Washington & Lee topping the list with 537 student-athletes. With the University of Lynchburg's 322 student-athletes who met academic team standards, the ODAC had three schools eclipse the 300 mark in one academic year for the first time in conference history.

For student-athletes to qualify for the ODAC All-Academic Team, they must've had a 3.25 GPA or higher for the 2023-24 school year. Of the 329 SU student-athletes on the team, 256 posted a GPA of 3.50 or better, and 46 had a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Congressional staff to hold local office hours

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will hold hours in Henry and Patrick counties on July 24.

Staff will be in Henry County, from 10 - 11:30 a.m., in the Henry County Administration Build-

ing, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

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

Input sought in tick survey

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is asking for help from the communities it serves to further understand tick ecology in Virginia.

The VDH is asking that if you find a tick or ticks on your person or a family member, safely remove it, complete a corresponding survey, and mail it to VDH.

The goal of collecting that information is to better understand which ticks are biting humans as well as the spatial distribution of Virginia's tick species.

The VDH's small entomology team

frequently travels to collect ticks by dragging methods to better understand tick ecology throughout the Commonwealth. However, it hopes to expand its knowledge as to which species bite humans - which is critical information to understand disease risk.

For more information, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/ticks/tick-identification/virginia-tick-survey/?utm_campaign=20240716_&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Movie in the Park series continues

Henry County Parks and Recreation will have their second Movie in the Park Series this summer on Friday, July 19. The feature will be "Migration," a great movie for all ages, the movie is about a duck family's adventurous trip from New England to Jamaica.

The movie will be shown next to the picnic shelter at Jack Dalton Park. Admission is free.

Music and games start at 7:30

p.m., and the movie begins at 8:50 p.m.

Candy, snacks, water, soda and other items will be available for purchase.

If the parking lot in Jack Dalton Park is full, park in the administration building parking lot and access the park using the steps behind the administration building.

Call (276) 634-4640 for additional information or questions.

OPINION

NATO

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Towards the end of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin convened for the Yalta Conference.

It was discussed at this meeting the extent to which the Soviet Union could exercise influence over future governments of the liberated Eastern European nations.

Following Germany's surrender, the heads of the Allied powers met again for the Potsdam Conference. This time however featured President Harry Truman on behalf of the United States, and Prime Minister Clement Attlee would replace Churchill in the middle of the sixteen-day summit.

Yalta and Potsdam helped set the stage for a superpower conflict between the U.S. and USSR. A Cold War began to brew.

As Churchill so famously proclaimed while touring the United States, an iron curtain had descended across Europe.

Soviet-controlled states began to pop up. The democratically-elected government in Czechoslovakia was overthrown in 1948 by the communists with Soviet support.

Following World War II, the communist People's Republic of Yugoslavia under Marshall Tito also formed.

This expansionism initiated the West to act. NATO was created in 1949, the treaty being signed by twelve countries at the Departmental Auditorium, known today as the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, in Washington, D.C.

President Truman remarked at the signing ceremony: "If there is anything certain today, if there is anything inevitable in the future, it is the will of the people of the world for freedom and for peace."

Freedom and peace.

To achieve these, NATO understood how integral it was to establish a strong collective defense capability.

The agreement allowed for the member states to build a command structure, resulting in a military headquarters. NATO tapped victorious American General Dwight D. Eisenhower as the group's first Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

Additionally, the Washington Treaty contained Article 5, which states that any attack on a NATO ally is considered an attack on all NATO allies. Therefore, NATO allies will come to the defense of a NATO ally under attack.

A strong and unified military organization could promote deterrence and collective security, as opposed to threatening the defense of member nations and the world.

To neutralize potential Soviet expansionism in the continent, NATO took on an aggressive role of adding members.

Greece, which experienced a civil war thanks to communist forces,



Morgan Griffith

Representative

and Turkey joined the alliance in the 1950's.

For a time, Turkey had U.S. Jupiter missiles.

Following West Germany's accession to NATO in 1955, the Soviet Union orchestrated its own collective defense agreement known as the Warsaw Pact, pitting an Eastern bloc against a Western bloc.

The iron grip of the Russian bear only grew, as garrisons of Soviet troops were stationed in Eastern bloc countries.

Their armies helped suppress the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 to halt reform.

Despite the Cold War continuing, after NATO's formation the world did not see additional Soviet expansion in Europe.

The tearing-down of the Berlin Wall, after Ronald Reagan's famous speech, marked a pivotal point in the Cold War, with Western leadership firmly overwhelming the Soviets on the world stage.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 crowned NATO as victorious.

NATO accomplished its goal of defeating Soviet expansionism, but there were other objectives to meet.

In the seventy-five years of its existence, the world has changed dramatically.

Many territories under Soviet control sought nation-state status. NATO ensued with its mission to accommodate political integration into Europe.

Most former Warsaw Pact countries, when free to choose, chose democratic republican forms of government and applied to join NATO.

The Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were restored.

NATO intervened in Yugoslavia after it dissolved and bloody conflicts arose.

Thirty-plus years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, critics have argued NATO has served its purpose and the alliance is no longer necessary.

Critics also point out that many NATO members historically have not met the threshold of committing 2% of their GDP to defense spending.

As the authoritarian regimes of China, Russia and Iran are either taking land, intimidating countries, or both, the foundational reason for NATO still rings true.

That reason?

It is the will of the people of the world to have freedom and peace.

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

The art of navigating online obituaries

In the days between when the newspaper comes out, online obituaries might be the only way to find out who died, and when and where the visitation and funeral will be.

But good luck deciphering the ever complicated maze of obstacles that block your way to the information you're after.

Online obituaries were useful when they first came out, but now the obituary website guys have figured out a lot of ways to make some money there.

Wow! Your buddy Steve's father Omer has died. Let's find out more. Click on Omer's obituary.

There pops the Omer screen. You click on to read the obituary, or think you did ...

"Plant a memorial tree in memory of Omer," the screen reads.

Under the price of \$79.95, you read, "Show the family you care by planting a tree for Omer in the area of greatest need." What does "area of greatest need" mean?

"Each memorial tree includes a certificate that demonstrates your purchase.

"Your name will also be listed on Omer's Tribute Wall."

Is the Tribute Wall next to the trees?

You can buy a Single Tree, Grove of 3, and all the way up to Grove of 50. Wow, that adds up quickly.

Reading the fine print below:

"Your contribution is shared on the obituary, and you receive a digital certificate." Oh, so they don't even print out a piece of paper acknowledging that you had bought a tree.

"Planting location and tree species are determined by planting experts." Oh - so who knows where that tree will be, but it'll be nowhere near Omer. It could be in the obituary website worker's backyard for all we know. And it could very well be one of those year-old sticks with bare roots you get in a pack of 10 for free when you join the Arbor Day Foundation for a one-time fee of \$12.

I bet that as the website guy reaches his next 10 trees, and his next 10, he just keeps ordering more Arbor Day Foundation memberships under fake names to keep stocked.

When he runs out of room planting little sticks in his back yard, maybe he slips over to the local park or schoolyard or behind a Walmart to plant some more.

If you don't want to spend \$80 on a mysterious tree, location unknown, you could spring for a \$60 flower that will be given to "someone in need of cheer." I bet that's the obituary website worker who is cheerful about getting your \$60 and goes to pick a dandelion out of the strip of grass outside his office just to feel good that he's met the



Holly Kozelsky

requirement.

Click, click, click, all around, to see if you can find out when Omer died and when the funeral will be.

"Tribute Wall" is what you come up with. Oh - so THAT's where they'll put your name after you throw away money on a so-called tree.

You scan down the Tribute Wall and see no one related to Omer or anyone you recognize. However, there are some messages.

"Omer, we sure had some times together working at the chair plant in 1974," one reads.

"Although I haven't seen you in 32 years, I remember your laughter. You were a special man," another reads.

"My financial woes were all solved, and I lost 46 pounds, when I became a CEO of my own company that helps others reach for their dreams and unlock their full potential. Let me show you how!" reads yet another.

Try again to find the obituaries.

Whoops, now you're on some kind of survey.

"How did you know Omer?" it asks: "Family", "Friend", "Work", "Church", "Club", "One Night Stand", "Neighbor", "Other."

"How would you best characterize Omer?" it asks: "Loyal and Dependable", "Life of the Party", "Not Too Exciting But a Steady Eddie Who Got The Job Done", "He Could Really Preach A Sermon If He Got You Cornered", "Rather Not Say".

Try again for the obituary and arrive at "Order Flowers For Omer's Visitation."

"Everyone is unique and so should the sympathy flowers sent to the memorial service or family's home," reads the sales pitch for the \$97 Florist's Choice Bunch. That one is unique indeed, because without you knowing who the florist is or being able to describe what you want or what Omer would have wanted, you'll get whatever leftover flowers someone had in the bottom of the cooler that they're glad to get rid of.

Of course, that just said "Bunch." You could get an "Arrangement" for \$160 - that means they'd have had to stick some flowers into floral foam - or a Spray on a Stand in prices ranging from \$219 to \$574.

Oh, but guess what - good news - if you get one of those Sprays, they'll throw in one of those \$80 trees for just \$15.

Wait - does anyone know when Omer died and when and where his funeral will be?

The importance of choice

By Pat Delaney

I walked into a store the other day, looking for something to drink. Approaching the drink aisle, two reps were arguing about something stupid. One, dressed in red, the other dressed in blue, were, in between insulting the other, restocking their products.

Seeing me, they stopped arguing long enough to point me to their respective drinks.

"Is this all you have?" I said, noticing only the two options.

"Why would you want anything else?" they both asked.

"Well, I've been buying your drinks forever, and I'd like something that tastes... well... better than either of you."

"We're way better than they are," said the man in red pointing to the other rep.

"We're nothing like them," said the man in blue.

I sighed. "You guys act like you're so different, but you look alike, basically taste alike, and I'm tired of buying the same thing over and over that turns out isn't good for me."

"But think of all the things we've done for you over the years," said the man in red as his counterpart nodded in agreement.

"Like give me diabetes?"

"Yes... wait... no," said the man in blue, "ahh... that was him."

"No, it wasn't, it was his soft drink," said the man in red.

"You guys are the only drinks available," I said, "I think you're both to blame."

They just went back to arguing, blaming each other, and trying to convince me that if I just gave one of them another chance, they promised to contribute to diabetes research along with other enticements.

"Can I help you?" said a woman in a flowing blue-green dress and a name tag that announced she was the store manager. The reps continued to argue.

"Are these really my only choices?" I said, pointing to the two men, now wrestling each other on the floor. "Don't you have anything else?"

"I'm afraid not. Occasionally, a new one will come along, but these two," she said, pointing at the two drink reps, now throwing cans at each other, "became so big that they blocked other drinks from being sold at most stores. Funny, the only thing they agree on is their hatred for other drink companies."

"Then I need to find another drink company," I said.

"NO!" shouted the two reps, climbing to their feet and putting an arm around each other.

"Are you just going to waste your money on a drink you've never had before," said the man in red.

"I mean," said the man in blue, "God only knows what they put in their drinks. You might get—"

"Diabetes," I said.

"We said we're working on that," said the man in red.

"Why not just change your ingredients? Maybe something more healthy and flavorful?" I asked.

The two reps stared at me for a full minute, then fell into each other's arms hysterically laughing.

"Better flavor..." laughed the man in blue.

"Healthy..." said the man in red through coughs of laughter.

"I'm out of here," I said, turning for the exit. "You both make me sick."

"Again, with the diabetes?" said the man in red. "We told you we're working on it."

I turned back, about to reply, when it hit me. These two don't care about me at all. They only care that I buy one of their drinks. Shaking my head, I continued toward the door.

"Go on," said the man in blue. "You'll be back."

"They always come back," said the man in red. "Throw away your money. We'll make sure those small drink companies never get into stores like this. You'll have to pick one of us."

"We'll make sure of it," said the man in blue. "Do you really think you can make a difference? You're only one person."

"You know what," said a man who had been trying to pick from the red or blue section, "I want something different too. I'm tired of picking one of you and ending up with buyer's remorse."

"I'm tired of both of you," said a woman who had been listening in. "I can't even have Thanksgiving with my family without an argument breaking out about you two."

"You'll be outcasts," said the man in blue. "People will mock you for drinking something different. You don't want to be different? Do you?"

"You're throwing away your money," yelled the man in red.

Looking back over my shoulder without stopping, I said, "but it's MY money."

They were still shouting veiled threats as I walked out of the store, thinking, there has to be something better than those two.

There just has to be.

OPINION

Do svidanya

Last week, a Facebook friend of mine opined that he was considering voting for Green Party candidate Jill Stein in November.

Joe Biden, he said, had too much blood on his hands regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict, and he could not in good conscience vote for him.

It's only been about a month since I wrote a column on this particular topic ("An open letter to the ultraprogressives"). I don't intend to rehash that column here, but I basically said that if you're a progressive who votes for a third party candidate or doesn't vote at all because you take issue with Biden's foreign policy, then you're effectively casting your vote for Donald Trump and you're operating from a place of privilege because you know you won't be affected by whatever policies will be enacted in Trump's second term.

Because I'm a pain in the neck, I replied to my friend's post and shared that column, and I mentioned that Russia had pumped a ton of money into promoting Jill Stein on social media in 2016 and 2020. She's been described as either a Russian asset or a useful idiot, and I have yet to see any compelling evidence that makes me feel any differently.

Within minutes, someone had responded to my comment. She said that I was sharing lies, and she posted a series of memes talking about how the Democrats are going to steal the election and you should vote for Jill Stein.

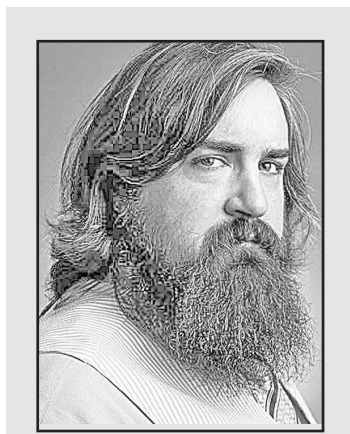
I decided to view her profile, and I discovered something interesting. She had one profile picture, a grainy photo of a smiling woman who vaguely resembled the late Della Reese. Her profile said that she ran a marijuana dispensary in New Mexico. That was the extent of the personal information available on her page.

Scrolling through her feed, I saw she posted dozens of times per day, sharing memes and news links with her 3,000-some friends. Every single post fell into one of four categories:

1. The Democrats are incompetent/evil/no different from the Republicans.
2. Third party candidates are great and worth voting for.
3. At the same time, the election is going to be stolen anyway so there's no point in voting at all.
4. Don't listen to the media because Russia and China are actually doing some great stuff!

A suspicion forming, I searched her unique name on Google. I got one hit, but it was for a man who definitely did not resemble the kindly woman in the profile photo. I then Googled her dispensary business, which turned out to not exist.

I realized I had found a Russian bot in the wild. After a little more research, I confirmed the profile checked every single box.



By Ben R. Williams

I knew that Russian bots were supposed to be rampant on Facebook and Twitter, but I'd never actually encountered one before. I replied to her comments, informing her that I knew she was a Russian bot and presenting my evidence.

The bot posted a couple more anti-Democrat memes in rapid succession. Over the following days, it would occasionally reply to me with new memes, prompting me to ask it if it had any actual rebuttal to my accusation that it was a Russian troll and not a real person. It did not answer.

I scrolled through the comments on my friend's post and saw that out of 20-plus comments, only two people seemed to think that voting for Jill Stein was a good idea: the aforementioned Russian bot, and another person that I'm 95% percent certain was a second Russian bot.

To be clear, I'm not sharing this story to make my Facebook friend feel bad in the event that he reads this. The fact is, our nation is experiencing a sophisticated misinformation and propaganda campaign the likes of which we've never seen, and we have little defense against it. It's perpetrated by bad actors both foreign and domestic. We have Russian troll farms unleashing a tidal wave of misinformation on social media, entertainment outlets that masquerade as news outlets so they can rile up their base and draw profit from their anger, and politicians that lie through their teeth because they know their base doesn't care about the truth, only about what FEELS true.

This propaganda targets both sides of the aisle and it's astonishingly effective. And frankly, making progressives feel disenchanting with the Democratic Party is only slightly more difficult than beating a toddler at arm wrestling. It's not like the troll farms have to try particularly hard.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and if someone wants to vote for Jill Stein or not vote at all, it's their right to do so. At the same time, regardless of party, we should all take a moment to consider whether our opinions are actually our own.

O. Winston Link Museum announces Aug. 17 Festival, Photo Contest

The O. Winston Link Museum will honor its 20th anniversary Aug. 17 with Celebration at the Station festival, lectures and exhibits related to Link's photography of the last steam train.

Celebration, a free event, will be at the historic Norfolk & Western passenger station on 101 Shenandoah Avenue NE, across from The Hotel Roanoke, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shenandoah Avenue will be closed between Williamson Road and Jefferson Street for vendors' booths. Also on site will be the restored 1948 Grottoes (Va.) fire truck. The truck was photographed by Link in February 1957 as part of his efforts to capture the landscapes along the route of Norfolk and Western's steam train. Vendor spaces are available and interested persons can email Kelly Robertson, info@vahistorymuseum.org, for an application.

Special admission pricing is available for the day, and two new Link exhibits will be on view. The gift shop will have special pricing on preorders for the Steam and Steel 2025 calendar and for a limited reprint of Tony Reeve's Life Along the Line.

Online Photo Competition

An online photo competition invites entrants to submit their works showcasing modern photographic recreations inspired by Link. The works will be displayed through the Link Museum's Facebook page. Public voting will begin July 24, 2024, and end Aug. 7, 2024. The five most popular photographs

through online voting will be printed and displayed in the lobby of Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge on Aug. 17, 2024, for in-person public voting. The photograph with the most public votes wins the Grand Prize.

Participants must submit one high resolution (at least 300 dpi) photograph digitally to info@vahistorymuseum.org. Submissions must include the artist's name, title of the work and date created. There is no charge for a submission.

Lectures scheduled

In conjunction with the anniversary, lectures are planned on July 23 and Aug. 27.

On July 23, author Tony Reeve will showcase images from "O. Winston Link: Life Along the Line," and discuss Link and Link's work. On Aug. 27, Tim Hensley will share stories of his work with the renowned photographer, including the "Steam, Steel, and Stars," book that introduced Link to a larger audience. Lectures will be in the museum theater at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5/Free for HSWV members.

Celebration at the Station is sponsored in part by the Norfolk Southern Corp., the David Goode Family Foundation, and Gordon Hamilton, as well as through partnerships with the Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department, Center in the Square, and Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge. The museums are operated by the Historical Society of Western Virginia and are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State to expand teacher apprenticeship opportunities

The Virginia Department of Education, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (Virginia Works), has been awarded a State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF2) grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop and expand Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway and pre-apprenticeship pathway opportunities in Virginia.

"The apprenticeship grant awarded today will help develop Virginia's next generation of teachers through innovative programs and a proven approach giving our aspiring teachers financial assistance and a full year of in-school, apprenticeship training," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. "We know there are better ways to develop teachers, and that is by giving them an opportunity to grow within the school, complete their coursework in coordination with classroom experiences, and this model changes how we prepare teachers for the classroom. It is imperative that school districts and higher education work together to provide stronger opportunities to become the high-quality teachers our students deserve."

The \$6 million grant will enable Virginia to focus on expanding its registered apprenticeship program for K-12 educators and building pre-apprenticeship on-ramps into the teaching profession. During the 2023-2024 school year, 28 school divisions launched registered teacher apprenticeship programs.

Working with local school divisions and universities, the Department intends to allocate \$2.55 million in

competitive funding for teacher development using the apprenticeship model. Through this initiative, 170 teacher apprenticeships are projected, along with new partnerships with 80 local education agencies (LEA).

The VDOE will use these grants funds to expand high school Teacher for Tomorrow programs and develop classroom assistants to build pre-apprenticeship pathways for students while they are still in high school.

Additionally, it will allocate \$150,000 to support registered apprenticeship program for K-12 principals.

Virginia will work to reduce costs by offering apprenticeships with no tuition costs and providing full-time employment benefits. Under this model, aspiring Virginia teacher candidates can include paraprofessionals and other staff already working in the schools, dual-enrolled graduating high school seniors, or career switchers with an interest in classroom teaching. These apprenticeship programs will maximize the opportunity for aspiring educators to get classroom experiences and learn to become teachers alongside master teachers in their schools.

As partners in this grant award, the VDOE and Virginia Works will work together to foster career exploration, skills development, and a successful workforce apprenticeship model for the next generation of Virginia teachers.

In addition, VDOE will continue to partner with the National Center for Grow Your Own to support the expansion of effective registered apprenticeship programs throughout the Commonwealth.

Stowe to present program Sunday

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture, "History of Community Police Departments" with Ron Stowe, on Sunday, July 21, at 3 p.m., in the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Stowe will discuss the history of the three police departments that no longer exist in Henry County. All three of the police departments started in the 1920s with the growth of the furniture and textile industry in the area and the mill towns that grew around them. Each of the companies funded their individual police departments, although the county also contributed. The Stanleytown Police Department closed in June 1980 when the business climate significantly changed. Bassett Police Department began to downsize in the mid- to late 1980s and eventually closed. The Fieldale Police Department kept one officer into the 1990s before it closed.

The son of the Stanleytown Police Department's last Chief of Police, Stowe grew up in Stanleytown and graduated from Bassett High School. He attended Danville Community College and then followed in the footsteps of his father, Mel-



Ron Stowe

vin Stowe,

by joining the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 1975. In 1980, he moved to High Point, North Carolina, where he continued working in law enforcement at the High Point Police Department and retired as a captain.

Admission to the lecture is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group.

The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum will be open following the presentation.

Series of 'Conversations' set to gain input on cell phone-free education

The Virginia Department of Education is hosting a series of Commonwealth Conversations to give parents, educators, and community members the opportunity to share their thoughts on the best ways to achieve cell phone-free education in Virginia and address the increasing evidence of the impact cell phone and social media usage has on youth mental health and education performance.

On July 9, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 to establish cell phone-free education to promote the health and safety of Virginia's K-12 students. Executive Order 33 directs the VDOE to provide guidance to school boards on cell phone-free education policies and procedures. School boards will establish local cell phone-free education policies and procedures before the end of this year.

Parents, educators, and interested community members are invited to attend a Commonwealth Conversation and discuss their expectations for the upcoming policy changes that will take effect in January 2025. A partial list of the closest events includes:

- Roanoke - July 31, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Northside High School
- Abingdon - August 1, 3 - 4:30 p.m., Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
- Keysville - August 2, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Southside Virginia Community College Keysville Campus

To register to join the conversation at these events, learn more about Executive Order 33, or share feedback about cell phone-free education, visit the Cell Phone-Free Education in Virginia webpage (www.doe.virginia.gov/cell-phone-free-education).

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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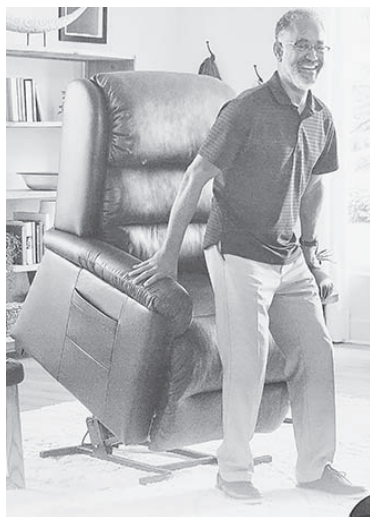
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VPS Virginia Press Services

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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

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

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE

July 3, 2024

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from VCG Luna, LLC, CON File #24-12-13027-A, to become the sole member of Amedysis West Virginia, LLC and Tender Loving Care Health Care Services of West Virginia, LLC. Capital Expenditure \$28,746,330.

Further information regarding the Letter of Intent, including the Certificate of Need application when submitted, is on the Authority's website at www.hca.wv.gov.

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **July 24, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case:

Case S-24-04 Patricia J. Adkins

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Class B Home Occupation. The specific business will be a hair salon. The property is located at 1107 Hilltop Drive, in the Collinsville District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax map 28.6(63)/95,96.

The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

LEGAL

Reservoir Road Reconstruction Project
State Project: U000-044-081, P101, R201, C501
UPC 121894
Henry County, Virginia

Willingness to Hold a Design Public Hearing

Proposed Project:

The project's purpose is to reconstruct Reservoir Road (VA State Route 689) to ensure longevity of the road and compatibility with future development in the area, including ongoing development at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. The project consists of demolition of the existing roadway, placement of widened asphalt sections, fine grading for drainage conveyance, and installation of drainage infrastructure. The project will also install an improved cul-de-sac at the end of the road for improved vehicular access.

Plan review:

A map of the project plans and exhibits concerning the project are available for review at the Henry County Administrative Offices at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Written Request:

By this notice, Henry County is indicating its willingness to hold a Design Public Hearing for this project if individual concerns cannot be addressed. You may request that a Design Public Hearing be held by sending a written request on or before **July 29, 2024**.

Mail requests to:

Tim Pace, P.E.

Henry County Director of Engineering

P.O. Box 7

Collinsville, VA 24078

Further Notice:

If a request for a public hearing is received, and the concerns cannot be adequately resolved, a public hearing will be scheduled at a time and place to be advertised in a future notice.

Questions or Special Assistance:

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Tim Pace at 276-634-2559 or tpace@henrycountyva.gov

Henry County ensures non-discrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Any persons with questions on the accessibility of the facility or need for reasonable accommodations should contact Tim Pace at 276-634-2559.

Where You Can Go To Get Help For Your Mental Health

By Stan Popovich

Are you having trouble finding places to get some assistance for your mental health?

Nowadays, many places have waiting lists, and some places can be very expensive. This can be very frustrating when you need help right away.

As a result, here are some options you can use to start the process of getting some assistance as quickly as possible.

1. Contact your doctor: Your doctor is a great source in finding available mental health resources in your area. Explain your situation to your doctor and ask if he or she knows of anyone that can help you. Chances are your doctor will be able to give you some referrals.

2. Go to the nearest hospital: Your local hospitals can give you immediate assistance for your mental health issues. The people who work at a hospital know of other professionals in your area

that can provide you with additional treatment. In addition, some hospitals may offer various mental health services that are available to the public.

3. Talk to the insurance companies: Your insurance company can provide a list of mental health services and other treatment programs that are covered in your health plan. If you do not have health insurance, you could still contact some of those companies and see if they can point you in the right direction regarding your current circumstances.

4. Talk to the local churches: Your local churches may know of programs in your area that you could go to in overcoming your anxieties and stresses. Many churches offer mental health and addiction programs that anyone can take advantage of. A priest or minister can also provide additional advice to your situation.

5. Find a support group: There

are all kinds of mental health support groups that can help you with your issues. Go to a support group in your area and meet people who are also struggling with addiction and depression. A person can go on the internet or talk to some of the local mental health organizations to get more information about what is in their area.

6. Network with others: Many people have dealt with fear and anxiety sometime in their life. Talk to the people that you trust to see if they have any suggestions on where you can go for some assistance. Make sure that your friends can keep things confidential and do not get into the habit of giving out too much personal information to others.

7. Contact your local mental health organizations: There are many private, public, nonprofit, and governmental organizations that specialize in various mental



health services that you can talk to for some assistance. The people at these places can give you some ideas on where you can find some mental health programs and counselors that can help you right away.

Stan Popovich 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>



City Council recognized workers from the Water Resources Department with awards.

Council hears proposed capital spending plan

By Jessica Dillon

Martinsville City Council met on July 16, following a lengthy work session to view a presentation on needed improvements and purchases.

A proposed capital spending budget for FY 2024-25 was presented, with many examples of needed improvements around the city and individual costs. Proposed projects included updated bathrooms for Fire Department Station One, traffic barriers that will cost \$10,000, and laptop replacements that will cost \$85,000. Several other improvements, including repairing substations and replacing the hypochlorite chemical containment building, also were noted. The purchases will be discussed further as the council works through them.

The projects would be funded by dividing up what's already in the capital budget.

A separate fund is set up for street maintenance.

"Should we be asking for additional funding," asked Council member Tammy Pearson, referring to funding road maintenance.

"I would say that's probably not necessary at this point," said Public Works Director Greg Maggard.

In other matters, the council:

*During matters of the public, Ural Harris asked about the current state of the BB&T building and rumors about the movement of city hall.

"How come it's taking so long, and why is council giving them so many extensions," Harris asked about the project. "And I would like somebody to y'all plan the word on the street that y'all plan to move city hall down there."

"Haven't heard that one," Mayor LC Jones said.

Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls said that Martinsville received a large grant for the project, but was frustrated as it affected their deadlines. "That was \$3 million to the city that we get to keep,"

Rawls said.

Harris also commented on the city's relationship with the county, critiquing several points.

"There was a comment made by a council member that the county did more for the city than everybody else," Harris said, adding that the county had 'knocked' the city out of revenue sharing with the shell building and also affected the city when the county acquired Clearview Park.

"The city made a mistake when they rezoned that (property) to let them put the social services building down there," Harris said. "So, there was never supposed to be any governmental building down there on that grant."

After adding that he was surprised the city didn't get in trouble for the use of the grant, Harris said, "I think the city council was very wrong when they rezoned. They should have demanded to know who was buying it because that was an underhanded deal."

*The council approved the application of two grants - the Safe Streets 4 All Safety Action Planning grants grant and CDBG Grant for planning.

"The reason we bring them to council is that they may require a match," said City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides.

Pearson discussed the city's boards and committees.

"I want to thank everyone because you can really start to see those committees headed in the right direction."

For instance, the Arts and Culture Committee recently used a Hope Grant to help improve sidewalk safety at Albert Harris and Patrick Henry elementary schools.

*Recognized the work of the water resources department

*Recognized Martinsville City Public Schools for two Awards of Excellence.

*Recognized Mustang's 10 game win streak.

Health Districts in Southwest Virginia conducting long COVID study

The Central Virginia Health District began a Long COVID surveillance project in October of 2023 that is now available to all residents of Southwest Virginia. Long COVID is when a person is still sick two or more months after getting COVID-19. Symptoms can include trouble breathing, a cough, feeling weak and tired, and problems with certain organs, such as the heart, brain, or lungs. A diagnosis of Long COVID is not required to participate. We want to learn about any long-term effects that people might have two or more months after a COVID-19 infection.

To participate in the study, you must meet the following criteria:

*Had COVID-19 at least once or been diagnosed with Long COVID

*Experienced symptoms lasting at least two months after a COVID infection

*Must be a resident of one of the following health districts: Roanoke City and Alleghany, Central Virginia, Cumberland Plateau, LENOWISCO, Mount

Rogers, New River, Pittsylvania-Danville, Southside, or West Piedmont.

If you qualify and would like to enroll, go to <https://redcap.link/virginialongcovidstudy>. A member from our team will make contact, review consent, and complete a phone interview. Individuals will then be asked to participate in follow up interviews in three and six months after the initial interview.

Findings from the study will be submitted for future publication and presentation to the scientific community and made available at CVHD.org. The purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of how Long COVID affects the residents of rural Virginia, assess the quality of support participants have received, and identify Long COVID resource needs.

Additional questions about the project can be directed to Cali Anderson, cali.anderson@vdh.virginia.gov. For more information about Long COVID, visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/protect-yourself/longcovid/>.

IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program



Members of the REACH AmeriCorps program during the 2024 MLK Day of Service project.

The Regional Engagement to Advance Community Health (REACH) AmeriCorps program is recruiting 15 part-time REACH Community Health Educators to conduct community health workshops over nine months. Hosted in targeted census tracts in the Dan River Region, the workshops focus on specific health topics and address areas of high need and chronic health issues. Members will serve approximately 25 hours per week.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) administers the REACH AmeriCorps program.

Members who participate in this service opportunity will receive a stipend of \$11,500 and a Segal Education Award—which can be used to repay student loans or for current or future education—of \$3,447.50. Members need to be available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and some additional hours may be required for a total of 900 hours.

This Public Health AmeriCorps program is ideal for students seeking a gap year, those entering the health field, career switchers and retirees.

IALR was awarded a \$218,678 grant from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, to continue this program for a third year. The grant will fund the continued impact of the REACH AmeriCorps program, which has provided public health workshops and educational opportunities in concert with the REACH Partnership since 2022.

The REACH AmeriCorps program is dedicated to expanding the capacity for public health service by providing direct outreach and education services in the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County and Caswell County (North Carolina). Members offer individualized support, addressing the region's most pressing physical and mental health challenges through a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens.

In the current year of the REACH AmeriCorps program (which will end Aug. 31), members have conducted 92 workshops across 21 locations, serving 862 participants. In the program's two years, members have contributed 12,502 service hours.

In conjunction with the REACH AmeriCorps program, The REACH Partnership deploys Community Health Workers and Community Paramedics – referred to as coordinated care teams – to assist with an individual's physical and mental health needs and to connect clients to community resources, addressing the myriad social determinants of health. Supported by The Health

Collaborative of the Dan River Region, the REACH Partnership includes the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (lead and fiscal agent), Virginia Cooperative Extension, Piedmont Access to Community Health Services, Gateway Health, Sovah Health Danville, Compassion Healthcare, the Danville Life Saving Crew, Caswell County EMS, Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services and Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The Partnership efforts are funded by a \$6.3 million grant from the Danville Regional Foundation.

AmeriCorps State and National, a federal-state partnership with a central role for Governor-appointed State Service Commissions, develops and implements state-specific national service programs. These grants allow organizations to recruit, train and supervise AmeriCorps members who are providing services to support education, disaster services, health, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and service to veterans and military families.

AmeriCorps State and National annually engages more than 65,000 Americans in intensive service. AmeriCorps members in the AmeriCorps State and National program receive a modest living allowance. At the successful completion of each service term, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to repay qualified student loans and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs. Members aged 55+ when they begin service may gift their Segal Education Award to immediate family members.

Public Health AmeriCorps, a partnership between AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, supports the recruitment, training and development of a new generation of public health leaders. Supported by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Health AmeriCorps helps meet the public health needs of local communities, while also creating pathways to public health-related careers.

Since the launch of Public Health AmeriCorps, more than 4,500 AmeriCorps members have added much-needed capacity to health departments, community-based organizations, schools, and more. They help advance more equitable health outcomes and support the CDC's highest priorities, including chronic disease prevention and public health readiness.

To learn more, visit <https://www.ialr.org/reach-ameri-corps-recruiting-15-members-thanks-to-ameri-corps-continuation-grant/>.

Dinosaur extravaganza set for July 26-27 at the VMNH



Allosaurus



Triceratops

A two-day dinosaur extravaganza is set to take place at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville, when the museum hosts Dino Festival on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The annual event will feature life-size cast skeletons of some of the most iconic creatures of the Mesozoic Era, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils, expert paleontologists, animatronic dinosaurs, and dinosaur-themed activities and crafts.

“As soon as visitors step foot onto museum grounds, it will be dinosaur bliss,” said VMNH Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix-Wirt. “Dino Festival offers numerous highlights, but none may be more exciting than the life-size cast skeletons of some of the most recognized dinosaurs to have ever lived, such as Triceratops and Stegosaurus.”

Life-size cast skeletons and skulls that will be on display during Dino Festival include:

Triceratops (cast skeleton)

A large, plant-eating dinosaur distinguishable by its large frill and three horns that lived during the Late Cretaceous period, from approximately 68 to 66 million years ago

Stegosaurus (cast skeleton)

A large, plant-eating dinosaur - distinguishable by two rows of bony plates on its back - that lived during the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago

Acrocanthosaurus (cast skeleton)

A massive, carnivorous theropod dinosaur that existed in what is now North America during the Early Cretaceous period, from approximately 125 million to 100 million years ago

Allosaurus (cast skeleton)

A large, carnivorous theropod dinosaur of the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago

Tenontosaurus (cast skeleton)

An herbivore dinosaur that lived during the Early Cretaceous period, from approximately 120 to 110 million years ago

Platecarpus tympaniticus (cast skeleton)

A massive sea-going reptile that lived 84 to 81 million years ago during the Cretaceous period

Tyrannosaurus rex (cast skull)

One of the most iconic dinosaurs of all time, T. rex was a large carnivorous dinosaur that lived in what is now western North America approximately 68 to 66 million years ago

Dromaeosaurus (cast skull)

A medium-sized carnivorous dinosaur and a very close relative of

the famous Velociraptor that lived in what is now the western United States and Alberta, Canada during the Late Cretaceous, from approximately 77 to 74 million years ago

Albertosaurus (cast skull)

A genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaurs that lived in what is now western North America during the Late Cretaceous Period, from approximately 70 million years ago

Edmontosaurus (cast skull)

A genus of duck-billed dinosaur that lived in what is now western North America during the Cretaceous Period, from approximately 73 to 66 million years ago

Dunkleosteus (cast skull)

An armored fish from a group of fish called placoderms that lived approximately 380 to 360 million years ago

Tylosaurus (cast skull)

A gigantic, sea-going relative of lizards, and one of the biggest ocean predators to have ever lived

In addition, Dino Festival is set to feature a wide variety of dinosaur fossils, ranging from the fossil remains of some of the most well-known predators, to the massive fossils of sauropods (long-necked dinosaurs). The event even offers the only known fossil evidence that shows Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops engaged in battle...and that Triceratops survived the encounter.

“Being able to offer visitors such an exciting collection of dinosaur fossils to view up-close-and-personal really makes the Dino Festival experience stand out,” said Hendrix-Wirt.

To give visitors a better understanding of how dinosaur fossils make their way from a field site to a museum, some of the fossils on display will remain secured inside field jackets. These protective plaster coverings are used by paleontologists to place around a fossil before removing the specimen from the earth and transporting it to a museum or other research site for further study.

“We not only want to provide visitors with a fun and exciting experience, but we want everyone to leave with a better understanding of paleontology and, hopefully, even inspire some of our younger visitors to be part of the next generation of great paleontologists.”

To help advance that desire, multiple dinosaur experts will be on-hand during Dino Festival, including paleontologists from the museum and other highly acclaimed institutions, such as the Smithsonian Institution.

“The museum has two paleontologists digging for dinosaur bones in Wyoming as I speak,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “The duo will return to Virginia just in time to attend the event



Stegosaurus



Acrocanthosaurus

and provide their expertise to visitors, while also providing a sampling of some of their fossil finds from previous years’ digs.”

While Wyoming is a dinosaur fossil hotspot, Virginia is a bit of a different story. In fact, the only confirmed dinosaur fossils that have ever been discovered inside the Commonwealth have come in the form of footprints. During Dino Festival, visitors will be presented with a special display of fossils found in Virginia from the Age of Dinosaurs and learn why dinosaur bones are not among them, and why that may soon change.

With an eye towards making this year’s event bigger and better than ever, the 2024 edition of Dino Festival will feature two new animatronic dinosaur models: Dilophosaurus and Herrerasaurus.

“We’re very excited to exhibit these two models for the first time at Dino Festival,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “These additions will only add to the fun and festive atmosphere that Dino Festival has become known for over the years.”

Beyond the exhibits and displays, Dino Festival features an abundance of dinosaur-themed activities, ranging from a dinosaur VR experience to take home crafts. The event also includes classic festival staples, such as face painting and balloon animals. Additionally, the museum will offer the Dino Fest Food Truck Station for visitors to purchase a wide variety of lunch and snacks items. Among the food trucks scheduled to be on-site are Bahama Sno-Shack, Kona Ice, Factory Roast, D’s Hot/Ice, Palumbo’s Hoagie House, Buckin’ Good Eats & Lemonade, Chick-fil-a (Saturday only), Malloy Dogs, and Birrieria La Vaca.

“We want the Dino Festival experience to provide memories for a lifetime,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “We want

to ‘wow’ visitors with the life-size dinosaur skeletons and prehistoric fossils, while also offering everyone a fun and festive atmosphere, full of engaging experiences they won’t soon forget.”

The festival takes place at the Virginia Museum of Natural History on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Admission is \$10 for adults ages 18-59 and \$5 for ages 3-17, seniors 60+, and college students. Admission is free for children under 3, museum members, and members of museums and science centers that participate in the ASTC Passport program. Visitors who attend the first day of the festival will be allowed to experience the event again on the second day at no additional charge.

The museum also participates in the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Museums for All initiative, offering discounted admission to EBT cardholders and their immediate family members. Through this program and additional funding provided by Hooker Furnishings, Carter Bank & Trust, and Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, visitors who present their EBT card and accompanying ID at the admissions gate will receive free admission to the festival. Free admission is available to EBT cardholders from any state and up to 5 immediate family members living within the same household as the cardholder.

The Dino Festival is sponsored by Virginia Tourism Corporation, Carter Bank & Trust, Boxley Materials Company, Bassett Furniture Industries, Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation, and The Helen S. & Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust.

For more information about the festival, visit www.vmnh.net/events/dino-festival.

CNBC Names Virginia “America’s Top State for Business”

Virginia is ranked “America’s Top State for Business” by CNBC, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced last week. The annual ranking measures all 50 states on 128 different metrics in 10 key categories of competitiveness to determine which states are delivering most effectively on the things that mean the most to business.

“When a business chooses to invest and grow in Virginia, we’re promising best-in-class talent, infrastructure, power solutions and business-friendly environment. Our administration has facilitated waves of economic investment and business expansions to reinvigorate growth and opportunity across Virginia. The Commonwealth has experienced record job growth and has welcomed companies committing over \$74 billion in capital investment from major corporations like Amazon Web Services, The LEGO Group, Raytheon and Boeing, along with major expansions from others like Hilton, Northrop Grumman and Framatome,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin. “Economic development is a team sport, and Virginia’s made giant strides in business-ready sites, workforce development, regulatory reduction, infrastructure investment and all-of-the-above power solutions. I am thrilled that our great Commonwealth has been named America’s Top State for Business.”

Since day one, Youngkin’s constant effort to make Virginia more affordable for families and a

comprehensive focus on improving our business ecosystem has included \$5 billion in tax relief to Virginians, reforming and consolidating workforce development efforts to focus on job creation and preserving Virginia’s Right-to-Work status, implementing an All-American All-of-the-Above Energy Plan to meet the power demands of a growing Commonwealth, historic investments in business-ready site development, robust infrastructure improvements and empowering excellence in education with multiple pathways for students to succeed.

Virginia’s premier talent base makes for a world-class labor pool ready to meet business needs. The Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, ranked the No. 1 Customized Workforce Training Program in the U.S. by Business Facilities in 2023 and 2024, and Virginia’s historic Tech Talent Investment Program are helping Virginia build the workforce of the future. Virginia is competing to win with more than \$550 million funded for site development to accelerate construction and deepen the inventory of shovel-ready sites for employers before they come to Virginia. Site readiness has been the deciding factor for numerous major recent Virginia wins, including the LEGO Group.

“With top talent from high-ranking universities to robust supply chain infrastructure and a friendly business climate, Virginia has the per-

fect combination to make it a clear choice for business investment. I am thrilled that CNBC has recognized the huge efforts on many fronts that make Virginia America’s Top State for Business,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick.

“Being named America’s Top State for Business is a testament to the incredible progress being made throughout the Commonwealth, not least by the many thousands of businesses who call Virginia home,” said VEDP President and CEO Jason El Koubi. “This recognition is years in the making, and I am incredibly grateful to all of our state, regional, and local partners that contributed to this distinction.”

For the first time, CNBC weighted infrastructure — including availability of shovel-ready sites — as the most important component for businesses when deciding on investment and cited the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program, in addition to Virginia’s world-class port, rail, roadway, and air transportation ecosystem as major contributors to the recognition. In addition to infrastructure and workforce, the categories for the 2024 CNBC ranking include economy, quality of life, cost of doing business, technology and innovation, business friendliness, education, access to capital, and cost of living. Virginia has previously been named America’s Top State for Business by CNBC in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2019, and 2021.

Crossing the Lines

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

Heroes honored for efforts

The "Tuggle's Gap Heroes" were celebrated for their exceptional dedication during the October/

November Fire on June 23 by the Woolwine Community Ruritans. This reception was marked by

heartfelt recognition for all of those involved, ensuring each received a well-deserved plaque. Support

from Patrick County Tourism was invaluable in making this tribute possible.



Patrick's foster care unit may be first for state take over

The county's foster care system has been declining, with at least two infants and older children in foster care being hurt, according to Steve Marshall, who represents the Blue Ridge District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

"It stands to reason ... it would be impossible for children to have not been hurt when you have that level of apathy," Marshall said. "You have foster homes that haven't been supervised or inspected in over seven months."

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors have known about the issues within the local department of social services, some of which were outlined in an August 1, 2023, email from Patrick County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge Kimberly R. Belongia.

Noting the "dire circumstances" the department is facing, the judge wrote that she "wanted the board to know that, in my opinion, the situation is only getting worse every day. These circumstances are likely to cause Patrick County a significant increase in spending and exposure to liability in the near future."

"Currently, PCDSS is severely understaffed, and has an approximately 300 percent increase in the number of children in foster care compared to past years," Belongia wrote, and noted at the time that there were 39 children in DSS



Foster "children have been hurt. Two of the incidents I know about were infants," said Steve Marshall, who serves the Blue Ridge District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

custody. In the past, the average at any given time was nine or 10 children.

"For the last month, nearly every case I have heard has involved a foster care plan that has not been filed with the court in a timely manner. This lack of compliance has caused continuances which may put the county on the hook for placement costs for the children it would not otherwise have had to cover," the judge wrote.

Belongia also noted DSS workers were not getting their applications for Medicaid IV-E funds filed on time. If children's placements are not paid for by IV-E funds, they are paid by the Children's Service Act (CSA) funds.

Former CEO of Foresight Health indicted in Chicago

Sameer Suhail, M.D., president & CEO of Foresight Health which owned the hospital in Patrick County, was among those indicted last week in Chicago in connection with an alleged scheme to embezzle more than \$15 million in hospital funds, according to a superseding indictment returned in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

An indictment is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suhail, 47, of Chicago, was charged with six counts of wire fraud, six counts of aiding and abetting embezzlement, and two counts of money laundering, according to Illinois authorities.

"This is unfortunate, disturbing bad news for our community," Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said, adding that it delays the process to reopen the hospital. However, "we are continuing to make progress and move forward."

Doug Perry, chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, said he really doesn't care about Suhail's situation.

"We've got more important things to do. He made his bed, he can lay in it, and we've got more important things to do to move forward than give whatever he's done in the past any attention. We got no hand in it, and we've got a lot of things in



Sameer Suhail, M.D., president & CEO of Foresight Health

the works to move the county forward and improve," Perry said.

Perry said he doesn't know what will happen with the hospital property since it was sold.

Foresight HS Property Holdings - Blue Ridge LLC, sold the former hospital property in March to Wolf of Wabash, LLC, in Illinois.

After the sale, "who knows what kind of shenanigans and tomfoolery they're up to," Perry said. "I don't know what they'll do with it, and at this point, as run down as it is or the shape that it's in, I don't know what can be done with it. We'll just have to wait and see."

Lodge honors Bryant with award, banquet

Lemont Bryant (left) was awarded the Community Builders Award from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Roger Hall, master of Mountain Home Lodge, made the presentation. Bryant serves as manager of WHEO radio. This award recognizes individuals for their community service efforts. A banquet was held to honor Bryant at the Lodge.



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors recognized P&HCC Coach Robbie Campbell (third from left) after the P&HCC Softball Team won the NJCAA Official 3 Softball World Series. Also pictured are supervisors (left to right) Clayton Kendrick, Steve Marshall, Campbell, Doug Perry, Jonathan Wood and Jane Fulk.

County weighs options to address unexpected financial issues

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors discussed ways to address unexpected expenses, that include an additional \$83,868 for required line items and an estimated \$68,719 for maintenance repairs, plus an additional \$75,806 in school funding.

Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, asked how the \$170,431 in unexpended school funds was spent. The funds were returned to the county after the school division's Average Daily Membership dropped in the last fiscal year's budget.

County Administrator Beth Simms said the funds were spent to cover expenses in local depart-

ments that went over budget.

"We had to appropriate. We had to cover" healthcare expenses at the jail and expenses for other county departments, like janitorial, Simms said, adding the county must pay for the jail medical bills "somehow, somehow."

Simms said that when crafting the FY25 budget, county staff were not aware of the unexpected expenses presented to the board on Monday. She explained "the calculation tool in the state budget changed, after our budget was approved, so there's additional Required Local Match (RLM) for the school system."

To read more about these and other stories, check out *The Enterprise*, www.theenterprise.net.

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS JUST \$5

HOLLYWOOD GINEMA beside WALMART Martinsville 278-658-3456

- ILLUMINATION'S DESPICABLE ME 4** 1-3-5-7-9PM
- INSIDE OUT 2** 1-3-5-7-9PM
- TWISTERS** 1-3-5-7-9PM
- SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT** 1-4-7PM
- WE'RE NOT COMING ALONE. DEADPOOL 3 COMING SOON** COMING July 26

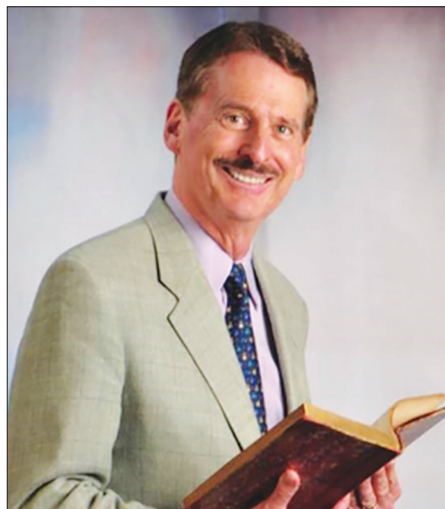
Performing arts season for 2024-25 announced



Paperhand Puppet Intervention will bring their giant puppets for a parade during the annual Arts Festival.



The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra returns to the Martinsville High School Auditorium for their Holiday Pops Spectacular.



Humorist Dr. Elliot Engel returns to Piedmont Arts to discuss Leonardo da Vinci.



Taye the Truth, a rapper and community activist, will participate in both the Make Some Noise series and African American Read-In and Family Day.



Bob Peckman, of the Peckman Jazz Band, will highlight the Swing Dance Party in October.



Debra Ann Byrd gives a powerful performance in her living memoir, "Becoming Othello: A Black Girl's Journey."

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend Piedmont Arts' performing arts season for 2024-2025. Filled with exciting events for the entire family, you will not want to miss the amazing offerings on the schedule for the upcoming year. In addition to world-class exhibits and engaging educational opportunities, Piedmont Arts is home to amazing music, theatre, and community events. Don't miss it!

The season kicks off, as always, with the beloved Franks + Dranks event in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. On Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m., join Piedmont Arts for live music and a cook-out. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Music provided by Jake Earles and dinner provided by celebrity chefs Shane Pinkston and Will Gravely with refreshments from Food Lion of Greensboro Rd.

The Make Some Noise: Open Mic series returns this year. This seasonal offering provides the audience the chance to share their voices through spoken word, music, poetry, or comedy. Events will take place on Thursdays, Aug. 15, Oct. 10, Jan. 9, and April 10 at 7 p.m. in the galleries. Our rotating panel of hosts this year include Natalie Hodge, Jake Earles, Taye the Truth, and Anna Wheeler.

Test your luck and join Piedmont Arts for Savory September: Fortune & Flavor. On Friday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m., gather for small bites and signature drinks by local chefs. This event will feature, in addition to creative cuisine, a 50/37/13 raffle, games, and tarot readings. Admission for this event is \$50.

On Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m., put on your dancing shoes and come to the Swing Dance Party hosted by the Bob Peckman Jazz Band out of Roanoke, Virginia. This event will host a cash bar and dance floor to get your toes tapping. With guest appearances by the Dancing for the Arts coaches and participants, this star-studded event will be a great time for all. Admission is \$20.

A humorist on serious topics, Dr. Elliot En-

gel is back for the 2024-2025 season with his "da Vinci: Before the Code," program. On Thursday, Nov. 14, the evening will kick off with an optional dinner by Third Bay at 6 p.m. The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. Admission for dinner and the lecture is \$45 and admission for the lecture only is \$20.

As always, Piedmont Arts is your holiday headquarters for Martinsville and Henry County. On Thursday, Dec. 5 from 4-6 p.m., they will host their annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. With crafts, holiday treats, live music, and a visit from Santa Claus, Ian Hogg's spectacular tree will be lit and remain lit until the start of the new year. The Tree Lighting and Art Garden are always free and open to the public.

On Sunday, December 8, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops Spectacular will be performed at Martinsville High School at 3 p.m. This concert is one of the highly anticipated events of the year. Admission is \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission, and \$10 for K-12 students.

Poet extraordinaire TJ Anderson III will present an art talk and poetry reading on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. He will share his artistic journey and award-winning poetry. Steeped in jazz and history, his work is renowned for his experimentation with form and story. A reception will take place at 6:30 p.m. and his talk will start at 7 p.m. Admission for this event is free.

Piedmont Arts will also host their annual African American Read-In and Family Day on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at 10 a.m. This event will feature the read-in, arts and crafts, snacks, and entertainment from Fred Motley and Taye the Truth. Family Days are free to the public.

Piedmont Art's Spring Fundraiser, Under the Big Top, will take place on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 7 p.m. Admission for this event will be \$75. More details will be announced soon.

On Saturday, April 12, 2025, Piedmont Arts will host their second Art Festival in the Grave-

ly-Lester Art Garden. This event will feature a giant puppet parade from the world-renowned troupe Paperhand Puppet Intervention in addition to showcasing the work of local artists, artisans, and crafters of all kinds. This event is free and open to the public.

Mid-Atlantic Touring and Piedmont Arts are proud to present, "Becoming Othello: A Black Girl's Journey," on Thursday, May 8, 2025. There will be a reception at 6:30 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7 p.m. This one-woman show created and performed by Debra Ann Byrd has toured all over the world with this tour-de-force living memoir. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students.

On Thursday, June 12, 2025, Piedmont Arts and Starling Cards and Comics will host the VMFA's Christopher Irving for his lecture on the origin of American comic books, "Leaping Tall Buildings." A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture will start at 7 p.m. This event was made possible by the VFMA's statewide partnership program and is free to the public.

In addition to these amazing in-gallery events, Piedmont Arts will also be hosting two bus trips to area arts destinations. On Thursday, Oct. 24, a bus will depart Piedmont Arts to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia for their Fine Arts and Flowers exhibit. This all-day excursion will feature a group tour and other activities.

Another bus will be leaving Piedmont Arts on Sunday, May 4, 2025, to drive to the Durham Performing Arts Center for their touring Broadway production of "Kimberly Akimbo." This production swept the 2023 Tony's and is a beautiful tale of optimism and adventure. If you are interested in participating in either bus trip, please call the museum at 276-632-3221 for details.

Reservations and ticket sales are open now. Please call the museum at 276-632-3221 for information and details or check out the events pages on PiedmontArts.org.

Tenants recover after water main break

By Jessica Dillon

Nearly a week after it was first reported, water issues at Northview Garden Apartments, 755 Stultz Road, were well on the way to being resolved.

On July 10, some tenants told Charles Roark, of Star News, that they had experienced a loss of water pressure and had no access to clean water.

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones was among the first to try and lend a hand, along with Rayshaun Gravely, a candidate for Martinsville City Council.

"We have no running commodes, the water has discoloration, and we can't even drink it," John Mahan, a resident living in one of the affected apartments, said.

Mahan said it was difficult to find a contractor to repair the pipe. He also said the manager would go into the office and not speak with the residents, even when Roark and other media representatives tried to ask questions.

"You have people now that are living in pretty bad conditions in the apartments," Mahan said. "You have mold, you have plumbing problems, you have people who have air going out on them in summer."

By Thursday evening, Jones said that he had spoken with Charry Hatcher and Robin Brown from the apartment complex's corporate office. Jones was told they "have identified a company to do the repairs and are trying to get them in by tomorrow (Friday) but can't make promises."

"They said that they would follow up with me in the morning," Jones added.

Because the complex is situated in both the city and in the Collinsville District of Henry County, Mahan said he called Joe Bryant, who represents that district on the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Mahan said that Bryant



John Mahan, a resident of Northview Garden Apartments, talked to media representatives Thursday. Water from a broken water main puddled in the parking lot.

indicated he would make phone calls to try and get help.

With no maintenance workers in sight by Friday afternoon, Mahan and other residents were concerned the repairs would take longer. He, like others, were bracing to go through the weekend without water.

Later that day, the water had been shut off to prevent a strain on the entire system, and residents were told they would be moved to rooms at the Quality Inn.

By Monday, Roark reported that crews were onsite to address the issues.

"I love to help people," Roark said of his decision to continue coverage until the issue was addressed. The ability to shine a light and get help for those in need is "what I love most about this job."



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Youngkin's new order calls for cell phone-free education in public schools

Given the increasing evidence of the impact cell phone and social media usage has on education and youth mental health, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33, which directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to draft guidance for public school divisions to adopt local policies and procedures establishing cell phone-free education.

The EO directs VDOE to initiate a robust public engagement effort with parents, students, teachers, local school leaders and other stakeholders to develop collaboratively policies and procedures that establish the age-appropriate restriction or elimination of cell phone use during instructional time, as well as to establish protocols allowing parents to contact their children in emergency and other important situations.

In addition, the Governor announced today that the VDOE and the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBDHS) will make a combined \$500,000 available from existing funds to support implementation of this mental health and safety initiative.

"This essential action will promote a healthier and more focused educational environment where every child is free to learn. Creating cell phone and social media-free educational environments in Virginia's K-12 education system will benefit students, parents, and educators," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "Today's Executive Order both establishes the clear goal to protect the health and safety of our students by limiting the amount of time they are exposed to addictive cell phones and social media and eliminates clear distractions in the classroom. It also kicks off the robust conversations among parents, students, teachers, and school and community leaders necessary to design and imple-

ment these policies and procedures at the local level."

Implementing cell phone-free education in Virginia's K-12 public schools is critical, especially given youth chronic health conditions, such as depression and anxiety, that are driven in part by extensive social media and cell phone use. Children spend an average of 4.8 hours a day on social media, and recent studies indicate that spending more than three hours a day on social media doubles the risk of poor mental health for adolescents. Most alarming is the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention data from 2019-2021, reporting that the rate of suicide has increased 167% since 2010 for girls and 91% since 2010 for boys. In the same timeframe, boys and girls experienced a spike in depression of 161% and 145%, respectively.

"The data is clear, and it is time for Virginians to come together to address the damage of social media and screens to healthy childhoods. Government cannot be the sole solution to this crisis; school communities - especially parents and teachers - must work together to discuss and develop common sense approaches to limit screen time, prioritize open channels of communication, and re-establish norms that reinforce healthy and vibrant learning communities," said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera.

"Many parents and teachers struggle to balance socializing and social media, play or learning time and screen time, and true human connection and internet connection," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Janet Kelly. "The more we learn, the more we know that too much screen time - especially time spent on addictive apps - is harmful to kids' physical and mental health. A few weeks ago, the Surgeon General of the United States issued a formal advisory suggesting

that tech companies be required to put a warning label on social media apps. Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 33 complements that advisory well. Too many childhoods have ended because of the wild west of addictive apps, and it is time we work together to bring childhood back."

The Executive Order directs VDOE to publish their draft guidance by August 15. After considering feedback from stakeholders, VDOE will issue final guidance in September for local school divisions to adopt cell phone-free education policies and procedures by January 1, 2025.

Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to prohibit school divisions from adopting age-appropriate policies and procedures ahead of this date or that are more comprehensive than the guidance issued by VDOE.

The Department of Education will facilitate listening sessions and other stakeholder engagement opportunities over the next six weeks to solicit public input on this policy, gather feedback on best practices currently underway in Virginia public schools, and receive input for the draft guidance establishing cell phone-free education in K-12 public schools.

"Cell phones and digital media have caused pre-teens and teens to disconnect from the real world, have increased mental health challenges, and have caused significant disruption in the important daily learning opportunities in their classrooms," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa

Coons. "Parents and teachers understand the importance of creating cell phone-free education in our schools so that students can focus on instruction and learning during the school day. We look forward to facilitating conversations around the danger to our children of cell phones, social media, and the impact of screen time and will focus on creating guidance that protects the health and safety of our students."

Funding from VDOE and DBDHS will support state and local efforts to facilitate family nights and community engagement on the youth mental health crisis and cell phone use best practices as well as enable school divisions in need of assistance to receive microgrants to help implement best practices in their local community. As part of the Back-to-School Season, there will be a series of Commonwealth Conversations across Virginia to provide opportunities for discussion on how schools and communities can build new norms around phone usage.

While some school divisions in Virginia have already implemented cell phone limitation protocols, this Executive Order is the first statewide effort to enhance the learning environment by eliminating or severely restricting cell phone devices during instructional time. Recent studies indicate that students who use their phones during class learn less, achieve lower grades, and can face a cumulative, lasting, and detrimental impact on their ability to focus and engage in their studies.

Latest initial claims for unemployment insurance increase

According to Virginia Works, 2,136 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending July 06, 2024, which is 1.1 percent higher than last week's 2,112 claims and 24.1 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,816). Nearly 78 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (233); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (200); Health Care and Social Assistance (197); Retail Trade (161); and Manufacturing (158).

Continued weeks claims (16,471) were 0.2 percent higher than last week (16,433) and were 23.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,296). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry;

of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,429); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,224); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,663); Accommodation and Food Services (1,404); and Retail Trade (1,353).

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



Crash reported in Chatham Heights community

An SUV reportedly lost control and flipped another vehicle on its side during an incident

Sunday in the 1200 block of Chatham Heights Road, Martinsville.

Speyside Bourbon to create 40 new jobs in Pittsylvania County

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Wednesday that Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. will invest \$16.85 million to build a new stave mill in Pittsylvania County's Brosville Industrial Park, the company's fourth facility in Virginia.

The new stave mill will create 40 new jobs and source 40 percent of its timber needs from Virginia forest landowners. The operation will supply the company's bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth County.

"Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. is very excited to once again announce that we are building yet another site in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia has been home to three of our sites for multiple years now and beyond that, an excellent partner for us and our business," said Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. President and General Manager Darren Whitmer. "Having a fourth facility in Virginia and continuing to expand our operations in the Commonwealth means so much to us. We have grown in Virginia beyond our dreams and the partnership that we have with both State and Local Government has been nothing short of remarkable. Virginia

has allowed us to grow and meet our goals, we never thought we would have four sites in the state but once we started working here it became clear that Virginia is the perfect partner for us."

Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. is a division of Speyside Cooperage Ltd., founded in Scotland in 1947. In 2008, Speyside Cooperage was sold to the Tonnelierie Francois Freres (TFF) Group, a publicly held company founded in 1910 and headquartered in France. The company operates stave mills and bourbon cooperages in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. Virginia locations include stave mills in

Bath and Washington Counties and a bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth County.

"We're proud to make Virginia the best home for business, and Speyside Bourbon Cooperage is an excellent example of how government can partner with companies to drive economic growth and success for the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "The fact that Speyside Bourbon Cooperage is choosing Virginia for the fourth time shows that we have the business environment, economic opportunity, talented workforce and natural resources that are key to commercial success and serve as a testament to our top state for business ranking."

Truck overturns Sunday en route to Chatham

A pickup truck apparently flipped on Sunday while traveling on Virginia 57 towards Chatham.

Henry County Public Safety officials were among those responding to the scene.

City police respond to shots fired call

Martinsville Police officers responded Monday to a call reporting shots had been fired in the 1400 block of Rivermont Heights, Mar-

tinsville. Police alleged the incident was domestic in nature, with the husband firing into the ground during an argument with his wife.

Puzzle Answers!

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Render; 2. Spoil; 3. Verify; 4. Deride
Today's Word
FRIENDLY

FEAR KNIGHT
answer
M
B E Y
T A L U S
K D A I N T Y
I D H
M H S O Y A
B E A S T M
T O Y U E
E B

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

SNOWFLAKES
solution

1	2	6						
4	2	6	4	3	5	4	2	5
1	3	5	1	2	6	1	3	6
4	2	6	4	3	5	4	2	5
5	3	1	5	2	1	6	3	1
6	3	4						

CUTTER

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

— CUTTER

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

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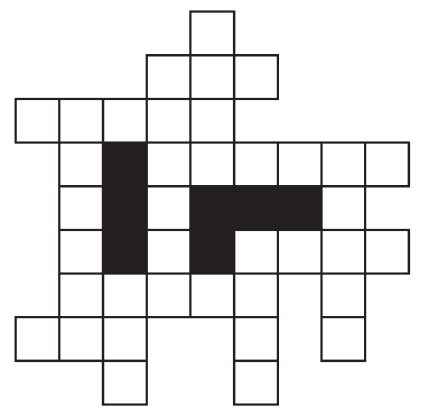
PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj Johnson
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

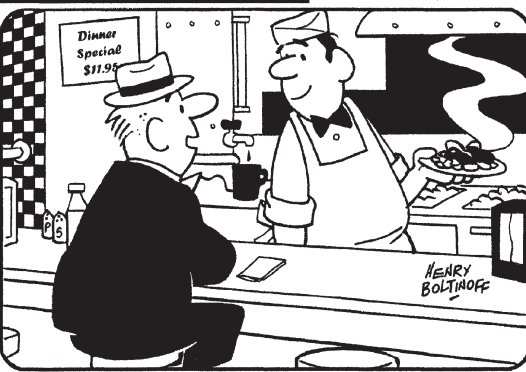
- EEY
- BAMOKI
- HEMTY
- ♥USBT
- HABDUD
- ♥YEB
- ♥ESMA
- ♥TABES
- OYT
- TIDNYA
- ASTUL
- OASY



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. Mug is reversed. 2. Salt and pepper are switched. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Seat is moved. 6. Hair is different.

Super Crossword

POTENTIAL SPIN DOCTORS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ACROSS | 43 Sleek, in brief | 87 Apprise | DOWN | 39 —-dieu (prayer bench) | 75 Take away (from) |
| 1 Pairs | 44 Foot cover | 90 Bullfight cry | 1 Mic-testing sound | 78 Holiday tree dangles | 80 Organic compound |
| 5 Actress Thurman | 46 Fido's pests | 91 Really unkind | 2 Ghost | 40 Scraped, as an 18-Down mollusks | 82 Petite pouch, for short |
| 8 "Well done!" for a diva | 48 —-Magnon | 92 German river | 3 Ink-squirting | 41 Pouches for infusion | 83 An hour before noon |
| 13 "Shame on you!" | 49 Soccer's Chastain | 93 Golf champ | 4 Lithuania, once: Abbr. | 42 Turf for lawns | 84 Laughs at, say |
| 19 Bows' shapes | 52 Player of Clair | 94 Gettysburg victor George | 5 West Coast sch. with the Bruins | 45 Having bright peepers | 85 Bolivian capital |
| 20 Is able to | Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" | 96 Bucket | 6 Eminent conductor | 47 James Bond player Daniel | 86 435 in Cong. |
| 21 Fundamental | 55 Drink like Fido | 98 "Kindergarten Cop" co-star | 7 Slangy "Well, then ..." | 49 Radar signals | 88 Seer's shrine |
| 22 Not planted | 56 Greek coin | 103 Obsolete TV hookup | 8 Fraud-finding org. | 50 Tabulae — (blank slates) | 89 Fashionable Banks |
| 23 Coach inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008 | 58 Baseballer Slaughter | 104 Mia of soccer | 9 Polo designer Lauren | 51 High grade | 93 One no longer working |
| 25 Make dim, as by tears | 59 Jurists' op. | 105 Chichi tie | 10 Sailing | 52 Spur on | 95 Lured |
| 26 Meal with a pastry crust | 60 Speak in the ocean | 106 Give birth, as a cow | 11 It bought MTV in 1985 | 53 Dove sound | 97 Declaration when asking for directions |
| 27 Spanish for 70-Down | 63 High choir voice | 107 1960-89 NFL commissioner | 12 Old Athenian citadel | 54 Panasonic bought it in 2009 | 99 Transforms (into) |
| 28 "Star Trek" lieutenant Yar | 65 Ivory tickler | 110 Ordeal | 13 Rap's Shakur | 55 Beef quality rater, in brief | 100 One fleeing to get hitched |
| 30 Fashion designer once known for his metal couture | 69 Star of 2015's "Ant-Man" | 112 Kuwait export | 14 Snooty sort | 61 "Candle in the Wind" singer John | 101 In a devilish way |
| 32 Equal to the face value | 71 Prior to | 113 Reply | 15 Univ. in the Midwest's Manhattan | 62 Old Greek warship | 102 Cross out |
| 34 Shul text | 72 She played Lulu Hogg on "The Dukes of Hazzard" | 114 Cacophony | 16 First-rate | 64 Change the tag on | 104 Tot's equine rocker |
| 36 Cartel formed in '60 | 73 Six-stanza poem | 116 What nine featured celebrities in this puzzle are? | 17 Heyday of Glenn Miller | 65 Actor Simon of "Mission: Impossible" films | 105 Fabie author |
| 37 Dress up, with "out" | 74 Siberian husky, e.g. | 118 Puerto Ricans, e.g. | 18 Leg part | 66 Tehran native | 107 Pasty-looking |
| 38 "The Human Stain" novelist | 76 Skyrockets | 119 Certain opening for a bolt | 24 "That was my best shot" | 67 Sans — (font style) | 108 Philosopher Descartes |
| 40 Hazy stuff | 77 Tolkien fiend | 120 Bray syllable | 29 Place to buy sketchpads | 68 Delicious | 109 "— & Stitch" |
| 41 Heads, to Fifi | 78 Moisturizer brand | 121 Sensed | 31 Aqua — (corrosive liquid) | 70 Dad's brother | 111 Pinnacle |
| | 79 Rim | 122 Bitcoins, e.g. | 33 Actor Ladd | 72 Peas' places | 115 UFO crew |
| | 81 Tiny peeve | 123 Ends | 35 Matey's cry | 74 —-mo | 117 On's opposite |
| | 82 Star of "Trapper John, M.D." | 124 Census stat | | | |
| | 88 Star of "Trapper John, M.D." | 125 Punky Brewster player Soleil Moon | | | |

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Guglielmo Marconi, whose invention of wireless telegraphy was credited for saving the lives of over 700 Titanic passengers after it sank in 1912, had turned down a free passage on the ship, choosing instead to go to America via the Lusitania three days earlier. He narrowly missed death at sea a second time in 1915, when he was again a passenger on the Lusitania, about a month before it was sunk by a German U-boat.
- The story of Cinderella first appears in a Chinese book written in the 850s.
- Margaret Dixon, a Scottish criminal, was hanged at Musselburgh in 1728. However, just a few hours later, she climbed out of her coffin, and was reprieved and pardoned. Still, as her husband was considered a widower because she was "officially" deceased, Scottish law dictated that they had to remarry.
- The country of Liechtenstein has twice as many registered corporations as citizens.
- On April Fools' Day 1957, the BBC television documentary "Panorama" broadcast a documentary about the so-called spaghetti orchards of Switzerland, with discussions of spaghetti plantations in Switzerland and Italy, the spaghetti weevil, and the reason for the pasta's being of such uniform lengths held against a background of Swiss "spaghetti trees." Many viewers, forgetting or failing to notice the date, believed the orchards were real!
- Groups of geese on the ground are called a gaggle, but in the air they're referred to as a skein.
- Honey has been used as a center for golf balls and in antifreeze mixtures.
- In 1974, the U.S. Army Materiel Command ran a contest to name its new headquarters building and received around 500 entries. The winner? "The AMC Building."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

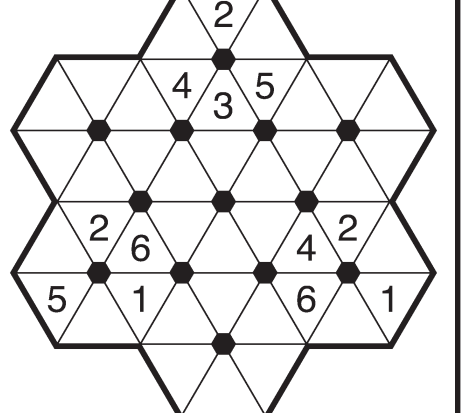
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦
 ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
 © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

SNOWFLAKES

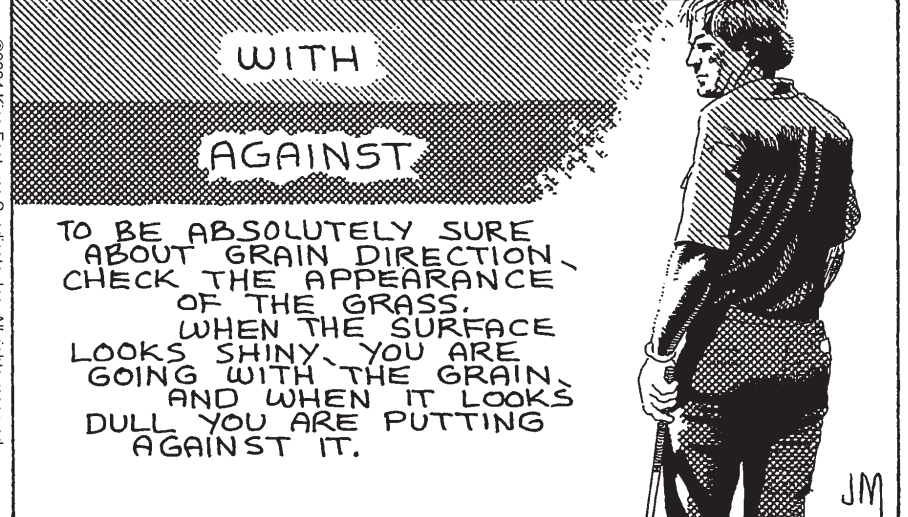
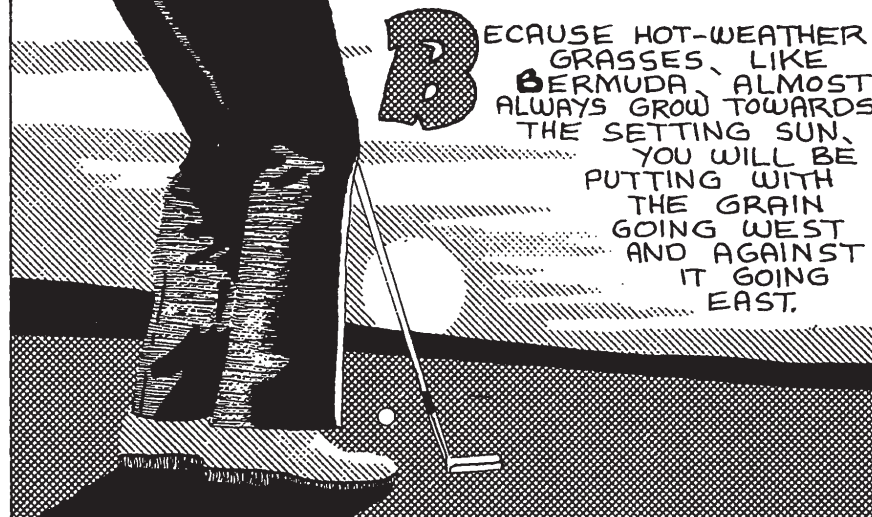
by Japheth Light

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!

Submit

NERDER

Ruin

LIPOS

Check

FIVERY

Hurt

REDDIE

TODAY'S WORD

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RNC attracts local residents to Wisconsin

Several local dignitaries and residents were among the thousands to attend the 2024 Republican National Convention, held

July 15-18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Former President Donald Trump received the party's nomination for president, with Sen.

JD Vance selected as his running mate. (Contributed photos)



Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, (left) is pictured with Ray Reynolds.



Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, (left) is pictured along with Ray Reynolds, a Collinsville resident, at the convention in Wisconsin.



State representatives and local residents were among the thousands attending the convention.

Welding company donates to SWAT Team

Christopher Lawless and his team at Lawless Welding & Fabrications, Inc., fabricated a breaching door that will allow SWAT opera-

tors at the Henry County Sheriff's Office to conduct realistic training on door breaching.

"We approached Mr. Lawless

about fabricating a door," Sheriff Wayne Davis said. "He and his team delivered a top-quality product that will serve our SWAT Team

for years to come." (Photos by Lawless Welding & Fabrications, Inc.)



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Changes, promotions unveiled at sheriff's office

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis recently announced promotions and changes. The changes

were prompted by the exceptional hard work, dedication, and a strong commitment to serving

our community demonstrated by each person. Davis, pictured on the left, congratulated each:



Sgt. Chris Elgin



Corp. Travis Reynolds



Corp. Aaron Davis



Sgt. John-Mark Tatum



Investigator Michael Panos



Corp. Scott Porter

Majority of Virginia localities are under a drought advisory

The majority of Virginia's localities are under either a drought advisory watch or warning.

According to a recent Drought Advisory Declaration from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, 12 counties are under a drought advisory warning and 95 counties and cities are under a drought watch.

The declaration was issued to advise Virginians in the affected areas to prepare for a potential drought. While recent rainfall has helped in some areas, it has not alleviated conditions for farmers in many areas across the commonwealth, especially in the Shenandoah and Northern Virginia regions.

A drought or severe drought designation is initiated by local U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency offices and approved by the U.S. secretary of agriculture. This type of designation enables farmers in the affected counties to be eligible for certain assistance from FSA. Farmers in the counties and cities that are contiguous to the primary drought declaration counties also are eligible to apply for the same emergency assistance.

This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. When eligibility requirements are met, the FSA will assess each emergency loan application individually and will consider specific circumstances

and needs. Farmers in eligible localities have eight months from the date of the disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans.

The Virginia drought declaration is different from a USDA disaster designation. As conditions warrant, the USDA may issue a natural disaster designation for localities.

This is the second consecutive year that farmers have experienced drought conditions across much of Virginia with over 60 localities receiving a USDA disaster designation last year, according to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Farmers affected by drought conditions are relying on irrigation to keep their crops growing, but that can be a costly endeavor.

"The corn and soybeans are really affected by this drought," shared David Hickman, owner of Dublin Farms in Accomack County and a Virginia Farm Bureau Federation board member. "The parts of the farm that aren't irrigated are going to have low yields." The farm relies on surface ponds for water supply, so without some rainfall, that source is limited.

"Our potatoes are the most valuable crop, so we'll irrigate the potatoes, and what water is left over will be put on the farm," Hickman said.

John Cromwell, owner of Cromwell's Produce in

Virginia Beach, said even growing with irrigation can be a struggle.

"Almost anybody will tell you irrigation can be as much a problem as it is a solution—moving the pipes and keeping everything running. But we've been able to keep it going," he shared.

"Droughts can severely impact agriculture by reducing crop and forage yields, and lead to additional cost for feed, watering and destocking livestock," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr. "Droughts also reduce growth in our forest and increase the risks of forest fires. We can all take steps to help our farmers by conserving water and buying local. We can also help protect our forests by adhering to burn bans and putting out campfires."

In addition to the USDA disaster designation, the federal agency has a variety of other programs to assist farmers who may suffer from natural disasters. Virginia Cooperative Extension also has resources to help before, during and after emergency situations. Farmers should contact their local Extension office to access information that may improve the drought resilience of their operations.

For farmers who may need to sell or buy extra hay due to drought conditions, VDACS hosts a Hay Clearing House through its Division of Marketing.

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