

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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## Judge, clerk's offices in city relocated due to water damage General District court cases to be heard in council chambers

By Jessica Dillon

A water leak in the Municipal Building prompted the relocation of the General District Court Judge and clerk's offices from the first floor to the second floor.

Cases pending in Martinsville's General District Court now will be heard in the Martinsville City Council Chambers, which is located in Room 201, on the second floor.

Court hours are unchanged; telephone and fax numbers also are the same.

"Temporarily, we've relocated the (General District Court) judge to a new office, the clerks, and we are also moving court up to the council chambers until we can truly assess what is going on," City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides said.

Kendall Davis, public information officer, said the decision to relocate the offices was made last week when employees noticed damp ceiling tiles and city officials became aware of a water leak. An investigation began immediately, and determined the leak was caused by HVAC pipe condensation.

"I got a call saying we have a problem, and the tiles are wet," Ferrell-Benavides said. "We pulled the tiles back and saw they (pipes) were



Ceilings on the first floor of Martinsville's Municipal Building sustained damage due to an HVAC leak, prompting the temporary relocation of the General District Court judge and clerk's offices.

sweating from the AC unit."

By then, the leak had been going on for a while, hidden by the ceiling tiles.

"By the time we really got aware of it, they were moist to a point where they were falling down," Ferrell-Benavides said, adding that city

(See Water Damage p. 2)



Eastman signs several county and city high school students on as paid interns. (Contributed)

## Student interns encouraged to overcome losses

By Jessica Dillon

"You can, end of story."

That was the message from Natalie Hodge, of Rudy's Girl Media, to student interns from Martinsville City Schools.

Hodge made the comments during a July 25 lunch and program to honor student interns at the New College Institute (NCI). The program included a signing ceremony with Eastman Performance Films. Hodge, who also hosted interns and was among the keynote speakers at the ceremony, said she keeps an inspirational sign on her door to remind her and others of this phrase.

Discussing her life, Hodge included not only the high points like returning

to Martinsville, but also shared the low parts, like couch surfing in New York City and family loss.

She faced having to find employment, being rejected from prospective jobs, and even having to start over again, Hodge said she also had to move around a lot. "My aunt once said she would never write my address in pen because I was moving around to all these different places."

Love brought her back to Martinsville, where she eventually settled down with her now husband and founded her local company.

"I moved back here and founded Rudy's Girls Media with the intention of showcasing how we can do it here," she

(See Student Interns p. 2)

## Supreme Court decisions protested in Uptown event

By Jessica Dillon

A protest was organized in Uptown Martinsville to bring awareness to several recent choices made by the Supreme Court, such as Roe V. Wade and immunity for presidents, with members of the local Democratic Committee participating in the event held at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum.

"Some of the decisions that the supreme court makes, they are not right," said protestor James Brown. "The supreme court has made a remarkable number of amazing decisions this year, like the January 6 obstruction charges, immunity for former presidents. Because the court is loaded, we are getting these ridiculous decisions," said Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee chairman Melody Cartwright.

Suzanne Petty Fuhrmeister, who helped organize the protest, feels strongly about changing recent rulings, including Roe V. Wade.

"We are not in 1789. Evil wins when good men say nothing. The Supreme Court is not elected. We know that we can't make them change their rulings, but when we protest what they've been doing, then we can get legislators to create laws," said Fuhrmeister.

The group is hoping for a change to the Supreme Court, and believes that it has overstepped in many areas.

That "the justices could even rule that climate change is a joke," said Pritchard.

One hot-button issue was about reproductive rights.

"I'm particularly concerned about the Dobbs decisions, taking away women's right to control their own bodies. I feel like that's a healthcare



James Brown protests the recent Chevron ruling.

decision that women should make. They reversed 50 years of women's rights," said Ellen Jessee. "It's something I fought for in the '70s, and I can't believe I'm here fighting for it again."

The safety of women's health was a major concern for the group, with many saying they believe that abortions are a women's decision.

"I had two friends who had pregnancy complications and were preparing to leave the state to have their lives saved," said Ashley Pritchard. Although the pregnancies were wanted, "complications arose, the pregnancy wasn't going to be viable. It's hard. Nobody wants to be put in a situation where they have to decide to have an abortion. Nobody goes looking to get pregnant to have an abortion."



Chance Trevillian protests bump stocks. (Contributed)

According to online reports, abortion is legal in Virginia through the second trimester of pregnancy. After that, abortion is legal only in cases where three physicians certify that the continuation of the pregnancy will likely result in the death of the pregnant woman or will substantially and irretrievably impair the mental or physical health of the pregnant woman.

"The government can't force a dead man to

(See Supreme Court p.3)



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) pose for the cast set photo. (Contributed)

## P&HCC's Patriot Players Dazzle With "The Wizard of Oz"

By Jessica Dillon

The P&HCC Patriot Players practiced through the summer to begin performances of "The Wizard of Oz," which was originally a book written by L. Frank Baum that gained popularity in 1939 thanks to a film

debut.

The Patriots began performing the play on July 25, with some tweaks to the original material. The play was produced in partnership with Ray Hollingsworth Dance and

(See Patriot Players p. 3)

## Sales Tax Holiday runs through August 4

The 3-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products without paying sales tax.

Eligible items include:

School supplies, clothing, and footwear  
Qualified school supplies - \$20 or less per item

Qualified clothing and footwear - \$100 or less per item

Hurricane and emergency preparedness products

Portable generators - \$1,000 or less per item

Gas-powered chainsaws - \$350 or less per item

Chainsaw accessories - \$60 or less per item

Other specified hurricane preparedness items - \$60 or less per item

Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products

Qualifying Energy Star™ or WaterSense™ products purchased for noncommercial home or personal use - \$2,500 or less per item

Detailed lists of qualifying items and more

information for retailers can be found in the Sales Tax Holiday Guidelines at <https://townhall.virginia.gov/>.

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FOR MORE UPDATES



# Water Damage

(cont. from page 1)

crews began taking the tiles down. An air quality test was administered to determine whether there were any safety issues, with the potential for mold among the concerns. Results are anticipated later in the week, officials added.

“Is it something that is dangerous? We don’t know, but we don’t think so,” Ferrell-Benavides said. “Everyone’s healthy and safe. Right now, everyone’s safe, but after we get the air quality, we will figure out what steps to take next to make sure it stays so.”

Meanwhile, damaged tiles will be removed, and pipes will be insulated to ensure the problem doesn’t return, Ferrell-Benavides said, and added “we moved the folks out of their space into a temporary space because we are going to fix it, but we are going to fix it right.”

The building was built in 1968, and has undergone other repairs.

“It wasn’t the first time that this has happened,” Ferrell-Benavides said, and noted that city officials are “working on quotes now with construction folks about what it’s going to cost to get all of those pipes covered and, if necessary, replaced.”

She noted that “constant preventive maintenance is required on this building, and we are trying to address this as quickly as possible with limited resources.” Employee safety is the most important to the council, and “we will take the proper steps to make sure everybody is in a safe environment.”

It’s not yet known whether relocation of the court may impact ongoing cases or city council meetings, and the timeline for repairs is up in the air – from a month up to a year, she said.

“Right now, I don’t have an estimate, I don’t want to half fix it and have this problem again,” Ferrell-Benavides said, adding that she wants to make sure the city is “addressing the problem” to prevent a recurrence.

Space was a problem even before the HVAC leak, Ferrell-Benavides said. Offices were crowded, with some of the office spaces doing double duty – largely due to filling vacant positions.

“In replacing and filling these positions, we have had vacancies for about a year and a half in some cases, and now we are just trying to



Cases pending in Martinsville General District Court will be heard in the Martinsville City Council Chambers, which is located on the third floor of the Municipal Building.

fill our vacancies, and we just need space to put the people,” Ferrell-Benavides said, and added that the city is considering the possibility of using some space in the former BB&T building in the future.

Built in 1959 and touted as the tallest building in Martinsville, the city purchased the former bank building after learning it would be demolished. In 2022, city officials and JRS Realty Partners announced the building would be renamed One Ellsworth and transformed into residential and commercial space.

If “we would move there, we would be paying to move,” because the city would pay rent just as any other tenant, Martinsville Mayor LC Jones said.

Discussions began after city officials learned the building needs “a certain percentage of residential and a certain percentage of retail” or commercial entities, Jones said.

“We’ve also looked at other opportunities in Uptown,” Jones said, adding several properties are being considered.

For instance, the city also would like to set up a satellite office for members of its Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) unit, which would allow those officers to be out in the community.

“We just offered that. It’s nothing set in stone,” he said, adding



A water leak from condensation on HVAC pipes damaged ceiling tiles, causing some to fall. The tiles will be removed as the city works to address the issue.

discussions are ongoing, and firm decisions are “still up in the air,” he said.

The water leak is a “bad situation, but it’s also good,” Jones said, because it pushes discussions about space and potentially relocating some offices “to the forefront.”

As the city deals with the current space crunch, Jones said he does not anticipate the relocation to impact city council meetings. The court ends at 5 p.m., and meetings begin at 7 p.m.

## Student Interns

(cont. from page 1)



Natalie Hodges was among the keynote speakers at a ceremony honoring student interns.



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones announced that the city recognized National Intern Day. (Contributed)

said, and added that it wasn’t easy.

“Life wasn’t always great for me, but I definitely am proud of my journey. I’m excited by the things I was able to accomplish and still accomplishing, but it wasn’t smooth sailing by any means,” Hodges said.

Even earning a master’s degree “doesn’t mean you can’t have lows in your life, but what settled into my spirit was: You can, end of story,” Hodge said, and encouraged interns not to be deterred by the harder parts of life.

“People told me to my face it was crazy,” but she ultimately made it, she said. “These are all the possibilities that await you, and so much more.”

Tonya Foreman, the education initiatives manager from Eastman, shared a recipe for success.

“First and foremost, show up,” Foreman said, noting that “you’re not showing up if you’re not ready. If you’re in school, then your job is to do the best you can when you’re in school.”

Foreman said it’s important to “understand your assignment.” She stressed that it’s not just about completing a task but understanding the task.

“Next, I will tell you to embrace and have courageous curiosity,” she said, encouraging students to seek out knowledge.

“I think curiosity fuels intellectual growth and it also fosters such a life-long learning,” Foreman said and urged interns to add their own flavor to things when working.

“Be authentically who you are,” she said, directing students to keep prac-

ticating and “really work on your craft.” She also expressed the importance of safety.

Companies and the students that interned from Martinsville High School are Brand Builders, which interned Amondre Moseley; MCPS Performing Arts Academy, with intern Caesar Draper; Kaira Womack, Kamori Dillard, and Jyshir Plunkett. Mary Smith interned at the Collinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, while Mason Rorrer, Sayvion Milton, and Cayden Walker interned at the 3D Print Shop.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History’s intern was Cassidy Dodson; Henry County Parks and Recreation/Smith River Sports Complex helped Caleb Joyce, and Kymani Brim and Jessica Rumley interned at two sites of the Boys and Girls Club.

Unique Styles and Designs Floral Boutique worked with Keara Carter, The Wellness Haven worked with Nikko Dews, Never Enuff Wood interned Jayden Williams, Acme Therapists worked with Kaylee Rea, and Rudy Girl’s Media trained Cameron Giles.

Along with these students, Alexandria “Allie” Balcerzak interned with Rudy Girl’s Media for a 6-week GCE program, and Jada Penn interned with Burton & Company for her 6-week program.

The City of Martinsville officially recognized July 25 as National Intern Day. Eastman also signed agreements with students from both Henry County and Martinsville to begin paid internships at the beginning of the school year.

## Welcome Andrea Willard, FNP Internal Medicine



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

**Monday, August 5**  
IDA Meeting, 4 to 5 p.m., City Municipal Building, 55 West Church St., Martinsville.

**Thursday, August 8**  
Community Advisory Board Meeting, 6 to 7 p.m., City Municipal Building, 55 West Church St., Martinsville.

**Friday, August 9**  
Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting, 1 to 2 p.m., City Municipal Building, 55 West Church St. Martinsville.

## Events

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

Sounds on The Square: Fescue, 6 p.m., Martinsville Henry County Historical Society, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville.

**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.

**Thursday, August 8**  
Nature's Recipes, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., NCI, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

**Friday, August 9 – Saturday, August 10**  
The Shape of Things, 7 p.m., TheatreWorks,

44 Franklin St, Martinsville.

**Sunday, August 11**  
The Shape of Things, 2 p.m., TheatreWorks, 44 Franklin St, Martinsville.

**Friday, August 16 - Saturday, August 17**  
The Shape of Things, 7 p.m., TheatreWorks, 44 Franklin St, Martinsville.

**Saturday, August 17**  
8th annual Bike Ride, Car Show & Fish Fry -- Mt. Nebo Holiness Church, 30598 JEB Stuart Hwy., Spencer. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; ride leaves at 10 a.m. Motorcycles, cars & trucks welcome. Car Show registration begins at 9, ends at 11, judging begins at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$20.00 per bike or auto. Cost includes meal for the driver. Fish Fry starts at 8 a.m. Vendors are on site. All proceeds to Mt. Nebo Church. Call Angie Penn at (276) 732-6014 for more information.

**Sunday, August 18**  
The Shape of Things, 2 p.m., TheatreWorks, 44 Franklin St, Martinsville.

**Tuesday, August 20**  
Cricut Creations: Printable Stickers, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., NCI, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

**Thursday, August 22**  
Water Bath Canning, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., NCI, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

**Saturday, August 24**  
13th Annual Bikers for Babies, MHC, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Big Chair Parking Lot, Broad St & Church St. Uptown Martinsville.

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

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

## Supreme Court

(cont. from page 1)

give his heart to save my life, but they can now force me to provide a fetus with my entire body to keep it alive," said Pritchard, adding the concept of 'it's a life,' ignores the life of the mother. Presidential immunity raised concerns about presidential accountability among protest members.

"I'm most afraid of their immunity ruling. Even though they say it's limited, it's based on someone else's interpretation of what could be presidential powers," said Fuhrmeister.

Chance Trevillian, vice-chairman of the Martinsville-Henry County Democratic Committee, voiced his personal concerns about the over-

## Patriot Players

(cont. from page 1)

Arts Studio and the Smith River Singers.

During several parts of the show, dancers took to the stage. The show itself was mostly a musical, and all the classic songs from the movie, like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "We're Off to See The Wizard," were performed.

The show's lead, recent high school graduate Anna Locklear, said that she felt "great" about the performance. "It's been an amazing experience, and we're just having a blast and a great show."

Locklear has performed lead roles before, and playing Dorothy was probably her "biggest role."

The Wizard of Oz is her last local show before she attends Belmont University to major in music education.

Titus Rodriguez, who operated the puppet for Toto, said that the show takes "a lot of work."

turn of the Chevron doctrine, which he said will make it "much more difficult to uphold agency regulations. I'm quite worried about what the federal court will overturn in the various parts of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)."

Trevillian, who must use a wheelchair, said that his concern is about accessibility in the future.

"Cheaper not to put in a ramp than to keep a business as it is," he said, and the recent rulings are a personal worry.

"I'm pro-business regulations," said Pritchard who added that she sustainably manages her own local business, Charm Cat.

After spending a large portion of the two-hour play operating Toto, he added, "This is the longest and most intense puppet work I've ever done."

Liz Ashby, who played the Wicked Witch, also enjoyed the show but said that getting make-up on in time is stressful.

"It's a very quick turnaround from Miss Gulch and then darting back and putting the green-back on, and then putting Gulch back on. It's kind of a three-stage process," Ashby explained.

The cast enjoyed getting to know each other.

Jyshir Plunkett, who played Scarecrow, said that it was "cool" to get to know everyone.

"Everyone around me is so talented and so great, I love everyone here," said Landon George, who played the Lion.

"I feel really positive about the show. It was a

Cartwright also discussed the court ruling about punishments for the homeless. Her sister lives with disabilities, and she said it had been a "struggle" to ensure she was housed.

"I'm amazed by how many homeless young people there are, it breaks my heart," she said.

Many of the protestors also had strong feelings about former president and now candidate Donald Trump.

"We have a great country, we want people to build it up not tear it down," said Fuhrmeister.

"He wants to position himself as the Christian leader, but when you look at what he wants to take away, it's not Christian," said Cartwright.

great opening night. A lot of people have come out, and I think the show has gone really well," said cast member Logan Carter. "It's been a wonderful process from start to finish to meet all of these great people and put on this magnificent performance where we can entertain so many people and make them smile."

The group also used special effects during their performance. Suspension was used during many parts of the show, and bubbles descended into the crowds when Glinda the Good Witch made an appearance.

The show has been selling out fast, but a few opportunities remain to enjoy it, with performances slated for August 1 through 3 at 7 p.m., and August 4 at 2 p.m. "The Wizard of Oz" is performed at Patrick & Henry Community College.

## Health officials issue warning about fake Ozempic

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a Medical Product Alert about three falsified batches of OZEMPIC (semaglutide). This falsified product has been detected in Brazil (October 2023), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (October 2023), and the United States of America (December 2023), and was supplied in the regulated supply chain.

OZEMPIC (semaglutide) is from a group of medicines called glucagon-like peptide-1 Receptor Agonists (GLP-1 RA) that are indicated for the treatment of hyperglycemia in type 2 diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents, and children over 12 years of age.

The genuine manufacturer of OZEMPIC has confirmed that the three products referenced in the alert are falsified. The products misrepresent their identify and source as they were not manufactured by Novo Nordisk:

\*batch number LP6F832 is not recognized.

\*the combination of batch number NAR0074 with serial number 430834149057 does not correspond to genuine manufacturing records.

\*batch number MP5E511 is genuine, but the product is falsified.

The WHO has previously communicated the need for diligence by national regulators on some of these batches and similar GLP-1 agonist prod-

ucts in general.

The use of falsified OZEMPIC may result in the ineffective treatment of patients due to incorrect dosage, contamination with harmful substances, or use of unknown or substituted ingredients. It may pose other serious risks to health because of its subcutaneous injection administration that could be life-threatening.

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any incident of adverse effects, lack of effectiveness and suspected falsification to the National Regulatory Authorities/National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

National regulatory/health authorities are encouraged to contact their marketing authorization holders for advice on identification of falsification, increase monitoring of informal including online sale of products, and are advised to immediately notify the WHO if they identify these falsified products.

If you have any of the affected products, the WHO recommends that you do not use them. If you, or someone you know, has or may have used the affected product, or suffered an adverse reaction or unexpected side-effect after use, you are advised to seek immediate medical advice from a healthcare professional.

All medical products must be obtained from authorized/licensed suppliers. If you have any infor-

mation about the manufacture or supply of these falsified products, contact the WHO via [rapid-alert@who.int](mailto:rapid-alert@who.int).

Ways to identify falsified products

\*Check the Lot Number and Serial Number. The WHO advises not to distribute, use, or sell products labeled with batch numbers listed in Annex.

\*Examine the Pen. Falsified Ozempic pens may have a scale extending out from the pen when setting the dose.

\*Assess the Label Quality. The label might be of poor quality and may not adhere well to the pen.

\*Look for Spelling Mistakes. The carton may have spelling mistakes on the front of the box.

## Gardner among recent Youngkin appointees

In a recent round of additional key administration and board appointments, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced that Martin Gardner of Martinsville was appointed to the Aquaculture Advisory Board.

Gardner is the president of Blue Ridge Aquaculture, Inc.

# OPINION

## To Czar or Not to Czar?

The House of Representatives voted recently on a resolution condemning the failures of the Biden-Harris Administration to secure the United States southern border.

President Biden appointed Kamala Harris to oversee migration on our southern border. She was given much authority and was colloquially referred to as being the “border czar” (see CNN coverage at the time).

As everyone knows, border crossings dramatically increased during the Biden-Harris era. The encounters at our southern border hit a record-high in December of 2023, with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tallying over 300,000 encounters.

Pew Research Center found that U.S. Border Patrol reported roughly 16,000 encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border in April of 2020.

“Encounters” is a word whose definition combines the total of apprehensions and expulsions.

Under the Trump Administration, the U.S. imposed a series of policies to stem the tide of encounters at our southern border.

Among those was the Migrant Protection Protocols, known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy, requiring migrants to wait in Mexico while their asylum cases were processed.

Another was Title 42, restrictions allowing federal authorities to stop migrant crossings if it was in the best interests of public health to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

As a result, many migrants did not enter. The Trump policies helped!

Despite the success of these border policies, the Biden-Harris Administration either did not use these policies or allowed them to expire.

On Biden’s first day in office, he froze border wall funding.

I visited the border shortly thereafter and saw border crossings with gates wide open because the Biden-Harris Administration refused to pay to have the mechanized gate closing apparatus that was sitting next to the gate installed. Taxpayers had paid for the finished gate. They also had paid for miles of uninstalled wall.

Biden-Harris left the supplies lying unused to rust.

Subsequently, when migration exploded, Biden assigned Harris the leadership position to address migration at our southern border.

But for whatever reason, Harris didn’t visit the border for months. And as best as I can determine, that one visit was her only visit.

She didn’t speak with the current chief of U.S. Border Patrol, Jason Ownes, nor his predecessor, Raul Ortiz.

Rodney Scott led the agency during the Trump Administration. However, the Biden-Harris Administration removed Scott!

How did Harris fare in her communications with other countries?

Well, the results speak for themselves.

CBP reported that in April of 2024, the southern border had almost 180,000 encounters!

That means in four years, the number of migrant encounters



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

at the southern border increased more than ten-fold!

Where are they coming from?

China, Haiti, Venezuela, and Uzbekistan are just some of the countries.

In June, eight suspected terrorists from Tajikistan were arrested in the United States by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It is alleged they have ties to ISIS!

All had crossed the southern border.

Virginia is no stranger to the repercussions of an open border.

Earlier this year, two Jordanian nationals attempted to breach the Marine Corps base in Quantico. It is reported that one of them got into the U.S. by crossing the border just six weeks prior!

An open border contributes to national security risks.

But in this election year, the Biden-Harris Administration has tried to play catchup.

They announced in June new executive actions restricting asylum claims and expediting removal of unauthorized migrants.

Biden-Harris always had the power to implement restrictions.

But for some, it is a little too late.

Laken Riley, a University of Georgia student, and Jocelyn Nungaray, a twelve-year-old Texan, are two young girls who were murdered this year by illegal immigrants. These are just two well-publicized cases among the vast number of crimes committed by illegal immigrants who crossed the border during the Biden-Harris era.

An open border serves the interests of criminals and gangs, not law-abiding Americans.

Lack of action by so-called “czar” Harris is inexcusable, unacceptable and dangerous.

House Republicans have tried to stop the Biden-Harris open borders agenda.

That included passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, to restart construction of the border wall and equip border personnel with needed technologies and funding.

The House also passed the Laken Riley Act, which requires federal officials to apprehend and detain undocumented immigrants who commit serious crimes such as burglary, shoplifting or larceny, until they are removed from our country.

The Democrat-controlled Senate has not taken up these bills.

An open border must not stand, and I will continue to fight to build the wall and close the border.

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/>.

## Shopping for flour and vanilla

It was one of those fight scenes that goes viral on the internet, but happening live, in person, in the Martinsville Walmart on Wednesday afternoon.

Finally, a chance for good ole MHC to make the news for something other than moonshine and opioid overdose rates.

“Don’t you WORRY about my DOG!” Came a shout from a few aisles down.

“It is UNSANITARY and AGAINST HEALTH CODE,” boomed another woman’s voice

I was in the coffee aisle, and the shouts were coming from several aisles back. Other shoppers, like me, paused in their tracks momentarily. Some looked up as if we could see over the shelves.

“Ma’am,” the scream sounded across the store, “don’t you WORRY about my dog. My dog can go wherever I want her to.”

“Animals are not supposed to be in places where food is served or sold!” the other voice screamed. “And it’s just plain nasty!”

Pulled by a morbid curiosity, I started to walk in that direction just to see what was happening. However, conscience and decorum returned to me, and I stopped myself. How tacky of me.

The shouting showed no signs of abating. The shrieks were getting louder. This is the type of thing you see all the time now on the internet, such as TikTok or those Facebook Reels – witnesses who film such craziness and broadcast it for the world to see. Those videos really take off, with tens or hundreds of thousands of views, and some of the top ones make it onto the real news shows (as real as TV news is anymore, considering its slide into showing viral cat videos and silly stuff like this).

Coffee in my buggy, I made my way for the next ingredient on my list: vanilla extract.

Oh, what luck. It was in the direction of the fight.

As I turned the corner, I nearly collided with a woman, perhaps in her 60s, with a sleek little black dog in her buggy.

Ooooh! Here I was after all. What luck. I could see the fight just accidentally, which is not as tacky as running right over to watch it like a fool with nothing better to do and no good taste. Perhaps I’d just catch a glimpse of the action out of the corner of my eye as I reached for some vanilla.

All those thoughts ran through my head in a flash, much faster than it took you to read them, because at the same time I turned the corner, I was nearly run over by the dog woman.

I jumped back and gave her a wide berth as she leaned out from the edge of the aisle and screamed to a man looking through the meat section on the far wall: “Come get her! It’s that woman over there!”

Oh my goodness, was the dog woman trying to sic her husband on the sanitation-concerned woman?

Was that man going to really come over and get the sanitation-shouting woman, or was he shriv-



**Holly Kozelsky**

eling up in embarrassment that his wife was making a huge scene in the Walmart and wishing he had been far enough away that she couldn’t point him out as being with her?

I didn’t stick around to watch, since I was busy pretending I wasn’t watching. Once I got the vanilla – the same shouts with little to no variation continuing to zoom about – “It is UNSANITARY and AGAINST HEALTH CODE!” “Ma’am, don’t you WORRY about my DOG!” -- I made my way down the aisle.

Well, THAT was asking for trouble. I found myself between the two shouting woman, one at the edge still hollering to her husband for backup, and the other around the middle of the aisle, where her husband was reaching for flour.

What was this second husband thinking? Was he embarrassed, too?

The sanitation-concerned woman suddenly turned on me in a fury: “Did you see that woman with the dog? That is unsanitary. People are going to put their FOOD in the buggy right where the dog is sitting. They will get germs all over their food.”

“Oh, gross,” I said, and scurried off. There were other people in the aisle, too, but I didn’t see any taking a video. I thought back to the 20 years I spent in local journalism. As a journalist I probably would have felt obligated to videotape that, in case anything more happened to make it a valid news story, such as an escalation and an arrest. As a shy person, I was really glad in that moment that I’m not a journalist anymore.

“She says it’s an emotional support animal,” the woman was hollering to my departing back. “Anyone can say that. It is clearly not an official trained and identified service dog.”

As I got away from the women, another man pushed his buggy around the aisle corner and met my eye.

“Did you see them?” he asked in an excited whisper. “They’ve really been going at it. They even gave each other the finger,” and he demonstrated, holding up his middle finger yet shielding it from me with his other hand, presumably so as not to insult me.

I picked up a few other items and went to the checkout line. When I saw who the cashier was – my neighbor – I was going to tell her all about the craziness I had just witnessed, that she’d surely be hearing about later from other people too.

But the next person to get in line behind me was an entirely new woman with an entirely new dog in the buggy.

I just kept to normal greetings, paid for my order and went home.

## Increases reported in cases of mumps, measles, and whooping cough

The Virginia Department of Health is reporting that diseases like mumps, measles, and whooping cough (pertussis) are starting to return to pre-pandemic levels in the commonwealth.

According to Virginia State Epidemiologist Dr. Laurie Forlano, there were fewer cases of those and other diseases during the pandemic because people were not spending much time together.

“Now that we are back to a state of normalcy, these diseases are still among us and able to transmit,” Forlano said.

Parents are encouraged to get their children vaccinated against preventable diseases. To see the Back to School immunization schedules for the schools in the West Piedmont Health District, visit West Piedmont Health District - West Piedmont ([virginia.gov](http://virginia.gov))

## Patrick Henry Correctional Unit now has expanded video visitation

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and partners ViaPath and Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) have expanded video visitation at Patrick Henry Correctional Unit in Ridgeway. The expansion went live around 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30.

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

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

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

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

Video visitation will not be available when fa-

cilities are operating on lockdown status.

Several VADOC facilities have expanded access to video visitation in 2024. Facilities with expanded access are listed as follows: Greensville Correctional Center, Central Virginia Correctional Unit 13, State Farm Work Center, State Farm Correctional Center, Sussex I State Prison, Cold Springs Correctional Unit, Keen Mountain Correctional Center, Deerfield Correctional Complex, Pocahontas State Correctional Center, Baskerville Correctional Center and Virginia Correctional Center for Women.

In late 2023, video visitation expanded at Green Rock and River North correctional centers.

Call 276-694-3101 or email [submissions@theenterprise.net](mailto:submissions@theenterprise.net) for more information.

# OPINION

## Regarding the professional victims

When I saw why the 2024 Paris Olympics opening ceremony was trending on Saturday afternoon, I was depressed to realize I was going to have to write a column about it.

For those who missed it, the opening ceremony of the Olympics featured a fashion segment that included drag performers seated on one side of a long table. Immediately, a furious narrative began to form: these drag performers were mocking The Last Supper! Boycott the Olympics! Release the hounds! Lock up your daughters!

Almost immediately, cooler heads tried to point out that the tableau was not intended to depict The Last Supper, but rather a Greek bacchanal. As evidence for this, there were more than 13 people in attendance and a big blue guy dressed like Carmen Miranda was lying across the middle of the table, an individual that most Biblical scholars would likely agree was not a documented apostle.

Why a bacchanal? Probably because the Olympics began in ancient Greece, so it would make sense to depict a famous ancient Greek thing. Why was it flashy and weird and gay? Because this year the summer Olympics are taking place in Paris, not Salt Lake City.

But it was too late. The outrage machine had latched on, and everyone from Elon Musk to Donald Trump Jr. expressed that the Olympics were now woke and Satanic and whatever else. Let this be a lesson to anyone who decides to congregate on one side of a table: the battle lines have been drawn.

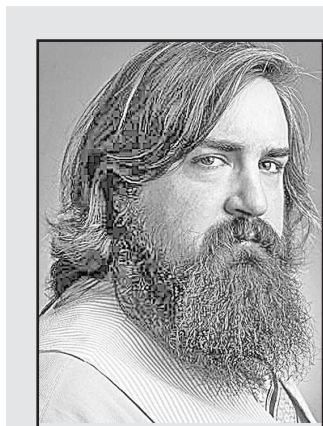
By the time this column goes to print, this tempest in a teapot will likely be long forgotten and we'll all have moved onto the next ridiculous outrage. But I'd like to linger on this one for a moment longer just to pose a question:

Isn't this exhausting?

Isn't it exhausting to view every moment in life through a filter of anger? To analyze every news story, every quote, every image not on its own merits, but in order to scour it for a toehold you can latch on to and feel offended about?

I can't imagine how tiring it must be. I know how tiring it is to watch it from the sidelines.

And let us be clear, this is not solely a conservative issue. I have friends who teach at liberal arts colleges, and they're all in the midst of a slow-rolling nightmare in which every single sentence they utter must be carefully vetted lest a student take offense. Don't describe a situation as "crazy" because that's offensive to people with mental illness. If someone says something



By Ben R. Williams

objectionable, be sure to correct them immediately because if you don't, you're complicit and just as guilty as they are. And God help you if you mess up because at the very least, you're going to have a series of meetings with the student in which they respond to your microaggression by bombarding you with macroaggressions in the form of criticizing your teaching style, your ethics, and your moral fiber.

I realize this may sound like an exaggeration to some. I assure you, it is not, and at some (not all) college campuses, it is widespread.

The hilarious irony is that those at the margins of the right and those at the margins of the left are operating from the exact same playbook. Their ideologies are wildly different, but their methods are the same. They're professional victims in search of an oppressor, inflating every minor transgression, real or imagined, into a war against their deeply-held beliefs.

Most importantly, they either don't understand context or they don't believe in it. Intent does not matter to these folks, only the most simplistic face-value appearance. It doesn't matter that the Olympics opening ceremony wasn't intended to depict The Last Supper; all that matters is it kind of looked like it if you squint, which is every bit as bad.

Who has this kind of time and energy? Isn't it hard enough to make a living and keep a roof over your head without seeking out things to get bent out of shape over? Don't we have enough real problems in the world that we don't have to make up culture war nonsense to fight over?

I don't know. It doesn't matter. By the time this article runs, it will likely be swept away beneath the tidal wave of Facebook's algorithms because Ben Shapiro will have reported that Mr. Peanut wears mascara, just the latest volley in the endless war against our American ideals.

## Long time city attorney died

Charles Michael Aaron, 70, a longtime Martinsville attorney, died on Monday, July 29.

Arrangements are pending. The family respectfully asks for no flowers. Instead, please consider a donation in Charles name be sent to Boy Scout Troop #326 c/o Broad

Street Christian Church 126 Broad Street Martinsville, Virginia 24112 or ALS P.O. Box 37022 Boon, IA 50037 and specify the Roanoke Chapter. Donations may also be sent to ALS Clinic at Wake Forest Baptist 131 Miller Street Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

## United Way seeks Literacy Tutoring Specialist

The United Way of Henry County-Martinsville is seeking a Literacy Tutoring Specialist. This position will be responsible for delivering literacy tutoring services intended to improve academic outcomes with early learning/elementary students in the community, and is through AmeriCorps.

Service members will be responsible for working with students identified by teachers and school administration that are at risk of falling behind academic standards in their respective grades.

For more information and to apply: [www.unitedwayofhcm.org/careers](http://www.unitedwayofhcm.org/careers)

## Up to \$2 million available for workforce housing projects

Developed with feedback from staff of Virginia Housing and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program is designed to make the commission's footprint more attractive for economic development by directly addressing a major concern of expanding employers - insufficient housing for their workforce. The program takes advantage of the commission's ability to offer innovative solutions to the challenges Southern and Southwest Virginia are facing and will allow commission funds to serve as a catalyst, bringing together public and private sector partners to address workforce housing needs.

Tobacco Commission member Del. Danny Marshall said, "In Southern Virginia we have had great success building our economy over the last decade or so by attracting new businesses and adding thousands of jobs. I want to see that growth continue, and I believe it can, but those workers are going to need places to live. We need to find solutions for the "missing middle," those who fall into the gap between affordable housing programs and the housing that many developers choose to build that, in today's market, is often too expensive for working families. This program offers an opportunity to bring together state agencies, local government and the private sector to generate innovative solutions so we can continue to attract the jobs of the future to Southern Virginia."

"This pilot program was created after listening closely to the communities we serve as they expressed their needs, and in support of Governor Youngkin's push for increased availability of affordable housing," said Tobacco Commission Executive Director, James Campos. "I am certain that, working with Virginia's housing community, our local part-

ners, the private sector, and others, we can find solutions that will meet the needs of Southern and Southwest Virginia and allow us to continue bringing great opportunities to the Commission footprint."

Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program allocated \$2 million to enhance the appeal of the Tobacco Region for major economic development projects by incentivizing localities and employers to develop affordable housing options for employees.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. A pre-application detailing the proposed project is required and serves as an opportunity for Commission staff to conduct a preliminary assessment of the project's eligibility for funding and, to provide meaningful feedback to applicants before they prepare a full application package. Candidates will be notified by commission staff if their pre-application is selected to move on to the full application process. Full applications are evaluated by commission staff, and funding recommendations are put forward to the full commission for further discussion and approval at its spring, fall, and winter meetings.

Incentive structure:

Applications are made by political subdivisions of the Commonwealth on behalf of the housing developer, which may be for-profit or non-profit.

Applications are received and evaluated on a rolling basis.

Funds require a minimum three-to-one match and generally follow existing Tobacco Commission funding policies.

Units can be for rent or for sale.

For further program details, including additional requirements and how to apply, please visit the Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program page at [www.revitalizeva.org](http://www.revitalizeva.org).

## 2024 Local Heroes Series Features Statewide First Responders

Before the first dispatch to the scene. Before the fire trucks and the ambulances and the CPR. Before the rush through the ER doors. Before an officer delivers the news no family wants to hear. There are decisions to be made. Make the right ones.

Buckle up. Slow down. Drive sober.

That's the message Virginia first responders deliver in a powerful new ad campaign from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV picks up its perennial Local Heroes series with a play-by-play of a crash scene, acted out by real Virginia firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and nurses.

"The vast majority of crashes – and the horrific injuries and tragic deaths they cause – are fully preventable with safe driving," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Our first responders are passionate about getting this message out to Virginians because they know, if heeded, it will save lives. Please buckle up, slow down and drive sober, whether you're driving five miles or 500."

In 2023, 335 people who weren't wearing their seat belt were killed

in crashes in Virginia. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says proper seat belt use reduces the chance of suffering a fatal injury in a crash by nearly half. In Virginia, one-in-four people don't wear their seat belt, according to NHTSA's 2023 seat belt use survey. The same year, 449 people died in crashes involving speed and 293 died in alcohol-related crashes across Virginia.

This year's Local Heroes campaign features first responders from Goochland County Fire/EMS, Goochland County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, Virginia Beach General Hospital and Virginia Beach EMS. The multimedia initiative, which includes local and cable TV and radio spots, as well as social and digital media placements, demonstrates to the motoring public that first responders care about their communities and want them to get home safely.

The Local Heroes campaign, produced by Two Tango and Brian Camp Pictures, will run throughout Virginia through August 12. For more highway safety information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/safety](http://dmv.virginia.gov/safety). To view the Local Heroes video, visit DMV's YouTube page.

## SCOTUS ruling impacts future action of VA, US

By Edwin J. Viera  
Virginia News Connection

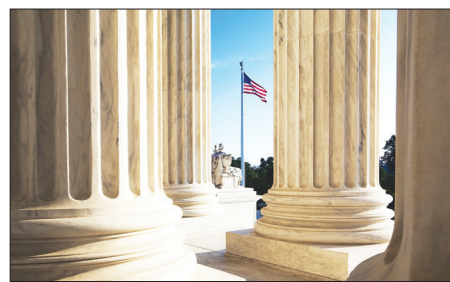
Recent Supreme Court rulings on air pollution are affecting Virginia and the nation.

Climate advocates said the court overstepped its bounds in ruling the Environmental Protection Agency's Good Neighbor Rule was improperly enacted and repealing the so-called "Chevron deference." Without it, judges have to rule on ambiguous regulatory laws with no agency expertise.

Craig Segall, vice president of the advocacy group Evergreen Action, said the court is diminishing the capacity of Virginia's federal climate partners like the EPA.

"By creating room to attack, for instance, carbon standards for power plants federally, that Virginia might want to implement," Segall outlined. "Or by making it harder for U.S. EPA to move us toward electric vehicles that would create jobs in Virginia and that would, you know, clean up the air, especially in Northern Virginia where it's so congested."

He added it creates an opportunity for states to lead on climate action. But partisan opinions on climate change vary across the country. In Virginia, it means mixed efforts from utility companies and lawmakers. Dominion Energy is developing offshore wind, but it is also pressing on with a natural gas plant residents vehemently oppose.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., has introduced legislation to codify the Chevron Deference into law. (Adobe Stock)

The rulings, coupled with decisions on presidential immunity and what constitutes bribery have eroded the Supreme Court's perception of impartiality. Polls show most Americans across party lines feel the Court puts political ideology first.

Quentin Scott, federal policy director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said it opens the floodgates to government corruption.

"We can't have this blatant, open corruption or it will diminish our effectiveness of government and enforcement of some very important rules related to pollution," Scott asserted.

He stressed climate action will be a top ballot priority along with preserving democracy. Some of his group's top issues for the next presidency will be improving grid interconnection of clean energy projects and approving certain reforms for the Supreme Court.

# CLASSIFIED

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

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**Give us your view:**

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

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

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RECORD OWNER:

Charles Hylton

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PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure

OWNER - Charles Hylton

PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -

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Henry County, Virginia

Tax Map: 49.4(000)000 /047D

Account Number - 128100000

County of Henry  
Charles Campbell  
Chief Building Inspector  
Telephone (276) 634-4615

**LEGAL**

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PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure

OWNER - A Team Holdings Group LLC

PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -

4065 Daniels Creek Rd. - Reed Creek District  
Henry County, Virginia

Tax Map: 29.1(001)000 /007B

Account Number - 003560000

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PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure

OWNER - Landowner: Dwight L. Waller & Edrick N. Martin

PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -

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Tax Map: 71.6(000)000 /050A

Account Number - 218940000

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Chief Building Inspector  
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**LEGAL**

**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. Waller*  
Judge

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

## Free FAFSA assistance offered for students

GRASP, (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.) is here to make college application processes just a bit more manageable for everyone. GRASP is an organization dedicated to providing equal opportunity for all students interested in pursuing secondary education, including community colleges, 4-year universities, and workforce credentials. Since 1983, GRASP has been supporting and inspiring students for their goals of secondary education by ensuring that financial aid is more accessible than ever.

Many students aspire to continue their education in college, but are simply held back by barriers, financial or otherwise. GRASP's financial aid advisors work to remove these barriers.

As many know, this year's FAFSA process caused a lot of problems for students trying to apply for financial aid. For this reason, many students skipped the FAFSA process entirely. GRASP's public service announcement: It's not too late

to complete the FAFSA for school this fall!

"The cost of a college education is often a barrier for students attaining a postsecondary degree, but another barrier is the lack of knowledge of how to navigate the financial aid system. GRASP advisors can help," said Todd Martin, GRASP CEO. "For recent high school graduates – there is still time to apply and enroll for classes starting in August at a community college or even select four-year colleges that are still accepting applications."

GRASP's financial aid advising services are available throughout the academic year. Email at [advising@grasp4va.org](mailto:advising@grasp4va.org) or call 804-923-0059 if you need assistance. You can also schedule a virtual appointment at <https://calendly.com/d/ckcq-p2d-n26/grasp-advisor-meeting?month=2024-07>.

The list of colleges still accepting students for the fall 2024 term can be found at [nacacnet.org/college-openings-update/](http://nacacnet.org/college-openings-update/).

## Company expands meat, poultry recall

Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., a Jarratt, Va., establishment, is expanding its July 26 recall of deli meat products that may be adulterated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

The company is recalling approximately 7 million additional pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products. Whole genome sequencing results show that a liverwurst sample collected by the Maryland Department of Health tested positive for the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

This expansion includes 71 products produced between May 10, 2024, and July 29, 2024, under the Boar's Head and Old Country brand names. These items include meat intended for slicing at retail delis as well as some packaged meat and poultry products sold at retail locations. These products have "sell by" dates ranging from 29-JUL-2024 through 17-OCT-24. View full product list. View labels.

The products subject to recall were distributed to retail locations nationwide and some were exported to the Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Panama. The products shipped to retailers bear establishment number "EST. 12612" or "P-12612" inside the USDA mark of inspection on the product labels.

The problem was discovered when FSIS was notified that a liverwurst sample collected by the Maryland Department of Health tested positive for *L. monocytogenes*. The Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department, collected an unopened liverwurst product from a retail store for testing as part of an outbreak investigation of *L. monocytogenes* infections. Further testing determined the product sample tested positive for the outbreak strain. Anyone concerned about illness should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health partners to investigate the multistate outbreak of *L. monocytogenes* infections linked to meats sliced at delis. As of July 30, 2024, 34 sick people have been identified in 13 states, including 33 hospitalizations and two deaths. Samples were collected from sick people from May 29, 2024, to July 12, 2024. The investigation is ongoing, and FSIS continues to work with the CDC and state partners. The CDC Food Safety Alert, *Listeria* Outbreak Linked to Meats Sliced at Delis, will continue to be updated with the latest investigation details.

Consumption of food contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or with weakened immune systems. Less commonly, people outside these risk groups are affected.

Listeriosis can cause fever, muscle aches, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. An invasive infection spreads beyond the gastrointestinal tract. In people who are pregnant, the infection can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, premature delivery or life-threatening infection of the newborn. In addition, serious and sometimes fatal infections can occur in older adults and persons with weakened immune systems. Listeriosis is treated with antibiotics. Those in the higher-risk categories who experience flu-like symptoms within two months after eating contaminated food should seek medical care and tell the health care provider about eating the contaminated food.

The FSIS is concerned that some of the product may be in consumers' refrigerators and in retail deli cases. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them and retailers are urged not to sell these products with the referenced sell by dates. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase. Consumers who have purchased these products are also urged to clean refrigerators thoroughly to prevent the risk of cross-contamination.

The FSIS recommends retail delis clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces and discard any open meats and cheeses in the deli.

The FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls).

Consumers with questions regarding the recall can contact Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., Customer Service at 1-800-352-6277.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or email [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov). For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.



A JLARC study finds childcare is unaffordable for 85% of Virginia households. (Adobe Stock)

## State investments help bolster VA's flailing childcare industry

By Edwin J. Viera  
*Virginia News Connection*

Virginia is making a financial investment to help tackle the state's childcare shortage.

This year's budget allocates more than \$1 billion to expand childcare capacity in 2025 and 2026. Legislation is also streamlining part of the process for people to become childcare providers.

The Center for American Progress finds 47% of Virginians live in areas considered "childcare deserts."

Allison Gibreath, senior director of policy and programs at Voices for Virginia's Children, said the state must also develop its childcare workforce.

"What I'm hearing from providers is they might have a classroom that's completely empty that could fill 15 slots in their community," said Gibreath, "but they cannot open that classroom because they cannot find the workforce to support that classroom."

A Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study finds 74% of Virginia's childcare centers are short-staffed, preventing many parents from entering the workforce.

It says a major factor is low pay for early childhood educators, ranging from \$29,000 to \$33,000 a year.

Gibreath said the new investments should trickle down, enabling centers to hire more people and increase pay.

Gibreath said the additional investment and legislation should strengthen the childcare system, but more can be done to alleviate the large-scale challenges a lack of providers creates.

"When a huge employer is looking for a place to either build a new facility or build a new office anywhere in the country," said Gibreath, "when they come to Virginia, they're starting to ask the question, 'If bring my workforce here, will there be enough childcare options for the workforce?'"

Some bills that didn't pass this year could come up again next session.

One would create an Employee Child Care Assistance Pilot Program for small businesses to help cover childcare costs for their workforce.

Another would expand Head-start's availability for parents attending community colleges.

## Biden hailed as "real American patriot" after suspending campaign

By Jessica Dillon

During a recent remote meeting with media representatives, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner discussed several issues, including President Joe Biden's surprising decision to not seek reelection, online safety for children, and the Israeli Prime Minister's address to congress.

With little more than 100 days to go in the presidential race, Biden announced on July 21 that he would suspend his campaign - a choice that according to Warner, D-Alexandria, shows Biden as a "real American patriot."

Warner said he believes that Biden's decision was because he put the country first and was ready to pass the torch.

"I'm grateful for the president's selfless decision," Warner said, noting that Biden has about an eighth of his presidency left. "I think the president needs to continue to be strong in where his forte is, international affairs."

Warner said he wants to see Biden continue to rally the world against Iranian aggression and the threat of China in technology domains. He also believes in Biden's impact on student debt relief and possible supreme court reform.

Of Biden's work with the economy, "We continue to see an economy that is the envy of the world," Warner said, adding that he believes the American economy has helped strengthen the whole world economy.

He is "impressed" by the amount of support that Vice President Kamala Harris has been receiving in her bid for the presidency, but Warner said, "The next president of the United States will inherit an extraordinarily challenging world," with issues that include Russian aggression in Ukraine, China's authoritarian influence, and the strengthening of NATO under Biden.

"Harris has got that ability to have that continuity," Warner said, noting that she already had exposure to the world's leaders. He is impressed by her current work, and is vouching for the new candidate.

"I think she will be well received," Warner said, and he believes Harris "will make a great



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner during a remote meeting from the Capitol.

pick" when choosing her running mate.

Warner also is a proponent of the Kid's Online Safety Act. He said that there needs to be guardrails on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and that online safety for children is "long overdue," and a culprit of some of the current mental health challenges the country is facing.

"If we put guardrails in place a decade ago on social media, we might not have the level of social media challenges that so many young people have today," Warner said.

Of the Israeli prime minister's speech by Benjamin Netanyahu, Warner said, "We all agree that Hamas committed unspeakable atrocities on October 7, but I was deeply disappointed that the prime minister didn't acknowledge the suffering and death now of over 40,000 Palestinians."

He has supported efforts to increase humanitarian assistance in Gaza, and has continued to push the Biden Administration to secure the release of all remaining hostages.

Calling for a ceasefire, Warner noted that "the only way we will get to a permanent lasting peace is a two-state solution." He also denounced the protestors who tore down the flag in protest at Union Station. "I reject that," he said.

Warner supports making the Employer Repayment Act a permanent part of legislation. The legislation allows employers to contribute up to \$5,250 tax-free to their employees' student loans.

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# General fund revenues are \$1.2 billion ahead of forecast for fiscal 2024

Virginia's general fund revenues ended fiscal year 2024 \$1.2 billion over the official revenue forecast, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin. For the full fiscal year, overall general fund revenue collections grew 5.5 percent, well above the 1.3 percent increase assumed in the official forecast. The official forecast incorporated \$525 million of excess revenues received through April, and \$22 million of adjustments related to the military retirement income tax subtraction. The \$1.2 billion surplus fully-funds contingent spending on shared priorities incorporated in the enacted budget including the additional \$90 million in funding for the recently restored Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

"Preliminary year-end results demonstrate that robust job growth produces record revenues that allow us to make continued investments in shared priorities," said Youngkin. "Record revenues underpinned by Virginia's strong job growth continue to show there is plenty of money in the system to make critical investments while cutting taxes to bring down the cost of living for hardworking Virginians. We will stay focused on driving the policies that

earned Virginia's recognition as America's Top State for Business and unleashing job growth and opportunity for all Virginians."

"Revenue collections ended the fiscal year well above expectations. Not only did collections exceed estimates embedded in the current Appropriation Act by \$1.2 billion, revenues also exceeded our December projections by \$1.7 billion," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "With this strong performance, our excess collections are sufficient to meet all identified investment priorities including additional funding for accelerating Interstate 81 improvements, water quality improvements in the Chesapeake Bay, and meeting our commitments to the education of our military heroes, Gold Star families, first responders, and all those who have served their nation and their Commonwealth."

Analysis of Fiscal Year 2024 Revenues (based on preliminary data)

- Based on preliminary data, Fiscal Year 2024 revenues exceeded the Chapter 1 Forecast (May 2024) by \$1.2 billion and were \$1.7 billion higher compared to the December 2023 forecast.

- Higher than expected revenue collections are primarily attributable to increased net individual income taxes and higher than projected sales and use taxes, partially offset by lower than forecasted corporate income taxes.

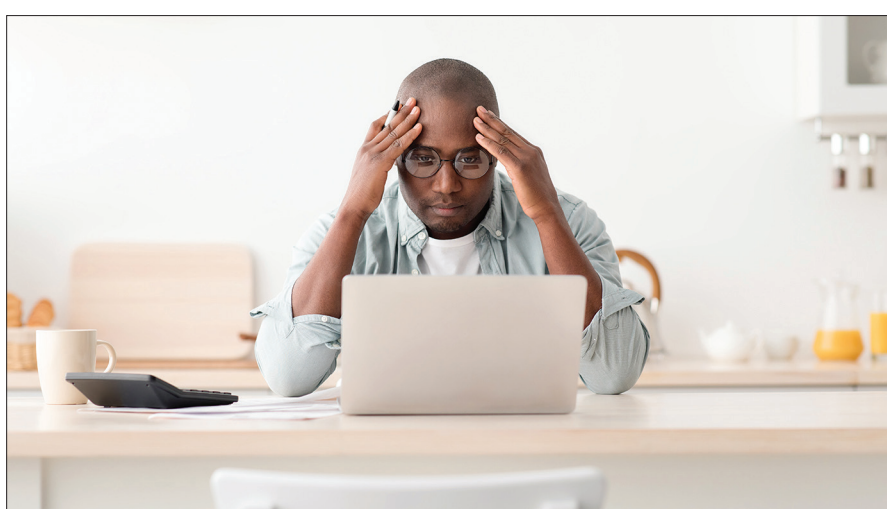
- Individual income nonwithholding collections and refunds, combined, contributed \$1.1 billion to the surplus. A portion of that surplus is attributable to the timing of receipts and refunds related to the elective Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET).

- Payroll withholding grew 4.8 percent, exceeding the forecasted growth rate of 3.8 percent.

- Sales tax collections decreased 0.5 percent as compared to the annual forecast of a 4.6 percent decline.

- Net corporate income tax collections declined 6.1 percent compared to the official estimate of a 9.0 percent increase due largely to the timing of refunds.

A complete accounting of all final revenue sources will be available after final year-end close and will be released on August 14, when the Governor speaks at the Joint Money Committee Meeting.



In a 2023 pilot program of IRS Direct File in 12 states, some 140,803 taxpayers saved \$5.6 million on preparing their tax returns. (Adobe Stock)

## Governor urged to implement IRS Direct File

By Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

Virginia advocates and lawmakers want Gov. Glenn Youngkin to allow a direct income tax filing option.

The Internal Revenue Service's Direct File program is a free online tool, which uses interview-style questions to help guarantee people claim all the tax breaks for which they are eligible. Backers of the pilot program want Gov. Youngkin to opt in.

Jay Speer, CEO of the Virginia Poverty Law Center, said other online options cost too much for some people.

"A lot of low-income people in Virginia go to tax preparers who are often located in low-income neighborhoods, pay a whole lot of money to fill out the tax forms for them," Speer observed. "They don't have extra money to pay for tax preparation."

He noted the companies are supposed to offer a free filing option, but it is often hidden or disguised. More than half of taxpayers nationwide can file at no cost, but fewer than 3% have done so. Studies showed Direct File can save Vir-

ginians more than \$208 million a year in filing fees, and cut around 78 hours off their tax-filing time. Gov. Youngkin has indicated he is following the program and looking into the implications it might have.

A University of Chicago-Harris/AP-NORC poll found two-thirds of Americans believe they pay too much in taxes with too little benefit. Research shows there is truth to it, as some companies hire unenrolled tax preparers who lack qualifications and expertise in tax rules and policy. Speer pointed out people sometimes need their tax refund badly enough to use one of the services.

"They go to these places because they want to get it quickly. They don't think they can do it themselves, which they probably could," Speer contended. "There are these online programs but you know, you may not have good bandwidth where you live, and it may be hard for you to use the programs."

Studies have shown low-income people with children spend up to 22% of their refund at local tax preparation outlets. The cost to file a single return could be more than \$500.

## Proposed bipartisan legislation would help tackle student loan debt

A new proposal, the Employer Participation in Repayment Act, is bipartisan legislation that would help Americans tackle their student loan debt by making permanent a provision that allows employers to contribute up to \$5,250 tax-free to their employees' student loans.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, is among the bill's sponsors.

In 2020, Warner was among those to negotiate the inclusion of a provision in the CARES Act that allowed these contributions temporarily. Later that year, as part of the government spending package, an extension was secured, allowing this benefit through January 1, 2026. By making this tax benefit permanent, the proposed legislation would provide employees with much-needed relief and employers with a unique and permanent tool to attract and retain talented employees.

Reports estimate that Americans owe a combined \$1.74 tril-

lion dollars in student loan debt. This debt is a significant financial burden that not only influences the way the American workforce saves and spends, but also has a stifling effect on the economy. This legislation would update an existing federal program so that it works better for employees living with the reality of burdensome student loan debt.

"Too many young Americans are struggling under the weight of student debt, preventing them from establishing savings, buying homes, and building wealth," said Warner. "My Employer Participation in Repayment Act took an important step to help folks pay down their debt while also giving employers a powerful tool to recruit and retain the best talent, but it's set to expire soon. I'm proud to be pushing to make this benefit permanent so we can grow our economy and support the middle class by supporting recent graduates and employers alike."

## Hearing set in April K-9 death



A hearing date has been set for the four inmates charged in connection with killing Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) K-9 Rivan and assaulting Corrections Officer Kharmishia Phillip Fields on April 2 at Sussex I State Prison.

The hearing for Ronald Sanchez-Ramirez, Nelson Torres Alvarez, Axel Wilfredo Ortiz Garcia, and Jose Antonio Sagastume is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11 in Sussex County Circuit Court.

According to the Office of the Attorney General:

- \*Sanchez-Ramirez is charged with killing or injuring police animal, malicious wounding by mob, conspiracy to commit malicious wounding by mob, gang participation, assault & batter of a law-enforcement officer, stabbing in the commission of a felony, and prisoner in possession of a deadly weapon.

- \*Alvarez is charged with killing or injuring police animal, conspiracy to commit malicious wounding by mob, gang participation, assault & batter of a law-enforcement officer, and prisoner in possession of a deadly weapon.

- \*Ortiz Garcia was charged with malicious wounding by mob, conspiracy to commit malicious wounding by mob, gang participation, prisoner in possession of a deadly weapon, and stabbing in the commission of a felony.

- \*Sagastume is charged with malicious wounding by mob, gang participation, and conspiracy to commit malicious wounding by mob in connection with the incident.

Rivan died April 2, when four

inmates allegedly affiliated with the MS-13 gang viciously attacked another inmate in one of Sussex I State Prison's housing units. Fields and her assigned K-9, Rivan, were on duty and working in the area at the time, and the two responded to stop the attack, protect the inmates, and restore order.

VADOC officials allege that Rivan was repeatedly stabbed and kicked by the inmates. She later died at the facility while VADOC staff attempted lifesaving measures.

Fields, a trained K-9 handler and 4-year veteran of the department, survived the attack due to her training and Rivan's courageous actions.

"The Virginia Department of Corrections remains steadfast in our pursuit of prosecuting these inmates to the fullest extent of the law," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "Violence has no place in our facilities - and we will not stand for attacks on our corrections team or inmate population."

"I thank Governor Glenn Youngkin and Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terrance Cole for their full and unwavering support of Virginia Department of Corrections employees," Dotson added. "I also thank Attorney General Jason Miyares and Sussex County Commonwealth's Attorney Regina Sykes for pursuing justice on behalf of the VADOC in these cases."

Because prosecution of these indictments is pending in Sussex Circuit Court, the VADOC has no further comment at this time.

## Initial unemployment claims decreased in latest filing period

Virginia Works announced that 2,045 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending July 20, 2024, which is 15.9 percent lower than last week's 2,433 claims and 10.8 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,293).

Nearly 78 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (201); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (197); Retail Trade (174); Health Care and Social Assistance (168); and Manufacturing (105).

Continued weeks claims (16,721) were 1.0 percent lower than last week (16,886) and were 21.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,714). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-report-

ed an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,457); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,252); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,693); Retail Trade (1,541); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,403).

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.



# Crossing the Lines

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



Members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors are pictured presenting a resolution at a recent meeting. Pictured (left to right) are Clayton Kendrick, Mayo River District; Steve Marshall, Blue Ridge District; P&HCC Softball Coach Robbie Campbell; Doug Perry, chairman and of the Smith River District; Jonathan Woods, Peters Creek District; Jane Fulk, Dan River District.

### Discussions about DSS agency are ongoing, with members appointed to advisory board

While progress is being made, Steve Marshall said his resolve to fix the issues with the Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) hasn't changed.

Two weeks ago, Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, provided The Enterprise with copies of the correspondence between Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judge Kimberly Belongia and county officials in which several concerns were raised, including the possibility that the state would take over the local department.

Since then, the county has worked to address the issues, and Marshall said a new DSS director has been hired and scheduled to start work Thursday, August 1. He said he did not recall the new director's name.

Marshall became involved after taking his seat on the board.

In January, an administrative board was tasked with overseeing the local social services agency. Board members included Clyde Deloach, Roger Hayden, Chris Caviness and others, as well as Judy Beidrycki, who then served as chairman, and most recently, has served as the interim director of the agency, Marshall said.

He added there are two types of local boards appointed to provide oversight of local DSS agencies: Administrative – which is the most common, and Advisory. Administrative boards have a num-

ber of tasks, but Marshall said an advisory board, in contrast, may designate a local government official to serve as the board. The DSS director then reports to that person.

A document titled, "Blue Ridge District Supervisor's Report - Board of Social Services," dated Feb. 12, noted the change from an administrative to an advisory board "has been considered in the past by the Patrick County BOS (Board of Supervisors), who reportedly rejected the idea owing to the belief that it would require the County Administrator to take an active role in the administration of DSS.

"This impression may have been an error caused by the melding of DSS and CSA (Child Services Act) in Patrick County," the document stated. "While I can find no reference in Virginia law to account for county administration being involved in DSS, there is a history of involvement by administrators in a support role on CSA boards across the state. ... This would not be an effect of changing to an advisory status as the CSA status is unrelated and would remain unchanged."

On April 8, the board of supervisors considered a resolution to appoint County Administrator Beth Simms as the local Board of Social Services, and after the administrative board was dissolved, appoint an advisory board.

### Heavy Equipment Operator Program will expand to Patrick County

Patrick & Henry Community College has been awarded a \$176,267.00 grant from the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation to increase Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) training programming by offering HEO courses in Patrick County.

"We are pleased to partner with Patrick & Henry Community College to provide resources for the Heavy Equipment Operator Training program in Patrick County that will equip individuals with technical skills to meet the labor demands for the statewide road expansion and improvement projects," said Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Ratcliffe Foundation.

"Patrick & Henry CC has demonstrated a strong commitment to workforce training. We are confident that they will build on

their current programs to set the next generation of learners up for success in their chosen fields and support the workforce needs of multiple employers throughout the region. Making education and skilled trades training accessible and supporting local business & industry are goals our founders wholeheartedly supported," Cassidy added.

P&HCC currently offers Heavy Equipment Operator training at its Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology (MET) Complex in Martinsville. With funding from the Ratcliffe Foundation, the college will expand its current programming to its satellite site in Patrick County to lessen the burden of transportation for students and to train future workers to serve on the large scale project currently underway on U.S. 58.

### School division's policy in line with Youngkin's order

Since the cellphone use policy in Patrick County schools currently aligns with Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 33, Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the policy is not likely to change.

An order passed by Youngkin earlier in July directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to draft guidance for public school divisions to adopt local policies and procedures establishing cell phone-free education through collaborative policies and procedures to establish age-appropriate restriction or elimination of cell phone use during instructional time, and other criteria.

"We have allowable times at the high school level, and for our 4th through 7th grade students, they may have them at school, but they are to be turned off and only out after school, like on a bus ride to communicate with families," Wood said, adding that he hopes



Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood

parents continue to support and enforce the division's cellphone policy, because cell phones can become a distraction at school.

"We want to put the most important priority - the safety and education of students first, so that's why we already had that policy in place," he said.

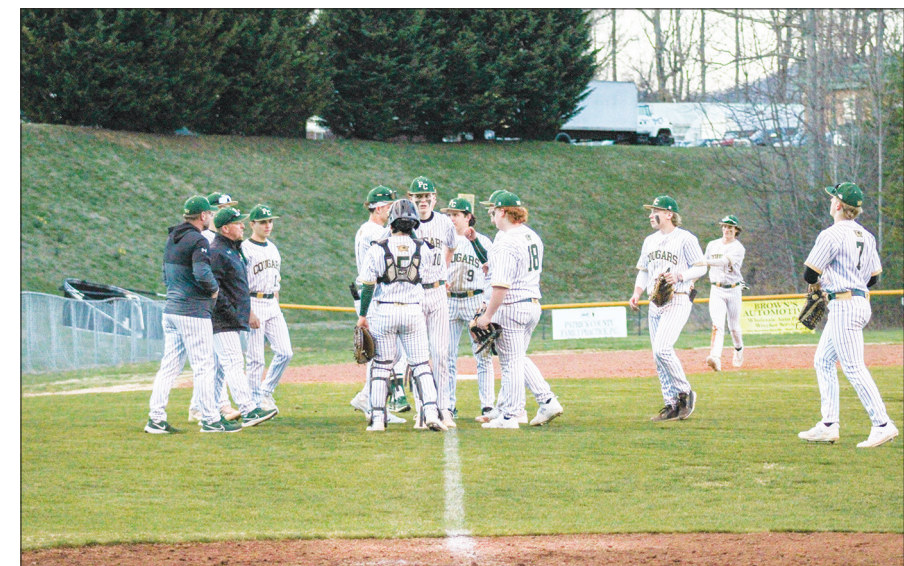
### Fire department mulls first responder service after new law would allow billing for EMS services



A bill inspired by a local firefighter could allow volunteer fire departments to bill for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) they provide. Recently signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin, HB 852 was

proposed by Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, and inspired by a conversation Williams had with Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas.

### Accolades continue for Cougar Baseball team, players



Members of the Patrick County High School Cougars Baseball Team

The Patrick High Cougar baseball team received the American Baseball Coaches Association's (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award.

According to the ABCA, the award "honors high school and college programs coached by ABCA members that post a cumulative Grade Point Average over 3.0 on a

4.0 scale."

The 2023-24 Cougar Baseball team had a cumulative GPA of 3.545, including three seniors who graduated with GPAs over 4.0.

"That's getting it done both on and off the field," Head Coach Tal Swails said of the Team Academic Excellence Award and finishing the regular season with a 19-1 record.

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# Kitten season is still heating up



Allie Keatts introduces Artemis, a kitten who helps socialize feral intakes.

By Jessica Dillon

Although June is known as National Adopt a Cat Month, a hectic kitten season seems to linger, with shelters taking in hundreds of kittens and many mama cats who are still nursing. While many associate kittens with positive thoughts, the situation often feels overwhelming for shelter workers.

"I would say approximately in the last week, we have probably taken in around 50 kittens," Henry County Animal Shelter Manager Allie Keatts said during a recent interview.

A litter of kittens can be as low as a single kitten or reach into double digits, with the average being between four and six kittens per litter, which leads to many shelters becoming full quickly, fosters and transfers help to keep the incoming litter manageable.

Keatts said the shelter has fewer fosters than the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. "We currently have three very dedicated foster families, that as soon as they take on a litter and we can get them out, they take on a whole other litter, so there's always a litter of kittens or neonatal kittens in a foster home," she explained.

A single pair of cats can lead to the production of around 700 kittens in just a few



Allie Keatts holds one of the many litters of kittens in the Henry County Animal Shelter's cat room.

years.

"Since July 1st we have taken in 318 cats, which may not seem as large as other facilities. However, we have 10 cat cages," Keatts said, adding that only four cages at the shelter aren't sustainable for a mother cat and her kittens due to size.

"These cats are reproducing faster than we can control it, so they are running around neighborhoods and reproducing all over the place," Keatts said.

Cats are a self-sufficient species of animals that can survive in the wild without human support. Due to this, they continuously reproduce populating local neighborhoods, even though kitten season came a bit late to the area this year.

"We really didn't see the influx until about a month ago. We were taking in around 20 and 30 cats a day," Keatts said, noting that kitten intake is a bit lower this year, and transfers have helped to move cats out of the shelter.

This doesn't mean that the problem with homeless cats is resolved, only that it is better than in previous years.

"Our cat adoptions are not as high as I'd like to see them. We currently have 53 cats and kittens in our care," Keatts said at the time of the interview. The shelter may get adoptions for cats twice a week, and wants



Two long-haired kittens await adoption.

those considering adopting a kitten or cat to know that the shelter doesn't just have dogs. There also is a bustling kitten room in the back.

Keatts urges owners to spay and neuter their kittens when they come of age to stop overpopulation.

"You can keep your cat inside 24/7 and ensure it never sees outside, but once your female cat goes into heat and sees the slightest possibility to sneak out that door, she's going to do it," Keatts said.

"The importance of spaying and neutering all of your pets helps medically. They say that there are fewer reproductive medical problems later on in life," Keatts said, noting that spaying and/or neutering have been shown to reduce the risk of certain cancers and infections that aren't associated with pregnancy.

Keatts urges anyone who is looking for a cat or kitten to come to the shelter.

"We have one cat that would make a great outdoor barn cat. Other than that, everyone is really friendly and highly adaptable," she said.

Foster applications are also being taken and can be picked up at the shelter. Potential pet fosters will need to fill out forms with updated information, and undergo a background check.

## Extension agent receives 2024 Partnership in Agriculture Literacy Award

Carter Humphries, a Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H agent in Chesterfield County, has been awarded the 2024 Partnership in Agriculture Literacy Award by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization and The National Grange.

The award recognizes Humphries' partnership with Virginia AITC and her significant contributions to advancing agricultural literacy in her community. Through her AGventure Days program and other initiatives, Humphries has used her passion for education to share the importance of agriculture with over 25,000 students.

Humphries was presented with the PAL Award at the 2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in June in Salt Lake City.

"Carter is a stellar example of a successful partner with Virginia AITC," said Tammy Maxey, Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom executive director. "In her role with 4-H, she shares the goal of connecting children to agriculture and uses program resources to teach thousands of youth the value and need for plant and animal production."

Humphries began AGventure Days in 2020. Through the program, she collabo-

rates with schools and teachers to create stimulating hands-on activities and lessons that engage students' curiosity about agricultural concepts.

Working with students in suburban settings, the lessons are often their first experience in the world of agriculture.

"Many of these students don't understand where their food comes from and don't have a connection to agriculture," Humphries said during a presentation to Virginia AITC's board of directors. "So, I asked myself, 'How can I bring that connection to them?'"

AGventure Days started with 1,800 students and 21 educators in six schools. By cultivating relationships with educators and organizations like VCE Master Gardeners, she has grown the program to reach over 9,000 students and 148 educators serving 42 elementary schools.

Covering a variety of agricultural concepts like embryology, butterfly life cycles and classroom gardens, the program's lessons are designed to benefit students across multiple subjects.

"Almost every educator has told me that because the program is not only in a specific classroom but at their school, the school

attendance improved as a whole," she said. "It's great to hear how students are invested in the learning experience."

The dedicated agriculture advocate also organized the Farm Graze event in Henrico County, where she previously served as a 4-H Extension agent before relocating to Chesterfield. Through partnerships with local organizations, the community event hosts interactive activities for children to learn all about agriculture and its significance.

Humphries has received several grants from Virginia AITC for educational projects—increasing direct student impact. And each year, she participates in Agriculture Literacy Week, AITC's volunteer reading event that provides a fun, interactive way to increase children's knowledge of farming and food sources.

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. To learn more and support, visit [virginia.agclassroom.org](http://virginia.agclassroom.org).

## Virginia clears hurdle in push to expand broadband

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine recently announced \$1,481,489,527.87 in federal funding would be used to expand access to high-speed internet in Virginia. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved Volume 2 of Virginia's Initial Proposal under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, an important step that demonstrates Virginia has a strong plan to expand broadband and is on track to receive its funding allocation.

The "announcement brings us one step closer to accessing our historic \$1.5 billion award and expanding high-speed internet access to more families and businesses across Virginia," said Warner, D-Alexandria. "Virginia has a strong plan to get us closer to universal coverage, and this funding will help make that plan a reality. I'm proud to have authored and negotiated the law that made this possible,

and I'm ready to work to make sure it's implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible, so more Virginians have access to high-speed internet."

"Broadband is a necessity for Virginians to access telehealth, online education programs, job opportunities, and so much more. Boosting access to broadband is key to building on our economic progress, which is why I'm happy that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration has approved the next step in Virginia's BEAD program plan," said Kaine, D-Richmond. "I'm glad to have helped pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that made this investment possible."

Following the approval, Virginia has one year to submit a final proposal that will detail how it will ensure service to all unserved locations. Once the final proposal is approved, funds will be deployed, and implementation can begin.

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



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# Vaccines help protect horses by lowering the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses

Mosquito season is back in most areas of Virginia, and that means it's time to vaccinate your horses against mosquito-borne illnesses, such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, also called "sleeping sickness," causes inflammation or swelling of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions, and death.

The West Nile Virus typically causes inflammation of the brain which leads to a loss of coordination, lack of interest in their surroundings and loss of appetite and can cause the horse to go down and be unable to get up without help.

The mortality rate for horses with West Nile Virus is 30 percent and up to 90 percent for Eastern Equine Encephalitis, ac-

ording to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), which encourages equine owners to contact their veterinarian to schedule vaccinations for these diseases.

"Prevention is key to equine health and vaccinations are a great way to provide protection. Vaccinations may be effective for up to a year; however, many veterinarians may recommend vaccination every six months in areas where the disease occurs frequently," said Dr. Charles Broaddus, VDACS State Veterinarian. "For the vaccine to be effective, it must be given at least two weeks before the horse is exposed to the virus. To stimulate full immunity, horses must be vaccinated twice, about 30 days apart, during the first year of vaccination."

Humans cannot become infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus by handling an infected horse, nor

can a horse acquire the virus directly from another infected horse. However, the presence of an infected horse in an area indicates that mosquitoes carrying these viruses are present, and those insects pose a threat to both humans and horses.

Other mosquito prevention methods include:

\*Dumping or draining standing water breeding sites for mosquitoes, such as containers and puddles.

\*Using insect repellents and removing animals from mosquito-infested areas during peak biting times, usually dusk to dawn.

\*Turning off the lights in and around the barn at night.

For more information on WNV or EEE, contact the VDACS Office of Veterinary Services at (804) 786-2483 or visit [vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-health.shtml](http://vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-health.shtml).

# New policy would reduce Salmonella in raw poultry products

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a comprehensive proposed rule and determination to more effectively reduce Salmonella contamination and illnesses associated with raw poultry products. This is the culmination of FSIS' three-year effort to reevaluate their strategy for controlling Salmonella rates in poultry and protect American consumers from foodborne illness linked to consumption of poultry products.

Salmonella bacteria cause over 1 million human infections in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Food is the leading source of Salmonella infections and poultry is among the leading sources of foodborne Salmonella illnesses. FSIS estimates that there are 125,000 chicken-associated and almost 43,000 turkey-associated foodborne Salmonella illnesses per year. Despite FSIS data indicating that Salmonella contamination in poultry products has been decreasing, there has not been an observed reduction in Salmonella illnesses.

"Far too many consumers become sick from poultry contaminated with Salmonella, and today's announcement marks a historic step forward to combat this threat," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This proposed framework is a systematic approach to addressing Salmonella contamination at poultry slaughter and processing, which includes enforceable standards that will result in safer food for consumers and fewer illnesses."

The proposal would establish final product standards to prevent raw chicken car-

casses, chicken parts, ground chicken, and ground turkey products that contain any type of Salmonella at or above 10 colony forming units (CFU) per gram/ml and any detectable level of at least one of the Salmonella serotypes of public health significance from entering commerce. The proposed Salmonella serotypes of public health significance identified for raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, and comminuted chicken are Enteritidis, Typhimurium, ... and for raw comminuted turkey are Hadar, Typhimurium, and Muenchen. The proposal would also require poultry establishments to develop a microbial monitoring program to prevent pathogen contamination throughout the slaughter system.

"The proposed Salmonella framework is grounded in data and rigorous scientific evaluation, and it reflects feedback from extensive stakeholder engagement," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. "We encourage all interested stakeholders to submit comments and relevant data on the proposal as we work to finalize data-driven, science-based regulatory policies to address Salmonella in poultry."

Since 2021, the FSIS initiated several activities designed to gather data and information to inform the framework proposed rule and determination. These activities included charging the National Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food to provide guidance on the types of microbiological criteria the agency might use to better prevent Salmonella infections associated with poultry products; conducting a risk profile for pathogenic Salmonella subtypes in poultry and developing two quantitative

risk assessments; hosting a public meeting and several roundtables; conducting an exploratory sampling program for young chicken carcasses to generate microbial data and adding quantification to FSIS' Salmonella testing program.

The Salmonella framework proposed rule and determination builds on the FSIS' continued efforts under the Biden-Harris Administration to protect American consumers, including preventing false and misleading label claims. As part of this effort, earlier this year, the FSIS published a final determination to declare Salmonella an adulterant in raw breaded stuffed chicken products when they exceed the threshold of 1 CFU per gram of Salmonella contamination. FSIS also announced this year a final rule allowing the voluntary "Product of USA" claim to be applied only to those FSIS-regulated products that are derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.

Comments on this proposal must be received within 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Comments may be submitted online via the federal eRulemaking portal, available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov); by mail sent to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700, or by hand or courier delivery to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 350-E, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700. All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2023-0028.

# Enjoy downhome fun in an upscale atmosphere at annual Black Tie & Boots gala Sept. 27

Here's one to write home about.

The annual Black Tie & Boots fundraising gala will celebrate Virginia's homegrown heritage with dancing, dining, auctions and cocktails starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27—the opening night of the State Fair of Virginia.

The gala is an indoor-outdoor event in Meadow Hall and on its lawn at the heart of The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County. Proceeds from the event will benefit youth through the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program.

This celebratory homecoming aligns with the State Fair's theme, "Where Homegrown Happens," said Alexis Boyd, The Meadow's event planning and marketing assistant.

The event will feature exclusive access to Meadow Hall, an appetizing spread from Mosaic Catering, desserts and an open bar featuring a signature cocktail. Hand-shucked Virginia oysters and a carved fruit display will elevate the evening.

Though the dress is semi-formal, wear your most comfort-

able boots and dance to your favorite country songs performed by Blair's West Band until the cows come home.

"Ticket holders can expect a VIP experience at the gala, and even walk the red carpet!" Boyd said.

Free premium parking will be available to Black Tie & Boots guests, with a shuttle for easy transportation to and from Meadow Hall.

The event will feature both live and silent auctions of items donated by gala sponsors. The silent auction will take place from 6 until 7:30 p.m. inside Meadow Hall. The live auction with dozens of distinctive items will begin at 8.

Since 2013, the fair has awarded 2,333 scholarships and has given over \$870,000 to support youth education in agriculture. Last year's fair offered more than \$108,446 in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA and vocational competitions as well as specific equine, fine arts and horticulture competitions.

Admission to Black Tie & Boots is by advance ticket pur-

chase only, and the event historically sells out.

Gala tickets can be purchased starting Aug. 1 at [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org). Tickets are \$125 per person through Aug. 20, and \$150 per person Aug. 21 through Sept. 14.

Visit [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org) and click "Attractions & Events" for

tickets and details on auction donations and gala sponsorships.

The 2024 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 27 through Oct. 6. It is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County. Information is available at [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org).

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

## Puzzle Answers!

### SNOWFLAKES

solution

### CHESS GAMBITS

### SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Absent; 2. Rescue;
- Glare; 4. Green

Today's Word  
**GUEST**

### FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



# PUZZLE TIME



## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

♥ AGT  
♥ MADITO  
♥ DAGNO  
♥ RBDA  
♥ BELAGE  
♥ ODS  
♥ REOG  
♥ RUTBE  
♥ UBR  
♥ TUGERN  
♥ EDSIL  
♥ TSDU

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

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Ear is larger. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Aving is different. 5. Tree is moved. 6. Cap is larger.

## MAGIC MAZE • CHESS GAMBITS

RTQNJGSDRAXUROL  
JGDAXVSIIPNKIFCA  
XVSQOZCLWJHECAX  
VTROSENTRETERRP  
DNCAGPALSJLHFD B  
YNRHNOIXVETSASR  
PUUOILVMPKPNINO  
DGE LKCTHSINADEK  
DBZXGWAUTERVDEN  
QONLJNLGIIGEFUE  
DCAYTXEVOWVTSQB

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

Benko	Duras	King's	Queen's
Budapest	Elephant	Latvian	Rosentreter
Chicago	Englund	Lewis	Vienna
Danish	Evans	Lopez	

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Fencing lunge	53 Just one sip	97 — Cat	9 On — with (much like)	43 Very, in Paris	79 Stare stupidly
7 Large wine bottles	54 Riddle, part 3	98 Raw metal	10 Distribute	49 Long-winded	80 Unravels
14 Derisive imitator	58 Throw lightly	99 Rip up	11 At a future point in time	51 Gold, in Gijon	81 Envoy's skill
20 Theater area	59 Shoe tip	100 It fixes off-key singing	12 Trio before Q	52 Edinburgh inhabitant	83 See
21 U.S. soccer star Megan	60 Puzzle cube	105 "I'd say," to texters	13 Blood fluids	53 Patterned wool blankets	87-Across
22 Chimney flue, e.g.	61 Cousins of counties	107 Simple wind instruments	14 Simba's father in "The Lion King"	55 Long deli sandwich	88 Woe
23 Start of a riddle	62 Etchings, e.g.	112 Riddle's answer	15 Unfilled part of a schedule	56 "Barnaby Jones" star	89 One who may study bonds
26 Woes	64 Baseball hitter's stat	115 Enkindle	16 PC key near Shift	57 Major protest	90 CIA spy
27 Ketchup's color	65 Shows' actors	116 Peanut, castor bean or canola	17 2009-10 "American Idol" judge	58 Kind of internal-combustion engine	91 Compulsion
28 "The Great Gatsby" star	67 With 83-Down, Idaho's nickname	117 Long pastry	18 Scraped (out)	59 Western U.S. gas brand	92 Accustomed
29 Running the show, for short	68 TV drama of 2000-15	118 Earned after taxes	19 Funny Foxx	60 Things raked in autumn	93 Test runs
31 Illinois' tree	71 10K or marathon	119 Cozies up	20 Viking Ericson	61 Neat as —	94 Triads, e.g.
33 Twisty letter	73 Con job	120 Taco exteriors	21 Funeral poem	62 Color slightly	95 Western U.S. gas brand
34 Riddle, part 2	74 Fabled bird	<b>DOWN</b>	22 Assemblage	63 Fail to include	96 Things raked in autumn
44 Made gentle	75 Japanese wrestling	1 Quick haircut	23 Mouths or faces, slangily	64 Like a day in June, per a Lowell poem	100 Pitcher
45 Source of some milk	78 Riddle, part 4	2 Old 45 player	34 Tiers	65 Mollicoddle	101 Hershiser
46 Source of some milk	82 Ionize, e.g.	3 Performs like	35 Singer Swift	66 Battery liquid	102 Inactive
47 Earthy color	84 Pioneered	Cardi B	36 Eggy entree	67 In favor of the idea	103 Actress Patricia
48 Dark deli breads	85 Alternative to Roy Rogers	4 Title keeper of a 1997 film	37 Remainder	68 Activist Nader	104 Edible bit of a pomegranate or litchi
49 Kind of internal-combustion engine	86 Slightly protruding belly button	5 Raged violently	38 Seaport on Italy's "heel"	69 "That's a lie!"	105 Estonia and Latvia, once: Abbr.
52 Bygone jet, for short	88 Tax mo.	6 Subjects of discussion	39 "That's a lie!"	70 Garbage boat	106 Go fast, quaintly
	89 Tax pro	7 City in central California	40 Future docs' exams	71 "Nothin' doin' "	107 Wee
	90 Ghana's largest city	8 "—di-dahl!"	41 Very, very	72 Hari (spy)	Reese
	91 End of the riddle		42 Match divisions		

## GREAT PARKING SPOTS

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In some Inuit (Eskimo) languages, a noun can have over 1,000 forms.
- Oxford University once had rules forbidding students from bringing bows and arrows to class.
- King Mithridates VI of Pontus took small doses of poison throughout his life to develop a resistance in case an attempt was made to kill him. He built up such a strong immunity that when he attempted suicide to escape capture by the Romans, the poison had no effect and he had to order a slave to dispatch him with a sword.
- Isaac Asimov's first bestseller was his 262nd published book.
- The record for spinning a basketball on a toothbrush is 1 minute and 8.15 seconds. (No, we never thought of spinning a basketball on a toothbrush, either.)
- Velociraptor noises in the film "Jurassic Park" were made by mating tortoises.
- In 1984, a Chihuahua named Percy was seemingly killed by a car while accompanying his owner, Christine, on a visit to her parents. Christine's father buried the dog in his garden, but a terrier named Mick, who belonged to her parents, dug up the grave, dragged Percy to the house, and licked him until a faint heartbeat could be detected. While Percy recovered, it's worth noting that the two dogs had always hated each other, and continued to do so after Percy's rescue!
- Historically, on Father's Day, more collect calls were made than on any other day of the year.
- China has more people who have learned English than the United States.
- In ancient Egypt, slaves were murdered to accompany their deceased owners to the afterlife.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening." — Larry King

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**W**HEN PLAYING FROM ROUGH, ALWAYS OPEN THE CLUBFACE AT ADDRESS.

THAT WAY YOU AT LEAST PARTIALLY COUNTER THE CLOSING OF THE CLUBFACE THROUGH IMPACT CAUSED BY GRASS WRAPPING AROUND THE HOSEL.

USING PLENTY OF WRIST ACTION TO STEEPEN THE SWING ALSO HELPS, BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF GRASS COMING BETWEEN CLUBFACE AND BALL.

AS FINAL INSURANCE AGAINST THE CLUBFACE CLOSING, GRIP THE CLUB VERY FIRMLY WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.

## 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!

Blank

BEASTN

Save

SECURE

Scowl

LAGER

Young

GENRE

**TODAY'S WORD**

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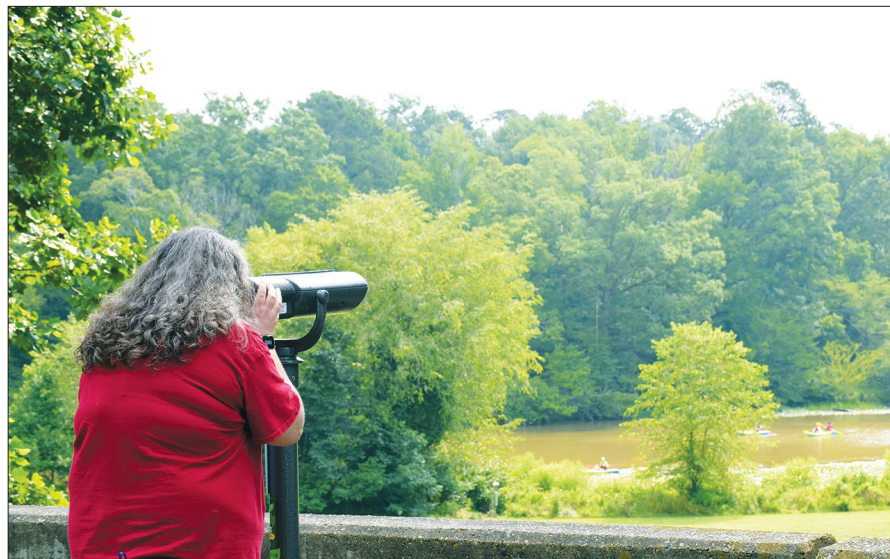
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# Virginia parks system is first in the nation to install EnChroma-adapted viewfinders for colorblind guests



Jillian Sherman, colorblind participant, Pocahontas State Park.

Virginia State Parks is leading the way in inclusivity by becoming the first park system in the nation to install EnChroma-adapted viewfinders for colorblind guests at each of its 43 locations.

The viewfinders, made by SeeCoast Manufacturing, are equipped with special lenses from EnChroma designed to help those with red-green Color Vision Deficiency (CVD) experience an expanded range of visible color.

While people with normal color vision see over one million shades of color, those with red-green CVD are estimated to see about 10% of hues and shades. To them, colors containing red and green can appear dull, washed out and indistinguishable.

"This initiative underscores Virginia's commitment to enhancing outdoor experiences for all visitors and sets a new standard for state parks nationwide," said Matt Wells, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages Virginia State Parks. "We're proud to play a role in opening up a world of vibrant color for colorblind individuals to experience nature like never before."

The installation of EnChroma-adapted viewfinders at Virginia State Parks began in 2023 with Natural Tunnel State Park, an initiative that was led by Chief Ranger Ethan Howes who is colorblind. The remaining 42 locations received their viewfinders in 2024.

The purchase of the viewfinders was funded by donations received through the Round-Up for Parks Program, allowing visitors to donate to Virginia State Parks when making a purchase online or at a park. Since 2018, visitors have donated nearly \$300,000, which has been invested in improving offerings and activities.

"Seeing the world in vibrant color is a gift many of us take for granted," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "The EnChroma viewfinders help us create a one-of-a-kind experience for our red-green colorblind visitors and allow them to better enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our state parks."

To launch this color accessibility initiative on July 26, six red-green colorblind people traveled to Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Virginia, to try the EnChroma viewfinder and share their perspectives on the experience. They included a carpenter, policy analyst, medical dispatcher, personal trainer, permit specialist and college student.

"Virginia gives visitors unrivaled access to beautiful forests, breathtaking mountain views, stunning rivers and the renowned colorful leaves in fall," said Erik Ritchie, CEO of EnChroma. "Virginia is truly for lovers of the outdoors but it's also for lovers of color too. That's why we applaud Virginia State Parks for working with EnChroma to make its colorful beauty



Zachary Easparro, colorblind participant, Pocahontas State Park.



Robert Purinton, colorblind participant, Pocahontas State Park.

more accessible to those who are red-green colorblind."

One in 12 men (8%) and one in 200 women (0.5%) are colorblind. In the U.S. alone, 13 million people are colorblind and 350 million worldwide. With more than 8 million people visiting Virginia State Parks annually, approximately 341,000 are colorblind.

Virginia State Parks joins over 400 organizations worldwide in supporting colorblind guests by installing the SeeCoast viewfinders with EnChroma lenses or loaning EnChroma glasses. This includes

nearly 100 state and national parks across 25 states. The patented lenses are engineered with special optical filters that help people with red-green color blindness see an expanded range of visible color. EnChroma glasses are for people with deuteranomalous and protanomalous CVD. They work for approximately eight of 10 red-green colorblind people, but are not a cure for color blindness and results and reaction times vary. A study by the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio illustrated the benefits of the glasses.

  
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in your neighborhood.

  
A group of dedicated  
volunteers.

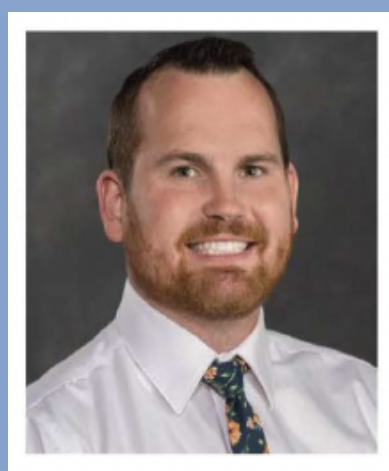
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# Flotilla, rally held



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From a recent flotilla at Smith Mountain Lake to a rally in North Carolina, several events were held in support of presidential candidate and former Pres. Donald Trump. (Photos by Ray Reynolds)

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