

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Rick Anderson cited his concerns about Halifax Drive.



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said there have been many serious calls to the apartment complex over the past 10 years including overdose deaths, shootings, and stabbings.

Concerns about Collinsville neighborhood detailed at meeting

By Taylor Boyd
Some Collinsville residents raised concerns at the Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting about what they call Halifax Drive apartments. Among those to address the board at its Tuesday, July 23 meeting was Donald Gilbert, who lives on Halifax Drive, and reported the problems in the apartment complex and conditions that rent-

ers live in have been ongoing for more than 25 years. The issue was initially broached with the county in 2008, Gilbert said. "It's been 16 years and very little improvements have been done. We had to get the state and the county to come in to get the driveway fixed it. I mean it was ditches four feet deep and the rescue (See Collinsville p. 2)

Lack of affordable housing is culprit of homeless crisis

By Jessica Dillon
State and local officials agree that a lack of affordable housing options and the inflation rate are contributing to the homelessness crisis, and Dels. Eric Phillips and Wren Williams said that inflation is a concern most often cited by constituents. They noted the cost of goods and services has been on the rise since the COVID-19 pandemic, with inflation rates spiking sharply in 2022. Simultaneously, the housing crisis picked up, and clean energy initiatives caused electric bills to soar, said Phillips, R-Martinsville. A lack of affordable housing contributes to (See Crisis p. 3)



Ariel Johnson explained the common causes for individuals living on the cusp of homelessness.

Martinsville Mile runner sets new area record

By Jessica Dillon
Ben Nagel, a Virginia Tech student, beat the local Martinsville Mile record on July 20 with a time of 03:53.17, which is 10 seconds off of the Guinness World Record of 03:43.13. "Those who follow the sport know that breaking the 4:00 barrier for the mile is challenging and a goal to which top runners aspire. To run 3:53 is something the vast majority of top runners can only dream about," said Joe Philpott, an organizer and promoter of the seventh annual race that was held on a downhill section of the Dick & Willie Trail. Runners were split into two groups based on previously submitted run time. Nagel, who said he enjoyed the race and was happy to take home the first-place prize, added the event provided a good place for him to get in some more practice. "I saw this race, and I was looking to do some more road miles and downhill road miles," said Nagel, who had never visited the area before. Noting "great hospitality," in the area, he added that he enjoyed his time here before the race. Connor Kinkema, former outstanding Roanoke college swimmer and professional Triathlete, finished second in 4:21 and Roanoke resident and former Averett University standout, Bryan



Ben Nagel crosses the finish line with a time of 03:53.17.

Swann finished third in 4:25, Philpott said. Both, also breaking the course record set in 2023, placed second overall with a time of 04:21.11, and Bryann Swan placed third with a time of 04:25.96, Philpott said, and added "the second and third place finishers broke the old course record." In the female overall category, Delores Ford took first place with a time of 00:05:17.02, Elizabeth Kinkema came in second with a time of 05:32.76, and Alice Kassens 05:37.17. The contest attracted 73 runners, with 23 participants running the mile in just under seven minutes. The youngest runner was aged six, while the oldest was John Dyches, 81. Races were timed using technology from Run Roanoke. "Each runner's bib has a timing chip that's programmed to a specific number," said Jeremy Woods, owner of Run Roanoke LLC. The chips ensured that each runner has their own personal time judged properly. In addition to a bib with a sensor that recorded their start and finish times, bibs were equipped with cameras for backup to verify the results. Once each runner from each heat passed over the finish line, the results were tallied. Overall, winners received a trophy and cash prize, while age group winners received a medal. "Age group winners, young and old, were just as happy and proud as the 3:53 miler," Philpott (See Martinsville Mile p.2)



Sandy Blankenship shows off her hand-crocheted stuffed animals.

Shelter event brings rescues, local artists together

By Jessica Dillon
The Henry County Animal Shelter hosted its inaugural Dog Days of Summer Event on July 14 to highlight adoptable dogs, along with other participants from the Martinsville Henry County SPCA and the Franklin County Animal Shelter. The event also hosted

many local artists, some of which even donated their proceeds to the county shelter. "I don't know if we have had any dogs adopted, but it's good to get them out of the shelter," Stephanie Davis, Henry County's Animal Control officer, said during the event (See Shelter p. 5)

Improvements to US-220 headline 2024 Smart Scale projects

The Henry County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to submit three projects to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for funding through the Smart Scale program. A priority for the Board this year is the reconstruction of the intersection of U.S. 220 South and Route 87 using a "Continuous Green T" (CGT) design to more efficiently and safely move traffic through the intersection. The primary benefit to a CGT design is that one side of a major street can pass through the intersection without stopping,

while the opposite side is typically controlled by a traffic signal. If implemented in Henry County, traffic on the southbound lane of U.S. 220 would be able to move continuously except for those turning left onto Route 87. Traffic turning left from Route 87 would use a channelized receiving lane to merge onto U.S. 220 South. This project coincides with other area initiatives to promote safety improvements along U.S. 220 South from the Route 58 bypass to the North Carolina border. A group of local business and education leaders recently have been lobbying lawmak-

ers to support similar efforts to spur regional economic development

(See US-220 p. 5)

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[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
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Collinsville

(cont. from page 1)



The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Carver Road Ruritan Club.



The Board of Supervisors presented the Community Connected Citizens Award to the Greater Bassett Area Community (G.B.A.C.).

squad got stuck in it," he said. "There's children living in these apartments, and the conditions these apartments are in, us as citizens of the road have concerns for the children and their welfare of living there in these deplorable conditions," he said. "These things are deplorable, they're not even fit for an animal to live in. They're so run down and so out of place."

A ditch runs under the road at the end of a nearby property, near the first turn-in to the complex, Gilbert said.

The ditch fills up "and washes into part of my yard, and the neighbor's yard, and VDOT's (Virginia Department of Transportation) had to come out there two or three times and get dump truck loads of stuff out of these people's yards and out of in front of my house from where the place isn't just kept up," he said.

Gilbert said the condition of the apartment complex is lowering the property values of the neighboring homes down and keeping others from moving into the neighborhood.

"This is one of the worst places I've seen in the county," he said. "If we as citizens and the county can show that they're fixing them up and all, maybe these people can get a step up in life. It'd make them feel better, at least they got somewhere they can live that ain't got rats and roaches and bats and all this stuff, big holes in the roofs, water running through them," he said.

Gilbert said Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis has helped the community a lot and has been doing good work to help calm down the criminal aspect of the apartments, "but we need help from the county to try and see if we can pressure the landowner, the apartment owner, to fix them up," he said.

Rick Anderson, who lives nearby on Cherward Street, said he had a petition with 45 signatures of those who live in the general area and want something to be done.

In about the past 15 years, Anderson said there've been approximately 2,100 calls to the Henry County Sheriff's Office for everything from shootings, stabbings, and domestic violence situations.

"We actually have a lady that lives directly across from the apartments that actually had a shotgun pulled on her," he said. "There have been dead bodies

found in these apartments that probably was in there a week or two."

Because he lives close to the complex, Anderson said he deals with the effects of upkeep, including vermin.

"I've actually killed 25 rats in just a year. Several of the neighbors that live in the area are having problems with cockroaches," he said.

Anderson said he believes residents need help, and the board needs to step up, if possible.

Joe Bryant, vice-chairman and of the Collinsville District, said he inherited the issue when he came on the board and has been working on it since.

"It hasn't been easy. We started off on this apartment complex as a drug blight area. Knock on wood, since Sheriff Davis took over, that has dropped considerably. They dropped so much now that we really can't make that a drug blight area anymore because of what Sheriff Davis and his officers have done," he said.

Bryant said he also discussed other options with County Attorney George Lyle.

"Unsafe structure was the next thing," he said.

Bryant noted that some units are vacant - those with unsafe holes in the roof. Firewalls were built in-between units.

"The building inspector went out and inspected the apartments and said that the apartments were not considered as an unsafe structure. Even though the appearance might be terrible, it's not considered as an unsafe structure," Bryant said, adding that he also considered a nuisance ordinance based on health issues of people getting sick, diseases, and the like.

"But the health department says, 'you have to bring us evidence of people that are having issues' like cancer, rashes, all kinds of sorts of things that they're getting from the apartments," he said.

Bryant said the county can't get into the apartments to inspect them, nor will every tenant allow them into each individual apartment.

Lyle said the county has a small toolbox to address these issues.

"As far as the physical nature of the structure, the way the Code of Virginia is set up, this county designates a building official and it's that person's duty to be trained and licensed, and autho-

rized to enforce building regulations."

Some offered photos of and around the complex, which Lyle noted were shown to the building official. Additionally, "he's inspected the property to the fullest he legally can from the exterior, and he has said they are not unsafe structures. They do not meet the definition of unsafe structure," Lyle said.

With the drug blight, Lyle said Davis told him he does not have evidence of illegal drug sales or use on the property that would sustain a drug blight further proceeding.

Davis said he met with the owner "to tell him to do these things to alleviate the drug blight. Unlike with Villa Heights where that owner refused to do anything, he didn't resist, so ultimately, we were able to tear down the drug blight there."

The owner "denied there was drug blights, that he would take some of the measures that were in those letters," Davis said. "Ultimately, if we want to proceed further, we have to show there's drug activity. We have to link some of the issues and behaviors to drug activity, and there's no evidence to do that."

In the past 10 years, Davis said there has been 778 calls for service either at the apartment complex or from its neighbors calling about issues relating to the apartments.

One unique thing about the complex, Davis said, is that despite the number of calls, there's constant turnover of residents.

"They're constantly turning over. People there this week may not be there next month. So, that's what's unique about the apartment complex, it appears to" have "a constant stream of people who generate 911 calls," he said.

In a three-year period, Davis said there were 379 calls for service there.

"I ran those numbers for the past 12 months from the date, and 12 months ago 202 calls for service. What's interesting about that is half of those were self-initiating proactive policing calls where we initiate it ourselves. In fact, we've not had a call for a criminal matter at the Halifax apartments since June 1, and that was a shots fired call," he said.

Since June 1, Davis said there have been nearly 30 documented

proactive policing encounters at the apartment.

"It's because of those proactive policing encounters (that) we're not receiving 911 calls. With that being said, we're spending a tremendous amount of time in the area focusing on Halifax apartments to try and prevent criminal activity. We've been successful, but we have other areas of the county we have to focus on as well," Davis said, adding that many of the calls received over the past 10 years have been serious including overdose deaths, shootings, and even a relatively recent stabbing.

"Halifax is a problem that we from the sheriff's office" will "continue to work on with the assets we have available to us," he said. "Halifax Drive is a nice community, the people maintain the properties, they keep them up. It's a short street, except for the apartment complex," he said.

For the nuisance ordinance, Lyle said the health director would want to see a linkage between the building conditions and health issues. Lyle added that he would like to meet with some residents in the neighborhood to discuss potential private options.

Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, asked if the county could look at some incentive programs, like grants or taxes, to encourage people to tear buildings like the apartment complex down.

"Would it be possible, it may have been done I don't know, to get ... everybody together in a room together, sit down, and have a conversation because sometimes that personal touch" is needed, he said.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, said she doesn't think anyone could disregard that the apartment complex is an eyesore.

"I know that Mr. Bryant over the years has definitely talked with different members about the problem through administration to try to get something done," she said, adding the board won't stop trying to address the issue.

"Please rest assured that you're not forgotten. It's just a matter of going through the proper legal channels in order to get something done, if we can get something done," she said.

Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District, did not attend the meeting.

Martinsville Mile

(cont. from page 1)



Ben Nagel crosses the finish line with a time of 03:53.17.



John Dyches runs the mile at age 81.



A local family participates in the run together.

said. Miles in Martinsville will continue to hold races throughout the year.

"Our running program is an asset to health and wellness in the community and also serves tourism in that many runners come

from out of town," said Philpott. The next race is the Harvest Moon Run on September 14.

See more at
www.henrycountyclerprise.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

Thursday, August 1

School Board Meeting, 9 a.m., County Admin Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

Events

Friday, July 26

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

The Wizard of Oz, 7 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Dino Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

Saturday, July 27

The Wizard of Oz, 4 and 7 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Dino Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

Arts in The Square, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, 1 E Main 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., ages 11 to 16, Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown.

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., ages 11 to 16, Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown.

Check Your Gut, 6 p.m., Martinsville Branch Library, 310 Church St E, Martinsville.

Thursday, August 1- Saturday, August 3

The Wizard of Oz, 7 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Sunday, August 4

The Wizard of Oz, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Tuesday, August 6

National Night Out, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Hooker Field & Lou Whitaker Park, 450 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville.

Saturday, August 24

Dan River District Ruritans will be hosting their annual Color Run at the Danville-Pittsylvania County Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. A fun day for all the family with a color run/walk, a car cruise-in, vendors, community partners and food. Proceeds will benefit "Dan River District Ruritans Youth Fund and Youth Events" the 33 Ruritan clubs in Halifax, Danville-Pittsylvania, Henry and Patrick counties is used for the sole need of helping any child in the Dan River District area in need of support of such items as hospital bills, medical bills, medical equipment, and showing, at any time, the possibility of losing their home. This is a special needs fund that is used only for this purpose. Join or start a club in your community today. For more information about the event or joining/starting a club contact us at <https://www.facebook.com/danriverdistrict> or danriverdistrictruritans@gmail.com.

ONGOING

A series of classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in September. Genealogy 1 and Genealogy 2, offered on September 3 and 10 respectively, are for those just beginning their family research. Genealogy 3 and Genealogy 4, offered September 17 and 24, will cover the use of several different genealogical websites. To benefit from the 3rd and 4th classes, participants will need to have taken the first two classes and/or have a basic under-

standing of computer use. There is no charge for the classes. Call (276) 629-9191 to reserve your spot.

Bassett Train Station Farmers' Market is open Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. through September 24.

Uptown Farmers Market is 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.

Crisis

(cont. from page 1)

the problem.

"We don't have enough housing. That's the problem. People talk about affordable housing, but we don't have any type of housing," said Phillips, adding that the cost of building a new home has greatly increased, contributing to the lack of supply.

Additionally, "inflation is creating such high interest rates on actual borrowed money used to purchase a house that people aren't moving," Williams, R-Stuart, said, adding that he doesn't believe the housing market will fix itself.

That creates an even bigger problem, because "if you don't have any houses, then you can't continue to develop economically," he said.

Phillips said, "the price of building materials changes from one day to the next; it makes it very difficult to bid a job or build a house."

With fewer people able to downsize or move from a starter home, many potential buyers aren't interested in picking up a mortgage. This, coupled with high interest rates, has made many consumers second guessing decisions to borrow money.

Housing has been one of the most affected categories, according to Ariel Johnson, patient navigation director at the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition and director of the MHC Warming Center. Not only has the price of buying a home increased, but the number of affordable rental options has also changed in the area, causing a spike in individuals left to wander the streets or live paycheck to paycheck.

Johnson has been monitoring the situation by assisting unhoused individuals and causes for the spike in struggling families.

"I think it's the same issue that we are all dealing with. If you go to the grocery store and get a buggy full of groceries that used to cost \$100, now it's \$300," she said.

The population Johnson serves are typically stuck working jobs that pay minimum, or close to minimum, wage, which means many of the homeless "are not able to afford the rent that's available right now." She also stressed that the electricity rate increases have not been easy on families.

"All of that stuff comes into play when considering someone's ability to live independently in a home and provide for themselves or others," Johnson said. The problem also runs deeper as housing is being bought up by investors looking to make a larger profit.

"Homes that my folks would be able to afford are being bought out by bigger developers who are increasing rent rates," she said, adding this practice has prompted smaller landlords in the area to raise rent rates.

Housing is the tip of the iceberg in many cases.

"In the current economy, all of us are feeling the pain at the grocery store. Inflation is at a 40-year high. We haven't seen inflation at the levels we are seeing it at right now since the early 1980s," Phillips said, adding that the current inflation rate hovered around 9.1 percent,

compared to 1.4 percent nearly four years ago.

The increased cost of groceries has alarmed consumers over the past few years, he said, adding "eggs are up 33.1 percent, meat is up 8.2 percent, gasoline is up 59.9 percent. Car rates, air travel, and even building materials have also spiked, and those increases also affected the auto sector, which is now catching back up on stock due to COVID-19 shortages.

"There's a lot of inventory sitting on car lots right now because the interest rates are so high," Phillips said, and noted that what could be farmland is now being used for solar farms.

"While milk prices are up, we are taking more and more farmland and turning it into solar farms. As we see grocery prices go up, they aren't going to go down if we keep taking farmland," he said.

Utilities are another piece of the puzzle making up the cost of living crisis. Phillips attributes the uptick in power bills partly to the green energy policies forcing power companies like AEP to invest in new equipment.

"Twenty-five percent of your electric bill according to AEP (American Electric Power), comes from all the New Green regulations in the Virginia Green Economy Act and also what was RGGI," Phillips said of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The associated regulations, he said, "cost me and you. It costs the consumer."

"The inflation problems come more from all the economic policies," said Williams. "I think that they did a terrible job at how that was handled." He noted that the life savings of many people disappeared, seemingly overnight in many cases, due to the pandemic.

Increases in minimum wage also are a problem, especially for smaller businesses.

"The entry-level job pays more, the skilled laborer now wants to keep more, and we have to pay more to keep them, and then the managers want more because now the skilled laborer is making as much as the management, and what happens is the price for everything goes up, and nobody is better off," they said.

"In our area, there are few jobs that pay minimum wage," said Phillips, adding that even companies like Sheetz are advertising entry-level jobs above minimum wage.

"Some localities here who had to go from \$10 to \$15 an hour shut down," Williams said, and added that while one person may have been paid more at smaller establishments, five others lost their jobs. "That's the understated consequences that I think people really, really need to start paying more attention to."

Jobs are another concern, with long-time residents sometimes being overlooked for higher-paying jobs, Johnson said.

"I think employers see the fancy things on some people's resumes that lived outside of the community, and they go off of that instead of recognizing the importance of that community support," she said, noting that it is "disheartening" when that happens.

"I'm the director of this organization, and I'm struggling," Johnson said. "I couldn't imagine someone living off of their Social Security check."

While help is available from places such as Grace Network - which helps with housing, food, and utilities - there are restrictions, she said.

"It ends up being you have to have an eviction notice before getting help. Once you already have an eviction notice, you're pretty much up the creek without a paddle," Johnson said, adding that she feels many 'solutions' are reactive instead of proactive.

"There are too many stipulations to get individuals the help that they need, to get them back on their feet once they've fallen down," she said.

Johnson has a master's degree, but she said she believes her community involvement is what really matters in doing her job.

"People who come here care that I know the person at the Salvation Army who's able to help them or that I go to school with them more than about the degree on the wall," she said, adding that inflation, job availability, and affordable housing all need to be steady before there is a turn in homelessness and at-risk families.

She is especially interested in seeing a reduction in homelessness, and will continue to work with those who need a place to keep warm during the winter and/or those who have fallen into the cycle of drug use.

American Legion Post donates to Ronald McDonald House



On Thursday, July 18, Sonny Richardson (right), Commander of American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78, donated aluminum tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest VA on behalf of the post. Shannon Boothe, executive director of the RMAC-SWVAs program, accepted the donation. The RMAC-SWVAs program "Keeping Families Close" provides an environment of love, community, and hope to families of seriously ill children by giving a family with a sick child what they need most - LOVE.

OPINION

Assassination History

Like you, I was shocked by the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump.

This latest assassination attempt of a president is nothing new to American history books.

One of America's most renowned presidents, Abraham Lincoln, was victim of a cold-hearted tragedy. As the Union Army neared victory in the U.S. Civil War, an actor with pro-South leanings decided to hatch a plot to assassinate Lincoln.

The actor carried out his plan on Good Friday, April 14, 1865. Lincoln, with his wife and members of his cabinet, attended Ford's Theatre for a play. The actor entered Lincoln's suite, where he shot Lincoln in the back of the head.

President James Garfield became the second American president to succumb to the tragic fate of assassination.

A campaign worker who helped Garfield's 1880 election campaign wanted a foreign embassy position.

He never received the desired appointment and decided to kill Garfield. He shot Garfield twice at a local DC train station. Garfield died months later from infection complications.

In September of 1901, Republican President William McKinley attended a New York exposition to meet members of the public. An anarchist who held contempt for American capitalism had other ideas.

He stood in a line of fairgoers before shooting McKinley twice in the abdomen.

A mob descended on the shooter, to which McKinley allegedly quipped, "Go easy on him, boys!"

McKinley's passing eight days later thrust Vice President Theodore Roosevelt into the presidency.

Roosevelt served out the rest of McKinley's term and won re-election in 1904. He decided not to seek another term in 1908 and supported William Howard Taft for president, but in 1912 reversed course and challenged Taft.

On his way to a campaign event for the Bull Moose party, Roosevelt faced near death. On October 14, 1912, Roosevelt was shot once in the chest.

The bullet inflicted minimal damage. While it did penetrate his skin, Roosevelt's dense overcoat, steel-reinforced eyeglass case and printed speech provided enough of a shield to block the bullet from reaching his heart.

The shooter also faced the wrath of those around him, to which Roosevelt responded, "Don't hurt him. Bring him here...What did you do it for?"

The shooter allegedly did not answer.

Roosevelt then insisted on going to the campaign event, where he would give a speech. Roosevelt quipped:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot, but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose."



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Only after the campaign event did he seek medical attention!

Roosevelt's relative, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, also survived an assassination attempt.

Then President-Elect Roosevelt stood on the back of a vehicle in Miami, Florida, in February 1933, giving a speech before an alleged anti-capitalist discharged his gun.

The shooter hit five people, but not Roosevelt.

Much controversy surrounds President John F. Kennedy's assassin. The suspect had a history of communist leanings, which included defecting to the Soviet Union and supporting Cuba's Fidel Castro.

A man whose loan had been turned down by the Small Business Administration accused the Nixon Administration of conspiring to oppress the poor. He stormed through Baltimore/Washington International Airport, killed a policeman and a pilot while attempting to hijack a plane and crash it into the White House.

Security foiled his plans.

Nixon's successor, President Gerald Ford, faced two such attempts on his life in a span of seventeen days!

A female Manson Family cult follower, and a female radical who admitted to her interest in bringing a violent revolution to America, both failed in their attempts to kill Ford.

Ford was a witness in one of his assailant's trials. Ford became the first U.S. president to testify at a criminal trial. Ford's Presidential Museum now displays the weapon used in the assault.

The last major assassination attempt of the twentieth century involved President Ronald Reagan, who was shot outside the Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. Thankfully, Reagan survived the attempt.

His shooter tried to impress actress Jodie Foster.

As a result of some would-be assassins trying to impress the public or gain notoriety, I have left out the names of all the attackers.

As of this writing, questions remain unanswered on the twenty-first century's first U.S. assassination attempt, the one on Donald Trump.

How did the gunman manage to penetrate security and get on top of the roof?

What were the shooter's motives?

Congress must hold vigorous investigations to ensure something like this never happens again. Not only do we owe it to future political leaders, but we owe it to the American people.

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

Good intentions and misunderstandings

The experience put me strongly and securely in my child's shoes, and I was suddenly awash in the rush of emotions she had described to me — shame, embarrassment, injustice, unfairness, misunderstanding.

The teacher yelled at me in front of the whole class, and it had not at all occurred to me that I had been doing anything wrong. My intentions had been stellar, but they had turned me into a pariah.

Sometime during the school year, my daughter had come to me distraught, at the end of the school day, to describe what happened. She had gotten yelled at in front of the whole class for something innocent and unintentional. I don't remember what it was, and when I brought it back up to her this week, she didn't either, but she still remembered the horrible feeling of being unjustly attacked in front of everyone else.

The stress of it had given her such a stomach ache that she couldn't focus on the rest of the class; all she could think of was getting out of there.

I was taking a class called Complicated Things on the Computer, or something like that. I was out of my league, so I'd better take notes, and lots of them, to later remember what I'd be learning.

However, I take loads of notes in any class and every meeting I attend, anyway. I had been a reporter for 20 years, but even before that, had been in the habit of taking notes, partially to have a later record of what was going on, and partially to keep my mind on track and keep it from wandering.

At this point in my life, the habit is so ingrained that I don't know and don't care if I take notes because I was a reporter or if I was a reporter because I take notes, but the practice serves me well.

Most of the time.

Right in the middle of a sentence about something complicated about computers, the teacher turned to me and boomed, "Will you STOP that typing! The noise is so distracting I cannot concentrate on what I am trying to say." He added something else about how I should be paying attention to his class and not be doing other things.

Shocked, I apologized and explained I was just taking notes.

He wasn't done scolding me, though, and it seemed that he didn't believe my explanation, and he ranted on and on, eyes blazing into mine, voice loud, in front of the whole class.

It was almost a day-long class that only had just begun, too. My face was blazing red in shame and I tried to keep my composure and remain polite and just hoped he'd hurry up and turn his attention back to the lesson.

Finally, he did. He turned away from me and back to the class, opened his mouth, then shut it. He turned back to me: "That's why I hate interruptions. Now I have no idea where I was in the lesson."

I read him back my last two lines of notes, and he resumed his instruction.



Holly Kozelsky

That's when my daughter's experience washed over me. In that moment, I was my daughter. I was every misunderstood kid in school. I was the kid who initially wanted to learn but now just wanted to get out of there as fast as possible. Just slink low in the chair and wait out my sentence.

I thought of all those kids who accidentally get pegged as the class troublemaker.

I was the class troublemaker.

The lesson continued, and I tried to pay attention, though my mind wandered some. At some point I realized I didn't have any idea what the teacher was explaining. We were supposed to be doing something on our computers, but I couldn't do it.

Then the class moved on to the next step, and the next, and I couldn't follow.

"I probably wouldn't ever have to be doing this stuff in my job anyway," I thought to myself. I was miserable and out of place and couldn't face the rest of the day in that place.

One great benefit we have as an adult over a kid is that we can just get up and leave a class when we want to. I daydreamed of doing just that. I did once walk out of a class I couldn't stand, on cake-decorating when, after five weeks, I still couldn't keep the cake crumbs out of my frosting, and that day's lesson was to make a cake with clowns on it. The clowns, which I don't like anyway, were the last straw, so I got up and left in frustration, and in a satisfyingly dramatic gesture threw my lumpy frosted cake in the trash in the parking lot.

I would have left that computer class simply on the basis of not understanding and not caring about the classwork ---- but if I had walked out, everyone would think it was because of the scolding I had received, so I made myself stay.

"Look pleasantly interested and polite," I told myself over and over again as the minutes ticked on, keeping a forced smile on my face.

Eventually, the topic switched, and I started understanding what was happening.

The instructor started teaching some things that would indeed be helpful in my job. I'd want to remember them, so I started taking notes again.

Slowly and quietly, I started typing.

I left that long, long class with two important lessons: How to do some computer calculations that may be useful to me at work — with all the steps carefully typed out so I'd remember — and, also, I was reminded of giving others correction gracefully and compassionately in private, and to be careful not to shame people in front of others.

Expert warns of "news singularity"

SANTA FE, NM — After the events of the last couple of weeks, America could be rapidly approaching the "news singularity," according to Dr. Keith Kimball, a futurist and researcher at New Mexico's Santa Fe Institute.

"The news singularity is a very real threat that few are talking about," Kimball said. "Cast your mind back to late August of 2001. Do you remember the top news story? Actress Anne Heche had written a book. That was the news. It got weeks of coverage. There wasn't much else going on."

Then, of course, 9/11 happened and everything changed.

"How bad has it gotten?" Kimball said. "In the span of about a week, there was a failed assassination attempt on a former President, the current President decided not to pursue a second term three months before the election, half of the computers in the world stopped working for a day, and Hulk Hogan showed up at the RNC and performed his biggest heel turn since

he joined the nWo at 'Bash at the Beach '96."

"It's hard to remember, but it used to be that if someone tried to shoot the President, it would stay in the news cycle longer than 36 hours," Kimball added.

This leads us, Kimball said, to the dreaded news singularity, an event that he predicts will happen as early as 2034.

"It will start with the news cycle speeding up more and more," he said. "At first, any story, no matter how major, will only stay in the 24 hour news cycle for a few hours. Over time, news stories will break so quickly that they're abandoned the moment they're reported on. By 2032 or 2033, news stories will begin breaking before the newscasters have finished reporting the previous story."

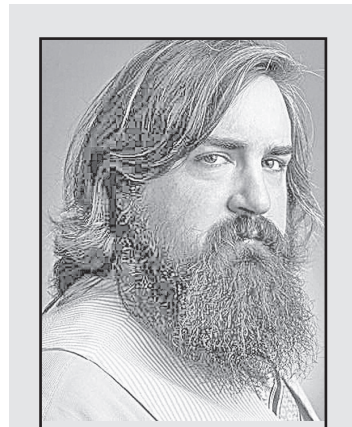
"Finally," Kimball said, "news stories will reach infinite density and gravity, and all news will begin happening simultaneously. What will this look like? Politicians will announce their candidacy and

get caught in their inevitable scandal on the same day. Every Taylor Swift album will release at the exact same time. The new Spider-Man movie will launch on the same day as its reboot. We're talking sheer chaos."

Disturbingly, Kimball said, the news singularity will eventually extend to news events that happened many years earlier and news that won't occur until the distant future.

"The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act will pass at the same time that Emperor Gleebo announces his candidacy for Galactic President," he said. "The Transcontinental Railroad will be completed on the same day as the Transcosmic Space Railroad. Earth Day and Earth Memorial Day will fall on the same day. Calendar sales are destined to plummet."

While everyone will suffer when the news singularity occurs, Kimball said that he ultimately felt the most sympathy for one particular group of American heroes.



By Ben R. Williams

"I'm referring, of course, to newspaper columnists," Kimball said. "These are folks who often write their columns a week in advance, and as the news cycle accelerates, they're going to have to increasingly throw out already written columns that are brilliantly funny but no longer relevant and replace them with some weird idea they had while driving to work."

Shelter

(cont. from page 1)



Candles were lit to honor deceased or lost pets.

that took place at Jack Dalton Park. The Dog Days event was designed to help shelter dogs get some much-needed public exposure.

"We've had several people come up and show affection to them," shelter manager Allie Keatts said. Some dogs had also piqued the interest of attendees.

"We had a couple really interested in the dogs we have as well, but we don't have anything finalized yet," she said, adding that "one of our partners who is here had one adoption."

Fees for the vendor spots also went to help the shelter, three vendors chipped in to help the shelter financially and to promote adoptions. The vendors were all local businesses and organizations.

For example, Intercept Health representatives were on hand to shed light on adoption options. Other vendors featured a variety of products - everything from earrings from Okay Cutie Clay to henna art from Siren Temptations. Several food trucks were also set up.

The vendor fees went to directly support the shelter, and many event attendees said the price was "incredibly reasonable."

Terry Lynn Twig, owner of Brigyn Farm donated a dollar from each lotion bar sale, and a percentage of the total overall sales. Owner of Sandy B's Cozy Crafts, Sandy Blankenship, entered anyone who adopted a dog at the festival into a drawing, with the winner to receive their choice of a hand-crocheted stuffed animal. Tiny Creations offered an engraved dog tag for anyone who adopted to further promote adoptions for the night.

Before the event, the candles were sold for \$5 each, for use dur-



Cornbread greets festival guests while hoping for adoption.

ing a candlelight vigil for lost and deceased animals. At the end of the night, the candles in paper bags, many featuring the names of lost pets, were arranged along the shelter tables.

Twig has adopted two animals from the shelter: a goat rescued by the shelter and now named "Sweetie," and Mustard, a dog. Twig said that she had also worked with the shelter to get a stray dog adopted.

"I demanded that he not be put down. I talked with Allie, and she got him adopted. I even got pictures of his new home," she said.

Many other attendees said that they hadn't adopted directly from the shelter but lived with rescue animals.

While the event is over, anyone who is looking for a new companion can call the Henry County Animal Shelter at (276) 656-4266, or visit during shelter hours, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Initial weekly claims continue to rise, unemployment rate remains unchanged

Data from Virginia Works indicates that 2,433 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending July 13, 2024, which is 13.9 percent higher than last week's 2,136 claims and 0.4 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,424).

Nearly 83 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Retail Trade (351); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (270); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (247); Health Care and Social Assistance (217); and Manufacturing (125).

Continued weeks claims (16,886) were 2.5 percent higher than last week (16,471) and were 23.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,696). 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 (2,521); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,260); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,695); Accommodation and Food Services (1,445); and Retail Trade (1,388).

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.

Virginia Works also noted that in June, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.7 percent, which is 0.1 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in June, the labor force decreased by 4,155 to 4,574,821 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,369 to 122,395. The number of employed residents decreased by 1,786 to 4,452,426. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.4 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.1 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.2 percent in June. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

In June, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey increased by 15,000 to 4,260,900. May's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, increased by 400 to 4,245,900. In June, private sector employment increased by 11,600 to 3,505,400 while government employment increased by 3,400 to 755,500. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 400 to 192,300, state government employment increased by 1,500 to 164,300, and local government increased by 2,300 to 398,900 over

Letters To The Editor

Women in the Secret Service

After the assassination attempt many began to post about the Secret Service women surrounding Donald Trump. Now, President Trump later said that he had confidence in the Secret Service women, but at his next public outing he was surrounded by male security. Actions speak louder than words.

No, I don't think women should be soldiers or police. How many YouTube videos have we seen of men outrunning and outwrestling female police? Physically speaking they're the weaker sex. As we discuss what women can and cannot do may I insert some Bible? Women cannot preach in the church:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." (1Cor. 14:34)

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." (1Tim. 2:11-12).

In this area we have a growing number of women preachers, but that doesn't make it Biblical. Exodus 23:2 says not to follow the multitudes. A complaint about worship services has been that it's led by males only. If anyone visited the First United Methodist Church in Uptown Martinsville, they would find it led by females only. If all male is wrong, then shouldn't all female be wrong too?

It was reported that the United Methodist Sect has lost a million members since its recent vote to allow homosexuals as clergymen. Isn't that odd that the million who left over the gender in marriage

had no problem with the gender in church leadership? It's not odd, it's hypocritical. Yes, the Bible limits marriage to a man and a woman, but the Bible also limits church leadership to men only: "A bishop must be the husband of one wife" (1Tim. 3:2).

I heard someone say recently, "A woman could be your accountant, doctor, or lawyer, but she couldn't be your preacher." That person was mocking the Bible, but I think they made a case for what the Bible says. How many working women have no children, but wish they did? How many working women have children, but are paying day-care to raise said children? How many working women have failed marriages? Maybe America's working women would be happier back in the home:

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." (1Tim. 5:14)

"The aged women... That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:3-5).

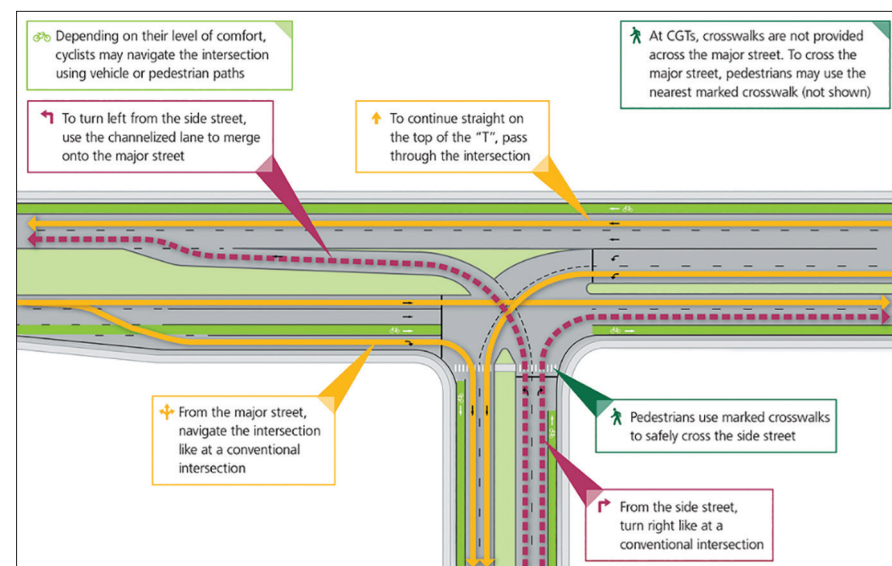
Oh, I've probably upset so many, so I'll close with this: "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16).

I'm not angry as I write this, I just don't agree with the current cultural decisions.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

US-220

(cont. from page 1)



Continuous Green T Diagram.

along the Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor—an area encompassing the Martinsville, Danville, Roanoke and Blacksburg markets. As part of their economic development strategy, the group seeks to enhance the southbound lanes of U.S. 220 to eliminate safety hazards for commuters and commercial freight.

The other two Smart Scale projects include the widening of 0.85 miles of Barrows Mill Road to improve access to industrial and economic development sites, and converting an existing two-way stop at Dillons Fork Road and The Great Road to a roundabout.

Smart Scale is a process that VDOT uses to evaluate transportation-related projects using key factors such as improved safety, reduced congestion, increased accessibility, contribution to economic development, and impact on the environment.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved a resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Carver Road Ruritan Club.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$16,456 from State Asset Forfeiture funds to cover travel expenses and office furniture for the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

- Approved an additional appro-

priation of \$61,215 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and \$20,405 from State Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase equipment for the Sheriff's Office related to special operations and narcotics enforcement activities.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$11,381 received from the Virginia State Police H.E.A.T. program to purchase equipment for the Sheriff's Office related to locating stolen vehicles and investigating other criminal activity.

- Awarded a contract to Sheehy Ford for \$50,995 to purchase a 2024 Ford F250 truck for the Sheriff's Office and approved the transfer of \$68,750 from the law enforcement and animal services cost centers to cover the costs of the truck and necessary accessory equipment.

- Awarded a contract to Nelson Ford for \$86,000 to purchase two Ford Mustang GT Coupes for the Sheriff's Office.

- Adopted revisions to the county's investment policy.

- Awarded the Community Connected Citizen Award to the Greater Bassett Area Community.

- Reappointed Mike Ward to the Roanoke River Basin Association for a 1-year term, scheduled to expire on August 31, 2025.

the month.

Seasonally adjusted total non-farm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In June, seven experienced over-the-month job gains, two remained unchanged, and two experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+6,500) to 821,900. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+3,400) to 755,500. The third largest job gain occurred in Education and Health

Services (+2,900) to 610,000. The other gains were in Construction (+1,300) to 224,900; Information (+1,100) to 71,700; Miscellaneous Services (+100) to 204,700; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+100) to 678,500.

The largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-300) to 221,600. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-100) to 250,000.

Leisure and Hospitality as well as Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

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

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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

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Account Number - 128100000
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VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY
LIBERTY MUTUAL PERSONAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
Petitioner,

Case No: CL24-188
v. RYANPERSAD MAHADEO, by his mother and next friend, TRUDY ASSAM, Respondent.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The reason for this cause is to notify the father of Ryanpersad Mahadeo, Inderspersion Mahadeo, of the settlement of a personal injury case. Inderspersion Mahadeo's whereabouts are unknown.

Upon consideration wherefore, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that Inderspersion Mahadeo, do appear hereon on September 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., which date is no sooner than fifty (50) days after entry of this Order of Publication.

And it is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Henry County Enterprise newspaper, a newspaper having general circulation in Henry County, Virginia.

ENTERED this 8th day of July, 2024.

J. J. [Signature]
Judge

Book swap a hit among readers



The swap featured a host of genres.



Jennifer Bailey took several books home, including "The House Girl," "Remarkably Bright Creatures," and "The Invisible Life of Addie Larui."



Library patrons bring used books to trade for new titles.

The Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library hosted its first book swap

on July 23. The library donated many of their books to ensure variety. "It's a new program.

Our next date will be on December 9, all ages are welcome," said branch manager Tammy

Cope. The swap was hosted by Cope and library worker Melisa Seapma.

Health tracking website to be launched

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will soon launch the Virginia Environmental Health Tracking Program website with information about asthma, air quality, COPD, and climate.

The website will allow users to:

- have the tools to find out about environmental health issues relevant to you and your family;
- have the knowledge to make positive improvements in the community where you live; and
- have health data and environmental data all in one place.

Movie in the Park rescheduled

Movie in the Park! The Henry County Parks and Recreation Movie in the Park was rained out last Friday, and has been rescheduled to Friday, July 26, with "Migration" to be featured.

This is a great movie for all ages and is about a duck family's adventurous trip from New England to Jamaica. The movie is being shown next to the picnic shelter at Jack Dalton Park and admission is free. Music and games will start at 7:30

p.m., and the movie will begin 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 Henry County Parks and Recreation at (276) 634-4640 for additional information or questions.

Virginia takes steps to improve maternal, child health outcomes

This month, Virginia is observing Maternal Health Awareness Month by setting aside the month to bring attention to the need to improve the health of babies and their mothers. While Virginia has made progress, cases of adverse maternal and birth outcomes are high, and are rising for Black women.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2021, Black women were three times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than White women. Poor health outcomes are caused by several factors such as lack of care coordination, limited access to health care, nutrition, and challenges with managing chronic diseases.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently unveiled a Maternal and Child Health data dashboard. The dashboard displays metrics on preterm births, birth weight, infant mortality,

prenatal care, and maternal smoking, and is sortable by year, health district, locality, and race/ethnicity. The dashboard will help VDH monitor the health of communities which will result in the agency and its partners creating or enhancing programs and initiatives aimed at improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Last month, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an Executive Order to reestablish the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures. The effort involves partnerships with agencies, organizations, and individuals focused on maternal and child health. The Task Force will bring these partners together to review data collection processes and provide recommendations that will help to improve our ability to track state performance and identify areas for intervention, with the goal to address those differences in maternal outcomes.

Homebuyers and Owners Beware

With today's tight real estate market, there is often pressure to act quickly when you find that perfect place. Scammers know this and are waiting to pounce. Here are three things to be aware of when shopping for a home.

Wire fraud can happen when a criminal impersonates a real estate or title company and asks you to send the closing costs to them. Before wiring any funds contact your real estate company and confirm the account information, routing instructions and total amount needed.

Criminals are also in the market to take advantage of those at risk of foreclosure. Beware of anyone

promising to make your mortgage payment issues go away -- especially if they ask for an upfront fee.

Lastly, if you are looking to rent a home, make sure and visit in person before paying a deposit. Rental scams happen often with criminals creating legitimate looking websites offering great deals on homes that aren't really up for rent.

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

IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program

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/>.

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



Riley Hines



Thabelo Nemulodi

Rising college seniors spend summer monitoring water quality at SML

Riley Hines, of Bealeton, Va., and Thabelo Nemulodi, from South Africa, are rising seniors who worked with the Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Program

"I wanted to enhance my laboratory skills; I just wanted to have more hands-on work. As much as it doesn't really align directly with my degree, there's still a lot of knowledge that I can learn," said Nemulodi, who is majoring in biology and pre-professional health sciences with a pre-med emphasis and a minor in chemistry.

Hines, who is majoring in environmental science and agriculture with an emphasis in crop science, spent her second summer in the program.

"I just enjoyed last summer so much and felt like I learned so much that I really wanted to experience all of the other positions and roles, which is why I came back," she said. "I'm also conducting independent research at Ferrum analyzing data from the water quality project, so another year will give me more hands-on experience to understand my research."

Both are part of a team of Ferrum College faculty and students who, along with Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) volunteers, test the lake water for physical constituents, nutrients, bacte-

ria, and algal blooms.

As the primary technician on algae, Hines is responsible for phytoplankton (algae) counts and works with depth profiling equipment. Water samples are analyzed by scientists at the College, and the results are shared with SMLA, the public, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). This year marks the 38th year of water quality monitoring at Smith Mountain Lake.

In the SML Water Quality Program, Nemulodi is the primary technician for E. coli bacteria testing and co-technician for the total phosphorus testing. She also serves as the liaison who communicates with citizen volunteers throughout the summer project.

Hines is president of the Ferrum College Agriculture Club and Collegiate Young Farmers. After college graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree and doctorate in water quality.

Nemulodi also serves as a resident assistant for the Office of Residence Life. She is vice-president of the Ferrum College chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and a member of the Black Student Union. She plans to take her new knowledge of lab techniques into medical school.

Series of genealogical research classes set

A series of classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in September.

Genealogy 1 and Genealogy 2, offered on September 3 and 10 respectively, are for those just beginning their family research and will cover the basics of research and the materials available at the Center.

Genealogy 3 and Genealogy 4, offered on September 17 and 24 respectively, will cover the use of several different genealogical websites. To benefit from the 3rd and 4th classes, participants will need to have taken the first two classes and/or have a basic understanding of computer use.

There is no charge for the classes which will be conducted by Cindy (Hubbard) Headen, Genealogy Clerk at the Bassett Historical Center. Headen is a graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, Roanoke Bible College (now Mid-Atlantic Christian University) and Elizabeth City State University. She has been doing genealogical research for more than 23 years and has worked at the Historical Center for 18 years.

When registering for Genealogy 1, participants will automatically be signed up for the other three classes.

Classes are limited to 12 people. Call the Historical Center to reserve your spot, (276) 629-9191.

Arts in the Square to be held Saturday



Arts in the Square

Hosted By:
Martinsville Arts and Cultural Committee
in collaboration
with the MHC
Heritage Center

**Saturday
July 27th
10AM-12PM**

Show off your artistic skills at the Historical Courthouse!
Painting for all ages with crayons, watercolors, and acrylic paints.

Fescue to perform "jamgrass" in Sounds series



Fescue band members Gabriel Dalton, guitar and vocals; Victor Cano, upright bass; Hunter Applegate, mandolin and vocals; and Nicholas Johnson, banjo and vocals, will perform in Uptown Martinsville on Aug. 2.

Sounds on the Square will introduce Uptown Martinsville to "jamgrass" with the Americana band, Fescue, on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, 7-10 p.m. on August 2.

Admission is free. Beginning at 6 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers, Rocky Mount Smokehouse will sell food, and Bahama Sno-Shack will offer frozen treats. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Invite your friends and family for an evening of live music at Uptown Martinsville's premier concert series.

Jamgrass is a freer and more expansive version of traditional bluegrass. The genre is similar to bluegrass, but with a few more instruments, a more open-to-interpretation format, and a lot of fans who want something more. What distinguishes jamgrass from bluegrass is that it pulls from rock and pop with intense progressions. Don't expect one performance to be the same as any other - jamming is

all very in-the-moment.

Fescue band members include Gabriel Dalton, guitar and vocals; Victor Cano, upright bass; Hunter Applegate, mandolin and vocals; and Nicholas Johnson, banjo and vocals. They will also play classic rock, blues, indie, grunge, originals, and more.

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

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

The City of Martinsville's Arts & Cultural Committee, in collaboration with the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and MHC Heritage Center, is hosting an Arts in the Square event on Saturday, July 27, and you're invited.

The event will be held from 10

a.m. to noon, at the Historic Henry County Courthouse. The community event is perfect for all ages, especially youngsters. Come down to the courthouse square and let your creativity flow while painting beautiful pictures of the historic courthouse.

Habitat for Humanity in Martinsville-Henry County to change affiliation

The Martinsville - Henry County chapter of Habitat for Humanity International has a new covenant partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing. The chapter will disaffiliate with Habitat for Humanity effective immediately to begin the new affiliation as the Fuller Center for Housing - Martinsville - Henry County, Inc.

"This decision to begin a new partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing was not taken lightly," said Houston Stutz, board president of the local chapter. "Our board thinks this move will align more with our goals and ambitions, as well as be beneficial for serving our community and the housing issues we face."

Habitat for Humanity has had a chapter in Martinsville and Henry County since 1988 when Bill Adkins formed the 501c3 non-profit organization. At the time, Habitat for Humanity International was led by founder and President Millard Fuller. In 2005, Fuller left HFHI to begin another non-profit housing organization with a similar mission as Habitat for Humanity called the Fuller Center for Housing.

Much like Habitat, The Fuller Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that seeks to eradicate poverty housing by promoting partnerships with individuals and community groups to build and rehabilitate homes for people in need.

Currently, the M-HC organization serves 12 families in the community and has helped more than 30 since its inception in 1988. Nothing will change with the mortgages for the families it currently serves.

"Our mission, values, and willingness to serve will not change," Stutz said. "We still want to provide families with an affordable place to call home. This move will

allow us to do that in a better capacity while also helping more with critical repairs."

As a cost-conscious organization, FCH-MHC is always in need of people's time, talents, and treasures. Individuals committed to building or rehabbing homes can join one of The Fuller Center of Martinsville - Henry County's upcoming projects. No experience is necessary. FCH joyfully welcomes people from all walks of life as volunteers or in selecting beneficiaries for services. The Fuller Center works in partnership with people around the world, of all faiths and backgrounds, to build God's Kingdom on earth by improving and transforming lives.

The Fuller Center for Housing - Martinsville - Henry County Board of Directors is also currently searching for a new Executive Director. The position is a part-time role with an average of 20 hours per week spent working with the current homeowners and board members. Hours can fluctuate depending on time of the month or projects being completed. If interested in learning more, please email Stutz at hstutz48@gmail.com or by speaking with one of the many members of the board of directors. In addition to Stutz, directors include Wayne Moore, Smith Chaney, Letitia Pulliam, Jim Adams, Teresa Cahill, Donna Dillard, W.C. Fowlkes and Andrew Palmer.

Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to The Fuller Center for Housing - Martinsville - Henry County, 932 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. In-kind donations of building materials and services are also greatly appreciated. The local contact number by phone is (276) 638-6484. More information can be found online at www.fullercenter.org.

Crossing the Lines

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

Houchins to serve in dual roles



Now that the county combined the Tourism and Economic Development posts, James Houchins, who has led the county's tourism efforts since 2022, was selected to serve as director of Economic Development and Tourism, effective on July 1.

Houchins has served as the Tourism Director since May 2022, and previously worked in the Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department.

With the new position, Houchins, 56, said he will be continuing the efforts to bring economic vitality to the county through economic development and tourism efforts.

"They both align well, so I'm hoping that it will just help me to focus more on growing the county. Tourism is economic development, that's one of the things that helps drive a lot of rural communities," he said.



Council approves property rezoning request

The Stuart Town Council approved the Stuart Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone a property on Commerce Street and implement an ordinance change at its Wednesday, July 17 meeting.

The property was rezoned from heavy industrial to high-density residential and is planned to house six luxury apartment complexes. Each apartment is set to be three-floors with 12 units.

Mayor Ray Weiland said the ordinance change involved three variances, including an allowance for the buildings' height to be increased from 35 feet to 45 feet.

Another variance allows for lot coverage of up to 55 percent instead of 40 percent.

"So, a bit of an increase on the lot coverage. The third allowance was

the minimum distance of 10-foot to the driveway between the building and the driveway," he said.

The property, bought by Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, is located between Stuart Forest Products and EMI Imagining on Commerce Street. The Mayo River Rail Trail goes through the property.

Singh Brothers owner Deleep Paul said he and his brother Harjot Paul grew up in nearby Stokes County, N.C.

"We are not flippers. We don't flip our properties. We are investing into our properties to grow as a community with you guys," he said.

Deleep Paul said the pair also own Friendly's in the Patrick Springs area, the Stuart Laundry Mat, a car wash on Blue Ridge Street, and other properties in Stuart.

Chamber Chat - July

Seven Year Anniversary

Time flies when you are having fun! And I cannot believe this month marks my seventh year as the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. Looking back, we have accomplished and provided a lot of programming through the years. Every year brings its new challenges and priorities, but we, at the chamber, have worked to meet those challenges.

When I stepped into the role, the chamber membership was a low roster and unengaged. We immediately looked for ways to re-engage our members and community, as well as improve the financial outlook. Thankfully, due diligence by chamber staff (me and our wonderful assistant Sharon Williams), we have been



able to not only increase our annual budget, but also now have a healthy membership.

• By Rebecca Adcock, Executive Director

School division celebrates Beta Distinction



The Patrick County School Board celebrated becoming a National Beta District of Distinction at its Thursday, July 18 meeting.

Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, read a proclamation stating that the distinction is awarded to school districts that demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, and service involvement.

"National Beta is proud to recognize an outstanding 306 schools within the 65 2023-2024

National District of Distinction recipients. Through the exceptional efforts of school boards, district administrators, school principals, club sponsors, and deserving Beta members, their recognition of this national award speaks highly of their commitment to academic excellence leadership development, and service involvement," she said.

Harrell said the award illustrates the division's distinction in preparing students for college and ensuring career readiness.

Magician coming to The Star



The Rotary Club of Stuart will welcome Magician, Jack Kelly, to The Star Theatre in Stuart on Monday, August 12 for some mind-blowing magic and high energy entertainment from 6 - 7 p.m. The show will be free and enjoyable for all ages! Attendees are welcome to come as early as 5:00pm to enjoy fellowship, grab a seat and concessions before the show!

Nationally recognized magician

Jack Kelly has swiftly become a standout entertainer, while being an award winning magician, Jack has been known as an "audience favorite" at South Carolina's largest magic venue and has traveled the country from coast to coast putting smiles on thousands of people's faces.

For information on the event, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3871741739623547>.

FOR MORE, VISIT THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE AT WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM.

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plus 9:15PM - every hour!

AREAS ONLY 9PM MOVIES

Basketball clinic returns for 6th year

By Jessica Dillon

The Michael C. Jarrett Basketball Clinic will return for a sixth year on July 29-30. The clinic enlists the help of several local basketball coaches, along with former Harlem Globe Trotter George Bell. The clinic focuses on helping to improve the skills, teamwork, and confidence of young boys and girls.

Jarrett said the clinic is “very, very structured. I try to teach fundamentals, I want the kids to learn life skills, as well as basketball skills,” with a focus on teaching fundamentals at the clinic that will be held at Fort Trial Baptist Church, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for 6-10-year-olds, and 5 to 7 p.m. for 11 to 16-year-olds.

“Basketball skills and life skills have a common thread,” said Jarrett, who is hoping to make an impact on the lives of many young children this year. “The coaches and I work hard to help local kids learn the fundamentals of basketball but also the fundamentals of life. Hard work, teamwork, friendship, sharing, discipline, focus, positive attitude, obeying rules, and other attributes serve young people both in sports and in life.”

Participants will have breaks, with snacks and drinks, and can opt to participate for one day or two days, depending on their preference. Additionally, the clinic covers ages 6 to 16.

Along with Bell, who Jarrett said, “is a big hit with the kids,” there are two other coaches helping at the clinic. Bill Adkins, an assistant coach for the girls’ basketball team at Carlisle School, and John Martin, the current basketball coach at Bassett High School.

Jarrett said he re-



Harlem Globetrotter George Bell volunteers his time to work with a local basketball clinic.

cruited Bell due to being involved in basketball while living in Virginia Beach. “We met and became good friends. I worked with him on basketball skills, and then he went to college and worked with the Harlem Globetrotters in his adult years.”

The two became good friends and have kept in touch for more than 50 years, Jarrett said, adding that Bell also helps with an anti-bullying campaign.

“He’s like a rockstar when he comes up here,” Jarrett said of Bell, and added youngsters in the clinic also have photos taken with Bell as a memento.

The clinic was previously held at the Bassett Community Center and then the Martinsville YMCA. This year, the clinic will move to the gym at Fort Trial Baptist Church, located

at 170 Oak Level Road in Stanleystown. The church regularly puts on the Upward Basketball program and is no stranger to supporting basketball events.

“Daniel Reed, the pastor, was very receptive to letting me have my clinic there,” Jarrett said.

The gym is smaller than what Jarrett has worked with in the past, the clinic has been split, with two groups sorted by age.

That also will help to make the clinics “more compatible,” with space for more children, Jarrett said, adding “there’s a big difference in age, size, and skills” to accommodate.

The cost for a single day is \$20, or \$30 for both days. To enroll, email Jarrett at MCJARRETT4833@gmail.com or call (757) 237-5644.



Liz Ashby (Wicked Witch), Jyshir Plunkett (Scarecrow), Scott Harmon (Tin Man), Titus Rodriguez(Toto), Anna Locklear (Dorothy), Landon George (Cowardly Lion), Zack Jordan (Wizard), Grace Webster (Glinda to Good).

Performances of The Wizard of Oz to begin this weekend

P&HCC Productions will present “The Wizard of Oz,” beginning this weekend. Show dates and times are:

July 25-27 & August 1-3 at 7 p.m.; and July 27 & August 4 at 2 p.m.

Performances are held in the Walker Fine Arts theatre on the campus of Patrick & Henry Community College, located at 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville, VA. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Visit www.phccpatriotplayers.com/tickets.

ers.com/tickets.

Please note, children 3 years old and younger get in FREE but must sit in the lap of a ticket holder.

The show is directed by Justin Hall and presented in partnership with Ray Hollingsworth Dance and Arts Studio and Smith River Singers.

The show is sponsored by Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, Martinsville Smiles, PLLC, Stifel, State-line Aesthetics, and Carter Bank & Trust.

Parker elected chairman of Virginia Commission for the Arts Board

The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) announced the election of Barbara Bailey Parker of Collinsville as the new chairman of the Commission Board for the 2024–2025 term. The election took place during VCA’s June meeting at the General Assembly Building at the Capitol.

Parker brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for all arts disciplines to the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Parker served for 19 years as the Director of Programs for VCA-grantee Piedmont Arts, an accredited museum and arts center in Martinsville, VA. Her commitment to arts advocacy is further demonstrated through her previous roles as a board member of the Virginia Presenters Network, the North Carolina Presenters Consortium, and as one of the founders of TheatreWorks Community Players in Martinsville. In addition to her extensive professional and volunteer work in the arts community, Parker founded the For Alison Foundation in 2016. This nonprofit organization, created in memory of her daughter, journalist Alison Parker, is dedicated to providing arts opportunities for youth in southern Virginia.

“I am deeply honored to serve as Chair of the Virginia Commission for the Arts,” said Parker. “I look forward to working with fellow Commissioners, VCA staff, and VCA grantees to continue investing in and amplifying the vibrant and diverse arts communities of Virginia.”

In addition to Parker’s election, Frazier Millner Armstrong of Richmond has been elected as Vice Chairman and Lou Flowers of Virginia Beach as Secretary. Armstrong brings board service, leadership, and a love of the arts since age 11 when auditioning for a lead role in one of her local



Barbara Bailey Parker

community theatre groups. Flowers is actively engaged in her local art and culture scene, including volunteering with VCA grantees Chrysler Museum and Museum of Contemporary Art.

“The Virginia Commission for the Arts is incredibly fortunate to have the leadership service of these esteemed women” said the VCA’s Executive Director, Margaret Hancock. “My colleague and I are excited to see the continued positive impact the VCA makes across the state with” Parker, Armstrong, and Flowers “leading the charge as our officers.”

The Board of the Virginia Commission for the Arts is comprised of nine Governor-appointed members from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Commissioners contribute as innovative, high-caliber leaders; dedicated champions; and energetic ambassadors of the VCA and its work to elevate the arts for the benefit of all Virginians.

Kaine supports effort to streamline healthcare access for children

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, joined the Accelerating Kids’ Access to Care Act, bipartisan legislation that would streamline access to life-saving medical care for children with complex medical conditions who receive care across state lines by eliminating unnecessary administrative work for health care providers.

“Children deserve medical attention as quickly as possible. In cases where that means crossing state lines, parents deserve to know that red tape won’t cause delays,” said Kaine, D-Richmond. “This biparti-

san legislation will help eliminate bureaucracy and ensure more families have access to life-saving care when they need it most.”

Under current Medicaid policy, in order for children to receive care across state lines, the providers must be enrolled in the Medicaid program that aligns with the child’s state of origin. The Accelerating Kids’ Access to Care Act would create a pathway for pediatric providers to enroll in multiple state Medicaid programs, thus eliminating unnecessary delays, reducing administrative burdens, and ensuring that children with Medicaid receive timely access to the specialized care they need.

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/virginalongcovidstudy>. 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 inter-

views 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/>.



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Martinsville Speedway to host new race this fall

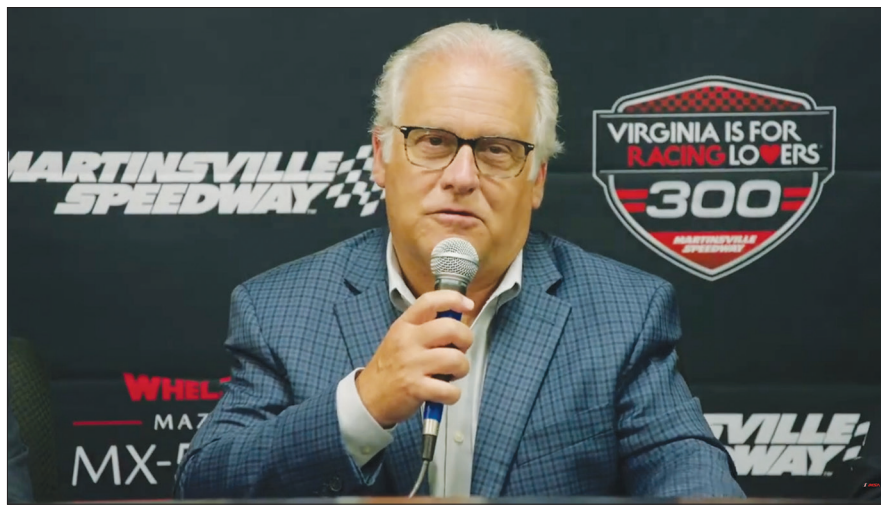
Martinsville Speedway and the Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by Michelin announced that the spec series will hold an exhibition race as part of the 2024 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season finale event on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The event will be a 300-lap doubleheader called the 'Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300' with the Mazda MX-5 Cup taking to the track for 100 laps, directly followed by the 200-lap finale of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship. The race will award \$15,000 to the Mazda MX-5 Cup race winner.

The event was announced last week at the speedway.

"We couldn't be more excited to add another incredible event to that history," said Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell, who campaigned to bring the cars to Martinsville. "It's been about a year, a year and a half process to get this announced."

The exhibition event will not count toward the 2024 Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup Championship, which concludes Oct. 11 at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. It will consist of two practice sessions, single-car qualifying, and a 100-lap race split into two stages. Yellow flags will not count for the first 50-lap stage, but will be in effect for the second half. Prize money



Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway, sits in front of the backdrop for the newly announced Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300.

will also be awarded to the top three drivers at the stage break.

"It's a great compliment to Mazda MX-5 Cup that NASCAR and IMSA leadership enjoy the series and want to expand its footprint," said Jonathan Applegate, Senior Manager, Mazda Motorsports. "We've seen increased interest in the series from drivers with NASCAR aspirations who want to grow their skill set. Racing at Martinsville is a unique opportunity to capitalize on that and we are really excited about this opportunity."

The concept of racing Mazda MX-5 Cup at Martinsville started amongst

NASCAR and IMSA leadership, who recognized the entertainment value of the series' incredibly close racing. Martinsville, the short track, was deemed a perfect fit for the small convertibles and a test featuring several drivers was conducted in August of last year.

"Martinsville Speedway has such a unique and rich history of racing, and we couldn't be more excited to add another incredible event to that history," said Campbell. "It'll be the first time we have open top cars racing on track since our early days in the 50s, tapping into our past and also our roots as we host the NASCAR

Whelen Modified Tour finale on the same weekend. We're excited to bring the Mazda MX-5 Cup to Martinsville, and I know this will be one the fans enjoy."

The Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300 will be the first ever race on an oval circuit for MX-5 Cup, though it has held events at rival tracks familiar to NASCAR fans, including Daytona International Speedway, Homestead-Miami Speedway and Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Entries are open for all racers and are not limited to MX-5 Cup or IMSA drivers and teams.

In addition to a \$15,000 check from Mazda for the winner, Martinsville will award one of their famous grandfather clocks as well. Runner-up receives \$5,000, third place receives \$4,000 and payouts continue through 10th place.

To prepare for this unique race, MX-5 Cup will hold a test at Martinsville on Monday, Aug. 26. The date is exceptionally convenient for MX-5 Cup teams who will have just concluded a doubleheader at VIRginia International Raceway, an hour's drive away.

For more details on the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300 and to purchase tickets to the race weekend, please visit www.martinsvillespeedway.com.

Tax pros warned about phishing emails, cloud-based attacks

In the second installment of a special series, the Internal Revenue Service and Security Summit partners warned tax professionals to be aware of evolving phishing scams and cloud-based schemes designed to steal sensitive taxpayer information.

One of the most common threats facing tax pros are phishing and related scams. These are designed to trick the recipient into disclosing personal information such as passwords, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers.

Tax professionals and taxpayers should be aware of different phishing terms and what the email scams might look like:

Phishing/Smishing – Phishing emails or SMS/texts (known as "smishing") attempt to trick the recipient into clicking a suspicious link, filling out information or downloading a malware file. Often phishing attempts are sent to multiple email addresses at a business or agency increasing the chance someone will fall for the trick.

Spear phishing – A specific type of phishing scam that bypasses emailing large groups at an organization, but instead identifies potential victims and delivers a more realistic email known as a "lure." These types

of scams can be trickier to identify since they don't occur in large numbers. They single out individuals, can be specialized and make the email seem more legitimate. Scammers can pose as a potential client for a tax professional, luring the practitioner into sharing sensitive information.

Clone phishing – A newer type of phishing scam that clones a real email message and resends it to the original recipient pretending to be the original sender. The new message will have either an attachment that contains malware or link that tries to steal information from the tax professional or recipient.

Whaling – Whaling attacks are very similar to spear phishing, except these attacks are generally targeted to leaders or other executives with access to secure large amounts of information at an organization or business. Whaling attacks can also target people in payroll offices, human resource personnel and financial offices.

Security Summit partners continue to see instances in which tax professionals have been particularly vulnerable to emails posing as potential clients. In the "new client" scam, the criminals use this technique to trick practitioners into opening email links

or attachments that infect computer systems with the potential to steal client information. Similar schemes are seen with whaling situations where scammers try to obtain a large amount of information with legitimate-looking email requests.

Warning signs of a scam
Regardless of the type of phishing attempt, tax pros can protect themselves and their organization by being aware of these scams and looking for warning signs like these:

An unexpected email or text claiming to come from a known or trusted source such as a colleague, bank, credit card company, cloud storage provider, tax software provider or even the IRS and other government agencies.

Receiving a duplicate email from what appears to be a known trusted source that contains a new attachment or hyperlink.

A message, often with an urgent tone, urging the receiver to open a link or attachment. These messages have a false narrative, like someone's password has expired or some other urgent action is needed.

An email address, number or link that's slightly misspelled or has a different domain name or URL (irs.com vs. IRS.gov). A closer look at these

email addresses – like hovering the cursor over the email address – can show slight variations on legitimate addresses.

"There are major red flags that can be easily overlooked, so tax professionals and taxpayers should be extra careful and look closely when they receive an email from an official looking source," Werfel said.

Cloud-based schemes remain a threat

Tax professionals using cloud-based systems that store information or run tax preparation software should use multi-factor authentication to help safeguard that data. The Federal Trade Commission now requires all practitioners to secure sensitive client personally identifiable information (PII) using multi-factor authentication.

Specifically, the Security Summit continues to see attacks that take advantage of cloud-based systems and compromise personal information. Multi-factor authentication options provide an additional layer of security to access a system by using a phone, text messages or tokens. Since email is easier for identity thieves to access, having these layers of security helps guard against potential vulnerabilities.

Veteran, first responder survivor bill passes

By Jessica Dillon

In a breakthrough decision, the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates passed a bill to fully repeal recent cost-cutting measures, ensuring the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) receives full funding.

This important legislation will provide tuition-free college education to the spouses and children of military members and first responders who were killed or disabled as a result of their service, Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears said in a release.

The robust college program for the survivors and dependents of those killed in the line of duty, the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), has been around since 1996.

"It's a program that says whoever is in the military died in the line of service, Virginia will pay the tuition of the surviving spouse or children," said Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville.

A change came to the program after legislators took note of the rising cost of the program over the last few years. "You can imagine there were a lot of passionate people about this problem," said Phillips.

Changes that restricted who could use the program were put in place due to concerns about fraud. For some, this meant that they wouldn't be able to attend their upcoming college semester and would have to look at other options to finish their studies.

"We just did a full repeal and we said we would come back and fix it," Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said.

Gov. Youngkin took action to connect with colleges around the state to ensure education wouldn't be interrupted for those already enrolled in the program. Both democrats and republicans were in agreement that the issue needed to be fixed.

Phillips said rollback of the program was due to possible fraud, where survivors moved from other states to Virginia. There were efforts to place "guard rails" on the program, but those preventative measures caused issues for those who were already attending colleges.

"My office was filled with calls from people asking to repeal it," he said.

For weeks, military families and advocates for veterans have called for the immediate reversal of cost-cutting measures that threatened the integrity of VMSDEP. Their voices have been heard and answered with decisive action from the General Assembly, Sears said. A steadfast supporter of veterans, first responders, and military families, Sears has been a vocal advocate for the bill's passage, urging legislators in both bodies to prioritize this essential program.

Recently, legislators voted unanimously to restore the program to its former rules.

It was "a great program," Phillips said, adding that it "would be great if every other state had it." Currently, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas are some of the states that have similar programs to VMSDEP.

Virginia is one of the leading military states, Phillips said, noting the program is something special that the state wanted to do for its military families.

"As a veteran, I understand the sacrifices made by our military families. Ensuring tuition-free education for the spouses and children of those who have given their all for our country is the least we can do," Sears said. "This program is a small token of our immense gratitude and a promise to better the lives of those who have suffered the ultimate loss."

The VMSDEP will play a pivotal role in upholding Virginia's commitment to

its military and first responder families, providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education and improve their lives. By securing this funding, Virginia demonstrates its unwavering dedication to honoring the sacrifices of its first responders and servicemen and women.

The passage of the VMSDEP funding bill is a significant victory for military and first responder families across the Commonwealth. It ensures that Virginia remains true to its promise to sup-

port and uplift those who have borne the brunt of loss and hardship in service to our country.

The program is currently being studied by several groups, including a JLARC study, which is expected to provide information on the future sustainability of the program. But for the next two years, those attending college will have their tuition covered.

Williams and Phillips anticipate reviewing the program in 2025 when the legislature reconvenes.

Puzzle Answers!

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Series; 2. Convene; 3. Yield; 4. Spate
Today's Word
VISITORS

SNOWFLAKES
solution

ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

FEAR KNOT
answer

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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



PUZZLE TIME

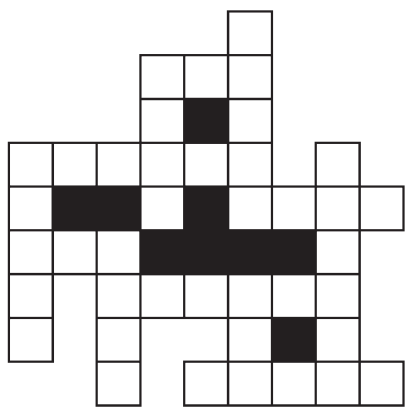


FEAR KNOT

By: rj Johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

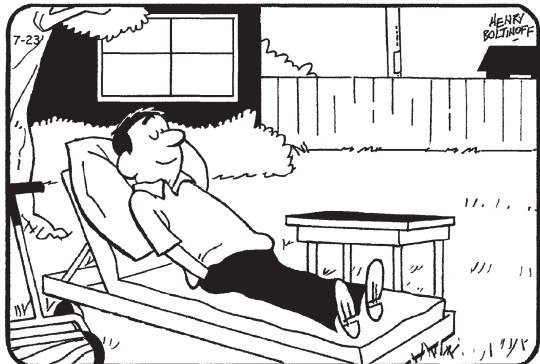
- IEV
- SAFTIE
- WNSOR
- ♥ OVEL
- LEVEST
- FNU
- ENRI
- ♥ ELVAN
- ♥ WLO
- VISLEO
- ♥ ERFNI
- ♥ EFLI



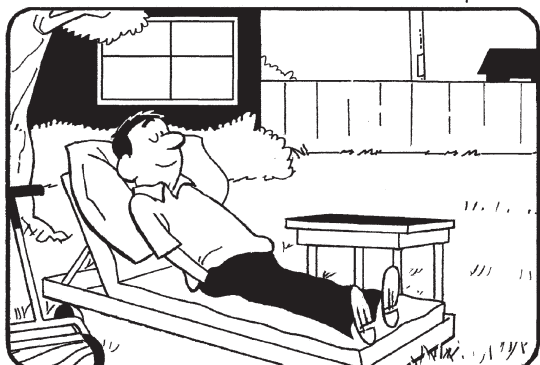
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is larger. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Telephone pole is moved. 4. Bush is smaller. 5. Fence boards are wider. 6. Man's legs are longer.

Super Crossword

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Abolished</p> <p>10 Helical shape</p> <p>16 — Tzu (toy dog)</p> <p>20 "General Hospital," for one</p> <p>21 Pre-euro Spanish currency</p> <p>22 Joking Jay</p> <p>23 Marcellus hit sung by members of an old German kingdom?</p> <p>25 "Frozen" heroine</p> <p>26 NBC hit since '75</p> <p>27 — Vegas Raiders</p> <p>28 Gallery stuff</p> <p>29 Further down</p> <p>31 Bing Crosby hit sung by a skeleton?</p> <p>37 "One L" novelist Scott</p> <p>40 Munch on</p> <p>41 Lift up</p> <p>42 Enzyme suffix</p> <p>43 And the like: Abbr.</p> <p>44 Sheriff of film</p> <p>46 R.E.M. frontman Michael</p> <p>48 — Martin (British auto)</p>	<p>50 Prince hit sung by kings and queens?</p> <p>53 Many TikTok users</p> <p>54 Rotation stat</p> <p>55 Cash cache, for short</p> <p>56 Spanish article</p> <p>57 Mother bird</p> <p>58 Garlicky sauce</p> <p>60 Cafe offerings</p> <p>63 — careful out there"</p> <p>66 Ancient Roman poet</p> <p>70 Beatles hit sung by small finches?</p> <p>74 Cuts short</p> <p>75 Puts a question to</p> <p>76 Artifact</p> <p>77 Hunger may cause them</p> <p>78 Syrup base</p> <p>80 Penpoint</p> <p>81 Verpoint, e.g.</p> <p>83 Before, to Byron</p> <p>84 Oasis animal</p> <p>87 Rolling Stones hit sung by coffee lovers?</p> <p>93 Novelist Mario Vargas —</p> <p>94 Everything considered</p>	<p>95 Bazillions</p> <p>96 — accompli</p> <p>97 Mo. #4</p> <p>98 Scornful look</p> <p>100 Old JFK flier</p> <p>101 Podiatric problems</p> <p>102 John Cougar Mellencamp hit sung by electric eels?</p> <p>108 Old Turkish bigwigs</p> <p>109 "Where — begin?"</p> <p>110 Sewer rodent</p> <p>111 Overwhelm</p> <p>114 Luxury Swiss watch brand</p> <p>115 Alannah Myles hit sung by roofers?</p> <p>122 Move, in Realtor-speak</p> <p>123 From above, as a photo</p> <p>124 Most upbeat</p> <p>125 Eye affliction</p> <p>126 In an amiable way</p> <p>127 Chose by ballot</p>	<p>5 Drive at 10 mph, say</p> <p>6 Concerning bees</p> <p>7 Toy with</p> <p>8 Suffix with south</p> <p>9 Light pat</p> <p>10 Brief burst</p> <p>11 Former NFL quarterback</p> <p>12 Suffix with 104-Down</p> <p>13 Rock's — Speedwagon</p> <p>14 — Z (total)</p> <p>15 "Trading Places" director John</p> <p>16 Icy precipitation</p> <p>17 Beneficial companion, as a spouse</p> <p>18 Ripe for the market</p> <p>19 Turns laryngitic</p> <p>24 Café au —</p> <p>30 Lordly home</p> <p>31 Weapon swung by a gaucho</p> <p>32 Be dressed in</p> <p>33 Lyre's cousin</p> <p>34 — Pet (1980s fad)</p> <p>35 Pueblo people</p> <p>36 Nothing, in France</p> <p>37 Stone patio</p>	<p>38 Like a perfect world</p> <p>39 "Perry Mason" star</p> <p>44 Decide (to)</p> <p>45 "The — Curse" (1944 horror film)</p> <p>46 Related to sight, touch, etc.</p> <p>47 — la la</p> <p>49 Mexican wife</p> <p>51 Forest abode</p> <p>52 Quiet period</p> <p>57 Stitched edge</p> <p>59 Scottish girls</p> <p>61 "Eww, a mouse!"</p> <p>62 Gore and Foker</p> <p>63 Fast internet svc.</p> <p>64 Yes, in Dijon</p> <p>65 Second flagship U.K. TV network</p> <p>67 It may be balsamic</p> <p>68 Implant firmly</p> <p>69 Arid areas</p> <p>71 Shril bark</p> <p>72 "Dragonet" star Jack</p> <p>73 Galaxy and iPhone buys</p> <p>79 Home's home</p> <p>80 Ducks' and Devils' org.</p>	<p>82 Motel relative</p> <p>84 People in an embrace, e.g.</p> <p>85 Language's letters</p> <p>86 In a sullen way</p> <p>87 Appearance</p> <p>88 Blood type, informally</p> <p>89 Nitpick</p> <p>90 Overhasty</p> <p>91 Painter Dix</p> <p>92 ET's ships</p> <p>99 Alltime maker</p> <p>100 Brand of power tools</p> <p>101 "Glorious of Love" singer Peter</p> <p>103 Sevigny of "Big Love"</p> <p>104 Perfect</p> <p>105 In a majestic manner</p> <p>106 Nerd on "Family Matters"</p> <p>107 Preserved</p> <p>111 2004 Chevy debut</p> <p>112 Part of NNW</p> <p>113 Suffix with major</p> <p>116 Maui garland</p> <p>117 Bit of a circle</p> <p>118 Connect (to)</p> <p>119 German cry</p> <p>120 — Guevara</p> <p>121 Actress Tyler</p>
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SHADY NUMBERS

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Venus is the only planet to spin clockwise.
- Around 600 B.C., a Greek athlete by the name of Protesilaus threw a discus 152 feet from a standing position. His record remained unbroken for over 2,000 years, until Clarence Houser threw a discus 155 feet in 1928.
- The nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" doesn't state that Humpty Dumpty was an egg.
- In the 1950s, Quaker Oats devised a clever marketing scheme in which the company bought 19.11 acres in the Yukon, divided them into 21 million parcels of just a square inch apiece, and included deeds to the tiny plots in boxes of Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice.
- A game of bridge contains 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 possible ways in which the cards can be dealt.
- To encourage his fellow Norsemen to settle a large, snow-and-ice-covered island he discovered in the year 982, Eric the Red called it Greenland. The play worked.
- Niagara Falls is slowly eroding by 1 to 2 feet per year. Since their formation some 12,000 years ago, the falls have already withdrawn 7 miles upstream, and if that rate continues, they should meet up with Lake Erie, about 20 miles from their present site, within the next 35,000 years.
- In movies and television, scientists are more likely to suffer a violent death than members of any other profession.
- The lead-acid battery, the type most commonly used in cars, was invented by Martha C. Weston, who patented it in 1859 when she was only 17 years old.
- Lemons float, but limes sink.

Thought for the Day: "I believe ambition is not a dirty word. It's just believing in yourself and your abilities. Imagine this: What would happen if we were all brave enough to be a little bit more ambitious? I think the world would change." — Reese Witherspoon

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

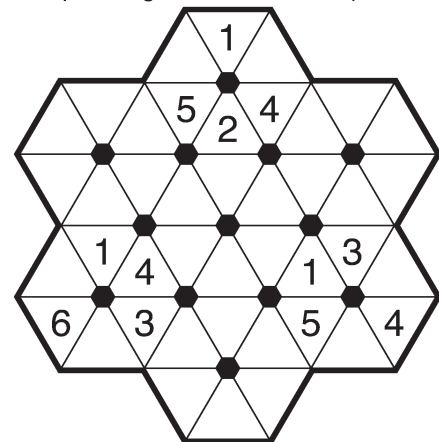
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

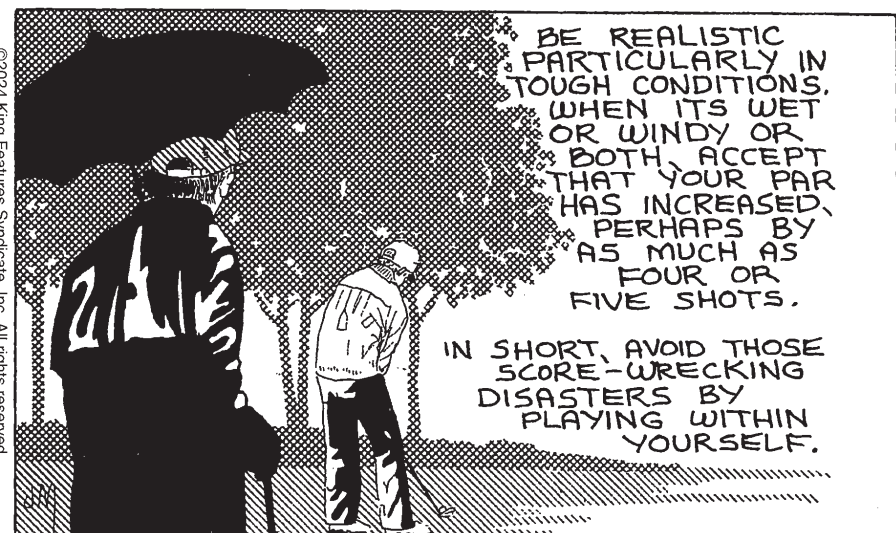
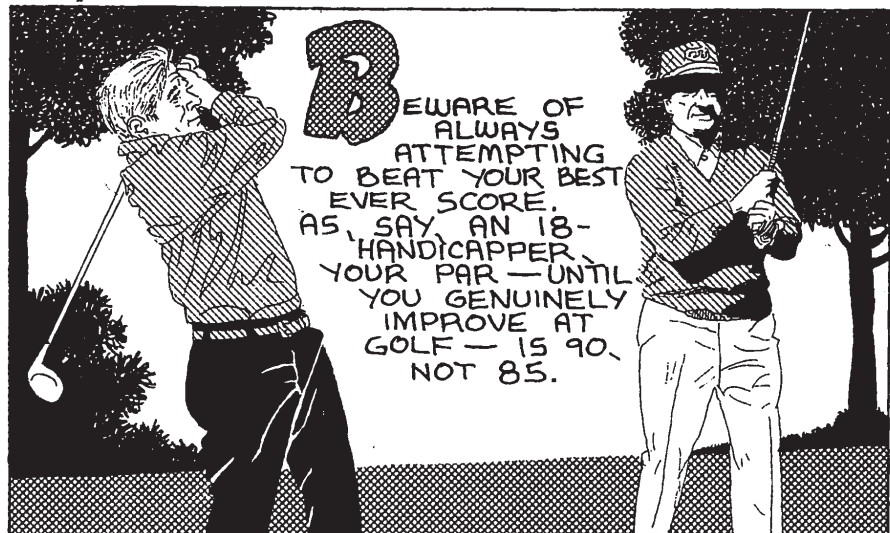


DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult

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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!

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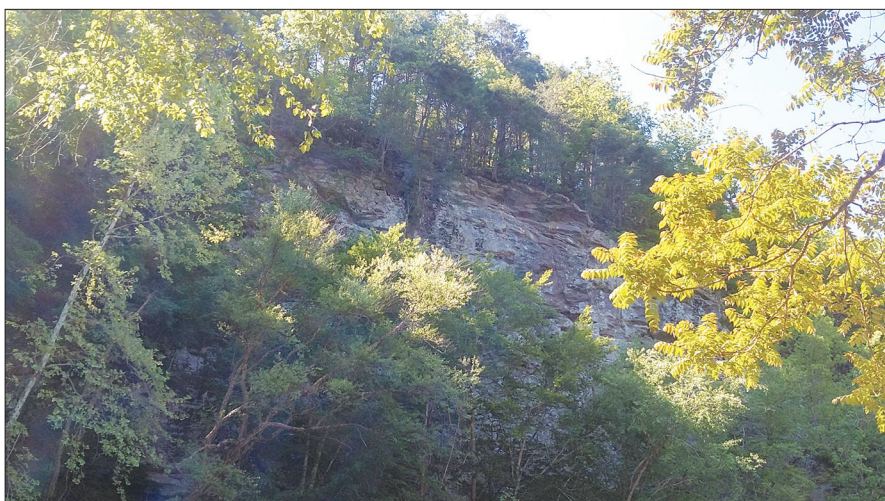
For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

DRBA Paddles the Dan River State Water Trail in North Carolina

The Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Outing on August 3 will be a 5-mile paddle trip on the Dan River in Stokes County, from the Pitzer Road Finishing Access to Hemlock Golf Course Access. The paddle is coordinated by Will Truslow. Meet by 9 a.m. at the Pitzer Road Fishing Access to set shuttle.

History and legend abound on this section of the river, which is characterized by high bluffs forested with hardwoods and stands

of stately hemlock trees. About half a mile below Snow Creek is Thompson's Fish Dam, which has remnants of a rare wooden slat trap. According to "An Insider's Guide to the Dan River," a "heavy timber frame, about eight feet square, formed a grid of slats" to trap fish channeled into the trap by a vee-shaped low rock wall. At least two branches of the Great Wagon Road forded the river at shoals on this section, and caves are said to have been used by Confederate draft



DRBA's First Saturday Outing on August 3 will be a 5-mile paddle trip on the Dan River in Stokes County, N.C. (Photo by DRBA)

dodgers.

Rock formations and uncommon Carolina hemlock stands have received recognition as the Dan River Cliffs natural heritage area.

According to Truslow, "This section of the Dan has the last of the really high bluffs before the river winds on into the Piedmont. Some are about 150 feet high." The most spectacular is Davis Bluff, a dramatic rock face on the river left where huge boulders lie in the water at the base of the cliff. Legend says that a member of the Davis family fell to his death from the road on top. To this day, the cliff is known as Mount Horrible.

The Dan River in this section is rated mostly as Class 1, but the remains of a former Duke Power dam, dynamited in 1975, create a sometimes challenging Class 2 rapid. Fortunately, it is located within sight of the take-out ramp at Hemlock Golf Course.

Meet by 9 a.m. at the Pitzer Road Access. Arrange to supply a boat, paddles, life jackets, water and lunch; wear water-shedding artificial fabric or wool (not cotton, and certainly not blue jeans); and provide a back-up change of clothing. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver. DRBA's First Saturday Outings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact trip coordinator, Will Truslow through email at willtruslow@hotmail.com.

com.

Rentals will be available in ADVANCE through the Dan River Company. Please call (336) 593-BOAT. The pick-up location may vary from the starting point.

Directions to Pitzer Road Fishing Access, Walnut Cove:

From Greensboro or Winston-Salem: Go through Walnut Cove on US 311 and continue north on NC 89 towards Danbury. In about 5 miles, turn right/straight onto Dodgetown Road (where NC 8 enters from the left).

Go about 3-4 miles, cross the Dan River, taking a left on Pitzer Rd. Access is on left in about 1/2 mile.

From the Martinsville area: Go south on US 220 into NC and take the NC 770 exit and go right (west). Follow 770 to the NC 704 intersection and turn left onto 704. Then take the first right, onto Delta Church Rd. Follow this road for several miles and the road changes name to Sheppard's Mill Rd. Turn left onto Pitzer Rd where Priddy's Country Store is on the right. Go 2 miles to find the access on the right.

Please visit www.danriver.org by 5:00 pm, Friday, August 2, to determine if weather or other issues prevent the outing from being held.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge. For more information, please visit www.danriver.org.

Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society

Sounds on the Square

2024

7:00-10:00 P.M.
Opens at 6:00 P.M.

All ages welcome

Food and other beverages available

Free admission

Craft beers by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company

Bring a chair

Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville

Friday, May 3, 2024 • Andy Burnette Trio

Friday, June 7, 2024 • Barefoot Modern

Friday, July 5, 2024 • The League of Ordinary Gentlemen

Friday, August 2, 2024 • Forrest Taylor

Friday, September 6, 2024 • The Ghosts of Liberty

Friday, September 13, 2024 • "Line-Dancing on the Square"

Friday, October 4, 2024 • Andy Burnette Trio

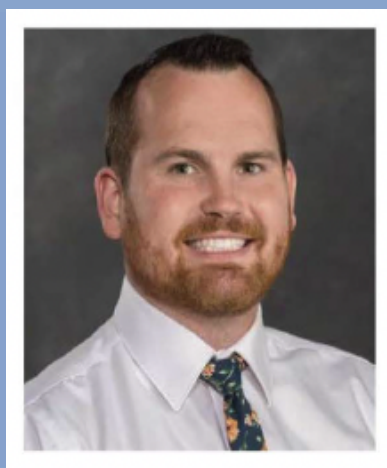
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Vance rally held in Radford

State and federal officials were among those attending a rally by J.D. Vance, vice-presidential nominee. The event was held in Radford last week. (Photos by Ray Reynolds)



J.D. Vance, who is former President Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick in the upcoming election.



Ninth District Rep. Morgan Griffith.



Del. Eric Phillips (back row).



Del. Wren Williams (in green tie) stands between his wife, Britt Schneider Williams (right) and former Congressman Virgil H. Goode Jr., (left) at the rally.



Hundreds of people attended the rally in Radford.

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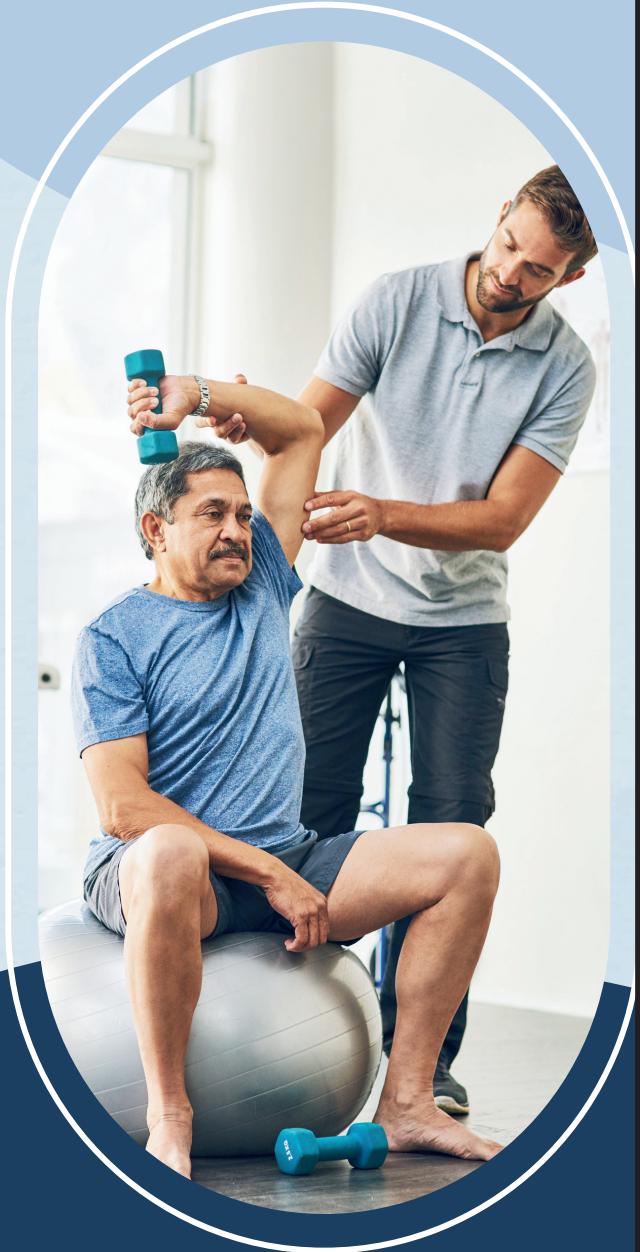
Come join our team!

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY – MARTINSVILLE, VA
Email Cress Jones, Director of Human Resources
w / resume/CV to cress.jones@spectrummed.com

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