

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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New lofts and business spaces open on Fayette Street

By Taylor Boyd

Fayette Street Lofts, located at 62 Fayette Street, was inaugurated during an August 13 ribbon cutting that was attended by several county and city officials, as well as community members.

The building includes 25 loft apartments, two marketplace storefronts, and nine 'Make Your Space Studios,' ranging from 550 to 940 square feet. Currently, every loft apartment and two of the nine studios are rented.

"With the completion of this project, not only has the Historic Collective addressed our local need for affordable workforce housing by designed 25 modern studio loft apartments, but we have new, affordable commercial space at the same property that's specifically designed and priced for small businesses, non-profits, and artists," Brenell Thomas, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, said when formally welcoming the building Uptown.

"This convenient location is within close proximity to the thriving Uptown business district, and the many landmarks of our city—New College Institute (NCI), the Martinsville Uptown Farmers Market, the Thomas P. Dalton Idea Center, the Historic Courthouse, FAHI (Fayette Area Historic Initiative) Museum, the clocktower, Prillaman's Market, Re-



Several city officials celebrate the inauguration of the Fayette Street Lofts Building at 62 Fayette Street with a ribbon cutting.

newal Brewery, the Ground Floor, TAD Space and TAD tavern, and a host of churches, retail, restaurant, and fitness options," she said.

Dating back to the early 1920s, Thomas said Fayette Street was a vital and thriving commercial, cultural, and social center for Martinsville's black community. She noted some may remember the building from when it was a grocery store, or a furniture store.

"I'm too young to have that memory," she said to the laughter of the audience. "But what I do recall are stories told by my mother and



The Fayette Street Lofts building includes 25 loft apartments, two marketplace storefronts, and nine Make Your Space Studios. Currently, every loft apartment and two of the Make Your Space Studios have been rented.

her sisters who grew up in Henry County, and they often spoke of going to town on Saturday mornings with their mother to buy groceries in this space. It was a trip they looked forward to every week. While their mother shopped for groceries, they patiently waited in the car."

Thomas added she heard numerous stories from both her parents about attending the annual June German Ball to hear legends like James Brown, Little Richard, Tyrone Davis, and others who graced the stage on Fayette

(See New Lofts p. 3)

Studio 107 seeks financial support from city



Karen Eggleston poses with two different egg projects.

By Jessica Dillon

Studio 107, the brainchild of Piedmont Arts, is now facing challenging times as it struggles to attract enough foot traffic and financial support. The studio, which was initially supported by Piedmont Arts, lost that backing about a decade ago due to financial constraints, leaving the artists to sustain the space on their own.

"We've done the best we could with the resources we've had, which have been our own pockets," said Karen Eggleston, an egg artist. She explained that the studio



Terry Mitchell shows off a handmade bowl. rents booths to artists and is currently working to move the gallery to the front of the studio to draw in more visitors.

"We've got ribbon winners here. We are the heart of art in Martinsville," said Eggleston. However, many artists are taking a loss each month just to pay booth rentals.

Despite their artistic achievements, the artists at Studio 107 are struggling to stay afloat. "We were first owned by Piedmont Arts, and then they had to drop us, which put us all on our own,"

(See Studio 107 p. 2)

Bikers for Babies Benefit Ride set for Aug. 24

By Jessica Dillon

The 13th annual Bikers For Babies event is set to take place on August 24, with participants gathering to support the Pregnancy Care Center, a pro-life crisis pregnancy center located in Martinsville. This event, which includes a scenic ride into Franklin County before ending on Joseph Martin Highway, is open to drivers of all types of vehicles.

The Pregnancy Care Center provides vital support to women facing pregnancy crises. "It is a pro-life pregnancy center that offers prenatal care, ultrasounds, counseling, and parenting classes," explained Patrick Rusmisl, a key supporter of the event. The center also assists with baby furniture, clothing, and provides information about adoption for expectant mothers, offering all services at no cost.

Rusmisl emphasized



Motorcycles line up in preparation for a previous Bikers For Babies Ride.

the center's commitment to supporting mothers throughout their journey. "It's not like having your baby and we will leave you alone. We help you through this

crisis, and part of that is having a baby," he said, highlighting the center's goal of saving the lives of unborn babies. "We don't believe in abortion."

(See Bikers p. 2)

Delegates praise bill aimed at increasing election security



By Taylor Boyd

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 35, which was implemented to increase election security, and codifies the election procedures put into place during the Youngkin administration, is getting high marks from Del. Eric Phillips and Wren Williams.

"It's something to secure our elections. Everyone wants to make sure we have fair and secure elections by people who are actually residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia," Williams, R-Stuart, said.

Phillips, R-Martinsville, said he supports Youngkin's Executive Order, and sees election integrity as an American and Virginia issue rather than a political one.



"All of us, regardless of what party we're a part of or what candidate we're voting for, should want safe, legal, fair elections where the people that should be voting are voting and the people who shouldn't be voting are not," Phillips said.

Youngkin, who signed the order on August 7, said the Virginia model for election security works.

"This isn't a Democrat or Republican issue, it's an American and Virginian issue. Every legal vote deserves to be counted without being watered down by illegal votes

(See Delegates p. 7)



County and city officials were on hand as TAD Tavern celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

TAD Tavern Celebrates Grand Opening with an Exquisite Experience

By Jessica Dillon

Uptown Martinsville welcomed its newest upscale restaurant, TAD Tavern, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 9. The event featured speeches from the owners and prominent community members, all highlighting the restaurant's significance to the city.

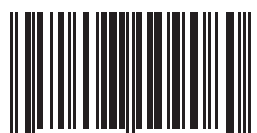
TAD Tavern is the latest addition to the growing portfolio of locations owned by Wayne Draper, who also owns TAD Space, a premier event space

that opened in 2021. Draper expressed gratitude to his team during the ceremony, emphasizing the collective effort behind the restaurant's success. "I always say it's we, not me," Draper said.

Reflecting on his entrepreneurial journey, Draper acknowledged the challenges of starting a business, particularly the financial uncertainties. "Being an entrepreneur isn't always easy, especially when you see funds

(See TAD Tavern p. 7)

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UPDATES



Studio 107

(cont. from page 1)

Eggleston said, noting that the studio also lost its receptionist when Piedmont Arts withdrew.

Eggleston believes that renewed support would improve the studio's retail side, a sentiment shared by long-term tenant and woodworker Terry Mitchell. "I've got art all over the country, but it's just not enough to be successful," Mitchell said, adding that while the rent is fair, "people just don't know that we are here."

One of the major challenges is the lack of funds for advertising. While Studio 107 receives patronage from some local companies and has donated items to charities like the United Way of Martinsville Henry County, it's not enough to sustain the business. "The support would help us to at-

tract other artists," said Mitchell, emphasizing that better visibility would make the studio more attractive to potential tenants.

"If they realize they are coming to a place where they have traffic and they will be successful with what they do, it would be attractive for them to come into the studio," he said.

"We should truthfully be getting business from a 50-mile radius," Eggleston said. She noted that the studio benefits from events at the nearby arcade, with people wandering in while their kids play. However, this is not consistent enough to ensure the studio's survival.

Eggleston and Mitchell recently voiced their concerns at the Arts and Culture Committee meeting,

hoping to find a way to increase the studio's visibility and attract more visitors. "We need help from the city. I hope they think we are important," Eggleston said.

Studio 107 not only sells art but also teaches classes and allows visitors to watch artists work live on the premises. The studio hosts various types of artists, from stained glass creators to fine art painters, with each piece sold being handmade. Eggleston, who has sold products on the QVC channel, is the only artist currently making a profit at Studio 107.

The artists at Studio 107 hope to continue adding more artists and ultimately transform Martinsville into an art hub like Floyd.



A teapot and cup set Karen Eggleston crafted from eggs.

Bikers

(cont. from page 1)

The Bikers For Babies ride welcomes all types of vehicles, including motorcycles, trucks, and even larger vehicles like tractor-trailers, which have participated in previous years. Rusmisl noted that the event typi-

cally draws around 150 participants.

Both Rusmisl and his wife, Patsy Anderson-Rusmisl, are deeply committed to this cause, driven by their personal experiences. "We just have a passion for it because we couldn't

have children of our own," Rusmisl said. They find abortions heartbreaking and believe that many families would be eager to adopt.

The two became involved with the Pregnancy Care Center when Patsy Rusmisl joined the board in the early 2010s. Recognizing the center's financial needs, the Rusmisels were inspired to create this fundraising event, drawing on the success of similar charity events.

While participants pay to join the ride, the event's primary funding comes from corporate sponsors. Local businesses like Bassett Furniture, Absolute Machine Enterprises, and Walsh's Chicken & More have supported the event in past years. Several local churches also contribute by securing volunteers, and the Martinsville Sheriff's Department provides an escort for the bikers, ensuring a safe and enjoyable ride that lasts approximately an hour and a half.

Drivers interested in participating can register online at www.mhcbi-

Pregnancy Care Center



Registration 10 AM
Kickstands up at 12 PM

\$10 solo rider
\$15 w/ passenger
\$20 per car full

Saturday
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24

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kersforbabies.com/registration. The registration fees are \$10 for single riders, \$15 for riders with passengers, and \$20 for carloads. The fee includes lunch, which is served after the ride.

In addition to the ride, participants can look forward to door prizes and an auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Pregnancy Care Center. The center is open Tuesday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for women experiencing a pregnancy crisis.

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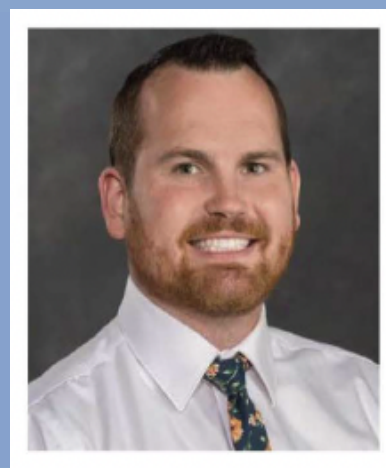


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, August 19

PSA Board of Directors Regular Meeting, 6 p.m., Administration Building Fourth Floor Conference Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville

Wednesday, August 21

Planning Commission Meeting, 4 p.m. to 5 pm., City Municipal Building, 55 West Church St. Martinsville.

Events

Friday, August 16

Movie in The Park: Trolls Band Together, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Jack Dalton Park, 106 Jack Dalton Road, Collinsville.

Friday, August 16 - Saturday, August 17

The Shape of Things, 7 p.m., TheatreWorks, 44 Franklin St, Martinsville.

Fairystone State Park will hold a Whiskey Run Hike at 8:30 a.m. at Iron Mine Parking Lot, a Fairy Stone Hunt at 11:30 a.m. at Visitors Center, and Who Made Those Tracks While You Slept?, 3 p.m. at Shelter 4.

Saturday, August 17

Mt. Nebo Holiness Church will hold the 8th annual bike ride, car show, and fish fry. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the ride leaves at 11 a.m. The cost is \$20 per bike or autos, and this covers the meal for the driver. The fish fry will start at 8 a.m., and vendors will be on site. All proceeds will benefit the church. For more information, call Angie Penn at (276) 732-6014.

Sunday, August 18

New Lofts

(cont. from page 1)



Vital Building & Construction is among the businesses that's found its home in the new space.



The interior of one of the Fayette Street Lofts apartments.

Street.

"I'd like to think that the celebration we're having as we introduce Fayette Street Lofts building that history has a strong chance of repeating itself. Entrepreneurs have new options to consider as their ideal home for their small businesses in the Make Your Space Work Studios, where diverse businesses can grow," she said.

Noting the community is experiencing substantial growth, Thomas said small businesses are not just vital to the local economy but are the heart of the community.

"They bring charm and character to our neighborhoods, create jobs, foster connections, drive innovation, and contribute significantly to our community's economic health. When we buy from a local business, a significant portion of that money stays within the community and is reinvested in other local businesses, services, and charities," she said, adding that circulation of money helps to build a robust local economy that can support its schools, infrastructure, and public services.

The Rev. Charles Whitfield, vice-chairman of the Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (CEPG), said Fayette Street Lofts provides the opportunity for innovation, reduced cost in upgrading, and affordable rent to new and expanding businesses.

"It can also provide a place to collaborate and network with others who are also on their entrepreneurial journeys. The energy and drive of the artisans, the professionals, the accountants ... will become contagious in this area," he said.

But most of all, Whitfield said Fayette Street gains a new purpose that returns this part of the Uptown District to its history as a vibrant and an important part of the Martinsville economy.

"This addition of the Make Your Space Work Studios in the Uptown Business District offers nine huge studios with endless possibilities. This is a tremendous opportunity for our startups who are looking for a great place to launch and nurture their new business opportunities and for individuals who are striving to do the same," Whitfield said.

It's important to Martinsville Uptown to not only provide the space for its new and expanding small businesses, but that the community rallies and supports them "because as we all know, a committed consumer base is the heartbeat of each and every small business," he added.

Jim Cherney, co-developer of JRS Realty Partners, LLC, said that he and co-developer John Garland recognized the spirit in the community four years ago when they set out to preserve and repurpose some of the area's historic buildings.

"We had a deep connection to this community and the ability to see it grow. We both have years of experience in development, but the work we're doing here is truly and uniquely meaningful. We believe in Martinsville and Henry County," he said.

Cherney said his and Garland's primary goal is to always create homes that they themselves would be happy to live in at an affordable rate. The concept of the Make Your Space Studios was to provide a blank canvas where any business or work studio could use, he said.

Garland, who is passionate about historic preservation, said every project JRS Realty takes on is historic.

"We always start with a building that's in said shape that I call a dead building, and we turn that building around and bring it back to life," Garland said, noting the space provides affordable housing as the rent for most of the lofts is \$745.

Saving a building also is environmentally friendly and better than tearing one down and taking the debris to the local landfill, he said. "The memories, the nostalgia, the history of the place, and Fayette Street has a lot of history."

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.

Guest lecturer Josh Schaller will explore the local history of Martinsville & Henry County in archival maps at Martinsville Main Library, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Registration is required. For more information or to register call (276) 403-5430.

Thursday, August 22

Water Bath Canning, 6 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.

Smith River Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Smith River Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

ONGOING

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

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

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 6 - 10 a.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

All you can eat sausage, fried bologna, eggs, cooked apples, sausage gravy, made from scratch biscuits, made to order pancakes, coffee and juice. Dine in or carry out.

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

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

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

TOPS 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

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



Co-developer of JRS Realty Partners, LLC John Garland said historic preservation was a goal during the project.



Co-developer of JRS Realty Partners, LLC Jim Cherney said he and Garland believe in Martinsville and Henry County.



Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (CEPG) Vice-chair Rev. Charles Whitfield said the Fayette Street Lofts provides the opportunity for innovation, reduced cost in upgrading, and affordable rent to new and expanding businesses.

The company is now securing an artist to create art pieces for all the walls that pay homage to Fayette Street's heritage and history, Garland said.

This marks the third project completed in the series of redevelopments called the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Collective. The first was the Fieldale School apartments, which held its ribbon cutting in February 2023. All 23 apartments are being leased.

The second, the School Drive Apartments in the former John Redd Smith School, was held in November 2023. All 25 one-bedroom and seven two-bedrooms apartments in this complex are also rented.

The last project in the series is One Ellsworth, in the former BB&T building in Uptown Martinsville. It will include 50 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-

bedroom apartments, and one three-bedroom apartments, in addition to first floor and ground-floor retail space, a basement commercial space, and a mountain-view rooftop venue.

Garland estimates construction on One Ellsworth will end Spring 2026, and rents will be in the \$895 price range.

City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides and Martinsville Mayor LC Jones also spoke during the event.

For rental information, call or text Property Manager Hunter Clark at (276) 732-3126 or email hclark@cherneydevelopment.com.

For more information on projects in the collective, visit www.historiccollective.com.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OPINION

Educator Expense Deduction

Some of my best legislative ideas come from people around the district.

I regularly attend public events to make myself accessible so you can share your thoughts and concerns.

Among my stops this summer was the New River Valley Fair in Dublin.

I got to call some bingo and speak with fairgoers. One local public school teacher expressed concern to me about paying out-of-pocket for school supplies. The teacher is Elissa Grantham. She felt the current \$300 tax credit was insufficient.

My recollection is she said the current deduction is “doodly-squat.” Whether that’s the wording she used or not, she clearly felt the deduction failed the reality in the classroom.

The National Education Association website reports that studies show educators spend on average somewhere between \$500 and \$750 of their own money every year on things students need. This article from last year was based on studies conducted in the years prior to that.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, ninety-four percent of teachers reach into their wallets to buy classroom supplies.

The Educator Expense Deduction was first enacted in 2002. Eligible educators for the federal tax credit include K-12 teachers, instructors, counselors, principals or aides who work for at least 900 hours a school year in a school that provides elementary or secondary education as determined under state law.

This deduction was unfortunately not around when my mother and her co-teacher, Ms. Clara Winkler, taught sixth grade for Roanoke County schools at Broad Street Elementary. I remember their dedication as they made sure to purchase enough supplies and materials for their classroom in order to enhance the educational experience of their students.

While the classroom expense tax deduction used to cover \$250, adjustments increased it to \$300 in 2022.

But per the statistics above, \$300 falls far short of what educators typically spend on a yearly basis to meet student and classroom needs.

This is likely further exacerbated by Biden-Harris era inflation. Many teachers are having to make difficult financial decisions on top of spending money for their classrooms.

The Los Angeles Times found that between August 2022 and June 2023, the prices for writing tools and supplies, including crayons, highlighters, pens and pencils, have increased an average of 18.5 percent.

Literacy program unveiled for correctional education students

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is reinforcing its commitment to correctional education by launching a new prison literacy program designed to aid inmates and probationers in their educational journey. The program, titled “Reading Enables All Learners” (REAL), aims to provide non and beginning-level readers with the foundational skills necessary to progress to more advanced educational opportunities.

The REAL program, which began in June 2024, offers self-paced learning facilitated by certified inmate tutors. Lessons are conducted in small groups within libraries and other non-classroom environments, allowing participants to improve their literacy skills before enrolling in High School Equivalency (HSE, also known as GED) classes. The department plans to expand the program statewide by the end of 2024.

“We realized a necessary first

step for some inmates is to master the basics before they can successfully engage with a GED program,” said Chad Dotson, director of the agency. “By bringing their reading skills up to the necessary grade level, we are ensuring these inmates can successfully transition to a HSE course and build a lasting skill that will open doors for inmates upon reentry.”

Education plays a critical role in the successful reintegration of inmates into society, with studies showing a correlation between educational attainment and lower recidivism rates. The REAL program is part of VADOC’s broader effort to enhance public safety by equipping inmates with the skills they need to lead law-abiding lives after their release.

VADOC currently offers more than 125 programs to inmates and supervises, underscoring its comprehensive approach to rehabilitation and reentry.



Morgan Griffith

Representative

As an example, the cost of planners, binders and folders surged an average of a 48.5 percent increase in cost during that time, and the increase in the price of “paper and forms” was eighty percent!

Given these struggles under the Biden-Harris economy, like others, educators are in a pinch.

Following my interactions with Grantham at the New River Valley Fair, I introduced legislation to provide educators breathing room and increase the Educator Expense Deduction to \$1,000.

Students and educators will reap the benefits of greater access to classroom resources, particularly those in distressed and underserved communities.

A significant tax achievement was passed by a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and President Donald Trump. The bill became known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Individual income tax rates were cut, and the standard deduction was increased.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped families! The Child Tax Credit almost doubled. The maximum per-child credit amount went from roughly \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Families also benefitted from the tax bill because it facilitated school choice. Families could use 529 college savings plans for elementary and secondary education expenses.

Many of the provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are set to expire in 2025. As inflation hinders the ability of many to make a decent living, the expiration of these tax cuts will further hurt American families and consumers.

Americans work hard at their jobs. It is only fair for their paychecks to reflect that.

I will continue to speak with folks on the ground and get their ideas as to what we can do better.

As the school year begins for many in the Ninth District, I would like to thank every educator for your contributions, the dedication to your students, and your care for their education.

Teachers care for their students, whether it was in the second half of the twentieth century like my mother, or like today, the teacher at the Dublin fair. The least we can do is to help them.

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

Traveling strategies and mishaps

By Holly Kozelsky

This wasn’t my first rodeo, though still I was thrown.

From years of traveling off the beaten path, I’ve developed habits that aim to prevent theft but still give me a Plan B if I am robbed, such as:

Don’t use a suitcase, which would mark me as a traveler; bring just a small amount of clothes in a dirty old duffel bag.

Don’t bring my regular pocketbook, but rather a teeny tiny one, and only carry exactly what I need.

Bring two bank cards on a trip, but only carry around one and keep the other hidden in my room as a backup in case the first is stolen. Keep the banks’ phone numbers written down to report theft.

The only key to bring with me is the one for the car. However, I keep another car key hidden on the outside of my car so that if my car key is stolen, I still have another to drive home from the airport. Underneath the car mat is another credit card to pay my airport parking fee, in case the two bank cards I brought on my trip were stolen.

While there, look as much like a native and as little like an American as I can. Believe it or not, I can now pull that off. I didn’t used to manage it.

Keep my passport hidden in the room where I’m staying, and only carry my driver’s license around (for the identification which sometimes is required).

My hostess and my family back home have photos of my passport, flight details and other information as backup in case the passport does get stolen.

As I’m walking around, carry my bags (old used bags from the stores where I am staying, not from back home) in my arms in a tight grip as well as by the straps, but fake nonchalance.

Carry enough cash in the purse so that if I am robbed the thief thinks he’s got it all. Keep more cash here and there in different places. Keep most of the cash back in the room. Give much of my money to my hostess to take care of things, so I’m not an obvious American flashing money.

I’m a When-In-Rome-Do-As-The-Romans-Do kind of traveler. That means spending hours a day crammed into subways and buses. However, for the major party we were going to, I insisted my hostess find us safe transportation. If we had to walk the normal half mile to the bus stop and take public transportation dressed in our evening gowns carrying packages — and one of us an American — criminals and kidnappers would rightly guess they had struck gold with us.

We couldn’t trust a taxi or ride-app driver, because it comes out often enough in the news that some of them rape and rob and kill their passengers. It took several days, but finally my hostess found a trustworthy driver, recommended by a cousin who had used that driver for years.

While she and her cousin were



Holly Kozelsky



After a week together, it’s time to head back to the airport to part ways. It was a safe ride to the airport, with a driver who came well recommended.

texting back and forth with the driver on the hours and his rate for the day of the party, I was so excited I accepted right away, with plans to pay him a hefty tip, too. The cousin, Estela, put her hand on my arm and tilted her head at me. “Tranquila!” she said — “Calm!” We are supposed to negotiate for a lower price, as is custom, she reminded me.

Urgh! That one sure wasn’t worth bickering over to me, but I let her do her thing, because when in Rome ...

During my week there, the store across the road from the community gates — the start of our half-mile walk to the bus stop — was robbed, a girl three doors down was attacked (the police hung out at our house for a while during the investigation) and my hostess’s daughter’s phone was stolen.

As for me, though, I made it nearly the whole week through without any loss.

Until the night of the party: My glasses were stolen straight off the table when I got up to dance. As soon as the dance was over, I sat down at the table, where the glasses and the family who had been sitting there earlier were all gone.

I thought I was a careful traveler. It goes to show you learn something every day.

So I had to finish my trip without glasses, which filled me with a strong and strong sense of mourning and loss, on top of frustration and confusion. It was especially hard to navigate the airports without being able to see.

Those bifocals were expensive, and I loved their looks. In fact, for the past few years I’ve been actively looking for a replacement pair, but have not found frames I like, so that makes me miss my glasses even more.

So - I went into this trip expecting it to be dangerous, but then while there realized it was much more dangerous than I had thought, and a few times I was truly scared.

Given that, I got out easy with just the glasses being the only loss.

But the spoiled part of me - the American part of me who has gone through life in relative safety - is still mad about the glasses.

Celebrity Imposter AI Scams

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has captured the world’s attention, but it has also captured the attention of criminal scammers. One area where AI scams are particularly dangerous is celebrity imposter scams.

For many years, criminals have impersonated celebrities online to steal from fans. Fake celebrity profiles offer fans personal connection, investment opportunities, or the chance to support favorite charities.

AI has allowed criminals to make these scams more realistic than ever with “deepfake” videos. With this technology, criminals can create videos where it looks and sounds like the celebrity is speaking, but it is in fact

completely computer generated. Criminal scammers have used this technology for anything from fake product endorsements to promotions for bogus VIP ticket sales.

Posting on a celebrity’s social media account might be exciting, but it could put you at risk of this imposter scam. In whatever way you choose to enjoy your favorite celebs, do so recognizing that an opportunity to connect with them personally is likely a scam.

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

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

OPINION

Regarding cruelty

I watched some highlights from former President Donald Trump's recent press conference at Mar-A-Lago. Of the 162 lies and distortions he shared (per NPR), there's one in particular I'd like to single out.

"(Former Virginia Governor Ralph Northam), he said the baby will be born, we will put the baby aside, and we will decide with the mother what we're going to do," Trump said. "In other words, whether or not we're going to kill the baby."

This is a claim Trump has repeated a number of times, and it's become a popular talking point in anti-abortion circles.

Not to state the obvious, but at no point in this nation's history has a doctor ever delivered a baby, set it aside, and then sat down next to the mother and said, "Congratulations ma'am, you just delivered a beautiful, healthy baby boy. Want me to kill it for you?"

That may sound glib and unserious, but when you're dealing with glib and unserious people, it's an appropriate response. The idea that doctors are going around casually committing infanticide is worthy of ridicule.

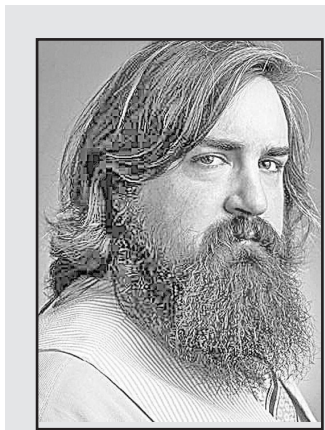
All of this nonsense stems from a 2019 radio interview with Northam where he explained — admittedly poorly — that third trimester abortions should be allowed only in the event that the child would be born with severe deformities incompatible with life or that would put the mother's life at risk.

Specifically, Northam said that that if a child makes it to full-term with deformities that would invariably result in its early death, the parents and the doctor could make the decision to keep the child as comfortable as possible after delivery but not pursue every single option to keep the child alive.

It's an unpleasant reality, but there are times when keeping a person alive at all costs amounts to cruelty. We understand this when it comes to our pets; when our pets are suffering and have no quality of life, we often make the humane choice to put them down so they can be at peace.

While we don't put people out to pasture when they're suffering, there are plenty of times when medical professionals allow someone to die naturally when it becomes clear they'll never recover or ever again have any quality of life. This is the entire premise of "do not resuscitate" orders.

What particularly galls me regarding these false claims about third trimester abortions is one simple fact: no one has a late-term abortion because they didn't want the child. These are mothers who loved their unborn child, who had a name picked out, who had a lovingly decorated nursery at home. Their dreams were dashed when they received the worst news imaginable: that the baby they wanted so dearly is doomed to lead a short, painful life, and its birth might even kill them in the process. They are forced to make the most difficult decision they will ever face, a decision that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.



By Ben R. Williams

These mothers are not flippant, amoral monsters who decide on a whim to kill their baby at the 11th hour. To paint them as such is shockingly cruel — or at least, it used to be before cruelty in politics lost its shock value and became commonplace.

So now that Roe v. Wade is overturned, what happens to a woman placed in this impossible situation when she has the misfortune to live in a state where abortion is outlawed?

You could ask Amanda Zurawski, who testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in April of last year.

Zurawski, who lives in Texas, conceived her daughter Willow after 18 months of fertility treatments. One August day shortly after she'd finished the invite list for her upcoming baby shower, she had a medical emergency. After being examined by her doctor, she was told that she had dilated prematurely due to a condition called cervical insufficiency. The doctor told her she was going to lose her baby; it was a question of when, not if.

However, because Roe v. Wade had been repealed, Zurawski's medical team could not perform an abortion as long as Willow's heart was still beating. In the state of Texas, abortions had become illegal unless the mother is facing "a life-threatening physical condition aggravated by, caused by, or arising from a pregnancy."

This meant she had only two options: she had to either wait for Willow to die, or become so incredibly sick that her life would be at risk unless doctors performed an abortion.

Three days later, Zurawski developed a raging fever and her blood pressure dropped precipitously. She was taken to the ER and diagnosed with sepsis. After delivering her stillborn daughter, her vitals crashed, and she was rushed to the ICU where she would remain for three days as doctors battled to save her life.

They did save her life, although according to a recent interview, so much damage was done to her womb that she will never again be able to bear a child.

At his Mar-A-Lago press conference, Trump said that the abortion issue has been "taken down many notches" and is "very much subdued."

I doubt Amanda Zurawski would agree with that assessment.

Musical comedy to be performed in Ferrum

The Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre is the site for performances of Nunsense, a musical comedy with more than 21 songs and dances, the week of Aug. 22-25. The production is being directed by Rex Stephenson.

The plot revolves around a group of zany nuns putting on a variety show to raise money.

This musical comedy will open with a matinee on Aug. 22 and run until Aug. 25.

A three-course meal is available with a dinner-theatre option. For information and tickets call (540) 365-4355 or visit <https://our.show/ferrumnunsense24>.

"This show is great fun and absolutely hilarious. We laugh through every rehearsal," actor Emily Blankenship-Tucker said.

The show has attained critical acclaim, with Entertainment Tonight stating, "You don't have to be Catholic to love Nunsense!"

Fido's Basement Sale set, proceeds to benefit SPCA

Don't miss out on the shopping event of the season. Thousands of items at rock-bottom prices, including furniture, electronics, home goods, toys, books and more. Whether you are hunting for treasures or practical items, Fido's Basement Sale has something for everyone, and every

purchase supports the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County. Mark your calendars for Friday, September 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, September 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 119 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville. For more information, call (276) 656-1101.



Local Martial Arts Competition Team wins 12 National Championships

Students of Rutters Martial Arts in Stuart, Bassett and Floyd, Va. recently competed in the AMAA National Sport Karate Championships held Aug 10 in Charlotte N.C. Celebrities such as Cynthia Rothrock and Bill "Superfoot" Wallace were in attendance.

Pictured are:

* Raylyn Thomas, of Floyd, who won a National Championships in both sparring and weapons and second place in Forms competition.

* Eddie Prillaman, of Bassett, won three National Championships in weapons, forms and sparring. He also won the Jr. National Grand Championship.

* Isaiah Daken of Floyd won National Championships in weapons, forms and sparring.

* Ezekiel Pack, of Stuart, also won National Championships

in weapons, forms and sparring.

Team RMA won a total of 12 of the 13 National Championships at this event.

Instructor 7 x World Champion and multi time Hall of Fame Inductee Grandmaster Scott Rutter has more than 37 years training and 27 years teaching Martial Arts.

Rutters Martial Arts in Bassett, Floyd and Stuart is currently accepting enrollment for Back 2 School and has Back to School Specials. For more information call (276) 340-3944, visit Rutters Martial Arts on Facebook or message Rutter on Facebook. Rutters Martial Arts will help build confidence, self-respect, respect for others, discipline, while learning self-defense and fitness in a fun environment.

VDH, Eliminate Tobacco Launch Higher Education Tobacco Policy Dashboard

The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Tobacco Control Program, in collaboration with Eliminate Tobacco Use (ETU) Virginia, introduced the Virginia Higher Education Tobacco Policy Dashboard to encourage colleges and universities across the state to strengthen their campus tobacco policies, reduce tobacco use among students and employees, and increase cessation efforts.

The dashboard, which provides a comprehensive overview of tobacco policies across 49 public and private college and university campuses in Virginia, will be updated annually. It features tobacco policy report cards that evaluate current campus policies and offer recommendations for improvement. The assessments are based on standards set by the Americans for Non-Smokers

Rights Foundation and cover various factors, including the types of tobacco products addressed, the presence of designated smoking areas, the availability of cessation resources, and the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

"The Virginia Higher Education Tobacco Policy Dashboard is a vital tool for fostering healthier campuses across the Commonwealth," said Kyle Girone, VDH Tobacco Control Program Epidemiologist. "This ini-

tiative empowers institutions to take proactive steps in reducing tobacco use and supporting cessation efforts, thereby creating tobacco-free environments that benefit students, employees, and the broader community."

Despite the importance of tobacco-free campus policies, Virginia currently ranks second to last in the United States for tobacco-free higher education, according to the Americans for Non-Smokers Rights Foundation. Executive Order 41 (2006) allows state agency heads, including those of higher education institutions, to establish guidelines for smoking on state-owned property. A 2021 clarifying document confirmed that public institutions of higher education have the authority to ban smoking in all areas deemed appropriate by the institution.

Research highlights the critical need for such policies, as nearly nine out of ten adults who smoke cigarettes daily first tried smoking by age 18, and 99% by age 26. Given that most college students fall within this age range, implementing tobacco-free policies is crucial for preventing tobacco use and supporting health on campus.

For more information, visit [Eliminate Tobacco Use](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/eliminate-tobacco-use/) or the [VDH Tobacco Control Program](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/tobacco-control-program/).

American Legion Post to host Fish Fry

The American Legion Homer Dillard Post # 78 will have a Fish Fry on Saturday, August 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the post home, located at 139 Creekside Dr., (adjacent to Jordan Creek Park), Martinsville,

Va. This is a drive-thru with limited dining in. Fish sandwiches are \$8 each, homemade desserts \$2 and sodas & water \$1. Call (276) 673-7663 or (276) 340-5169 to place orders in advance.

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

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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If you've read this far, you can see how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work. Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week. Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.



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Give us your view:

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

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

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

LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
COUNTY OF HENRY, VA

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FY25 BUDGET
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed amendment to the Henry County FY2024-25 Budget as necessary to appropriate funds of \$4,730,328 received from the 1% sales tax fund designated for new construction and renovation of schools. The School Board has indicated the funds will be used to construct athletic fieldhouses at Bassett High School and Magna Vista High School. The appropriation exceeds 1% of the total County budget for FY2024-25. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing for the City of Martinsville Planning Commission will be held on August 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:
REQUEST FOR RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT - Application of Derek Brown, Applicant and Owner, requesting the city's abandonment of an approximate 2500 square foot section of the right of way at property located at 406 James Street. The abandonment of streets, alleyways, right of ways or easements are a request that require review and approval of the Planning Commission and City Council, as it will amend the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan. Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

LEGAL

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, Inderspased Mahadeo, of the settlement of a personal injury case. Inderspased Mahadeo's whereabouts are unknown. Upon consideration wherefore, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that Inderspased Mahadeo, do appear hereon on September 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., which date is no sooner than fifty (50) days after entry of this Order of Publication. And it is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Henry County Enterprise newspaper, a newspaper having general circulation in Henry County, Virginia.
ENTERED this 8th day of July, 2024.

J. J. [Signature]
Judge

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for August 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Variance and Special Use Permits for the following cases.

Case S-24-05 Hugh Kenneth Beveridge, Jr.
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 4 sites. The property is approximately 32 acres, located at 311 Florence Dr. in the Reedy Creek District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 15.2/259.

Case S-24-06 Gwendolyn Hernandez Delgado
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Family Day Care Home to accommodate up to 12 children. The property is located at 76 10th St. in the Horsepasture District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R as shown on Tax Map 28.8(10)10/4.

Case V-24-03 Margaret Baker
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-304 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a free-standing garage that will be located approximately 43' from the center of the road, instead of the required 60'. The property is located at 100 Mathews Mill Rd. in the Horsepasture District and is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 38.8/82G. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Delegates

(cont. from page 1)

or inaccurate machines. In Virginia, we don't play games and our model for election security is working," he said.

Youngkin said Virginia uses 100 percent paper ballots with a strict chain of custody, and counting machines that are not connected to the internet and are tested prior to every election.

"We do not mass mail ballots. We monitor our drop boxes 24/7. We verify the legal presence and identity of voters using DMV (Department of Motor Vehicle) data and other trusted data sources to update our voter rolls daily, not only adding new voters, but scrubbing the lists to remove those that should not be on it, like the deceased, individuals that have moved, and non-citizens that have accidentally or maliciously attempted to register," he said.

Under the order, Williams said only paper

ballots will be used during elections.

"We (Patrick County) already use paper ballots. This is a paper balloting process that allows the entire state to use paper ballots instead of different localities using different systems. Our county already used paper ballots, and many of the counties around here. We did not use voting machines, we used counting machines, and those counting machines can be verified through the use of paper ballots," he said.

Williams added that he has not heard of any pushback against the order.

"I don't know why anybody would push back on making sure that dead people are off of our voter rolls and non-citizens are not allowed to vote, and that we have clean voter records for the Commonwealth," he said. "If you recall back in 2023, they announced that they took almost 800,000 deceased individuals off the vot-

ing rolls."

Phillips said he believes the idea is simple and doesn't understand how anyone could be against election integrity.

"None of these measures are to keep people that are legal to vote from voting. They're to make sure that only legal people vote that have the right to vote in Virginia," he said.

Phillips said he believes there's a lot of mistrust surrounding elections. Focusing on it and taking common sense action such as the order should help voters feel better about the ability to trust the election's outcome.

"If people feel like things are being done in a way that are fair and above board that makes sense, then hopefully you won't see so many people always having to question the elections after the fact," he said.

TAD Tavern

(cont. from page 1)

in your account dwindle and then 'poof,' you have the funds to grow to the next level," he said. Draper noted that the expansion of his ventures was not meticulously planned but rather a natural progression.

Co-owner Hassan Davis shared his vision for TAD Tavern, aiming to create a welcoming space for people of all backgrounds. "It's just great to see everyone around and gathered together," Davis said. "Our goal is to bring people together of all colors, all races."

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones praised the effort and dedication Draper invested in the restaurant. "So often, we have individuals who come to the city with dreams and additions, but with the expectation that the city has to do all the work for them," Jones said. He lauded TAD Tavern as an "elegant, exquisite restaurant," describing it as another "gem" in Uptown Martinsville. "This is just an elegant place to eat, to take someone out on a nice night or nice weekend," Jones added.

Brenell Thomas, president of the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce, also spoke highly of the restaurant, sharing her posi-



TAD Tavern aims to provide an exquisite dining experience.

tive dining experiences. "I have eaten here at least twice before. Everything I had was wonderful," Thomas said. "The chef is great."

The restaurant's kitchen is run by Chef Gustavo A. Navarrete, who brings over 30 years of culinary experience, specializing in fusion dishes that blend elements of Spanish, Mediterranean, Latin, and Caribbean cuisines.

Thomas was also impressed with



Mayor LC Jones celebrates TAD Tavern with a short speech.

the transformation of the space, which was formerly the Department of Social Services (DSS) building. "He has done a tremendous job, not just with TAD upstairs, but with TAD Tavern," she said.

The menu at TAD Tavern is geared toward a higher price point, offering upscale dining with gourmet tapas, fine wines, and craft cocktails. Thomas noted that the

space is unrecognizable and predicted that many diners will be pleasantly surprised when they visit.

Diners can make reservations for TAD Tavern online. The restaurant also plans to feature live music and seasonal menus. TAD Tavern is located at 20 East Church St., with the entrance near Jefferson Plaza, down from Hugo's.



Virginia Film Festival (By Eze Amos, VCA Grantee)

Arts programs get funding boost

Localities in our coverage areas were among several in Virginia to receive grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA).

According to the commission, grant winners included:

Henry County Collinsville Creative Communities Partnership Grant (CCPG) for Piedmont Arts Association; Henry County Public Schools received an Arts in Practice Grant, Education Impact Grant and VA250 Impact Grant

The Arts Association Martinsville received General Operating Support for Medium and Large Organizations (GOS) for Piedmont Arts Association.

Da Capo Virginia in Martinsville received an Operating Support for Small Organizations (OSS) grant.

Martinsville City Public Schools received a VA250 Impact Grant for Martinsville High School.

And Patrick County received a Creative Communities Partnership Grant (CCPG) for the Reynolds Homestead.

Grant allocations throughout Virginia totaled more than \$5.1 million to support arts organizations, and arts-centric programs for FY25, according to the VCA.

Grant allocations include:

*151 General Operating Support for Medium and Large Organizations (GOS) Grants, bolstering arts organizations to continue, strengthen, and expand arts experiences that benefit all Virginians.

*86 Operating Support Small Grants, increasing support for small and emerging arts organizations central to the vibrancy of Virginia's communities.

*108 Creative Community Partnership Grants, catalyzing matching funds exceeding \$5.3 million from localities and providing funding for more than 240 arts organizations.

*19 Community Impact Grants, igniting new and innovative art-based projects or services that reach and impact communities.

*25 Education Impact Grants, providing opportunities for Virginia's students, educators, and other adult populations to participate in and learn through the arts.

*22 VA250 Impact Grants, facilitating new and innovative art-based programs or services commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our nation and the American Revolution.

Gen. William Jackson Palmer is center of Sunday Lecture

"THE OTHER SIDE OF GENERAL WILLIAM JACKSON PALMER" with Jan Mackell
 Sunday, August 18, 2024
 3:00 P.M.
 Historic Henry County Courthouse
 1 East Main Street
 Uptown Martinsville
 MHC MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture, "The Other Side of General William Jackson Palmer" with Jan Mackell, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 18, in the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Palmer (1836-1909) was a military general, railroad tycoon, and founder of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Though a Quaker from Delaware, he fought for the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, he moved west and became a civil engineer and philanthropist who played an integral part in Colorado's development. As the founder and owner of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, he helped stimulate economic growth as well as the expansion of transportation in the American West during the late nineteenth century. He is also well known for his philanthropy, which included the founding of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and other institutions for the public benefit. However, not many folks pay attention to this achievement before he got there. Mackell will show Palmer's "other side" using many stories about him.

For more than fifty years, Mackell has visited ghost towns and other forgotten historic spots all over the American West in search of how pioneers lived and survived during the 1800s. A historian and writer



Jan Mackell

since 1989, she has given dozens of presentations, programs, speeches, appearances, and interviews on radio, television, and in print. Her research, especially in the history of the prostitution industry, encompasses the entire western region of America and continues to expand.

Admission to the lecture is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum will be open following the presentation.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Ruritan Club honored for dedication, commitment



Members of the Carver Road Ruritan Club listen as Del. Eric Phillips reads a resolution approved by the state to honor the club's commitment and dedication to the community it serves.



The walls in the club's building detail its story through the years, including when the building was to become a reality, while another photo chronicles a visit from former Gov. Doug Wilder, who was the first African American ever elected as governor.

First black Ruritan Club is finally getting a home

After 14 years, the Carver Ruritan Club, the first black Ruritan Club in the United States, will get a permanent home. The club broke ground recently for its new headquarters to be constructed off Carver Road in Henry County. The club was organized in 1974 under the sponsorship of Rudy Johnson, and T.A. Randolph headed a committee to get members together. Clyde Dillard was elected the first president and the club consisted of 30 members. Carrying out national Ruritan policy, the club gave scholarships to students, contributed money to send boys and girls to Boys State and Girls State, sent G.W. Carver High School athletes to camp, organized a Christmas program for senior citizens, distributed Christmas baskets and provided transportation for senior citizens. Working with Virginia Tech Extension Service, the club has been successful in its efforts to improve the neighborhood. The building will be used as a meeting place for Ruritans and Ruritanettes, Boy and Girl Scouts, senior citizens, the handicapped, for the program on drugs and alcohol, for retired persons, school children and public meetings when needed. The club would welcome financial assistance in the construction project. Donations may be sent to the club via any member. Anyone with building materials to donate should contact building chairman Samuel S. Trett at 802-1927.



Del. Eric Phillips is pictured with members of the Carver Road Ruritan Club when presenting a resolution Monday.

The Carver Road Ruritan Club was honored Monday with a resolution from the state to mark its 50th anniversary.

Del. Eric Phillips, who presented the resolution, said "It was a privilege to be with the Carver Road Ruritan Club to present them with a Virginia General Assembly Resolution honoring its 50th anniversary."

The resolution was filed in June by Phillips, R-Martinsville, and Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, and approved by the General Assem-

bly. It also noted that the club is dedicated to bettering the Carver community and surrounding areas in Henry County through fellowship, goodwill, and service.

"It was the first and now, of course, the oldest, predominately black, Ruritan club in the United States," Phillips said. "Carver Road Ruritans have been steadfast supporters of the community and continue to have a great impact with its numerous programs for our area."

Chartered in 1974 with 35 civic-minded

founders, the Carver Road Ruritan Club was the first predominantly Black Ruritan Club in the United States and its members have dedicated themselves to improving the Carver neighborhood through service projects, programming, and charity, while also serving as a gathering center and encouraging community pride and cohesiveness.

The club also "has developed a plethora of philanthropic efforts over the years, including financially supporting the community's volunteer fire and rescue squads, donating to initiatives for feeding the homeless, sponsoring youths attending 4-H camp, awarding scholarships to area high school graduates, sponsoring road clean-ups, regularly delivering food and gifts to the neighborhood elderly, and erecting neighborhood gateway welcome signs," the resolution stated.

Additionally, it has been a community hub, hosting events ranging from baby showers to repasses, facilitating community meetings with local officials and businesses, and serving as the meeting venue for other civic, non-profit, and fraternal organizations.

Health Workers Provide Free Services at TGIF Concert Series

The Community Health Workers (CHWs) of Martinsville/Henry County made a significant impact during the TGIF Concert Series kickoff in Uptown Martinsville on Friday, July 19. Stationed at a United Way booth, the CHWs offered the public free COVID-19 tests, blood pressure monitoring, and shared healthy living tips and tricks. Additionally, they promoted the latest programs and resources available through United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, as well as the Growth & Opportunity Center.



Contributed TGIF events on Friday, August 16, and September 20, both starting at 7 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to stop by for free health screenings and valuable information on local health resources.

The CHWs will continue to provide these services at the upcoming

Initial claims lower this week, continued claims rise

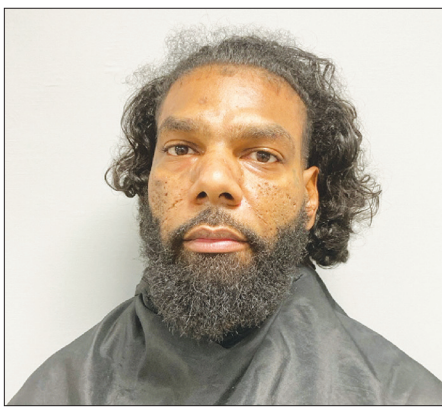
The 1,937 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending August 3, 2024, are 27.8 percent lower than last week's 2,682 claims and 23.1 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,520), according to Virginia Works.

ated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,505); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,209); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,684); Accommodation and Food Services (1,411); and Manufacturing (1,403).

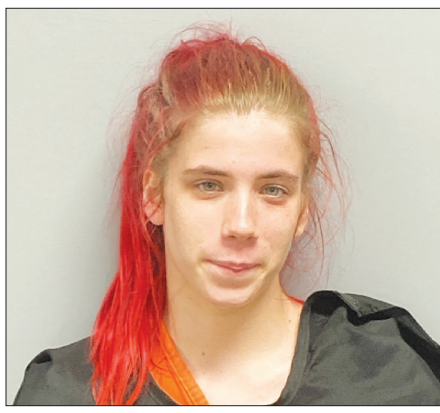
Nearly 86 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (239); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (229); Health Care and Social Assistance (182); Retail Trade (169); and Manufacturing (166).

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.

Continued weeks claims (16,893) were 0.2 percent higher than last week (16,858) and were 23.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,678). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associ-



Charles Rydell Flood Jr.



Elizabeth Taylor Mitchell

Traffic stop results in two arrests

The Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Narcotics Interdiction Unit, along with other sheriff's deputies, conducted a traffic stop in the 1500 block of Irisburg Road on Wednesday, August 7. The vehicle was operated by Charles Rydell Flood Jr., with one passenger, Elizabeth Taylor Mitchell.

possessing Schedule I or II drug, possess Schedule I or II drug with intent to distribute (methamphetamine), obstruction/resisting arrest and driving revoked. Additional charges include multiple probation violations, including maliciously shoot into occupied dwelling, possess firearm by felon, possess controlled substance with Intent to distribute, and possess firearm by a convicted felon (Franklin County).

During the traffic stop, Flood and Mitchell exited the vehicle. Flood allegedly attempted to flee on foot, but was apprehended a short distance away by deputies. Mitchell was apprehended at the Dollar General store a short distance away. A Henry County Sheriff's Office narcotics K9 assisted and alerted to the alleged odor of narcotics being inside of the vehicle.

Mitchell, 20, of 1055 Blackberry Road, Bassett, was charged with three counts assault & batter on law enforcement officer, possess Schedule I or II drug with intent to distribute (methamphetamine), and obstruction.

During a search of the vehicle, multiple items were seized, including a firearm, suspected methamphetamine, and fentanyl with an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency. The suspected narcotics will be sent to the Department of Forensic Science for analysis.

Both are being held without bond in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

Flood, 33, of 571 Figsboro Road, Martinsville, was charged with possess firearm by a violent felon, possess firearm while

Anyone with information about narcotics trafficking is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 656-4200 or Crime Stoppers at 632-CRIME (276-632-7463). The Crime Stoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crimes. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of the reward.

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

Crossing the Lines

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

Meteor shower lights up skies



By Ali Wood

A stunning meteor shower known as the Perseids was visible late Sunday/early Monday in Patrick County. Perseids are visible annually, mid-July to September 1, as it passes through.

Up to 100 meteors were expected per hour, as it moved at a speed of 133,200 miles per hour (214,365 kilometers per hour), according to online reports.

Marksmen participate in Central District



(Left to right) Jada Hylton, Maci Whitlock, Reagan Underwood, Cooper Wikstrom, Lucas Black, Trenton Miller.

The Patrick County 4-H Marksmen recently traveled to Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, Virginia on Saturday, July 13 to take part in the 2024 Central District Shooting Education Competition. Thirteen 4-H shooting clubs from around the state attended, with more than 99 kids competing in six different events. Competing for the Patrick County 4-H Marksmen were Abby Corriher, Levi Corriher, Gabe Reynolds, Jada Hylton, Lucas Black, Trenton Miller, Reagan Underwood, Cooper Wikstrom, and Maci Whitlock.

For more information on the 2024 Central District Shooting Education Competition results visit <http://www.orionresults.com/vt> and choose Central District 2024 under the recent results section.

The Patrick County 4-H Marksmen use shooting as a vehicle to teach youth ages 9-19 life skills such as responsibility, self-discipline, and teamwork through skills learned in archery, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun. Through these disciplines, youth also learn firearm safety



(Left to right) Abby Corriher, Levi Corriher.

and marksmanship. Thanks to our generous supporters American Legion Post 105 and Meadows of Dan Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Patrick County 4-H Marksmen Club practices in Stuart. New members are welcome in October. For more information, call the Patrick County Extension Office at (276) 694-3341.



Golfers at the 2023 tournament, by Julie Walters Steele

Golf Tournament proceeds to benefit Community Kitchen Project

Registration is open for the Reynolds Homestead 3rd annual golf tournament.

The event will be held on Saturday, September 28 at Gordon Trent Golf Course, 2160 Golf Course Road in Stuart, Virginia.

The tournament is one of the Reynolds Homestead's primary fundraisers, and this year's proceeds will support the kitchen expansion project. The Reynolds Homestead is developing plans for a community kitchen which will be connected to the Community Engagement Center. The kitchen will offer culinary classes taught by Patrick & Henry Community College and area chefs and will serve as a business incubator for those interested in developing a food-based business.

The Captain's Choice team tournament fees are \$50 per person. Individual golfers and twosomes will be grouped into four person teams. The tournament includes a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for prizes provided by area businesses and supporters. A BBQ lunch of pulled pork or chicken, buns, baked beans, slaw and chips will be served to all golfers. Guests may join the barbeque lunch for \$15 per person.

Sponsors are being sought for the tournament. Sponsorship for tees or holes is \$100 each. Call Martin at (276) 732-6950 or Julie Walters Steele at (276) 694-7181 ext. 23, if interested in sponsorships, registering a team, or providing a prize for the raffle.

20th annual Folk Fair set for Saturday

The 20th annual Meadows of Dan Folk Fair is scheduled for Saturday, August 17. The event will span from the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church to the Meadows of Dan Community Center, running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trinity Goad, president of the Meadows of Dan Community Association has partnered with the Meadows of Dan Ruritan Club. He added the 20th anniversary for the fair coincides with the Ruritan Club's 75th anniversary.

The scheduled activities and performances will offer something for everyone, including a history of Mayberry Church, 9:30 a.m. at the Mayberry Presbyterian Church; wine presentation by Villa Appalachia Winery, 10:30 a.m. at the

community center; the Country Boys are set to perform from 12-2 p.m.; A jazz group, Triquetra, will entertain guests at Villa Appalachia Winery from 1-4 p.m.; Ruritan Club's anniversary celebration begins, 2 p.m. at the community center; old-fashioned singing, 5 p.m., at Concord Church.

A prayer tent will be situated at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church; sheep will be sheared, and peach butter-making will be underway at Jane's Café throughout the day, and Meadows of Dan Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will host its annual fish fry.

Refer to the Meadows of Dan Facebook page for a full list of times and events.

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

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS JUST \$5

HOLLYWOOD CINEMA beside WALMART Martinsville 276-656-3456

1-3-5-7-9PM	1-3-5-7-9PM	1-3-5-7-9PM	12:45-3-5:10-7:15-9:20	9PM

Crash results in death of Stuart man

The Virginia State Police are investigating a single-vehicle crash, which resulted in a fatality. The crash occurred on Monday, August 5, at 7:35 p.m. on U.S. 58, two tenths of a mile east of Virginia 831 in Patrick County.

A 2014 Chevrolet Malibu was traveling east on U.S. 58, when

the vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway, struck the guard-rail and the embankment.

The driver of the Chevrolet was identified as William Aiden Royall, 19, of Stuart, Va. He was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation.

Input sought on Transportation Plan

RIDE Solutions, which serves as the commuter assistance program for the West Piedmont Region and is a subsidiary of the statewide ConnectingVA commuter resources program, is developing a strategic plan to identify commuter and general transportation needs in our region, and to formulate strategies to meet those needs. Specifically, the plan will assess alternative transportation modes such as bus service, carpooling, vanpooling, and to a lesser extent, bicycling infrastructure throughout the region, and perhaps beyond.

Covid and changing dynamics in our region have continued to shape how and where residents are employed and travel for their work and non-work trips alike; therefore, this plan will help us to identify the latest trends and to plan for them accordingly.

“While large metro areas such as Richmond and Northern Virginia

are served by extensive transit systems and ride-share services such as Uber and Lyft, not to mention vanpools, many of those options are not readily available in our region,” said Joe Bonanno, Senior Planner with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the RIDE Solutions Regional Coordinator. “This plan will help us to better understand where the needs are, and the types of transportation options desired by the residents of our region.”

This plan would be incomplete without your input, so we encourage you to take a brief survey to help us understand where you believe the greatest transportation needs are and how we can address them – even if you don’t commute or are not currently in the workforce. The survey will be available until Sunday, September 15, and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2BSWHP8.

Warner questions social platform’s ability to keep harmful content from minors

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner has turned his attention to Discord, an instant messaging social platform, and is pressing for details about the company’s alleged failure to safeguard minors and stop the proliferation of violent predatory groups who target children with the goal of forcing them to end their own lives and livestream the act online.

Warner’s action follows a September warning from the FBI alerting Americans to the existence of these violent online groups, which exist on messaging platforms and deliberately extort children into producing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) or sharing acts of self-harm online. According to the warning, issued by the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center, these groups target minors between the ages of 8 and 17 years old and focus on racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ youth, and those who struggle with a variety of mental health issues.

“I am extremely concerned about this abuse, and I am profoundly saddened that it has affected Virginia families, including the daughter of a military family who was coerced into self-harm and to attempt suicide,” wrote Warner, D-Alexandria. “I recognize that Discord’s Trust & Safety team is aware of this type of activity and has taken some actions to detect and remove some of these violent groups from their platforms. However, despite increased moderation, predators continue to target minors on your platform.”

“As a teenager, I fell victim to the cruel manipulation of violent predatory groups on Discord. During a period in my life where I struggled with anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, they took advantage of my feelings of isolation, and encouraged me to self-harm and even end my life. While I’m deeply grateful to have escaped their abuse, I’m heartbroken to know that this violent, dangerous behavior persists on Discord,” said Abrielle, the Virginia teenager who was allegedly coerced by “King” into attempting

suicide before being found by first responders in time to save her life.

“I urge you to devote more resources to this problem, including dedicating a greater number of content moderators, investigators, engineers, and legal professionals to it,” Warner wrote. “It is my understanding that Discord currently enforces its policies through actions like suspending policy-violating users’ accounts and servers, as well as banning their Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and email addresses. I also understand that there are far more sophisticated measures, such as device-based or cookie-based bans, that could be taken to prevent identified malign users from returning to your platform. Further, I am aware of measures that could be used to proactively detect harmful activity and initiate an early intervention to prevent harm and loss of life.”

In the letter, Warner demands answers to a series of questions about the company’s efforts to address these predatory groups. Specifically, he asks that Discord outline its policies and procedures around content that violates Discord’s Terms of Service, and that it share more information on its detection mechanisms, enforcement actions, measures to prevent the re-entry of malicious actors, and more. He also requests answers on the number of accounts that have been removed over the last four years, and the quantity of suicide ideation or depiction content.

The letter follows recommendations issued in July by the Biden-Harris Administration’s Kids Online Health and Safety Task Force to address the online health and safety for children and youth, with specific recommendations made to industry. It also comes on the heels of the Senate passage of the Kids Online Safety Act (“KOSA”) and the Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA 2.0”), which will require online platforms to take specific measures to protect the safety and privacy of children using their platforms.

FOR MORE, VISIT THE
ENTERPRISE AT
WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET

Piedmont Arts

Savory September Fortune & Flavor: Friday the 13th!

FRIDAY, SEPTMEBER 13, 2024
6:30 PM • PIEDMONT ARTS

**\$50 ALL
INCLUSIVE**

Superstitious - Savory September returns with Friday the 13th event

Knock on wood and hold your breath, Piedmont Arts’ annual fundraiser, Savory September, is returning. On Friday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m., join Piedmont Arts and their team of local chefs for, “Fortune + Flavor: Friday the 13!” This superstitious fundraiser features themed small-bites, craft cocktails, games and raffles, live music, and tarot readings. Attire for this event is all black or all white. All-inclusive tickets are \$50 and are available on PiedmontArts.org or by calling the museum.

In addition to the food and entertainment, this event will feature a 50/37/13 raffle. Tickets are \$20 per ticket, or you can buy a book of 5 for \$100. On the evening of the event, two winners will be selected. One will win 37% of the money earned, the other 13%. The remaining 50% will go to Piedmont Arts to support their amazing arts education and programming in Martinsville and Henry County. Tickets are available at Piedmont Arts and on

PiedmontArts.org.

Piedmont Arts’ Programs Coordinator Lauren Ellis will be providing tarot readings. She has been reading cards for ten years and has learned from some of the premiere tarot writers and teachers in the country. For \$5, you can get a one-card draw that will give you an overview of a question, or for \$20 you can get a 3-card past/present/future spread.

Live music will be provided by Jake Earles, a feature at Piedmont Arts events. A singer and songwriter from Axton, he spent 20 years living in Nashville, Tn. — playing everywhere from honky tonks to the Grand Ole Opry — and has toured the country with acts like Tim McGraw. Earles brings a mix of country, Americana, folk and soul to the stage.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

Kaine Releases New Plank of Kitchen Table Agenda

Last week at a roundtable in Floyd, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine released a new plank of his “Kaine Kitchen Table Agenda.” investing in career and technical education.

“I’m proud to be a champion for investing in career and technical education in the Senate. I started the Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus to bring together members from both sides of the aisle who want to ensure the future of our workforce is in good hands,” said Kaine, D-Richmond. “An important part of building up the local workforce and partnering with career and technical centers is ensuring that students are aware of opportunities outside of a traditional path. That’s why I am releasing the second plank of my Kaine Kitchen Table economic agenda today.”

Kaine’s Jumpstarting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act would allow students to use federal Pell Grants to afford high-quality, shorter-term job training programs. He believes that expanding Pell Grant eligibility will open students to more opportunities outside of the traditional path.

In June, Kaine released the first plank of his Kitchen Table Agenda and highlighted his work to lower prescription drug costs. Around the Commonwealth, in the coming months, Senator Kaine will highlight new planks of his plan to discuss how he is working to lower costs for all Virginians. Other planks of his “Kaine Kitchen Table Agenda” include cutting the cost of child care, slashing taxes for working families, and making housing affordable.



Estate Auction

923 Mulberry Road, Martinsville, VA 24112
Saturday, August 24, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Directions: From Starling Avenue, turn onto Mulberry Road (at First Baptist Church) go to House #923 on left. Auction sign in yard.

Partial Listing: (Selling by the room) * Henkel-Harris Corner Hutch * Omega Gold Plated Watch * Lead Crystal Vase * Gun Cabinet * Radio Controlled Airplane, 5' Wingspan * Stack on Tool Box/tools * Hand Tools * Refrigerator * Arnold Palmer Award Plate * Secretary * Computer Desk * Lane Cedar Chest * Dresser by Bassett * Aircraft Stamps * Dresser by Hooker * Lamps * Twin Beds * Book Shelves * Crossley Radio * Recliner * Sofa * End Tables * TV * Picture of Airplane signed by Jack Hankins WWII * Ceramic Heater * Leaf Blower * Patio Furniture * Step Ladder * Lawn Mowers * Dolly * Large Assortment of glass ware / serving sets / different patterns, Plates / Saucers / Cups / Bowls * Baking Ware * Frying Pans * Stoneware, Cooking Utensils – too many to list * Coffee Maker * Juicer * Martha Stewart Stock Pot * Upright Vacuum * Many Pictures * Earth-ware Set * Recent purchased \$2600 Recliner * Office Furniture * Asus Computer with Flight Controls * Lead Crystal Clock * Area Table by Bombay * Poster Bed * Jewelry Stand * Lane Cedar Chest * Much Furniture by Hooker / Bassett / Henkel Harris * Watches * Bracelets * A Lot of Collectable * Whirlpool Washer/Dryer * Lawn/Garden Tools * and many, many more items! Too much to list.

Terms/Conditions - Selling for the Estate of Ronald R. Crouch, who was a successful businessman in this area and which can be seen in the contents of the home. **Personal Property** - Selling "AS IS". Sale goes to highest Bidder, 10% Buyers Premium. Cash or Good Check. Items must be paid for before leaving the premises. Announcements made day of Auction supersede all prior communications. Contact Auction Office for details. **Berry Elliot Agent will be on premises for sale of House.**

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Latest survey indicates increase in workers switching jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' May 2024 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reports the churn rate, an indicator of worker movement from job to job, increased over the month, according to Virginia Works (the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement).

The most recent BLS JOLTS survey data suggests the number of May 2024 hires in Virginia rose by 23,000 over the month and was up by 28 percent from five years earlier. BLS JOLTS data provides information on all the pieces that go into the net change in the number of jobs. These components include job openings, hires, layoffs, voluntary quits, and other job separations (which includes retirements and worker deaths). Putting those components together reveals the overall change in payroll employment. JOLTS data is seasonally adjusted and describes conditions on the last business day of the month. Current month's data are preliminary and the previous month's data have been revised.

On the last business day in May, there were 257,000 job openings in Virginia, seasonally adjusted, a 4,000 increase from April's revised figure. The number of U.S. job openings the number of job openings changed little at 8.1 million. This measure was down by 1.2 million over the year. Job openings decreased in accommodation and food services (-147,000) and in private educational services (-34,000). The number of job openings increased in state and local government, excluding education (+117,000), durable goods manufacturing (+97,000), and federal government (+37,000). The largest increases in the job openings level occurred in California (+90,000) and New York (+45,000), as well as in New Jersey and Washington +38,000 each). The decreases occurred in Texas (-76,000), Tennessee (-22,000), and Arizona (-21,000).

In Virginia, the May job openings rate was 5.7 percent, little changed from April's rate. The U.S. rate was little changed at 4.9 percent in May. The largest increases in job openings rates occurred in Washington (+1.0 percentage point) and in Indiana and New Jersey (+0.8 point each). A significant decrease occurred in Texas (-0.5 point).

The number of hires in Virginia rose to 189,000 in May, an increase of 23,000 over the month and up by 11,000 from May 2023. JOLTS defines hires as all additions to the payroll during the month. The number of hires was 29 percent lower than the series high of 267,000 set in June 2020. In May, the number of hires was little changed at 5.8 million. Over the year, hires were down by 415,000. The largest increases in the hires level occurred in New York (+43,000), Michigan (+32,000), and North Dakota (+4,000). A significant decrease occurred in Louisiana (-15,000). In Virginia, the 4.5 hires rate was an increase from April's revised 3.9 percent rate. The U.S. rate, at 3.6 percent, changed little in May. Large increases in the hires rate occurred in North Dakota (+0.8 percentage point), Michigan (+0.7 point), and New York (+0.4 point). The decrease occurred in Louisiana (-0.8 point).

The Virginia hires-per-job-openings (HPJO) ratio rose to 0.74, its highest level since December 2020. This measure shows the rate of hiring compared to open jobs and is a proxy for time to fill positions.

In May 2024, there were 0.5 unemployed per job opening in the Commonwealth, compared to nationwide, with 0.8 unemployed per job opening nationwide. In Virginia, the unemployed per job opening ratio (sometimes called the 'job seekers ratio') peaked at 4.4 unemployed per job opening in February 2010 during the Great Recession, while the number of unemployed workers per job opening stood at 3.3 in April 2020 during the height of pandemic employment impacts.

Total separations in Virginia increased by 17,000 to 168,000. Nationwide, the number of total separations in May changed little at 5.4 million. This measure was down by 424,000 over the year. Large increases in the total separations level occurred in Massachusetts (+30,000), as well as in Idaho and Montana (+9,000 each). A significant decrease occurred in Ohio (-32,000). The Virginia total separations rate rose to 4.0 percent, the highest rate in a year. The U.S. total separations rate changed little at 3.4 percent. Significant increases in total separations rates occurred in Montana (+1.6 percentage points), Idaho (+1.0 point), and Massachusetts (+0.8 point). A significant decrease occurred in Ohio (-0.5 point).

An estimated 111,000 workers quit jobs from Virginia employers in May. The number of quits increased 15,000 from April's revised figure. That was lower by 16 percent over-the-year but 19 percent higher than five years earlier. Quits, a component of total separations, are voluntary separations initiated by the employee. In May, the number of quits nationwide was little changed at 3.5 million. Over the year, quits were down by 550,000.

Significant increases in the quits level occurred in California (+75,000) and Massachusetts (+19,000), as well as in Idaho and Mississippi (+7,000 each). Large decreases occurred in Florida (-71,000), Ohio (-25,000), and Colorado (-23,000). The quits rate in the Commonwealth edged up to 2.6 percent and remained at levels seen over the last two years. The U.S. rate was 2.2 percent for the seventh month in a row in May. Significant increases in quits rates occurred in Idaho (+0.7 percentage point), Massachusetts (+0.5 point), and California (+0.4 point). Significant decreases occurred in Colorado (-0.8 point), Florida (-0.7 point), and Ohio (-0.4 point).

The number of layoffs and discharges in Virginia was 49,000 in May. This was up by 20 percent over the year and up by a third from five years earlier. Layoffs and discharges are countercyclical, which means that layoffs typically increase during economic contractions and decrease during economic expansions. In May, the number of U.S. layoffs and discharges changed little at 1.7 million. Significant increases in the layoffs and discharges level occurred in Florida (+51,000), Texas (+34,000), as well as in Montana and Oklahoma (+9,000 each). Significant decreases occurred in Arizona (-12,000) and Connecticut (-7,000).

The Virginia layoffs and discharges rate edged up to 1.2 percent, while the U.S. rate was little changed at 1.0 percent but for establishments with 5,000 or more employees, the layoffs and discharges rate increased. The largest increases occurred in Montana (+1.7 percentage points), Florida (+0.6 point), and Oklahoma (+0.5 point). The decreases occurred in Connecticut (-0.5 point) and Arizona (-0.4 point).

The May 'churn' rate (the sum of the hires rate and total separations rate) in Virginia rose by a full percentage point from April's revised 7.5 percent figure, the fastest pace in a year. This was a departure from nationwide as recent U.S. trends indicated a continued deceleration of movement of workers from job to job since the beginning of 2022. While more volatile month-to-month, Virginia's pace has been more active for over a year.

On the last business day in May 2024, hiring in Virginia remained more prevalent than before the pandemic as the number of hires and hires per job opening rose to their highest level in a year. At the same time, job separations also rose over the month, primarily driven by job quitting. This increased hiring and separation activity pushed a measure of job change velocity, the churn rate, upward, indicating a still-active labor market for job seekers in the Commonwealth heading into summer.



Farmers markets support small vendors, provide food security

By Will Walkey

Virginia News Connection

National Farmers Market Week was recently celebrated, and Virginia's agricultural community is using that platform to promote food security and the other benefits that your local farmers market provides. Thousands of vendors sell produce, crafts and other products at markets across the Commonwealth.

Jess McClelland, communications coordinator with the non-profit Virginia Fresh Match, said when you buy direct from local businesses rather than big box stores, that's putting more money into your neighbors' pockets.

"During a time when farmers are facing increasing economic challenges, shopping local at farmers markets is one of the best ways that people can ensure that farmers can make a living and continue providing their communities with access to fresh food and also support farmland preservation," McClelland said.

Many markets also accept gov-

ernment assistance benefits, including SNAP (food stamps) and SUN Bucks, which can be used through Virginia Fresh Match. Agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry, yet more than 700,000 residents in the Commonwealth are considered food insecure.

Jenny Lester Moffitt, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary, said farmers markets can fill gaps in food deserts where healthy fruits and vegetables are expensive or hard to find.

"It's about selling food, but it's also about that nutrition education, and it's also about farmer and farming education too, where you get to talk with the farmer who's growing your product," she said.

Many products are in season across the Commonwealth now, including tomatoes, peaches, peppers and cherries. More information about your local market, such as hours of operation and wheelchair or pet accessibility, is available at vafma.org.

Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Sex Trafficking

A Maryland man, who used the drug dependency of at least three adult women to compel them to engage in commercial sex work, pled guilty Tuesday to federal charges.

William O'Neil Murray III, 36, pled guilty to one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion.

According to court documents, beginning in December 2021 and continuing through July 2022, Murray engaged in a multistate sex trafficking operation involving at least three adult female victims. Murray recruited and coerced his victims into sex work using their drug dependency as his primary method of control.

Murray controlled his victims' narcotics use, not allowing them to obtain drugs from anyone but himself, therefore taking complete control of each victim's drug dependency. Murray would withhold drugs from his victims if they did not follow his directions or engage in commercial sex. Many of the victims described becoming "dope-

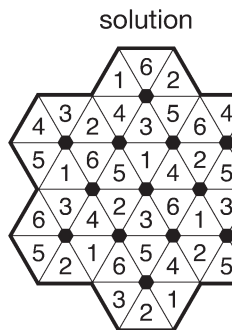
sick" when Murray withheld drugs from them. Thus, Murray stood between them and the threat of withdrawal. Murray knew that withholding drugs from the victims would have a coercive effect and incentivize them to obey him.

Murray managed every aspect of the commercial sex transactions. The defendant used various commercial sex websites, such as Skipthegames.com to set up dates with commercial sex customers, set the prices, booked the hotel rooms, and transported his victims to the dates. Murray received all the proceeds from the commercial sex acts.

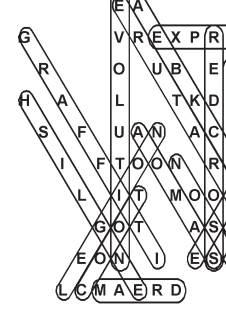
Murray maintained strict control over his victims' activities including requiring them to stay in communication with him while they completed their commercial sex "dates." Victims were not allowed to go anywhere without Murray's permission and were punished if they did so, according to court documents.

Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES



AMERICAN



SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Employ; 2. Brace;
3. Spark; 4. Chirp
Today's Word
BLACK

FEAR
KN&T
answer

TUNER
NOUN
ORPATIO
VENAL
OLEE
CAPADR
E

CIGNA IPAD DOTE SCRAM
RVLOT DELI EGAD TOADY
YOUREHIREDFIXERUPPER
PIE ONO TILERS ETNA
TROPICANAFIELDVFW
SENROR ISLES APRICOT
RICE SOU FIN ETHNO
ACHESON APOINTEHDHOUR
LOU MALI FAKES RST
POLITICALLEFTPSSST
SLAMINTO EST ISRAELIS
DANG SECONDHHELPING
IDA TOYED USES NAT
DUNGEONMASTER ASSIGNS
ELCID EAR ESS FOPS
EYEROLL INTEN USAIR
AM I PONDEROSARANCH
TGIF CREDOS NNE KOO
WAFFLEIRON BEFOREHAND
ORSEA TERI ARAB MARIE
DROSS ASST RATS IMACS

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

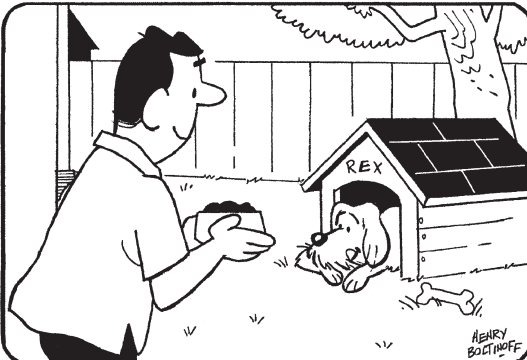
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

CPA
VENICO
RUENT
♥VREO
TRODLE
UND
♥APLE
♥AVLEN
♥ELE
PRIUNT
OATPI
UNNO

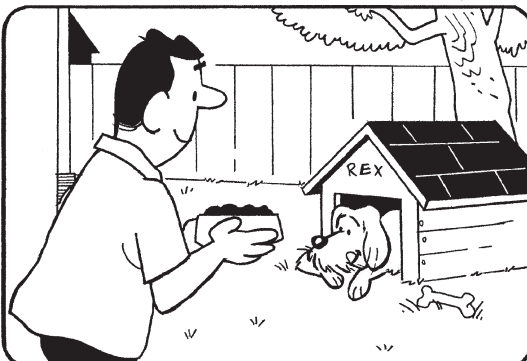
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

MAGIC MAZE ● AMERICAN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: BIRD WITH REDDISH BREAST

- Bison
- Black bear
- Cheese
- Coot
- Dream
- English
- Express
- Falls
- Graffiti
- League
- Legion
- Literature
- Red Cross
- Revolution
- Samoa

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Super Crossword

ENDING IN FIVE DIGITS

ACROSS

- 1 Big name in health insurance
- 6 2010 Apple debut
- 10 Love to excess, with "on"
- 14 "Get lost!"
- 19 Park for mobile campers
- 20 Reuben offerer
- 21 "Bejabbbers!"
- 22 Scyphophant
- 23 Welcome words to a job applicant
- 25 House badly in need of repairs
- 27 Bake-off dish
- 28 Yoko of art
- 29 Floor layers
- 30 Active Sicilian volcano
- 31 Tampa Bay Rays' stadium
- 36 Org. for some ex-GIs
- 38 Tijuana Mr.
- 39 Makeup of Hawaii
- 40 Yellow-orange fruit
- 44 Bed for sushi

DOWN

- 1 Undergound vaults
- 2 Afrique's Côte d'
- 3 Attach using paste
- 4 Fish-fowl link
- 5 Devoured
- 6 "Let It Go" singer
- 7 Italian beer brand
- 8 British beer
- 9 Pulled off
- 10 Disobeys
- 11 "Darby — and the Little People"
- 12 Levied
- 13 Broadway singer Linda
- 14 "Disco" cartoon guy
- 15 Manage, as a problem
- 16 Engrossed
- 17 City in Yemen
- 18 Gore Vidal's Breckinridge
- 24 Ad —
- 26 Reply to an invite
- 29 Traffic snarl
- 32 Skin opening
- 33 Pupil locale
- 34 Really rail at
- 35 Dud
- 37 Mr. Flintstone
- 40 Feed the kitty
- 41 Chuckling with glee
- 42 Big burden
- 43 Civil wrong
- 45 Attending
- 46 Ratify
- 48 Royal decree
- 49 Writing fluid
- 51 Swiss peaks
- 52 "Neat!"
- 53 Luau
- 55 Departing for
- 56 Potent coffee
- 59 Language akin to Thai
- 63 "— bad boy!"
- 64 Bronze metal
- 65 West Yorkshire city
- 66 Key near F1
- 68 Mineo of film
- 69 Month no. 9
- 72 SSNs, e.g.
- 73 Paper bundle
- 74 — instant (very quickly)
- 75 Some NCOs
- 77 Scorch
- 78 Baby's bottle
- 79 Notion, to Luc
- 80 "— noted"
- 82 "The — lama, he's a priest"
- 83 Sumac of song
- 87 World's tallest creatures
- 88 Ancient Dead Sea region
- 89 Takes care of
- 90 Punta del —
- 92 San Antonio hoopster
- 93 "Insecure" co-star Rae
- 99 Dog pests
- 100 Part of the conspiracy
- 101 Diet-friendly, maybe
- 103 Turkey's capital
- 104 Like sacred images
- 105 — Scholar
- 107 French for "fathers"
- 108 Bad smells
- 109 Uppity types
- 110 — Lingus
- 111 Having length and width but not depth, for short
- 112 See 125-Across
- 113 "In case it's true ..."
- 115 Poet Dove
- 119 Part of UNLV
- 120 Watering hole
- 121 Notable period of time
- 122 Former big record co.
- 123 Easter entree

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- After 10 minutes of looking at yourself in a mirror in a dimly lit room, your bored brain will distort your reflection, triggering the appearance of imaginary monsters such as "Bloody Mary."
- Sologamy is the act of marrying yourself.
- In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio ... and they still ended up crashing into each other.
- The record for most passengers on an airplane was set in 1991 when 1,086 Ethiopian Jews were evacuated to Jerusalem on a Boeing 747. However, the plane landed with 1,088 passengers, as two babies made their earthly debut during the flight.
- Pineapples were a status symbol in 18th century England. In fact, they were so expensive that you could rent them by the night and take them to parties with you.
- In the first quarter after COVID lockdowns, lipstick sales shot up nearly 50%.
- The Apollo 11 astronauts had to go through customs upon their return to Earth and declare moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the form signed by all three and filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969.
- Cymothoa exigua is a parasite that severs the blood vessels of a fish's tongue and becomes a new functional tongue.
- Bella and Edward's relationship in the "Twilight" book and film series meets all 15 criteria set by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for being in an abusive relationship.
- An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague.

Thought for the Day: "It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about." — Dale Carnegie

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

I'M SURE YOU DON'T STROKE PUTTS BEFORE ANALYSING AND PLANNING WHAT YOU WANT THE BALL TO DO.

NEITHER SHOULD YOU YOUR TEE SHOTS.

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USE A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF SLOPES, HAZARDS, WEATHER, CUP LOCATIONS, ETC. TO "COMPUTE" YOUR BEST PLAY FROM THE TEE. THAT MAY INVOLVE GOING WITH LESS THAN THE DRIVER, BUT THE PAY-OFF WILL BE LOWER SCORES THROUGH FEWER DISASTER HOLES.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Engage

MYLOPE

Clamp

CABER

Flash

PARKS

Peep

PIRCH

TODAY'S WORD

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A brand new school year gets underway

Local students in Henry County and Martinsville schools returned to classes Wednesday for the start of a brand new year. City officials that included City Manager Aretha

Ferrell-Benavides, Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher and others were among those on hand to welcome students. Pictured is the reception

for students attending Martinsville City Public Schools.

(See New School Year p. 14)



Laisha Penn, NP

Family Medicine

Board-certified Nurse Practitioner

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Welcome

Patrick Szukics, DO
Orthopedics

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Martinsville, VA 24112

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Addison, IL

Undergraduate:

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Chamberlain University
Addison, IL

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Patrick & Henry Community College
Martinsville, VA

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- Immunizations and vaccines
- Annual, school and sports physicals
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- Diabetes
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- General pediatric care

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Philadelphia, PA

Residency

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Stratford, NJ

Fellowship

UHZ Baptist Health
Miami, FL

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New School Year

(cont. from page 13)



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