

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

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City resident Stephanie Mills addressed the City Council at its Tuesday, September 10 meeting.

## City officials urged to work towards unity

By Jessica Dillon

Residents addressing the Martinsville City Council Tuesday pleaded for members to return to unity, and keep campaign promises. “I hate to see the city officials bickering with each other,” said Leroy Hairston Jr. He added that he was sick when he read about the turmoil between council members and the perceived rift between some council members.

Before reading and hearing about

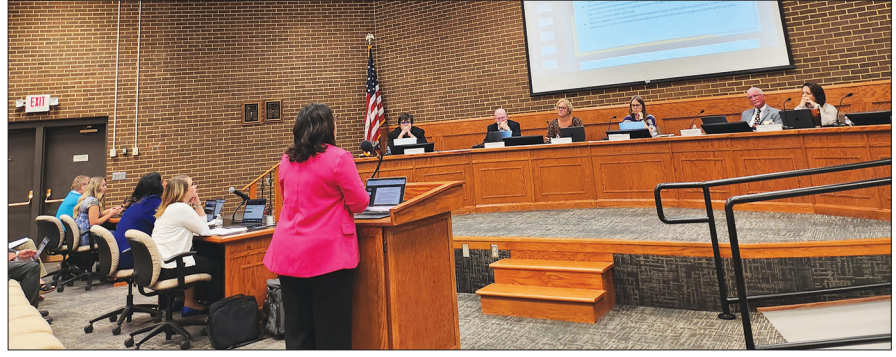
the issues, Hairston said he thought “the city was going in the right direction. Now, all the sudden I feel like it’s turned backward. We need to do some serious talk about who’s going to come in” after the election, “and we really need to pray for them.”

Hairston said he is concerned about the impact it has on the city.

“Maybe y’all don’t really care,” he said. “I care about the city. I think

(See City Officials p. 2)

## County schools prep to implement order



Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis presents a PowerPoint detailing the draft of new cell phone policies.

By Jessica Dillon

The county school board convened on September 3 to review plans for complying with Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s Executive Order 33, which bans cell phone use during instructional hours—a move that has sparked considerable debate among educators.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis outlined the order’s focus on curbing cell phone use to address concerns over mental health and social media addiction among students. “The executive order aims

to eliminate cell phone use during instructional time and address the mental health issues arising from children’s social media and cell phone addiction,” Blake-Lewis explained.

Blake-Lewis presented detailed guidelines to ensure clarity for board members, teachers, parents, and students. “I have broken down the guidelines as defined by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for elementary, middle, and high school levels,” she said.

(See County Schools p. 2)



Aji Dixon celebrates positive student attitudes during the first few weeks of school.

## Principals update school board about early weeks of school year

By Jessica Dillon

Martinsville City School Board convened on September 9 to receive updates from principals on the initial weeks of the academic year. The meeting also featured a presentation from the booster club and a discussion on suicide prevention efforts in the schools.

Martinsville High School Principal Aji Dixon reported a positive start to the school year. “The return to school has been tremendous,” Dixon said, noting that students have been enthusiastic about various events, including a notably exciting picture day.

Martinsville Middle School Principal Ama Waller echoed Dixon’s sentiments, highlighting strong student engagement. “Over 70 students, both boys and girls, have joined cheerleading, and sports like golf and volleyball are also thriving,” Waller said. She added that students are actively participating,

and parents are collaborating with the school to address attendance issues.

Patrick Henry Elementary School Principal Cameron Cooper reported progress with the new reading curriculum and the implementation of a house system inspired by “Harry Potter.” This system, which rewards students with points, has contributed to increased attendance rates and student engagement.

Sheilah Williams, director of Clearview Early Learning Center, noted a smooth start to the school year. “Our kindergarteners seem to have a new vibe this year,” said Renee Brown, adding that the young students are adjusting well without the typical tears.

The board also approved new student expectation handbooks and elected Yvonne Givens as the Governor’s School Board Representative, with Kathy Carter as the alter-

(See School Board p. 2)

## Congressman Griffith Tours P&HCCMET Complex, Explores Welding and Robotics Programs



Congressman Morgan Griffith and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges tour welding booths at P&HCC.

By Jessica Dillon

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith toured the MET Complex at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) on September 3, guided by college President Dr. Greg Hodges. The visit focused on the college’s welding programs and industrial courses.

During the tour, Rhonda Hodges, vice president of Workforce, Community, and Economic Development, provided Griffith with historical context about the complex. “These two buildings previously housed Arrington Engines, where Dodge Hemi engines for NASCAR were produced,” Rhonda Hodges ex-

(See P&HCC p. 2)



Students practice robotic welding at the MET Complex.

## Groundbreakings mark start of field house projects

By Taylor Boyd

A pair of groundbreaking ceremonies were held on September 4 at Magna Vista and Bassett high schools to mark the start of new athletic field house projects.

Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis announced that the projects are slated for completion by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. “These field houses are funded by a one percent sales tax approved by Henry County voters in 2020,” she said. “This tax is designated for new construction and major renovations within our school division.”

Blake-Lewis expressed excitement about the projects, which have long been a goal for many on the Henry County School Board, as well as for community



Henry County Board of Supervisors and administration participate in the ceremonial groundbreakings on September 4.

members, coaches, students, and staff. “We are thrilled to see these projects come to fruition and appreciate every-

one who has supported this initiative,” she added.

The new field houses will serve as venues for athletic events and provide shelter for players during severe weather conditions.

At the Bassett High School groundbreaking, School Board Chairman Teddy Martin III, representing the Reed Creek District, thanked everyone involved in bringing the project to life. “We’re eager to get started,” Martin said.

Quality Construction of Danville was awarded the contract for the Bassett field house with the lowest bid of \$1.94 million. Andy Grant, Senior Associate and Architect at RRMM Architects, outlined the facility’s features. “The field

(See Groundbreakings p. 2)

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## City Officials

(cont. from page 1)

as a citizen, all this bickering back and forth, needs to hush.”

He urged voters to think about the future of the city when making choices in the November election. “We have to give serious thought to who will come in and who we will get (vote) out,” he said, adding that issues between council members are confusing.

“God is not the author of confusion. He is a just God,” Hairston said. “Every last one of us in this room, we live in Martinsville (and) one God is the maker of all. If we sit here and play like we all this and that, that ain’t nice. I’m very upset. I just cannot take this. God is not in no confusion. Look at ourselves more closely again in the mirror, and ask is God pleased with us? I think He’s not.”

Hairston encouraged city officials to remember, “if you can’t keep peace, don’t break it. I love you whether you love me back in return, because you can’t do nothing about it. I’m not the greatest person to get along with and I’m not the most evil.

“God is not pleased with me or you either one with the things that’s going on. We need to overcome setbacks and move on,” Hairston said. “Rise above ... We talk about unity



Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls, Mayor LC Jones, and council member Kathy Lawson.

..., it’s sad how things have gotten in the last few months. Please, please if there’s any way possible, come back together.”

Stephanie Mills said that during campaigns during the last election cycle, “I heard one of two things: Unity or we are here for the people. When was the last time you were in the neighborhood checking on our residents?”

“It’s only when you are asking us to vote with you that we hear for you,” she said, adding that she feels the city is picking and choosing the local businesses it supports. Mills asked if there would be a replacement for the lost Family Dollar as

“many on the west end depend on that store.”

She urged the council to focus on bigger issues the community and its residents are facing at the September 10 meeting.

Also at its meeting Tuesday, the council:

\*Discussed school board nominations and give an update on the comprehensive plan. Several citizens also asked for unity between the council members.

“We had more of an extensive conversation over our comprehensive plan,” said city manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides. This is something it is needed for the city to take

a look at their future plans. “It is required by the code of Virginia.”

The development of the plan is structured, and the plan is being developed by the Berkley Group, which presented a look at the cities standing at the previous council meeting. The kickoff for the plan will start in October, and is looking at being adopted in 2026.

The plan is covered by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, but the city will need to raise a little \$86,642.72. “I think with the defeat of reversion it has become even more critical to lay this foundational map,” said council member Tammy Pearson. Pearson believes that the plan will help move the city towards a positive future “I’m very excited about this.”

The original \$100,000 was allocated from these funds, but the council voted to provide additional funding to make the comprehensive plan.

\*Three names were provided for the school board: Tony Jones, Michael Kirby, and Jonathan Martin. Interviews will be held on September 23 to help decide the best fit.

\*The name of the Industrial Development Authority was also changed to the Economic Development Authority.

## County Schools

(cont. from page 1)

Under the new guidelines, cell phone restrictions will vary slightly by school level but will remain in effect during instructional hours. “Cell phones or communication devices will not be used by elementary students within the school building or on school grounds,” Blake-Lewis said. Parents are advised to keep phones off and stored during educational hours and use school-based communication channels for emergencies.

Middle school students will face similar restrictions during the school day but may use phones

during after-school activities and sports events. “Students will need to store their phones during class time, though there will be some flexibility for after-school activities,” Blake-Lewis noted. She emphasized the need for developmentally appropriate guidance on using school-issued technology.

High school students will also need to store their phones during instructional hours, with usage permitted before and after school. Blake-Lewis highlighted that staff, including educators and extracurricular sponsors, must also refrain from using social media

for communication.

Board members discussed potential storage solutions for phones, with suggestions including classroom pouches and locking pouches. “I would like guidance on the liability involved if we take phones from students and store them in pouches,” Cherie Whitlow said.

Stephanie Brinegar asked about potential consequences for violations of the new policy. Blake-Lewis responded that there were no specific recommendations from the VDOE yet, leaving it to local policy to determine consequences.

Blake-Lewis encouraged parents to provide feedback on the policy through a survey available at [https://virginiadoe.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_2aSPBWzp5MJ2w1E] (https://virginiadoe.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_2aSPBWzp5MJ2w1E).

Additionally, the board approved a \$244,350 appropriation for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for elementary schools. The board is also considering revisions to several school policies, with updates expected at the October 3 meeting.

## Groundbreakings

(cont. from page 1)

house will cover 4,633 square feet and include home and visitor locker rooms accommodating 70-80 people each. The home side will feature 70 oversized lockers, direct access to toilet rooms and football storage, a coach’s office, track storage, a training room, a referee changing room, and a laundry facility,” Grant explained. The building will also be handicap accessible, with a standing seam metal roof and brick walls.

At the Magna Vista High School groundbreaking, School Board Member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, reflected on the long-term vision behind the project. “Field houses have been part of our capital improvement plans for nearly a decade,” he said.



Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis highlights the role of the one percent sales tax in funding the field house projects.

Gravely credited past and current board members for their commitment to modernizing school facilities.

Concrete Foundations Inc., of Gretna, was awarded the Magna Vista field house contract with the

lowest bid of \$2.79 million. Tammy Kost of Concrete Foundations expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work on the project. “We are committed to delivering a high-quality facility and ensuring that it meets the needs of the

school,” she said.

Andy Grant also detailed the Magna Vista field house, which will span 5,748 square feet. It will feature similar amenities to the Bassett field house, including locker rooms, a coach’s office, a training room, and a concession area.

“The facility will be fully air-conditioned, equipped with LED lighting, and completely handicap accessible,” Grant said. The project will also include an alternate gravity flow sewer line for restrooms and concessions.

Both projects are expected to enhance the athletic infrastructure of Henry County Schools and provide valuable resources for students and the community.

## P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)

plained.

Greg Hodges detailed the funding and development of the complex, noting that federal and Harvest Foundation grants, along with \$22 million in raised funds, were used to revitalize the facility. “We initially had 16 welding booths, which were in high demand with a 60 to 70 person waiting list,” Greg Hodges said. “Now, we have 45 welding booths and have significantly expanded our capacity and dual enrollment options.”

Griffith, R-Salem, inquired about local job opportunities for welders, acknowledging that welding is an underserved field. “Welding is an area with high demand, but jobs can require relocation,” he said.

Greg Hodges clarified that while students often receive job offers before completing their programs,

the challenge is ensuring they finish their degrees. “Students receive AWS American Society of Welding certifications during their training, which can lead to numerous job offers,” he said. The college has addressed this by incorporating frontloaded courses to encourage program completion.

The tour also included P&HCC’s robotic welding facilities. Griffith asked about the local impact of robotic welding and the availability of programs for robot maintenance.

Colin Ferguson, Dean of STEM-HAP, confirmed an increase in requests for robotic welding and highlighted the college’s Mechatronics program, which partnered with Festo in 2023 to award the most certifications in the U.S.

Greg Hodges emphasized the importance of students mastering

manual welding skills before programming robots. “We insist that students learn the skill themselves before they program the robot,” he said.

Griffith agreed, noting that understanding the skill helps ensure robots are operating correctly.

P&HCC offers virtual welding as an introductory tool, which provides a safer learning environment. “Virtual welding allows students to practice without the risks of real welding,” Ferguson said. Griffith acknowledged the cost of equipment but noted its long-term cost-saving benefits.

The tour also featured the workforce flex space and the mechatronics lab, designed for customizable workforce training. “Economic development pitches often highlight our campus,” Greg Hodges noted.

Griffith expressed surprise at the scope of P&HCC’s programs, emphasizing the national need for trained mechatronics professionals.

P&HCC’s programs offer both long- and short-term certifications that can transfer with students, providing flexibility in their career paths. “We are about to launch Level 3 of our program at Patrick & Henry, thanks to our faculty’s efforts,” Rhonda Hodges said.

Griffith underscored the value of vocational education. “You can achieve a good-paying career without the burden of a four-year college degree,” he said, noting that industrial jobs require a different type of intelligence.

Greg Hodges added that many students benefit from programs that are financially accessible.

## School Board

(cont. from page 1)

nate. Nekia Blackwell was named Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Delegate, with Michael Williamson as the alternate. Carter and Blackwell will also join the budget committee. The board plans to add three student members to the school board for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, with their participation expected to begin in October.

Dr. Travis Worrell provided an

update on suicide prevention initiatives, including universal mental health screenings and staff training. “Counselors are equipped to guide students to appropriate resources, and even elementary schools are involved in helping students identify their feelings and seek help,” Worrell said. The division is also recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

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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.

### Thursday, September 26

Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Community Learning Center at MCPS Central Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

## Events

### 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.

Piedmont Arts and local chefs present "Fortune + Flavor: Friday the 13!" at 6:30 p.m. This superstitious fundraiser features themed small-bites, craft cocktails, games and raffles, live music, and fun tarot readings. Show us if you're feeling lucky or unlucky by wearing all black or all white. Tickets are \$50 and all-inclusive. Purchase your tickets online at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org) or at the museum.

### Saturday, September 14

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

Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

### Saturday, September 21

"Back the Blue," the Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In will sponsor a classic Auto and Motorcycle ride to support law enforcement officers. The ride will start in the parking lot of the Martinsville Speedway. Leaving at 1:30 p.m., arriving in Bassett at 3 p.m., \$10 entry fee per vehicle.

### Wednesday, September 25

PUMP (Pull Up Mentor Program), 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., P&HCC Dalton IDEA Center, 26 Fayette St, Martinsville.

### Thursday, September 26

Job Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College Stone Hall Gym, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

### Saturday, September 28

4RC Community Mental Health Walk 2024, 10 a.m. to noon, Smith River Sports Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

## ONGOING

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

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

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tues-

days of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

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

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

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

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

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

## Hit the road with Piedmont Arts for Fine Arts & Flowers

Join Piedmont Arts on Thursday, October 24, for a trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for their Fine Arts & Flowers exhibit. This spectacular biennial event will boast over 70 floral interpretations of their permanent collection.

Tickets for this excursion are \$105 and include roundtrip transportation. Purchases can be made at [piedmontarts.org](http://piedmontarts.org) or by calling the museum.

Ticket holders will gather at Piedmont Arts at 8 a.m., and get on the road to Richmond by 8:30 a.m. Upon arrival at the VMFA, patrons will attend the Marble Hall luncheon and fashion show. This will be followed by a private group tour of the galleries and the floral arrangements on display by a VMFA curator. The arrangements have all been created by local garden and ikebana clubs and are as dazzling as the pieces of art they represent. There will be time to explore the museum on your own and visit the gift



Artwork comes to life in new ways with representative floral arrangements.



Color, line, and other artistic elements impact the design choices of local garden and ikebana clubs at Fine Arts & Flowers exhibit.

shop.

Tickets for this event are limited, so make plans and act quickly. Questions about this

event can be directed to Programs Coordinator Lauren Ellis at [lellis@piedmontarts.org](mailto:lellis@piedmontarts.org).



Shirley Williams assists a family in the TRIO office.

## FAFSA Blitz offered this month at P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College's TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) will host its month-long 2024-2025 FAFSA Blitz through September 30, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each business day at the TRIO EOC office in the Walker Fine Arts Building.

The FAFSA Blitz offers students an opportunity to receive free assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024-2025 academic year. In addition to FAFSA completion services, TRIO EOC will provide college advising, referrals, and prizes to students who complete their FAFSA during the event.

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome. A TRIO representative is in Martinsville on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week, at P&HCC's Patrick County Site on September 10 and 24, and at the Franklin Center on

September 17. As part of federal reporting requirements, all participating students will be asked to complete the TRIO EOC intake form.

"We encourage all eligible students to take advantage of this free service," said Sharon Harris, Program Director for TRIO EOC. "Completing the FAFSA is a crucial step in securing financial aid for college, and our team is here to make the process as smooth and stress-free as possible. This is also a great opportunity to learn about additional resources and support available through the TRIO EOC."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the P&HCC TRIO EOC office on P&HCC's main campus in Martinsville at 276-656-5491, at the Patrick County Site in Stuart at 276-656-0338, or the Franklin Center in Rocky Mount at 540-483-0179.

## Teen dead after Chatham Road crash

The Virginia State Police are continuing their investigation of a single-vehicle crash, which resulted in a fatality. The crash occurred Friday, Sept. 6, at 3:43 p.m. on Chatham Road, one half mile east of Lawrence Drive in Henry County.

A 2015 Chevrolet Malibu was traveling west on Chatham Road when the vehicle allegedly ran off of the right side of the roadway, over-corrected and struck the guardrail

then a tree.

The passenger, Khyrra Michelle Martin, 19, of Ridgeway, Va. was wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene.

The driver, Jason S. Bethea, was charged with reckless driving.

The release from Virginia State Police Sgt. Rick Garletts did not include information about injuries to the driver, driver's age or other information.

## Standoff ends in arrest

On September 5, 2024, at approximately 10:45 p.m., patrol deputies from the Henry County Sheriff's Office went to 3681 Irisburg Road, Axton, in an attempt to arrest Raymond Dwayne Taylor, Jr., who had an outstanding warrant in connection with a malicious wounding, use a firearm in the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

While deputies attempted to contact Taylor at the residence, they received information that a man had retreated to the basement of the home when they arrived. Deputies continued to try to contact the man, but alleged they were not acknowledged after multiple attempts.

Authorities alleged they determined that Taylor had barricaded himself inside the residence, armed with a firearm, with another male subject.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office S.W.A.T team as well as the Henry County Sheriff's Office, Crisis and Hostage Negotiations Team was activated and responded to the home. At approximately 12:35 a.m., negotiators made continuous attempts to contact Taylor who was



Raymond Dwayne Taylor, Jr.

still located inside of the residence. At approximately 01:33 a.m., negotiators were finally able to make contact by phone, and successfully effect a surrender.

Around 1:37 a.m., Taylor, 37, was taken into custody by the S.W.A.T team without further incident in the front yard of this residence.

Taylor, of 614 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville, was charged with malicious wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

He is being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center under no bond.

## Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Henry County Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Henry County Enterprise.

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# OPINION

## The grey reign is over

When, oh when, will sensible men and women stand up and take a stance against the scourge of today's society —

That dreadful, dull, boring color grey?!

Grey-painted walls became a thing in the 2010s. In a sense, it may have seemed refreshing after many years of the antique white and yellow-based paints ("magnolia" is a common catchword for that) that were everywhere for so many years (and if we count backwards, even magnolia was a relief after the 1980s explosion of mauve and green everywhere, or worse, baby blue with geese).

In some commercial buildings, such as a jail or dental office, and a very small percentage of ultra-modern and chic urban apartments or condominiums, grey walls can and do look appropriate. Maybe greys can look good when put together by a talented interior decorator working on a very high budget, but when regular folks try it without those tools at their disposal, it just falls flat.

The greywashing went many steps too far.

Plasticky wood-grain-design grey flooring became popular. Sofas and other furniture went grey, or perhaps black to shake things up, or white to get covered in stains quickly. Throw pillows and curtains are grey.

How can anyone sit in an all-grey room and feel anything but brought down, burdened, discouraged?

Why has vibrant, cheerful color been avoided? Outdated? Vilified?

The greying-over of home décor has brought about a boring conformity and uniformity. All living rooms and kitchens are looking alike. Where is originality? Where is the home that reflects the tastes and the dreams of the families that live there?

The overuse of grey seems to be a copycat reaction to the way house flippers have taken over TV



Holly Kozelsky

shows and real estate markets. TV shows show speculators redoing entire houses, removing all past character and making them stark and bland. People try that at home.

It doesn't look good on TV or at home.

Yes, the more austere plain looks are a bit of relief after the past decades' oversaturation of chintzy prints, abstract colorful splash design and geese or teddy bears with bows around their necks.

Yet haven't we had enough time to recuperate from the craziness of teal and mauve, and geese and teddy bears? Many years ago, grey went from being a welcome relief of calm to being dull, drab and depressing, yet it's still sticking around (let us not forget, accompanied by those silly signs with words on them, all over the place. Live, laugh, love!).

However, there are signs here and there that grey has reached its end. Creamy whites are coming back in style. Sage green in some areas is considered the new neutral, and emerald green is making a comeback. The bold red dining room is being seen again here and there.

Just imagine the homes of today's generation of kids who grew up in a grey house. Like we rebelled against the 1970s or 1980s or 1990s style of our parents (many of us with that dreadful dull grey), today's kids will rebel in their interior design choices against grey, and will bring on color and fun.

This boring grey gives so much to rebel against that in another couple of decades, the rooms inside a house will just look like a circus.

## You can't spell insufferable without AI

My 40th birthday is rapidly approaching and it's time I make peace with a sad reality: I'm never going to become the world's greatest jockey.

I know, never say never, but I just don't think it's in the cards. For one thing, I've never ridden a horse in my life. For another, I'm 6'2" and I weigh about as much as two and half jockeys put together. My chances of one day piloting a racehorse named "Rich Uncle Saddlebags" to a Triple Crown victory are — let's face it — close to zero.

However, if I were to ask the folks at NaNoWriMo, they'd probably tell me to never give up on my deeply stupid dream.

NaNoWriMo is short for "National Novel Writing Month," a non-profit that promotes creative writing. It hosts an international writing event every November where participants are challenged to write a 50,000 word novel in a month.

I don't participate in NaNoWriMo, but I have generally supported it. I prefer the International 3 Day Novel Writing contest, which I've participated in every year since 2007. The resulting novels aren't as long, but they're forged in a rich crucible of exhaustion and delirium that I feel adds to the overall impact.

This month, NaNoWriMo has caused massive controversy and lost a number of supporters after they issued a seemingly unprompted statement regarding the use of AI in their novel writing challenge. According to the statement, NaNoWriMo does not explicitly condemn the use of AI on the grounds that doing so would be classist and ableist.

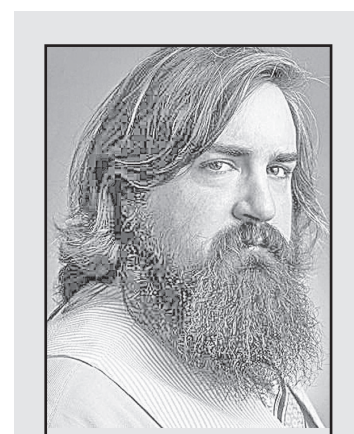
"Not all writers have the financial ability to hire humans to help at certain phases of their writing," the statement says. "For some writers, the decision to use AI is a practical, not an ideological, one. ... Not all brains have same abilities and not all writers function at the same level of education or proficiency in the language in which they are writing. Some brains and ability levels require outside help or accommodations to achieve certain goals."

I'll be the first to acknowledge that different brains work in different ways. I have friends who are brilliant with numbers and have incredible financial knowledge and understanding, but they struggle to write. On the other hand, I like to think I'm a decent writer, but I'd rather be beaten with a shovel than ever again take a math class. My brain doesn't work that way.

Generally, I find everybody has a brain that is really good at something. Maybe it's rebuilding engines. Maybe it's putting together LEGOs. Maybe it's cooking. Maybe it's telling a story in an interesting way.

But nobody has a brain or a body that's good at everything, and that's OK. I will never be a great jockey, and I will also never be an accountant, or an MMA fighter, or an Olympic figure skater. That's fine. The universe does not owe these things to me.

Furthermore, if I figured out a way to use a tool to accomplish these goals for me, that would be an enormous disservice to everyone who did it honestly. If I became an



By Ben R. Williams

MMA fighter but I fought using a robot exoskeleton, that would likely be considered cheating. If I was the chief financial officer of a company but I outsourced all the math parts of the job to some numbers whiz in Estonia, I probably wouldn't last long.

Using AI to write is no different. If someone can't write without using AI to assist them, then they either aren't cut out to be a writer, or — more likely — they need to practice more instead of relying on a cheap crutch.

The folks at NaNoWriMo might say I'm classist and ableist for suggesting such a thing. I would argue that classism and ableism are real social problems with real ramifications, not just empty buzzwords to be thrown around haphazardly. We're not talking about denying a qualified candidate a job because they're wearing an off-the-rack suit or telling someone they shouldn't park in a handicapped spot because they don't look disabled; we're talking about using AI to cheat at a contest.

The entire purpose of NaNoWriMo is that it's a challenge. It's hard. Some people will finish, the majority won't, and only a fraction of the ones that do finish will have something worth reading. I could probably make record time in the Boston Marathon if I was behind the wheel of my car, but I doubt I'd get much of a sense of accomplishment when I crossed the finish line.

It would be one thing if NaNoWriMo took this stance solely on ideological grounds, but I have my doubts. If you go to the "Offers" page on their website, you'll find a link to a free trial of ProWritingAid, "the premier grammar checker, style editor, and writing coach for creative writers." At least, that's how NaNoWriMo describes the service. Click the link, and the website for ProWritingAid describes itself as "The AI-Powered Writing Assistant." I suspect NaNoWriMo may have a financial stake in their principled stance.

The fallout from NaNoWriMo's statement has been swift. Four of their board members have stepped down in protest, and multiple writers who once credited NaNoWriMo with giving them their start have denounced the organization.

Hopefully, this is one of the first canaries in the coal mine for a stark reassessment of AI's use in art. Maybe the folks who want to use AI to write will resign themselves to doing things the old-fashioned way: putting down tens of thousands of words worth of garbage until one day, they look at something they've written and say, "Hey, I don't hate this quite as much as usual."

## Deputy of the month selected



Henry County Sheriff's Deputy Skye Davis (center) was named Deputy of the Month in a ceremony this week. She is assigned to the Animal Services Division. Davis was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation dinner for two at Chopstix Martinsville-Va, treats from Livy's Ice Cream and four tickets from Hollywood Cinema.

## National Debt Relief Named Entitlement Partner for the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs Race

Martinsville Speedway and National Debt Relief have joined forces for the upcoming NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs race, officially named the National Debt Relief 250, taking place on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Drivers in the NASCAR Xfinity Series will battle it out around the historic half mile in the penultimate race of the season, fighting for their spot in the Championship Four ahead of the final competition in Phoenix.

"National Debt Relief has proven themselves to be a key partner for the sport and its tracks these past few months, and we're honored that Martinsville Speedway is the latest addition to that relationship," said Clay Campbell, President of Martinsville Speedway. "There are few atmospheres in NASCAR that compare to the Martinsville Playoffs weekend. Between the fans, the fall weather and the intense competition that puts everything on the line, we couldn't think of a better welcome for our newest partners."

National Debt Relief was recently named the Official Debt Relief Partner of NASCAR, making them the first-ever debt-relief partner of the sanc-

tioning body. The debt settlement industry leader was also named an Official Partner of the Chicago Street Race earlier this year.

Since 2009, National Debt Relief has successfully helped hundreds of thousands of people resolve their debt and reclaim their independence. Their highly rated, unique Whole Human Finance TM approach to debt relief not only helps their clients become debt-free, but also supports them with financial literacy and skill development, as well as emotional support throughout their debt journey, empowering them to resolve their debt and confidently build a more secure financial future. To learn more, visit NationalDebtRelief.com or call 1-800-718-0487 for a free consultation with a Certified Debt Specialist.

"We're excited to expand our partnership with NASCAR with the entitlement of the National Debt Relief 250 at Martinsville Speedway," said Alex Kleyner, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, National Debt Relief. "For any of the fans watching in the stands or enjoying the race at home, we want them to know about debt relief as an option if they have found themselves in over-

whelming debt. The impact of debt can take over someone's whole life, and we want more people to know there are solutions available that can get them out of debt faster and more affordably than what they may be doing now."

The National Debt Relief 250 is just one race within the thrilling triple-header NASCAR Playoffs weekend at Martinsville Speedway. Drivers in all three competitions will fight for those final four spots in the Championship.

The excitement kicks off on Friday, Nov. 1, with the NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series Zip Buy Now Pay Later 200, then continues on Saturday, Nov. 2, with the NASCAR Xfinity Series National Debt Relief 250.

The weekend concludes on Sunday afternoon, where drivers in the NASCAR Cup Series will go head-to-head in the Xfinity 500, competing for the honor of earning an iconic Martinsville Speedway Grandfather Clock and a chance to race for the Championship in Phoenix.

For more details on the upcoming NASCAR race weekend, or to purchase tickets, call 877-RACE-TIX or visit martinsvillespeedway.com.



# Ruritan club prepares for annual Brunswick Stew



The Spencer Ruritan Club is seeking help to prepare its annual Brunswick Stew.

On Tuesday September the 17, at 8 a.m., the club will be cutting up beef and chicken. On Thursday, September 19, at 8 a.m., members will be peeling potatoes and onions. The stew will be made on Saturday September 21, with to go orders only.

To place an order, call Terri Flanagan at (276) 340-1615, Jerry Hylton at (276) 732-0626, or

at Joey Pigg (276) 732-3002. The stew costs \$9 per quart.

The Ruritan club is also collaborating with the Spencer Penn Centre, which will serve stew by the bowl and offer other activities throughout the day, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Two little league baseball games are scheduled to be held on the ball field; one begins at 11 a.m. and the other at 1 p.m., with a donation admission to cover costs.

# Student Briefs

## JMU announces summer 2024 graduates

James Madison University announced the following local students who graduated during the August 2024 commencement exercises.

Christopher Hummer, of Mar-

tinsville, graduated with a degree(s) in Media Arts and Design - BS.

Madeline Bishop, of Collinsville, graduated with a degree(s) in School Psychology - MA.

## Reed enrolls at JMU

Martinsville resident, Adam Reed, has enrolled at James Madison University for the fall 2024

semester. Reed's selected major is Nursing - BSN.

# Constitutional Speech Contest underway

The American Legion annually sponsors the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest," to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship and to earn scholarship money.

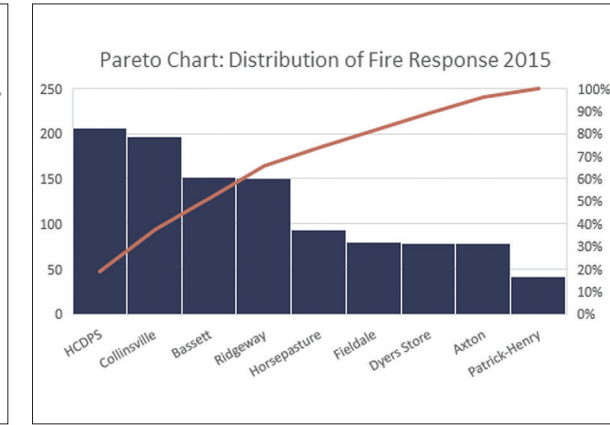
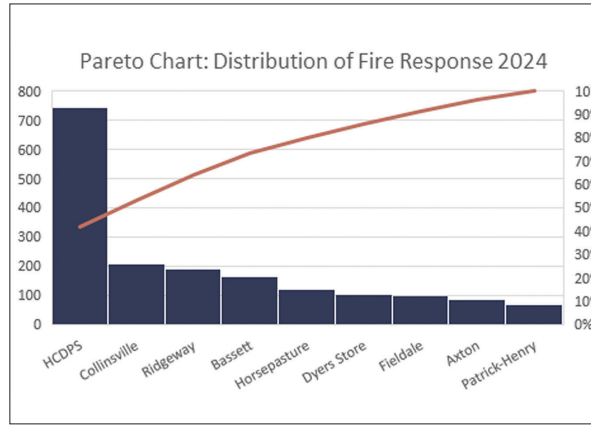
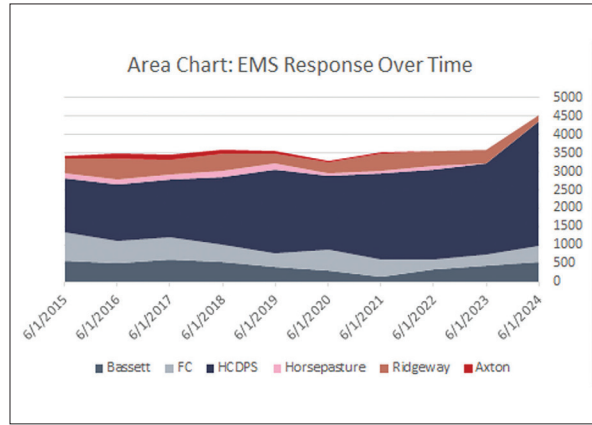
This contest is open to all high school students, public, private and

home schooled.

For more information, go online and type "The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest Scholarship Program," visit a guidance counselor at your high school, contact your local American Legion Post, or email Curtis R. Millner, Sr. at GWCTrojan.60@mail.com.

The contest will be held locally, at district, regional, state and national levels, with scholarship monies to be won at all levels, starting in December 2024. The national finalists are awarded \$25,000 for first place, \$22,500 for second place and \$20,000 for third place.

# Campaign launched to increase emergency responders



In 2015, the Henry County Department of Public Safety responded to approximately 1,500 EMS calls year to date in June, which was 43 percent of all calls for the county (see Figure 1). By 2024, the department had responded to approximately 3,300 calls year to date, which was 74 percent of all calls in the county.

Henry County, in conjunction with its volunteer Fire & EMS agencies, is launching a three-month campaign to bring awareness to the importance of emergency response volunteers and to boost recruitment and retention efforts.

For many years, volunteer agencies have served as the backbone to the county's emergency response network, but the number of volunteers has steadily declined over the last several years.

A reduction in the county's volunteer force has strained resources for the agencies and led to an uptick in the number of calls that

are handled by the Henry County Department of Public Safety (HCDPS).

"We have tremendous volunteers in our community but lately we have been asking them to do too much with too little," said Matt Tatum, director of Public Safety. "It is unsustainable to have the same few individuals running all of these calls for these stations. They simply get burnt out. Our department was originally created to assist the agencies on these calls but due to a lack of volunteers, we're quickly becoming the primary response for certain parts of the county."



Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department is pictured.

# Steep fines, potential jail time are part of Martinsville's updated approach to curb absenteeism

In a collaborative effort to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance, Martinsville City Public Schools and the Commonwealth's Attorney have agreed to a change in how truancy cases will be handled in the school district.

Regular attendance is not only a legal requirement under the Code of Virginia, but it is also essential for student success. Consistent attendance helps students build good habits that last into adulthood, fosters responsibility, and contributes to academic achievement.

Recognizing the critical role that regular attendance plays in a student's education, the city school district is taking steps to ensure

that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

In the past, parents and guardians in Martinsville who failed to ensure their child's regular school attendance were charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor, which carries a maximum fine of \$500. In this new effort to support student attendance, the school district and the Commonwealth's Attorney's office have agreed to reclassify truancy as contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a Class 1 misdemeanor. This change carries a possible fine of up to \$2,500 and may include jail time.

"Contributing to the delinquency of a child is a serious charge," said Commonwealth's Attorney Andy Hall. "It's my hope that prosecu-

tions ... will be rare, as students and families avail themselves of the outstanding educational opportunities that Martinsville Public Schools provides. We want students to be successful, and perhaps the most important component of academic achievement is consistent attendance."

"Absences can lead to gaps in knowledge and understanding," said T.J. Slaughter, the school system's director of School Safety and Emergency Management, who also oversees student truancy. "When a student misses school, it can be challenging to catch up, leading to frustration and disengagement. Consistent attendance helps prevent these gaps and helps keep students on track."

"We understand that illnesses and emergencies happen," Slaughter said, "and there are times when your child may need to stay home. However, we encourage our families to prioritize attendance whenever possible and, importantly, communicate with the school if your child must be absent."

This updated approach reflects the district's commitment to supporting families in maintaining consistent attendance and providing students with the education they deserve. Martinsville schools understand that this change may have a significant impact, and the district is dedicated to working collaboratively with families to ensure that every student has the best chance to thrive.

# Authorities investigate school threat

On September 10, around 1:50 p.m., G. W. Carver Elementary School received a threat that was made over the phone. As a precautionary measure, the school was placed on a partial lockdown. The Henry County Sheriff's Office responded to the school to assist with the dismissal of students. Henry County Public Schools staff along with the Henry County Sheriff's Office are working diligently to determine the origin of the threat to swiftly get it resolved. At no time were students and staff in danger.

Recent tragedies at schools around the country have heightened everyone's concern for the

safety of students. The Henry County Sheriff's Office takes every threat to our school system seriously, and we will work diligently to bring those responsible for disrupting our schools to justice. Please remind them that if they become aware of a concern to alert the school administration and/or the school resource officer so that it can be dealt with quickly.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office and the school system would like to encourage parents to talk with their children about the importance of reporting suspicious activities or disturbing information to a trusted adult.

# Three local residents among Youngkin appointees

In his most recent round of board appointments, Gov. Glenn Youngkin appointed three local residents to the New College Institute's Board of Directors:

- Valerie Crummie Johnson of Martinsville, Senior Healthcare Marketing Manager, Kimberly-Clark Corp.
- Leeland Prillaman of Henry County, retired, Ernst & Young LLP
- Marcus Stone of Bassett, CEO, Connect Health + Wellness



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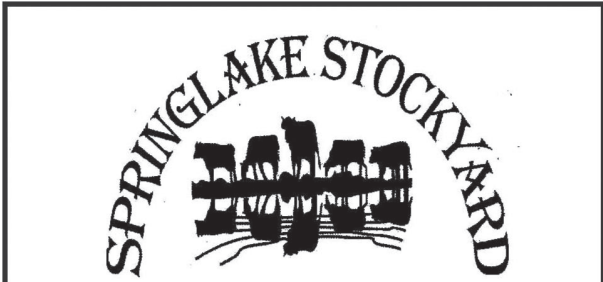
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**PUBLISHER**

Michael Showell

**EDITOR**

Debbie Hall - [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)  
(276) 694-3101

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**

Wendi Craig - [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)  
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## Ridgeway man charged in barricade incident

Ethan St. Claire Harr, 32, of 2734 Eggleston Falls Road, Ridgeway, is being held with no bond following a September 8 incident, according to the Henry County Sheriff's Office.



Ethan St. Claire Harr

Around 9 p.m. that Sunday, the E-911 Dispatch Center received a call about a domestic incident at 157 Wedgewood Road, Ridgeway, Henry County Sheriff's Capt. Sandy Hines said. While in route to the residence, deputies received an update from dispatchers that a man brandished a firearm at family members in the home, and threatened to harm them and himself.

When deputies arrived, family members had safely exited the residence, and deputies were told that the man was still in possession of a firearm. At that time, patrol deputies attempted to contact the man using the PA system in the deputies' patrol vehicle.

The man allegedly continued to disregard any attempts to contact him, and the Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and Crisis & Hostage Negotiators were called in to assist in a peaceful resolution to the incident, the release stated.

Negotiators communicated with the man for several hours before he exited the residence and surrendered to deputies.

Harr is charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, brandishing a firearm, and obstructing justice. He is being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

Hines wrote that the sheriff's office thanked the City of Martinsville Police Department and the Virginia State Police for their assistance.

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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 Commonweath 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 MATRIMONII 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

Judge signature: Jennifer Roberts

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. ... 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.

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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, Mersedesa 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

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COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for September 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permit and Variances for the following case.

Case S-24-07 Michelle Hairston A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Family Day Care Home to accommodate up to 7 children. The property is located at 657 Chatmoss Ct. Ext. in the Iriswood District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R as shown on Tax Map 43.6(40)5/28. The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Lee H. Clark, AICP Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE RECORD OWNER:

Timothy E. Ross Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure OWNER - Landowner: Timothy E. Ross PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER - 172 Reed Stone St. - Reed Creek District Henry County, Virginia Tax Map: 15.7(005)000/008 Account Number - 154330001

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

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY ROUTE 58 WEST SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT BID #24-10243-3119

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of the Route 58 West Sewer Extension Project will be received by the Henry County Public Service Authority in Room 210 Purchasing Department at the Henry County Administration Building, P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078 (Postal Service) or 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112 (UPS or Fed Ex) until 3:00 p.m. local time on October 24, 2024, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The project involves construction of approximately 4,700 LF of 10" and 8" gravity sewer line approximately, manholes, and related improvements.

MBE/WBE firms are encouraged to submit bids. Bidders must comply with the following: the President's Executive Order #11246 prohibiting discrimination in employment regarding race, color, creed, sex, or national origin; the President's Executive Orders #12138 and 11625 regarding utilization of MBE/WBE firms; the President's Executive Order 13658 regarding minimum wages on federal funded construction contracts; the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Davis-Bacon Act; and 23CFR Section 635.410(b) "Buy America" for all iron and steel products permanently incorporated into the work.

The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall comply with provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act and Related Acts. Federal minimum wage laws are applicable to all construction contracts in excess of \$2,000. The Davis-Bacon Act stipulates that all laborers and mechanics employed by the successful Bidder or its subcontractors on federally assisted projects shall be paid wages at rate not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the area as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Department of Labor regulations set forth at 41 C.F.R. part 60-4 establish goals and timetables for the participation of minorities and women in the construction industry. Those regulations apply to all federally assisted construction contracts in excess of \$10,000. The Recipient shall comply with those regulations and shall obtain compliance with 41 C.F.R. part 60-4 from contractors and subcontractors employed on the project by including such notices, clauses, and provisions in the Solicitations for Offers or Bids as required by 41 C.F.R. part 60-4. The goal for the participation of women in each trade area shall be as follows: from April 1, 1981 until further notice: 6.9 percent.

All changes to this goal, as published in the Federal Register in accordance with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs regulations at 41 C.F.R. § 60-4.6, or any successor regulations, shall hereafter be incorporated by reference into these Specific Award Conditions.

Goals for minority participation shall be as prescribed by Appendix B-80 of the Federal Register notice published October 3, 1980 at 45 Fed. Reg. 65984-65991, or any subsequently published amendments. The Recipient shall include the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (or cause them to be included, if appropriate) in all Federally assisted contracts and subcontracts. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation may not be less than those published pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 60-4.6.

Consistent with Executive Order 13858, "Strengthening Buy-American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects," the Recipient is encouraged to use, to the greatest extent practicable, iron and aluminum as well as steel, cement, and other manufactured products produced in the United States in every contract, subcontract, purchase order, or sub-award that is chargeable under this Award.

This project will be partially funded with Federal funds from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and therefore is subject to the Federal laws and regulations associated with that program.

The lowest responsible Bidder must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the project. The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: The Lane Group, Inc., 119 North Main Street, Galax, Virginia 24333, Phone 276-236-4588, e-mail state@thelanegroupinc.com. Prospective Bidders may examine and obtain the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Prospective Bidders may also examine copies of the Bidding Documents provided by the Issuing Office at the locations identified below.

- Henry County Administration Building, Engineering & Mapping Department, Room 208 or Purchasing Department, Room 210, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia 24112
- Online at: •Dodge Data & Analytics (subscription required) •Valley Construction News, 426 W. Campbell Ave. Roanoke, VA 24016 (subscription required) •Carolinas AGC/iSqt (subscription required)

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above. Contractors have the option to purchase an electronic set of bidding documents (Adobe PDF Format) for a \$50.00 non-refundable fee or sets of hard copy Bid Documents upon payment of \$120.00 (non-refundable) for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to The Lane Group, Inc. Upon request and receipt of the document deposit indicated above plus a non-refundable shipping charge, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents via delivery service. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method selected by the prospective Bidder. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

A Pre-bid Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time on October 3, 2024, in the 1st Floor Board of Supervisors Room of the Henry County Administration Building located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged; however, is not mandatory. Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Owner: Henry County Public Service Authority By: Mr. Dale Wagoner Title: General Manager Date: September 14, 2024

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.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com



# VMNH receives \$12,000 grant to support of exhibits, science festivals

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) received a \$12,000 grant from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust in support of the 2024-25 Virginia Museum of Natural History Science Outreach Initiative. Through this initiative, the museum will implement a series of high impact festivals and exhibits that provide engaging, science-based experiences for regional, statewide and national audiences.

Festivals and exhibits that are part of the initiative include:

### The Age of Dinosaurs

Opening February 8, 2025, the original special exhibit The Age of Dinosaurs explores a time when giants walked the earth. Visitors will experience an incredible diversity of dinosaur fossils, dinosaur cast skeletons and skulls, as well as stunning animatronic dinosaur displays, as they learn

the fascinating story of dinosaurs and the role paleontologists play in providing the current understanding of these animals.

### Reptile Festival

On April 25 and 26, the museum will offer a special event focusing on the reptile life that resides in Virginia and beyond. Highlighted by the museum's herpetology research program, the event will feature a fascinating diversity of live animals and scientific specimens, as well as numerous reptile-themed activities and crafts.

### Dino Festival

The museum's annual 2-day dinosaur extravaganza will take place July 25 and 26. Highlighted by the museum's paleontology research program, the event will feature life size-cast skeletons of some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils presented by renowned paleontologists,

as well as an array of dinosaur-themed activities and crafts.

### Bonez & Booz

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the museum will host its annual Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival. The event will feature Halloween-themed science stations hosted by the museum's curatorial team, as well as a wide variety of entertainment options, including fire performances, magic shows, stilt walkers, carnival games, costume contests, and more.

"The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust has provided the museum with tremendous long-term support, playing a pivotal role in the museum's ability to offer exceptional science programming and exhibits to the public," said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. "We are incredibly thankful for the foundation's continued

support and the value that it sees in supporting museum programs."

The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust has been a long-time supporter of the museum, including supporting the museum's first Science Outreach Initiative, which was introduced in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was originally designed to develop and deliver a library of STEM-based virtual programming tailored to students and school groups throughout the 2020-21 school year, as well as provide additional science-based, virtual programming for children, adults and families. In the years since, the initiative has evolved to emphasize in-person learning experiences.

For more information about the museum and its programming, visit [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net).

# Traffic stop, warrants, lead to several charges



Some of the items confiscated are pictured.

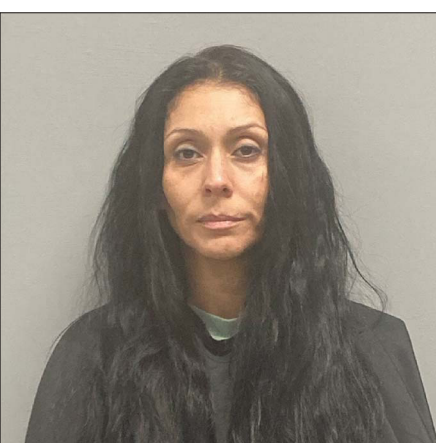


The Henry County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Interdiction Unit on Sept. 5 conducted a traffic stop on a black, Dodge Charger on Summit View Road. The vehicle was allegedly operated by Keonta Shaquon Gravely.

Henry County Patrol/Narcotics K9, Zajo, was on scene and assisted with the traffic stop, during which deputies allegedly located illegal firearms, an undisclosed amount of illegal suspected Fentanyl, and an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency.

Gravely, who since 2015 was wanted in Pittsylvania County in connection with felony distribution of a Schedule I or II drug (cocaine), was arrested and taken to the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team and Special Investigation Unit executed narcotic search warrants at 126 Kimway Drive, Axton; 23 D and L Park Circle, Axton, and 275 Rosewood Avenue, Martinsville. Several items were seized, including more than seven pounds of suspected methamphetamine, more



Mirian Alvarez

than five pounds of suspected marijuana, suspected fentanyl, three illegal firearms, multiple electronic devices, multiple digital scales, packaging materials, two vehicles, and more than \$10,000 in U.S. currency.

Authorities said those items are all consistent with the distribution of narcotics. Suspected narcotics will be sent to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis.

Three people were charged in con-



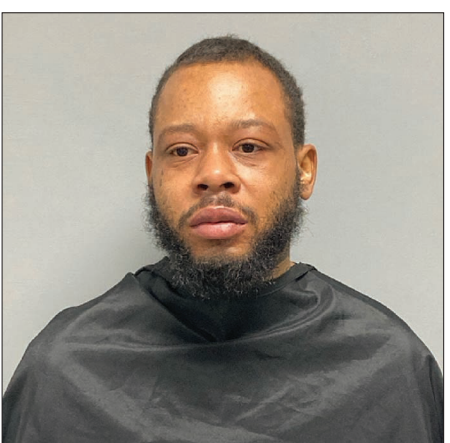
Calvin Wayne Hodges

nection with the incidents, and all are currently housed in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

- Gravely, 30, of 40 Blalock Drive, Martinsville, was charged with felony possess a Schedule I or II drug (Fentanyl), felony possess a firearm while in possession of Schedule I or II drug.

- Calvin Wayne Hodges, 46, of 126 Kimway Drive, Axton, was charged with felony possess with intent to distribute a schedule I or II drug (methamphetamine).

- Mirian Alvarez, 41, 23 D and L Park Circle, Axton, was charged with two counts of felony child endangerment and one count each felony



Keonta Shaquon Gravely

possess with intent to distribute a Schedule I or II drug (methamphetamine), felony possess with intent to distribute (marijuana), felony possess a firearm while in possession of a Schedule I or II Drug.

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

**Henry County**  
**GENERAL & SPECIAL ELECTIONS**  
**Tuesday, November 5, 2024**

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**ELECTIONS FOR:**  
President & Vice President  
Member U. S. Senate  
Member U. S. House of Representatives 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Constitutional Amendment

**SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE**

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**STATEWIDE REFERENDUM/PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:**  
**Ballot Question:** *Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?*

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**AN APPROPRIATE ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS**  
Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before voting!  
[vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation)

**POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

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**October 15, 2024:** Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election. Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Henry County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

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**IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING**  
**Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office**  
located at the Henry County Administration Building  
3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, Virginia 24112  
Monday – Friday, September 20 – November 1, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, October 26, and November 2, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**\*\*Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024:** Last day to vote an In-Person (early) Absentee Ballot at the Registrar's Office\*\*

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**MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING**  
Request an Absentee ballot application: [vote@henrycountyva.gov](mailto:vote@henrycountyva.gov) or <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>  
Absentee ballots ARE counted

**Friday, October 25, 2024:** Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024:** Election Day ALL DROPPED OFF Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office by 7 p.m. (Virginia/Eastern Standard Time) to be counted.

**Friday November 8, 2024:** ALL Absentee voted ballots that are returned via mail must be post marked on or before election day and received in the Registrar's Office by NOON (Virginia time) to be counted.

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**BALLOT DROP OFF STATIONS**  
Monday – Friday, September 20-November 1, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, October 26 & November 2, 2024: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office**  
Henry County Administration Building 3300 Kings Mountain Road #103 Martinsville, Virginia 24112  
**On Election Day Only: All polling places and the Henry County Registrar's Office**

**Dawn Stultz-Vaughn, Director of Elections & General Registrar**  
3300 KINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD #103 MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24112  
TELEPHONE: 276-634-4698 FAX: 276-632-8278

Email: [vote@henrycountyva.gov](mailto:vote@henrycountyva.gov)  
<https://www.henrycountyva.gov/178/Elections-Registrar>

## Health Brief

The West Piedmont Health District reports that:

### Whooping cough cases skyrocket in Virginia

Whooping cough (or pertussis) has infected more than 12,000 people in the U.S. this year. Virginia is seeing one of the biggest spikes: from 66 cases last year to 368 in 2024, five times the rate. According to VDH, the increase is being driven primarily by outbreaks in group settings, including schools, daycares, some universities and religious communities. Children should be up to date with the immunizations through the recommended school vaccines. However, all adults who have never had the Tdap shot, or who have not had it within the last 10 years, should schedule an immunization. Pregnant women should get it in the last trimester. You can get the shot at any West Piedmont Health Department by calling the office in your locality.

**Walk-in Flu Shot clinics** are underway at the Henry-Martinsville Health Department during September on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month – 9 am to 11 am and 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month – 1 pm to 3 pm. For more information and to see the schedule, visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/west-piedmont/>.

**Appointments for Flu Shots** may be made by calling health de-

partments in Franklin (540-484-0292) and Patrick counties (276-693-2070).

### Update about the West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitoes in some regions of Virginia. Protect your family by:

Using insect repellent when outside.

Dumping standing water around your home.

Maintaining window screens to keep mosquitos out of your home.

The West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne illness, is spreading across the United States with alarming speed, now reported in 38 states. The CDC recently updated their list, revealing the widespread nature of the virus this year. ... Virginia has reported 4 cases of West Nile virus this year, reflecting the ongoing spread of this mosquito-borne illness across the state. Virginia's diverse climate, ranging from humid coastal regions to more temperate inland areas, provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of West Nile virus transmission. Public health officials are urging residents to be vigilant, particularly during the warmer months when mosquito activity is at its peak. For additional information, visit <https://bestlifeonline.com/west-nile-dangerous-states/>.



# Crossing the Lines

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

### Fire and EMS issues focus of town hall



A five-man team visited Patrick County to conduct a fire/EMS study, according to Spencer Willet, Government Affairs Manager for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Many of the issues that have been expressed by residents and fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) volunteers were reiterated at an August 26 town hall meeting held by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Department of Fire Programs Government Affairs Manager Spencer Willet said the five-man team visited the county on behalf of the board of supervisors, which requested a study be done earlier this year.

"The purpose of us being here this evening is a public hearing, so we are not necessarily here to answer questions on what we're seeing other than if you have questions about what the study process is. We're here to hear from you and what your concerns are about fire and EMS here in Patrick County," he said.

Willet said the town hall meeting concluded the first day of a three-day stint in the county, with the group meeting with each of the county's fire and EMS agencies, county administrator, EMS coordi-

nator, and other key players.

At the end of the three-days, Willet said the group might solicit more information from the county or some of its organizations to produce a report that will probably be made public in early March.

"Once that's done, the study team will convene, compile notes. The report will be sent back to the county for technical edits only. They will get a copy of the report just to make sure we spelled every department's names right, but they will not be able to change any of the recommendations at that point," he said.

When the technical edits are complete, he said the report would go to the Fire Board for consideration - and most likely at the end of February 2025 would be approved. Once it is approved, it becomes a public document.

"So, whether the county, or an individual organization, or whoever doesn't like it or does like it, it's going to be on the state website. It'll be a record that we keep and will be available to anybody," he said.

### New accreditation system may impact school system

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood believes the state's new accreditation system that will go into effect for the 2024-25 school year will not have an impact on how students are taught in the Patrick County school division.

It won't change anything "as far as making sure kids are well-educated, our teachers are trained and doing the best they are every day," he said, but the new system may change how the schools are perceived and publicized, especially as the state estimates that 60 percent of schools will be either in the 'off track' or 'needs intensive support' categories.

"That is definitely going to be a public relations issue that those communities have to face," he said.

Assistant Superintendent of Administration Shannon Brown said the new system is completely changing the way schools are accredited. Under the current system, she said schools are either accredited or not accredited.

Under the current system, Brown said SOL scores are the main thing school systems looked at for accreditation.

"Now, they're a fraction of a fraction if you've seen those pie charts. The SOL scores are just a small part of a chunk of a pie, not even



Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood.

the whole piece of the pie," she said. "Now the accreditation system's going to be based on your student's SOL (Standards of Learning) scores and growth, and schools will either be classified as distinguished, on track, off track, or needs intensive support," she said.

Wood said this new system means "your accreditation in the future will be more factors that you're checking off to make sure that SOQs (Standards of Quality) are correct, that your staffing is high quality," he said.

### Blue Ridge Taphouse to Open Next Month



Warren and Crystal Lenehan take a break in the new Blue Ridge Taphouse, located in the former Leonardo's Pizzeria & Bistro.

The Blue Ridge Taphouse is set to open in October in the former Leonardo's Pizzeria & Bistro location on Main Street, according to owners Crystal and Warren Lenehan. The new venue aims to offer a space for adults in the Stuart area and beyond to enjoy craft beers and food.

Crystal Lenehan said the inspiration for the taphouse came from the couple's travels and love for exploring different beers. "Warren is from New Hampshire, where taphouses are popular. We noticed there was nothing like that in our community, so we saw an opportunity to bring something new to Main Street," she said.

The Lenehans also operate the Buckin Good Eats & Lemonade LLC food trailer, which is set up at Tractor Supply. Crystal Lenehan explained that the idea for the taphouse grew from their existing business. "We were looking for

ways to expand since the community already enjoys our food. After seeing the space, we could see the potential for this new venture," she said.

Warren Lenehan views the taphouse as a natural extension of their business. "We seem to grow a little each year," he said.

Crystal Lenehan added that their culinary journey began with a hot-dog cart, then moved to a horse trailer, and now they're venturing into a brick-and-mortar location. "Now, we're trying something new with a physical location," she said.

The taphouse will cater to adults looking for an affordable yet enjoyable experience. "We do a lot for kids in the community, which I love, but we wanted a space for date nights with good drinks and affordable food," Crystal Lenehan said.

### Garland Hall Memorial Ride set

The 4th annual Garland Hall Memorial Ride is set for Saturday, September 14. The ride will begin and end at the Fraternal Order of Eagles at 101 Wayside Park Road in Stuart.

Registration starts at 12 p.m. and kick stands go up at 1 p.m.

Event organizer Alan Hamm said the ride is to honor his deceased father-in-law, Garland Hall.

"He was an avid motorcycle rider, and he went to any benefit that was ever around that was close by, or it didn't matter how far away it was he tried to get to all of them. He didn't get to ride all the rides, but

he at least tried to donate," he said. Hamm said Hall did this for as long as he knew him.

"It's just something he liked to do. He liked to help raise money for good causes and stuff like that. So, me and my wife decided that we would toy around with the idea of starting the first one, and every year they keep getting more and more successful, so we decided to do it annually," he said.

Hamm estimates the ride will be about 40-50 miles long. It will all be on main highways, and there will also be two stops during the ride.

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

### The Story of Blind Man Martin's House



The humble abode known to many local residents as Blind Man Martin's house is pictured before it was demolished to the last splinter as work on the U.S. 58 project continued its march.



The cottage is now relegated to memory.

By Joanne Hill, Contributing Writer

The little gray cottage that most locals knew as the Blind Man Martin house has been completely removed from its location on the north side of Route 58 going up Lover's Leap Mountain. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has completely demolished, down to the last splinter, the humble abode which was a landmark for many years to so many travelers.

As VDOT continues its march up the mountain to widen Rte. 58 to four lanes, this house, where 13 children were raised, had to be cleared out of the path of the new roadway. Many who traveled the mountain daily, weekly or even for yearly trips watched for this landmark, and remembered numerous truck wrecks in the Blind Man Martin curve.

The house was built by Edgar and Della Martin in the 1930s and they occupied the house for about 50 years. Seven of their children were born there and the Martin's provided comfort and nurturing as they each grew up and left home. Their oldest daughter, Ruby Jean, left home at the age of 15 to go to work at Stanley Furniture in Stanleytown, VA, as told by her daughter, Linda Smith. Most of the other children followed suit, leaving home as soon as they married or got a job and went to work. The youngest daughter, Cathy, finished high school and went to VA Tech.

When all the children were at home, they worked hard helping

to run the household; there was a big garden, canning to do, water to carry from the spring and a cow to milk. Travelers often saw the children playing ball or running in the small yard, and they sometimes saw a man or woman sitting on the little front porch. Often times, there were well tended, colorful flowers growing around the house.

The earlier children walked down the mountain to Central Academy School, the others who were born later went to Stuart School. According to an interview with Mrs. Martin in 1985, she birthed 15 children and 2 died at a very young age. Presently 7 of the children are still living. Brenda Worley, one of the daughters, talked about a good home life and of parents who were really good to their children. She said they had little cots to sleep on and, with a laugh, added that sometimes it seemed like they were on top of each other.

The Martins, remembered fondly by the neighborhood people, eloped and were married in Reidsville, NC, on January 7, 1929. They had met at a dance, were young and their parents didn't want them to get married, but they got a driver to take them to the event and when they returned, the parents had to accept it. When they were at that age, Della played the autoharp and especially liked to play for Edgar. It is interesting to note that in her later years, Della enjoyed playing the autoharp at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection, her grandson accompanied her.

**1-3-5-7-9PM**      **1-3-5-7-9PM**      **1-3-5-7-9PM**      **1-4-7-9:15PM**

**HOLLYWOOD GINEMA** beside WALMART  
 Martinsville 278-858-3458



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# McCulloch continues to thrive on council

By Taylor Boyd

After more than 18 months on the Ridgeway Town Council, Maeve McCulloch feels the experience has met, and exceeded, her expectations.

"It's been a really great experience. I learned a lot, and I work with really awesome people" on the council. "Because I grew up going to council meetings with my mom, she was working for the City of Martinsville, so I knew how they were, and I've kind of always known how they were," she said.

However, McCulloch said she didn't expect to be treated like a grown up when she first started on council when she was 18.

"But I was, and everyone has made sure to include me and listen to me, and everyone values my opinion. So, I'd say it went better than I thought it would," she said.

While she's gotten a lot of attention for being in the position due to her age, McCulloch noted everyone has thus far been supportive of her political endeavors.

The now 20-year-old was elected to the council when she was just 18, making her one of the youngest politicians in the county.

McCulloch was appointed to the position to fill a vacant seat and finish out its remaining term. She was elected to a four-year term as a write in candidate during the November 2022 election.

One thing McCulloch is proud of from her time on council was the 2023 Ridgeway Christmas parade.

"I was involved with trying to get some of the Patrick & Henry" Community College (P&HCC) "athletics since I go to school here, and we got the cheer team to participate in the parade, which is the first time that we've ever had a college representative in our parade, which was really awesome," she said.

McCulloch believes this is the first time P&HCC has been represented locally in a parade.

She is also proud of the increased public engagement with more people attending council meetings.

"That really didn't have anything to do with me, but it's great to see that people are starting to care," she said. "Even if they're not excited and happy, they're more like complaining, they're still voicing their opinions and their ideas, which is just a great thing to see," she said.

McCulloch believes government doesn't work without public involvement, especially since the council is comprised of elected



McCulloch was a panel speaker at the Virginia Young Democrats local government panel in Roanoke.



Maeve McCulloch will continue to serve on the Ridgeway Town Council while she studies political science at Radford University.

officials.

"I mean that's a chance for people to come and tell you how they feel, even if it's rude and horrible, which it's not rude and horrible, but even if it were to be it would still be an honor to hear," she said.

One plan McCulloch is currently working on is trying to get a Virginia Love works sign placed in the town.

"Because we currently don't have a Love works sign, so I'm trying to get one of those. We're still working on completely free internet for the town with" American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "Covid relief fund. We're trying to do that, which we've been working on for a while, and we're still hoping to accomplish that," she said.

However, as Henry County started doing the same thing, McCulloch said Ridgeway is now waiting for them to see what they do.

She also wants to have a little free library placed somewhere in town limits "because they're all over Martinsville and Henry County and Danville too and I want to get one for our town."

McCulloch's political fame also isn't just local as she was invited to speak at the Virginia Young Democrats local government panel in Roanoke.

"I got to meet other young people, I was

still the youngest there, but I mean they were still younger than what you see around here and in our local governments," she said.

As she was in a room full of young people, McCulloch said she was looked at like another young person, but not looked down on as a young person.

"Where I'm on the town council I feel like they still look at me like a young person, but there's not an emphasis put on it like there was in that panel where I was there because I'm a young person and because I have ideas and because I'm elected," she said.

McCulloch currently attends Radford University where she studies political science. As her address remains the same, she will still be able to serve as a council member.

"I'm planning on coming down for council meetings when I can, or like Zooming in for them. At meetings if someone can't come physically" they can "call in. I've called in before and I've Facetimed in. Whenever Craig (O'Der Jr.) is sick he'll Facetime in, he'll Zoom in," she said.

McCulloch said being able to do this is nice as it allows the council to hear everyone's opinions even if they're sick or unable to attend the meeting in person.

# Blood donations critical as new sickle cell treatments bring hope

While new cell-based gene therapies provide groundbreaking treatment options for people battling sickle cell disease in the U.S., blood donations remain critical to helping ensure these medical procedures can be completed.

During Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September, the American Red Cross is hosting over 500 blood drives nationwide and highlighting the vital role of blood donors to support these and other life-changing treatments for patients with this inherited blood disorder. As many as 50 units of blood and up to 25 units of platelets may be needed for a single patient undergoing gene therapy for sickle cell disease.

Blood and platelet donations are vital in supporting patients with sickle disease undergoing gene therapies and stem cell transplants, as well as those who need regular blood transfusions to alleviate pain and help manage their disease. Schedule a blood donation appointment today by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Blood Donor App or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

"Since the FDA approved these new cell-based gene therapies in December 2023, there has been a lot of excitement in both the sickle cell and medical community about the potential impact on the future health of patients," said Dr. Yvette Miller, executive medical director of the American Red Cross. "However, what's not being discussed is the crucial role blood donors will continue to play. Without their generosity, these treatments simply won't be possible." Patients undergoing gene

therapy will need the support of blood and platelet transfusions before, during and post treatment to ensure the best possible outcome.

Individuals awaiting gene therapy often need ongoing blood transfusions for several months to help maintain stable hemoglobin levels and bone marrow health. They will also undergo stem cell collection as part of their treatment and require red blood cell exchanges, a non-surgical therapy that removes abnormal red blood cells and replaces them with healthy red blood cells obtained from blood donors.

Additionally, after being treated with chemotherapy in preparation for cell infusion, red blood cells and platelet transfusions are needed to help carry oxygen and prevent life-threatening bleeding complications and stroke.

While gene therapy offers hope for the future, accessibility remains limited due to a number of factors including age restrictions, patient health history and cost. Currently, bone marrow (mostly offered in pediatric settings) and stem cell transplants are the only known cures for sickle cell disease. These transplants also depend on the availability of closely matched blood and platelet donations to reduce the risk of transfusion-related complications. For patients with sickle cell disease, blood donors who are Black are almost three times more likely to be a match for the blood most often needed, compared with donors who are not Black or African American.

As sickle cell gene therapies, bone marrow and stem cell treatments evolve, the demand

for blood and platelet donations will continue in order to support both for these treatments and for patients who need regular blood transfusions to alleviate pain and help manage the complications of their disease.

Helping Patients Thrive through the Sickle Cell Initiative

The Red Cross launched its national Sickle Cell Initiative in 2021 to grow the number of blood donors who are Black to help patients with sickle cell disease and improve health outcomes. One in 3 African American blood donors is a match for people with sickle cell disease.

Since the launch of the initiative, the number of first-time

African American blood donors giving with the Red Cross has grown to more than 108,000—helping to strengthen and diversify the blood supply, while reversing the trend of declining donors overall for this group. Additionally, through this work, the Red Cross has provided more than 224,000 sickle cell trait screenings to donors who self-identify as African American, Black or multiracial. Partnerships with national and local organizations within the Black community remain critical to building trust, sharing information and working together to engage new donors and help save lives. Learn more by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood.

## Puzzle Answers!

### SNOWFLAKES

solution

### THINGS WE LOOK THROUGH

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

### SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Repose;
- Roost;
- Claim;
- Smear

Today's Word

### PICASSO

### FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

### TEMPOS

### PAGAN

### VULGAR

### ANEW

### UEAGER

### NORM

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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





# PUZZLE TIME

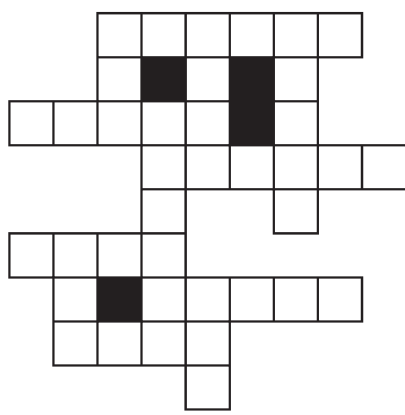


## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

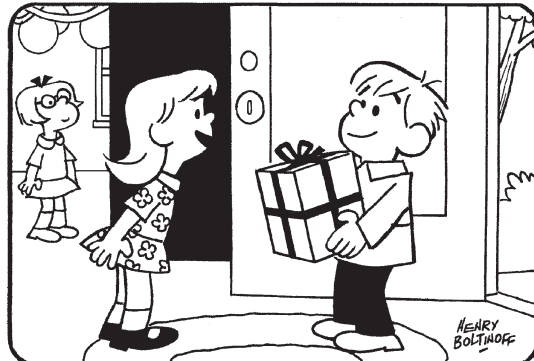
- NNU
- WAROVE
- AOGME
- ♥OMNR
- URGLVA
- ♥TGU
- NUME
- AGNPA
- ♥PMA
- MOPEST
- ♥EARGE
- ♥EWNA



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. Present is smaller. 2. Sock is higher. 3. Girl is moved. 4. Bush is different. 5. Ballroom is missing. 6. Arm is not showing.

## MAGIC MAZE

THINGS WE LOOK THROUGH

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CIRCULAR WINDOW ON A SHIP

- Bifocals
- Contacts
- Eyepiece
- Field glasses
- Fog
- Lenses
- Magazine
- Microscope
- Monocles
- Newspapers
- Peephole
- Periscope
- Spyglass
- Telescope
- Windows

## Super Crossword

### DEFINITELY NOT DICKENS

- |                                     |   |  |  |                                      |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                       | <b>47</b> Showy feather                 | <b>91</b> Antinarcootics org.            | <b>3</b> Small eatery                        | <b>42</b> Children's author Syd      | <b>80</b> Cotton-tipped stick         |
| <b>1</b> Lethal snake               | <b>50</b> Good buddy                    | <b>93</b> "Umami" taste source           | <b>4</b> Aussie leaper                       | <b>47</b> Holy hymn                  | <b>81</b> Menu, e.g.                  |
| <b>6</b> Racecar sticker            | <b>52</b> Univ. lecturer                | <b>94</b> End of the riddle              | <b>5</b> Arsenal stuff                       | <b>48</b> Saint — (Caribbean nation) | <b>82</b> Skull bones                 |
| <b>11</b> "T.N.T." rock band        | <b>54</b> Underdog's win                | <b>102</b> "Oh! Carol" singer Neil       | <b>6</b> Corrupt                             | <b>49</b> Capsize                    | <b>83</b> City WSW of Raleigh         |
| <b>15</b> Drug in "Brave New World" | <b>56</b> Riddle, part 3                | <b>103</b> "Leak" verb                   | <b>7</b> Hygiene product company             | <b>50</b> Magnet part                | <b>84</b> Numbed, as pain             |
| <b>19</b> Basic truth               | <b>61</b> Served perfectly              | <b>104</b> Objective                     | <b>8</b> Boston catches                      | <b>51</b> Total (up)                 | <b>90</b> Donna of Clinton's Cabinet  |
| <b>20</b> Cheap, in ad speak        | <b>62</b> On in years                   | <b>105</b> Biz bigwig                    | <b>9</b> Even one                            | <b>52</b> Lion groups                | <b>91</b> Sheepskin, so to speak      |
| <b>21</b> Letter carriers carry it  | <b>63</b> Set straight                  | <b>106</b> Green gem                     | <b>10</b> Large intestine's place, for short | <b>53</b> Great anger                | <b>92</b> UFO riders                  |
| <b>22</b> Eurasian border river     | <b>64</b> Slander                       | <b>107</b> Green gem sources             | <b>11</b> One-celled swimmer                 | <b>54</b> Many a shareable PC file   | <b>93</b> Imitate                     |
| <b>23</b> Start of a riddle         | <b>68</b> Broadway's — -Manuel Miranda  | <b>109</b> Third of July?                | <b>12</b> Feline pet                         | <b>55</b> Tools utilizing beams      | <b>95</b> Seers' cards                |
| <b>26</b> Harden by heat            | <b>70</b> Parenthetical comment         | <b>110</b> Sam of the Watergate hearings | <b>13</b> God, to Godard                     | <b>57</b> Small hill                 | <b>96</b> Sobieski of "Branded"       |
| <b>27</b> Negating word             | <b>71</b> Gave grub to 72               | <b>111</b> Lead singer of U2             | <b>14</b> "Tom" — Jack Ryan (TV series)      | <b>58</b> "So Wrong" singer Patsy    | <b>97</b> Editing mark                |
| <b>28</b> Ellipses                  | <b>72</b> Issa of HBO's "Insecure"      | <b>112</b> Riddle's answer               | <b>15</b> Compton, to Los Angeles            | <b>59</b> "Football's" — Beckham Jr. | <b>98</b> Auditory canal              |
| <b>29</b> Wide footwear spec        | <b>73</b> Kooky guy                     | <b>113</b> Novelist — Easton Ellis       | <b>16</b> Speeches                           | <b>60</b> Sans-serif typeface        | <b>99</b> City in central Italy       |
| <b>30</b> Take off silent mode      | <b>74</b> With 86-Across, totally wrong | <b>114</b> Narrow street                 | <b>17</b> Be positive                        | <b>61</b> Lava, beneath the surface  | <b>100</b> Second book of the Bible   |
| <b>32</b> Goofs up                  | <b>75</b> Indication                    | <b>115</b> Wall painting                 | <b>18</b> Hoppy brew                         | <b>62</b> Tiny, to a tot             | <b>101</b> "Don't admit to that!"     |
| <b>34</b> "Time" — great healer     | <b>76</b> Riddle, part 4                | <b>116</b> Astronaut's garment           | <b>19</b> Debt memo                          | <b>63</b> Ohio city on Lake Erie     | <b>102</b> "Rican to that!"           |
| <b>35</b> Pitcher                   | <b>77</b> Cynically callous             | <b>117</b> Lawn patches                  | <b>20</b> Fly like a bee                     | <b>64</b> Part of MFA                | <b>103</b> Comic Laurel               |
| <b>37</b> Deep red                  | <b>78</b> Young lady                    | <b>118</b> Cost of cards                 | <b>21</b> West of film                       | <b>65</b> U.S. soccer star Lalas     | <b>104</b> Raison d'—                 |
| <b>39</b> Riddle, part 2            | <b>79</b> See 86                        | <b>119</b> "La vista, baby!"             | <b>22</b> Mythical escapee of Crete          | <b>66</b> Pre-1991                   | <b>105</b> Close by                   |
| <b>43</b> Mommies                   | <b>80</b> Dentist's filler              | <b>120</b> U.S. soccer star Lalas        | <b>23</b> Stupefaction                       | <b>81</b> Dentist's filler           | <b>106</b> Air gun pellets            |
| <b>44</b> Hwy. felony               | <b>81</b> Enzyme name suffix            | <b>121</b> "Noises Off"                  | <b>24</b> Doing nothing                      | <b>82</b> Busy bug                   | <b>107</b> Suffixed with arm or mouth |
| <b>45</b> Easy throw                | <b>82</b> Pre-1991 world power          | <b>122</b> Part of OED                   |  | <b>83</b> Org. with U.S. secrets     |                                       |
| <b>46</b> Shooters' org.            |   |  |  |                                      |                                       |

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Baby porcupines are known as porcupettes.
- In the early 20th century, California's Glass Beach was used as a trash dump. Decades of ocean tides have cleared the beach and polished discarded bottles and automobile tail lights into collectible pebbles of sea glass.
- In 1939, Hitler's nephew wrote an article titled "Why I Hate My Uncle." He came to America, served in the Navy and settled on Long Island.
- Continental plates drift as fast as fingernails grow.
- Nineteenth-century British surgeon George Merryweather believed leeches could predict the weather. Sadly, his "tempest prognosticator," displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851, failed to catch on.
- Viking burials included board games.
- Child star Shirley Temple reportedly didn't love her famous curls, preferring instead the cropped 'do of her hero, Amelia Earhart.
- Remember this when you're attempting to settle a dispute with currency: When you flip a coin, there is a slightly greater chance that it will end up on the side it started.
- The NASA Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida is so huge it has its own weather.
- Women in traditional Rwandan societies avoid eating goat meat, as it's believed this will cause them to grow a beard.
- The record for the longest tire skid was set in 1964 at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.
- Walt Disney World is a surprisingly popular place for people to scatter the ashes of their deceased loved ones. Unsurprisingly, the "Happiest Place on Earth" takes a dim view of the practice, saying that anyone bringing human remains onto the property will be asked to leave.
- The modern popped collar originated as a way to keep tennis players' necks from getting sunburned.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ◆

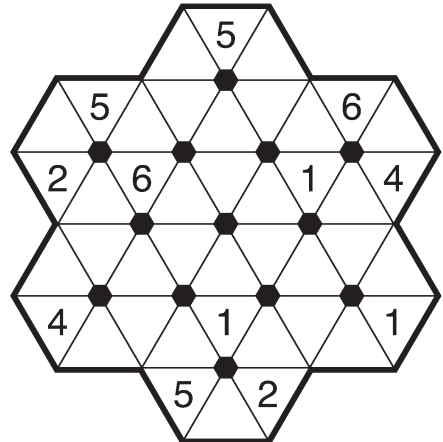
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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.

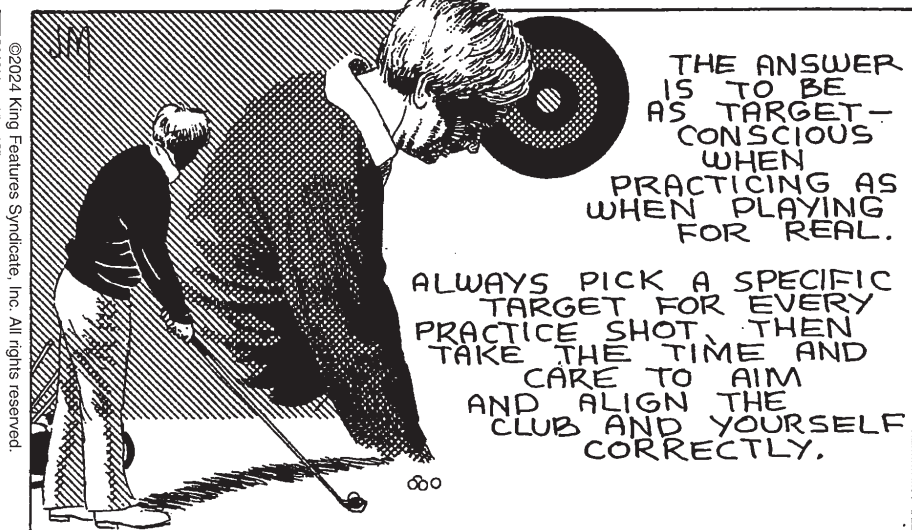
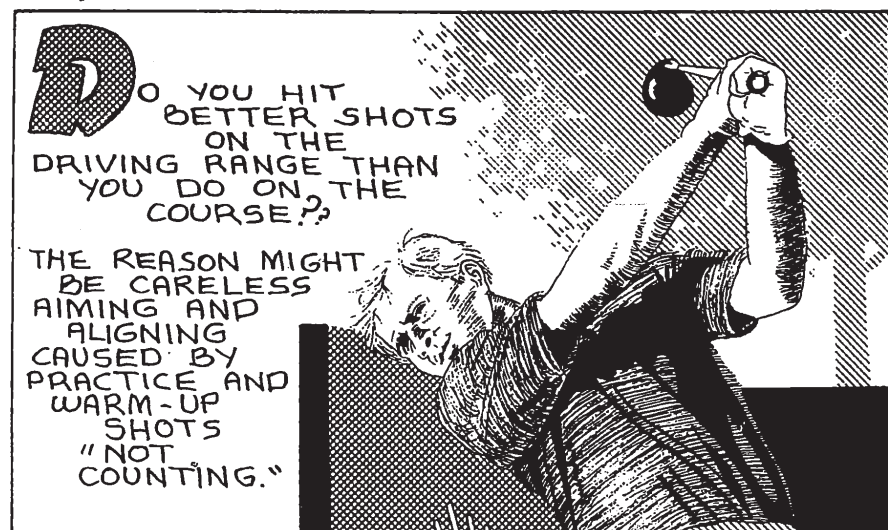


### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

- ◆ Easy
- ◆◆ Medium
- ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



"That painter you hired to re-do the living room... was he, by any chance, named \_\_\_\_\_?"

## 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!

- Calm
- SOEPER
- Nest
- TOROS
- Title
- CLAMI
- Smudge
- REAMS

### TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

## ADVERTISE!

## Advertise With Us!

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

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

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

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



# Line Dancing to be featured at Sounds on the Square

**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, September 13, 2024**

**Line-Dancing on the Square**

**with Sue Ann Ehmann**

**Food by A Heavenly Sandwich**

**Sponsors:** Children First Pediatrics, Carter Bank & Trust, DESKINS INC, MHC, NCI, Hooker Furnishings, The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, PLLC, HF, Sarver Cleaning Services.

Do you prefer that your boogie is electric or boot scootin'? Has your cupid ever shuffled? Join a special edition of Sounds on the Square – an evening of line-dancing on Friday, September 13, on the beautiful brick Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 7-10 p.m. Sue Ann Ehmann, line dance extraordinaire, will lead the masses of all levels, from beginner to expert, while special DJ Mary Kaye Johnson turns the tunes.

Admission is free. Beginning at 6 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers, and A Heavenly Sandwich will sell food. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Invite your friends and family for an evening of music and dancing at Uptown Martinsville's premier concert series.

Country line dancing appears to have

originated in Europe and arrived in the United States with the settlers who immigrated to America. They evolved from the English country dances, or contra dances, that were danced in the New England states of the U.S. in the early 1800s. Today's country line dancing was probably born in Nashville, Tennessee, when the song "Achy Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus became a huge hit in 1992, and country line dancing was catapulted into the mainstream.

Ehmann graduated from Patrick County High School and studied communications at the University of Miami. She began dancing in 1990 with the Carolina Shag. She moved into line dancing, and since 2005, has been teaching line dance classes on a regular basis in Virginia and North Carolina.

She attends workshops frequently to remain current. Her choreographed dances have won at JG Marathon, an annual international event held in Raleigh, North Carolina. She has been featured in Linedancer Magazine. She and her husband, Ron Brammer, reside in the Stella community.

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



Sue Ann Ehmann cultures. This is the fourth year of the series.

## New USDA Watersheds report provides insight into agricultural data

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service released its 2022 Watersheds report, providing insights into farm operations based on watershed boundaries.

Part of the USDA's 2022 Census of Agriculture, the report offers a de-

tailed look into U.S. farms, land use, fertilizer and chemical application and specific commodities segmented by watersheds. As another way to analyze agricultural data, this granular approach helps examine the potential impact of agriculture on watersheds. It also tracks the progress the agri-

culture industry has made toward achieving water quality goals. This data also can aid in decision-making about policies, grants and programs related to agriculture and conservation management.

"Publications like Watersheds augment the already expansive collection of data from the census of agriculture," said NASS administrator Joseph Parsons. "The Watersheds publication provides agricultural and environmental data users with a novel way to examine and compare ag census data, in addition to the nationwide, state, county and congressional district-level data NASS provided earlier this year."

Farmers voluntarily implement conservation and sustainable practices like no-till, reduced till and nutrient management to protect waterways. According to the report, the U.S. saw an almost 8% increase in no-till and a 5% increase in reduced-till practices among farmers from 2017 to 2022.

Additionally, the report indicated the number of farmland acres treated with commercial fertilizers, lime and soil conditioners declined nationally by over 16 million acres between 2017 and 2022.

Virginia has land in three USDA watershed regions: the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic-Gulf, and Ohio, with most of the state in the Mid-Atlantic watershed region. The number of farms practicing no-till and reduced-

till practices in this region increased slightly between 2017 and 2022, and the use of commercial fertilizers, lime and soil conditioners decreased by over 327,000 acres, or 6%.

While the numbers reflect the number of farms and farmland acres lost during this period, it also shows the implementation of conservation practices that Virginia farmers use.

"This report demonstrates that when given the resources, farmers take advantage of voluntary incentive programs through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service," said Martha Moore, senior vice president of governmental relations for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "In addition to the no till and reduced till, Virginia farmers also are appreciative of Virginia providing additional incentive programs for a suite of conservation practices through their local soil and water conservation districts. Farmers are working hard to take advantage of this help to prevent the loss of nutrients into Virginia's waterways."

The report also found that farmers in the Mid-Atlantic watershed region applied manure to 1.7 million acres in 2022, down from nearly 2 million acres in 2017. Pesticide use showed a steep 26% decline, going from 2.5 million acres in 2017 to 1.8 million acres in 2022.

To view the full report, visit bit.ly/4cOfAXL.



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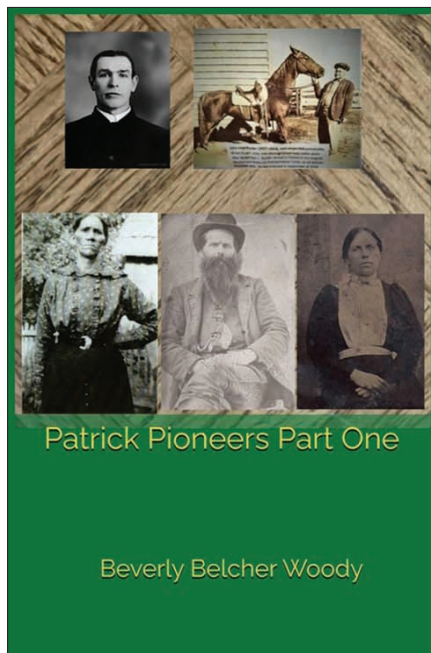
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# Woody to present “Patrick Pioneers Part One” in lecture series



Beverly Belcher Woody



**“Patrick Pioneers Part One”**  
 with Beverly Belcher Woody  
 Sunday, September 15, 2024  
 3:00 P.M.  
 Historic Henry County Courthouse  
 1 East Main Street  
 Uptown Martinsville

**Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series**



The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon

Lecture, “Patrick Pioneers Part One” with Beverly Belcher Woody, on Sunday, September 15, 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Woody’s book is the culmination of a three-year effort to research and record the lives and stories of the people of Patrick County. This first volume contains 100 stories across over 400 pages. She said, “I have always had a passion for local history. I loved listening to the older folks in my family tell stories about how things were when they grew up. I often wished that my grandparents had written their stories and memories down for future generations.”

She writes a weekly local history column called Patrick Pioneers for Patrick County’s oldest newspaper, The Enterprise.

Woody serves as regent of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and on the Board of Directors of both the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society. She was named “Teacher of the Year 2023” by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). She earned a bachelor’s degree from Old Dominion University and a master’s degree from Regent University. She teaches at Martinsville Middle School. Beverly and her husband, Mark, live in Snow Creek with their assortment of animals.

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

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



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