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## Piedmont Adult Recovery Court grad details journey at recent graduation ceremony

By Taylor Boyd

Jamie Lynn Elgin was the sole graduate at the Adult Recovery Court graduation ceremony held on Thursday, August 29.

DeShanta Hairston, Public Information Officer for Piedmont Community Services (PCS), explained that the Adult Recovery Program is a voluntary initiative aimed at reducing incarceration rates by offering an alternative path to recovery.

"It brings together treatment providers, law enforcement, probation officers, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges to support participants in overcoming addiction. The program emphasizes accountability and evidence-based approaches tailored to each individual, providing a comprehensive solution to the complex issue of substance abuse," Hairston said.

After receiving her diploma, Elgin shared her journey, reflecting on a tumultuous past. "At 13-years-old and up until a year and six months ago, I was a victim of numerous tragedies. I lost my daughter, my best friend, and my mother within a few months.

"I was married for 20 years to a man who fell into addiction. I didn't understand addiction back then, and he succumbed to a heroin overdose and mental health issues in 2019. And that's just the tip of the iceberg," Elgin said.

She explained that she began using pain medication in 2008 for health issues but fell into deeper addiction around 2013, hitting what she thought was rock bottom in 2019. "But it wasn't rock bottom. My addiction worsened. I turned to



From left, Leanne Martin, Jamie Elgin, and Circuit Court Chief and Presiding Judge G. Carter Greer at Elgin's Adult Recovery Court graduation.

street drugs, becoming a liar, thief, and manipulator. I lost everything, including my family, children, and father," Elgin said.

During her time in jail, Elgin initially blamed others for her troubles. "Hurt people, hurt people. After being homeless, broken, and addicted, I was placed on probation," she said.

In 2021, Elgin said a spiritual transformation began. "God sent people to help me. After surrendering my life to God, I started seeing things clearly. This journey wasn't easy, but I wanted to change," she said.

Before joining the recovery court program, Elgin had tried other programs like Life Center and Hope Center but left after just two days.

(See Piedmont p. 2)

## Police chief reports uptick in scams

By Jessica Dillon

Scams are on the rise nationwide, and local residents are not exempt, according to Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher, who is urging residents to be vigilant with suspicious emails, phone calls, and social media friend requests, especially those involving money.

"Unfortunately, fraud is a big problem everywhere right now," Fincher said, describing scammers as "trust violators." He noted that technology has ushered in a new era of fraud, providing easy access to personal information.

"We like to have information at our fingertips, such as access to our bank accounts and credit card numbers on our phones. This convenience opens the door to those who wish to cause harm," Fincher explained. The concern over fraud has intensified with technological advancements.

Fincher highlighted that older individuals are often targeted. "We see calls to individuals posing as a relative or someone they know, claiming they are in trouble or need assistance," he said. Some scammers even impersonate police officers to solicit money for a relative's release.

Fincher also warned about phishing scams disguised as emails from delivery services like the United States Postal Service (USPS). "These are nothing more than phishing scams trying to get you to click a link," he said. Such emails often lead to requests for funds to claim goods.

Examining the email address can reveal inconsistencies, such as misspellings of the company's name. Romance and friendship scams are also prevalent on social media, where scammers establish connections and then exploit emotions for money.

"Anytime they ask for money, it's

a scam," Fincher advised. He noted that some users, aware of the scam, still engage due to loneliness.

Fincher expressed concern that advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) will exacerbate the problem. "It's easier for criminals to extract data from social media, especially videos, and use it to make convincing phone calls," he said.

The best defense, according to Fincher, is to respond only to known numbers and emails. "We recently had someone fall victim to a scam claiming to be his bank, urging him to transfer money immediately," he said. The account was traced overseas, making recovery unlikely, especially with gift cards. "It's very unlikely," Fincher added, noting that many scammers operate from abroad.

"Don't blindly respond to emails or phone calls. Trust only the numbers you already have. If you receive a suspicious call from your bank, hang up and call the number you know. Bank staff will gladly verify it's not a scam," Fincher advised.

He also recommended monitoring credit card statements and avoiding debit cards for online transactions due to better fraud protections with credit cards. Using a limited or prepaid debit card can also minimize risk.

"If there's a security breach, only the funds on the prepaid card are at risk," he said, adding that if you think you are being scammed, check with the police.

"If you think you are being scammed, then you probably are," he said.

To underscore that no one is exempt, Fincher noted that the police department's credit card was stolen due to a data breach. "It's so prevalent nowadays," he said, and added "fortunately, we caught it quickly."



Several organizations partnered to present the COPE Experience at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

## COPE Experience highlights challenges of poverty

By Jessica Dillon

The Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE), an interactive simulation designed to immerse participants in the realities of poverty, debuted in Martinsville on August 28, with several organizations taking part in the 2.5-hour simulation that explored the lived experience of poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families.

According to Pamela Chitwood, who facilitated the events, the training was a response to the changes in how clients access resources and services since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chitwood, of the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD), noted that services including vaccinations have expanded to include such outreach as telemedicine, mobile clinics, and

other touchless contact methods.

Participants were divided into family units based on real-life scenarios from surveyed families, each facing unique crises. Common challenges included only one breadwinner in the home - which could easily push a family into poverty.

"This was impactful because one wrong move could have resulted in an eviction or lights out. My family unit was extremely lucky; even with some hard decisions and situations, we ended the simulation with a bit of money still in the bank," said Sharon Cobbler, a childcare business development specialist.

Cobbler's family unit included native Spanish speakers, limiting job opportunities due to language barriers. She also faced transportation

(See COPE p. 3)

## Miles in Martinsville prepares for Harvest Moon Run



Alfredo Huerta leaps over the finish line. (Contributed)

By Jessica Dillon

The Harvest Moon Run is an annual event returning after taking a break in 2023 on September 13. The event is put on by Miles in Martinsville, who puts on several local races a year. The event gives runners the choice between a 5K and 8K, with a music and beer festival to mark the end of the night.

The event started in 2014 and is The Martinsville Miles's only race that can go into the dark. "Somebody came up with the idea of celebrating around the Harvest Moon and making it an evening race,"

(See Harvest Moon Run p. 3)



Krista Scruggs presents her second-place award. (Contributed)

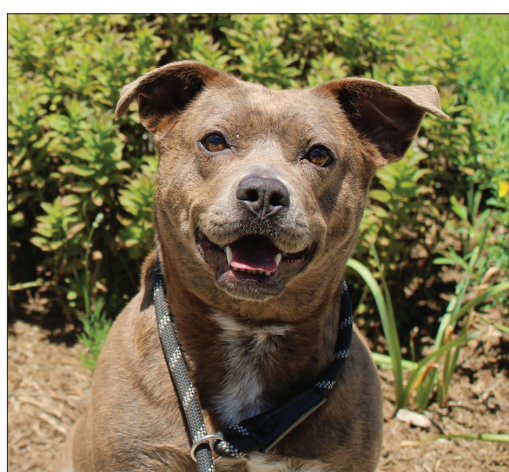
## SPCA Launches First-Ever 'Fur Fair'

By Jessica Dillon

The SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County will host its inaugural Fur Fair on Saturday, September 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with several free activities, as part of its 50th anniversary celebration, and to thank the community for its long-standing support.

"This is a public celebration from the SPCA as a way to say thank you for your continuous support throughout the years," said Caroline Frith, director of development and communications. Unlike the annual gala, this event is free and accessible to everyone.

The event will feature informational posters about the SPCA's achievements. "We have saved over 40,000 lives in 50 years. This celebrates how many lives we've saved and how many we will save



Nicole is the SPCA's current longest resident. (Contributed)

in the future," Frith said.

The Fur Fair will include vendors

with animal-themed products, food, kid-friendly activities, K-9 demonstrations, and a dog show. The shelter will be closed during the event, with all adoptable dogs brought to the fair to meet visitors.

"We will be bringing over every adoptable dog to the event," said Caroline Gupton, chief operations officer.

Frith added that the agency currently has several large breed dogs. "We are running an adoption special up to the day of the event and at the event. Adult dogs are free, and puppies are \$80."

Gupton emphasized the importance of interacting with dogs outside the kennel environment. "Being in places like shelters really hampers their personalities. The best way to get to know the dog is outside the kennel," she said.

(See SPCA p. 3)

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# Piedmont

(cont. from page 1)



Jamie Elgin celebrates her recovery with members of the Adult Recovery Court program.

"I didn't give it a fair chance, and I regret that," she admitted.

Elgin credited the Piedmont Drug Court with her recovery and expressed gratitude for those who supported her. "I was praying every day for God to change things, only to realize I had to change them myself. God doesn't leave us;

we leave Him," she said.

Elgin emphasized that her success in completing the Recovery Court program was due to her faith and support system. "My life is so different now. If I can do this, anyone can. I want to show people that God's love and hope are real, and change is possible," she said.



Jamie Elgin is pictured with several members of her support team.

PCS Martinsville Recovery Court Case Manager Leanne Martin recalled that Elgin was the first participant she met when starting her job at PCS. "I feel honored to have been with her throughout her entire journey. Jamie has become one of the program's standout successes," Martin said.

Martin praised Elgin's commitment and discipline. "Jamie has exemplified dedication to recovery with a clean drug screen record. Her journey highlights what can be achieved with hard work and commitment," Martin added.

Martin also noted Elgin's efforts to rebuild relationships with her family, which were crucial to her success. "Her hard work and family support have been essential in her recovery," Martin said.

Following her recovery, Elgin has received job offers and invitations to speak at community events, a testament to her skills and the positive changes she has made.

Circuit Court Chief and Presiding Judge G. Carter Greer commended Elgin for her resilience and determination. "The path to recovery is fraught with challenges. Jamie has overcome many obstacles and has been substance-free for over 365 days, a significant achievement," Greer said.

Statewide Specialty Dockets Coordinator Anna Powers recognized the hard work of Elgin and previous graduates. "Recovery courts



Jamie Elgin, pictured at her graduation ceremony on August 29, graduated from the Adult Recovery Court program.

are cost-effective and successful in reducing recidivism, providing necessary treatment, and breaking the cycle of substance use. Data shows that completing Recovery Court saves \$19,234 per participant and significantly lowers conviction rates," Powers said.

Powers noted that graduates like Elgin join a group of more than 600 Virginia Recovery graduates who have transformed their lives in the past year.

## Vietnam Bench dedication set

The dedication of the final phase of the Vietnam Bench will be held at 11 a.m. on November 11, at the Historic John D. Bassett Event Center in Bassett. The bench and ceremony are to honor veterans of the Vietnam Conflict.

Local veterans were honored for their service during the Vietnam Conflict when a small version of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. was installed in Bassett. The wall there is located on the grounds of the Bassett Historical Center. Its dedication took place on November 11, 2018.

The 105 veterans who missed

the deadline to have their names included on the wall will be honored by the installation of a bench that complements the existing Vietnam Wall.

The "Military Square," which is located on the grounds of the Bassett Historical Center, will be completed with the Vietnam Wall, Vietnam Bench, and Korean Conflict Bench.


You are invited to join the ceremony at 11 a.m. on November 11, as the Vietnam Bench is dedicated as part of the annual Veteran's Day Service.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

### Friday, September 13

Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Municipal Building Room 32, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

## Events

### Friday, September 6

Sounds on the Square: The Ghost of Liberty, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1 East Main Street, Martinsville.

### Saturday, September 7

Bassett Heritage Festival, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Bassett.

Unity in the Community Carnival, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 319 Hospital Drive, Martinsville.

### Thursday, September 12

Get to Know Your Candidates for City Council, 6-9 p.m., New College Institute, Martin-Lacy Lecture Hall, 191 Fayette St., Martinsville.

### Friday, September 13

Harvest Moon Run 5K-8K and Dancing on Depot, 7 p.m., Gazebo on Depot Street.

Miles 4 Vets Golf Tournament, noon, Beaver Hills Golf Club, 200 Beaver Hills Club Dr., Martinsville.

### Saturday, September 14

Fur Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Smith River Sports

Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

### Saturday, September 28

4RC Community Health Walk, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Sports Complex (below the amphitheater). The theme is “Be There.” Call (276) 252-3047 for more information.

### Saturday, October 5

EMS Continuing Education (CE) Saturday, sponsored by Bassett Rescue Squad, which has pulled together instructors from the region who will present various topics. Sign up at <https://www.co.henry.va.us/HCDPSclasses/>.

## ONGOING

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

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

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

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

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church

on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

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

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

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

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.

## COPE

(cont. from page 1)

issues, a common struggle for many families in poverty.

“Families faced continuous roadblocks, making it tough to make ends meet,” Cobbler added. “I encountered language barriers and transportation issues that hindered our progress.”

Community Engagement Coordinator Brandi Lawless, who played a key role in bringing the experience to Martinsville, recalled that her supervisor “became interested in the experience about six months ago and attended it virtually.”

Lawless and other community representatives completed virtual training before attending an in-person event.

Nikolette Antoniuk, director of family services at FIVE18 Family Services in Lynchburg, marveled at the impact of the experience.

“People were surprised by how they reacted when challenged,” she said. “I would challenge anyone in human services to find a service like this. It’s not just a game; it reveals the real struggles people face in poverty.”

At the end of the simulation, participants

discussed the most needed services in the area, highlighting transportation, nutrition, housing, maternal health, and mental health support.

The COPE events held in Henry and Franklin counties had overwhelming interest and attendance by several hundred people representing multiple organizations and agencies, according to the WPHD.

Agencies involved in coordinating the Martinsville event were the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), The Harvest Foundation, Virginia Department of Social Services, and the United Way of Henry Martinsville and Resource Center.

The Franklin County event was funded by VDH with resource leader assistance from Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Probation and Parole, and Franklin County Resource Coalition.

The Patrick County event was canceled due to the lack of registered participants. The hope is to try to bring this program back to the area in the future.



Jon and Nikolette Antoniuk helped bring the simulation to Martinsville.

## Harvest Moon Run

(cont. from page 1)

said promoter Joe Philpott.

Philpott said the race originally had the title “Dancing on Depot Street,” attached to it to help reflect the festive atmosphere.

Then, organizers “encouraged people to come out and dance, and the kids had light rings around their necks. The race starts when the actual Harvest Moon occurs astrologically,” Philpott said. “The race happens on Friday and will proceed on that date.”

The race date varies, sometimes occurring as late as October. “We try to set the starting time around 7 p.m., unless it’s in October, then we have to set it earlier, or you’re running totally in the dark.”

Philpott said that runners who plan to spend more than an hour on the course should bring a source of light for safety. “It’s kind of fun in that regard. Most people, when they finish, it’s still twilight, but by the time we get around to the awards ceremony, it’s dark.”

Philpott said that it’s “kind of a party atmosphere” and that there will be music acts, food by Hugo’s, and beer from Renewal Brewing. Youngsters are welcome and expected, and the Arts and Culture Committee will collaborate with the event to bring crafts to the event, along with offering volunteers.

The race itself has the most entrants in the 5K segment and has both downhill and uphill stints. “Typically, for the 5-k, you are going to see people running between 17 to 20 minutes to win,” Philpott said, expecting many to be in the 30-minute range, especially since the race welcomes joggers and walkers.

The 8K segment has fewer runners, and he expects those runners to finish within 30 to 35 minutes. Previously, the 8K was a 10K, but after part of the trail collapsed, the race was amended to accommodate the repairs.

“Typically, we would see 75 to 150 people

in the two races. It varies from year to year.” Philpott expects to see around 120 people, with “around 70 in the 5K and the rest in the 8K.”

Philpott recommends that runners always train before races, especially due to the hills on the race. “If all you’re doing is running a flat two miles around your neighborhood daily, it’s not going to get you ready for that course. If you’re going to race hills, you need to train on hills.”

Philpott says that for many races, the focus is on participation more than competing. “You get lots of people that do it for the exercise and the fun of it.”

The race will begin at 7 p.m. on September 13, with music by Jake Earls featuring Erin Givens, beer, and food available after the completion. Participants can register up to September 10, and those who don’t register are free to come and celebrate with the runners.

## SPCA

(cont. from page 1)

Frith noted that the average stay for a dog in the shelter is now 38 days. “The longer they stay here, the more they display unwelcoming behavior, but as soon as you get them out, they are sweet as pie. They just don’t like being cooped up.”

Additionally, cats at the shelter are available for \$5 until September 15. That fee includes all age-appropriate vaccines and tests.

A highlight of the event is the dog show, featuring twelve categories such as Wiggy Butt, Prettiest Pooch, Best Trick, and Most Interesting Mutt. The entry fee is \$5, allowing participation in multiple categories. Prizes will be awarded, and the show will take place at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Groomers and trainers will also be on-site to educate attendees about proper animal care and training.

“We hope this event will be a great success and show the public how much we appreciate their support,” Frith said of the fair that will be held at the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex.



Sherbert, a young cat up for adoption at the shelter. (Contributed)



Goldfish, a seven-month-old mix up for adoption. (Contributed)



# OPINION

## Regarding Arlington National Cemetery

My grandpa, James Akers Mize, lied about his age so that he could enlist in the Army when he was 16 years old. He joined the 84th Infantry Division and fought on the European front, ultimately losing his right leg to a mortar shell during the Battle of the Bulge at the tail end of 1944.

My grandpa received a Purple Heart, of course, and he was proud of it. His Purple Heart and his Army sharpshooter badge were kept on permanent display in a shadowbox in the living room. He had a Purple Heart baseball cap. Up until he quit driving, he had the Purple Heart emblem on his license plate. He was also proud of having served with the 84th Infantry Division, also known as the "Railsplitters." Back in the '70s, "Railsplitter" was his CB radio handle. I was too young for that, but I do remember how excited he was when he found a company selling a wristwatch commemorating the Railsplitters, and after it arrived in the mail, he wore it the rest of his life.

A lot of veterans don't like to talk about their war experiences, but my grandfather wasn't one of them. When I was about five years old, we were sitting in the living room watching a WWII documentary on PBS. Some Nazis appeared on screen and he pointed them out to me.

"Those are the men that took my leg," he said.

That was the first time I can remember him mentioning his service to me, but it certainly wasn't the last. Of course, I was five, and my grandparents' TV didn't get great reception on the old VHF antenna, so for some reason I thought the men he pointed out were pirates. I didn't ask any questions, though.

There were many valuable lessons my grandpa imparted to me. One was that the only good Nazi is a dead Nazi. I have yet to see any evidence to the contrary.

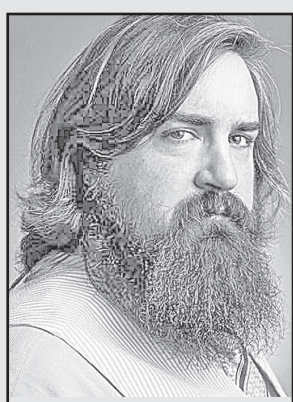
Another was that you respect troops, you respect veterans, and you respect those who lost their lives in service to America.

For my grandpa, there was a solemnity in military service. There was nothing more dignified than putting your life on the line in service to your nation. That didn't mean you were supposed to get excited when troops were deployed to fight abroad; it meant the opposite. You were supposed to worry about them, to keep them in your heart, and to pray for their safe return.

Unlike my grandpa, I never had a desire to serve in the military. In fact, getting drafted was one of my great existential fears for many years, probably because my grandpa had been honest about what he did and what he saw during the war. But I've always had a healthy respect for those who do choose to serve, and a solemn appreciation for those who have returned wounded and those who gave all.

And that is why I find former President Donald Trump's antics at Arlington National Cemetery to be one of his most disgusting and vulgar displays yet.

On Aug. 24, Trump and his entourage visited Arlington National Cemetery accompanied by a Gold Star family. As they made their way to Section 60 to visit the grave of the slain soldier, the cemetery's public af-



By Ben R. Williams

fairs director attempted to stop them. The director did this for two reasons: one, only cemetery staff are allowed to take photographs in section 60, and two, political or election-related activities are federally prohibited in military cemeteries. By having a photographer and videographer in tow for what was clearly a publicity stunt, Trump and his entourage were in violation of Arlington's rules.

This led to an altercation between the director and two members of Trump's staff. Steven Cheung, Trump's reprehensible campaign spokesman, later said the director was "clearly suffering from a mental health episode." The director considered pressing charges, but she ultimately declined out of fear of retaliation from Trump supporters.

Trump and his entourage forced their way through anyway and snapped their photos. Feel free to look them up if you want to see the grave of a man who lost his life in service to his nation, and standing next to it, Trump with a big smile and a thumbs-up like a car salesman about to offer you an unbelievable interest rate on a Buick.

Section 60 is the area of Arlington devoted to the recently deceased. It is the part of Arlington where you're most likely to find parents, children, wives, and husbands in mourning. It is the saddest and most solemn part of our nation's most solemn cemetery. And Trump and his cronies showed it all the gravity and dignity of an Old West photo booth at the county fair.

For literally any other person, this would be the disqualifying moment. If I got in a fight with an employee at Arlington National Cemetery, I would not only be disqualified from public office, but I would probably be fired from my job and spurned by my friends and family, and they would be right to do so.

For Trump, however, it's a barely perceptible bump in the road.

Much like the apocryphal story of the frog that doesn't jump out of the pot of boiling water as long as the temperature is increased slowly enough, it's sometimes difficult to grasp just how abnormal our current situation has become because it's been such a gradual decline.

However, I'll tell you this. If I could go back in time and tell my grandpa that in the year 2024, I would write a newspaper column about how Arlington National Cemetery should be treated with dignity and respect and that I assume the column will receive hate mail, he'd probably ask me if this country lost a war.

Sometimes, I'm not so sure we didn't.



Mr. Purrs-A-Lot (right) and Doodle.

## The art of getting kittened

It's the curse of summer: Kittens.

We are just a humble family of two who live in the country, and if we can get through a summer without some kitten crossing our path, we consider ourselves lucky.

Well, that luck wasn't to be this year. We got kittened.

My daughter's boyfriend called to say he had found a tiny kitten in the Walmart parking lot, of all places, and didn't know where to bring it, but figured we'd know what to do ...

Oh, do we ever. I sent him back to the store for some KMR – Kitten Milk Replacer – and tiny bottles.

When he arrived with the kitten, I gave all the lectures about how it would be going to the SPCA as soon as it was old enough to eat on its own. The teenagers agreed, and named the kitten Doodle in the meantime.

But I named it Fulano de Tal. That's a phrase in Spanish that we don't have the equivalent of in English. It sort of means "that whatever guy" – no one in particular, just some random fellow.

Because that's all that fluffy dark grey kitten was to us.

All the while, I had that little ache in my stomach, because if the SPCA could take Fulano de Tal, that simply meant one other kitten from someone else would have to be turned away.

Kittens needing homes are infinite, and places for them to be taken care of are not.

We were at our cat limit (three). Fulano finally got big enough to survive in the shelter and there he would wait to be picked for his forever home.

But then two things happened, one gradual, then the other paired with it that was an arrow to the heart.

The kitten really bonded with Mr. Purrs-A-Lot, whom we had picked



Holly Kozelsky

up in the road behind the Collinsville Sonic in 2014. Mr. Purrs-A-Lot already was the most affectionate cat we've ever seen (hence his name), a real cuddler. Before long, the little kitten and big fat Mister were inseparable.

Then, one day in July, I saw this Facebook post from Susan Sessoms, who works at the SPCA: "Us animal shelter workers are not ok - I cringe every time the phone rings because I know it's someone needing to surrender an animal or someone who found a stray."

Uf. And that next call was going to be from me.

Except that Mister made it clear that that was not going to happen.

The huge fat black cat and the wiry little fluffy dark grey kitten are constantly together. If we want to pet or cuddle the kitten, we do not even bother going to get the kitten. He'd just run right back to Mister. No; to cuddle the kitten, we go get Mister to cuddle with, and the kitten will follow right along and lay on top. The two of them purring together sound like chainsaws.

They eat together at the same time out of the same food dish, and they drink together at the same time out of the same water dish. They walk around together, but mostly, they nap all curled up together.

I have accepted the decision of someone other than myself.

And the kitten is now officially named Doodle.

## IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program



Koda Thompson, a 2023-2024 Dan River Year AmeriCorps member, helps a young student complete his homework at the afterschool program run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Danville Area. Thanks to a continuation grant from AmeriCorps, the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research is currently recruiting 31 AmeriCorps members for the 2024-2025 school year (the 10th year) to serve as STEM and Literacy Tutors in Danville, Pittsylvania County and Martinsville.

The Dan River Year AmeriCorps program is recruiting 31 part-time STEM and Literacy Tutors and Coaches for the 2024-2025 academic year to build and introduce curriculum and activities for students. AmeriCorps members will support upper elementary and middle school student gains in literacy, math and social-emotional learning by providing direct service in Pittsylvania County, and the cities of Martinsville and Danville at local elementary and afterschool partner sites.

In-School and Out-of-School Tutors will provide direct and indirect support to site(s) during school and after school and for family science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities. Members work with 4th- and 5th-grade students individually and/or small groups at school sites as well as upper elementary/middle school students at informal learning locations. They focus on building and introducing curriculum and activities for students,

helping prepare them for middle school by improving their literacy, math, STEM and/or social-emotional skills.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) administers the Dan River Year AmeriCorps program. The agency received a \$231,275 continuation grant from AmeriCorps to help fund the 10th year of operation.

Service dates are September 2024-August 2025 and range from five to 30 hours weekly. Stipends range from \$4,200 (300 hours) to \$13,500 (900 hours). Segal Education Awards for successful service completers range from \$1,565 (300 hours) to \$3,697 (900 hours).

The program is ideal for recent high school graduates or college students seeking a gap year, those entering the education field, career switchers and retirees.

For more information, visit <https://www.ialr.org/dan-river-year-ameri-corps>.

## National event observed locally



Community health workers in Martinsville delivered 'thank you' bags to key partners to observe National Community Health Workers (CHW) Appreciation Week. While the week was designed to celebrate them, this is a perfect example of the kind of people that CHWs are – always putting others first, according to the West Piedmont Health District. Pictured are CHW & Medical Interpreter Sayrel Garcia-Zuniga with WPHD Nurse Supervisor Steve Bailey. (Contributed)

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

emait us



# Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of September 9-14:

9/9 2pm Golf Bassett vs Halifax County (Greens Folly GC)  
2pm Golf Martinsville vs Halifax County (Greens Folly GC)  
7pm Volleyball Staunton River at Bassett  
7pm Volleyball Gretna at Magna Vista

7pm Volleyball Mecklenburg County at Martinsville  
9/10 6pm Volleyball Carlisle at North Cross  
7pm Volleyball George Washington at Bassett  
7pm Volleyball Magna Vista at Chatham  
9/11 5pm Cross Country Bassett at Tunstall  
5pm Cross Country Magna Vista at Tunstall  
5pm Cross Country Martinsville at Tunstall

7pm Volleyball Martinsville at William Fleming  
9/12 6:15p Volleyball Carlisle at SVA  
7pm Volleyball Bassett at Magna Vista  
7pm Volleyball Martinsville at George Washington  
9/13 7pm Football Dan River at Bassett  
7pm Football Chatham at Martinsville

## Entrepreneurs invited to connect, learn, and grow at summit

Calling all entrepreneurs, innovators, and visionaries! Southern Virginia's entrepreneurial community is set to converge at the inaugural Regional Innovation Summit for Entrepreneurs (RISE Summit) on Saturday, October 19th, 2024. This exciting event promises a powerhouse lineup of inspiring speakers, hands-on skill-building workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities—all designed to connect existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs with resources to start, grow, or scale in Southern Virginia.

"The RISE Summit is more than just another event—it's where real connections are made and where your ideas can gain the momentum they need," said Natalie Hodge Davis, CEO of Rudy's Girl Media and Entrepreneur Co-Chair of the RISE Summit. "What makes this summit unique is the intentional gathering of growth-minded entrepreneurs and potential new founders from across Southern Virginia. As an entrepreneur, I know how valuable it is to invest in these in-person gatherings. The relationships and insights you'll gain here are worth every minute and dollar spent."

Taking place in the resurgent city of Danville, VA, the RISE Summit will be held at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Doors open at

8:00am for breakfast and networking, and the program begins at 9:00am. The RISE Summit is laser-focused on equipping Southern Virginia's entrepreneurs with the essential knowledge, skills, and resources to supercharge their business ventures. Attendees will dive into critical topics like unlocking capital through microloans, grants, and contracts; mastering business essentials in marketing, finance, and accounting; crucial steps to bring your startup idea to life; and exploring A.I. and emerging technology. The format will include full group sessions and breakout sessions, with featured speakers, panels, and workshops to support entrepreneurs at each stage of business, from ideation to starting, growing, and scaling.

The RISE Summit will showcase speakers who live and work in Southern Virginia who understand the unique challenges and opportunities impacting the regional economy. For RISE Collaborative, the Southern Virginia region stretches along Highway 58 to Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania and other counties as well as the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

"In our rural region, starting and growing a business comes with distinct challenges and opportunities," said Lauren Mathena of the SOVA Innovation Hub. "The RISE Summit

bridges that gap, offering tailored resources and insights for new and existing business owners, while highlighting the economic growth trends transforming our region."

The RISE Summit is presented by RISE Collaborative, a regional initiative to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for all people in Southern Virginia, which is hosted by the SOVA Innovation Hub, a non-profit organization with a mission to drive economic transformation through digital skills and entrepreneurship. The RISE Summit event sponsors and partners include SOVA Innovation Hub, RetirePathVASM, Hitachi Energy South Boston, Letterpress Communications, Longwood SBDC, GO Virginia Region 3, Crater APEX Accelerator, Rudy's Girl Media, City of Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Southside Tech Services, and Community Investment Collaborative.

Tickets are on sale now at the early-bird rate of \$50 per person through September 30, then prices increase to \$65 per person on October 1. A limited number of student tickets are available. A limited number of scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. To learn more and purchase a ticket, visit <https://sovarise.com/summit-2024>.



## MPD officer earns second Award of Valor

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation (VACP) presented 36 Virginia law enforcement officers from 12 agencies with the association's highest honor, the Award for Valor. The group of recipients included Martinsville Police Officer Lt Doug Graham. The awards were presented on Aug. 27 at a banquet in Roanoke by Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

The Award for Valor recognizes a law enforcement officer who, in the

line of duty, performs an act of extraordinary heroism while engaged with an adversary at imminent personal risk.

"The Martinsville Police Department is extremely proud of Lt. Graham and his willingness to put his life on the line to protect the people of this community," Police Chief Robert Fincher said.

This award marks Graham's second VACP Award for Valor. He first received the honor in 2011.

## P&HCC Awarded State Police HEAT Grant

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has been awarded a HEAT Program FY25 Equipment Reimbursement grant from the State Police for \$12,500. This grant will be used to enhance campus security through the installation of advanced surveillance camera equipment.

These state-of-the-art 4K cameras are equipped with license plate identification capabilities and are designed to withstand harsh outdoor conditions. The cameras will be strategically installed to monitor ingress and egress points on campus, including the main drive on Patriot Avenue and the campus's main parking lot.

The new equipment will significantly enhance the security and safety of P&HCC's campus by allowing the college to monitor traffic and identify stolen or wanted vehicles and persons.

"We are grateful for the support from the State Police HEAT Program," said P&HCC Chief of Police Gary Dove, adding, "Not only will this enhance the security and safety of P&HCC's campus, but it will also boost the security of the service region by allowing the campus to assist law enforcement in the city of Martinsville and Henry County as they work to ensure the safety of our broader community."

## Positions change in city sheriff's office



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper (center) recently introduced Sgt. B. Nester (left) as the new Workforce Supervisor, and Lt. J. Corcoran (right), as the new Workforce Manager in the Martinsville Sheriff's Office. Draper said the officers look forward to serving in their new positions.

## Student Briefs

### Residents among JMU's Class of 2028

Several local residents are among the Class of 2028 members at James Madison University, including:

Joshua Alverson of Bassett, who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

Harrison Byrd of Martinsville, who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Xitlalli Mena of Ridgeway, who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Kiara Brown of Bassett, who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Lauren Mills of Martinsville, who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Peighton Boone of Martinsville, who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Jordan Caldwell-McGhee of Bassett, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Samiah Clark of Martinsville, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

## Suicide awareness event to be held at Ferrum College

In a significant effort to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, Ferrum College Social Work students and Resiliency and Hope Suicide Prevention Coalition members are hosting a Suicide Awareness Event on Saturday, September 7, at the College's home openers in football, women's soccer and men's soccer.

The event, "Stay in the Game", will be held during the football and soccer games, and aims to bring the community together to honor those lost to suicide and support those currently struggling with mental health challenges. Highlighting the event, football players, student athletes, band members and cheerleaders will take center stage in various roles throughout the day. Their participation underscores the importance of mental health awareness within the athletic community and beyond.

**Pre-Game Activities** - Informational



tables and resources from mental health organizations will be available for attendees, providing valuable information on suicide prevention and mental health support. The Black Hat Walk will also feature student athletes and supporters

sharing a mental health message as well.

**During the Game** - Student Athletes, fans and attendees will be wearing the nationally recognized teal and purple colors and gear to show solidarity and support for those facing mental health

challenges.

**Half-Time Tribute** - A poignant walk around the field will take place during the football game half-time. Football players, student athletes, cheerleaders, and attendees will join together in a symbolic gesture to honor those who have lost their lives to suicide and to show solidarity with those currently facing mental health challenges.

"Suicide Prevention Awareness Month reminds us that no one should have to face their struggles alone," said Ferrum College President Dr. Mirta Martin. "By partnering with our local Piedmont Community Services, we strengthen our commitment to creating safe spaces for honest conversations, offering support, and providing life-saving resources for our students and for all members of our Panther family. Together, we can make a difference, foster hope, and let every person know their life matters."



# CLASSIFIED

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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# LEGAL

## Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Property:

**905 Askin Street - condemned 7/25/2024**  
Gilbert R Cannaday & Mildred H Cannaday  
**912 Askin Street - condemned 7/25/2024**

Ronald D & Patricia A Gravely c/o Tony Millner Jr, Mersdessea Cordelia Shelton-Millner, Felecia Millner, Savannah Sweets, Joshua Sweets, Cyrus Sweets  
**1116 Banner Street - condemned 5/17/2023**  
Brason Properties LLC

**16 S. Barton Street - condemned 1/30/2024**  
Idella Draper-Heirs c/o Kermit Draper  
**313 Clift Street - condemned 11/01/2023**  
East Lynn Development LLC

**324 Clift Street - condemned 8/20/2024**  
Glynda C Wishnevsky ET ALS Roland Carter  
Gerald L Carter & Ritchie L Carter  
**203 George Street - condemned 6/28/2024**

Geraldine Draper Page, Phyllis Denise Page, Christina Nadea Schoefield, Andrae A Page, Vincent Wendell Page  
**107 Gravely Street - condemned 9/11/2019**  
Joel Santiago-Ramirez

All unknown/unidentified Heirs, Lien Holders, and Trustees for the above properties

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:

**905 Askin Street**  
PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.  
PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.  
PM-702.1 - Safe and continuous path not maintained to the building.

**912 Askin Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.  
PM\_301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.  
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound and tight to admit water.  
PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept in sound condition.  
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not maintained as approved.  
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not maintained as approved.

**1116 Banner Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.  
PM\_304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound and tight to deter rain.  
PM\_304.10 - Stairway not maintained in good repair.  
PM-304.18 - Building security not maintained.

**16 S. Barton Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.  
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.

**313 Clift Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.  
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.  
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept in sound condition.  
PM-305.1 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good and clean condition.

PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not maintained as approved.  
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not maintained as approved.

**324 Clift Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.  
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.  
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept in sound condition.  
PM-305.1 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good and clean condition.

PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not maintained as approved.  
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not maintained as approved.

**203 George Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.  
PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair (excessive vegetative overgrowth).  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound and tight to deter rain.  
PM-304.12 - Guard rails not firmly fastened and capable of supporting load.

**107 Gravely Street**  
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.  
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.  
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.  
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.  
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.

PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.  
PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound and tight to admit water.  
PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept in sound condition.  
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not maintained as approved.  
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not maintained as approved.

## ORDER

The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

**Right of Appeal**

You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 am until 5:00 p.m.

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# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL24001014-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT  
3160 Kings Mountain Rd., 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re*  
FELIPE TORRES v. GLORIA ALICIA HOLLAND  
CALLE ALESANDRO PRIETO 202 PTE  
COLONIA ZONA CENTRO 89800  
ELMANTE, TAMAULIPHS, MEXICO 89802

The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINVULO HARRIMONII It is ORDERED that GLORIA ALICIA HOLLAND appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on of before OCTOBER 20, 2024.

AUGUST 21, 2024

# LEGAL

## Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing for Martinsville City Council will be held on September 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request: **REQUEST for RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT** - Application of Derek Brown, Applicant and Owner, requesting the city's abandonment of an approximate 2500 square foot section of the right of way at property located at 406 James Street. The abandonment of streets, alleyways, right of ways or easements are a request require review and approval of the Planning Commission and City Council, as it will amend the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan. Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us Notice Submitted By: Hannah L. Powell, CZA Community Development Specialist

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Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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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

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## SERVICES

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# 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



## Updated vaccine said to better protect against current variants

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on August 30 granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for an updated version of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine that more closely targets currently circulating variants to provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death. The updated vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 12 years of age and older. It includes a monovalent (single) component that corresponds to the Omicron variant JN.1 strain of SARS-CoV-2.

“The COVID-19 vaccines have had a tremendous positive impact on public health and vaccination continues to be the most effective method for COVID-19 prevention,” said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. “COVID-19 continues to be a very real risk for many people, and we encourage individuals to consider getting an updated COVID-19 vaccine when eligible. Today’s authorization provides an ad-

ditional COVID-19 vaccine option that meets the FDA’s standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization.”

This authorization follows the FDA’s recent approvals and authorizations of updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for 2024-2025 manufactured by ModernaTX Inc. and Pfizer Inc.

Individuals 12 years of age and older who have never been vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive two doses of this updated vaccine, 3 weeks apart.

Individuals who have been vaccinated only with one dose of any Novavax COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive one dose of the updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine at least 3 weeks after the previous dose.

Those who have been vaccinated with a prior formula of a COVID-19 vaccine from another manufacturer or with two or more doses of a prior formula of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive a single dose of the

updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months after the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The FDA assessed manufacturing and non-clinical data to support the change to the 2024-2025 formula. The updated vaccine is manufactured using a similar process as previous formulas of this vaccine. Individuals who receive this vaccine may experience similar side effects as those reported by individuals who received previous formulas of this COVID-19 vaccine and as described in the fact sheets.

The FDA has determined that the updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine has met the statutory criteria for issuance of an EUA, including that the known and potential benefits of the vaccine outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 12 years of age and older.

As part of the recent action, the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (2023-2024 Formula) is no longer authorized for use.

## College presidents ink articulation agreement

Students with associate degrees from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) can now transition smoothly into business management or social work majors at Ferrum College and earn bachelor’s degrees within two years. Eligible students will also qualify for tuition benefits from the Panther Promise program.

These agreements focus on Ferrum’s Bachelor of Science in business administration: sports management and the Bachelor of Social Work degree. Ferrum already accepts associate of arts and associate of science graduates from all Virginia community colleges with access to the Ferrum Promise for most majors at Ferrum. Since 2019, the Ferrum Promise has ensured automatic completion of general education requirements, allowing the students to focus on coursework in their major area of interest and finish bachelor’s degrees in two years or Ferrum College covers the remaining cost.

Those who meet the established criteria will also be eligible for the Panther Promise, which offers free tuition to qualifying Virginia residential students. Ferrum lies within the service area of P&HCC, and its graduates are among Ferrum College’s most successful students and graduates, according to Dr. Jason Powell, Ferrum’s associate vice president for academic affairs. Initiatives like the Panther Promise and Ferrum Promise position



P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Ferrum College President Dr. Mirta Martin sign articulation agreements for two programs.

transfer students for success while also fueling the economic growth of the region.

“We are honored to partner with our colleagues at Ferrum – one of our students’ top transfer institutions—to ensure that the pathways for students who are working toward careers in social work and sports management are available in our area,” said P&HCC President Greg Hodges. “The opportunity to complete a four-year degree this close to home and at potentially no cost to the student will certainly equip them for a future of success in their area of interest.”



P&HCC Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services Dr. Chris Wikstrom and Ferrum Provost Dr. Delia Heck look on as P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Ferrum College President Dr. Mirta Martin shake hands at recent signing event.

“The partnership between Ferrum College and Patrick & Henry Community College marks a transformative step in expanding educational access and deepening the bonds within our communities,” said Ferrum College President Mirta Martin. “By uniting our strengths, we are creating pathways that empower students to achieve their dreams, while forging connections that will uplift our entire region. Together, we are not only shaping the future of education but also building a brighter, stronger community for generations to come.”

Hodges and Martin signed the agreements on the P&HCC campus on August 29, with other college officials and students present. The memoranda of understanding they signed affirm “the shared goal of fostering educational collaboration and enhancing academic opportunities for students.”

Learn more about the Ferrum Promise at <https://www.ferrum.edu/admissions-aid/transfer-students/>. Learn more about the Panther Promise at <https://www.ferrum.edu/admissions-aid/cost-and-aid/tuition-and-fees>.

## County fair set for Sept. 25-28

By Taylor Boyd

The 4th annual Henry County Fair is set to be held at the Martinsville Speedway from Wednesday, September 25 to Saturday, September 28, presented by the Henry County Parks & Recreation Department.

Roger Adams, director of the county’s Parks and Recreation Department, said the fair will include a lot of exciting things including the standard rides, food, games, exhibits, and animals from Infinity Acres.

“Then the shows are really going to be the highlight of the fair. We have two large ground attractions, we have the Pompeyo Family Dog Show from ‘America’s Got Talent’ and we have the brand new Space Adventure Thrill Show,” he said.

Adams said Cole Rides will once again pro-

vide about 20 rides for children and adults to enjoy throughout the event.

Concerts include a tribute band night with Key West, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band, taking the stage on Wednesday, Adams said. Thursday night is country night, with Jack & David Reid performing.

“Friday night’s Spirit FM night, and we’re having Jordan Feliz, a national contemporary Christian artist,” Adams added.

The firework show will be Saturday night to mark the fair’s conclusion, Adams said, adding that he hopes around 8,000 people will visit the fair over the four-nights it is scheduled. “Last year we probably had only about 4,000, but we lost all day Saturday,” he said.

Adams said gate admission is \$5, which includes access to all shows, concerts, exhibits,

and animals.

Unlimited discounted ride wristbands can be purchased by going to [www.colerides.com](http://www.colerides.com). Regular ride wristbands can be purchased on-site.

The fair will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 5-10 p.m., Friday from 5-11 p.m., and Saturday from 12-11 p.m.

Sponsors for various parts of the fair include Henry County, Henry County Department of Parks and recreation, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, VisitMartinsville, Bassett Furniture, B99.9, SW Virginia Gas, Hooker Furniture, Bryant Radio Supply, Sarver Properties, Campbell Family Foundation, and The Phillips Group, Inc.

For more information, visit [www.henry-countyvafair.com](http://www.henry-countyvafair.com).

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## BHC program to feature author Alan Stie

Alan Stie and some of his work will be featured in Bassett Historical Center’s (BHC’s) upcoming program on Tuesday, October 29 at 10:30 a.m. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the center’s Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room.

An author, Stie will share stories from his new book titled, “From Blue Ridge Mountain Boy to Sooner Slayer: A Perspective on Hunting, Fishing, Family, and Friends.”

The book includes many adventures all over the Midwest and a lot in rural America. Stie said that his real passion in his writing lies in a place called Franklin County, Virginia, a place that he says is like no other.

“No doubt you will want to read about Granddaddy Walter Ferguson. Granddad helped create Nascar,” Stie claims in the book, according to an online excerpt. After explaining that Ferguson got crossways with the law during moonshine-running days, the excerpt noted that “he’s also

the one who took me catfishing and taught me how to catch trout. We spent a lot of time talking about the environment and of Christ.”

Books will be available to purchase from the author – Hardback \$35/Softback \$20.

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**MORE INFO: Contact bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu**

## Golf tournament funds to aid athletic programs

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Athletics will host its 2024 Fundraiser Golf Tournament on October 11, at Chatmoss Country Club. This event aims to raise funds to support P&HCC's athletic programs, ensuring continued success for student-athletes both on and off the field.

P&HCC Athletics provides students with opportunities to compete at high levels while fostering teamwork, leadership, and personal development. The funds raised will benefit athletic equipment, travel expenses, and facility improvements.

"We are thrilled to host this year's fundraiser and bring together our community, alumni, and supporters for a day of fun and competition," said Brian Henderson, assistant vice president for Student Engagement and Athletic Director at P&HCC. "Our athletes work incredibly hard, both academically and athletically, and this event allows us to give them the resources they need to excel."

### Event Details:

**Date:** October 11

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Location:** Chatmoss Country Club, 550 Mt. Oliver Rd., Martins-

ville, VA 24112

**Format:** Four-Person Captain's Choice

**Registration Fee:** \$300 (includes green fees, cart, and snacks/drinks)

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** Various sponsorship levels are available, ranging from hole sponsorships to event title sponsors. All sponsors will receive recognition throughout the event and in promotional materials.

The tournament will feature activities such as a longest drive contest, closest-to-the-pin challenge, raffle prizes, and a silent auction. An awards ceremony will follow the round of golf.

**How to Register:** Participants can register online by contacting the P&HCC Athletics Office at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu. Early registration is encouraged as spots are limited and expected to fill up quickly.

For more information about the tournament, sponsorship opportunities, or to get involved, please contact Brian Henderson, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletic Director, at 276-656-0313 or via email at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

## Tiered framework to replace school accreditation system

The Virginia Board of Education approved changing the current accreditation system to identify tiered supports that the state Department of Education (VDOE) will partner with schools to implement.

The four performance categories - Distinguished, On Track, Off Track, Needs Intensive Support - will replace the current accreditation system to have a clear accountability model through the new School Performance and Support Framework, according to a release from the VDOE.

The framework provides critical performance information by school, grade level, and federally identified student groups such as English Learners, Black Students, and students with disabilities. With the four categories, the new Framework clearly states how a school is performing and allows parents, families, and educators to have a better understanding of the successes and challenges present in their children's schools and clearly see who is growing towards mastery, who is meeting and exceeding grade level targets, and which schools are preparing students to be ready for their next phase of life.

Under the new framework, schools that are Distinguished will be spotlighted and elevated to share their evidence-based strategies, showing what's possible regardless of school size, geographic region, or student population. Schools who are struggling will be clearly identified to better receive targeted support and guidance to meaningfully improve.

Following nearly a year of public hearings, with 10 engagements last winter and 20 this spring bringing together more than 1,000 participants to discuss the proposed Framework, as well as multiple rounds of public review of the Framework and additional public comment periods, the School Performance and Support Framework is designed to give parents, school leaders, and communities greater awareness of their

schools' performance, as well as ensure VDOE works closely with school divisions and school principals on targeted tiered support designed to address individual school's specific improvement needs.

Throughout the regulatory process, Virginians were strongly in favor of the reforms being made by the board. For example:

- Nearly two-thirds of the comments supported the new proposed regulations.
- 85% of comments supported a continued focus on chronic absenteeism.
- Nearly 70% of the comments on weighting in the Framework were supportive of a higher weighting for mastery.
- 60% of the comments were supportive of including English Learners in the Framework results by reducing the number of semesters English Learners are excluded from the current five and a half years to including them after three semesters.

The federal government requires Virginia to identify the lowest 5% of performing schools in the state that need comprehensive support. These schools need intensive support and also receive additional federal monies to support their school improvement efforts. For school divisions with 10 or more schools identified for comprehensive support, or at least 40% of the schools identified for comprehensive or additional targeted support, local school boards will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VDOE. The MOU is an agreement between the school division and VDOE to put plans and tiered supports in place to enable students to realize meaningful academic improvement while the public schools remain under the control and operation of their local school board.

Starting in the 2025/2026 school year, Accreditation status will be reserved only for operational compliance classification.

## NCI's King Hall approved testing center

The New College Institute's (NCI) King Hall Testing Center, located at 30 Franklin Street, is now an approved ETS Certified Test Administrator Services (CTAS). Because of this approval, NCI now offers the Praxis® test as one of its many testing options.

Praxis® tests are a key teacher certification step for aspiring teachers to prove their competencies and knowledge in their area of academic focus.

"When I learned that Longwood @ NCI students were driving long distances to complete their Praxis® test, we immediately recognized it as a barrier to opportunity for our students and our community," NCI Executive Director Joe Sumner said. "With the newly expanded capabilities of the King Hall Testing Center, NCI continues to strengthen the pipeline of current and future educators for our community. This new offering represents the shared successes that are possible through strong partnerships such as Longwood @ NCI, and we are honored to be a part of workforce development solutions."

"We are grateful that NCI will now be offering the Praxis® exams," said Dr. Pamela Randall, Longwood University Associate

Professor of Education and Site Coordinator at NCI. "Up until now, students seeking licensure had to travel to Roanoke or Greensboro for testing. There are multiple test requirements, and local testing will save students valuable time and money. We are thankful for the partnership and support that NCI provides for our Longwood @ NCI students."

The NCI King Hall Testing Center's 2024 Praxis® testing schedule begins on September 10. The Praxis® test will be available on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m. The Praxis® will also be available on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

NCI will look to expand the Praxis® schedule in 2025. To schedule your Praxis® exam, please visit <https://praxis.ets.org/>.

In addition to offering the Praxis® test, NCI also offers proctored, monitored, and secured tests for Pearson Vue and CLEP®. Private testing and accommodations are available upon request.

For more information about ETS iBT testing, call King Hall & Testing Center Coordinator Stacey Davis at (276) 403-5615 or email [sdavis@newcollegeinstitute.org](mailto:sdavis@newcollegeinstitute.org).

## New podcast intends to better engage with residents



Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher (right) appeared on the first episode of The Behind the Badge podcast series and discussed new school zone speed monitoring systems with Kendall Davis (left), the city's PIO. The podcast is available on the City of Martinsville's social media page.

### By Taylor Boyd

The City of Martinsville recently started a Behind the Badge podcast series on the city's social media to better engage with residents. The podcast features updates and discussions with Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher.

Kendall Davis, the city's Public Information Office (PIO), said Martinsville was looking for ways outside of just having a physical presence to engage with the community on social media.

"The Up To Date podcast that we do just on regular city matters gets a lot of response and views on social media, so we figured that would be a good way to give Fincher an opportunity to talk to the public, inform the public," Davis said, adding the city also hopes to open communication for residents to submit topics they would like to hear about from the police department.

The first podcast was released on August 29, and focused on the new school zone speed monitoring systems that are in place in every city school zone. It was recorded on August 20, according to Davis, who noted discussions about the podcast began on August 12.

In the few days since the podcast's first episode aired, Davis described

the reception as "good. On social media, we got the views that we expected for the first type of podcast. So far, it's been good. We just look forward to getting it to be more popular and looking forward to getting more response from the community. The few comments we've had on there have been positive."

Currently, the plan is for a new episode to be released every two weeks, Davis said, adding the plan is to release the second episode during the second week of September. Topics for future episodes include community policing and police academy activities.

"It's really about things that will be happening, you know, issues or good things that arise throughout the course of in-between the podcasts," Davis said. The podcast is "really giving him (Fincher) the opportunity to update the community on whether it's pressing matters or initiatives that are taking place inside of the police department."

For those who submit topics, "I just want to say that if it's appropriate, if it's something that the police can actually talk about, if it's something that he can actually speak on, then we will" feature it in an upcoming podcast, Davis said.

Submit a topic by emailing Davis at [kdavis@martinsvilleva.gov](mailto:kdavis@martinsvilleva.gov).

## Continued claims increase, initial claims down

The 2,185 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending August 24, 2024, were 19.1 percent lower than last week's 2,702 claims and 21.3 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,777), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 83 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (258); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (256); Health Care and Social Assistance (189); Retail Trade (186); and Manufacturing (178).

Continued weeks claims (16,311) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (16,290) and were 23.0 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,258). Nearly 93 percent

of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,494); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,196); Manufacturing (1,579); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,505); and Retail Trade (1,279).

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



# Crossing the Lines

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

## Hospital property for sale in online auction



A sign recently added to the former hospital property indicates it is for sale in an online auction. (Photo by Pat Delaney)

The former Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick, a 63,000-square-foot facility, is up for sale in an online auction with a starting bid of \$599,000 and a suggested value of \$3.6 million, according to fre.com.

Located at 18688 Jeb Stuart Highway, the property includes a 10.08-acre tract with excellent highway frontage. The two-story brick and block building, once a 50-bed regional hospital, features an emergency room, exam and trauma rooms, radiology, clinic/medical offices, and operating rooms. It also has a large parking lot with 75 spots

and ambulance access. The facility, vacant since 2017, is equipped with a fire sprinkler system. Property taxes are \$32,776.91.

The hospital closed after Pioneer filed for bankruptcy in 2016. Virginia Community Capital (VCC) purchased the property for \$5.7 million at a 2019 auction. Foresight Hospital and Health System acquired it in 2022, planning to open an emergency department and establish about five critical access beds, along with support services like radiology, imaging, laboratory, and pharmacy. Other services were to be phased in as needed.



Patrick County Sheriff's Investigator Jason Kruse reviewed some of the more prevalent scams and related stories of incidents of scams perpetrated locally at a recent Ararat Community Crime Watch meeting.

## Scams are increasingly common, even in Patrick County

According to statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), there are more than 750,000 complaints received each year from those who have fallen victim to a scammer. In 2023, scammers caused people to lose \$12.5 billion, and this is happening everywhere. Even here in Patrick County.

"Honestly, I think the mentality is, I'm not a victim. It's not going to happen to me. People need to realize this can happen in Patrick County," Patrick County Sheriff Lt. Steve Austin said.

The reality is that even recently, a resident lost nearly \$2,000 to scammers. The scam required the resident to buy gift cards to receive something of greater value. While that might seem suspicious to some, there is more to the story.

A Facebook friend endorsed the plan, validating everything the scammer had said - including the results. What the resident didn't know was that their friend's Facebook profile had been compromised, and the individual endorsing the scam was not a long-time friend, but an accomplice in the scam.

Believing the 'friend's' validation, the person followed the instructions, purchasing gift cards totaling the desired amount. The instant the card numbers were delivered to

the scammer, the money was gone, with no way to trace it.

And there are more stories like this as scams become a bigger problem locally.

"Scamming in general, aside from drug crimes, currently, is the number one issue that we have. It could be corporate, and it could be private individuals. The problem is it's the least likely to be solved," said Patrick County Sheriff Capt. Eric O'Connell. The transition in the last 10 years has been from "common B-and-E (breaking and entering) type crimes in general investigations to a lot more white collar type of crimes. Specifically, scams."

For those falling prey to scammers, the disappointment of having lost their money is compounded because bringing the guilty to justice is unlikely to happen. But that's not for a lack of trying.

"A lot of these cases do go unsolved, and I think sometimes it can be misunderstood that it's due to our lack of experience or various reasons," said O'Connell. "Truth be known, it's because they're almost untouchable," because the scammer often is located overseas.

"These things are very hard to solve and it's not because we can't or don't want to. We'd love to" bring them to justice, O'Connell said.

## Annual agricultural fair set Sept. 12-14

The 70th Patrick County Agricultural Fair is set to be held from Tuesday, September 10 through Saturday, September 14 at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Sonny Swails, a member of the Rotary Club of Stuart and an organizer, said the event will be fun, with games for everyone. "I think it's 16 rides that are going to be there. That's what we normally get."

In addition to animals, booths, and exhibits, music will be performed in the Hooker Building each night, from 6 - 9 p.m., and possibly 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The annual Demolition Derby will be held Saturday, September 7, a week before the fair, Swails said, and explained "the demolition derby has historically been on Saturday night, and Saturday night's traffic jams are horrendous. We've had traffic backed

up on 58 all the way to the stoplight at Walmart."

As a result, organizers opted to hold the derby a week early.

"We're just hoping that we'll have our normal turnout for the derby, but at the same time we hope it's going to relieve some of the traffic on the Saturday night of the fair, so it won't be such a bottleneck with people trying to get into the fairgrounds. We'll see how it goes; it may work, and it may not. If it doesn't work, we'll go back to having it Saturday night at the fair, but I hope that it's going to make a difference," he said.

Swails said a Saturday afternoon matinee is planned for small children. Wristbands are reduced in price from 3-6 p.m., when they return to the regular price. He advised parents of small children to look at the Cole rides website to determine height restrictions.

## PCS hosts celebration for National Recovery Month on Saturday

Piedmont Community Services (PCS) will hold its 4th annual National Recovery Month Celebration on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Dehart Park in Stuart.

PCS Community Recovery Coordinator Kat Heredia said that every year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosts September as its National Recovery Month from substance use and or mental health.

"It's really just a day where a lot of our staff who, like myself, I'm a person in long-term recovery, we come out, we want to have a really good time, kind of 'destigma' around what it's like to get into recovery. It's a really great way to get out in the community and let people know recovery is for everyone and they don't have to be alone," she said, adding the event is rotated each year to different areas served.

Heredia said she believes it's important for people to know that even though the event is based around recovery and celebrating the journey of recovery, it's open for anyone in the community.

"It doesn't have to just be someone who has a lived experience. It can be for friends and family members and senior citizens and kids. It's really all across the board. I want everyone to feel welcome," she said.

Heredia said the event will start at 10 a.m. with opening comments from Patrick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Doug Perry, of the Smith River District.

The Walk for Hope begins at 11 a.m., Heredia said, and explained the walk will be along DeHart Park. She estimated it may be about 20 minutes long. "We just picked something very simple that most people can maneuver."

## Reynolds Homestead takes the next step in community kitchen expansion

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia, is seeking input from potential business operators and the broader community as it undertakes an expansion project to build a 1,500-square-foot community kitchen.

Reynolds Homestead is gathering information on the types of programming, services, and equipment that would best meet the community's needs. The survey can be accessed online: <https://bit.ly/rhkitchensurvey>.

"The community kitchen has a three-pronged mission. It will serve as a teaching kitchen, a certified kitchen utilized by entrepreneurs interested in developing a food-based business, and as a catering kitchen for events held at the Reynolds Homestead," said Julie Walters Steele, director of the Reynolds Homestead. "Food truck owners and caterers may also be interested in using the kitchen."

The Richard S. Reynolds and Virginia S. Reynolds foundations have donated \$800,000 to help fund the project. The Reynolds Homestead is seeking local donations to provide additional funds needed for the construction costs.

Dewberry architects and engineers have completed a design that includes a food preparation area with commercial kitchen equipment, a demonstration cooking station and eight teaching stations.



An architectural rendering of the Reynolds Homestead Community Kitchen (Courtesy of Dewberry)

Each station features a range, refrigerated cabinet, handwash and rinsing sinks and kitchen wares.

Patrick & Henry Community College plans to offer culinary classes in the kitchen, and the Reynolds Homestead, which hosts more than 40 food events annually, will use the space for catering on-site and off-site programs. With the expansion of the Community Engagement Center, the homestead hopes to host larger events, offering in-house catering as well as place settings, linens and other items for those renting the facility.

The demonstration station will allow students to gather around an instructor for presentations of different cooking and preserving methods. The Patrick County Virginia Cooperative Extension staff will use this area for conducting classes to

teach patrons how to prepare and preserve food from their gardens and local farmers markets.

The Reynolds Homestead will also use the demonstration table to raise revenue to support the culinary program. In an intimate 12-seat arrangement, patrons will have an opportunity to observe a local chef preparing and serving them a delectable meal.

Entrepreneurs interested in starting a food-based business will have access to commercial equipment as well as storage space for their supplies as they work to prototype a product and test its marketability. This provides an opportunity for individuals to establish their product in the market before investing in a production kitchen of their own. The kitchen will also be available for catering and food truck operations.

To read more about these and other stories, check out *The Enterprise*, [www.theenterprise.net](http://www.theenterprise.net).

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# Minimum age increases for certain restrictions on tobacco sales

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Aug. 29 announced a final rule that raises the minimum age for certain restrictions on tobacco product sales. These requirements are in line with legislation signed in December 2019 that immediately raised the federal minimum age of sale of tobacco products in the United States from 18 to 21 years of age. Once implemented, the requirements are expected to help decrease underage tobacco sales.

Beginning Sept. 30, retailers must verify with photo identification the age of anyone under the age of 30 who is trying to purchase tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Previously, this requirement applied to anyone under the age of 27. It's important for retailers to request and examine photo IDs to verify the age of anyone under 30, regardless of appearance, as research has shown that it is difficult for retailers to accurately determine the age of a customer from appearance alone.

Also beginning Sept. 30, retailers may not sell tobacco products via vending machine in facilities where individuals under 21 are present or permitted to enter at any time. Previ-

ously, this prohibition applied to facilities where individuals under 18 were present or permitted to enter at any time. These, and the other changes made by the final rule, aim to maximize the public health impact of the original December 2019 legislation.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed into law on Dec. 20, 2019, increased the federal minimum age for the sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 across the United States. Since then, it has been illegal to sell tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to anyone under 21 years of age. The law also directed the FDA to take today's action, increasing the age of certain requirements for tobacco product sales, as explained above.

The agency's latest action is part of ongoing federal efforts to protect young people from accessing tobacco products. More than 95 percent of U.S. adults who smoke daily smoked their first cigarette by the age of 21. Accordingly, the FDA continues to robustly enforce the federal minimum age of sale for tobacco products, including after the minimum age of sale was increased to 21.



A 2000 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling east on U.S. 58 when the vehicle ran off the left side of the road, crossed the median and reportedly struck the trailer portion of a parked tractor trailer.

## Two died in Monday crash

The Virginia State Police are investigating a single-vehicle crash that resulted in two deaths. The crash occurred Monday, Sept. 2, at 12:30 p.m. on U.S. 58, near Summit Drive in Henry County.

A 2000 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling east on U.S. 58, when the vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway, crossing the median striking the trailer portion of a tractor trailer which was stationary, according to the state police.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Albert David Elliott, 62, of Henry County, Va. He was wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

The passenger was identified as Melissa Sue Willard, 57, also of Henry County, Va. She was wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation.

# Ready-To-Eat Jerky Products Recalled

Hickory Hollow Jerky, a Eufaula, Ala., establishment, is recalling approximately 6,229 pounds of ready-to-eat jerky products that were produced without the benefit of federal inspection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The beef jerky and bacon jerky products were produced on various dates between Jan. 19, 2024-Aug. 21, 2024. The products were produced without the benefit of inspection by two different owners of the establishment. Ownership changed hands on June 11, 2024. The name of the establishment and the products have remained the same. The products subject to recall are listed here, and the product labels can be viewed here.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. NO. 34550" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and through internet sales.

The problem was discovered during routine FSIS surveillance activities when it was determined that the establishment continued to produce these jerky products and label them with the USDA mark of inspection after requesting to voluntarily stop FSIS-inspection activities.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to con-

sumption of these products. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' pantries. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

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

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Charles O'Neill, current Co-Owner of Hickory Hollow Jerky at 262-745-5103 or [HickoryHollowBeefJerky@gmail.com](mailto:HickoryHollowBeefJerky@gmail.com) or Russ Robbins, previous owner of Hickory Hollow Jerky, at 334-695-5238 or [hhjerky@gmail.com](mailto:hhjerky@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/>.

# Online Debt Consolidation Tool launched

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a Debt Consolidation Tool, an innovative online tool available through [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov), to allow agricultural producers to enter their farm operating debt and evaluate the potential savings that might be provided by obtaining a debt consolidation loan with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) or a local lender.

A debt consolidation loan is a new loan used to pay off other existing operating loans or lines of credit that might have unreasonable rates and terms. By combining multiple eligible debts into a single, larger loan, borrowers may obtain more favorable payment terms such as a lower interest rate or lower payments. Consolidating debt may also provide farmers and ranchers additional cash flow flexibilities.

The Debt Consolidation Tool is a significant addition to FSA's suite of improvements designed to modernize its Farm Loan Programs. The tool enhances customer service and increases opportunities for farmers and ranchers to achieve financial viability by helping them identify potential savings that could be reinvested in their farming and ranching operation, retirement accounts, or college savings accounts.

Producers can access the Debt Consolidation Tool by visiting [farmers.gov/debt-consolidation-tool](http://farmers.gov/debt-consolidation-tool). The tool is built to run on modern browsers including Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser. Producers do not need to create a [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) account

or access the authenticated customer portal to use the tool.

The FSA recently announced significant changes to Farm Loan Programs through the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule. These policy changes, to take effect September 25, are designed to better assist borrowers to make strategic investments in the enhancement or expansion of their agricultural operations.

The FSA also has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made several impactful improvements including:

The Loan Assistance Tool that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process.

The Online Loan Application, an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.

An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local USDA Service Center to pay a loan installment.

For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

# Ginseng harvest season now underway

Ginseng harvest season in the Commonwealth began Sept. 1, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) advises ginseng harvesters to be aware of the laws protecting this valued plant. Wild American ginseng is listed as a threatened species in Virginia and protected by international treaty, and VDACS is responsible for regulating ginseng harvest and sales in the Commonwealth.

American ginseng is a native slow-growing, shade-loving perennial that grows wild in Virginia's forests, particularly in the western and southwestern parts of the state. The root of the American ginseng plant is valued as a medicinal herb for a wide range of ailments. Anyone planning to harvest ginseng should be aware of the harvest regulations protecting this valued plant.

Wild ginseng harvest season begins on Sept. 1 and ends on Dec. 31 of each year. Wild ginseng cannot be harvested from Jan. 1 through Aug. 31.

Wild ginseng that is younger than five years old, has fewer than four stem scars present on its rhizome or has fewer than three prongs cannot be harvested.

Any person who harvests wild ginseng must plant the seeds of the harvested plant at the harvest site at the time of harvest.

Ginseng collection is prohibited on most public lands in Virginia, including state and national parks and forests. On public lands where ginseng harvesting is allowed, diggers must obtain a permit from the appropriate office or agency before harvesting any ginseng. Collecting any portion of the plant, including the berries, for personal or commer-

cial use from federal land is strictly prohibited. Anyone caught removing ginseng from federal lands may face a fine of up to \$5,000, six months in jail, or both. Violation of Virginia's wild ginseng harvest regulations is punishable by imprisonment for up to 12 months, up to a \$2,500 fine, or both.

Ginseng harvest regulations do not apply to individuals harvesting wild ginseng from their own land. Individuals harvesting ginseng from private property must obtain permission from the property owner prior to plants being removed. Permission should be in writing and kept with the individual harvester at the time of harvest. Landowners are encouraged to observe the same size and age restrictions and seed planting guidelines to help ensure the continued, long-term viability of wild ginseng when ginseng digging occurs on their property.

Individuals shipping or transporting ginseng from Virginia in amounts of eight ounces or greater per calendar year must have the ginseng certified by VDACS. Wild ginseng is often exported to Asia and Europe, with market interest also occurring within the Commonwealth. Individuals buying or accepting ginseng to sell must obtain a license from VDACS.

During the 2023 season, approximately 1,700 pounds of wild ginseng roots were harvested in Virginia, with a value of nearly \$1.2 million. It takes between 250 and 300 roots to acquire one pound of wild ginseng.

Visit [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-ginseng.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-ginseng.shtml) for more information or contact Keith Tignor at 804.786.3515 or [keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov).

## Puzzle Answers!

### SNOWFLAKES

solution

### TAXING TERMS

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

## SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Govern; 2. Large; 3. Divert; 4. Neon

Today's Word  
**ELEVATOR**

## FEAR & KNIT

answer

R	A	N	K	L	E
A		O		U	
G		T	A	N	G
T	A	K	E	N	G
			E	B	E
Y		A		U	
O	A	R	I	N	G
L		B		K	
K	E	Y		O	

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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





# PUZZLE TIME

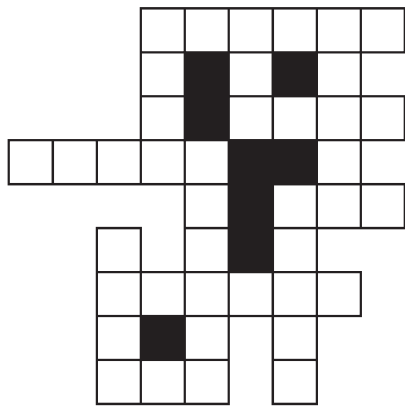


## FEAR KNOT

By: rj Johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

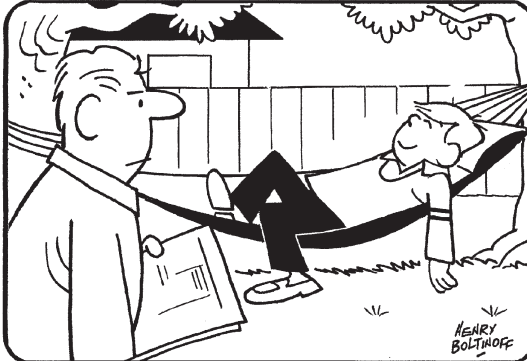
- EBG
- ERNALK
- KNATE
- ♥AGNT
- GARION
- YKE
- ♥EGRA
- KUBON
- ♥NTO
- BAYERN
- UGNEL
- KYLO



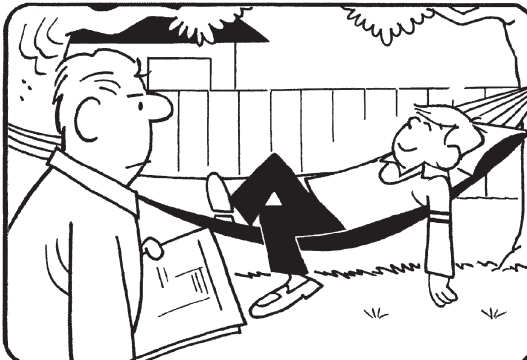
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's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

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. House is not as wide. 5. Leaves are missing. 6. Tree trunk is different.

## MAGIC MAZE

## TAXING TERMS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: ADJUSTED GROSS —

- Appeal
- Dependent
- Dividends
- e-file
- Excise tax
- Exemptions
- Flat tax
- Interest
- IRS
- Luxury tax
- Refund
- Sin tax
- Tax code
- Tax evasion
- Wages

## Super Crossword

## STITCHWORK

- ACROSS**
- 1 Asteroid belt's largest body
  - 6 Ooze
  - 10 Lavish party
  - 14 PC peripheral
  - 19 "Halt!" at sea
  - 20 Forearm bone
  - 21 Nagging pain
  - 22 Amtrak train
  - 23 Part of a cylinder lock preventing motion
  - 25 Lectures aided by blackboards
  - 27 Concerning Gigi's "yes"
  - 28 Working stiff
  - 30 "Bad Guy" singer Billie
  - 31 Wrestler's leg lock
  - 35 Pop rocker Turner
  - 36 Co. big shot
  - 37 Eye, to poets
  - 38 — Dhahi
  - 39 Egg-shaped
  - 41 Instant lawn
  - 44 Manor
  - 46 Original name of the comic strip "Popeye"
  - 49 French painter Camille
  - 51 San Diego basebatter
  - 52 Pulsate
  - 53 Revered one
  - 56 Arizona tribe
  - 59 Burglarize
  - 60 Twosome
  - 62 Adhesive-roll containers
  - 66 Study of light
  - 67 Actor's signal
  - 68 "Angel"
  - 74 Inoculation creation
  - 77 Siblings' daughters
  - 78 Noted coach Parseghian
  - 79 Scientology's — Hubbard
  - 80 With
  - 84-Across, think piece in a newspaper
  - 81 Lug along
  - 82 — Taco (frozen treat)
  - 84 See
  - 80-Across
  - 87 Edible fungus whose cap has not yet opened
  - 92 Sunday paper extra
  - 96 That, to Lucia Forest, brush or desert
  - 98 Pothole filler
  - 99 Inclined (to)
  - 100 "The Thinning" actress — Marie Johnson
  - 101 — diagram (logic image)
  - 102 Posting of off-topic replies on an internet forum
  - 105 Wearable gift shop item
  - 108 BLT spread
  - 110 — -no replay
  - 111 Oklahoma tribe
  - 112 Women's shoe parts that are wide at the top and bottom and narrower in the middle
  - 114 Nine featured items in this puzzle may be found in these
  - 117 Eyelike openings
  - 118 Bill blocker
  - 119 Omani, e.g.
  - 120 Relative of large
  - 121 Clear kitchen wrap
  - 122 British school since 1440
  - 123 Skillets, e.g.
  - 124 Lung or heart
  - 34 Kimono sash
  - 35 London art gallery
  - 39 Like some strict Amish
  - 40 "Come" and "go," e.g.
  - 41 "Get the lead out!"
  - 42 Tooth
  - 43 Really hated
  - 45 Stridex target
  - 46 Sporty car roof option
  - 47 Tell everything
  - 48 Be next to
  - 50 Really, really
  - 53 "No way!"
  - 54 Wary
  - 55 Light musical work for the stage
  - 57 Baseballer with a record 4,256 hits
  - 58 Close enough to get
  - 60 Penny, e.g.
  - 61 Intl. oil group
  - 63 Medicine amount
  - 64 Pen fluids
  - 65 PBS' "Science Kid"
  - 70 Many groaners
  - 73 "Power" rapper
  - 74 Biblical book after Micah
  - 75 Work in verse
  - 76 Playthings
  - 82 "Get the lead out!"
  - 83 Big name in lawn products
  - 85 Draw off via a tube
  - 86 Oppositionist
  - 88 Ohio city or college
  - 89 Jazz chord
  - 90 Boating tool
  - 91 Mine metal
  - 93 Giving a thrill
  - 94 Manicotti cheese
  - 95 Confronts
  - 99 Does improv
  - 101 Cello cousin
  - 102 Boxer Mike
  - 103 Egypt's — High Dam
  - 104 Jestng sort
  - 105 General — chicken
  - 106 Stray-rescuing gp.
  - 107 Part of mph
  - 108 Confront
  - 109 Choir voice
  - 113 Actress Arden
  - 114 Devitalize
  - 115 Bit of history
  - 116 Day- — paint

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- When he's not busy predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, PA, America's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, lives in the town Library with his wife, Phyllis.
- LEGO has an underground vault with every set ever made.
- Though he's today regarded as one of history's greatest orators, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received a "C" in public speaking while a student at Crozer Theological Seminary.
- Prior to the invention of the internet, Nintendo employed game counselors whom players could ring for advice and assistance with navigating a game.
- Through the years, folks have come up with euphemisms for pooping, but surely Icelanders rank among the top contenders with "ad tefla vid pafann," roughly translatable as "playing chess with the pope."
- Kea parrots spread warbles when they're in a good mood, making them the first known non-mammal species to communicate with infectious laughter.
- Theodore Roosevelt's daughter Alice, who was generally known for being a bit of a handful, had a pet snake named Emily Spinach that she enjoyed toting about the White House in her purse and taking out at unexpected moments.
- Actor Bela Lugosi was buried in full Dracula costume.
- The White House Press Briefing Room was built over what used to be an indoor swimming pool, installed for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.
- Female cicadas have been known to confuse the roar of power tools for mating calls, sometimes swarming people using lawn mowers.
- In 2016, a church in Colombo, Sri Lanka, accidentally printed the lyrics to Tupac Shakur's rap hit "Hail Mary" instead of the Catholic prayer of the same name, in the booklet for a Christmas carol service.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." — Will Rogers

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

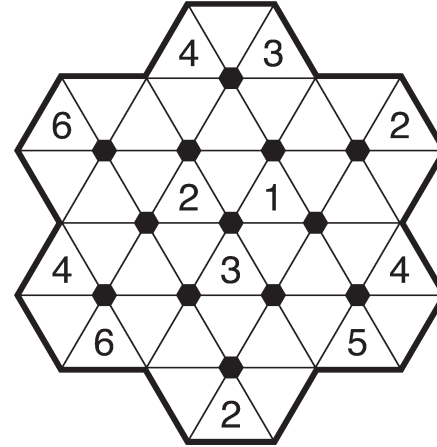
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

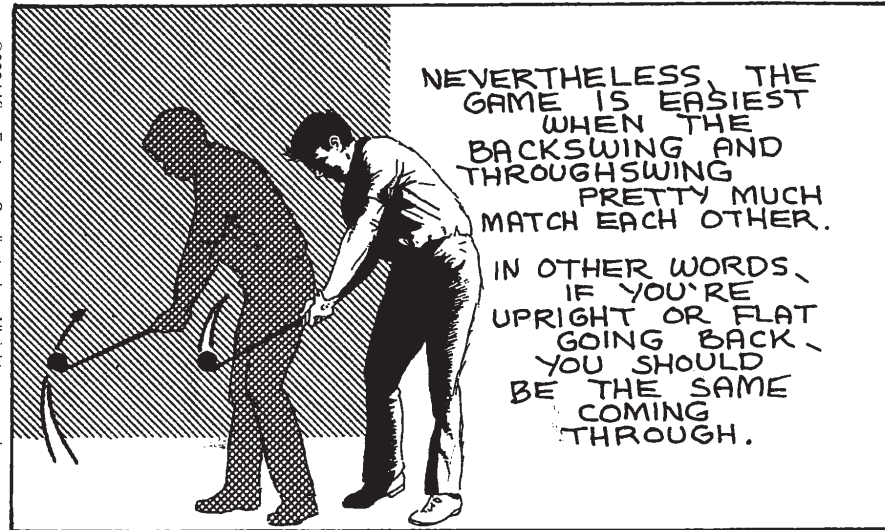
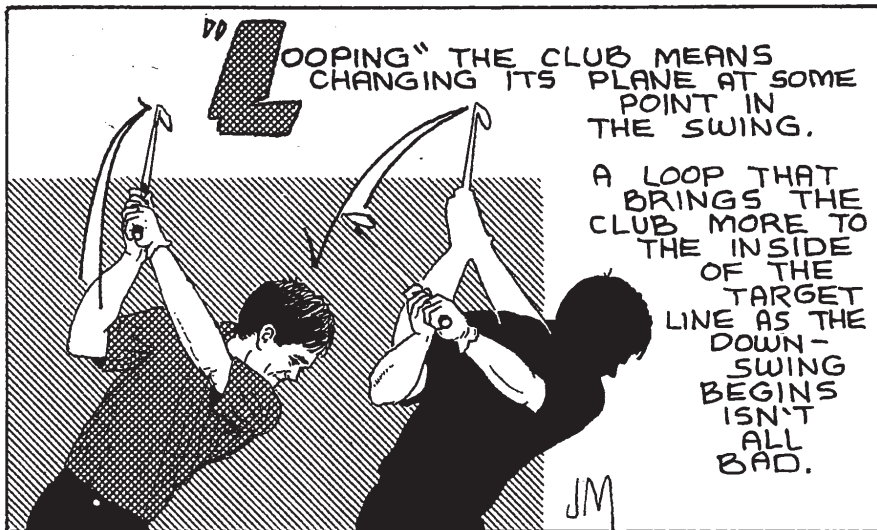


### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



## 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!

- Rule
- VENGRO
- Grand
- REGAL
- Deflect
- TRIVED
- Vivid
- NONE

### TODAY'S WORD

## ADVERTISE!

### Advertise With Us!

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- Flexible pricing
  - Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
  - Deeply discounted rates
  - Seasonal Specials

What we have: .....

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**Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society**  
**Sounds on the Square**  
**2024**  
 Friday, September 6, 2024  
**The Ghosts of Liberty**  
 7:00-10:00 P.M. Opens at 6:00 P.M. Free admission  
 All ages welcome  
 Food and other beverages available  
 Craft beers by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company  
 Bring a chair  
 Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville  
 Children First Pediatrics, Carter Bank & Trust, DESKINS INC, The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, P.L.L.C., HF HOOKER FURNISHINGS, NCI, MHC MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 Food by Buckin Good Eats & Lemonade

**Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society**  
**Sounds on the Square**  
**2024**  
 Friday, September 13, 2024  
**Line-Dancing on the Square**  
 with Sue Ann Ehmann  
 7:00-10:00 P.M. Opens at 6:00 P.M. Free admission  
 All ages welcome  
 Food and other beverages available  
 Craft beers by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company  
 Bring a chair  
 Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville  
 Children First Pediatrics, Carter Bank & Trust, DESKINS INC, The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, P.L.L.C., HF HOOKER FURNISHINGS, NCI, MHC MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 Food by A Heavenly Sandwich

The Sounds on the Square series will welcome The Ghosts of Liberty on Friday, September 6.

The next event in the Sounds on the Square series is Line-Dancing on the Square with Sue Ann Ehmann. It will be held on Friday, Sept. 13.

# The Ghosts of Liberty to perform Friday

Sounds on the Square will celebrate its fifth night of the 2024 season with The Ghosts of Liberty on Friday, September 6, on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, 7-10 p.m.

Admission is free. Beginning at 6 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers, and Buckin Good Eats & Lemonade will sell food.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Invite your friends and family for an evening of live music at Uptown Martinsville's premier concert series.

Americana folk-rock act based in the foothills of North Carolina, The Ghosts of Liberty comprises husband and wife duo, Emma Millard (lead vocals, keyboard) and Tyler Millard (vocals, guitar)

and Tyler's father, Rich (keyboard). They bring together their combined influences of roots, blues, rock and soul, delivering a truly original package that could only be born of two people living and working under the same roof.

Tyler discovered his passion for music while losing his vision to RP, a degenerative retinal disease, and Emma comes from a background in multi-genre vocal performance, beginning with classical training at an early age. Ty's steady and cool nature balance Em's gutsy emotionality, and together they are a musical force.

They have been playing and writing together for the better part of a decade, and through many of life's challenges have maintained a deep and abiding ap-

preciation for how music and love can truly overcome any obstacle.

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

A finalist in the Best of the Blue Ridge 2024 as Family Friendly Festival, Sounds on the Square is enjoyed by patrons of all ages, generations, and cultures.

This is the fourth year of the series and continues to be some of the most popular Uptown offerings generating vitality and community engagement.

# Martinsville Speedway to host a pair of NASCAR Race Weekends

Martinsville Speedway will continue to host two triple-header NASCAR race weekends in 2025 with the fall race once again acting as the lead-in to the Championship, as NASCAR released its full 2025 schedule for all three national series today.

The spring NASCAR triple-header race weekend will take place on March 28-30, 2025, while next year's fall Playoffs race weekend will be on Oct. 24-26, 2025.

"Having Martinsville Speedway hold two prominent positions on the NASCAR schedule once again is proof of what this

track means to the sport and its fans," said Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell. "Martinsville Speedway has been around since the earliest days of NASCAR, and we love that we get to bookend our racing season with a pair of intense, action-packed races."

Below are the dates for the 2025 races at Martinsville Speedway:

- Spring Race Weekend**  
 Friday, March 28 – NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series Race  
 Saturday, March 29 – NASCAR Xfinity Series Race  
 Sunday, March 30 – NAS-

- CAR Cup Series**  
**Fall Playoffs Race Weekend**  
 Friday, Oct. 24 – NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series Race  
 Saturday, Oct. 25 – NASCAR Xfinity Series Race  
 Sunday, Oct. 26 – NASCAR Cup Series

The Cook Out 400 at Martinsville Speedway this past spring saw a thrilling finish with William Byron securing his third victory of the season on a day commemorating Hendrick Motorsports' 40th Anniversary, at the track where they earned their first win. Byron's Hendrick teammates Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson rounded out the top three, securing a 1-2-3 victory for the organization at the half-mile track.

Fans can witness the intense

short-track racing at Martinsville Speedway this fall in the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs Xfinity 500 on Sunday, Nov. 3, the final chance for drivers to race their way into the Championship 4.

The weekend will also feature the NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs races on Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2, with drivers from all three National series vying for their spot in Phoenix.

Fans can purchase tickets to the 2024 NASCAR Playoffs Race Weekend, as well as all other race weekends at Martinsville Speedway, via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at [martinsvillespeedway.com](http://martinsvillespeedway.com).

To view the entire 2025 NASCAR schedule, visit [www.nascar.com/2025schedule](http://www.nascar.com/2025schedule).



## Laisha Penn, NP

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 Board-certified Nurse Practitioner

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

**Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society**  
**Sounds on the Square**  
**2024**  
 7:00-10:00 P.M. Opens at 6:00 P.M. Free admission  
 All ages welcome  
 Food and other beverages available  
 Craft beers by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company  
 Bring a chair  
 Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville

- Friday, May 3, 2024 • Andy Burdette Trio
- Friday, June 7, 2024 • Barefoot Modern
- Friday, July 5, 2024 • The League of Ordinary Gentlemen
- Friday, August 2, 2024 • Forrest Taylor
- Friday, September 6, 2024 • The Ghosts of Liberty
- Friday, September 13, 2024 • "Line-Dancing on the Square"
- Friday, October 4, 2024 • Andy Burdette Trio

Children First Pediatrics, Carter Bank & Trust, DESKINS INC, The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, P.L.L.C., HF HOOKER FURNISHINGS, NCI, MHC MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# The Smith River is the site of DRBA's First Saturday Paddle

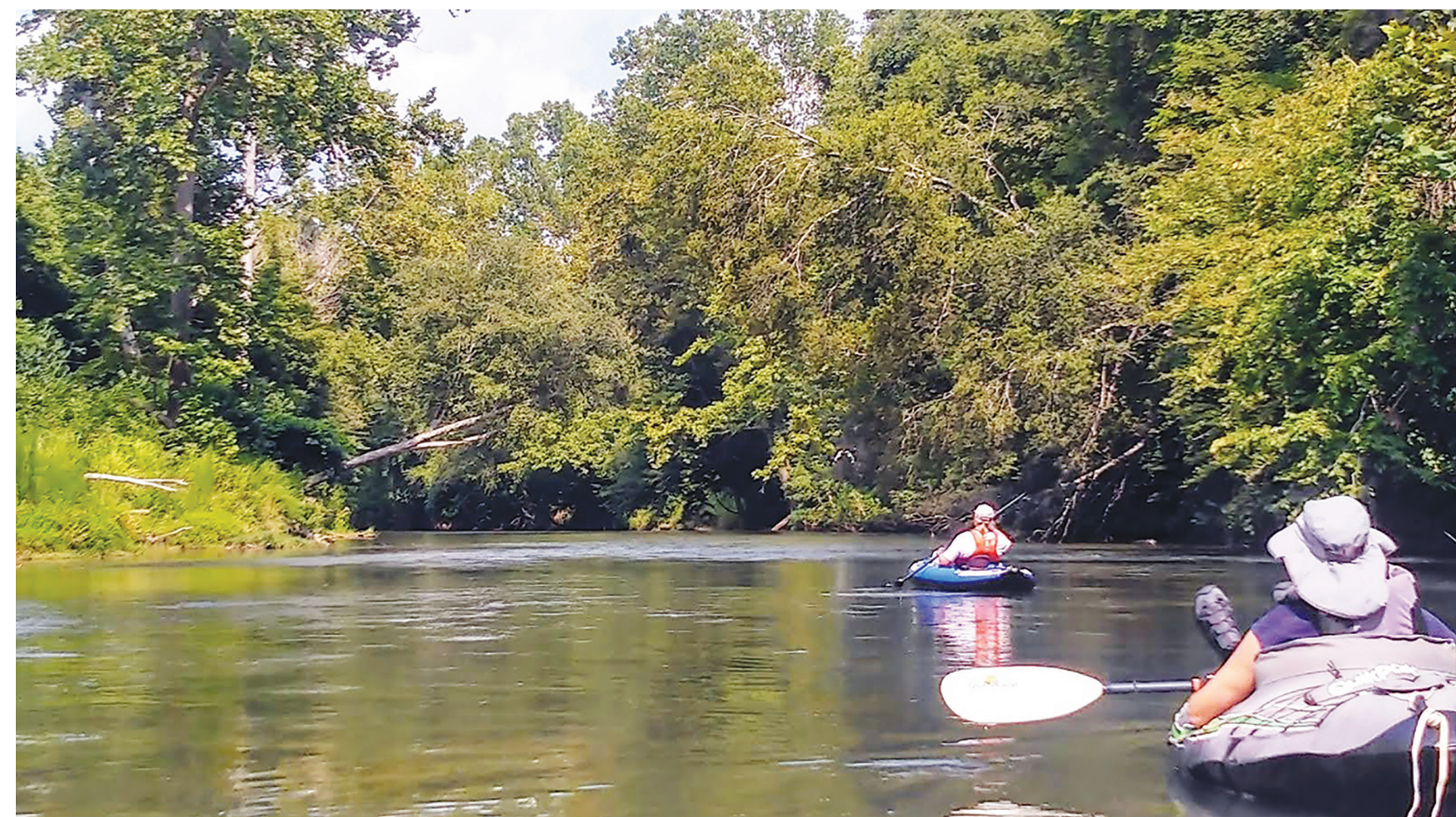


Photo courtesy of DRBA

You're invited to the Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Outing, September 7, on the Smith River.

Launching at the Mitchell Bridge Access, paddlers will float 7.5 miles, taking out on private property, with the owner's permission, close to Morgan Ford Bridge near Sandy Level, Virginia. This scenic section of the river is rated Class I, providing a leisurely float suitable for novice paddlers.

Meeting by 9 a.m. at the Mitchell Bridge Access on Mitchell Road, participants will unload boats and gear, sign waivers, and set the shuttle. Mark Bishopric and Tom Taylor are co-coordinators for this outing.

Occasional small rapids or gravel shoals interrupt the flatwater in this quiet, remote section of the Smith. Half a mile below Whale Rock is Goodwin's Island near where Joseph Goodwin's mill stood in the 1700s. Another half mile brings the group to a gravel bar where Break Reed Ford allowed travelers to cross the river as late

as the 1920s.

Near the take-out is Morgan's Ford, used from about 1800. It was replaced by the first Morgan Ford Bridge, now marked by three stone piers about 20 feet high. In 1953 the current Morgan Ford Bridge, the last remaining steel truss bridge spanning the Smith River, was assembled from other structures—a perfect example of resource reuse.

Participants should dress in layers of quick-drying fabric, wear close-toed shoes, and be prepared to get wet. All are asked to provide boat, paddles, life jacket, lunch, water, and snacks.

To reach Mitchell Bridge Access from U.S. 58 in Virginia: At Axton, turn south onto Axton Road (County Road 610). Drive 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Barker Road (County Road 622). Drive 3.1 miles. At Irisburg, continue straight onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 3.8 miles to the access on the right just before the bridge.

From Eden, N.C.: Take NC 14/87 (Van Buren Road) north into Virginia for 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Farmbrook Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn left onto Old Leaksville Road (County Road 1013). Drive 1.6 miles, and turn right onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 4.5 miles to the access on the left just beyond the bridge.

From Ridgeway, VA: Take VA 87 south. Turn left onto Old Leaksville Road (County Road 1013). Drive 1.2 miles, and turn left onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 4.5 miles to the access on the left just beyond the bridge.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

For more information about the outing, contact Mark Bishopric at 336-634-9744; mark@spraycotton.com or Tom Taylor at 336-402-6100, tnt2703@yahoo.com.

For information about the Dan River Basin Association, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org).

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