

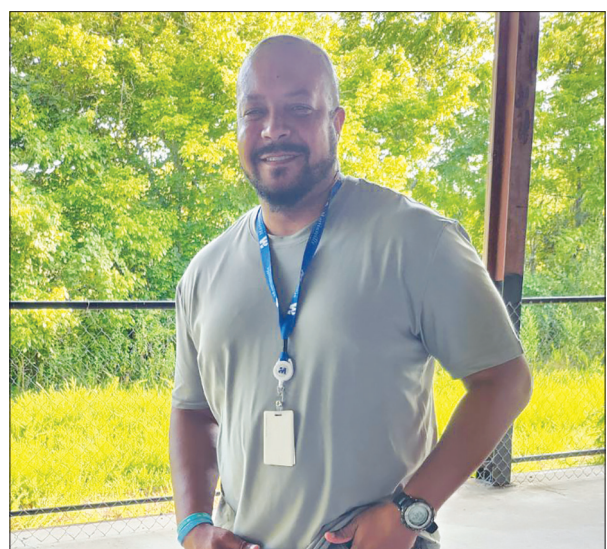
# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

## Differing opinions create tension among leaders



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones



Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls is pictured with his family.



Rayshaun Gravely

By Jessica Dillon

Tensions have arisen between Martinsville Mayor LC Jones and Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls due to their differences of opinion about a city council candidate. Jones supports the candidate, and said he is mentoring him; Rawls cites a lack of experience and past legal issues.

Rayshaun Gravely, who is seeking one of the three seats on city council in the November election, lost his job as a Henry County deputy in 2021, after he was arrested in connection with charges related to domestic abuse, according to online reports.

Gravely said he was prepared for his past to be

brought up during the campaign, and that he's open about it.

Jones said he is aware of the previous charges against Gravely, including the dismissed charges of abduction by force/intimidation, malicious wounding, and strangle wound/injury.

(See Differing Opinions p. 3)

## Board to consider energy action plan

The adoption of an energy action plan is among the items the Henry County Board of Supervisors will consider at their meeting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

County staff are asking the board to consider adopting the Henry County Energy Action Plan that was presented at the May meeting. The plan was developed over 12 months by key community stakeholders and staff and students from George Mason University (GMU). It offers recommendations to improve the county's energy efficiency and sustainability, as well as national efforts towards addressing greenhouse emissions. In order to apply for potential federal and state grant opportunities to implement strate-

gies covered in the action plan, local governments are required to adopt an energy action plan.

According to the plan's executive summary, the county wants to develop and implement the plan for several reasons. First, residents face higher energy costs and increasing economic burdens when purchasing essentials, such as gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and electricity. Second, residents confront the realities of a changing environment with increased flooding, precipitation, and heat conditions, which have imposed hardships on human health, livelihood, and property damages—and these conditions will continue to increase and worsen in the future. Third, the region has been reliant on external energy resources—from

(See Energy Action Plan p. 5)

## Officials advocate for inclusion of survivors in opioid settlement discussions

By Jessica Dillon

The OMNI Institute, a nonprofit social science consultancy, is leading a series of meetings with local leaders, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and recovery specialists to determine the best use of funds from the Opioid settlement agreement. The goal is to reduce drug use in both the county and city. While these discussions have been productive, some participants believe that an essential voice is missing – those who have experience with substance use disorder (SUD).

Courtney Downs, a Virginia Harm Reduction patient navigator and a former addict, expressed her concern that not enough people with direct experience of the opioid crisis were included in the discussions. "I personally don't think there were enough people with lived experience that were affected by the opioid epidemic," Downs said. She emphasized the importance of including individuals who have successfully recovered from substance use disorders in the conversation, believing that their insights could be crucial to developing effective strategies.

"I am certainly open to that. Sometimes, the best people to get this information are people who have that type of life experience," Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said. He noted that those who have lived through substance use might offer valuable perspectives on what strategies have been effective or ineffective in combating addiction.

"I think what you would need to do is find people in the community who have successfully recovered from substance use disorders," Davis said, adding the goal is to "help them recover."

One of the main challenges in recovery, according to Downs, is the stigma surrounding drug use. She said that more resources like medical detox and rehabilitation are needed in the community. Downs pointed out that many success stories go unheard because individuals often leave their communities to recover and do not return. This lack of a local recovery ecosystem negatively impacts the morale of those still struggling, as they are only exposed to the "mess" and not the potential for

(See Official Advocate p. 3)



## Smith River Fest gets underway Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The 16th annual Smith River Fest is set for Saturday, August 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex, and Henry County Parks & Recreation Director Roger Adams said the event will be a jam-packed day full of activities.

"It's a fun day for everyone. There's something for anybody," he said, adding that Yoga by the River will start at 10 a.m.

"We do free river tubing all day, you can check out a tube and a life jacket. We do free river shuttles, so if you want to come float in the river, we can shuttle you upstream or pick you up down-

stream. You don't have to worry about shuttling a car," he said.

River tubing will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the individual floats will be approximately 30 minutes long.

"One really cool thing we have is a demo pool where you can try out a canoe or kayak in a shallow water environment," Adams said.

Demonstrations of fly casting and fly tying are scheduled, a mobile bike barn, kids cycle station, rock wall & bounce houses, and water gun battle station also are available. Most are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Infinity Acres will also be on

(See Smith River Fest p. 2)

## Martinsville 7 Gala set for Aug. 31

By Cole Hall

A gala to celebrate the Martinsville 7's pardon in 2021 by former Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam will be held at 6 p.m. on August 31, in the New College Institute (NCI) on Fayette Street.

The men - Frank Hairston, Jr., Booker T. Millner, Howard Lee Hairston, James Luther Hairston, John Claybon Taylor, Frances DeSales Grayson, and Joe Henry Hampton - were a group of

young African American men who were accused of a sexual crime against a white woman in 1949.

Several efforts were made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Virginia to ensure they would receive fair trials. However, the Virginia State Supreme Court rejected any appeals against the ruling. Each of the men accused were executed by the state government in the

(See Gala p. 3)

Special prosecutor to review May incident ... page 7

Efforts continue to expand water service ... page 7

Volunteers remove nearly a ton of litter ... page 8

Crossing the Lines ... page 9

Secondary English teachers ... page 13

Criminal Justice Academy class ... page 14





## 2 Convenient Locations

**Danville**  
109 Bridge Street  
4th Floor  
434-793-4711

**Martinsville**  
1075 Spruce Street  
276-790-3233

**NO REFERRAL NEEDED  
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE**

# Smith River Fest

(cont. from page 1)



scene with its animals all day.

The Joseph Young Magic Show will be held from 12:15-1 p.m., and the Beer Garden will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Helgramite Hustle Mud Run begins at 11 a.m., and registration for the event is from 9-10:45 a.m. at the entrance. A Kids Mini Mud Run

will start at 12 p.m.

The River Race will be held at 1:30 p.m., and the mandatory safety meeting for the racers will be held at the starting line at 1:15 p.m. Registration for the River Race will also be at the entrance from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Adams said the River Race is approximately 4.6 miles.

"We have the Blue Ridge Duck Plunge in the afternoon with the Boys & Girls Club, that will be taking place at the

festival this year," he said, adding several food vendors are scheduled to set up.

Karlee Raye will take the stage from 1:30-4 p.m., Adams said, adding "she's from Lynchburg, and she's got a new album out now. She performs a mix of country, rock, and original music."

The Smith River fest is free to get in, and "most everything is free. The activities are free. The only thing you'd have to pay for is registering

for the boat race, the mud run, and then, of course, if you want to buy food or something," Adams said.

Sovah Health is the event's title sponsor. Other sponsors include the Farm Bureau Insurance, Atlantic Union Bank, Press Glass, R&J Tire, Martinsville Speedway, the Center for Pediatric Therapies, the Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, VA 811, and Auto Rehab.

Welcome  
**Andrea Willard, FNP**  
*Internal Medicine*



**Specializes in:**

- Annual, school and sports physicals
- Anxiety disorder/depression
- Chronic and acute illnesses
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Minor conditions and injuries
- Obesity
- Preventive health

**Welcoming new patients**

Schedule an appointment by calling

**276.666.0452**



**SOVAH**  
**Internal Medicine**  
**Martinsville**

319 Hospital Drive, Ste. 202  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**SovahPhysicians.com**

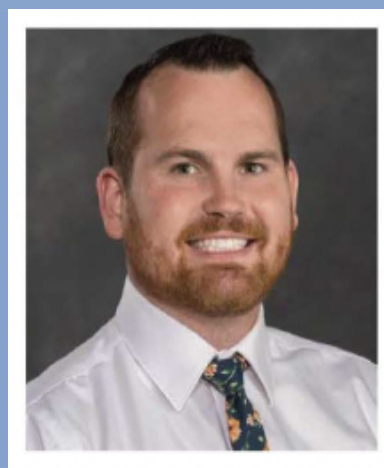
**Norris**  
Memorial Services

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.  
Martinsville, VA,  
276-638-2778

Visit our website for pricing:  
[www.norrismemorialservices.com](http://www.norrismemorialservices.com)



**Dr. Blake Brockbank**  
**is here! And we're**  
**all smiles.**



Martinsville Smiles is happy to announce the addition of Dr. Blake Brockbank to our family dentistry practice.

A graduate of the School of Dentistry at VCU, Dr. Brockbank is welcoming new patients and is pleased to provide comprehensive family dental care at Martinsville Smiles. Please call (276) 632-9266 to schedule your appointment with Dr. Brockbank.

He'd love to see your smile.

**Martinsville Smiles, PLLC**  
(276) 632-9266 • [MartinsvilleSmiles.com](http://MartinsvilleSmiles.com)  
407 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

### Tuesday, August 27

Board of Supervisors Directors Regular Meeting, 3 p.m., Administration Building Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

### Wednesday, August 28

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals meets at 12 p.m. in the Administration Building, with three public hearings set for 1 p.m. in the Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

## Events

### Friday, August 23

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

### 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 mu-

sic by different bands each week. If you want, bring a snack to share. This event is free to the public. Any donations received will go to the Bassett Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

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

TOPS FIELDVALE 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.

# Differing Opinions

(cont. from page 1)

"Both of those charges, from my understanding, were dropped," Jones said, adding that he talked to Gravely about the issues and has known him since the candidate attended high school.

"I think what really describes his character is how he went through those things, and it made him a better person and more ambitious to help other individuals," Jones said, adding that he has become a sort of "mentor" to Gravely in the political field.

Jones said he and Gravely share many of the same ideals. For instance, Gravely "talked about how he works with the elderly and felt no one looked out for them," Jones said, adding that Gravely also wants to help inmates better transition back into society.

But Jones said his support of Gravely has created tension with Rawls. He added a comment from Rawls prompted it.

"The reason that I have chosen to really mentor Mr. Rayshaun Gravely and help him out came from a conversation that I had with another council member and the city manager" Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, Jones said. He explained that he and Rawls were talking about the political climate and preparing the candidate packets when the conversation turned to Gravely.

According to Jones, Rawls "was talking about how he did not and wouldn't support him because of" Gravely's legal issues. At that point, Jones said that he urged Rawls to meet Gravely along with the other candidates. Rawls replied that "he wouldn't support him, and he was going to make sure that he wouldn't get a white vote, and nobody in the white community would support him."

Jones said he told Rawls that he couldn't control a race's vote, but it was Rawls' comment which spurred him to help ensure Gravely has an equal chance.

Rawls said he was disturbed by Jones' remarks and also his recent behavior. Rawls noted that he met with Gravely on June 17. At the end of their discussion, Rawls felt it was evident Gravely was not the right choice.

Jones "tried to make it a race thing to cover up his agenda because he can't support it with substance," Rawls said, adding there is a lack of knowledge about how to deal with city issues like the budget, maintenance issues, an aging water system and a host of other issues facing the council.

Rawls said he feels that Gravely has "zero translatable skills or experience to this job. LC knows better than anyone that this is not a job for amateurs at this point in time. We need real people to bring real solutions."

"When you have somebody like that in charge, because they don't know what they're doing, then taxpayers start to see their money disappearing really fast," Rawls said, and added that Gravely "has been arrested three times for hurting women."

"I had charges brought against me pertaining to my ex. Of course, my case was very public," Gravely said, adding reports and videos pertaining to the incidents are online.

The Martinsville Bulletin reported on Sept. 7, 2023, that Gravely returned to court for a motion hearing on a case set for a "trial by jury Oct. 10 on charges of assault and battery, strangulation with injury, malicious wounding and abduction by force or intimidation in connection with a Dec. 24 incident involving a woman who is a Henry County sheriff's deputy."

Gravely had pleaded no contest to an amended charge of disorderly conduct and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, suspended, and ordered to pay \$351 in fines and court costs in May after he was charged with felony strangulation resulting

in wound or injury in relation to an incident on June 6, 2021, involving the same woman, according to the news report.

The case "is a sensitive matter, but I got found not guilty," Gravely said. "My court case was about twelve hours long, and anybody that wanted to hear the court case was able to come. It was a public case."

In Rawls' estimation, the charges indicate "poor judgment" and an inability to govern oneself. Gravely "required multiple 'co-custodians' to care for him as he is apparently unable to do so for himself. That is unfortunate, and I am sorry for his circumstances, but that does not mean he should be given a clear path anywhere within a million miles of a leadership role where he'll be in charge of public safety, police operations, personnel management, and citizen's money," Rawls said.

He cited news reports that included a bond hearing in Martinsville in which Sheila Turner testified that she had been like Gravely's "second mother since he was 14 years old" and agreed to continue her responsibilities as his co-custodian, "and make sure that he continues to abide by the terms set out by the court, shows up to court when needed and stays in contact with his attorney." The commonwealth maintained that the bond was appropriate, "especially after the alleged violence (in North Carolina, a separate case) a few weeks ago."

At that hearing and according to online reports, Circuit Court Judge G. Carter Greer reduced the bond on the condition that Gravely have a curfew from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. He also was ordered to not leave Virginia except to go to his court case in North Carolina, and then under supervision. He also was required to live under his mother's supervision, seek and maintain employment, refrain from using alcohol

and firearms and leave the GPS tracking intact to track his movements, according to online reports.

Gravely said he also was charged with minor traffic infractions which stemmed from an accident. He said he has paid the fines and corrected the mistake. Additionally, the experiences have influenced his campaign platform.

"The case is some of the reasons I got my platform of accepting challenges, building relationships, and gaining trust," he said. "A lot of situations have occurred like this in this area and all around, and people need a voice that is strong to handle pressure, get through the pressure, and keep moving forward."

"My main goal is not about me. It's to see this community grow," said Gravely. "It's not about me. It's not about Aaron. It's not about anybody but the betterment of the community, moving Martinsville forward." He added that he would like to speak with Rawls.

Noting that council positions are the top jobs in the city, Rawls said he does not believe Gravely "brings the maturity for this, the self-control. Even if he had those things, he brought no skills to the table. There is no upside."

"I think everybody should have an equal chance without someone trying to influence someone else based on something they've seen or heard and haven't had an opportunity to meet them, and they don't have the actual facts of the situations," Jones said.

"Aaron and I have had a conversation. We met once, and he shared his thoughts," Gravely said. "I am open to meeting with anybody to discuss anything."

Ferrell-Benavides could not be reached for comment.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis and retired Sheriff Lane Perry declined to comment.

Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher declined to comment.

# Official Advocate

(cont. from page 1)

recovery.

The meeting also touched on the importance of prevention, particularly in schools. Downs raised concerns about the effectiveness of the D.A.R.E. program, which has been reinstated in schools by the Henry County School Board and Davis. Downs said she felt the original D.A.R.E. program did not protect her

"They're two vastly different programs," Davis said, adding the new program is backed by research, whereas the older programs weren't as effective.

According to the official D.A.R.E website, the program has evolved from its earlier counterpart "That curriculum, the "old" D.A.R.E., is no longer used. It should be noted that through the years, unlike other programs, D.A.R.E. has not only participated in independent evaluations but actively encouraged such scrutiny."

While acknowledging the challenge of reversing the epidemic, Davis said, "there is a wealth of knowledge in these meetings."

Throughout the meetings, OMNI has compiled and presented local statistics on the opioid crisis, including overdose data segmented by zip code. The data, sourced from various agencies, is being used to guide decisions on how the settlement money can be utilized within the strict guidelines provided.

Davis emphasized the importance of both enforcement and recovery efforts in addressing the opioid crisis. He stressed the need to remove drug dealers from the community to address the problem at its source.

"Our involvement in the opioid crisis would be the enforcement aspect along with any recovery efforts for those who are incarcerated," he said.

# Gala

(cont. from page 1)

largest mass execution in United States history. It is also notable that exclusively only black males had been punished with the death penalty for the charge of rape. Seventy years later, a mass letter and fundraising campaign achieved a pardon for the seven men, according to Faye Holland, an organizer of the Martinsville 7 Initiative.

Holland, who has been with the effort since its inception, noted that the gala is a black tie event that will include a live music show, a catered dinner, speakers and meetings with the surviving family members of those men lost.

Holland noted that as time passes and distance with the tragedy grows access to those voices with direct experience is lost, and stressed the importance of keeping oral history alive and preserving as much of that history as possible.

Holland said her experience so

far with running the event has been great and she has been happy with the progress and the help she's received from the Martinsville community.

The initiative is seeking funding and donations from anyone interested in supporting the cause as it works on a project to create a center for social justice which will house information, and studies related to the case. The center also would raise awareness of the case, and the opportunity to learn more about legal issues related to people of color, as well as provide educational scholarships.

The initiative is a nonprofit 501c organization with a full board and membership. It relies on donations and efforts from volunteers and plans on hosting the annual event and fund other projects.

To learn more or get involved, visit <https://martinsville7.org>.

# OPINION

## JD Vance troubled by RNC's purchase of "Hang JD Vance" T-shirts

CINCINNATI, OH — Insiders are saying that Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate JD Vance is "troubled" after discovering several pallets of "Hang JD Vance" T-shirts in the basement of the Republican National Convention's Washington D.C. headquarters.

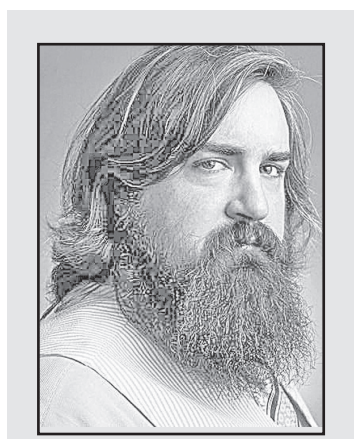
"I can tell JD is concerned," said an insider who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "He knows he's not the most popular person in the world right now. In fact, polls currently show that he's the least popular vice-presidential candidate in modern American history, less popular than even Sarah Palin, which is kind of impressive. So naturally, seeing several pallets of T-shirts that seem to advocate for his death is worrying."

When Vance inquired about the T-shirts, he was reportedly told that they were a worst-case contingency and that the RNC had also ordered several pallets of "Hooray JD Vance!" T-shirts. If that is the case, however, those shirts have yet to arrive.

"What I think worries Vance," the insider said, "is that he's thinking if (former President Donald) Trump doesn't get elected, the entire Republican apparatus is going to place the blame squarely on his shoulders. And it does make some sense. Right now, JD is polling pretty terribly among women. And also minorities. And urban voters. And rural voters, of course, since they think he's a fraud. Most voters who are unemployed hate him, but not as much as voters who are gainfully employed. Piano tuners REALLY seem to despise him, we haven't been able to figure out that connection yet. But he does poll well with several members of his family. Almost half."

When asked about the shirts, current RNC chair Michael Whatley said they were "nothing to worry about."

"If we don't win this election, there are absolutely no plans currently in place to build another giant gallows outside of the Capitol on January 6, 2025," he said. "And even if there were, there are currently no plans to use it to publicly execute JD. And even if there were, we certainly wouldn't take advantage of the fundraising opportu-



By Ben R. Williams

nity by selling 'Hang JD Vance' T-shirts for \$25 apiece, or two for \$45."

"Yes, that'll do," he then muttered to himself.

"I don't think it's too late for JD to turn this ship around," our insider continued. "Right now, he has a reputation for being strange and unlikable, someone with negative charisma. He comes across like a being from another dimension that is struggling to appear human. All he needs to do is fundamentally reinvent who he is as a person. That's just one thing, it can't be that hard."

However, in recent interviews, Vance has denied that he's unlikable.

"Just the other night," Vance told Fox News, "I was having dinner with my wife, whom I love dearly despite her racial handicap. I asked her, 'Do you think I'm unlikable?' I couldn't hear her response because one of my kids was jabbering about Pokemon or something. Anyway, I can't remember where I was going with this, but I believe childless women should be forced to mine cobalt."

Ultimately, our insider said, he doesn't believe Vance has cause for concern.

"However this election pans out, I don't think JD needs to worry," he said. "It's unimaginable to me that the RNC — that anyone, for that matter — would ever throw another human being under the bus just because it's expedient to do so."

Vance, who rose to fame after writing a book about his alcoholic drug-addicted mother, could not be reached for comment.

## Does history repeat itself?

It's quite the experience to read a story as it unfolds, when you already know the ending.

Such is the case reading old newspapers, which I do regularly, and in order. Presently, I am at the start of Martinsville's polio outbreak of 1949.

While the people of the day were panicking about the unknown, I knew where this story would go.

Another advantage of time is that we can skip ahead and read what happens next, which molds my general understanding of a phenomenon into a more clear picture.

In 1947, four people in Martinsville and Henry County had polio. The Martinsville Bulletin particularly followed the case of Donald Stegall, 12, of Fieldale. He was the son of Fieldale's iconic police officer, Alfred Stegall.

When Donald Stegall got polio in October 1947, all of Fieldale panicked, and they closed the schools for a week, and the theaters and the YMCA. His 14-year-old brother Bernard had died just a couple of months previously of a sickness that had not been diagnosed as polio, but later was thought probably had been.

It looked grim for Donald. One in 200 polio infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs; however, about 5 to 10% of those paralyzed die when their breathing muscles become immobilized. Donald's lungs were affected, and he had to be put in an iron lung, which would do his breathing for him. He also could not eat.

Donald, however, made an unusual and miraculous recovery. When he left the hospital, a nurse gifted him a chocolate pie. He returned to school on Feb. 25, 1948.

Polio news was quiet locally in 1948, but in 1949, it really picked up. In alarming succession in late summer, one then two then three then four, and more and more, local children and two young women were stricken with polio.

Most of them spent weeks or months in a hospital in Richmond recuperating. Richard Gravely III, who was 12 years old, died within a week of being diagnosed with polio. His father was the Richard P. Gravely who organized the local chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia in 1961 and who excavated Native American sites in Henry County.

Young Richard's funeral was on the same day, coincidentally, as the kickoff of a local emergency polio fund drive. Proceeds would pay hospital expenses of local people with polio. Richard's parents asked that instead of sending flowers, mourners donate to the polio fund to help others.

When I saw a lot of polio cases adding up in 1949, I skipped ahead another decade looking for local polio numbers. The polio vaccine came out in 1955, and though thousands took advantage of it, a great many people did not take their children to get the vaccine. Perhaps, then, it's no surprise that in 1959, 34 local people, mostly young children, contracted this crippling disease, which by then could have been prevented.

Polio was eradicated in the US in 1979, and now it is nothing to strike fear in the hearts of parents. For the past four years, I have



Holly Kozelsky

read the daily newspapers of 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago, and a few months ago, added 1960, to follow the civil rights movement. I put snippets of happenings from each of those years into a daily column, "Looking Back," on the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's website, [www.mhchistorical-society.org](http://www.mhchistorical-society.org), and I also give links to the columns each day on the Historical Society's Facebook page.

For the 75-years-ago segment, I'm up to 1949 — but during the Covid-19 pandemic, I was in 1946 and 1947, when a diphtheria outbreak was sickening children in the area. The disease is caused by a bacteria which creates symptoms which make breathing difficult.

It was interesting to contrast how the media of the 1940s covered disease attacks versus the way media of today does. During the Covid pandemic, I was a reporter under a pushy editor who was salivating for any names and personal information on Covid victims, but all that information was kept private under HIPAA laws, even though numbers of people who contracted the disease were published each day by the health department.

Meanwhile, the newspapers of the 1940s not only told you exactly who got diphtheria, but how old that child was, where he or she went to school, the parents' names, their address and sometimes where the parents worked. Newspaper stories followed up later on how that person was doing, and who in the family got vaccinated.

In those days of such ugly arguments about the Covid vaccine and masks, it was quite something to read straightforward newspaper articles from the 1940s saying that local doctors and nurses went right into the schools to vaccinate students during the school days. Reports told you how many children in each school had been vaccinated on which days.

The way diphtheria was presented in the newspaper indicated that parents were afraid of their children contracting it and would do anything to keep them protected. It was a tremendous change from what I was actually living through during the Covid pandemic, of parents not trusting the safety and health methods which would have protected their children, as much as possible, from the disease.

Of course, when we read those old newspapers, we have no idea of how much of the real story was left out, and which voices were not heard, but we certainly get the impression that not as many voices were heard (or even acknowledged as worthy) as now.

If you experienced diphtheria or polio as a child, or were close to someone who did, please share your memories with the Historical Society. You can reach me at [Kozelsky.mhchs@gmail.com](mailto:Kozelsky.mhchs@gmail.com). While we're at it — do you know exactly where in Chatham Heights the city trash dump and incinerator were, in the 1940s? I've been reading a lot about that lately, too!

## Congressional staff plan visit

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will visit Martinsville and Stuart on August 28.

Staff will be in the City of Martinsville from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church St.

They will be in Patrick County

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

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

## Hopkins | Lacy opens office in Martinsville, Virginia

Hopkins | Lacy, a leading mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) service contractor in the region, has opened a new office in Martinsville. This strategic expansion underscores the company's commitment to serving the growing needs of the region and positions the company for continued success and growth.

The new Martinsville office, located at 133 East Market Street, will serve as a pivotal hub for various local projects and job sites, enhancing our operational efficiency and service delivery in the area. With this new location, Branch will be well-positioned to offer a full spectrum of Hopkins | Lacy services, including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and HVAC solutions, to meet the diverse needs of the community and surrounding regions.

"We are thrilled to expand our presence into Martinsville," said Wilbur Chen, president of Hopkins | Lacy. "This office not only allows us to better support ongoing projects but also provides a dedicated space for collaboration with our trade partners, such as Trane and Hoffman & Hoffman. Additionally, this expansion will serve as a launching pad for our growth into North Carolina."

The Martinsville office will be instrumental in supporting key regional projects, including Monogram Foods, Caesars Virginia, Ferrum

College, and Centra Health, the company stated in a release.

Hopkins | Lacy is the MEP division of Branch and is headquartered in Roanoke, Virginia. Hopkins | Lacy operates throughout the mid-Atlantic and is expanding into North Carolina.

As part of the expansion efforts, Chen said that Hopkins | Lacy will be hiring trade professionals in the Martinsville area.

"We have already welcomed a few new hires from the region and are actively recruiting additional talent," Chen said. Hiring events will be announced in the future.

Hopkins | Lacy, a 100% employee-owned company, boasts a robust apprenticeship program that allows trade professionals to earn while they learn. The company is also collaborating with Patrick & Henry Community College to attract skilled professionals to the Hopkins | Lacy team.

Since 1958, Hopkins | Lacy has provided superior service, and is one of the most-respected MEP contractors in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast United States. As a 100% employee-owned company, Hopkins | Lacy maintains a skilled workforce that is committed to the highest standards of integrity and performance.

Hopkins | Lacy is a business unit of Branch, a full-service construction company headquartered in Roanoke.

## CDC issues advisory noting increases in Human Parvovirus B19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory about current increases in human parvovirus B19 activity in the United States.

Parvovirus B19 infection can lead to adverse health outcomes among people without pre-existing immunity who are pregnant, immunocompromised, or have chronic hemolytic disorders. It can cause "slapped cheek disease," named for its face rash.

It can also cause a general rash on the chest, back, buttocks, or arms and legs. The rash may be itchy. It usually goes away in 7 to

10 days but can come and go for several weeks. As it starts to go away, it may look 'lacy.'

Although some people who get infected with this virus will have no symptoms, other symptoms may include fever, headache, cough, sore throat, rashes and joint pain.

The case surge is most pronounced among children ages 5 to 9. It's typically mild in children and healthy adults. But pregnant or immunocompromised people can be hit harder.

Learn about parvovirus B19 symptoms and who may be at higher risk of severe disease.

# P&HCC Soccer Team Ranked #17 in NJCAA DII Preseason Polls

Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC) men's soccer team has been ranked #17 in the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Preseason Polls. Entering the 2024 campaign as back-to-back Region 10 champions and the 2023 Atlantic District champion, this marks a significant achievement for the program and sets high expectations for the upcoming season.

"We are thrilled to see our team recognized at the national level," said Head Coach Brennan Murphy. "This ranking is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our student-athletes, as well as the support from our coaching staff and the entire P&HCC community."

The P&HCC soccer team has been training rigorously throughout the preseason, aiming to build on last year's successes and continue their journey toward excellence. The team has a balanced mix of returning players and new talent, all eager to make a significant impact on the field.



Coach Brennan Murphy addresses players following a preseason exhibition game.

"The preseason ranking is an honor, but it also serves as motivation for our student-athletes to

prove themselves throughout the season," said Assistant Vice-President of Student Engagement and Athletic Director Brian Henderson, adding, "Coach Murphy's teams have always been committed to working hard, staying focused, and giving their best effort in every game, which is shown by their back-to-back championships."

P&HCC's soccer program has a history of fostering talent and promoting sportsmanship. With strong community support and an emphasis on academic and athletic excellence, the team is poised for a promising season.

The first game of the season is scheduled for August 22, where P&HCC will face Pellissippi State in Knoxville, Tennessee. Fans, students, and community members are encouraged to support the Patriots as they embark on what promises to be an exciting and competitive season.

For more information on the P&HCC men's soccer team, including the full schedule of season matches, please visit [www.phccsports.com](http://www.phccsports.com).

## Energy Action Plan

(cont. from page 1)

power plants to oil companies—but the means to increase the county's energy self-resilience and independence exist with local energy technologies and energy efficient practices.

Additionally, the federal government has created opportunities that will convey significant amounts of funding to shift from costly energy sources to more efficient and clean energy sources, practices, and technologies. This funding is available to local governments. To date, larger urban areas have taken advantage of these funds, but more rural areas in Virginia must also avail themselves of the benefits of these funds. To access these funds and opportunities, many of the federal and state grant opportunities for local governments require developing and implementing energy and climate action plans. By creating the plan, the county best positions itself to receive these benefits.

In other matters, the board will:

- Hear an update on delinquent tax collection efforts from Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.
- Consider awarding a \$118,500 contract to RRMM Architects of Roanoke, for architectural and engineering services for the Public Safety Campus master plan. The initial phase of the project will include facility assessments of existing buildings, developing plans and schematic designs to retrofit an existing building into the Sheriff's Office, establishing a strategic location and design for an Animal Services building, and the conversion of a metal building to accommodate an impound lot, radio shop, and storage facility for Public Safety and the Sheriff's Office.
- Consider awarding a \$73,033 contract to Berkley Group, LLC of Bridgewater, Virginia, to prepare an Active Transportation Plan, which is a comprehensive set of strategies to ensure better

transit, walking, and biking options. The plan is developed based on public and stakeholder input and provides a foundation for improvements to the transportation system, including trails. Funding for this project was provided through a U.S. Department of Transportation, Thriving Communities grant that was previously appropriated.

- Consider awarding a \$106,850 contract to RRMM Architects of Roanoke, to provide architectural and engineering (AE) services for upgrades to the primary electrical components of the Administration Building. Constructed in 1974, most of the building's existing electrical components are original to construction, and replacement parts are no longer available.

- Consider a request from General Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn to appropriate an additional \$6,046 received through the Virginia Department of Elections grant program. The funds will be used to purchase a Ballot-on-Demand printing system that will allow the Registrar's Office to print ballots during early voting for smaller elections versus ordering various amounts of pre-printed ballots that may not get used.

- Consider an additional appropriation of \$100,000 received through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Economic Development Access grant program to update the plans and specifications for improvements to Beaver Creek Drive in the Patriot Centre Industrial Park.

- Consider a request from Sheriff Wayne Davis to appropriate grant funds \$45,000 received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) through their School Resource Officer (SRO) grant program. Davis intends to use the funds to provide an SRO at the Career Academy for the current school year.

## Fire Risks in College Housing Detailed During Campus Fire Safety Month

As the new school year approaches, college students nationwide are preparing to move into campus dormitories and off-campus housing. The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) and The Center for Campus Fire Safety™ (CCFS) collaborate on the annual Campus Fire Safety Month campaign every September to ensure students, parents, and campus housing staff and administrators have the relevant information and resources they need to make resident living spaces as safe as possible from fires and associated hazards.

The latest statistics, according to NFPA, show that U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,331 structure fires each year in dormitories, fraternity houses, sorority houses, and barracks between 2018 and 2022. Fires in dormitory-type properties caused an annual average of 21 civilian deaths, 23 civilian injuries, and \$21 million in direct property damage during that period. Approximately three out of four fires in these properties began in the kitchen or cooking area, accounting for 58 percent of the civilian injuries and 11 percent of the direct property damage. Cooking equipment was involved in nearly eight out of 10 fires.

"As students return to campus this fall, many of them will be preparing their own meals. Some will be using kitchen appliances for the first time or cooking food after studying or coming home late from a party," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA and CCFS Advisory Council member. "The data tells us that more education is needed about when and where cooking hazards exist, along with ways to prevent them. Campus Fire Safety Month is a great way to raise public awareness of fire safety on our college campuses."

NFPA and CCFS offer a wealth of tips and resources for cooking safely in resident housing, including these key messages:

\*If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.

\*Stay in the kitchen while preparing meals; use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

\*Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

\*Further, while cooking remains a leading cause of fires in campus housing, there is growing concern on college campuses about the increasing number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries.

Alan Sactor, vice president of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, said, "Micromobility devices like e-bikes and e-scooters and smaller electronics such as cell phones, laptops, and tablets are vital to the daily life of college students. However, the mishandling or misuse of these batteries can lead to safety hazards such as overheating, fire, or even explosions. NFPA and the CCFS are working together to help educate students on how to use, store, and charge these devices safely to reduce the risk of fire."

The NFPA and CCFS provide several resources and tips for safely buying, charging, storing, and using lithium-ion batteries to help prevent fires:

\*Use only charging equipment that is supplied with your device.

\*Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.

\*Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.

In 2023, CCFS launched the Micromobility/Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Reporting Program for fire safety professionals. The program aims to support the development of educational programs, policies, and advocacy efforts to help reduce the risk of these battery fires on college campuses. Learn more and submit a fire incident on the CCFS website.

For this information and more about the Campus Fire Safety Month campaign and to find free resources and safety tips, visit [nfpa.org/campusafety](http://nfpa.org/campusafety) and the CCFS webpage.

## Gold Bar Scams

Olympic athletes aren't the only ones after gold this summer. Criminal scammers are increasingly trying to steal your savings through gold bar schemes.

Criminals may impersonate representatives from the government to convince you that your bank account is compromised. They'll instruct you to withdraw your money and convert it into gold, before sending a "courier" to collect the bars for safe storage. However, once your gold is picked up, they'll cut off contact and disappear. Thankfully, there are some warning signs of gold bar schemes.

No legitimate entity is going to ask you to buy gold. In addition, you should always be very weary if someone suggests that you must move your money to make it safe. While the involvement of couriers in gold bar scams may make it appear more legitimate, it's another red flag.

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

## SBA Disaster Loan Program includes VA counties

Patrick and Henry counties, along with Carroll and Grayson, are included in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs).

The four Virginia counties are included in the announced loan program in North Carolina for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations with economic losses due to drought that began on July 9.

"Working capital loans from the SBA are essential to eligible small businesses when the Secretary of Agriculture declares a disaster due to farmers' crop losses," said Francisco Sánchez, Jr., Associate Administrator for the SBA's Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience. "These loans help sustain rural economies when a disaster occurs."

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster.

Apart from aquaculture enterprises, the SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disas-

ter loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 4% for small businesses and 3.25% for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement.

The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition. Eligibility is based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

For information and to apply online visit [SBA.gov/disaster](http://SBA.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than March 24, 2025.

# 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.

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON**

Call (276) 694-3101

### SERVICES



#### HOME

#### IMPROVEMENT

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-866-447-0001.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower.

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook



Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE show-er package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

#### SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call



888-608-4974

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia)

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/vapress](http://dorranceinfo.com/vapress)

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

**Woodwrx, Inc.**  
Est. since 1988  
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.  
Originally based in Palm Beach County-References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: [Bob@Woodwrx.net](mailto:Bob@Woodwrx.net)  
Website: Woodwrx.net.

**Thomas Land Solutions LLC**  
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

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](mailto:submissions@theenterprise.net) for more information.



#### AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, [landonc@vpa.net](mailto:landonc@vpa.net)

## Study outlines steps to reduce dementia risks

Almost half of dementia cases worldwide could be delayed or prevented by addressing 14 modifiable risk factors, according to a 'seismic' study published by The Lancet Commission on dementia.

The report found that as life expectancies increase, the number of people living with dementia worldwide continues to rise. It also cited "compelling new evidence" of two new dementia-linked risk factors - high cholesterol in midlife, and untreated vision loss in later life. Those new factors join 12 other modifiable risk factors identified in a 2020 Lancet report, which include physical inactivity, smoking, obesity, hypertension, hearing loss, depression, diabetes, excessive alcohol

consumption, physical inactivity, brain injury, air pollution, less education, and social isolation.

Addressing these risk factors throughout life could prevent or delay 45 percent of dementia cases, the study found.

The commission made 13 recommendations to reduce dementia risk, according to Medscape. Those include treating hearing and vision loss, reducing vascular risk factors, and being cognitively active.

The 57-page report was published online July 31 in The Lancet Neurology to coincide with its presentation at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2024.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

[henrycountyenterprise.com](http://henrycountyenterprise.com)

### Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

**Michael Showell, Publisher**

**Debbie Hall, Editor**

[dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

(276) 694-3101

**Wendi Craig, Advertising Manager**

[advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

(276) 340-2445

#### 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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

## LEGAL

### HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE

RECORD OWNER:  
Larry T & Patricia Crotts

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure  
OWNER - Landowner: Larry T & Patricia Crotts  
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -  
381 Saddleridge Rd. - Blackberry District  
Henry County, Virginia  
Tax Map: 24.3(005)000/011  
Account Number - 036905000

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

## LEGAL



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2024-2025. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. DOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and **may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.**

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Wednesday October 2, 2024, may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582  
Email: [SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov)

EEO/AA Employer



## LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: [www.springlakeauctions.com](http://www.springlakeauctions.com).

Please feel free to call us at  
(540) 297-1707.

*We appreciate your business!*

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

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

# OBITUARIES

## Darlene Underwood Roop

Mrs. Darlene Underwood Roop, 74, of Critz passed away at the Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, North Carolina after a brief stay prior to her death on August 16, 2024.

Darlene was born to Gilbert Calvin and Estelle Roberson Underwood on October 6, 1949. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-two years last year, Harvey Roop.

Darlene retired as credit manager from Bassett Mirror Company after forty-six years of service in 2016 to join Harvey and to happily keep and spend time with her only grandson, Parker before he started school.

Surviving Darlene to cherish her memory are her daughter, Andrea Amos and husband Mike; her son Adam Roop and wife Alicia; and her grandson Parker and his girlfriend Kendra Worley; also grandpups Tucker, Nyla and Goose. Also surviving are her brothers, Gerald Underwood (Marie) and Doyle Underwood (Mary Grace); sister-in-law Debra Burge (Jerry); bonus grandchildren Amanda and Rob Higgins, Brandon Amos; bonus great-grandchildren Riley Higgins, Lilli



Higgins, Mason Duncan and Willow Bousman; numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, special neighbors and special life-long friends.

Darlene was a loving, endearing, protective mother and grandmother; she was a faithful Christian lady of the Brethren faith, with a servant's heart, always thinking of and doing for those special to her. She had a determination and drive to courageously fight cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct liver cancer) over the last few years until progression over the past month. This strong determination and drive became even more powerful in her last year of life; spending all her time and making memories with her family, keeping the roads hot, while checking items off her "to-do lists" until she was no longer able.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from

5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Collins Funeral Home, 30 Riverside Hwy., Bassett VA. Funeral service will follow in the chapel of Collins Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 11 a.m. with her cousin, Rev. Dr. JD Harmon, officiating. Interment will in Patrick Memorial Gardens, Stuart, VA.

As per his Grandma's request, in lieu of flowers she requested that memorials be made to the scholarship fund set up for Parker Roop to further his education, c/o Adam Roop 1621 Hollandsworth Drive, Bassett VA 24055.

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks to all those within Mountain Valley Hospice and the Woltz Hospice Home for their care and unwavering support during the last several months, especially in the final week of life for our beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandma.

Pallbearers will be Adam Roop, Parker Roop, Mike Amos, Gerald Underwood, Doyle Underwood, Ronnie Bowles, Andy Wiggington, and Ashton Wiggington.

Online condolences at [www.collinsmckeeestonebassett.com](http://www.collinsmckeeestonebassett.com). Collins Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Roop family.

## Goats used to mow nearly five acres of land



Carter Bank recently went outside the box—but inside the pen—when looking for help clearing an overgrown area behind the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, Beaver Creek, a historic home that sits on 26 acres of land.

In an economically and environmentally friendly move, the bank teamed up with Goatbusters, a Charlottesville-based company, to enlist a herd of goats to transform a wooded area that had become overgrown and untamed over the years.

"We're battling nature with nature," Carter Bank Senior Vice President and Director of Facilities Olivia Karavatakis said. "These five acres of land had become overgrown with vegetation, creating a perfect hiding place for varmints trying to seek refuge in our buildings. This was the perfect solution for a pesky situation we've been battling the last several years."

The idea to bring in the hoofed lawnmowers came from a team member after consulting with landscaping companies and learning how much traditional methods like bush hogging would cost.

"We'd have spent thousands of dollars attempting to bush hog through here, so we decided to go a different route," Karavatakis said. "When our maintenance manager, Mike Gordon, tossed up the idea of hiring goats, we all laughed,

but I applaud him for his efforts to think outside the box on ways to be more efficient and environmentally friendly."

Over the course of a month, the hoofed professionals ate nearly everything in sight. According to Jace Goodling, the owner of Goatbusters, a single goat can eat five to nine percent of its body weight of wet vegetation a day.

"The goats have cleared everything to about six feet high, which is about as far as they can reach on their hind legs," Goodling said. "Our goats not only clear the land, they do it with the least environmental impact possible. You could have brought bulldozers in here, but it would have been ugly and torn up, and you would have a carbon footprint the size of the Jolly Green Giant.

"Instead, the area is cleaned up with zero carbon footprint, and the 'agro-tainment' factor is out of this world."

"This approach not only clears the land but also prolongs the time until regrowth due to the way the goats both eat and trample the vegetation," Karavatakis added. "It's been a win-win for our environment, our budget, our associates, and our community."

Carter Bank is already exploring the possibility of using goats to clear land in the future.

## Efforts continue to expand water service to underserved community

Curtis Millner, who represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors, renewed his call Monday for more state and federal support to extend a water line along Virginia 57 East and Stoney Mountain Road.

This comes after news that the extension would not be included in this year's congressional district project funding and after a failed application through the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

"This is a very important project for my district," Millner said. "Parts of the Iriswood district are very rural, but in the times that we are living in, they deserve equal access to safe, public drinking water. We have to keep trying. I hope the state will eventually come around and help us fund this project."

The proposed project costs approximately \$7.6 million and includes the construction of 60,850 linear feet of pipe. By consolidating the existing Leatherwood Estates well system into a larger surface water supply, the project would make public water service available to nearly 250 additional homes.



Curtis Millner represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County PSA's Board of Directors.

All of the households impacted by the project are located in Census Tract 103. According to data from the most recent American Community Survey, the median household income for homes in Census Tract 103 are 33 percent lower than the national average. Approximately 62 percent of the population in the census tract are classified as people of color and 46 percent are low income. The project location also qualifies as a focus area in terms of the environmental justice index (EJI)—a tool used to measure the impact of the environment on human health and health equity. Data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shows that the average EJI of the block group in the project area falls in the 76th percentile of the state and the 68th percent-

tile of the nation.

A bacterial sampling of 30 private wells in the project area found that 56.6 percent of the homes tested positive for total coliform and 3.33 percent were positive for E. coli.

By extending the PSA's water line to the project area, these households would have access to drinking water that is treated for microbial and chemical contamination. This has the potential to improve health outcomes by reducing the risk of morbidities associated with diseases caused by water contamination. Other benefits of access to a public water supply include increased property values and fire protection.

The PSA has submitted another application to the state for funding assistance on the project this year.

## Special prosecutor to review May incident

By Debbie Hall

Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney Donald Caldwell will review the May 17 incident between Martinsville Police Officer Kevin Harmon and Star News reporter Charles Roark, according to Martinsville Commonwealth's Attorney G. Andrew Hall.

Roark was "not comfortable with the way" the situation ended and requested the review, Hall said. As a result, a draft was prepared and forwarded to Circuit Court Judge G. Carter Greer for consideration.

Hall said that he also had contacted Caldwell, who agreed to serve as the special prosecutor.

"I do think that we need an independent set of eyes" to review the incident, Hall said. "This is not to disparage the law enforcement officer," but "a fresh set of eyes" will ensure there is no hint of impropriety.

To ensure Caldwell has all the time he needs, Hall declined to speculate about when the review may conclude.

"Mr. Caldwell will follow the evidence where it goes," Hall said.

A video of the incident showed Roark closely following Martinsville Police Officer, who was escorting a handcuffed individual through a parking lot at Tequila's Sports Bar and Grill on Spruce Street.

In late June or early July, Roark received a two-page, undated letter about the incident from Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher, who had conducted an internal investigation.

"Like most violent crime scenes where crowds are involved, emotions were running high that night," Fincher wrote. "There is no question that Officer Harmon hit the cell phone from the hand of Mr. Roark. The question that is not clear by just viewing the video is whether or not there was an intention to do harm or was it a reaction to a perceived threat by the officer."

Fincher referenced an obstruction of justice charge, and alleged



Charles Roark

that Roark "obstructed Officer Harmon in performing his duties. The question arises if the obstruction was done knowingly."

He added that one possibility was that Roark recognized Harmon as having given him a ticket previously "and purposefully targeted" Harmon "to bait him into an improper action."

Noting a second possibility as the "more likely scenario," Fincher wrote that Roark "got caught up in the action, and with the intent of getting a story first, he was overzealous and acted beyond the scope of his normal actions, accidentally interfering."

As a result of his internal investigation, Fincher wrote that "my findings will be listed as exonerated in both aspects. By our standards, the exonerated classification means the incident did occur, but it was not an intentional breach of protocols or procedures, or there was the absence of malice or intent to do harm." He added that Harmon would be assigned to remedial training on media relations, "not as a measure of discipline, but to improve his performance as an officer."

Caldwell also served as the special prosecutor in the Sid Clower case. Clower was a former Henry County administrator and general manager of the Public Service Authority (PSA). Clower was found guilty of embezzling funds from the PSA.

# Volunteers Remove Nearly a Ton of Litter from the Smith River



Volunteers posed with the litter they helped remove from waterways, roads and trails in Henry County and Martinsville. (Contributed by DRBA)

More than 40 volunteers removed nearly 1,200 pounds of trash from the Smith River, tributaries and roads in Martinsville and Henry County during the 15th Annual Smith River Cleanup event that is hosted by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and Henry County.

"It is amazing how hard these volunteers work during the 3-hour event and we are so grateful to each and every one of them who generously donates their time to try and reverse the impact of the people who litter in our area," DRBA Virginia Program Manager Brian Williams said. "We have all ages come out to help keep our river healthy for people and wildlife. These volunteers are truly making a huge impact for every person who lives in Henry County and Martinsville as well as the thousands of people who live downstream. The good news is that we are seeing a bit less trash every year. That means a lot of people are taking better care of their community and making a difference for the future generations."

The volunteers met at the Sports Complex in Axton, and chose the option whether to volunteer on water or land crews. They were then provided gloves, trash bags, trash pickers and safety vests before they headed out to start collecting trash. The groups picked up trash and debris until around noon, and then returned to the sports complex for lunch and raffle drawings.

After the event, county staff and a workforce crew from the Henry County Adult Detention Center collected the trash from the different sites and hauled it to the Transfer Station for disposal. The biggest items collected were tires; the most popular items collected were plastic bottles and cans.

"A lot of the litter and debris washes in from the roads and goes directly into the Smith River," said Tracy McKoy, the county's Beautification Coordinator. "A clean river and a clean community doesn't just mean healthy fish and wildlife and cleaner drinking water for our citizens. It can also have an impact on economic development and be a fac-



Volunteers dig tires out of the Smith River.

tor in companies deciding whether to locate in our region."

Boxley sponsored the lunch this year for volunteers and Angler's Choice, Hugo's, Rural King, Henry County, Henry County Public Safety, Rooster Walk, DRBA, and Lisa Simons provided raffle prizes.

"No one is getting paid to keep our waterways clean. The only people that are doing this are these very special volunteers who give several hours on a Saturday morning to do it," said Tiffany Haworth, executive director of DRBA. "Many people don't realize that when they don't throw trash in a trash can, it will ultimately end up in the river. It just takes every person who lives in Martinsville and Henry County to simply take a moment to throw their trash where it belongs."

The Dan River Basin Association is an environmental non-profit that protects the region's natural assets such as the Dan River and its tributaries. DRBA is working to promote tourism as well as healthy lifestyles. DRBA assists localities in creating community parks, trails and access to local rivers and streams. Its mission is to protect and promote the Dan River Basin through recreation, education and stewardship.

Visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) to learn more about protecting and conserving our local natural resources and how you can get involved in your community.

# Draft cell phone guidance includes 'bell-to-bell' policy

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has developed draft guidance for school divisions on policies and procedures to establish cell phone-free education and remove cell phones and personal electronic communication devices from Virginia's public school classrooms.

The draft guidance defines cell phone-free education in Virginia's schools as "bell-to-bell," meaning phones should be turned off and stored away from the first bell at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings at the end of the academic school day. "Bell-to-bell" includes lunch and time in between class periods.

The draft has been published on VDOE's website and is available for review and comment through September 15.

To better understand Virginians' expectations for cell phone-free education, Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons hosted nine Commonwealth Conversations throughout the state. More than 600 parents, teachers, division superintendents, principals, community members, and students attended the Conversations, and nearly an additional 1,500 commented on the VDOE website.

Coons and other state education and mental health leaders also participated in 11 additional stakeholder group conversations with over an additional 500 community and faith leaders, parent organizations, school boards, superintendents, principals, and school nurse associations to better understand their concerns on cell phones and personal electronic communication devices.

"The extensive input we received from Virginians was clear and direct," Coons said. "They asked for cell phones and personal electronic communication devices to be removed from our children's public schools during the school day at every level—elementary, middle, and high school. By refocusing our students' attention back into learning and away from their phones and social media, all our children will have a better opportunity to learn and succeed academically."

The draft guidance came after Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 on July 9, to help bring cell phone-free education to Virginia schools. It also incorporates age-appropriate cell phone restrictions in Virginia's elementary and secondary public schools.

If a parent determines an elementary student needs to bring a cell phone or personal electronic communication device to school, it must be stored, off, and away from the student during the school day. It should not be used in the school building or on the school grounds before or after school.

In middle school, a student should not have an easily available cell phone or personal electronic communication device during the bell-to-bell school day. School divisions should establish local policies that determine cell phone and personal electronic communication device use within the school building or on school grounds outside of bell-to-bell, including before and after school.

In high school, students should not have an easily accessible cell phone or personal electronic communication device during the bell-to-bell school day. Outside of the bell-to-bell

instructional time, cell phones and personal electronic communication devices may be used on a high school campus before or after school.

When considering cell phone-free education, parents expressed concerns regarding students with documented medical conditions who use their phones to monitor their medical needs. Incorporating input from school nurses, pediatricians, and health care officials, the draft guidance recognizes students with medical needs may have a medical exemption to the bell-to-bell policy included in their Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, and/or individualized health care plans.

Parents throughout the Commonwealth were also very clear that they wanted the ability to know about their child's well-being during an emergency. The draft guidance recognizes the importance of emergency communications to parents and requires that all school divisions build plans to communicate directly with parents, as well as reunification plans with children and parents, into their already required crisis and contingency plans. The draft guidance also encourages school divisions to discuss those emergency communication and reunification plans so that parents and students know how such situations will be handled proactively if they occur.

Parents also asked for the ability to communicate with their children during the school day in case of a family-based emergency. While many public schools already have such procedures in place, the draft guidance looks to school divisions to develop and share family-based emergency school plan procedures with parents and students, as well as post them on their website.

"This draft guidance is the result of Virginians coming together and saying, 'Enough,'" Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera said. "Virginia parents and teachers have witnessed first-hand the damage cell phones in schools has had on our youth's academic, mental and physical health and social development. Communities are committed to implementing common sense approaches to restore vibrant and healthy learning environments for all our children throughout the Commonwealth."

"The Youngkin administration stands ready to support public schools, families, and communities as we change the culture around cell phones," Guidera added.

"This draft guidance clears the cloud of distraction over classrooms and creates an environment where Virginia students can meaningfully connect with their schoolwork, friends, and teachers," stated Secretary of Health and Human Resources Janet Kelly. "I anticipate this guidance having a positive impact far beyond the classroom."

After considering Virginians' feedback to the draft guidance, the VDOE will issue final guidance on September 16.

School divisions will adopt policies and procedures by January 1. School divisions are encouraged to review their current policies and adopt age-appropriate policies and procedures aligned with the final guidance ahead of this date or policies that are more comprehensive than the final guidance.

# Most good jobs will go to people with higher levels of education

Will Walkey

Virginia News Connection

Economic opportunities will favor workers with higher levels of education, according to a new report.

Researchers found 85% of good jobs will go to people with bachelor's degrees or other forms of postsecondary training by 2031.

Artem Gulish, senior federal policy adviser for the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce and the report's author, said even traditional blue-collar work, such as construction, will increasingly require apprenticeships or courses in fields like machinery and tech.

"While those jobs are going to be growing in part because of the infrastructure investments that the federal government and state governments have been making in recent years, those opportunities are going to be shifting to mental skills," Gulish pointed out.



Gulish noted a good job pays a minimum of \$43,000 a year for workers between ages 25 and 44. He said over time it will be more challenging for those with only high school degrees to earn the same salary. About 40% of Virginia residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, which ranks it in the top 10 states in the country.

In general, college enrollment of young people is actually declining, especially among men. Gulish acknowledged the future labor market is not set in stone, especially as technologies such as artificial intelligence keep evolving. But having a postsec-

ondary degree will often make you more employable.

"We see that the future is not going to look like the present," Gulish emphasized. "Having that ability to adapt and learn and pick up and re-skill and pick up new skills will definitely be beneficial."

Georgetown's report found there will be more good jobs on the market by 2031 compared to now, partly because policymakers are facing pressure to deliver higher job quality rather than just lower unemployment.

Support for this reporting was provided by Lumina Foundation.

# VADOC partners on new recovery initiative

The Virginia Department of Corrections' (VADOC) Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) has partnered with circuit court judges across the Commonwealth to address the increasing need for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services by creating a new Recovery Court Pathway initiative.

Before, recovery courts with limited local resources focused on outpatient treatment services. With the new initiative, these courts will be able to refer participants for intensive residential SUD services as a continuum of care.

The CCAP Recovery Court Pathway program lasts 24 weeks and provides a wide variety of services, including SUD programs, cognitive and anger management programming, vocational skills training, and education. These services are available at all five CCAP facilities in Virginia: Appalachian CCAP, Brunswick CCAP, Chesterfield Women's CCAP, Cold Springs CCAP, and Harrisonburg CCAP. Probation Officers provide regular progress reports to the court and video

check-ins when requested.

After successful completion of their programming, probationers are returned to their designated recovery court to continue with supervision and outpatient services.

"Our CCAP programs continue to find innovative and strategic measures to help probationers and parolees as they successfully transition back into society and the Recovery Court Pathway showcases that innovation," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "This new initiative also highlights our cooperation with Virginia's Court System and the VADOC's mission of providing effective supervision, which creates long-lasting public safety for Virginians."

The VADOC's CCAP is an alternative to incarceration, giving probationers and parolees the opportunity to engage in treatment, education, vocational training, and employment in a structured setting in order to promote long-lasting public safety. Learn more about the CCAP program on the VADOC website.



# Crossing the Lines

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



Connect Health + Wellness is preparing to open a permanent location at the former BB&T building in Patrick Springs.

## Healthcare agency opens permanent location in Patrick Springs

To help with the growing need for accessible healthcare in Patrick County, Connect Health + Wellness, a Henry County-based medical service provider, is preparing to open a permanent location at the former BB&T building in Patrick Springs.

Effective immediately, all mobile clinic services will be available at its new Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located onsite at 22121 Jeb Stuart Highway, according to the company.

Brittany Anthony, the agency's marketing director, said additional healthcare access is a top concern in the county.

"Patrick County is a rural area, and residents are faced with various barriers to accessing healthcare, such as living in a medically underserved area, insurance status, and/or transportation," she said in an August 16 release.

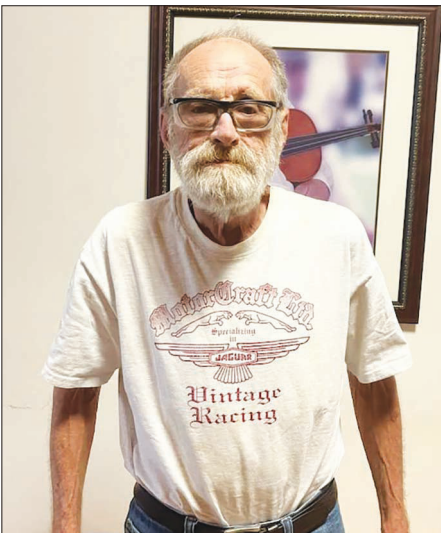
Connect Health + Wellness be-

gan coming to the county with its mobile clinic earlier this year to offer dental care and medical visits. Anthony said the organization will continue operations inside the building on a schedule similar to its mobile clinic, with dental visits on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and medical visits on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We will offer a full range of comprehensive medical and dental services. This includes not only general medical and preventive care but also lab services, referrals, health education, chronic disease management and more. Dental care including diagnostic and preventive services, fillings, root canals and extractions, etc. will also be offered," she said.

Additional days at the clinic will be added to the schedule as demand grows, as building renovations are completed, and personnel are in place.

## Two vie for Dan River District seat



Steve Ferring



Andrew Overby

Steve Ferring and Andrew Overby are seeking the Dan River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in a special election.

Brandon Simmons resigned from the post earlier this year. The board appointed former supervisor Jane Fulk to represent the district until the special election. Fulk does not plan to seek a full term.

Ferring said he was inspired to run after looking at the county's finances for the past year and a half.

"I'm finding that there's no pre-planning for a number of things. The county finances, they leave a bit to be desired in the way they are put together for the budget," he said.

Many of the supervisors have no idea what expenses are contained in the line items on the budget,

and "I would like to make sure that they all have a very good idea of what they are before they vote on the budget itself, and I've been doing some research on that particular thing," he said.

Overby said he applied to serve as the interim after Simmons departed, and considered running for the seat before then, "but at the time, I felt that Brandon would represent everyone's interests appropriately, so I didn't feel the need to run at that time," he said.

Overby said his main reason for running is his desire to ensure that the county is properly represented by people from Patrick County.

"That's my number one thing. I don't really like people that have come here and moved into the area and then try to recreate the area that they come from," he said.

## County in better financial position as pandemic funds dwindle

Overall, the county is in a better financial position, partially due to pandemic funds, Treasurer Sandra Stone told the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in a year-end report for fiscal year 2023, which ended June 30.

"The net general county fund balance carried forward was \$11,843,743, which was an increase of a little over \$282,071 from last fiscal year. Our carryover balance comes from different sources, different budgets, unspent funds, some revenues received that are higher than budgeted, and some unspent carryover funds from a previous year," Stone said at the August 12 meeting.

Stone said the carryover funds are needed as the county always saves them to use during lower revenue months, which are typically August to October and February to April. The county's contingency fund balance at the end of June was \$460,958, and interest earned on investments was \$509,195, which was an increase of \$174,143 from the previous year.

"Interest on our bank deposits was \$38,682, which was an increase of \$38,409 from last year. These increases were, of course, due to higher inter-



Patrick County Treasurer Sandra Stone presented a year-end financial report.

est rates," she said.

"We all know where we were a few years ago, and we weren't in such a great shape. We are in much, much better shape" now, Stone said. "The COVID money helped us. I mean it wasn't a good thing, but the COVID money that we received definitely helped us, but now that those funds are dwindling, it's kind of where the rubber meets the road and the board's going to have to decide how to use what you've got and how to keep it operating and going forward because" the Covid funds will not continue.

## School board approves amended dress code, new bag policy at athletic events now in effect



Members of the Patrick County School Board at a meeting last week.

The Patrick County School Board approved the Patrick County High School (PCHS) dress code as amended at its Thursday, August 8 meeting, and previously announced a new bag policy for athletic events.

The dress code was crafted by school administrators, and the PCHS Student Advisory Board, which is composed of former class officers, Student Government Association (SGA) officers, and current class and SGA officers.

The new bag policy for sporting events at Patrick County High School (PCHS) is designed to add "another layer of safety," Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said of the policy that was proposed by PCHS principal Hope Perry and Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Terry Harris.

"In our new Three Rivers District, and also many of the schools in the Piedmont District, they have moved to a clear bag policy at sporting

events and also making sure there's not outside food allowed in an event," Wood said. "We're hoping to hear in the near future that we are awarded a grant for metal detectors that would be (used) for athletic events at the high school and are portable that could be taken down to the stadium for football, soccer, and other events."

Under the new policy, Wood said anything larger than a small clutch purse that isn't in a clear gallon bag, or a clear tote bag would have to be returned to the vehicle. "If it's a diaper bag, they would do a quick search to just ensure the safety of everyone in the athletic event," he said.

Outside food and drinks will not be allowed in for afterschool events, and all elementary and middle school students must be accompanied by an adult at all times. There is also no re-entry for ticketed events except for events with all-day passes, Wood said.

## Pet Food Bank deemed a success

More than 175 bags and cans of cat and dog food were distributed to those in need at the first ever Pet Food Bank held Aug. 12. The project was made possible through a partnership between the Patrick Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and the Patrick County Community Food Bank.

The idea for the pet food bank

is to help the community feed and hopefully keep their pets as the costs of animal food has drastically increased, PAWS Vice-president Lynn Chipkin said.

To donate to the pet food pantry or spay/neuter fund, send monetary donations to Patrick Animal Welfare Society, Inc., P.O. Box 743, Stuart, VA 24171.



PAWS members distribute pet food at a project that was made possible by donations from county residents and a partnership between PAWS and the Patrick County Food Bank.

To read more about these and other stories, check out *The Enterprise*, [www.theenterprise.net](http://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**    **1-3-5-7-9PM**

## Illegally imported food prompts health alert



Grandma Style Sardine in Tomato Sauce (labeled Beef Curry) UPC 883400127021



Grandma Style Fried Carp with Curry Paste (labeled Goat Curry) UPC 4669048000009

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a public health alert for various meat and poultry products that were illegally imported from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a country that is ineligible to export meat and poultry products to the United States.

Among the products covered in the alert are several Grandma Style brand products, including Sardine in Tomato Sauce, Fried Carp with Curry Paste, Anabas Curry and several others. Visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/sites](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites) for a complete list of the products that are subject to the public health alert, regardless of the product date.

The products subject to the public health alert do not bear any import marks on the labels. These items were shipped to retail locations nationwide.

The problem was discovered when the FSIS was performing routine surveillance activities at a retailer and found meat and poultry products from Myanmar that are not eligible to be exported to the U.S.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products.

Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a health care provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' pantries and on retailers' shelves. Retailers who have purchased the products are urged not to sell them. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

The FSIS is continuing to investigate how these products entered the country.

Consumers with questions about the alert can contact Pyae Phyo Thandar, Sales Manager at Hong Sar, LLC – Hinthar Inc., at (317) 701-4039 or [kinghongsar@gmail.com](mailto:kinghongsar@gmail.com).

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

## Pursuit ends in several charges

The Martinsville/Henry County Communication Center received a call on August 21, around 12:48 a.m., to report a reckless driver in the area of the 15000 block of A.L. Philpott Hwy.

According to the caller, the suspect vehicle, a black Ford Mustang, had been doing burnouts near his residence and speeding. The caller followed the suspect vehicle down A.L. Philpott Hwy. where the vehicles exited onto Greensboro Road, and then headed into the City of Martinsville.

During this time, authorities allege the driver of the Ford Mustang continued to operate the vehicle recklessly. Martinsville Police officers got behind the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the Mustang allegedly ignored the officer's emergency equipment and increased its speed.

A pursuit ensued down Memorial Blvd towards Walmart, continuing onto Virginia Ave., and then left on Koehler Road. The officers lost sight of the vehicle near the Koehler Road and Appalachian Drive intersection.

Authorities learned the vehicle was registered to Ashton Wright, of 2940 Lee Ford Camp Road, Ridgeway, Va.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies went to that location in an attempt to locate the vehicle and driver. Upon their arrival, they allege the Ford Mustang was parked in the driveway still running. As the deputies pulled up the driveway, the Mustang allegedly took off driving through the yard. Deputies got behind the Mustang and activated their emergency equipment. A pursuit ensued down Lee Ford Camp Road, heading towards Greensboro Road.

Authorities allege the Mustang driver was again operating the vehicle in a reckless and dangerous manner. The pursuit continued across Greensboro Road, down Church St., and eventually took a right onto Virginia/



Ashton Wright

NC 87. At this time, the Mustang increased its speed well over 100mph.

The pursuit continued down Virginia 87 and entered North Carolina. Eventually, while traveling on West Meadow Road in Eden, N.C., a Henry County Sheriff's deputy successfully performed a Precision Immobilization Technique (P.I.T) on the Mustang. The vehicle lost traction with the roadway and slid into an embankment. The driver of the vehicle was taken into custody without further incident.

The driver was identified as Ashton Blaze Wright., 21, 2940 Lee Ford Camp Road, Ridgeway, Virginia. He was charged with felony eluding police - Henry County; felony eluding police - City of Martinsville; and reckless driving - Eden N.C.

Wright is currently held in the Rockingham County Adult Detention Center awaiting extradition.

This investigation is ongoing, anyone having information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

## New campaign aims to boost motorcycle safety training

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has launched a new advertising campaign to promote motorcycle safety training. This initiative seeks to increase awareness of the Virginia Rider Training Program and encourage motorcyclists to enhance their skills through this vital training.

The campaign's centerpiece is a compelling new ad that highlights the importance of proper motorcycle training. The ad features a skilled motorcyclist enjoying a perfect ride on a quiet, scenic road. The serene atmosphere is suddenly disrupted when a car pulls out in front of him, leading to a dramatic crash. The motorcyclist, now a seasoned rider training coach, later shares his experience with a group of students, underscoring the message: "If it can happen to me, it can happen to you. So let's learn the skills it takes to handle it."

The Virginia Rider Training Program, certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, offers comprehensive courses designed for riders at all levels. These courses provide an opportunity to master essential riding techniques and safety skills in a controlled environment. Successful completion of the program not only enhances rider safety but also enables participants to earn their Virginia motorcycle endorsement.

"As a rider myself, I know training isn't just a precaution, it's a necessity. It transforms instinct

into skill and uncertainty into confidence, making the difference between a close call and a disaster," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "This campaign is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to improve motorcycle safety across the Commonwealth. By encouraging more riders to participate in the Virginia Rider Training Program, we aim to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities on our roadways."

As of July 31, Virginia experienced more than 1,200 motorcycle crashes, resulting in 976 injuries and 63 deaths. The jurisdictions with the highest number of fatalities include Fairfax County, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Clarke County, Virginia Beach, and Augusta County. Last year, 3-out-of-4 motorcyclists involved in crashes on Virginia roadways had not completed the Virginia Rider Training Program.

DMV urges all motorcyclists, whether new or experienced, to take advantage of this valuable training opportunity. For more information about the Virginia Rider Training Program and to find a course near you, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vrtp](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vrtp).

The new motorcycle safety campaign will run through September 2. For more highway safety information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/safety](http://dmv.virginia.gov/safety).

## Ridgeway man held with no bond after pursuit

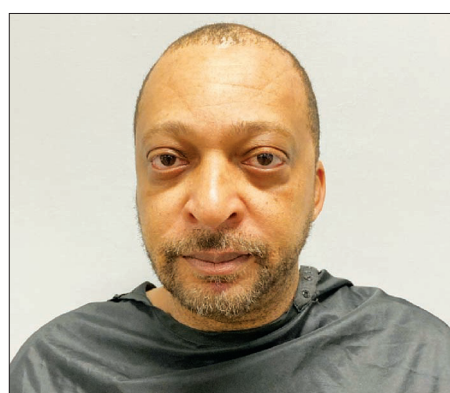
The Henry County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Interdiction Unit tried to conduct a traffic stop on a white Chrysler 300 traveling on Summit Road in Henry County on Friday, August 16, according to a report from Henry County Sheriff's Capt. Sandy Hines.

The driver allegedly failed to obey emergency lights and sirens, and a pursuit began, with speeds that exceeded 100 miles per hour, the release stated.

A short time later while traveling on Carver Road, the driver allegedly failed to maintain control of the vehicle, striking the guard rail and a concrete pillar. The Chrysler came to rest in the ditch in the area of 3785 Carver Road.

The driver allegedly refused commands to exit the vehicle and attempted to drive away before he was apprehended by deputies from the Interdiction Unit. A Henry County Patrol/Narcotics K9 unit was on scene and assisted with the apprehension.

Multiple items were seized during the subsequent search, including what authorities believe to be an undisclosed amount of cocaine and marijuana, the release stated. An undisclosed amount of U.S. currency and a cellular device also were seized, Hines said, and alleged all of the items are consistent with the distribution of narcotics. The suspected narcotics will be sent to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis, he added.



Derrick Mananda Hairston

Derrick Mananda Hairston, 47, 1350 Kings Mill Road, Ridgeway, was arrested in connection with the incident. He is charged with felony possess Schedule I or II drug with intent to distribute - 2nd offense (cocaine), felony elude law enforcement, driving under the influence of drugs (DUID), following too closely and obstruction.

Hairston is being held without bond at the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

The Henry County Sheriff's is dedicated to ridding the community of illegal narcotics, and drug dealers. Anyone with information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crime Stoppers at 63- CRIME (632-7463). The Crime Stoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

## VADOC opens online volunteer application process

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is accepting online applications for several volunteer roles in conjunction with Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 36, formally establishing the Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together initiative to improve reentry success and prevent recidivism.

"My guiding philosophy in life is to 'Win and Help Win,' meaning that if you help someone else to succeed, you will also succeed in the process," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "Volunteering for the Virginia Department of Corrections will benefit both the population we serve and the volunteers

themselves. Our Department is incredibly excited to see the benefits of Governor Youngkin's Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together initiative – and to meet the generous volunteers who will make such a difference for Virginia."

Anyone interested in volunteering must complete an application, submit to a background investigation, and disclose all associates, friends, and relatives who are incarcerated or under VADOC supervision. Volunteers must meet the following requirements to be considered:

\*Must be 18 years of age or older and possess valid, government-issued identification.

\*Must not be under VADOC supervision, however, exceptions may be granted.

\*Be of good reputation, good character, and have a desire to serve humanity.

Volunteers are considered without regard to race, ethnicity, social, economic and education level or religious affiliation.

Available volunteer roles include local facility volunteers, statewide volunteers, local reentry resource volunteers, and statewide reentry resource volun-

teers.

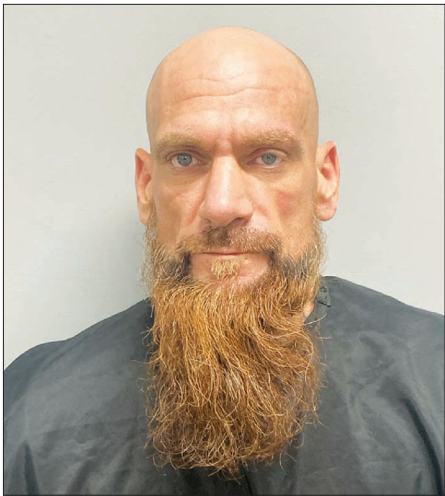
More information, including additional examples of volunteer opportunities and information needed to apply, can be found on the Volunteering section of the VADOC website. The volunteer application form is at <https://vadoc.virginia.gov/general-public/volunteering/volunteer-application-form/>.

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

**Timber Rights**  
**\$1000 dollars for proof of**  
**timber rights belonging to Mr.**  
**Dodd on the big farm in**  
**Henry County.**  
**Call: 757-302-3175**

# Search warrant leads to arrest

The Henry County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at a residence located at 1106 Jappa Road, Ridgeway, on August 20. The warrant was obtained based on credible information that William Jackson Kennedy, 44, of Henry County, was hiding at this location, Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said in a release. Kennedy was wanted on multiple outstanding warrants from several law enforcement agencies, including the Henry County Sheriff's Office, the City of Martinsville Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police.



William Jackson Kennedy

During the execution of the search warrant, deputies located Kennedy hiding beneath the mobile home. They discovered that he had a trap door that allowed him to get beneath the home to hide, Davis said. Kennedy was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where he is being held without bond.

The charges against Kennedy are:

Henry County Sheriff's Office - probation violations: petty larceny 3rd/subsequent offense, escape custody, felony shoplifting, felony elude police, possession of ammunition by a felon, breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny, and grand larceny.

Charges from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office are probation violation - possession with intent to distribute controlled substances,

and charges of possession with intent to distribute Schedule I or II controlled substances and driving while license suspended.

Charges in the City of Martinsville Police Department are probation violation, two counts (two counts).

The Virginia State Police charges are felony hit and run and driving while license suspended.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone with information about wanted individuals or their whereabouts to call the sheriff's office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crimes. The amount of the reward is determined by the nature of the crime and the quality of the information provided.

# Safety Checklist as Students Head Back to School

The American Red Cross offers a useful checklist with important safety and travel information to ensure every student has a safe and happy return as students head back to class. The following tips are at the top of the list:

**If your student is younger or going to school for the first time, teach them:**

Their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911.

Not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know.

**If your child walks to school, teach them to:**

Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.

Stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.

Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.

Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

**If your student takes the bus to school, teach them to:**

Get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.

Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. And only board their bus, never an alternate one.

Stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

**If your student rides their bike to school, teach them to:**

Always wear a helmet. Ride on the right in the same direction as the traffic is going.

**If you drive your child to school, teach them to:**

Always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4'9"), and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old.

**If you have a teenager driving to school, make sure they:**

Use seat belts.

Don't use their cell phone to text or make calls and avoid eating or drinking while driving.

**If you are considering getting your student a cell phone:**

Download the free Red Cross First Aid and Emergency apps to give them access to first aid tips for common emergencies and real-time weather alerts. Find the apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps).

**If your student is joining a sports team, make sure they:**

Wear protective gear, such as helmets, protective pads, etc. Warm up and cool down.

Watch out for others. Know the location of the closest first aid kit and AED.

**Drivers - Slow Down.**

Drivers should slow down as children head back to school. Know that yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop — motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

For more back-to-school and general safety information, visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org).



# Poll shows voters remain concerned about cost of child care

## Many families in VA struggle with food, health expenses

**Will Walkey**  
*Virginia News Connection*

A new poll found voters remain concerned about the high cost of living and want the government to do more to lower their expenses.

More than nine in 10 Republicans and eight in 10 Democrats said food and grocery prices are a big problem, and three quarters of parents say child care and preschool costs are too high.

Matthew Hatfield, Virginia state manager for the Save the Children Action Network, said affordability issues are impacting all corners of Virginia, especially rural areas.

"You have families who might have to travel 20-, 30-plus miles to be able to access the closest child care center, in addition to having to pay upwards of 25% of their annual income on child care," Hatfield pointed out. "It is a tough spot to be in as a family."

The poll was conducted by a bipartisan research team. It also found many key demographics, including swing, undecided and rural voters, would be more likely to

support candidates who want to increase funding for food stamps and child care. Hatfield noted Virginia recently secured more than a billion dollars for early education programs but parents want long-term guarantees funding will continue.

A recent report found about 40% of the Commonwealth's kindergartners still need to build literacy, math and/or social skills. Hatfield emphasized the numbers go way up in low-income communities.

About half of Virginia's preschoolers lack access to publicly funded education and child care often costs the same or more as a degree from a local public university. Hatfield called it unacceptable.

"Being able to provide those fundamental building blocks for children while they're young will lead to lifelong success," Hatfield contended. "That's one of the main reasons that we are supporting early childhood education investment in the long run."

Many child care centers in the Commonwealth are struggling to hire and retain staff.

# Initial filings for unemployment benefits increase

The 2,294 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending August 10, 2024, is 18.4 percent higher than last week's 1,937 claims and 33.7 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (3,460), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 73 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (56 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (256); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (212); Health Care and Social Assistance (185); Retail Trade (146); and Manufacturing (137).

Continued weeks claims (16,675) were 1.3 percent lower than last week (16,893) and were 21.6 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,710). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an as-

sociated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,498); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,225); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,629); Accommodation and Food Services (1,381); and Manufacturing (1,357).

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.

[www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)

# Puzzle Answers!

**SNOWFLAKES**  
solution

**COMMON GERMAN WORDS**

**SCRAMBLERS**  
solution  
1. Bungle; 2. Height; 3. Annoy; 4. Clothes  
Today's Word  
**GALLON**

**FEAR & KNIGHT**  
answer

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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

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



# PUZZLE TIME

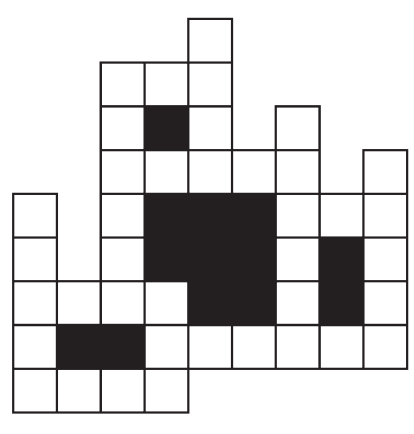


## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

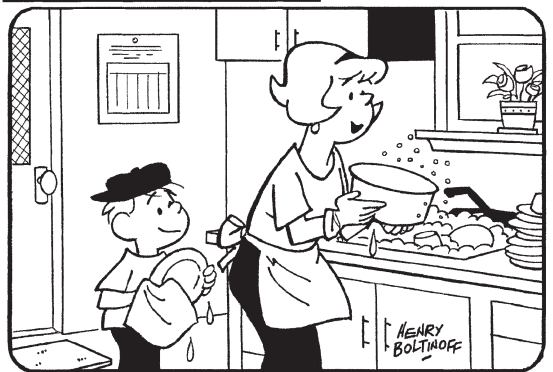
- ESH
- HECTLA
- ♥ASEDT
- RHDE
- SUDOTE
- ♥TFA
- ♥ETBA
- ♥HETRE
- ♥OED
- ♥TOSFRE
- HETFC
- ♥ARET



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. Apron bow is missing. 2. Faucet is different. 3. Water drop from dish is moved. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Doormat is moved. 6. Glove is longer.

## MAGIC MAZE

COMMON GERMAN WORDS

X T Q N K H D A X U R P E M J  
 G D A X V S Q N N K D I I F D  
 A X V T Q T (K A L E N D E R) O  
 M J H F C A H G Y F E W U H S  
 R P N L J E H C A G B D F C D  
 H B Z X V N M C A T A T H S R  
 Q A O M E M H T K N N L I I H  
 F D L H A B N Z K Y E E W F V  
 T R C L Q N I E N C T T T O N  
 G A T N O M L K H I U H U U F  
 M R E S S A W T D C G A Z G G

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NO IN GERMAN

- Danke
- Einfach
- Fisch
- Gute nacht
- Guten abend
- Guten tag
- Hallo
- Kalender
- Lamm
- Machen
- Montag
- Nahe
- Schlecht
- Sonntag
- Wasser

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Human rights org.
- 5 Costa —
- 9 Scored two under par
- 15 Apparel
- 19 Stars and Stripes, e.g.
- 20 Big whoops
- 21 Louisiana cuisine style
- 22 French girlfriend
- 23 Places to buy salmon fillets and such
- 25 Everyday routine
- 26 Metal beam with two flanges
- 27 Brainpower stats
- 28 Actor Bana
- 29 Overnight delivery, say
- 31 Regret deeply
- 32 Nothin' at all
- 33 Lauder of perfumery
- 34 Shutter strip
- 35 Breathable gym bottoms
- 38 Actor Alan
- 40 Vaping devices
- 43 Some tech. inst. grads
- 44 Trio after G
- 46 They're like lay-ups, but farther from the basket
- 48 Father, to a tiny tot
- 51 Like some artificial body parts
- 54 A snake injecting venom, e.g.
- 55 Become too warm
- 58 Like a bass voice
- 60 Napoleonic marshal
- 61 Coin that was worth 12 pence
- 65 Purvey
- 69 Often-flexed arm muscles
- 70 Paint coat applied to rough plaster
- 71 Brand of snowmobiles
- 73 Snow glider
- 74 Informal name for a herding breed
- 76 Congregated
- 78 Concealed
- 79 City development area
- 80 Dangler on a garment in a store
- 85 Most modern
- 88 Harper of "Far North"
- 89 Top worn on a safari
- 91 Snooze
- 92 Epoch
- 94 Opera solos
- 95 Tomb-raiding
- 97 Resembling a plate
- 103 Turner of the Washington Nationals
- 105 Check recipient
- 107 Tubular snack cake
- 108 Flat-fixing org.
- 109 Guard to keep something dry
- 112 Novelist Kingsley or Martin
- 113 "Despicable Me" villain
- 114 Very dry
- 115 Tiki bar drink
- 116 What nine answers in this puzzle suggest that you do twice?
- 118 Donate
- 119 Peeves
- 120 Les — (French for "some")
- 121 Emend
- 122 Tomahawks
- 123 Level
- 124 Indiana-to-Ohio direction
- 125 Witty types

**DOWN**

- 1 Validate
- 2 In-group
- 3 Maidens
- 4 "Yuck!"
- 5 Pep rally cheers
- 6 Excited response to "Who wants dessert?"
- 7 Police ride
- 8 Horse cousin
- 9 Beige shades
- 10 Sony record label
- 11 Be assisted
- 12 Bungled
- 13 "In the Valley of —" (2007 drama film)
- 14 Slaw sources
- 15 Cold Spanish soup
- 16 Eager desire
- 17 "Knives Out" director
- 18 Arctic hazard
- 24 Gut feeling
- 29 Pine product
- 30 — v. Ferguson (landmark court case)
- 36 Word after big, cold or soft
- 37 Albeit, in brief
- 39 For — (very cheaply)
- 41 Former rival of AT&T
- 42 Former Russ. state
- 45 First lady after Melania Trump
- 47 Move hastily
- 48 Lou formerly of CNN
- 49 Pop rocker Lavigne
- 50 Rld of frost
- 51 Crank's cry
- 52 "Challenge accepted!"
- 53 Rum mixers
- 56 Clued in
- 57 Lion chaser?
- 59 Hope (for)
- 62 Opposite of 58-Across
- 63 "You Be —" (1986 Run-D.M.C. hit)
- 64 Avian abodes
- 65 Savors Earl Grey, say
- 66 Funny Murphy
- 67 Sacks in war
- 68 Balcony sections
- 71 Use stitches
- 72 Mattel man
- 74 Online biz
- 75 Torrid
- 76 Untidy states
- 77 Afr. country
- 80 Keglers' org.
- 81 Karel Capek sci-fi play
- 82 Question starter in old Memorex ads
- 83 Total shams
- 84 Plotting in math class
- 86 Walked in water
- 87 Dermis or Pen lead-in
- 90 Turncoat
- 92 Most pasty
- 93 Phantom
- 96 "Yes, cap'n!"
- 98 Reporter on "Parks and Recreation"
- 99 Buds from the hood
- 100 Multi-roof temple
- 101 Winged bug with pincers
- 102 Intimidates
- 104 Sportscaster Rashad
- 106 "Für —" (piano piece)
- 109 Chronicle
- 110 Grand — (annual race)
- 111 Clearheaded
- 116 "— pasa?"
- 117 Dawn drops

## CALLING FOR SILENCE

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- When Texas was its own sovereign nation in the mid-1800s, it briefly had a diplomatic mission in Paris.
- In 1939, George Bernard Dantzig, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, arrived late for a statistics class and copied the two problems on the blackboard, assuming they were the homework, then handed them in a few days later. Several weeks afterward, he was awakened by his professor's excited knock at the door: The "homework" was actually unsolved problems in statistics that Dantzig had managed to prove.
- Since avocados never ripen on trees, farmers can use the trees as a way to store and keep the fruit fresh for up to seven months.
- Maine is the closest U.S. state to Africa.
- It's a sweetly romantic tradition for the post offices of Romeo, Michigan, and Juliette, Georgia, to offer a special dual postmark leading up to Valentine's Day.
- As comedian Bob Hope lay on his deathbed in 2003, his wife Dolores asked where he'd like to be buried. His reply? "Surprise me."
- The three dots on the Domino's Pizza logo represent the chain's three original locations. Co-founder Tom Monaghan originally planned to add a new dot for every pizzeria he opened.
- Female bats give birth while hanging upside down, catching the baby in their wings.
- England's King Richard the Lionheart spent a mere six months of his 10-year reign in England, being there only briefly in 1189 and 1194.
- At the end of 1914, when Russia was fighting in World War I, the country's army had 6,553,000 men, but just 4,652,000 rifles.

**Thought for the Day:** "Happy is the person who knows what to remember of the past, what to enjoy in the present and what to plan for in the future." — Arnold H. Glasow

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

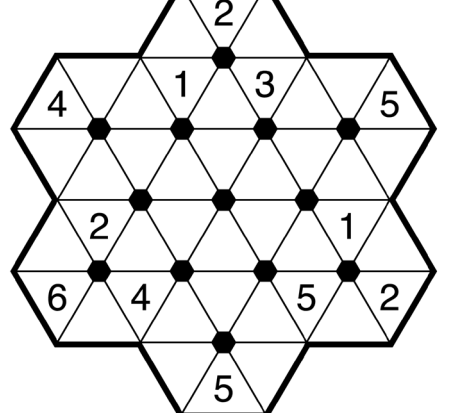
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

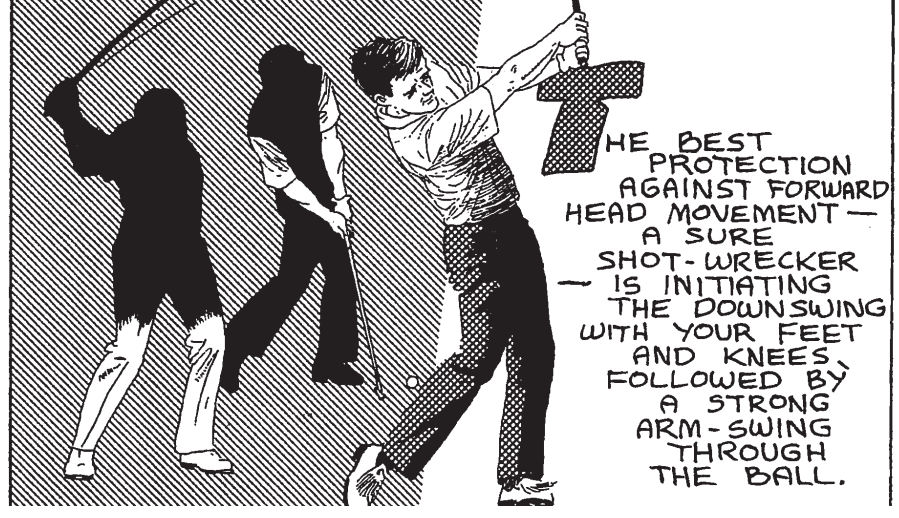


### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

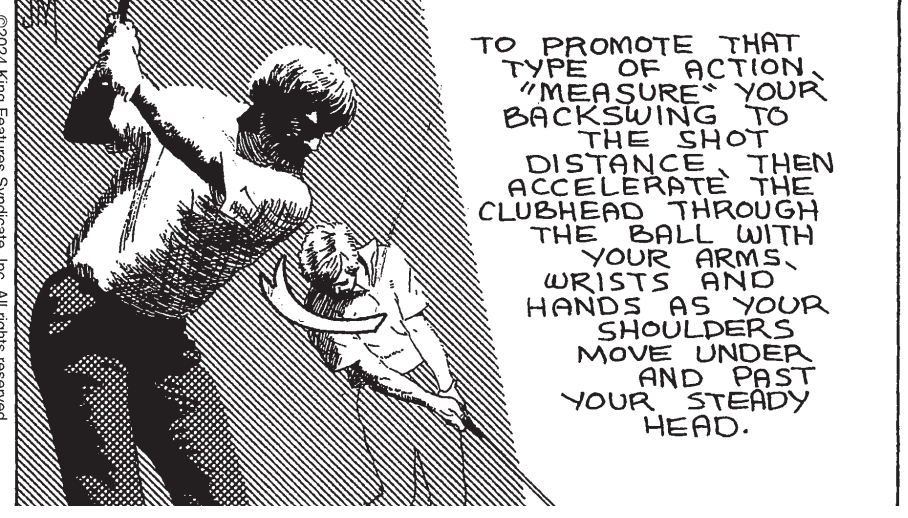
- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST FORWARD HEAD MOVEMENT — A SURE SHOT-WRECKER — IS INITIATING THE DOWNSWING WITH YOUR FEET AND KNEES FOLLOWED BY A STRONG ARM-SWING THROUGH THE BALL.



TO PROMOTE THAT TYPE OF ACTION, "MEASURE" YOUR BACKSWING TO THE SHOT DISTANCE, THEN ACCELERATE THE CLUBHEAD THROUGH THE BALL WITH YOUR ARMS, WRISTS AND HANDS AS YOUR SHOULDERS MOVE UNDER AND PAST YOUR STEADY HEAD.



"I forget, Johnson, are we paying you by the hour or by the —!"

## 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!

Err

BELGUN

Stature

THIGHE

Upset

NAYON

Attire

SLOTECH

### TODAY'S WORD

## ADVERTISE!

### Advertise With Us!

- What we offer: .....
- Flexible pricing
  - Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
  - Deeply discounted rates
  - Seasonal Specials

What we have: .....

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

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

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

# Secondary English teachers participate in creative writing workshops

Educators from Henry County Public Schools gathered with acclaimed spoken word poet Regie Cabico for a professional development poetry workshop on Monday, August 12. With support from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Piedmont Arts hosted this annual event for the third time.

Working with all of the county division's secondary English teachers, Cabico imparted the crucial message that words have power. Engaging with spoken word poetry and creative writing empowers students to express themselves, gain confidence in public speaking, and creates a classroom culture rooted in creativity and feeling comfort-

able to speak. During the workshop, he led the teachers through the creation of their own spoken word poetry pieces and gave them an opportunity at the end to perform their poems aloud.

Cabico is a spoken word pioneer. He won The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Grand Slam and later took top prizes in three National Poetry Slams.

He has been featured in numerous publications, anthologies, and on television. His work as a poet and theatre artist is widely celebrated and has received numerous awards and accolades.

His work with the teachers will be followed up by a week of in-person poetry workshops with all of the 5th to 8th grade classrooms.



Poet Regie Cabico energetically addressed the 5-8 grade English teachers at the professional development session.



Two teachers ready to share their creations while Cabico encourages them from the sidelines.



HCPS English teachers participate in team-building exercises.



HCPS' Curriculum coordinator Janet Lewis poses with poet Regie Cabico during the workshop.



## Iasha Penn, NP

Family Medicine

Board-certified Nurse Practitioner

**Sovah Family Medicine - Martinsville**  
110 Commonwealth Blvd. W  
Martinsville, VA 24112

### Graduate:

Master of Science in Nursing  
Chamberlain University  
Addison, IL

### Undergraduate:

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Chamberlain University  
Addison, IL

Associate of Nursing  
Patrick & Henry Community College  
Martinsville, VA

### Specializes in:

- Hypertension
- Immunizations and vaccines
- Annual, school and sports physicals
- Chronic and acute illnesses
- Diabetes
- Minor conditions and injuries
- Preventive health
- Well and sick child visits
- General pediatric care

**Accepting new patients 2 and up**  
Appointments may be made by calling  
**276.666.7328**



SovahHealth.com



## Welcome

**Patrick Szukics, DO**  
Orthopedics

**Sovah Orthopedics & Sports Medicine - Martinsville**  
1100 E Church St.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

### Medical School

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Philadelphia, PA

### Residency

Jefferson Health New Jersey  
Stratford, NJ

### Fellowship

UHZ Baptist Health  
Miami, FL

### Specializes in:

- Sports medicine
- Arthritis
- Shoulder replacement surgery
- Knee, shoulder, and hip surgery
- Arthroscopic surgery
- Cartilage restoration
- ACL reconstruction
- Rotator cuff repair surgery

**Welcoming new patients**  
Schedule an appointment by calling  
**276.638.2354**



SovahHealth.com

# Criminal Justice Academy opens doors for citizen class



Recent participants in a Citizens Academy held at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy. (Contributed)

**By Jessica Dillon**

The Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy hosted a Citizens Academy on August 12. The program focused on new laws that went into effect on July 1 and proper procedures for traffic stops.

Mayor LC Jones helped to organize the academy after “I got so many phone calls from students, from citizens who said, I just got pulled over. What am I supposed to do.”

The community has had several concerns about media and police relations over the last couple of months, partially spawned by an altercation between Star News’ Charles Roark and a police officer which also urged Jones to work on

the class.

Ben Rea, director of the academy, “did the instruction on everything and prepared everything,” Jones said. Rea siphoned down dozens of hours of the curriculum into bite-sized pieces that were easy for participants to understand.

“I think it was effective to explain to them how law enforcement needs to do certain things and ask for certain things during a traffic stop,” Jones said. This included reactions like keeping your hand visible when dealing with an officer.

“We went over the new laws. It seems like the best parts were the traffic stop and community policing parts,” said Rea, who added that many attending the class already



The academy hosted a variety of curriculums around community policing, new laws, and media relations. (Contributed)

knew the basics of many police-community interactions. “There was a lot of folks that truly knew a lot of this.”

“To say that there were a lot of things they didn’t know, there was very little,” said Rea, who praised the class for the day. “We had 10 folks that came to the class, but more that signed up.”

“The information they got was the exact same information that police officers get,” said Jones. The class was so successful that Jones said he wants “to try my best to communicate and get information out to the community to offer the class to more individuals.”

Rea and Jones are currently in talks about the best way to provide

the academy and further safety training.

“We are hoping to have another one,” Rea said, adding the hours for the next event are likely to change to the afternoon or on the weekend to give those interested a better chance at attending. “I will offer it if folks want to come down one day and say look, ‘we have questions about things like driving under the influence. What should we do if we see something? Should we report it?’”

He invites residents to contact him if they need advice on community policing in the area.

Jones added that Epic Health Partners helped provide lunch and information about mental health and crisis situations.

**WEEKEND AND DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE**

Patrick County, VA      Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Front Porch Fest 15**

Love Grows Here

**PATRICK COUNTY** Virginia

**ONE FAMILY PRODUCTIONS**

**VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS**

**ARIEL'S**  
WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE  
EST. SINCE 1980

**END OF SEASON CLEARANCE SALE**

**70% OFF**

276 . 632 . 7484  
Patrick Henry Mall  
730 East Church St  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**WWW.ARIELSCLOTHING.COM**

**WE ARE** **SPECTRUM MEDICAL**

Join Our Team **HIRING**

Licensed Physical Therapist & Physical Therapy Assistant

- Monday - Friday 8:00-5:00
- Competitive Pay
- No Nights/Holidays/Weekends
- 401k/benefits
- Bonus Program (PTs only)
- Education Reimbursement

**SEND YOUR CV TO :**

✉ cress.jones@spectrummed.com

**CONTACT US :**

☎ 434-793-4711

**APPLY NOW**

