



AEP External Affairs Manager Amanda Cox discusses the company's role in the broadband expansion project.

Schools bid to change funding process fails, board hears update on broadband expansion

By Taylor Boyd

For the second time in nearly as many months, the Henry County School system requested a change to how it receives local funding, but the motion failed to gain support at the Tuesday, Sept. 24 Board of Supervisors meeting.

County Administrator Dale Waggoner presented the request, which sought to change the allocation of public education funds from categorical to lump sum funding. Currently, the board of supervisors must approve transfers between budget categories. Under the proposed change, the school board would have more flexibility to move funds between categories without requiring board approval.

"This would allow the school system to shift funds between categories as needed, while still providing

the board oversight through access to the Munis accounting system," Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis said.

She explained that the current system requires every transfer to go before the board, which can slow down the process. She emphasized that even with lump sum funding, the board would still be able to monitor transactions through Munis, the county's accounting system.

Garrett Dillard, who represents the Iriswood District and also works as the school division's Director of Community Learning, asked for clarification on the pros and cons of the change.

Blake-Lewis pointed to increased efficiency as the primary advantage, noting that the board of supervisors has never denied a request

(See Broadband p. 5)

City to acquire former country club for solar site



Ayla Gordon, with her father Sifu Kristian Gordon, is recognized by the council for her world championship win.

By Jessica Dillon

The council convened on Sept. 24 to address several topics, including the approval of a former country club site that would be used for solar.

Planning for the solar site began in 2020 with the execution of a power purchase agreement (PPA). However, the project was left in limbo after the investor terminated the agreement in May 2024. The city was given the option to purchase the former Lynwood Country Club property, located on the former Dupont parcel.

The city has been seeking a "behind the meter" solar project since 2014, with five solid waste management units on the site that would

(See Solar Site p. 3)



Rico Johnson addresses the council about ongoing accusations of underage drinking at Kornna Kitchen.

Issues among council won't impact city residents

By Debbie Hall

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones reassured residents that disagreements among members of city council will not impact their ability to act in the city's best interests.

"There is still unity to get things done," Jones said. "That doesn't mean we won't have strife. If people have been paying attention, these things have been happening for a while. People are just now catching on because it's really started to hit the media."

Jones cited the recent remarks about Rayshaun Gravely's campaign for city council as a tipping point. Even then, Jones said he did not go public or seek out the media, but "I did speak about this to friends in our circle."

Before he was approached by a Henry County Enterprise reporter "in reference to my support for" Gravely, "I held that in," Jones said. "No-



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones reassured residents that despite discord among city council members, city services will not be affected.

body had asked me about it. But when you ask me, I'm going to tell exactly how things were going."

Jones said he knew that discussing the situation would be contentious, and a "problem for me, but I'm going to let you know this is what I'm doing" and why. "I'm going to be truthful."

As a result, Jones shared comments that he said were made behind closed doors by Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls about Gravely's campaign.

Rawls later cited Gravely's inexperience and other issues as concerns.

"I want him (Gravely) to have a fair and equal chance" without interference, Jones said, adding he would help any candidate. Aside from that, he does not "want to be involved in the election."

But the aftermath of that situation prompted some residents to call for unity among council

(See Issues p. 4)

Kornna Kitchen Prioritizes Community Focus

By Jessica Dillon

Rico Johnson opened Kornna Kitchen in Uptown Martinsville just over a year ago. Since then, his focus has been on serving the community—often feeding essential workers and hosting vibrant weekend events.

"My journey here has been amazing. I never thought when I opened the place in the middle of Preston, in the middle of nowhere, that it would take off this quickly," Johnson said of the eatery that began in the county and then moved to Martinsville. With support from his wife, Johnson worked to promote the restaurant during its early days.

"I wanted a place where I could wave and say, 'Hello, how are you doing? Welcome,'" said Johnson, recalling the warm reception the restaurant received. He attributes its success to the quality of its food.

(See Kornna Kitchen p. 2)



"This isn't just my place—it's our place. It's not Rico's place; it's a community place." - Rico Johnson, who aims to make Kornna Kitchen a cultural hub in Martinsville.

Mental Health Walk to raise awareness, honor Angelina Moreton-Cobbler



In memory of Angelina Moreton-Cobbler, who passed away on November 24, 2020. (Contributed)

By Jessica Dillon

The 4RC Community Mental Health Walk will be held

on September 28 in

memory of 15-year-old Angelina Moreton-Cobbler, who died

(See Mental Health p. 3)

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Kornna Kitchen

(cont. from page 1)

“The food is prepared—there’s a difference between prepared food and cooked food, and that’s the difference at Kornna Kitchen,” Johnson said, explaining that many chain buffets simply reheat food,

while his restaurant carefully prepares each dish. “Every tomato, onion, cucumber—it’s done here, prepared with care.” Johnson emphasizes that preparing food requires time, love, and

thought. “Every plate that goes out is a piece of us.” Even the staff at Kornna Kitchen are selected carefully, based not just on their work skills but on how well they work together. “I choose my employees based on how we work together because I’m passionate about food.”

Cleanliness and respect for food are essential for his team. “That’s why I teach SafeServ and Food-Serv,” said Johnson, who has been working with food since the late 1980s.

“To think that Martinsville would bring me this much joy and fuel my passion—I never would’ve guessed it. This city means a lot to me,” he said.

Johnson often gives back to the community by offering free lunches to city employees, teachers, bus

who envisions Kornna Kitchen as part of the “evolution” of Martinsville. He believes it will help attract large businesses back to the area. “If you’re fun, exciting, new, and fresh, people will gravitate toward that.”

Kornna Kitchen aims to create a new vibe and energy daily. The restaurant is dedicated to drawing in a diverse range of customers and making Martinsville a livelier place. “We’ve tried different things and continue experimenting to figure out how to make this community a more vibrant place.”

Johnson says Martinsville needs both small businesses and corporate entities to thrive. “We have to trigger economic growth from the ground up.”

He’s also focused on making Kornna Kitchen a place where people of all backgrounds feel welcome. “This isn’t just my place—it’s our place. It’s not Rico’s place; it’s a community place.” Johnson believes Martinsville has the potential to grow and credits the supportive citizens for that.

Kornna Kitchen serves a variety of prepared dishes, with a special focus on seafood. The restaurant also offers Washington, D.C.’s signature Mumbo sauce, a nod to the capital’s cuisine.

Kornna Kitchen is open daily from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., except Tuesdays. To stay updated on events, follow the restaurant’s Facebook page, where Johnson and his team regularly post updates.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, October 3
Henry County School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Summerlin Room County Admin Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

Tuesday, October 8
Horsepasture Community Meeting, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Horsepasture Ruritan Building, 16209 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville.

Events

Friday, September 27 - Saturday, September 28
The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the Main Branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. “Members Only,” 2-5 p.m. (can join at the door) on Friday, and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. -2 p.m., is open to the public. Highlighting Civil war and general history books; children’s books, and a special sale on shelved hardback and paperback fiction - buy 2/get 1 free! Each group of 3 must be either all hardback or all paperback. All proceeds go back into the library system. Next sale is in December.

Henry County Fair, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Martinsville Speedway, 340 Speedway Road, Ridgeway

Saturday, September 28
4RC Community Mental Health Walk 2024, 10 a.m. to noon, Smith River Sports Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

Monday, September 30
Basic Safety Training with Sea Survival, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., NCI, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

Wednesday, October 2
Open Studio, 1 p.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Star-

ling Ave, Martinsville. Open Studio is offered every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. Artists of all ages can craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize, learn and share with fellow artists. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members. Pay at door.

Thursday, October 3
Chix with Sticks, 10:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave, Martinsville. Knitters are invited to work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. Advanced registration required. Free to members, \$5 for nonmembers who will pay at the door

Tuesday, October 8
Open Studio, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave, Martinsville. Open Studio is offered every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. Artists of all ages are invited to craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize, learn, and share with fellow artists. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members. Pay at door.

Wednesday, October 9
Open Studio, 1 p.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave, Martinsville. Open Studio is offered every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. Artists of all ages are invited to craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize, learn and share with fellow artists. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members. Pay at door.

ONGOING

The 29th annual Coats for Kids Drive is underway through Nov. 29. For more information, call Debra Buchanan at (276) 358-1463. You also may drop off new or gently used coats at Hollywood Cinema or One-Hour Martinizing on

Rives Road, Martinsville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Solar Site

(cont. from page 1)

remain undisturbed. Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls asked if there were any environmental concerns regarding the site.

“The entire site is usable, but we wouldn’t want to disturb those five areas,” said Joyce Durwin, the city’s electric director. Rawls also inquired about the total power output from the solar.

“We’re looking at about eight megawatts, which is roughly 10 percent of our needs,” said Durwin, adding that the energy generated would stay within the city, and thereby would directly benefit residents.

Rawls suggested conducting engineering studies to restore the city’s hydroelectric plant. While Durwin supported the idea, he cautioned that the costs would be high.

“I am really excited about this, and I think we need every single option we’ve got to take control of our power destiny,” said Rawls. The city plans to look at ways to keep energy costs from drastically rising in the future.

Council member Tammy Pearson raised concerns about the visual impact and potential degradation of the solar units. Durwin reassured her that the site is a former industrial area, not visible from residential neighborhoods, and that decommissioning costs would be factored into the power purchase agreement.

The council approved the motion

and advised residents to be cautious of solar installation scams.

Pearson warned of predatory contracts, and Durwin urged residents to contact the city before agreeing to any solar deals. “There are a lot of scams out there from a residential perspective,” she said.

Rawls proposed the idea of hiring a city employee to broker deals with legitimate solar installers for residents. Durwin agreed that exploring a trusted partner could be beneficial.

Rawls highlighted the financial incentives available through the Inflation Reduction Act, which could assist households with energy efficiency improvements. He suggested further discussion on how the city could help residents navigate these opportunities.

The council also approved funding to improve sewer interceptors at Doe Run, Smith Lake Road, and the Martinsville Industrial Park. The city will contribute \$559,610, with the remaining costs covered by a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) loan.

Additionally, the council voted to accept a \$700,000 grant for MiNet, with a \$300,000 city share. The grant will aid in providing fiber internet to underserved areas.

During the public comment period, John Mahan urged the council to offer more support for former felons, particularly in securing housing. Mahan, a whistleblower in the

North View Garden Apartments water situation, shared his personal struggles in finding housing due to a 2017 felony conviction.

“It was wrong in 2017, and it was wrong today, and I will stand up and take responsibility for what I did.”

Despite completing his parole, Mahan has been denied housing opportunities, and began living with his mother because he was not able to rent because of his record.

At the time, he said he was told, “you have to be seven years clear of a felony before they rent you the apartment.” He said his applications were denied, and the goalpost was moved from seven years post without being convicted of a felony to seven years after he had completed parole.

“We have people returning from incarceration who want to do right, but even after serving their time, the stigma remains,” said Mahan, adding that even after even after the criminal record continues to be held over their heads.

*Restaurant owner Rico Johnson also addressed the council, expressing concerns over alleged city-initiated reports of underage drinking at his establishment, Korinna Kitchen. Johnson, who said he employs a two-tier ID check system, denied the accusations and stated that his legal team is investigating the source of the claims.

The accusation is a serious charge, and no evidence has ever been found of underage drinking at the restaurant, Johnson said. “I’m just here to cook chicken,” he said, adding that his restaurant follows strict protocols to prevent underage drinking, and has even caught four fake IDs.

*In other business, the council heard the first reading of the Right of Way Abandonment for 406 James Street. If approved, the request would lead to an amendment to the city’s comprehensive plan.

*Appointed new members to boards:

- Anthony Jones was appointed to the school board with a term expiring June 14, 2028.

- Marcus Stone and Ronnie Fultz were appointed to the Economic Development Authority, with terms expiring Sept. 26, 2028.

- James Frith will serve a partial term on the Economic Development Authority, expiring Sept. 26, 2025.

- Tony Williams was appointed to the Arts and Cultural Committee for a term ending June 14, 2028.

- Charles Hill joined the Arts and Cultural Committee for a partial term expiring June 14, 2026.

- Damian Wainright was appointed to the Planning Commission, with his term ending June 30, 2028.

* Recognized Ayla Nunnehi Gordon, a world champion in Kung Fu.

Mental Health

(cont. from page 1)

by suicide on November 24, 2020. The event aims to raise awareness of mental health issues among youth in the community.

The walk, titled “Walk With Love,” will include a three-mile walk, a bake sale, and a memorial tree planting for Angelina. This follows a similar tribute held during a previous mental health walk, where a tree was planted for Ian Wright, another teen who tragically died by suicide.

Jenny Yates, a licensed clinical social worker and CEO of Four Rivers Counseling, LLC, is helping to organize the event. “These were two young people suffering in isolation due to COVID,” Yates said. “Teens were already at risk before the pandemic, and now suicide is the leading cause of death for those aged 10 to 18.”

Although Angelina and Ian did not know each other, the proximity of their deaths deeply affected the community. Yates contacted the families of both teens to create a walk in Angelina’s memory. A dogwood tree was planted in Ian’s honor at Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex in August

2022, giving his friends a place to reflect.

“I thought it would be beautiful to plant a tree for Angelina as well,” Yates said. She contacted Angelina’s mother, Sarah Cobbler, to organize the walk. Cobbler has since been actively involved in raising awareness about mental health and advocating for the destigmatization of mental health issues.

“When we hold mental health walks, it brings the issue to the forefront,” Cobbler said. “It means a lot to those who are struggling.” She emphasized the importance of recognizing mental health struggles the same way people acknowledge physical health issues. “Sometimes you feel so bad mentally that you need to take a day off.”

Angelina was a straight-A student, involved in sports and extracurricular activities, and showed no obvious signs of depression. “There were no signs like people talk about,” Cobbler said. “She wasn’t talking about death, she wasn’t isolating herself.”

However, Cobbler did notice that Angelina seemed happier in her final days—a phenomenon sometimes seen in those contemplating

suicide, as they feel relief knowing their pain will soon end. “We would have never known,” Cobbler said, reflecting on the difficulty of recognizing the signs.

Cobbler hopes the walk will encourage others who are struggling with mental health issues to seek help. “Maybe this will cause someone to think twice about suicide or push them to get the help they need,” she said.

The \$5 registration fee for the walk can be waived by contributing baked goods to the bake sale. Cobbler will be this year’s keynote speaker, and the group with the largest number of participants will receive a percentage of the donations raised. Proceeds will support the 4RC Community Scholarship Fund, which helps cover counseling sessions at Four Rivers Counseling in Martinsville.

The event will be held at the Sports Complex, 1000 Irisburg Road in Axton, from 10 a.m. to noon. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, contact the Suicide Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988.

OPINION

The looming threats

Ladies and gentlemen, I’m concerned.

Over the last few years, I’ve been following many different threats to our way of life. I’ve been assured that these threats are real, imminent, and will have horrific consequences. You would think that people would be terrified, and yet, I sometimes feel like these threats have somehow been completely forgotten.

Don’t believe me? Well, allow me to refresh your memory.

First off, the migrant caravan should be arriving any day now.

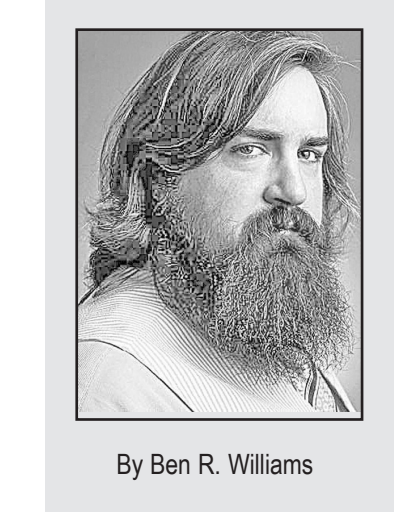
Remember back in 2018 when the dreaded migrant caravan was on its way? It was a huge issue during the midterms! Laura Ingraham called it an “invading horde,” and Michelle Malkin called it “a full-scale invasion by a hostile force.” It was a huge issue!

That was six years ago, and I haven’t really heard anything about the migrant caravan in the news lately nor has my home been invaded by conquering Hondurans, so I have to assume the caravan got waylaid somewhere in Mexico. But surely it’s still coming, and after six years, it has to be REALLY close. Why is no one talking about this?

Of course, if you think that’s bad, wait until you hear about the Zika virus. Remember the Zika virus? One of our sitting Congressmen whose column routinely appears on the same page as this one personally assured me in 2016 that the Zika virus represented an existential threat to America. He was WAY more worried about it than he ever seemed to be about COVID! How has everyone forgotten about this? Am I the only one remaining vigilant?

Also, wasn’t Mr. Potato Head going to become gender neutral? I remember Tucker Carlson being very upset about that, and also that the cartoon lady M&Ms aren’t sexy anymore. And aren’t they about to ban every book Dr. Seuss ever wrote? I saw some of his books at Barnes and Noble the other day and stocked up. It’s going to happen any day now, just you wait.

And let us not forget how bad it was when Lizzo played James



By Ben R. Williams

Madison’s magical crystal flute. That was a terrible thing for some reason. I didn’t even know that flute existed before she played it, but man, I had some strong feelings about it afterward.

Then, of course, you have all those schools that have gender-neutral litterboxes for students who identify as cats. It’s absolutely amazing. I don’t need to see a single photograph or scrap of evidence to know that it’s entirely plausible that high schools are letting students go to the bathroom in litter boxes in public and absolutely no one has recorded a video of it happening. This is the end of an era, folks.

You know what else no one is talking about lately? Ben Ghazi. It was all anyone could talk about for years, but now it’s 12 years later and this maniac still hasn’t been brought to justice. Ben Ghazi is out there somewhere, and no one seems to care but me. And what if he gains access to Hillary Clinton’s private e-mail server? We’re at 90 seconds to midnight here, people.

I just don’t get it. Why am I the only one still focusing on this stuff? Has the whole world gone crazy?

Sometimes, in my darkest moments, I almost think that all of these threats are just minor things blown wildly out of proportion or outright fabrications designed to generate politically expedient outrage.

Of course, a thought like that is every bit as crazy as these lunatics who are eating all the dogs and cats in Springfield, Ohio.

Issues

(cont. from page 1)

members.

Jones, however, said the issue was only the latest in a series of issues within the council, he said.

“For someone who hasn’t really been paying attention to say, ‘LC is changing,’ go back to around the time” that Rawls appeared on Star News to discuss certain emails between Kathy Lawson, retired City Attorney Eric Monday, and others, Jones said.

Jones did not participate in that interview, citing his involvement in an arbitration process between the city and Monday. Had he participated, “number one, I would put myself and the city in a compromising situation, and then number 2, I’m not going to come out against Kathy and do these things now. I have the most right to be mad at Kathy,” who served on the former council.

Jones cited issues during his campaign that ultimately prompted him to resign from his job in the city and accept a similar one in the county.

“But since the beginning, Kathy and I have been meeting at least once” during council rotation. “We’re talking, and the conversation is, forget what happened” and work together, Jones said.

“She always asks me, ‘LC what do I need to do? How can we move forward with this’ or ‘how can we come to an agreement on doing this or that,’” Jones said, adding he decided to “put my personal feelings and grievances of what was done to me behind for the greater good of the city. I work with this woman. All she has shown me is a good person to my face.”

Jones noted that discussions of the current budget further illustrate the tension among council members. He explained that

council members were split about funding to the Chamber’s Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG). “I’m the tiebreaker,” Jones said, explaining his decision to maintain funding after researching and reviewing the program’s successes.

In the end, Jones said he decided “we can’t cut this (funding to CPEG). We can’t duplicate (the services it provides). If people are watching the meeting, if they go back and watch it,” the disagreement is obvious.

Council members are “not going to always get along,” Jones said. “To be honest, there are very, very few things that we all always agree on. You could probably count them on one hand. There is no government that actually gets along.”

He said, “What government is about is having the ability to have your thoughts, your ideas based off your constituents, people you’re talking to, the research you’ve done. Then, come to a platform with the other five members, articulate your points to the point to where other people are willing to compromise for the greater good, collectively.”

When people say, “they want a government that gets along, there is no government that actually gets along,” Jones said, but he will work with anyone to honor his commitment to city residents. “I’ll do business with anybody, but you’ve done showed me who you are.

“We can still do the business,” with all sides presenting their viewpoints, and “we will meet somewhere in the middle,” Jones said. But to the recent calls for unity, “we’re past that at this point.”

Plans for foundation

were born of loss



By Holly Kozelsky

Isaac Sean Rakes was something special, his grandmother Rhonda Brown said.

“I was in the delivery room when he was born. He is my third grandchild. All my grandchildren are beautiful, but Isaac was different. He was perfect.”

She was fortunate to have a lot of time with him, too. In fact, he and his mother, Ashley Rakes, lived with her until he was 2 years old. His father is Terry Stump.

Isaac always had a talent for music. “I rocked him when he was a baby. When I ran out of songs, he would continue humming,” she said.

He taught himself to play guitar and piano. One of the special memories of him was when he played “Mary Did You Know” in the music store.

“I’d give anything if I had recorded it,” she said. “I just thought there would be more.”

Isaac killed himself on March 20, 2022, at the age of 18, just 2 months before he would have been graduated from Patrick County High School.

It was a complete shock, his grandmother said. There had been absolutely no sign that things weren’t right.

He is buried on her property. Near his gravesite is a box with a notebook and pens. “People write little notes and leave him gifts,” she said.

On his birthday, his family goes to the cemetery with snacks. They “rely memories and cry and laugh,” she said.

Isaac had enlisted in the Marines before his high school graduation through the delayed entry program. He was looking forward to being a Marine, she said, but first he wanted to help Mr. Witt with the band camp.

“I was so proud of him when he wanted to be a Marine,” Brown said. “He admired the discipline and their body language, but mostly he admired their band. He wanted to be stationed in Japan.”

Now this grandmother is talking through her grief with others, to help families in the same situation



to heal, and also to let people contemplating suicide know that there is help for them. She had a booth at the Patrick County Agricultural Fair to do just that. Looming large above the table was a photograph of Isaac in his band uniform, and spread out across the table were pamphlets and stickers with supportive messages and with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number.

“I want people to understand. I know there is a stigma attached to suicide. It is hard to talk about. I have heard every remark people make,” she said. Yet the families who suffer the heartbreak of a loss must be able to talk about it.

“I still cry every day, but it helps me to talk about it,” she said.

And she worries about people, especially teenagers, who think suicide is the only solution.

“I want to reach these people I want them to know they do have a voice. They are not alone.”

She would like people in crisis to know that they can “talk to their teacher. Talk to their grandmothers! It needs to be talked about more.”

“Isaac was baptized. I know he’s in heaven. It’s hard to keep it separated because of people’s beliefs,” she said.

Brown is trying to start the Isaac Sean Rakes Foundation. She and her daughters and supporters are raising money through yard sales, bake sales, a spaghetti supper and an upcoming Eagles bike run. All money raised goes to Patrick County High School’s band camp to help kids who may not be able to afford the band camp registration or associated costs.

“Music is important,” she said. “Isaac loved music.”

Kids “should have choir and band. It teaches them to get along with other kids. It teaches them to come together as a team.”

While their foundation status is still pending, people can make donations directly to the school, she said. Write out a check to Patrick Henry High School, but note “band camp expenses” on the memo line. The mailing address is 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, Va., 24171.

BHS students participate

in Army’s Fit Challenge



Physical education classes at Bassett High School (BHS) on Friday accepted the U.S. Army Fit Challenge and are now on their way to becoming the fittest school in the area. The U.S. Army Fit Challenge is designed to raise awareness regarding the need for today’s students to lead a physically fit, nutritionally conscious, and healthy lifestyle. This one-day fitness event is designed to motivate students to become advocates for a healthier nation and challenge them to compete for the title of the “U.S. Army Fittest School” in the area.

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of September 30 – October 4:					
9/30	7pm Volleyball Bassett at Mecklenburg County	10/2	7pm Volleyball Magna Vista at Halifax County	10/4	Washington
	7pm Volleyball William Fleming at Martinsville		7pm Volleyball Tunstall at Martinsville		7pm Volleyball Martinsville at Mecklenburg County
10/1	4:30p Boys Soccer Carlisle at Hargrave Military Academy	10/3	5pm Cross Country Bassett at George Washington (Anglers Park)		7pm Football Mecklenburg County at Bassett
			5pm Cross Country Magna Vista at George Washington (Anglers Park)		7pm Football George Washington at Magna Vista
			5pm Cross Country Martinsville at George Washington (Anglers Park)		7pm Football Tunstall at Martinsville
			7pm Volleyball Bassett at George		

Forecast prompts updates to ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway

Due to a forecast of inclement weather throughout the day and evening on Friday at Martinsville Speedway, the track has moved all on-track activity to Saturday, Sept. 28, for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300.

Practice for the final race in the Virginia Triple Crown will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. ET on Saturday. That will be followed by single-car qualifying at 12:30 p.m. ET.

The first of the four qualifying races for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 will begin at 3 p.m. ET, and the main event to determine who goes home with the Grandfather Clock and the Virginia Triple Crown check will start at 7 p.m.

The change in schedule has forced the cancellation of Saturday’s autograph sessions. However, fans will be allowed on track during driver intros for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 on Saturday.

The grandstands will not be open on Friday, gates will open at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday for fans.

Recently crowned two-time NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series champion

Connor Hall leads the Virginia Triple Crown standings going into Saturday’s finale. He holds an average finish of 1.5 through the first two races – the Thunder Road Harley-Davidson 200 at South Boston Speedway and the Hampton Heat 200 at his home track of Langley Speedway.

Coming off winning back-to-back NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series national championships, Virginia native Connor Hall has another title in his sights as he leads the Virginia Triple Crown standings heading into the final race of the series in the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway.

Hall holds an average finish of 1.5 through the first two races – the Thunder Road Harley-Davidson 200 at South Boston Speedway and the Hampton Heat 200 at his home track of Langley Speedway. But it didn’t come easy for him.

After having to start from the rear following a flat tire in qualifying, Hall charged through a highly competitive field to take the win in the opening race at South Boston. He then faced

another tough lineup at Langley, and battled eventual race winner Brenden “Butterbean” Queen to the finish.

“The ValleyStar Credit Union 300 is annually a showcase of the best Late Model Stock Car racers in the country and this weekend will be no different,” said Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell. “In a field of fan-favorite previous winners and Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series champions, everyone in the stands is going to be in for a treat as these drivers battle for a Grandfather clock and the Virginia Triple Crown title.”

Lee Pulliam, the 2011 and 2014 winner of the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 and four-time NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series national champion, is coming out of retirement to battle for another Grandfather clock. Pulliam, who last raced at Martinsville in 2019, will be piloting his own No. 03 Toyota that normally has Queen behind the wheel.

To purchase tickets or for information, fans can call 877-RACE-TIX or go online at martinsvillespeedway.com.

Broadband

(cont. from page 1)



Heads of State Entertainment members Lex Hairston, Tamon Niblett, and Greg Hairston receive the Community Connected Citizen Award.

for a budget transfer in her tenure.

“In terms of a negative, I guess it would just be if the supervisors – forgive me for being blunt – simply wanted to keep tabs on us and see” proposed transfers beforehand, Blake-Lewis said.

Dillard then asked Wagoner for input.

Wagoner added that the decision is largely a policy matter for the board, explaining that the current process provides more oversight while lump sum funding would make administration easier. However, he also noted that approving the request could lead other departments, like the sheriff’s office, to request the same.

He added that the school system gets all of its funding “from someone else” and doesn’t “generate any revenue of their own, so it’s up to” the board of supervisors “to decide how much funds you give them and how they use them. It’s really dependent on if this board sees the need for that extra step to provide more transparency or if you’re willing to entrust them with that responsibility of policy decisions.”

In administrative terms, Wagoner said “it would be easier to administer on the county’s side but it’s not a difficult process now to facilitate the transfers.”

However, “the converse of that is, I wouldn’t want the sheriff to come in next and ask for lump sum funding.” If the county allows lump sum funding for the school system, “without any jurisdictional oversight” would it require “the sheriff to come to you to ask to move money, just from patrol to corrections or vice versa,” Wagoner asked.

He also noted that he does not have the authority to move funds between cost centers “without coming to you. It’s really a public policy. Your preference. I don’t have a strong opinion either way.”

Dillard questioned whether Wagoner’s comparison between the school system and the sheriff’s office was fair, since the sheriff’s office does not have an overseeing board. Wagoner acknowledged the distinction, but noted that the sheriff is an elected of-

ficial.

To Dillard, Blake-Lewis said, “I appreciate you drawing that comparison because my board would still have to approve any movement of funding that we would want to make, which is in my opinion comparable to the decision of this board in terms of having that final say. My board is elected just as you all are elected. It’s a very comparable situation,” she added.

Pam Cobler, who represents the Reed Creek District, said she had considered the matter carefully, consulting with her constituents at large and those in focus groups, as well as the sheriff. She found little public support for lump sum funding, noting that residents prefer the current process.

“I only found one person that was supportive of lump sum funding for any department. ... I strongly feel that publicly, it’s not a positive thing for the board of supervisors or the school division” to change to lump sum funding.

“We do approve everything for which you ask, and gladly do that,” Cobler said, again noting that the board is a strong proponent of public education, as well as Blake-Lewis, the division and the school board.

However, “I asked the community. I did not find a lot of support for that,” Cobler said. “They like the process that we have now.”

Dillard made a motion to switch from categorical to lump sum funding “just to officially go on record,” he said.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Also on Tuesday, the board heard an update on broadband installation efforts.

Rob Taylor, director of governmental affairs for RiverStreet Networks, outlined the company’s \$34 million plan to provide fiber-to-the-home internet services to 3,461 locations in the county. The project is being funded through a combination of \$4.4 million from RiverStreet, \$12.8 million from Appalachian Power (AEP) in construction and matching funds, \$4 million from the county’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and



Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis discussed the system’s request for lump sum funding.



Kiwi Emergency Medical Services Chief Executive Officer Anthony Bowles

\$13 million from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI).

The broadband build is currently underway in the Fieldale-Spencer area, where AEP has completed 18,000 feet of aerial fiber and obtained a railroad crossing agreement. Taylor said RiverStreet is working with AEP on splicing designs and preparing for additional construction in the Axton and Leatherwood areas.

RiverStreet expects to begin connecting customers in the Fieldale-Spencer area by the second quarter of 2025, once AEP’s Point of Presence (POP) is brought online, Taylor said. The company is also collaborating with county staff to identify potential remote building sites for future broadband expansion.

Taylor requested the board’s support in the Broadband Equity Access and Development (BEAD) program, clarifying that the request does not involve any matching funds. The board’s support would enable RiverStreet to provide broadband services in any areas that receive BEAD funding.

As the project advances, Taylor said RiverStreet plans to participate in local festivals and advertise through various media outlets, including newspapers and radio stations. The company will also send direct mail to potential customers.

Amanda Cox, AEP’s external affairs manager, described the company’s role as the “middle-mile” partner, building fiber from pole to pole in challenging terrain with sparse populations. AEP’s investment in the project is now expected to total \$18.3 million in Henry County, Cox said.

The project’s timeline was extended by six months due to the need for approval from the Virginia State Corporation Commission. AEP is responsible for the infrastructure that connects RiverStreet to customers,

and Cox said the company has completed five miles of fiber installation in Fieldale-Spencer.

Cox also provided updates on other areas of the county: construction in the Axton-Ridgeway area is expected to begin in October, Leatherwood in December, and Figsboro in March 2025. The Soapstone and Bassett segments are slated to start in April 2025.

As construction progresses, residents will be able to connect to broadband services as segments are completed, Cox said.

In other business, the board:

- *Approved the consent agenda items.
- * Heard a report on delinquent tax collection from Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.
- *Approved a resolution establishing Kiwi Emergency Medical Services as an EMS agency in the county, contingent on meeting zoning and licensing requirements.
- *Awarded the Community Connected Citizen Award to Heads of State Entertainment.
- *Heard an update on highway matters from Virginia Department of Transportation Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes.
- *Approved \$226,005 in state aid for the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a fire truck.
- *Approved \$32,500 for real estate assessment services and delayed the reassessment effective date to Jan. 1, 2026.
- *Allocated \$244,350 to the Henry County Public Schools Nutrition budget for a fresh fruit and vegetable program.
- *Reappointed Brenda Metz to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board for a term expiring Nov. 1, 2027.
- *Accepted a deed for five acres of land on Coffman Drive from Henry County Public Schools.

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The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns.

Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

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Blue Ridge Potters Guild sets annual show

The Blue Ridge Potters Guild will hold its 25th Annual Show & Sale on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 at Patrick Henry High School, 2102 Grandin Rd SW, Roanoke.

This is the largest all-pottery show in Virginia. Functional and decorative works from over 40 ceramic artists will be on display and available to purchase. Demonstrations by BRPG artists of various pottery techniques including hand-thrown, hand-built and sculpted clay art will be held throughout both days. Door prizes made by BRPG members will be announced hourly. A special gallery of the potters' finest works will be on exhibit. These pieces will be judged, and some will be for sale. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

The event is free, open to the public, and parking is free.

For more information, contact Mary Winston at mcwinston@gmail.com.

Email submissions@
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12:00 - 12:45 pm Face 2 Face - Christian Rock Band
1:00 - 2:15 pm Hutchens

Sound By: August Heat Audio

Apple Dumpling 5-K

Early registration through Oct 5 - \$25.00
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Contact Patrick County Chamber of Commerce-
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Clark’s latest book selected People’s Choice winner

“The Plinko Bounce,” by Martin Clark, won the Library of Virginia’s People’s Choice Award for Fiction on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards.

A retired circuit court judge from Patrick County, Clark’s novels have appeared on numerous bestseller lists, and the audio version of his book “The Substitution Order,” was a number one national bestseller. Additionally, his novels have been chosen as a New York Times Notable Book, Editors’ Choice and Best Thriller of the Year; a Best Book of the Year by the Washington Post Book World, Bookmarks magazine and the Boston Globe; a Book-of-the-Month Club selection; a finalist for the Stephen Crane First Fiction Award; and the winner of the Library of Virginia’s People’s Choice Award for Fiction in 2009, 2016 and 2020.

The Library presented the awards in front of 250 attendees at its annual dinner and gala,



Martin Clark at the 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards.

presented by Dominion Energy and supported by Carole and Marcus Weinstein. Additional award and event sponsors included the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and William and Mary Libraries. The annual gala also raised significant funds for the Library’s conservation, education and community outreach initiatives.

“This event brings together the best in Virginia literature and gathers Library friends and supporters to raise critical funds for the Library’s mission,” said Scott Dodson, Executive Director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. “Support from the event and silent auction help ensure that the Library continues to be a vital institution for those seeking to connect with their history at a trusted source.”

Financial Literacy Program Launched for Student Athletes

ValleyStar Credit Union is partnering with Patrick & Henry Community College to offer a financial literacy program tailored specifically for student-athletes. The program, “Financial Fundamentals for Beginners,” aims to equip these young adults with essential financial knowledge and skills to support their academic and athletic careers.

The six-week sessions will comprehensively introduce critical financial concepts and practices, including banking basics, budgeting, debt management, credit scores, online banking, and financial aid. Designed to be accessible and engaging, the sessions will feature online presentations and quizzes to ensure participants gain practical skills and confidence in managing their finances.

“Partnering with Patrick & Henry Community College to offer this financial literacy program represents a significant step in our commitment to supporting the community,” said Mike Warrell, ValleyStar Credit Union CEO. “We believe that by empowering these students with financial knowl-

edge, we are helping them build a strong foundation for their future.”

Dr. Greg Hodges, president of P&HCC, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration. “This initiative aligns perfectly with our mission to provide students with valuable resources. We are excited to see how this program will benefit our student-athletes, helping them navigate their financial futures more easily and confidently.”

“Student-athletes today are expected to make decisions at an early age that can have a significant impact on their lives,” said Brian Henderson, P&HCC Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement and Athletic Director. “That is why creating this partnership with ValleyStar Credit Union is so important and timely. It offers students and their parents the education and resources to help them make informed financial decisions now that will be crucial to their futures.”

Enrollment details will be provided soon, and the sessions will be available to all Patrick & Henry Community College student-athletes.

Gala was overwhelming success



Hope Center Ministries 2024 Gala Fundraiser on Sept. 22 was successful, according to organizers.

“We are overwhelmed with gratitude for each and every one of you who supported this year’s Hope Center Gala. Your generosity, prayers, and time make a tremendous impact in the lives of all of those who are in the program. Because of you, we are able to continue our mission of leading addicts to becoming fully devoted followers of Christ,” the ministry wrote.

Sponsors of this year’s event include: Armor Express, The Pool House Ltd., Owen Farm Tours, Non-Denominational Christian Tabernacle, First Baptist Bassett, Envision Health Inc, Compassion Church, BullzEye Tree Service, LLC, Henry County Food Pantry, Wood’s Menswear, Ltd., Dr Jon’s Urgent Care Center, Leslie Customs, West Windows, Gary W Smith Contractor, Rush Automotive, Sugar Street (Carrie Wilson), Edward Jones Financial Advisor - Joshua Barrett.

Health officials issue warning after rabid raccoon is found in Pitts. Co.

The Pittsylvania-Danville Health District has issued a public notice after a raccoon tested positive for rabies in the 500 block of Iris Lane, located in Pittsylvania County, just outside Danville. Residents and visitors who may have come into contact with the raccoon are urged to contact the health district at (434) 433-3545.

Rabies is a deadly virus that affects the nervous system. It is preventable in pets such as cats, dogs, ferrets, and some livestock through vaccination. Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms appear. The virus is primarily transmitted through the saliva or brain tissue of infected animals, usually via bites or contact with an open wound, or through the eyes or mouth.

To Prevent the Spread of Rabies:

Virginia law requires all dogs and cats four months or older to be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and vaccinations must remain up to date.

Health officials urge the public to avoid contact with wild animals, especially in the area where the rabid raccoon was found. Additional precautions include:

To Protect Against Rabies Exposure:

- Avoid feeding or interacting with stray animals. Stay away from wild animals, particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, and skunks. Feed pets indoors and prevent them from roaming.
 - Ensure pets are vaccinated against rabies and that their shots are up to date.
 - Teach children not to approach unfamiliar animals, whether wild or domestic.
 - Do not handle sick, injured, or dead animals.
 - Secure homes by capping chimneys and sealing openings in attics, cellars, and porches. Keep trash cans tightly sealed.
 - If you see stray animals in the area, contact Pittsylvania County Animal Control at 434-432-7937. Do not attempt to trap or handle wild or stray animals.
 - If bitten by a wild or stray animal, wash the wound thoroughly with warm, soapy water and contact animal control, your doctor, or the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District for guidance.
- For more information, visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/> or call the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District at (434) 433-3545.

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COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **October 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following applications on **October 22, 2024 at 6:00 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 input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.

Case R-24-11 Ana Carter

The property is located on the south side of Mapleridge Rd, approximately 0.12 mile east of Stones Dairy Rd, in the Blackberry District. The proerty is shown on Tax Map 25.1(22)/11.12. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of two lots from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to allow for the potential placement of manufactured housing, and market the property for sale. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plov4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

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

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

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MICHAEL SHOWELL PUBLISHER		9-20-24
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		

Ride to Back the Blue held Saturday



Several people, many in classic and antique vehicles, participated in the ride.



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper (back), and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis were among the local authorities to attend Bassett Cruise In and B99.9's Ride to Back the Blue on Saturday.

Monogram Foods foundation donates to 126 nonprofit groups

The Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation (the Foundation), the charitable foundation of Monogram Foods, proudly announces that it has donated \$660,000 in grants to 126 non-profit organizations through its annual grants program, the largest number of grants ever awarded. This is in addition to more than \$338,000 in additional charitable contributions totaling close to \$1 million so far this year supporting organizations that help children in need and their families. In honor of Monogram Foods' 20th anniversary, the Foundation also plans to give an additional \$80,000 in grants to local food banks later in the year.

"We are incredibly proud to be able to support so many organizations in our communities that are working to help vulnerable children and their families," said Karl Schledwitz, CEO of Monogram Foods and President of the Foundation Board. "Our hope is that these grants make a lasting impact on many lives of our communities' children."

The annual grants program starts in March and concludes with recipient selection in August. A committee of employees at each site selects the organizations and awards a portion of

the \$60,000 grant fund that is allocated to each Monogram Foods' facility across seven states. Winning organizations will receive their funding in October. Grant recipients in our Martinsville community include:

- Camp Carefree
- Community Storehouse
- Feeding Southwest Virginia
- First United Methodist Church
- God's Storehouse, Inc.
- Grace Network of Martinsville & Henry County
- Martinsville/Henry County Lion's Club
- Salvation Army
- SML Good Neighbors
- YoungLife of Martinsville & Henry County

The full list of grant recipients is available at <https://monogramfoods.com/grant-recipients/>. The annual grants are made possible thanks to the annual 'Meat' Me in Memphis Gala, the Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year. This year the organization aims to raise a record-setting \$1 million. You can find more information about the Gala at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Bc2/>.



Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher also attended the event in Bassett.

Patrick Henry Elementary Opens Monarch Waystation



Patrick Henry Elementary School hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Monarch Waystation.

By Jessica Dillon

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Patrick Henry Elementary School (PHES) on September 24 to unveil a new monarch waystation, marking the third such installation at schools in the city. The waystation offers students a hands-on learning experience with nature.

"It's been exciting for students to see how much the plants have grown over the summer since we planted them," said Principal Cameron Cooper, who confirmed that the project began last spring.

The initiative started when the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) donated 16 milkweed plants, which students cared for in their classrooms. In addition, PHES students raised monarch butterflies and released them out-

doors before the end of the school year.

Krista Hodges, DRBA's education manager, played a key role in connecting with the schools and establishing the waystations. "Our mission is to preserve and promote the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin through education, recreation, and stewardship," Hodges explained.

The monarch waystations serve as a conservation effort, providing vital rest stops for pollinators. "We work with schools to find suitable locations for planting, and then involve principals, teachers, and students in the process," said Hodges.

In addition to PHES, Martinsville High School and Albert Harris Elementary School have also installed waystations, thanks to



The waystation provides pollinators with a place to feed, breed, and rest.

assistance from DRBA.

Monarch butterflies face growing threats due to habitat destruction caused by urban development and the use of pesticides and herbicides. "They are on the brink of becoming endangered again, having just reached vulnerable status in 2023," Hodges noted.

The waystations provide monarchs with a place to rest during their migration to Mexico, as well as nectar sources and breeding grounds. "The milkweed allows monarchs to complete their entire life cycle, as monarch caterpillars can only feed on milkweed plants," Hodges said.

Students are able to observe this life cycle up close. "They get to get their hands in the dirt, tend the garden, and learn about how plants grow," said Callie Hietala,

community and communications outreach coordinator. "It covers a range of educational topics for different grade levels."

Hietala added that the waystation supports Standards of Learning (SOL) curriculum, offering students a unique way to study life cycles and plant growth.

"All of these lessons come together to give students a better understanding of how nature works," said Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, who expressed a desire to expand the program, hoping to establish a fourth waystation at Martinsville Middle School and the Clearbrook Early Learning Center. "We're very excited about this initiative, and we look forward to expanding it."

Club receives federal grants for afterschool programs

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge has been awarded two new 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) afterschool grants through the Virginia Department of Education. These new grants will provide no cost access to the Boys & Girls Club afterschool programs at Campbell Court and Sanville elementary schools for students currently attending those schools.

These Boys & Girls Club afterschool programs, like all Boys & Girls Club programs, provide students with homework help, tutoring, recreation, community exploration, field trips, and mentorship programs; the aim of these programs is to enable all young people, especially those who need help the most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

Sanville Elementary School is no stranger to the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, having been part of the General Assembly's Community Based Organization 21CCLC program last year. That was only a

one-year program, so the community there has been excited to have the Boys & Girls Club program remain at Sanville at no cost to families. Joshua Eanes, principal of Sanville Elementary, says, "Sanville Elementary is thankful that Boys and Girls Club will continue to support our students and greater school community through the awarding of the 21st Century grant. This provides our students with support and experiences that will ensure their growth and learning as we continue throughout the year."

Campbell Court Elementary will be opening its first on-site afterschool program in some time through the new grant. Campbell Court's principal, Dr. Kenya Gravely said she is, "thrilled to announce the launch of the Boys and Girls Club at Campbell Court Elementary School! This exciting after-school program will provide our students with a safe and secure environment, along with valuable academic support and enriching experiences. Through this partnership, students will have the opportunity to engage in activities that broaden their horizons, develop new skills,

and build lasting friendships. Whether it's through academic assistance, creative projects, or sports, the Boys and Girls Club will help our students reach their full potential."

The new 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs at Sanville and Campbell Court are joining existing Boys & Girls Club 21st Century afterschool programs at Meadow View Elementary, Patrick Henry Elementary, and Albert Harris Elementary.

For more information about 21st Century Community Learning Centers at these schools, call (276) 656-1171. Visit bgcbr.org for more information about the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Crossing the Lines

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

Residents call for lifting trespass order on parent

Several residents urged the Patrick County School Board to lift a trespass notice against Leo White during the board's meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

White said "the unjust and illegal trespass" was placed on him by Schools Superintendent Jason Wood on August 14, after "I came into this building (Patrick County School Board Office) to exercise a fundamental right that we have in this country ... to do some FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests. I came in this building, and I recorded in the public property, public lobby, I didn't go anywhere I wasn't supposed to," he said.

White said he questioned Wood and Amanda Holt, the school division's FOIA officer, about a previous FOIA request that was denied. "So, again that's another fundamental right, under the First Amendment that's publicly addressing the government," he said.

White told the board that Wood issued the trespass notice on Aug. 14, after White visited the school board office to submit FOIA requests. White said he recorded footage in the public lobby without going into restricted areas and that his actions were within his rights.

At no time was he disorderly. White said he also did not curse or threaten anyone. He also let Wood know he recorded the cameras outside and inside the School Board Office. At the time, he was not told by Wood that filming the location of the security cameras was against the law or a crime.



Leo White and others requested the trespass notice against him be lifted.

White said he was later informed via email that the school division considered his recording of surveillance cameras at the building as "concerning behavior," leading to the trespass order. "I didn't break the law, I did nothing wrong, and yet I'm being treated like a criminal by this gentleman right here," White said, pointing to Wood.

White argued that the trespass order prevents him from being involved in his son's school life, including attending his football practices. "My son is suffering because I can't be there. What's being done to him is wrong," he said, urging the board to overturn the notice.



Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons at last week's meeting.

Council tables potential change to noise ordinance

The Stuart Town Council postponed any changes to its noise ordinance during its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 18, opting to gather more information before proceeding. The noise ordinance, enacted earlier this year, remains in effect for now.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons addressed concerns raised after a local law enforcement officer questioned the constitutionality of the ordinance. Simmons consulted Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt, who assured him the ordinance is constitutional.

"The deputy that made that comment was misinterpreting the conversation that either he had with her, or whatever. She let me know of a case named Tanner v. The City of Virginia Beach," he said.

The case, Simmons said, is a noise ordinance case where a club owner was open late until 1-2 a.m., and cops would be called regarding the noise. Police officers would then have the determination to make if they were within the rights of the noise ordinance.

Tanner v. The City of Virginia Beach has been challenged, and Simmons said therefore the noise ordinance itself is being challenged.

"But what is being challenged in the noise ordinance is the subjugation of an officer. So, where we wanted to give our officers some leeway to determine if it is in compliance with the noise ordinance or not, they now want that to be a defined number. Essentially, they want us to define what decibel level is considered a nuisance," he said.

Town Attorney Chris Corbett said it doesn't have to be considered a nuisance, but instead a violation

of the ordinance.

"Correct," Simmons said. "But that is essentially what Dayna (Bobbitt) has told us that we need to do with our noise ordinance is put a decibel level that cannot be gone over. If we do violate that decibel level, then they would be out of compliance with our noise ordinance."

Corbett said Tanner v. The City of Virginia Beach is the leading case in Virginia on noise ordinances, and one of the leading cases in the county.

"I mean, they really walked through the constitutionality of things in 2009 when this thing was released. But if the Commonwealth's Attorney, unless she delegates it to the town attorney for misdemeanors as jurisdiction to prosecute all misdemeanors within the county," he said. "If she's a number person, it's either numbers or not I suppose."

Simmons believes formally establishing a decibel level takes out the gray area and the policing out of law enforcement's hands and into a defensible instrument.

"Look at it this way, it's the difference between drunk driving and not. There is a strict number that they have to say is defensible in court. It's what is defensible in court," Simmons said. His research has shown that 50 decibels is the natural number for a quiet street.

In his opinion, Mayor Ray Weiland said the council created a noise ordinance to appease two people in town. "To waste more of our time on it is kind of not in the best interest of the town at large. Ours is constitutional. Is it defensive? Maybe, maybe not," he said.

Tom Talks History, Book Release set for Sept. 29

Historian Tom Perry will discuss the lives of William Alexander Stuart, John Dabney Stuart, and James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 29, Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat.

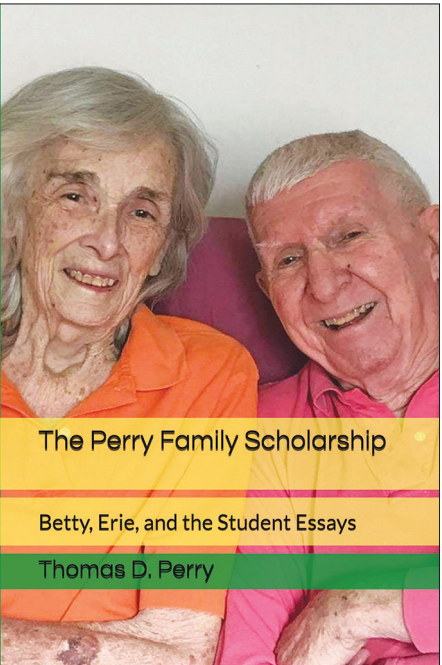
All born at Laurel Hill, Stuart's Birthplace, in Ararat. Perry will discuss Stuart and his brothers and their careers during the War Between The States. William Alexander Stuart ran the saltworks in Saltville, Virginia, one of the two places that the Confederate States of America had for the vital natural resource. John Dabney Stuart was a doctor in the 54th Virginia Infantry in the Army of Tennessee. James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart rose to the rank of Major General and commanded all of the cavalry in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

This is a fundraiser for the Perry Family Scholarship.

Admission is free. Donations for the scholarship are accepted.

The event is sponsored by the Ararat Ruritan Club.

Contact Tom Perry at freestateof-



The event is a fundraiser for the Perry Family Scholarship, which Tom Perry started in 2021, after the deaths of his parents.

patrick@yahoo.com or (276) 692-5300 for more information.

The Perry Family Scholarship: Betty, Erie, and the Student Essays will be released the same day as the talk.

Burton Reflects on Securing Wood Brothers' 100th Win

Wood Brothers Racing celebrated its milestone 100th win on Sept. 17 at the Wood Brothers Racing Museum in Stuart, following Harrison Burton's victory at the August 24 Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona. The celebration featured a Q&A session and an autograph signing.

Burton narrowly edged out Kyle Busch by less than a second to secure the win, marking Wood Brothers Racing's first victory since 2017.

Burton said his main goal had always been to earn a spot on the Wood Brothers Wall of Fame, which honors every driver who has won a race for the team. "To be able to look out there and see my face—it's not the best-looking one, but it's okay—and to know it's up there (for) forever is amazing," Burton said. "That was my main goal when I got hired to drive the Wood Brothers car."



Harrison Burton clinched Wood Brothers Racing's 100th win on August 24.

Alzheimer's Group to Celebrate 20th Anniversary on Oct. 5



The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC provided information at the Patrick County Agricultural Fair.

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a walk on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at DeHart Park in Stuart. Registration for the walk is \$25 per person.

Sally Smith, executive director of the group, said the event will feature food, music, face painting, booths, free T-shirts, and a color powder party. "You can be red, you can be green, you can be blue," Smith said, referring to the vibrant festivities planned. Participants who pay the \$25 fee will also receive a free meal.

"This celebration is a way of saying thank you to the people of Patrick County and the surrounding 60-mile area," Smith said, noting the group's partnership with the Ararat Ruritan Club for the event.

The collaboration with the Ruritan Club was sparked after both organizations faced low turnout for their respective walks—one for Alzheimer's and one for mental health. "They came back and said, 'how about we do a walk for both?'" Smith said. "If more groups worked together, we could accomplish so much more."

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



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1-3-5-7-9PM

1-3-5-7-9PM

1-4-7-9:15PM

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Foundation commits \$12 million to YMCA

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville Henry County YMCA held an event outlining its future plans on Sept. 19, marking the first step toward the construction of a new facility on Memorial Boulevard in the former Family Dollar building and receive \$12 million from the Harvest Foundation.

“This YMCA will provide a wellness center and offer programs that meet a variety of needs. The facility will expand childcare services and focus on enhancing mental well-being,” said Danny Wulff, a member of the Harvest Foundation Board of Directors.

Wulff noted that the new center will benefit the entire community, including residents in the west end. “This project promotes inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring no one is left behind in their journey toward healthier living,” he said.

Kate Keller, president of the Harvest Foundation, spoke about the YMCA’s personal impact on her life. “They are where community happens,” Keller said, sharing how she and her children have benefited from



The Harvest Foundation contributed \$12 million toward the construction of the new YMCA.

the YMCA’s services. She also emphasized the foundation’s ongoing commitment to improving Uptown and the local community. “This is not Harvest’s first investment in this corner, and it won’t be our last.”

City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides echoed the importance of community and described the YMCA as a home for many, welcoming everyone to the future facility.

Henry County Board of Supervisors member Jim Adams praised

the YMCA’s ability to foster relationships. “The YMCA is more than just a facility—it’s a place to form lifelong friendships after joining a pickup basketball game,” Adams said. He added that membership numbers continue to grow, and the current facility is over capacity. The new building will be larger and better equipped to serve the community.

YMCA Director and CEO Brad Kinkema expressed optimism about the project. “I’m thrilled with the

support for the Y, and Harvest’s commitment will make this a reality,” Kinkema said. He added that the new facility will offer more gathering spaces and expand programs that the current building cannot accommodate.

The new YMCA will be a 60,000-square-foot facility located on 7 acres of land. It will feature a large fitness center, three gymnasiums, an indoor walking track, expanded childcare services, an indoor aquatic center, and multiple group exercise and community rooms.

Construction is slated to begin in 2026, with the facility expected to open in 2028. The project’s total cost is estimated at \$28 million, with \$8.5 million being raised through the Transforming Community Capital Campaign and additional funding from grants and other public sources.

Donations to support the project are being accepted. While the current YMCA building will eventually be sold, no buyer has been identified, and the facility will remain operational in the meantime, continuing to welcome new members.

Deadline to enter Congressional App Challenge nears

The deadline for students to submit their entry to the 2024 Congressional App Challenge for Ninth Congressional District is fast approaching, according to 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem.

To participate in the challenge, middle school or high school students can choose to work individually or in groups of up to four students. Participants may create and submit their own app for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

Entries must be received by 12 p.m. EDT, October 24, 2024.

“The Congressional App Challenge allows students to demonstrate their talents, engage their creativity, and explore the fields of

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education. I look forward to seeing the apps developed by the ingenuity of Ninth District students,” Griffith said.

Full details about the contest can be found at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/constituentservices/stem-competition.htm>.

To determine if you are eligible, create an account, and find additional information on the rules and specifics online at <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-CAC-Rules.pdf>.

Faculty, parents, or students also may contact Josh Hess with any questions related to the competition by calling (540) 381-5671, or emailing Josh.Hess@mail.house.gov.

Society’s largest fundraiser set for Oct. 12

Join the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society for its annual and largest fundraiser, Blue Jeans & Bling 2024, on Saturday, October 12, inside of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Wear your most comfortable blue jeans and your most shiny bling while:

- Eating a delicious dinner of pulled pork barbecue, baked beans, potato salad, slaw, roll/cornbread, tea/water;
- Listening to music by local native and country artist Jake Earles who has played on the Grand Ole Opry and toured with Tim McGraw;
- Meeting Jenna Adams, Miss Martinsville-Henry County 2024;
- Enjoying cake in celebration of the 200th birthday of the Historic Henry County Courthouse and October as Local History Month in Virginia; and
- Bidding on fabulous items donated by local businesses and individuals at our silent auction.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. Each ticket includes two beverages of wine or beer, cash bar available. The bar and silent auction will open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner being served at 6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased:

- Online at <https://www.mhchistoricalociety.org/blue-jeans-bling>;
- From any board or staff member;
- At the MHC Heritage Museum;
- By calling 276-403-5361;
- By emailing mhchistoricalociety@gmail.com; and
- At Historical Society events.

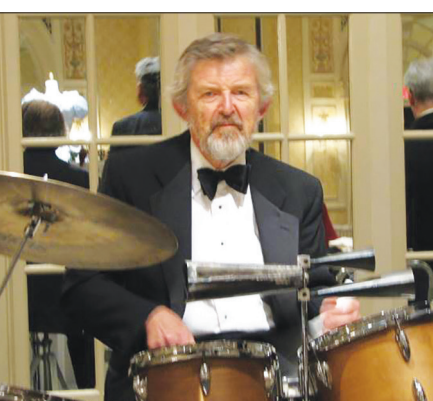
Proceeds of the event will allow us to continue offering our Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series and Founders’ Day, welcoming classroom and home school field trips, and maintaining the Historic Henry County Courthouse along with our corporate partners, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group.

Swing Dance Party set at Piedmont Arts

Get your toes tapping at Piedmont Arts on Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m. for a jazz-fueled dance party. Featuring the Bob Peckman Jazz Band out of Roanoke, this event will feature lively and fun swing music, a cash bar, and an open dance floor. Surprise appearances from the coaches and performers for “Dancing for the Arts” may occur. Tickets are \$20 and are on sale at PiedmontArts.org or by calling the museum at (276) 632-3221.

“I’m always looking for ways that we can have more active participation in our events,” says Programs Coordinator Lauren Ellis. “What better way than getting some excellent live music going and opening the dance floor?” Ellis believes that the arts should be experienced and done by everyone. “Spectating is a great way to experience the arts, but there’s nothing better than being a part of it.”

Featuring rotating members, The



Bob Peckman of the Peckman Jazz Band will be present with his rotating band of jazz musicians, performing a lively blend of jazz and swing.

Bob Peckman Jazz Band has been playing all over Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region since 2001. They were last seen at Piedmont Arts during the “Double Down for the Arts” fundraiser. More information about the band can be found at PeckmanJazz.com.



Vincent Penn, last year’s winner of the award, is pictured with Henry County Board of Supervisors members Jim Adams and Debra Buchanan.

Nominations Open for 2024 Outstanding Military Veteran Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Martinsville-Henry County Outstanding Military Veteran award, which honors a local veteran who exemplifies service to both country and community. The award, established by the Henry County Board of Supervisors in 2009 at the suggestion of board member Debra Buchanan, was expanded in 2013 to include veterans from both Martinsville and Henry County with the support of the Martinsville City Council.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Martinsville website (www.martinsville-va.gov), the Henry County website (www.henrycountypva.gov), the City Municipal Building, or the County Administrator’s office. Completed nominations must be submitted to either the City Manager’s Office or the County Administrator’s Office by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 21.

The winner will be an-

nounced during the Veterans Day Service at the HJDB Event Center on Monday, November 11, at 11 a.m.

Past recipients of the award include:

- David Kipfinger and James Rogers (2009)
- Olaf Hurd (2010)
- Donald James Myers (2011)
- Herbert S. Gibbs and Winford “W.C.” Fowles (2012)
- S.T. Fulcher (2013)
- Robert L. Hazlett, Jr. (2014)
- Thomas Spencer (2015)
- John R. Redd (2016)
- Walter E. Sheppard (2017)
- Warren “Sonny” Richardson (2018)
- Charles A. Washburn (2019)
- David King (2020)
- Curtis R. Millner, Sr. (2021)
- Russell Clark Stone (2022)
- Vincent G. Penn (2023)

For more information about the award, contact the City Manager’s Office or the County Administrator’s Office.

Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution

— DEPARTMENT

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Prosper; 2. Eschew; 3. Sturdy; 4. Amok

Today's Word

HOUSEWORK

FEAR KNIGHT

answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT
By: rj johnson
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

PKI
DRACEA
♥DRITE
♥NRDA
♥HECSTA
♥DDA
♥SIKR
♥TECID
♥ONS
TERION
TENPI
RCTU

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

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Ball is moved. 3. Whistband is missing. 4. Facemask is different. 5. Fence is not as high. 6. Hedge is lower.

MAGIC MAZE ● — DEPARTMENT

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

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

Agriculture	Labor	Publicity	Transit
Commerce	Parts	Sales	Treasury
Fire	Personnel	Sanitation	War
History	Physics	Shoe	

Super Crossword — **PLAYING A ROUND**

ACROSS

1 Willing to go along with it
9 Lyric work
12 It follows pi
15 Swindle
19 Receiving steady pay
20 Extreme agitation
22 Woman
23 Golf tee shot that goes down a mountain cliff?
25 Sheriff Taylor's boy
26 Leaking goop
27 Suffix with hero
28 "Ho-hum"
29 Harder
30 Pretty soon
33 Brilliant golf shot?
38 Big continent
40 Outfielder Slaughter
41 Intertwine
42 Yearning to play golf again?
47 Bell's ring
48 Your and my
51 Red as —
52 Scarf down
53 Gift topper
54 Singer Fisher
56 Crater parts
57 Eye sore

58 Young woman who's very skilled with metal golf clubs?
60 CBS series set in Vegas
61 "I never — purple cow ..."
62 Actress Dunham
64 Tennis star Andre
65 Precious gem hidden among a golf course's long grass?
70 Immediately
72 — buco
73 In addition
74 Sign of relief
77 Amazingly executed approach shot that a golfer recalls often?
80 'I Shot Andy Warhol' actress Taylor
81 Lhasa —
82 Circus venue
83 Muffin grain
84 Tots' batting game
86 Food intakes
87 Bellite, in hip-hop
88 Cafe freebie

90 Golfer's cry when a would-be one-under-par shot almost goes in the hole?
92 Sheep group
93 Foal's mother
94 Tears on foot
95 Lettuce or spinach cultivated in a golf putting area?
101 One of the Twin Cities
105 Bolt variety
106 Cattle call
107 Jackie's "O"
109 Height: Prefix
110 Elliptical
111 No matter how an errant golf shot is made?
117 Walk in shallow water
118 — Boys (rap trio)
119 Thrombocyte
120 Winter glider
121 Mag workers
122 Likely (to)
123 Special outdoor mall event

2 Doolittle of "Pygmalion"
4 Places for warships
5 Is plural?
6 Life story, in brief
7 Jeans maker Strauss
8 Idyllic places
9 Slugger Mel
10 "Obviously!"
11 In advance of
12 Bronx riding event
13 Pompous
14 Corrida yell
15 2017 U.S. Open winner Stephens
16 — pants
17 Kin of "Ciao!"
18 Clinton aide
21 Viral videos, e.g.
24 On Social Sec., say
29 Group of amateur sports teams playing for fun
31 "— really true?"
32 Stannite yield
34 Brand of lens solution
35 Like spud-peeling Gls
36 Boxing stats
37 Damsel

39 Tot's "terrible" time
42 With 2-Down, stand-up comic who co-starred on Netflix's "GLOW"
43 Heron cousin
44 Rounded roof halves
45 — egg (flop)
46 Native suffix
47 In addition
48 Having an irregular form
49 Road 180s
50 Italian painter Guido —
53 Male bud
55 From corner to corner: Abbr.
57 Lacking in variety, informally
58 Grooving on
59 Native Kiwi
61 Christian rite
62 Speech flaw
63 USNA grad
66 A part of
67 "Get going!"
68 Actress Blunt
69 Hair curler
70 In — rush
71 Actress Garr
75 — Spumante
76 Stockings
78 Sentenced to punishment

79 Cap
80 Testing site
81 Often-restricted flying zones
84 Banks of fashion
85 Telly network, with "the"
86 By — of (due to)
89 Hip-hop mogul Gotti
90 Belfry filer
91 Urban vehicle
92 Followed closely, as a dog
93 Cat calls
95 Gets bigger
96 Opponent
97 Sidestep
98 Works by painter Francisco
99 Thai tongue
100 Explode
102 Amtrak train
103 An archangel
104 Singer Lenya
108 Atoll unit
111 1860s prez
112 — glance
113 Quick bark
114 Despite that
115 Multiple-PC system
116 "Addams Family" cousin

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Octopus wrestling was a popular sport in the 1960s. A diver would fight an octopus in shallow water and drag it to the surface.

• After an online vote in 2011, Toyota announced that the official plural of Prius is Prii.

• Each spacecraft sent to Mars is scrubbed and inspected before dispatch as part of a strict planetary protection protocol meant to prevent contamination from Earth.

• Ophiocordyceps unilateralis, a parasitic fungus, effectively turns ants into zombies. The fungus compels the ant to bite onto the underside of a low-hanging leaf, where it dies, and the fungus then sends a fruiting body out through the ant's head to disseminate spores.

• Geckos can turn the stickiness of their feet on and off at will.

• And speaking of feet, during World War II, the United States began rationing shoes. Citizens were allowed three pairs.

• When Leonardo DiCaprio smashed his hand on the dinner table in "Django Unchained," he accidentally crushed a small stemmed glass with his palm and really began to bleed. He ignored it, stayed in character, and continued with the scene. Quentin Tarantino was so impressed that he used this take in the final print, and when he called cut, the room erupted in a standing ovation.

• Though they are often used as vegetables in cooking, eggplants are botanically classified as berries.

• Charles Richard Drew was a Black physician who developed blood banks for military personnel during World War II. He quit working for the Red Cross after he learned that the military separated blood donations by race.

• The Dr. Seuss classic children's tale "Green Eggs and Ham" was banned in China from 1965 to 1991 for its "portrayal of early Marxism."

Thought for the Day: "A good example has twice the value of good advice." — *Albert Schweitzer*

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ♦♦♦

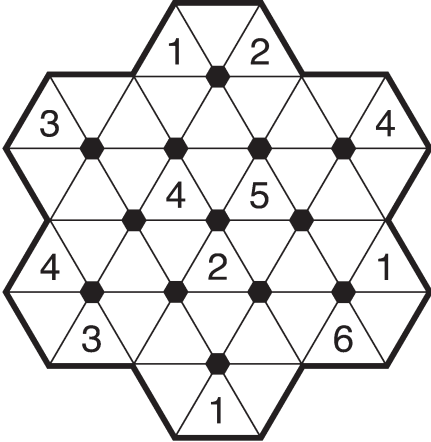
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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

OLDER AND HEAVILY-BUILT GOLFERS ARE GENERALLY ABLE TO COIL MORE FULLY AND SHIFT THEIR WEIGHT MORE EFFECTIVELY BY ALLOWING THE LEFT HEEL TO RISE ON THE BACKSWING.

LET THE HEEL COME UP IN RESPONSE TO BACKSWING BODY ACTION, RATHER THAN LIFTING IT DELIBERATELY. THEN REPLANT THE HEEL FIRMLY AS THE FIRST ACTION OF THE DOWNSWING.

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!

Bloom
PROPERs
Avoid
CHEWES
Strong
DUSTRY
Berserk
MOKA

TODAY'S WORD

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Deputy injured in high-speed pursuit

A Henry County Sheriff’s deputy attempted to stop a vehicle allegedly involved in a larceny, sparking a high-speed chase that led to the arrest of two individuals and left one deputy injured.

At approximately 2:11 p.m., the deputy recognized a white Buick traveling south on Greensboro Road that had been linked to a larceny at a local business. After running the vehicle’s tags and discovering they did not match, the deputy initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the Buick allegedly accelerated, driving recklessly as the pursuit continued down Greensboro Road at high speeds.

The chase proceeded to Main Street before turning onto Virginia/NC 87 toward North Carolina. As the pursuit approached Vista View Lane and Virginia/NC 87 toward North Carolina intersection, a deputy used a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT maneuver), causing the vehicle to lose control and crash into an embankment.

When the deputy approached the suspect’s vehicle, it rolled forward, pinning his leg between the suspect’s vehicle and his patrol car. The driver allegedly fled on foot, and although deputies pursued him, they lost sight of the suspect.

Two other occupants were in the vehicle: Ronald Haizlip, who had an outstanding warrant in Eden, North Carolina, for eluding police, was arrested and is being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center awaiting extradition. A female passenger was not charged and released.

The injured deputy was transported to SOVAH Health in Martinsville, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released. He is expected to make a full recovery.



Carlton Lewis Haizlip

The man who allegedly fled on foot was identified as Carlton Lewis Haizlip, 35, of Eden, N.C. During the investigation, deputies learned that a 2006 Saturn had been stolen from Old Leaksville Road in Ridgeway, and allegedly used to evade law enforcement.

Haizlip was later located in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, by local authorities. He was arrested without incident, and the Saturn vehicle was recovered.

Haizlip is awaiting extradition back to Henry County on charges that include felony eluding police, assault on law enforcement and larceny of a motor vehicle.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). Crimestoppers offers rewards up to \$2,500 for tips leading to an arrest. The reward amount depends on the nature of the crime and the information provided.

Flu deaths in children match record

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported two new pediatric flu-related deaths last week, bringing the total for the 2023-2024 season to 199, matching the previous high seen during the 2019-2020 season. Every pediatric death is a tragic reminder of the serious risk influenza poses, especially to children.

Of the 158 eligible children with known vaccination status, 83% (131) were not fully vaccinated. Flu vaccination is proven to reduce the severity of illness and can be life-saving. Health officials recommend that children get vaccinated in September or October.

Flu vaccination reduces flu-related illnesses, doctor visits, school absences, and the risk of hospitalization or death. Data from last season showed that flu vaccination reduced the risk of medical visits by about two-thirds and flu-related hospitalizations by about half for vaccinated children.

Children under 5 and those with certain underlying conditions are at higher risk of serious complications from the flu, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. The CDC urges everyone 6 months and older, especially high-risk children, to get the

annual flu vaccine.

Of the pediatric flu deaths this season, 73 were in children under 5, while 126 were in children aged 5 to 17. Among 189 deaths with known medical information, nearly half (49%) of the children had a pre-existing medical condition.

About half of the deaths (105) were linked to influenza A viruses. Of those subtyped, 43 were influenza A(H1N1), and 16 were A(H3N2). Influenza B viruses accounted for 46% of the deaths, with three cases of co-infection involving both influenza A and B viruses.

Flu vaccination rates among children have declined this season, with coverage as of May 11, 2024, 2.2 percentage points lower than the previous season and 8.5 percentage points lower than pre-pandemic levels. Disparities in vaccination rates based on location, race, and ethnicity have also worsened.

Since tracking began, the number of pediatric flu deaths has ranged from a low of one during the 2020-2021 season to a high of 199 during both the 2019-2020 and 2023-2024 seasons. Before the pandemic, the previous low was 37 deaths in the 2011-2012 season.

Online school threat prompts charges

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office and Virginia State Police are investigating a school shooting threat posted on Instagram. The threat, directed at Martinsville City Public Schools, was discovered early on September 24 before the start of the school day.

Authorities identified the suspect as a 15-year-old girl from Henry County. Deputies located the juvenile, who confessed to making the threat. She has been charged with making threats of death or bodily injury on school property. She is currently being held at the W.W. Moore Juvenile Detention Facility.

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office expressed gratitude to the Virginia State Police and Martinsville City Police Department for their collaboration, which helped resolve the situation quickly.

Authorities and school officials are urging parents to talk to their children about the importance of reporting threats and the severe legal consequences of such actions.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463), which offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for tips related to crimes.

Man charged in connection with armed disturbance

A Ridgeway man has been charged in connection with an alleged armed domestic disturbance on Spet. 18 at 779 Wright Road in Ridgeway, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office.

The incident involved a man allegedly brandishing a firearm and threatening his wife, Jeanie Hawks Smith, and her brother, Jimmy Hawks.

According to the release, an altercation escalated when a firearm was retrieved and fired in the direction of the two victims, preventing them from leaving the room. Jeanie Smith’s cell phone was demanded; she was allegedly threatened to be shot if she refused. After about 30 minutes, Jeanie Smith and her brother were able to leave the home and contact law enforcement.

Deputies and investigators responded to the scene, where Richard John Smith was taken into custody without incident. He is charged with shooting, stabbing with intent to maim or kill, abduction and kidnapping, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, shooting into an occupied dwelling, and robbery in connection with the incident.



Richard John Smith

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

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest, with the reward amount based on the nature of the crime and the details provided.

National training center to be created in Pittsylvania County

TECHnista, LLC, an education consulting company specializing in curriculum development for K-12 programs in defense and advanced manufacturing industries, will invest \$1,559,646 to establish its National Training and Technology Center in Pittsylvania County, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin. The project will create 15 new jobs and support the implementation of a five-year federal contract with the U.S. Department of Defense’s office of Innovation Capability and Modernization. Virginia successfully competed with North Carolina for the project.

“TECHnista’s training center in Pittsylvania County is a major victory for Southern Virginia and the Commonwealth at large,” said Youngkin. “Virginia offers the location and world-class talent to catalyze growth for the company and develop the talent of the future for the advanced manufacturing and defense industries.”

“Our mission at TECHnista goes beyond building a successful business—we are committed to innovating K-12 education and strengthening local and national manufacturing workforce pipelines,” said TECHnista Founder and CEO Kelsey Robertson. “We are excited to bring our K-12 manufacturing education solution to fruition in Pittsylvania County. We feel confident that this region’s commitment to growing small businesses will play a key role in our success. We are deeply honored to have been offered support from Pittsylvania County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Governor Youngkin. This award will serve as a catalyst to inspire the next generation of talent and create sustainable, high-quality jobs that will drive the region’s future growth.”

“Pittsylvania County continues to diversify its business community with the addition of TECHnista to the Ringgold East Industrial Park,” said chairman of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors Darrell Dalton. “A woman-owned small business that already has a stake in the future of our county, TECHnista not only brings added revenue and high-paying jobs to the county, but more importantly, it gives our students the tools and knowledge they need to acquire skills demanded in tomorrow’s workplace. TECHnista provides our children and grandchildren another opportunity to remain local while obtaining a quality education and a path toward sustainable employment right here in Southern Virginia. We are

thrilled to be part of TECHnista’s continued growth and future success.”

“We are very happy that TECHnista, LLC has chosen our region for its National Training and Technology Center,” said Del. Danny Marshall. “This is a great match, since the Dan River region has already placed an emphasis on advanced manufacturing training at the college and high school levels for several years and is currently offering training at the IALR for the U.S. Navy. Developing K-12 program materials that are specific to the defense and manufacturing industries aligns with the training resources here and can be mutually beneficial.”

Founded in 2020, TECHnista, LLC is a privately-owned education consulting company that creates curriculum and content for K-12 programs specific to the defense and advanced manufacturing industries. This five-year middle school manufacturing initiative funded through ICAM’s Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Program aims to attract students and impart to them the basic skills needed to succeed in advanced manufacturing careers. These skills will propel the next generation of defense manufacturing workers. The new facility in Pittsylvania County will serve as the NTTC for the Manufacturing and Engineering Education Reimagined for All program, creating curriculum, distributing consumable material, and providing support for MEERA regional centers across the United States. By 2029, the programs produced at the NTTC are expected to assist in training 110,000 students nationally per year.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Pittsylvania County and the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance to secure the project for Virginia. In addition to DoD’s IBAS Program funding, Governor Youngkin approved a \$50,000 grant from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund to assist Pittsylvania County with the project. TECHnista is eligible to receive state benefits from the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

The company will lease-to-purchase a facility at 2311 Cane Creek Parkway, currently owned by the Pittsylvania County Industrial Development Authority, located in the Ringgold East Industrial Park.

Day of Action held last week



Henry County has been a longtime supporter of the United Way of Henry County & Martinsville, and last week, several county employees participated in the organization’s Day of Action. This event provides an opportunity for volunteers to come together and make a difference through projects that benefit the community. To find out how you can get involved, visit the United Way’s volunteer sign-up portal at <https://www.engage-hcm.org/>.

Farm income forecast projects another challenging year for American farmers

Farm economists are painting a grim picture for American agriculture following release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2024 farm income forecast.

Net farm income is set to decline nearly 25% in two years, with substantial losses in crop receipts and continued pressure from rising production costs.

While livestock producers may see modest gains, the outlook for many crop farmers is increasingly uncertain, with global supply and demand imbalances impacting prices. Reduced government support and higher production expenses leave many farmers in a precarious financial position.

“This trend is very concerning,” said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “It’s a very challenging time to be a farmer in Virginia.”

American Farm Bureau Federation reported that net farm income is forecast at \$140 billion for 2024, marking a \$6.5 billion decline from 2023. This follows a sharp 19.5% drop from 2022 to 2023. Inflation-adjusted figures indicate even greater financial strain.

A drop in receipts for grains and oilseeds largely results from global surplus and weaker market prices. In Virginia, the drop in net farm income for grain and soybean producers will likely be greater than the national average, Banks added.

“In both 2023 and 2024, local poultry and swine production cutbacks have not only lowered local grain and soybean prices relative to

national prices, but traditional markets have been altered significantly leading to higher storage and transportation costs for farmers in many cases,” he said. “This year’s drought and storm damage across much of Virginia has only exacerbated their net farm income losses.”

Though 2022 was a record year for net farm income, 57% of farm operations still reported a financial loss, according to the Census of Agriculture.

“The fact that the majority of farms experienced losses in such a high-income year underscores the fragility of the farm economy,” said Daniel Munch, AFBF economist. “Without targeted policy changes, such as an updated safety net in a farm bill, farmers will struggle even more in the face of declining income and rising debt.”

Direct government payments that provide a critical safety net for farmers are expected to decrease by \$1.8 billion in 2024.

Banks said farmers should consider any risk management program or tool available.

“If crop insurance is not available for a crop, livestock or dairy enterprise, farmers should consider risk coverage programs available through the Farm Service Agency,” he said. “Or consider price risk management strategies and instruments when marketing crops and livestock. Producers may still be able to find ways to lower their production input costs, at least in the short term.”

On the bright side, U.S. vegetable and melon receipts are expected to rise by \$2.5 billion.

News from the WPHD

According to the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD):

Karen Millner, a Community Health Worker with the Henry-Martinsville United Way, chatted with a visitor at the Community Resource Fair hosted by Grace Presbyterian Church on Fayette Street in Martinsville. The CHW team, along with folks from the Growth and Opportunity Center, handed out at-home COVID tests and spoke about vaccines and other resources, in addition to giving away swag bags.

Community Health Worker Lucas Tuning represented both the United Way of the Roanoke Valley and West Piedmont Health District during the popular Senior Expo hosted by the Department of Aging, Franklin County Parks and Recreation, at the Essig Center in Rocky Mount. The fair grows every year with increasing numbers of vendors and attendees.

NIH awards establish pandemic preparedness research network

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported that it has established a pandemic preparedness research network to conduct research on high-priority pathogens most likely to threaten human health with the goal of developing effective vaccines and monoclonal antibodies. Currently, many of the diseases caused by these pathogens have no available vaccines or therapeutics, and investing in this research is key to preparing for potential public health crises—both in the United States and around the world. NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) expects to commit approximately \$100 million per year to fund the program, pending the availability of funds.

The Research and Development of Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies for Pandemic Preparedness network—called ReVAMPP—will focus its research efforts on “prototype pathogens,” representative pathogens from virus families known to infect humans, and high-priority pathogens that have the potential to cause deadly diseases. By studying specific prototype pathogens, scientists will build a knowledge base that could be applied to other related viruses. For example, NIAID’s earlier work on the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) played a crucial role in understanding and developing safe and effective treatments and vaccines for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The ReVAMPP network will study viruses from virus families that have caused human disease for millennia—many of which have the potential to become pandemic threats in the future.

“In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases, the need for robust pandemic preparedness is evident,” said NIAID Director Jeanne M. Marrazzo, M.D., M.P.H. “The ReVAMPP network will enable researchers to fill key knowledge gaps and identify strategies to develop safe and effective medical countermeasures for targeted virus families before the need becomes critical.”

The ReVAMPP network will focus on viruses from families within: Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, and Lassa Fever; the Flaviviridae family, which includes viruses that cause dengue and yellow fever; the Paramyxoviridae family, which includes viruses that cause measles, mumps, and Nipah-induced encephalitis; the Picornaviridae family, which includes viruses that cause poliomyelitis, foot-and-mouth disease, and myocarditis; and the Togaviridae family, which includes viruses that induce Chikungunya virus-induced arthralgia or encephalitis and Venezuelan equine encephalitis.

By focusing on research to develop vaccine candidates and monoclonal antibodies, the ReVAMPP network will lay the groundwork for a faster and more effective pandemic response should a virus from one of the targeted families emerge as a pandemic threat.

The Research Triangle Institute in Durham, North Carolina, will serve as a centralized Coordination and Data Sharing Center and provide support and coordination for the network. By standardizing experimental design, such as using specific reagents, animal models, and datasets, research centers that comprise the ReVAMPP network will be able to easily share their results and collaborate to enhance the network’s efforts.

Unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percent

Virginia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August increased by 0.1 percentage points to 2.8 percent, which is 0.1 percentage points above the rate from a year ago, according to Virginia Works – the Commonwealth’s Department of Workforce Development and Advancement.

According to household survey data in August, the labor force decreased by 2,172 to 4,568,536 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 3,400 to 128,125. The number of employed residents decreased by 5,572 to 4,440,411. Virginia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.4 percentage points below the national rate, which decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.2 percent.

The Commonwealth’s labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to

66.0 percent in August. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population aged 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

In August, Virginia’s nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey decreased by 5,800 to 4,241,100. July’s preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, decreased by 9,300 to 4,246,900. In August, private sector employment decreased by 5,700 to 3,500,000 while government employment decreased by 100 to 741,100. Within that sector, federal government jobs increased by 100 to 192,100, state government employment decreased by 400 to 161,800, and local government increased by 200 to 387,200 over the month.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry

sectors. In August, three experienced over-the-month job gains, and eight experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,200) to 421,000. The second largest job gain occurred in Construction (+2,300) to 227,300. The third largest job gain occurred in Manufacturing (+500) to 250,300.

The largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-5,000) to 818,400. The second largest job loss occurred in Education and Health Services (-3,100) to 605,200. The third largest job loss occurred in Miscellaneous Services (-1,100) to 203,600. The other losses were in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,000) to 676,500; Financial Activities (-900) to 219,600; Information (-500) to 70,900; Government (-100) to 741,100; and Mining and Logging (-100) to 7,200.

Crucial funds raised for arts programming



Guests were delighted by tarot readings, provided by Christine Stewart (pictured) and Lauren Ellis.



Chefs for the event went all out with costumes and table decorations.



Executive Director Heidi Pinkston poses with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.



The recently completed Pavilion was the place to be at the Sept. 13 event.



Guests were all in smiles in their black or white attire.

Supporters of the arts gathered at Piedmont Arts for Savory September: Fortune + Flavor on Friday, Sept. 13 at the annual fundraiser which has been a highlight of Martinsville’s cultural events for years. Featuring small bites and paired cocktails by teams of talented local chefs, an open bar with a signature cocktail, fun tarot readings, a raffle, and live entertainment, this successful event raised crucial funding for Piedmont Arts to continue their world-class arts education and programming.

Spread among the Frith Performance Hall, the new Pavilion, and the Piedmont Arts’ lobby, Savory September delighted all the senses. With superstition themed decorations including horseshoes, “cracked” mirrors, shiny pennies, and a ceiling dotted with open black umbrellas lit by dazzling fairy lights, there was a charming detail everywhere you looked. The tables were decorated by the individual chefs and each one brimmed with creativity and fun. Entertainment was provided by Jake Earles, a local musician and beloved feature at events at Piedmont Arts. His iconic blend of Americana, rock, and folk always sets a tone of fun at events. The completely sold-out event was attended by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner and two of his aides. Warner was visiting the area and spent his evening in town supporting Piedmont Arts’ fundraising efforts to create artistic opportunities in the area.

In addition to the fabulous culinary creations offered at this event, extra fun was had through the 50/37/13 raffle and tarot card readings. These

were opportunities to raise additional funds for Piedmont Arts and have a lot of fun simultaneously. Raffle tickets were sold prior to and at the event and proceeds were split 50% for Piedmont Arts, 37% for one winner, and 13% for another. Karen Garrett won the 37% and the 13% was given back to Piedmont Arts anonymously. The tarot readings were provided by Programs Coordinator Lauren Ellis and Christine Stewart. Patrons could purchase a one card pull or a past/present/future spread. Patrons had a great time hearing their fortunes and all proceeds went to Piedmont Arts.

Chefs included: Susan Critz, Marty Gardner, and Judy Dashoff; Natalie and Hasan Davis; Rhonda Edwards and Brad Draper; Janet Lewis, Mary Compson, and Anne Compson; Blanche and Tom Mahoney; Julian Mei, Karen Despot, and John Wilson III; Julia and Blake Shumate and Lori and Burr Fox; Anna Wheeler and Monique Holland; McKay Ullstein, Scott Ullstein, and Catie Pannill; Aaron Rawls, Ruby Stultz, and Ann Gardner; Janet Ashby and King’s Grant.

Piedmont Arts was thrilled by the success of the annual event and officials said the agency is grateful to everyone who cooked, decorated, entertained, and attended. Support from the community for events like these raises necessary funding for their exhibits, educational programming, and performing arts programming and helps ensure that the museum can continue opportunities in the arts to Martinsville and Henry County.

What to know about Virginia early voting, registration and the ballot

By Alyssa Hutton
Capital News Service

The 45-day early voting period is now underway in Virginia, which gives people more time to participate in the election. Here are several things to know about voting, registration and the ballot.

The Virginia Department of Elections website is a hub to check and update registration, identify an early voting location, find key election dates, and sign up for the permanent absentee voter list. Material referenced in this guide can be located on its website, unless otherwise noted.

Early Voting Nuts and Bolts

The early voting period is Friday, Sept. 20 through Saturday, Nov. 2. People can vote early in person or by mail. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The location for early voting can be different from a person’s usual polling place. Early votes are made at the local registrar’s office, the designated office in a locality that handles official election business.

Some districts have satellite voting locations available, but not necessarily right as early voting starts.

The hours are different from usual voting hours. Check with the general registrar for voting hours. Some locations will be open on weekends.

People can request to receive a ballot by mail, but keep in mind the deadline. The U.S. Postal Service extended the time frame for first class and standard delivery. It can now take up to five days for a ballot sent first class to arrive, or nine days for standard delivery.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the registrar’s office by noon on Friday, Nov. 8.

Voter Registration

Questions regarding voting status can be directed to the local registrar’s office.

A Virginia registered voter who has moved within the state since last voting should update their voter record online or with their local registrar. People can register online if they meet certain requirements, such as having a valid state driver’s license or state ID card.

Anyone who moved to the state since their last time voting should complete a Virginia Voter Registration Application.

Residents can register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles or contact a candidate’s campaign, a political party or a political outreach organization.

Younger voters can register as long as they will be at least 18 years old before the general election. People do not register by political party in Virginia.

Forms of Identification

Voters need to have one form of identification. Any DMV-issued ID card, including expired IDs, are accepted. U.S. military, tribal and student IDs, along with passports, are also accepted. Voters can also use documents such

as a current utility bill if it has their name and address. The full list of acceptable identification can be found on the state Elections website.

A person without acceptable identification can still vote, but will be given a provisional ballot and is required to submit valid identification by noon on Nov. 8 to have the vote counted.

Important Election-Related Dates

- * Sept. 20: Early voting begins
- * Oct. 15: Last day for voter registration.
- * Oct. 16: Same day voter registration begins, which requires use of a provisional ballot.
- * Oct. 25: Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received by the general registrar by 5 p.m. and can be submitted online, through mail or fax, or in person.
- * Nov. 2: Last day to vote early.
- * Nov. 4: Last day to request, by 2 p.m., an emergency absentee ballot, if voters meet eligibility requirements.
- * Nov. 5: Election Day; with polls open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- * Nov. 8: All mailed ballots, and a form of identification for those who use a provisional ballot, must be received by noon.

A full election calendar can be found on the state Elections website.

What’s on the Ballot?

Voters will elect candidates for federal and local races. In Virginia there are six presidential candidates on the ballot.

They appear in this order on the Elections website: Democrat Vice President Kamala Harris; Republican former President Donald Trump; Jill Stein of the Green Party; Libertarian Chase Oliver; Independent Claudia De la Cruz; and Independent Cornel West. Cruz is listed as an Independent but represents the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Also on the ballot are congressional races. Voters will choose between incumbent Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. and Republican candidate Hung Cao.

Virginia has 11 U.S. House of Representatives and each congressional district has a contested race. View candidate information on the Virginia Public Access Project website.

Local candidates vary across the state and include mayoral and school board races.

Various local referendums are on the ballot, along with an amendment to the Virginia constitution. Surviving spouses of soldiers who were killed in action currently receive a real property tax exemption. Voters will decide whether to extend the exemption to all surviving spouses of soldiers who have died in the line of duty.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

☆AUCTION☆

HUGE 2-DAY ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Friday, October 4, 2024 @ 6:00 pm & (Doors Open at 4:00 pm)

Saturday, October 5, 2024 @ 10:00 am (Doors Open at 8:00 am)

GUNS, CASE KNIVES, GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY, VINTAGE BAR CLOCKS & METAL ADVERTISING SIGNS, FURNITURE, AMETHYST CRYSTALS, ROYAL DOULTON, PRECIOUS MOMENTS, ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

HORSEPASTURE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (RT. 58W)

17815 A.L. PHILPOTT HIGHWAY, RIDGEWAY, VA 24148

GUNS - Marlin 30-30, Brazil 410, Winchester 37/16ga, Remington model 870 16 ga, H&R 22 cal. Rifle, Glenfield 30-30, Springfield 840/22 cal, Remington 1110 12 ga, Remington Falling Block 22 cal. Rifle, Winchester 10-22, Ward 22 cal. Rifle, Ruger 10-22 carbine, Iver Johnson 410 ga. Springfield 1884 Trap Door 45-70, Thompson Center Fire 50 cal., Hawken Black Powder Rifle

KNIVES - Large selection of CASE knives, Schrade Uncle Henry, Old Timer, Remington

GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY - 10K & 14K Ladies Diamond Rings, Diamond Necklace, Sterling Silver Rings & Bracelets

FURNITURE - Large selection of New Bassett Furniture, NICE early Oak roll-top desk, Maple ladies desk, Walnut shadow box frames, key wind mantle clocks, upholstered couch, Thomas radio, child's Maple desk & chair, painted green desk

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES - Schmidt's & Ballentine's electric advertising bar clocks, selection of metal advertising signs (Miller Lite beer, Coca Cola, Sunbeam, Sir Walter Raleigh tobacco, Indian Motorcycles), Coca Cola Santa large standup store display, wooden grain boxes, copper cooker with lid, amethyst crystals, Plumb axe, cranberry & crystal glassware, Royal Doulton, Collection of Precious Moments figurines, art glass bottle stoppers, collection of designer Barbie dolls, die cast cars, rugs, lamps, chrome Wagner 4-pan, Fenton glass, designer handbags (Coach, Michael Kors), new sheet sets, chrome canister/bread box, Longaberger baskets, large Oriental vases, marbles, Lenox, large selection of Christmas blow molds

TERMS - Cash or approved check with proper ID. No warranties expressed or implied. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over all previous statements, written or verbal, concerning this auction. All items sold "as is-where is". 10% Buyer's Premium applies. Concessions available on site.

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TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!

☆DIRECTIONS☆

FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA - Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles, Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at corner of 58W & Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), WATCH FOR SIGNS

FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS



Fall Home Improvement

2024

7 Fall Tips for Readyng Your Outdoor Power Equipment for Winter

After your lawn gets its last cut before winter, it will be time to put away spring and summer outdoor power equipment, like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers. It's also important to ready snow throwers, generators and other small engine equipment for winter use. How and when you prepare your equipment for seasonal changes can save you time and money later, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

"Readyng your equipment for winter needs is important as the weather changes," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "It's also important to put your fall equipment away correctly. What you do now when you put away your equipment, sets you up for an easier start in the spring."

Here are seven tips from OPEI to ensure snow throwers will be ready when the flakes fly and chainsaws, generators and other equipment are ready for winter storms. Also, your lawn mower and other spring equipment will be available and ready for use when warmer temperatures return.

#1 - Review owner's manuals. Re-familiarize yourself with how to handle equipment safely. Lost manuals can be found online. Save a copy on your computer if possible,



so it can be consulted when needed. Be familiar with your equipment, and all its features, including how to turn it off quickly and safely.

#2 - Service all equipment. Before storing spring and summer equipment, clean and service it or take it to a small engine repair shop. Change engine oil and safely dispose of the old oil. Service the air filter, and do other maintenance as directed by the owner's manual. Check winter equipment and see if any maintenance and repairs are required.

#3 - Handle fuel properly. Unused fuel left in gas tanks over the winter can go stale and even damage equipment. Before storing equipment, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank, then run the equipment to distribute it. Turn the engine off, allow the machine to cool, then restart and run until the gas tank is empty. For winter equipment, buy the recommended type of fuel no more than 30 days before use. Use fuel with no more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. Use a fuel stabilizer if recommended by the manufacturer. Get more information on safe fueling for outdoor power equipment at LookBeforeYouPump.com.

ment at LookBeforeYouPump.com.

#4 - Charge batteries. Remove and fully charge batteries before storing. Don't store batteries on metal shelves or allow them to touch metal objects. Store them on a plastic or wood shelf in a climate-controlled structure.

#5 - Shelter equipment from winter weather. Store spring and summer equipment in a clean and dry place such as a garage, barn or shed. Winter equipment should be kept away from the elements, but be easily available for use.

#6 - Prepare, prepare, prepare. Make space in the garage or basement before the weather changes, so there is room to store larger yard items. Remove sticks, debris, dog and kid's toys and other items from your yard that can damage or destroy equipment. Clear the paths used regularly, especially during the winter when snow can "hide" things.

#7 - Have the right weather appropriate extension cord for your generator. Keep heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cords on hand. Ensure the cord is the right length to operate the generator a safe distance from the building. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, breezeway or under an open window or near any air intake for a building.

How to make renovation projects go smoothly

Homeowners are spending big bucks on home renovations. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, home improvement project spending continues to increase. It's predicted to go from \$472 billion spent in 2022 to \$485 billion in 2024.

Those targeting a specific home renovation likely know there is much that goes into the process from start to finish. Patience is a requisite virtue with any remodel, as even a thoroughly conceptualized plan can encounter a few bumps along the way. Although there is no way to completely remove renovation-related obstacles, there are ways to make projects go more smoothly.

· Establish a clear plan from the beginning. Now is not the time to be on the fence about details. A vision for the renovation is essential, and should include details about layout, materials, colors, and design.

· Manage your expectations. Again, this speaks to a need for patience with a project but also involves flexibility. Being too rigid when choosing materials can require waiting for back-ordered supplies to come in. Wanting contractors to bend to your

schedule can delay the project even further. Creativity and flexibility are key.

· Establish a budget. It can be easy to spend beyond one's means, especially when issues crop up. Black House Real Estate stresses the importance of creating a budget before starting a renovation, which may involve working with a local professional to help. Houzz advises preparing for worst-case scenarios by adding anywhere from 1 percent to 20 percent to the budget. Commit to sticking to the budget no matter what comes down the pike.

· Assemble a good team. Thoroughly research all contractors who will be involved with the renovation. These include designers, architects, builders, and more. Be sure they come highly recommended and research online reviews. A good team removes some stress from the project because you'll know the work is in experienced hands.

· Prepare the space for the remodel. Any work you can do will help save on labor costs and make it easier for the team to get started on the project. Clear out clutter and personal items. Ask if it would be helpful



for you to handle some demolition, whether that's pulling up old tile, removing drywall or another task.

· Have an escape hatch at the ready. Home renovations can cause upheaval to daily life, and that can mean stress on top of already chaotic schedules. If money and the situation allow, plan a getaway during a particularly tough stretch of the

project so the noise, mess, and disruptions will not induce headaches. Consider spending a few nights at a hotel or at a friend or relative's house to escape the constant grind of the project.

Home renovation projects add value and functionality to homes. Such undertakings can go more smoothly with some sound planning.

Tips when hiring a contractor

Contractors perform important work for millions of homeowners every day. Home improvement projects are complicated undertakings, and the experience of skilled contractors can ensure jobs are completed on time and within homeowners' budgets.

Homeowners have undoubtedly heard horror stories from neighbors about projects that have gone awry. Projects can go sideways for a number of reasons, but a skilled contractor can help homeowners navigate such situations successfully. That underscores how important it can be to find the right professional for the job. The following are some tips homeowners can consider as they look to hire a contractor.

· Identify which professional you need. Some contractors are of the jack-of-all-trades variety, but many specialize in a particular line of work. It's important that homeowners identify which type of contractor they should work with prior to starting a project. This requires homeowners to define the goal of the project (i.e., new wood floor installation), which can serve as a springboard into finding the right type of contractor.

· Prioritize building safety. Safety should be the utmost priority for homeowners and contractors alike. Prior to hiring a contractor, homeowners should identify any safety restrictions that might be enforced by local governments and take note of all the permits necessary to get a job done. Homeowners can then discuss those restrictions and permits as they inter-

view contractors. Projects that do not adhere to code are illegal and can compromise homeowners' ability to sell their homes in the future. So, it's vital to work with contractors who are familiar with local codes and aware of which permits are necessary to ensure a project can go forward.

· Insist on written estimates. Handshake agreements offer no protection to homeowners or contractors, so estimates indicating what will be done and how much the project will cost should be provided. Homeowners should insist on receiving written estimates and interpret an unwillingness to provide one as a significant red flag.


· Know your rights. Laws vary by region, but in general homeowners have a right to a written contract and contractors are obligated to provide a copy of that contract signed by both parties. That contract

must be provided prior to the start of the project. The contract should provide a detailed account of the work that will be done, as well as a timeline indicating important dates that components of the project will begin and be completed. The contract also should detail the materials and who is providing them. Details regarding payments, guarantees and warranties also should be cited.


· Do not pay in cash. Some contractors may suggest that the project will cost less if they're paid in cash. However, home improvements should never be cash transactions. Cash does not indicate proof of payment, which can be problematic if a dispute arises.

Contractors help homeowners turn dream projects into reality. Homeowners can employ various strategies to ensure they find the right professional for their home improvement project.

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Heating and air conditioning units are a lifeline, whether in the dog days of summer or frigid winter lows, and maintaining your unit ensures it will be there to keep your family comfortable when the mercury rises or falls. The following are some steps homeowners can take to keep their units in tip-top shape this summer.

summer can quickly fill the filter. Replacing these filters can make the unit operate more efficiently and keep air circulating throughout the house no matter the season. Some filters are more expensive than others, but the cost is still low, and the energy savings can be substantial. Ask your professional for advice when needed.

· Schedule annual maintenance on the unit. Routine maintenance performed by a local HVAC technician is another way to ensure the unit is running at peak capacity when it's most needed. HVAC technicians can identify problems and recommend services that homeowners may not recognize they need until the outside temperatures fluctuate - up or down. Annual maintenance appointments also give HVAC professionals a chance to assess a system compared to the previous year, which can help them identify if a unit is nearing its end. That can ensure homeowners are not caught off guard when the unit needs to be replaced.

- Help the unit make it through the season. Whether it's a typical summer or winter, or a season that is marked by a handful of heat waves or cold snaps,



The following are some steps homeowners can take to keep their HVAC units in tip-top shape, no matter the season.

HVAC units can use a little help. Closing curtains throughout the house on hot afternoons is a natural way to keep a home cool during a heat wave, and also can help block cold winds, which means savings on home cooling and heating costs while protecting a unit from being overworked. Ceiling fans also can be installed to circulate air, regardless of the season.

- Use a programmable thermostat. Programmable thermostats allow homeowners to set the temperatures inside their homes

throughout the day. If no one is home during the afternoon, there's no reason to have the HVAC wide-open. Program the thermostat so the house is comfortable when people are home, but raise or lower the desired temperature when no one is around. That gives the HVAC unit a break and can help to dramatically reduce cooling and heating costs.

HVAC units will not last forever, but some simple maintenance can improve their life expectancy and keep homes comfortable.

An aerial photograph of a large industrial warehouse complex with a blue roof, surrounded by dense green trees. In the foreground, there are stacks of lumber and other materials. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky. A green circular graphic is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing white text about a warehouse sale.

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