

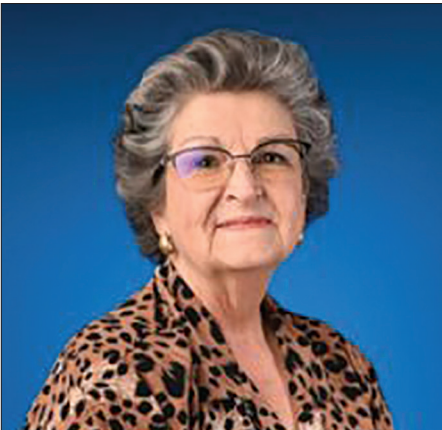
Lawson, Mei, Gravely win election bids

By Taylor Boyd

Kathy Lawson, Julian Mei, and Rayshaun Gravely won the three open slots on the City of Martinsville Council, surpassing fellow candidates John Wilson III and LaNita Herlem in the five-way race, according to unofficial election results.

Lawson, an incumbent who won her fourth term on the council, received the most votes in the election with 2,887 votes, or 24.80 percent of all votes cast in her favor. “The citizens, the voters, of Martinsville have shown their faith in me and the job that I have done,” Lawson said. “We’re just going to move forward to further advance our city and our citizenry.”

Mei received 21,38 percent of all votes, or 2,488 votes. In a comment to Star News, Mei said he appreciated the congratulations, and noted



Kathy Lawson

that Martinsville’s in trouble. “I’ll do my best to effect some change, but it’s going to be difficult with some of the choices Martinsville’s made,” he said.

Gravely received 2,480 votes, or 21.31 percent of the votes. Through-



Julian Mei

out the entire election, Gravely said he didn’t know what the results would be. “I didn’t feel like I was going to lose, I didn’t feel like I was winning, I was in the middle, and that showed to-night – I was in the middle. You know,



Rayshaun Gravely

second place. But it’s been great. The community showed out, came up, and did what they thought was best for us,” he said.

Wilson received 2,095, or 18 per-
(See Election Wins p. 2)



The former Crestview Apartments on Halifax Drive in Collinsville are under new ownership. Repairs to and remodeling of the 20-unit apartment complex is underway.

Apartment complex changes hands; neighbors excited to see changes

By Taylor Boyd

The former Crestview Apartments on Halifax Drive in Collinsville have a new owner, and neighbors are hoping it will help improve the neighborhood.

Michael Lindow said he purchased the 20-unit apartments in October from Ken Lazaro, who owned the complex for about 30 years. Lindow said he and his company, Ridgeway Halifax LLC, decided to purchase the apartments because it seemed like a good project.

“It’s hopefully going to help clean up that neighborhood a little bit,” he said.

Within days of the purchase, large dumpsters were onsite, and trash and debris were being thrown away and removed.

“It’s a lot of work every day. For us, it’s kind of like an onion, and we’re peeling back one layer at a time. I don’t really see any big challenges, it’s just going to be a matter of time is all,” Lindow said, and estimates work on the apartments will be completed within four to six months.

“We’re looking forward to getting this project done, getting it back on the market at market-rate rents,” he said.

Currently, work is focused on the leftmost apartment building, with walls being replaced, and ceilings being repaired. Some units are being gutted to make reoutfitting easier. As a result, most of the apartments on that side of the complex
(See Apartment Complex p. 2)

Holiday Havoc 2 to benefit P&HCC’s wrestling team

By Taylor Boyd

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold Holiday Havoc 2 at Patrick & Henry Community College’s (P&HCC) Stone Hall Gym on Saturday, November 23. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bell for the first match will start at 7 p.m.

NICW owner Scott Rutter, of Rutter’s Martial Arts, said proceeds from the event will go towards the P&HCC Wrestling Team.

“When I host wrestling events, this is probably two years we’ve been doing events in” Patrick and Henry counties, “we’ve always looking for causes and things to give back to,” he said.

When NICW held its first Holiday Havoc last year, Rutter said it coincided with the P&HCC’s wrestling team’s first year.

The team was “in need of some funds and different things to help them out. We did a show last year, helped them raise some money, and we’re doing it again this year hoping we can make it an annual thing,” he said.

Rutter said six matches are on the card including a NICW World Heavyweight Championship match with “Bam Bam” Lance Erikson vs. Mike Mars. A flag match also is scheduled between Team USA as Scott Lee, Tony Ray, and Ace England face Viktor Kraus & The Invaders of Team Germany.

Rutter said Ray is a P&HCC student and wrestling team member.

“He’s known as ‘USA Tony Ray,’” he said. “Right now, it’s a big battle between which country is better, you know, Germany or
(See Holiday Havoc p. 2)

Program Aims to Equip Inmates with Job Skills for Life After Release



P&HCC President Greg Hodges and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis inked an agreement last week to provide trade education to inmates housed in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

A groundbreaking partnership between Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and the Henry County Sheriff’s Office aims to change the future for local inmates by equipping them with trade skills for employment after release. The historic agreement, signed on Nov. 4, will bring



P&HCC instructors into the Henry County Adult Detention Center to teach inmates trades, starting with industrial electrical training.

The initial 15-week industrial electrical course is scheduled to begin in 2025, with classes tak-
(See Job Skills p. 2)



Shoe boxes packed at a local church. (Contributed)

Operation Christmas Child Seeks Local Support for Annual Shoe Box Drive

By Jessica Dillon
Operation Christmas Child, an annual project led by Samaritan’s Purse, is underway, inviting local communities to help pack shoe boxes filled with essential items and gifts for children around the world. Each box contains supplies and a message of hope, as well as a personal letter from the donor, making it a unique, impactful gift for many children in need. For some, it’s the only gift they’ll ever receive, says local

area coordinator Mark Hubbard. “For many of these children, these shoe boxes are the first and only gift they ever get,” he said.
Mark and his wife, Tammy, became involved after Tammy visited a processing center and felt deeply moved by the program. Soon, they took on roles as project leaders at their church and eventually became area coordinators for the Blue Ridge Team. Now, they help coordinate the packing of
(See Shoe Box p. 3)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, November 12
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building 55 W Church St., Martinsville.

Wednesday, November 13
Uptown Pedestrian Safety Meeting, 6 p.m., Municipal Building 55 W Church St., Martinsville.

Events

Friday, November 8- Saturday, November 9
LAST BIG BASEMENT SALE of 2024 and EVERYTHING is priced to go at Fido's Finds and Kitties Collectibles, 119 East Main Street in UpTown Martinsville on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

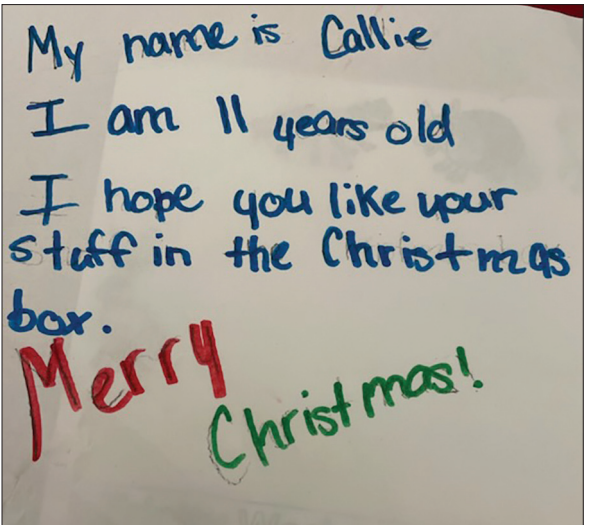
Tuesday, November 12
Local historian Jarred Marlowe, VMI Class of 2015, will recount the Battle of New Market at 10:30 a.m., in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room, Bassett Historical Society, 3964 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett. Free and open to the public.

Amateur Cooking Competition, 2:30 p.m., Ridgeway Branch Library, 900 Vista View Ln, Ridgeway.

Thursday, November 14
Dr. Elliot Engel: da Vinci: Before the Code, 6 p.m., Piedmont Arts. Many scholars consider Leonardo Da Vinci to be the greatest artistic genius in the history of Western Civilization. Dr. Elliot Engel will probe the breadth and depth of Leonardo's extraordinary mind while revealing the fascinating causes for his many unfinished masterpieces. He even tackles the universal mystery of Mona Lisa's smile. A catered dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the lecture will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45 for dinner and the lecture, and \$20 for just the lecture. Tickets can be purchased online at PiedmontArts.org or by calling the museum.

Shoe Box

(cont. from page 1)



A handwritten note by an area child will be included in a shoe box. (Contributed)

boxes for children around the globe, each filled with essentials like toothbrushes, school supplies, and a “wow” item—a special toy such as a yo-yo or a doll.

“Children can’t go to school because they don’t have pencils or paper,” Tammy Hubbard said, emphasizing the importance of including these small yet crucial items. For recipients, these boxes provide tools that improve their daily lives and even help them access education.

In each box, a personal letter from the donor is placed on top, making the gift feel personal and special. Some children have even reached out to their donors to express gratitude. Tammy Hubbard recalled one story where a recipient from a distant village was determined to thank a team member. “Somebody in the village saw it and her email, and they were adamant about getting in touch with that person to let her know that they got her box,” she said.

For children in remote or conflict-stricken regions, items that are common in the U.S. can be life-changing. “It’s unimaginable for someone here to think about,” said Mark Hubbard. “They’re talking about getting a toothbrush in

Friday, November 15
Amateur Cooking Competition, 2:30 p.m., Martinsville Branch Library, 310 Church St E, Martinsville.

Wednesday, November 20
Upward Basketball and Cheerleading Evaluation, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd, Stanleytown.

Thursday, November 21
Henry County will hold a Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop #3, 6-7:30 p.m., Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A.L. Philpott Highway, Martinsville.

Ongoing

All branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting the annual “Food for Fines Food Drive,” with \$1 waived from overdue fines for each non-perishable food item donated. All food items collected will be donated to the Salvation Army of Martinsville VA, Service Center and the Patrick County Food Bank. This will run through November 30.

Fruit Fundraiser for Martinsville Band, purchase fruit to support the band through November 12. Orders can be placed at www.thebulldogband.com or by calling (276) 403-5870.

Book sale, hosted by the Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. The “Members Only” portion of the sale is Friday, Dec. 6, 2-5 p.m. (those interested may join at the door), and Saturday’s sale, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Dec. 7, is open to the public. Civil war, children’s books, and puzzles are among those highlighted, with a special sale on shelved hardback and paperback fiction-buy 2/get 1 free. Each group of 3 must be either hardback or all paperback. All proceeds go back into the library system.

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

tinsville.

Uptown Farmers Market is open Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to noon through November 16.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Call (276) 647-9585.



Volunteers prepare shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. (Contributed)



Some donors even choose to pack boxes in honor of loved ones. “You can do it in memory or honor of your parents or spouses,” Tammy Hubbard said, noting that it’s a meaningful way to give back. Each box can be tracked after it’s sent to the processing center, allowing donors to follow their gift’s journey.

The couple were touched by last year’s community turnout, with more than 16,000 boxes packed between the Franklin and Henry county areas. This year, they’re hoping to surpass 17,000. Since Operation Christmas Child began in 1993, more than 220 million shoe boxes have been delivered to children worldwide.

Shoe boxes will be accepted at four area churches from November 18 through November 25. For details on packing tips, drop-off locations, and times, visit <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>.

Horsley named Officer of the Quarter

The Martinsville Police Department, in collaboration with Jarrett Marketing LLC, recently announced that Officer Andrew Horsley was named Officer of the Quarter. This prestigious recognition is awarded to officers who demonstrate exceptional dedication and hard work within the department and the community.

Horsley, who joined the police department a little more than a year ago, after serving as a cor-

rections officer for three years. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division. In addition to his law enforcement duties, he serves as a sergeant in the Virginia National Guard, where he has been an active member for six years


The new Dutch Inn Restaurant and Hollywood Cinema contributed free meals, and movie passes in celebration of Officer Horsley’s achievement.



Martinsville Police Officer Andrew Horsley (center) is flanked by Martinsville Police Chief Robert “Rob” Fincher (left) and Michael Jarrett, of Jarrett Marketing LLC. (Star News)

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OPINION



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The United States is close to existing for 250 years, in which we have exercised stable and relatively peaceful government. Due to the unjust and tyrannical British throne, our American ancestors engaged in a series of conflicts and disputes that culminated in the American Revolution.

With the help of Virginian leaders like George Washington and Patrick Henry, among others, the American colonies were able to slay the imperialism of King George III. This victory marked the first time in the Western Hemisphere that a people toppled their European overlords. American independence caught the attention of other colonies in the New World.

One colony who took immediate notice was on an island just south of Florida known as Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and the site of Christopher Columbus’ 1492 arrival to the New World.

Originally a colony of Spain’s that received many slaves from the slave trade, France settled the western part of the island (colony known as St. Domingue) while Spain maintained Santo Domingo and the eastern part.

Fed up with the Europeans, a slave revolt in 1791 took Hispaniola by storm. Toussaint Louverture, a freed former slave, soon led the Haitian Independence movement on the French western side of the island.

After Louverture’s success, he emancipated the slaves in St. Domingue and eventually helped free the eastern side of the island from the Spanish.

The Haitian Revolution was a significant achievement, as it was the second domino to fall against European colonialism

in the New World, and the first instance where former slaves or indigenous peoples led the revolution.

Their independence, like America’s, inspired promising prospects of a bright future.

One of Haiti’s cultural contributions was in the realm of literature. The grandson of a Haitian slave, and the son of a mixed-race general who fought under Napoleon, Alexandre Dumas produced several notable literary works in the 19th century.

“The center of the most animated group was a Musketeer of great height and haughty countenance, dressed in a costume so peculiar as to attract general attention” reads the opening line to a chapter in *The Three Musketeers*.

Another renowned novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, is a top literary classic to this very day.

Nearly 250 years later, despite great early leaders and clear intellects like Dumas, Haiti’s early success has not translated to a stable or relatively peaceful government.

Today, Haiti is struggling.

In 2021, Haiti’s president was assassinated in his private residence, plunging the country into chaos.

Armed gangs now fight for control of the streets, as Port-Au-Prince, the country’s capital, is estimated to be almost entirely controlled by various gangs.

700,000 people have been displaced according to the United Nations (UN), and

nearly five million Haitians face severe food insecurity.

Haiti’s main international airport, named for Louverture, was closed for months. A UN helicopter was recently shot at and forced to make an emergency landing.

Two U.S. missionaries were tragically murdered this May. The U.S. has called for all their citizens and aid workers to immediately leave the country.

These conditions make the country impossible to live in. Unlike most who immigrate to the United States across our southern border, some Haitians may actually have a legitimate claim to asylum.

As this crisis unfolds in “America’s backyard”, I have to ask the question: where is President Biden? Where is Kamala Harris? She was supposed to come up with solutions to “root causes of migration” problems on the southern border. To my knowledge, she has done nothing regarding Haitians fleeing terror and chaos in their country.

It is true that in June, Kenyan forces arrived in Haiti in an attempt to stabilize the situation. And in fairness, the United States is funding part of Kenya’s effort.

The U.S. had at one point expressed interest in transforming this security mission into a peacekeeping operation, supported by the Ambassador of Haiti, but China and Russia have been supportive of the armed forces approach.

Could Russia and China be hoping for further instability in Haiti, where there could be potential spillover effects into the U.S.?

I can’t say. But as Russian warships make visits to ports in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, and China makes billions of dollars in investments in Latin America, Haiti is no doubt a country our adversaries have their eyes on.

We hope that the country of Haiti, as one of the earliest republics in the New World, won’t be just a pawn, but will be able to straighten out its problems and once again have a stable and peaceful government.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or via email at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](mailto:morgangriffith.house.gov).

Christmas Connections

For a couple of 2-hour car rides, my daughter and I were transported out of our daily life and away from our actual ages, and we became timeless.

That was all thanks to the magic of Christmas music.

Of course, we marked the start of our Christmas extravaganza with eyerolls and chuckles. We were driving to my best friend’s house, deep inside North Carolina, when we changed the stations on the radio dial.

We were looking for any pop or rock song with a little pep to bring us down U.S. 220, but what we got instead was “Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.”

“Fa la la la la, la la la la,” we both sang back loudly, with laughter. We turned up the volume and continued belting out the old familiar tune.

The day after Halloween is pretty early for Christmas early for Christmas music, but that’s what 99.5 does, we recalled, as we were singing.

Yes, we know people go for streaming music rather than the radio, and when we are alone, we do a lot of streaming. However, when we are together, we listen to the radio. It seems to be a neutral meeting ground for opposite generations. When one of us doesn’t like a song, it’s not the other’s fault. It’s the radio station’s.

Likewise, we do not stream Christmas music. We tried that once, and it was quite a disappointment. For one, even though we say we get tired of hearing the same Christmas songs by the same singers over and over again, when we are introduced to Christmas songs we haven’t heard before, which tends to come with streaming, they don’t feel like Christmas to us, and we don’t have the patience to sit through them. For another thing, a big part of what makes Christmas music special is its scarcity. If we listen to it in a way we could be listening to it all year long, that’s no fun at all.

We are purists and won’t decorate a thing for Christmas until after Thanksgiving, and we certainly wouldn’t play Christmas music in a public setting where other people could hear it until then, either.

But when we are alone, we relish it.

My teenager has just gotten her



Holly Kozelsky

driver’s permit, and I am struck with the fear of the rapid passage of time. These days of active motherhood, with a child at home, will not last forever. The end looms menacingly ahead.

In fact, as we were zooming down 220, she was telling me how one day she’d be doing the driving there. She was talking of being older – and the unspoken accompaniment, of no longer needing Mama – when suddenly Gene Autrey brought my little girl back.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!” she crooned along with him, exactly as she has for all her life – “had a very shiny nose!”

When else will we hear Burl Ives, Frank Sinatra, Gene Autry, Otis Redding, Brenda Lee, Nat King Cole, Paul McCartney, Wham, The Waitresses, Harry Belafonte, The Temptations, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Johnny Mathis, Dean Martin, Jackson 5, Bruce Springsteen, The Beach Boys, the Ronettes, Karen Carpenter, Elvis Presley, The Kinks, Donny Hathaway, Eartha Kitt, Perry Como, Bobby Helms, Chuck Berry, the Eagles, Ella Fitzgerald, Jose Feliciano, Bing Crosby, Stevie Wonder, Thurl Ravenscroft, Darlene Love, Band Aid, Whitney Houston - and more for new year, Dan Fogelberg (“Same Old Lang Syne,” the New Year’s Eve song).

Alas, it also brings us the Chipmunks, the Muppets and more Mariah Carey and Celine Dion than anyone can take.

Christmas music is about Christmas, but it’s more than that. Personally speaking, it is the thread that connects all the years of our life. Culturally speaking, it keeps in our ears wonderful singers who otherwise would not be played on the radio and perhaps even would have been forgotten by time.

Ten months of the year, we are isolated by the sounds and the fads that come and go temporarily. During the two months of the year that Christmas music is played, we transcend fad and fashion to reconnect.

Another favorite joke

I’m writing this column on the morning of Tuesday, November 5: Election Day.

By the time this column runs in the newspaper, the next President of the United States will likely have been selected, hopefully with a minimum of chaos and pandemonium.

However, I have no idea what’s going to happen. And so, in what I am officially establishing as a tradition since I’ve now done it for three Presidential elections in a row, I’m instead going to tell you one of my favorite jokes. I hope you enjoy.

A guy moves out to a little cabin in the mountains. He’s been living there for about a month when he gets a knock on the door. He opens the door to reveal a hulking mountain man, easily seven feet tall, with a big bushy beard. The mountain man wipes his hand on his dirty overalls, sticks it out, and the guy shakes his hand.

“Howdy,” the mountain man says. “Like to apologize for not stopping by sooner. I live on the other side of that ridge to the south. Reckon I’m what you’d call the local welcoming committee.”

“Nice to meet you,” the guy says.

“Pleasure,” the mountain man says. “Since you’re new to the area, I wanted to be neighborly and invite you to a party at my place this Friday night.”

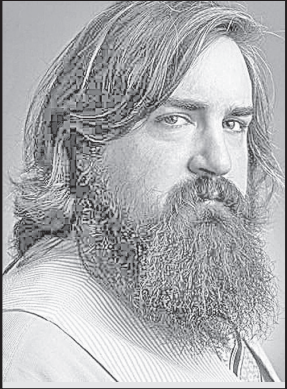
“Of course,” the guy says. “I’m free that evening and I’d love to come.”

“Great,” the mountain man says. He starts to walk away and then pauses.

“Now I gotta level with you,” the mountain man says. “At this party, there’s gonna be some drinking.”

The guy chuckles. “Sounds good to me. I pledged a frat in college, I think I can handle myself.”

“Good, good!” The mountain



By Ben R. Williams

man starts to walk away and then pauses again.

“Of course, I gotta be up front with you,” he says. “At this party, there’s liable to be some fighting.”

The guy smiles. “I did a little welterweight boxing in college, as well. I might not look it, but I figure I can handle myself.”

“Good, good!” The mountain man starts to stroll away and then pauses again.

“Now, I don’t mean to be telling any tales out of school,” the mountain man says, “but at this party ... well, there’s liable to be some hugging. And some kissing. And who knows where all that might lead, if you’re picking up what I’m putting down.”

The guy nods. “Hey, I’m a swinging bachelor,” he says. “You won’t hear any complaints from me!”

“Good, good,” the mountain man says. “Like I said, I live right on the other side of that south ridge, just swing on by about 7 on Friday night.”

“Looking forward to it,” the guy says. “By the way, should I bring anything?”

The mountain man laughs. “Aw, it don’t matter none,” he says. “It’s just gonna be you and me!”

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

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

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Nyholm reappointed to IALR Board

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has appointed Connie Nyholm to the Board of Trustees for the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) for a returning three-year term. Nyholm previously served a three-year term on the Board of Trustees beginning in 2017.

“I am honored to continue my service in IALR’s Board of Trustees, especially as we build on the vital research, innovation and economic and workforce development initiatives happening,” said Nyholm.

Nyholm is co-owner and CEO of Virginia International Raceway (VIR). An entrepreneur with a passion for Virginia, Nyholm has taken VIR from near abandonment to one of North America’s premier road courses. VIR is now recognized for its challenging track, unique motorsport resort amenities, and as a destination for professional and amateur racing events, automotive testing, and team-building activities. Beyond her role at VIR, Nyholm currently serves on the board of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Motorsport Hall of Fame of America and as a member and Past President of the Road Racing Industry Council.

IALR is governed by a 15-member board of trustees consisting of leaders of Averett University, Danville Community College and Virginia Tech; a leader of the board of the Future of the Piedmont Foundation; one Danville resident appointed by Danville City Council; one Pittsylvania County resident appointed by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors; and nine business representatives residing in Southside Virginia, three appointed by the governor, three



Connie Nyholm

appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and three appointed by the speaker of the House of Delegates.

“We are delighted to have Connie Nyholm rejoin the Board. Her leadership at VIR has made an indelible impact on the region, establishing it as a premier motorsport destination. Her experience, vision and commitment to revitalizing Southern Virginia will be invaluable as we continue to transform our region,” – Donald Merricks, chairman of the IALR Board, said.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation with applied research, advanced learning, manufacturing advancement, conference center services and economic development efforts. The Institute’s major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia, including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

Letter To The Editor

Presidential Election Results

My Dad asked if I was going to stay up to watch the election results. I said, “No”, but I did anyway. I was happy with the results, of course, but the tension of the past four years has made me think of a 1987 article entitled, “Pray More and Dispute Less.” In this article Leroy Garrett recounted the end of the Civil War with Lee surrendering to Grant at Appomattox:

“As Lee left the meeting, he looked out on a sea of Union soldiers, who looked like a field blossoming with stars and stripes... A sound of cheering spread across the Union lines. Grant ordered quiet as Lee rode away. ‘The war is over,’ he cried out to his men, ‘the rebels are our countrymen again.’ General Joshua Chamberlain, who received the surrender on behalf of Grant, later recorded an account of what transpired... The general tells of the men in gray marching before the Union army, giving the soldier’s salutation and the “order arms.” The officer leading the column, with heavy spirit and downcast face, as Chamberlain described him, wheeled his horse superbly and saluted profoundly by dropping the point of his sword to the boot toe. The armies then passed before each other, honor answering honor.

General Chamberlain recalled how he was touched by the occasion:

‘On our part not a sound of trumpet more, nor roll of drum; not a cheer, nor word nor whisper of vainglorying, nor motion of man standing again at the order, but an awed stillness rather; and breath hold-

ing, as if it were the passing of the dead! . . . How could we help falling on our knees, all of us together, and praying God to pity and forgive us all!’

God pity and forgive us all! If it is a fitting epitaph for a war that well-nigh destroyed a nation, it is an appropriate prayer for a divided church in a lost world.” (Garrett, Restoration Review, Volume 29, Number 4, April 1987).

If those people can mend a nation after fighting a war, then surely we can mend ourselves having had no war. None of us have killed another on a domestic battlefield, but plenty have been unkind to each other.

All those who voted that their religious rights might be protected have gotten their wish. However, I now say – Before God we better use those religious rights! Now is the time for “Christians” to repent of their backsliding and return to regular worship attendance. Church-going-Americans have a list of sins in need of repentance, and we better get busy about it.

Nobody wants your sect or creed, but many would like to “feel after” and “find” God as Acts 17:27 says. Use your religious freedoms to talk about Jesus and how He loves people on “both sides of the isle.” Surely we can all agree to that considering those on both sides of the isle disappoint Him in their own way: “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” – Ephesians 4:32.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

Russell Named IALR’s Vice President of Information Technology

Taurean Russell was appointed as the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research’s (IALR’s) new Vice President of Information Technology. An accomplished IT professional with a history of strengthening the resiliency and security of organizations in highly regulated industries, Russell joins IALR during a time of significant growth.

“I’m honored to be part of IALR, where I can leverage my experience in IT security and operations to support the region’s growth. My goal is to build a proactive IT culture that promotes innovation while ensuring the highest levels of security and reliability,” Russell said.

His experience includes serving as Deputy Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer at Winston-Salem State University, where he managed the university’s IT infrastructure and security programs. In 2023, Cyber Defense Magazine recognized him as one of the Top Global CISOs. He has held numerous leadership roles across diverse industries, including healthcare, higher education, manufacturing and the U.S. Army. His expertise includes information security, risk management, IT operations and strategic planning.

“Taurean brings a unique blend of leadership experience across various industries and a deep understanding of IT security and resilience. His expertise will be crucial in supporting IALR’s growth, and we are confident that his con-



Taurean Russell is the new Vice President of Information Technology at IALR.

tributions will drive innovation and efficiency throughout our organization,” John H. Hughes, IV, Ed.D., executive vice president, said.

Russell will contribute to IALR’s growth by maintaining and strengthening cybersecurity standards and improving technology processes for various training and education programs. His responsibilities include ensuring that IT systems and processes support IALR’s strategic goals, implementing robust cybersecurity measures, implementing IT systems and tools and developing IT policies, standards and procedures. His work will focus on building a resilient IT infrastructure that supports applied research, advanced learning, manufacturing training and services, the IALR Conference Center and economic development across Southern Virginia.



RURAL INVESTMENT COLLABORATIVE™

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WPPDC Selected for 2025 Community Investment Training

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) has been selected to participate in the 2025 Community Investment Training through the Rural Investment Collaborative initiative.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond’s Rural Investment Collaborative convenes rural leaders and local community champions from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington D.C. to participate in shared learning and programming that facilitates improvements.

A signature focus of the Collaborative is to routinely provide Community Investment Training that can help more communities develop viable funding proposals for projects that will make an impact in rural areas. During the training,

the WPPDC will work on a proposal focused on creating a seven unit housing development in the City of Martinsville for low to moderate-income residents.

“This training equips us with essential tools needed to effectively plan, fund, and implement our housing initiatives,” said Sean Campbell, Housing Director for the WPPDC. “We are excited to be selected to participate in this training which is an incredible opportunity to enhance our skills and strengthen our capacity to serve our communities effectively.”

To learn more about the Richmond Fed’s Rural Investment Collaborative and the Community Investment Training, visit www.richmondfed.org/region_communities/rural/rural_investment_collaborative.

Crown Holdings Presents ‘Mardi Gras Christmas with Lights’ Parade

The festive season is coming soon, and the community is gearing up for the 2024 Martinsville & Henry County Christmas Parade, featuring a lively theme this year: “Mardi Gras Christmas with Lights.” The parade, an annual showcase of local creativity and community spirit, will take place Saturday, Nov. 23, starting with a pre-show at 4:30 p.m. in front of The Big Chair, followed by the main event at 5 p.m. Parade lineup begins at 2 p.m. on Cleveland Avenue.

This year’s parade is presented by Crown Holdings, Inc., a prominent manufacturer in the metal packaging industry since 1892. Crown Holdings operates a high-tech beverage can production facility in Henry County, catering to various market segments and supplying a wide range of cans for beverages including sparkling water, energy drinks, carbonated soft drinks, teas, hard

seltzers, beer, and cocktails. This local plant enhances Crown’s North American supply network, ensuring timely and effective distribution.

By sponsoring the parade, Crown Holdings underscores its commitment to the Martinsville and Henry County communities, supporting events that foster unity and celebration. This year’s Mardi Gras-inspired theme brings a colorful twist to the traditional holiday parade, featuring illuminated floats, lively music, and vibrant costumes that promise to captivate residents and visitors alike.

Mark your calendars to experience the magic of “Mardi Gras Christmas with Lights,” a holiday celebration that will light up the streets of Martinsville and Henry County. For more details or to register for the parade, call Jessica at (276) 656-3900 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Initial claims for unemployment decrease

According to Virginia Works, 2,215 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending October 26, 2024, which is 27.1 percent lower than last week’s 3,039 claims and 23.1 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,800). Nearly 81 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Manufacturing (258); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (252); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (203); Retail Trade (179); and Health Care and Social Assistance (175).

Continued weeks claims (16,007) were 2.2 percent higher than last week (15,663) and were 29.7 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,337). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-report-

ed an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (62 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,520); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,051); Manufacturing (1,898); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,465); and Retail Trade (1,184).

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

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Outdoor Recreation Economy Plans are Focus in the West Piedmont Region
Regional Organizations Collaborate on Outdoor Recreation Plans

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) and Friends of Southwest Virginia (FSWVA), in collaboration with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), Patrick County Economic Development and Tourism, Henry County Parks and Recreation, the City of Martinsville, and other regional and local partners, are launching the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Planning Project as part of the larger Gateways to Southwest Virginia: Outdoor Economy Recreation Plan.

Funded by a 2023 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant and a Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grant, this project aims to create a cohesive plan to expand outdoor recreational opportunities across the region. By enhancing outdoor assets, the initiative seeks to boost community vitality and drive economic growth through tourism. The planning will focus on developing recreation areas like the Blue Ridge Parkway, Fairy Stone State Park, Philpott Lake, Mayo River Rail Trail, and local mountain biking trails. Building on successful models, the project will promote blueways, trail networks, and adventure sports, strengthening connections throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains foothills.

The larger project, Gateways to Southwest Virginia: Outdoor Economy Recreation Plan, includes two primary regions: the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Planning Project, covering the City of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties, and the Powell and Clinch River Recreation Area Project, which spans

Lee, Scott, and Wise counties, along with the City of Norton. The Blue Ridge Project specifically focuses on fostering partnerships and sustainable outdoor recreation development, including trails, mountain biking, and local business opportunities around existing trail systems.

Key partners on the project management team include Roger Adams from Henry County, Sarah Hodges and Kelly Rowland from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, James Houchins with Patrick County, Hannah Powell from the City of Martinsville, Catherine Van Noy from Mill Creek Creative (representing the City of Martinsville), Brian Williams with DRBA, Kim Davis and Jen Otey from FSWVA, and Kristie Eberly and Amanda Gray from WPPDC.

"These partnerships and the strategic planning involved in this project are vital steps toward creating a stronger, more sustainable outdoor economy in our region," said Kristie Eberly, executive director of the WPPDC. "We're thrilled to collaborate with local and regional partners to enhance outdoor recreation amenities and enrich experiences across our region."

Following a competitive RFP process, Destination by Design (DbD) was selected as the lead consulting firm. DbD brings over 10 years of experience in creating vibrant public spaces, developing recreational opportunities, and building regional brands, with a focus on engaging local communities and leaders to guide strategic investments.

The project will kick off soon with focus groups and site visits involving regional partners and Destination by Design (DbD). Scheduled for completion in June 2024, the plan will offer a comprehensive set of recommendations for implementing future outdoor recreation projects across the region.

Together, the combined efforts of WPPDC, FSWVA, DRBA, and local partners will deepen community engagement with Southwest Virginia's landscapes and foster appreciation for the region's natural beauty.

"This regional plan focused on the outdoor economy will be an asset to Patrick County, the City of Martinsville and Henry County and everyone who lives, works and plays in the region will have an opportunity to be a part of the process," said Tiffany Haworth, executive director of DRBA.

"We are excited to work in partnership with our established partners and looking forward to a new collaboration with FSWVA while DRBA is preparing to update the Martinsville and Henry County local Outdoor Recreation Master Plan," she said. "The combination of these local and regional master plans will provide a community-driven roadmap for outdoor recreational opportunities in this region for many years."

"The West Piedmont region unites Southern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, and the Virginia Mountains, creating a strength that benefits all of Virginia," said Kim Davis, executive director of Friends of Southwest Virginia. "By focusing on outdoor recreation, we're showcasing each area's unique assets, boosting local businesses, attracting tourism, and strengthening community bonds. This project exemplifies the power of partnership across regional lines, creating a strong foundation for economic growth and sustainable outdoor experiences that benefit everyone who calls these regions home."

These initiatives collectively aim to promote sustainable outdoor activities, enrich community connections, and position the region as a premier outdoor recreation destination, fostering greater community appreciation for the natural assets that define the region.

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **November 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases.
Case S-24-10 Appalachian Power Company
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-906 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a transmission line structure to be constructed to a height of approximately 85' instead of the limit of 75'. The project is located at 114 George Martin Dr, in the Ridgeway District. The property is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 52.8/85.
Case S-24-11 Marty D. Rhodes, Jr.
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the use of the property as an event center. The project is located at 874 Flanigan Branch Rd, in the Ridgeway District and shown on Tax Map 73.2/74. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, public hearings have been scheduled for **November 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.
Case R-24-12 Edwin and Iris Gillispie
The property is located on the south side of Valley Dr, between the addresses of 217 & 319 Valley Dr, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 39.2(7)/12F. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.67-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to use the property for agricultural purposes.
Case R-24-13 John K. Adams
The property is located in the south east corner of the intersection of Stones Dairy Rd and Bittersweet Dr, in the Black berry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 25.9(8A)/A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of this lot from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to place a manufactured home on the property. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
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Historic Courthouse to Host Christmas Tea

The Historic Henry County Courthouse will host “Christmas Tea at the Old Courthouse” on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 1 East Main Street in Uptown Martinsville. Attendees will enjoy an afternoon of tea, live music, and seasonal refreshments.

The event honors the tradition of Christmas tea, rooted in 19th-century England, where holiday celebrations once centered around abundant wine and ale. In response, a counter-movement introduced a spiced black tea called “wassail”—inspired by German spiced ale—to offer a refined alternative. Traditionally infused with spices such as ginger, cinnamon, and orange peel, wassail gained popularity, and tea parties became a festive mainstay of holiday gatherings in England. This custom spread to America, where holiday teas continue to bring communities together in a warm, seasonal celebration.

Tickets for the Christmas Tea are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance by contacting Ann Martin, chairman, at (276) 340-9638, or by visiting the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum. Seating is limited, and all proceeds will support the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society.

Second session of Citizens Academy deemed successful



Several people took advantage of the information presented during the second session of the Citizens Academy in Martinsville. (Contributed photos)



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis (left) and Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher discuss various topics with those attending the session.



The Kornna Kitchen in Uptown Martinsville provided lunch to attendees.

The second Citizens Academy session at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Training Academy wrapped up Oct. 31, according to Martinsville Mayor LC Jones. Participants gained essential training on crucial topics such as home security, fraud prevention, scams, and victim-witness procedures. This unique opportunity provided first hand insight into our local officers’ rigorous training, sparking engaging and thought-provoking discussions that genuinely enriched the learning experience.

Jones expressed heartfelt appreciation to the academy staff; Benjamin Rea, director; Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis, and Martinsville City Police Chief Robert “Rob” Fincher “for their unwavering support” for the academy.

Sponsors of the event included Latoya Preston, director of Empowering Voices; Keyona Edwards and the Danville Walmart Store; Rico Johnson and his team at the Kornna Kitchen; Chasty Beal and the Hardees at S. Memorial Blvd; and others “who contributed to making this class a success,” Jones said.

The December Citizens Academy session is scheduled, with a date, time and other information to be announced soon.

MHS Honored with Continuous Improvement Award by VDOE

Martinsville High School was recognized by the Virginia Department of Education’s 2024-2025 Exemplar School Recognition Program with the Continuous Improvement Award. It is one of only 49 schools across Virginia to receive this distinction, which highlights schools demonstrating notable gains in student achievement and graduation outcomes over the past three years.

“We are thrilled to see Martinsville High School receive this prestigious recognition,” said Dr. Zebedee Talley, Superintendent of Martinsville City Public Schools.

“Achieving excellence in school attendance and graduation rates is vital for both student success and community progress. Our dedicated parents, students, and staff remain committed to meeting student needs and fostering future growth.”

Martinsville High School earned this recognition by increasing its Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) and successfully reducing its dropout rate across three consecutive school years. Schools recognized with the Continuous Improvement Award have met one or more of the following criteria based on performance from the 2021-

Burton helps bolster food donations

By Jessica Dillon

The Food Lion on Greensboro Road recently partnered with NASCAR driver Jeb Burton to bolster food donations for Feeding Southwest Virginia, encouraging shoppers to bring in pantry items or purchase food inside the store to contribute. Popular donation items included pop-top canned chicken, pop-top vegetables, and peanut butter.

Rob Ward, Food Lion’s director of operations for the Roanoke, Martinsville, and Danville areas, was on hand for the event, explaining the company’s mission. “Food Lion Feeds began in 2014, and it’s really about how our stores partner with our communities to address the needs faced by local food banks,” Ward said.

In addition to community support, many Food Lion associates enthusiastically contributed to the food drive. “We just get such an outpouring of enthusiasm from our associates,” said Bob Mills, community relations manager for Food Lion’s northern division.

Burton signed autographs and greeted fans, drawing a large crowd that boosted awareness for the cause. “This is the third event, and we’ve been able to raise a lot of food and funds to help those in need,” Burton said. The store also offered pre-signed posters at the Celsius Energy Drink table and free giveaways, including stuffed lions for Burton to autograph.

Burton noted the community’s generosity, saying, “The area is full of good, hardworking people, and there are a lot of people currently in need.” Cash donations were plentiful, with all contributions supporting the Henry County Food Pantry to directly aid the Martinsville and Henry County areas.

To make a direct donation, call the Henry County Food Pantry at (276) 629-1369.



Roanoke Food Lion store manager Calvin Walters poses with NASCAR driver Jeb Burton. (Contributed)

Martinsville set to activate 140 gunshot detectors citywide

By Taylor Boyd

Martinsville is gearing up to install and activate 140 gunshot detectors across the city as part of an initiative aimed at improving response times to gun-related incidents.

Martinsville Police Chief Robert “Rob” Fincher said the detectors are a component of the Virginia’s Attorney General’s Office Operation Ceasefire Virginia, a statewide program dedicated to reducing gun violence. “One of the things they offered was money for doing this type of project, whatever they can try to do to lower gun violence,” he said.

Fincher explained that while Martinsville does not face overwhelming gun violence, even a single instance is too many. “One act of gun violence is too many, in my opinion,” Fincher said. He added that the early-warning system provided by the detectors will allow for real-time alerts to officers in the field, ensuring faster responses without waiting for a 911 call to be processed.

Officers are “advised of it immediately when they’re in their car,” he said, adding that the detectors, strategically placed throughout the city, use triangulations to pinpoint gunfire locations. “Martinsville’s very hilly, which makes it challenging,” Fincher said. The system requires three detectors to pick up a single sound for an accurate location. “In flatter areas, the detectors can cover a larger radius, but in hilly parts, the range is more limited, necessitating additional detectors.”

The project, fully funded by the Attorney General’s Office, did not require local funding, a significant advantage for Martinsville’s budget. Some detectors are mounted on black poles, which residents may notice, while others are attached to telephone poles and less visible.



The City of Martinsville is working to install and activate 140 gunshot detectors, paid for through a statewide initiative to reduce gun violence.

Currently, adjustments are underway to optimize detector placement and coverage. Fincher expects the system to go live in phases across different city sections, with full coverage anticipated in the coming months. “It will probably go live in stages. Over time, we’ll see improved accuracy as the system becomes fully operational,” he said. “But ideally, it’s a system we hope we rarely, if ever, have to use.”

To ensure accuracy, the detectors will undergo a calibration phase, learning to differentiate between gunshots and other similar sounds, such as fireworks. “It’s not like a regular microphone. It doesn’t pick up voices or general noises, but rather taps into a specific frequency associated with gunfire,” Fincher explained.

While hopeful about the potential impact of the new system, Fincher said he views it as a preventive measure. “This technology has shown promising results in other areas. We’re optimistic, but we hope it’s something we won’t need to rely on frequently.”

2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years:

- Increased combined pass rates for math, reading, and science by a total of ten percentage points or more over the three-year period.
- Improved pass rates in reading and math for two or more student groups by a total of ten percentage points or more over three years.
- Achieved a four percent or greater increase in the GCI and reduced the dropout rate by fifteen percent or more over three years.

“This recognition is a testament to the relationships, hard work, and determination of our teachers and school community,” said MHS principal Dr. Ajamu Dixon. “We are thrilled by this news, and we look forward to continuing to work to support our students.”

For more information on the Virginia Board of Education Exemplar School Recognition Program, please visit the Virginia Department of Education website at www.doe.virginia.gov.

Two ‘Miles in Martinsville’ events remain this year



Miles in Martinsville’s ‘Turkey Two’ will be run on Thanksgiving Day. The Holiday Run Festival at the Martinsville Speedway is scheduled for Saturday, December 7.

Miles in Martinsville has two remaining running events for 2024, with the Turkey Two set to be run on Thanksgiving Day, and the Holiday Run Festival is set for Saturday, December 7.

The Turkey Two is a two mile race and walk which will be run on a course which circles the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex and follows the scenic Dick & Willie Trail along the Smith River.

The event is open to competitive runners, joggers and walkers. Competitive runners will receive an official race shirt and be eligible for plaque awards to be given for the top three overall male and female finishers. The top three male and females in age groups beginning with 9 and under will receive a certificate, suitable for framing. There will be a division for non-competitive walkers who will not receive a race shirt or be eligible for age group or overall finish awards. All participants will receive a commemorative medal celebrating the event.

The Turkey Two race and walk will start promptly at 9 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. Packet pick-up will be held on Wednesday, November 27 from noon-6 p.m. at the YMCA, and from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on race day at the sports complex. Following the race, runners and walkers will gather for awards presentations and holiday themed snacks.

Holiday Run Festival races will take place at the Martinsville Speedway. Founded in 1947 by the late H. Clay Earles, Martinsville is the only track which has hosted NASCAR Cup Series races every year since the division’s inception in 1949.

The event will benefit Martinsville Speedway’s annual Toy Drive. Runners and spectators can bring an unwrapped toy or donate \$25 for the opportunity to drive your vehicle on the Speedway track that



Photos from a previous ‘Holiday Run Festival.’ The event will be held Dec. 7 at Martinsville Speedway.





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evening. Licensed drivers only. Toys and proceeds to be given to Grace Network for distribution to area underprivileged kids. A portion of each runner’s registration fee will be donated to the Toy Drive.

The Youth in Motion 5K will start at 9 a.m. This is the fall race for the local Youth in Motion program. This program is designed to inspire young girls and boys to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum and creatively integrating running into their lives. This race will include serious competitors of all ages and will include the participation of a significant number of youngsters along with their coaches and mentors.

Also starting at 9 a.m. is the 5K Toy Walk, which is open to those who just want to walk the course and enjoy the ambience of the Speedway venue. Walkers will not be eligible for awards or race shirts.

The Southside 10K will start at 10 a.m. This new race offers the opportunity for runners to challenge themselves over a longer distance. The 10K is a great stepping stone for those runners who are considering stepping up to a half marathon or full marathon.

DECEMBER 7
9 AM

HOLIDAY RUN FESTIVAL
2024
YOUTH IN MOTION 5K
SOUTHSIDE 10K
15K DOUBLE CHALLENGE



WWW.MILESINMARTINSVILLE.COM

For runners looking for a longer race the event will offer the 15K Double Challenge. Competitors in this race will race the 5K at 9 a.m. and then recover to run the 10K at 10 a.m. Runners in each race will be competing for female and male awards for top three overall finishers and top three finishers in each of five year age groups.

Registered runners will receive official race shirts. The 5K competitors will get short sleeve tech fabric T-shirts. The 10K and 15 K Double racers will receive long sleeve versions of the official shirt.

All races start and finish at the checkered flag finish line located on the speedway’s front stretch. Runners will run 8/10s of a mile on the track, infield and pit road and then exit to circle the roads around the Speedway complex. The racers will finish by re-entering the track and running back to the checkered flag finish line.

The Turkey Two and Holiday Run Festival races are open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities.

Runners are encouraged to register online as early as possible. More details and online registration are available at <http://www.milesinmartinsville.com>.



Middle College instructor Lisa Aquilo prepares materials for incoming students.

Middle College Returns to P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) is partnering with West Piedmont Regional Adult and Career Education (WPRACE) and Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) to reintroduce the Middle College program on campus this month. Community members of all ages seeking a GED will attend classes, offered by WPRACE and HCPS, on P&HCC’s campus.

“It is our great honor to welcome members of our community to the PHamily through Middle College courses at Patrick & Henry,” said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges, adding, “Successful completion of the program is just one step on the journey to a financially secure future and we are thrilled to support each student in the process of doing so.”

“Our partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College offers individuals a valuable opportunity to earn their GED through free daytime classes. The Middle College Program can serve up to 50 participants each year, providing the resources and support needed to help them take a significant step toward achieving their ed-

ucational and personal goals,” said Lisa Millner, HCPS assistant superintendent of teaching & learning.

To enroll in Middle College, students should score at 9th grade and above on the TABE (Test for Adult Basic Education) or will otherwise be referred for adult basic education. Classes will meet from 9am to 12pm, Monday through Thursday and are open entry/open exit throughout the year as needed. Registration and TABE testing will occur prior to classes beginning.

“We are so excited to partner with Patrick & Henry and Henry County Public Schools to support the members of our community through Middle College programming. The opportunities that students will have available thanks to the credentials they will earn will certainly help to ensure bright futures for each of them,” said Kay Pagans, WPRACE program manager.

Questions regarding Middle College programming should be directed to Pam Anglin at panglin@henry.k12.va.us or 276.647.8932.

Wythe County man charged locally

A Rural Retreat man was charged with five counts of using a communications system to solicit a juvenile in connection with incidents in Henry County, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff’s Capt. Sandy Hines.

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office and Patrick County Sheriff’s Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force conducted an undercover operation targeting individuals attempting to exploit minors online on November 1, according to Hines.

An investigator involved in the operation made contact with an individual through an online forum. During their communications, that person allegedly sent multiple lewd and sexually explicit messages, believing he was conversing with a 14-year-old child and attempting to arrange a sexual encounter, Hines wrote in a



Mitchell Ryan Cook is being held without bond in Henry County.

release.

Later that day, the person allegedly traveled from Pulaski, Va., to a location in Henry County, expecting to meet the minor, the release stated.

Upon his arrival at the designated location, the individual was taken into custody by deputies and investigators from both sheriff’s offices without incident.

Mitchell R. Cook, 29, of 111 Kitten Lane, Apartment 1, Rural Retreat, Va., is currently held

without bond in the Henry County Adult Detention Center. Rural Retreat is a town in Wythe County.

Hines added that the Henry County Sheriff’s Office is committed to the safety of children and will continue to pursue online predators actively. He added that the task force is a specialized unit that remains dedicated to safeguarding our community and protecting youngsters from online exploitation.

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

Crossing the Lines

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

Hospital property sells in online auction

The former Pioneer Community Hospital property has a new owner, according to a deed filed in Cook County Illinois on October 30.

Wolf of Wabash, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, sold the property for \$599,000 to Stuart Property Acquisition Company, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company.

The 10.08-acre tract located within the Town of Stuart in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County had an assessed value of \$4,534,400.

Phillippe Joseph, the sole member of Wolf of Wabash, acknowledged the deed on behalf of the company.

Based in Roanoke, Stuart Property Acquisition Company, LLC, filed with the State Corporation Commission on September 12. The business’s principal office address is 10 Franklin Road SE, Ste 900, Roanoke.

Clark H. Worthy is listed as the company’s organizer and registered agent. The deed was prepared by Gentry Locke, Attorneys, a law firm in Roanoke. Covenant Real Estate Services served as the deed’s settlement agent.

Located at 18688 Jeb Stuart Highway, the 63,000-square-foot building was once a 50-bed regional hospital and featured an emergency room, exam and trauma rooms, radiology, clinic/medical officers, and operating rooms.



The former Pioneer Community Hospital property is under new ownership.

The hospital closed after Pioneer filed for bankruptcy in 2016, and Virginia Community Capital (VCC) purchased the property for \$5.7 million at an auction in 2019.

Foresight Hospital and Health Services acquired the property in 2022, and initially announced it would reopen the hospital as a stand-alone psychiatric and drug treatment hospital. The company then said it would work to provide general hospital services and emergency care.

In 2023, the Foresight offered to donate the property to Patrick County in exchange for \$815,000, which was about half of the costs the company had incurred. The county declined the offer.

In March 2024, Wolf of Wabash, LLC, purchased the property for \$1.6 million from Foresight HS Property Holdings – Blue Ridge, LLC. The online auction for the property started in September 2024.

Worthy could not be immediately reached for comment.

New Book Chronicles the Life of America’s First Indigenous Vice President

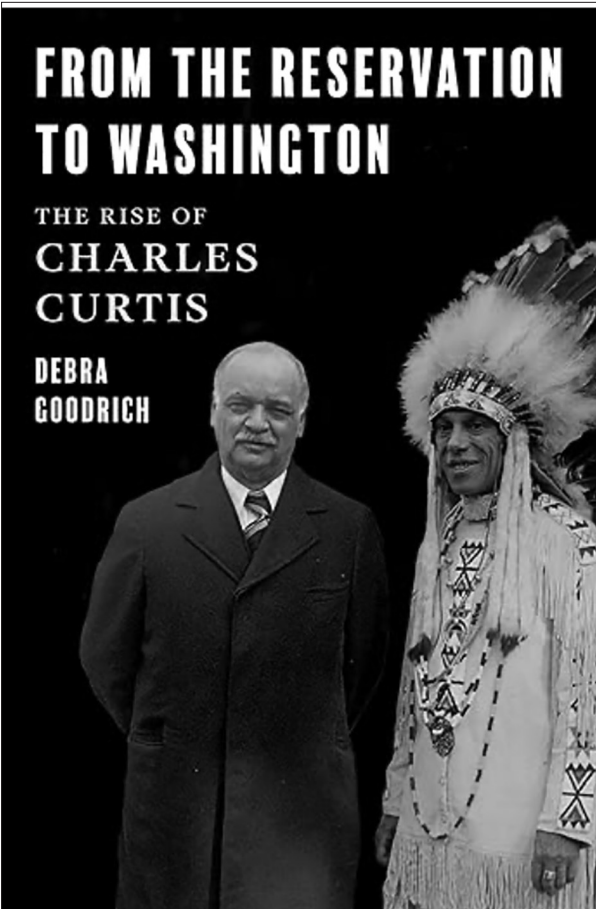
Debra “Debbie” Goodrich’s newest book, “From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis,” focuses on the life of Charles Curtis, the first person of color to serve as the United States’ vice president from 1929-1933 under President Herbert Hoover.

Published in October, Goodrich’s 264-page, 13-chapter book, follows the chronology of Curtis’ life.

When she moved to Kansas 30 years ago, Goodrich said she got to know Topeka and the community by walking through one of its cemeteries.

“Topeka Cemetery is the resting place of vice-president Charles Curtis. I’d never heard of him and found out he was an enrolled Kaw Indian, or the Kansas Indians, and I’ve just been fascinated by him ever since. He became a footnote in American history, and he really should be more,” she said. The fact Curtis is a self-made man is part of what caught Goodrich’s attention.

“He was mixed blood. His mother was French and Kaw, and his father was this white European, actually descended from the pilgrims. When he was running for office, a lot of hay was made with that, that he was uniquely American



Debbie Goodrich’s newest book, “From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis,” is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and in bookstores around the country.

being descended from both pilgrim and Indian,” Goodrich, of Ararat, said.

Goodrich said Curtis, who had very little formal education, became an attorney, a Kansas Congressman, and the first Senate Majority leader before becoming vice-president.

“It’s just a remarkable career,” she said.

Goodrich said she’s been thinking about writing this book for over 20 years but had other projects she

needed to finish first. She got the contract with Rowman & Littlefield, a publishing house, two years ago.

“So, the hardcore writing has been within the last two years. I met with one of their editors at a conference and she really liked the idea and pitched it to their staff,” she said.

Goodrich’s book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and other bookstores across the country.



Harrison Ridge will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA) Veteran Appreciation Show on Saturday, November 9.

Veteran Appreciation show set for Saturday

The Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA) Veteran Appreciation Show is set for Saturday, November 9. Sponsored by the Patrick County Food Bank Board, the event will be held at the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium, with the doors opening at 5 p.m. and the show starting at 6 p.m.

The cost is a \$5 donation and two cans of nonperishable food.

PCMA President Denny Alley said Harrison Ridge, a bluegrass and gospel group, will headline the show.

“They’re multi award winners at multiple fiddlers’ conventions,” he said.

Alley said three of the members are preachers, including one which preaches in the Dry Pond area.

Ron Inscore & Friends, Barry Collins & The Mudflaps, and JT Morrison & the Foothill Boys will also take the stage.

Alley said Inscore, of Ararat, is a

mandolin player who’s played during PCMA mandolin festivals.

“He played with The Kenny & Amanda Smith Band for years,” he said.

The October show was well attended, with about three-fourths of the 700 seats of the PCHS auditorium filled, Alley said, adding the December show will be the annual Sammy Shelor Banjorama.

“The opening band is Nick Goad and Kyser George, the young guys,” he said, adding about a dozen banjo players will take the stage during PCMA’s year-end show.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area firearm safety.

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Volunteer departments respond to excavator fire

Three local volunteer fire departments responded to an excavator fire on Monday, October 28. Stuart Volunteer Fire Department was among those dispatched to a heavy equipment fire reported about halfway up the mountain.

Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas said it was a track hoe, a type of excavator, with a rock hammer operated by Kokosing, a contractor doing roadwork for the U.S. 58 project.

“The machine caught on fire while it was being operated. The operator attempted to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers, like two or three, and was unsuccessful. It became fully involved,” he said.

Weidhaas said Stuart Fire was toned out and Patrick



A track hoe, a type of excavation equipment, caught fire on Monday, October 28.

Springs and Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department assisted in extinguishing the fire.

“Due to the large amount of hydraulic and diesel fuel that this type of equipment holds, it makes fire suppression difficult without the use of firefighting foam. We used 25 gallons of firefighting foam

agent mixed in the water to help extinguish the fire,” he said.

No one was injured due to the fire.

Weidhaas estimated a track hoe costs about \$450,000.

“It’s a big machine, so of course that’s a big loss for a construction company like that,” he said.

Thousands attend 9th annual Spooktacular

A frightening wolf guarding the post office, along with monsters, goblins, and ghouls joined princesses and super heroes at the 9th annual Spooktacular, held in uptown Stuart on October 31.



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

1-4-7-9PM

1-4-7-9PM

1-4-7-9PM

1-3-5-7-9PM

1-3-5-7-9PM

\$5 tickets

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Martinsville 278-858-3456

Fairy Stone State Park among seven slated for renovations

The main campground at Fairy Stone State Park will be closed from December 2024 through Feb. 28, 2026 for Cabins and/or campground renovations. While the renovations will not impact the equestrian campground, customers staying at the equestrian campground will not be able to use the bathhouse and dump station at the main campground.

Fairy Stone is one of seven state parks to undergo cabin and/or campground renovations beginning this fall. Renovations also are planned at Westmoreland, Claytor Lake, Grayson Highlands, Bear Creek Lake and Douthat state parks.

All of the park locations will remain open, and these projects will not impact daily park operations. However, due to the magnitude of these projects, dates are subject to change, and guests are advised to check the park’s webpage before visiting.

“These renovations are key to the longevity of our parks,” said Virginia State Parks Director Melissa Baker. “It takes time to upgrade the facilities and make each location more enjoyable for all guests. We look forward to sharing the upgraded cabins and campgrounds when the projects are completed.”



Fairy Stone State Park cabin (Contributed)

Global summit in VA addresses rising threat of scams worldwide



Trimmel Gomes
Virginia News Connection

Online scams are growing in scale and sophistication, affecting millions and creating economic losses estimated at \$1 trillion globally in 2023.

The upcoming Global Anti-Scam Summit in Arlington, Va., will bring experts together to develop strategies to combat the

threat.

Jorij Abraham, managing director of the Global Anti-Scam Alliance, said as scams continue to surge, inflicting financial and emotional harm, there is an urgent need to work together.

“The big challenge is that we have to work across the different industries and across borders because scammers are get-

ting very, very professionalized,” Abraham pointed out. “We see scammers usually doing the same scam in 80 different countries and there the challenge is really putting them behind bars.”

The summit is scheduled for Nov. 12-13.

Abraham advises people to consult friends and family before acting on suspicious texts or emails. According to the FBI, scams targeting Americans age 60 and older led to more than \$3.4 billion in losses in 2023, though many cases go unreported.

The FBI also warns the public about scammers exploiting the 2024 U.S. general election for financial fraud. Abraham noted scams are becoming among the most reported crimes.

“We are continuously being bombarded by scammers who are trying to get our identity or our money,” Abraham observed. “The goal of the summit is to discuss how can we reduce the approaches by scammers, trying to make sure that they are less successful and in the end actually are trying to really catch the scammers.”

The FBI’s report found tech support scams to be the most commonly reported type of elder fraud in 2023, affecting nearly 18,000 victims over age 60. Investment scams, however, were the most financially damaging, resulting in more than \$1.2 billion in losses. The FBI said the fraud often involves cryptocurrency schemes targeting older Americans’ finances.

Tech-support scams are common

Tech support is calling – but should you answer? One might think that a crime like the tech support scam, which has been around for over 15 years, might fade away, but it is more common than ever.

These scams start with an unsolicited phone call or a pop-up alert on your device, claiming to be from Microsoft, Norton, or another related company warning of grave problems. The goal is to persuade you to grant remote access to your device, after which they’ll claim to find something terrible. In reality, these criminals are likely trying to install malware, which enables them to steal personal information and account logins. They may also pressure you into paying for expensive (and fake) repairs or protection services.

If you receive an urgent phone call or a sudden, alarming pop-up, it’s almost certainly a scam. Don’t engage, and to rid your screen of the message, exit out of your browser or restart your device. Keeping your operating systems and security software up to date is an important way to keep real viruses and malware out.

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



VA program tackles shortage of breath therapists

Trimmel Gomes
Virginia News Connection

Amid a nationwide shortage of respiratory therapists, an “earn while you learn” initiative is underway to build a skilled workforce in Virginia to meet growing respiratory care demands.

Sentara Health and Tidewater Community College have launched a respiratory therapy apprenticeship program, which covers educational expenses of nearly \$18,000 over two years, while providing hands-on experience at Norfolk General Hospital’s Level 1 trauma center.

Kristian Vasconcellos, one of the program’s first apprentices, likes the linking of the classroom to the workspace.

“You know, us cleaning the vents or clean-

ing the machines or the equipment, I do get that experience of being in school and saying, ‘Oh my gosh, I know what that is, I know how this works,’” Vasconcellos explained.

Students spend 32 hours each week in academic and clinical training and an additional eight hours working at the hospital, where they encounter a range of real-world medical situations involving asthma, sleep apnea and others. Industry experts have noted a growing need for respiratory therapists, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to increased worker burnout and hospital staffing shortages.

Tara Almony, manager of respiratory care and pulmonary diagnostics at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, expressed enthusiasm about the program’s potential to ease the

staffing shortage and prepare students for the realities of the job.

“We were looking and thinking outside the box of how we could be creative and how to bring respiratory therapists in, help them,” Almony outlined. “Then also, how we as a Nordic general could help them grow and kind of create a pipeline for ourselves in a way. “

The demand for respiratory therapists has surged, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting a 14% increase in job openings by 2031. The median annual salary for a respiratory therapist is currently \$77,960.

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

Time is running out for small businesses to file beneficial ownership reports

American Farm Bureau Federation is reminding farmers that time is running out to file Beneficial Ownership Information with the federal government—or face fines or even jail time.

AFBF economists indicated more than 230,000 farms nationwide are required to file, but data indicates less than 11% of all eligible businesses have done so.

Virginia farmers who operate as a corporation, LLC or a limited partnership are required to report additional small business entities in which they have an ownership stake to the U.S. Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network by Jan. 1, 2025.

This requirement stems from the Corporate Transparency Act, a federal law passed in 2021 that was created to combat money laundering. Many farms are required to complete a BOI if they employ fewer than 20 employees or receive under \$5 million in cash receipts.

“It certainly creates more burdensome paperwork for farmers,” said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “But thankfully

there is no filing fee. We encourage our state’s farmers to get this done before the deadlines.”

Companies are now required to provide operational information, including details about each beneficial owner. A beneficial owner is anyone who owns at least 25% of the company or has “substantial control” over the business. The online registry will collect names, dates of birth, home addresses and photo IDs.

“Certain farms are among the businesses included in this law to report information about their beneficial owners,” explained Ben Rowe, VFBF director of national affairs. “Congress’ intent was to try to make it harder to illegally hide assets and to prevent financial crimes, particularly through the use of shell companies. However, because of the additional regulatory burden the law would place on farmers, the American Farm Bureau Federation opposed the bill.”

Entities registered before Jan. 1, 2024, have one year to file their first BOI. Those created and registered after that must file their BOI within 90 days of receiving notice from the secretary of state. Entities created

after Jan. 1, 2025, will have 30 days to upload reports.

The law’s 23 reporting exemptions generally apply to large businesses that already disclose that information. For example, banks and accounting firms are exempt, but farms are not. However, most tax-exempt entities are not required to file reports.

In March, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama held the CTA unconstitutional. Some relief was granted, only limited to the National Small Business Association—plaintiffs backed by AFBF.

The court’s decision could pave the way for further challenges to the CTA.

“It is advisable for agricultural enterprises to consult with their financial advisers to better understand how the CTA impacts their business,” Banks recommended.

Failure to report may result in civil and criminal penalties of up to \$10,000 and up to two years’ imprisonment. Visit the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network website portal at fincen.gov/boi to file reports and updates.

Farmers are encouraged to contact an accountant or attorney if unsure about filing a BOI.

New farmers access land and livestock through sweat equity, relationships and luck

Barriers abound for beginning farmers. Challenges include ever-increasing prices of land and livestock; lack of credit for financing; high interest rates; prohibitive equipment and infrastructure costs; and the pressure of development encroaching on available lands.

But some new farmers have seized their destiny by forming relationships and building sweat equity, earning the trust of retiring farmers willing to give them a chance.

Austin and Nikita McNett wanted to start their own agricultural enterprise in Rockingham County.

“The price per acre was so high,” Austin said. “And we don’t have that war chest of generational farming.”

They started sharecropping on rented lands. Because they lacked significant assets for collateral, banks repeatedly turned them away.

Then they were approached by an Augusta County farmer who was quietly trying to

sell a farm in 2019. “He could have subdivided it,” Nikita said. “But he did want his set price.”

The owner financed half the land, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency financed the other half.

“Nobody co-signed the loan,” Austin said. “We robbed Peter to pay Paul, poured blood, sweat and tears to get where we are today.”

They were able to launch their retail meat business, McNett’s Angus Beef, plus raise feeder cattle and goats, manage a cow-calf operation, and grow crops. They’ve since procured another 52 acres nearby.

Roger Scott of Madison County, who farms cattle and poultry with his wife, veterinarian Dr. Amanda Weakley-Scott, first rented an underutilized 350-acre Orange County farm in 2013.

“I went and knocked on (the owner’s) door,” Scott said. “I told him we’ll bushhog it twice a year and take care of the fertilization.”

Unable to afford livestock, the Scotts struck a custom-grazing deal with 75 cows from another farmer and split the sales.

“We couldn’t get the loan for the cows, so we built up some equity, and sweat equity, and then we were able to transition to buying the cows,” Scott explained. “It was a perfect way for a retiring farmer to help out a younger farmer, so they don’t have to borrow a lot of capital.”

It takes time to build trust with long-established farmers, said Rachel Henley, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation’s working lands and state advocacy specialist.

“You’re not just going to buy land and then start learning,” she said. “Short-term contracts are a smart way to build a herd, farm experience and equity.”

See the full story with a list of farm transition and finance resources in September’s Virginia Farm Bureau News magazine at bit.ly/3MXWwMd.

New report finds decline in confined-space farm tragedies

Amid a nationwide effort to reduce the number of tragedies in America’s most dangerous profession, a new report indicates progress.

Purdue University’s Agricultural Safety and Health Program released its 2023 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-related Injuries and Fatalities during National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 15-21. The report aims to maintain public focus on the issue of agricultural confined-space injuries and fatalities. It also seeks to aid in the development of evidence-based training, and offers resources for developing improved workplace regulations.

Fifty-five cases involving agricultural confined spaces were reported last year—a 33.7% decrease over the 83 cases documented in 2022 and less than the five- and 10-year averages. Of the documented 2023 cases, 28 were tied to livestock waste handling facilities, entangle-

ments, and grain dust explosions or fires. Roughly half were caused by grain entrapments—the leading cause of confined space-related incidents.

During 2023, grain entrapments accounted for 27 of all documented cases—a 35.7% decrease over 42 cases in 2022. Of last year’s reported entrapment cases, 59.3% resulted in a fatality.

The report notes that current surveillance could potentially underreport cases by up to 30%. Additionally, over two-thirds of U.S. grain storage capacity is on farms that are exempt from Occupational Safety and Health Administration injury reporting requirements. That means the summary likely does not encompass all grain-related entrapments.

Market conditions and the consolidation of operations have driven an increase in on-farm grain storage—heightening safety concerns, noted Matt Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau

Federation safety coordinator.

“That means an increase in farm safety awareness for storage structures is needed,” he asserted. “Farmers need to be trained on and use safety protocols to prevent entrapments. In the case of an entrapment, rescue personnel need specific equipment and training to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes.”

Historically, there have been considerably more documented fatal grain entrapment cases than non-fatal cases, with suffocation from engulfment the leading cause of death for these incidents. An adult can sink knee-deep in flowing grain in four seconds and be fully engulfed in 20 seconds.

In an effort to reduce the number of grain bin tragedies, 17 county Farm Bureaus in Virginia have donated life-saving grain rescue tubes to local fire departments. Additionally, VFB Safety has paid to have fire and rescue personnel from 20 counties trained on using the device, called the Great Wall of Rescue.

Visit agconfinedspaces.org for a hub of instructional materials and resources on the hazards associated with agricultural confined spaces, and to report incidents to the Purdue team.

[Agsafety4youth.info](https://agsafety4youth.info) offers training material for youth, including two educational lessons on agricultural confined spaces.

Visit vafb.com/Safety for additional safety resources.

Two injured, one dead in Saturday crash

The Virginia State Police are investigating a two-vehicle crash that occurred Saturday, Nov. 2, at 3:35 p.m. at the intersection of Dry Pond Highway and Hatchers Chapel Road in Patrick County.

A 1999 Ford Ranger was heading southbound on Dry Pond Highway (Virginia 103) when it was unable to avoid a 2010 Jeep Patriot which had pulled onto Dry Pond Highway from Hatchers Chapel Road. The Ford Ranger then went off

of the right side of the highway, while the Patriot came to rest in the northbound lane.

The driver of the Patriot, John S. Boles, 81, of Claudville, died at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt. A nine-year old male passenger in the vehicle suffered minor injuries. He was wearing a seatbelt. The driver of the Ford Ranger, Ethan J. Horton, 26, of Stuart, suffered minor injuries. He was wearing a seatbelt.

Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution

CITIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Sweat; 2. Shake; 3. Candor; 4. Heart

Today's Word

HEADACHE

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Puzzle Time



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

DCA
HUROAT
UDIMT
♥RYNA
♥HASTEC
RYT
NEDI
♥ARNDI
EUH
TEECRI
SYDIA
♥UDTS

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. Exam table is not as high. 2. Pocket is reversed. 3. Teardrop is higher. 4. Lollipop is added. 5. Curtain is not as high. 6. Purse is added.

CITIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

MAGIC MAZE

GBYWTR SOLJMG EAB
YNWURP NEKIG ETDB
Z(KUALALUMPUR)DXV
SQODMKIGHAAOEAC
AYYANGONWKR PYBN
USQPNAOMANDALAY
ILJHFMBJECBG NNA
YOXVPALINAMNUGS
QPNENTMKRJHIFKE
CGNANADUBEC SBOZ
YHXVHBSUTRQPOKM

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL CITY OF VIETNAM

Bandung	Da Nang	Manila	Singapore
Bangkok	Jakarta	Medan	Surabaya
Batam	Kuala Lumpur	Phnom Penh	Yanong
Cebu	Mandalay	Semarang	

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Super Crossword

ELEMENTAL EXPANSION

ACROSS

1 Legal aide, e.g.: Abbr.
5 Livestock pen
11 Legal aide, for short
15 "Moneytalks" rock band
19 Arena area
20 Edenic locale
21 "... — it just me?"
22 Dutch South African
23 "Help yourself!," elementally?
26 Be jealous of
27 Liqueur akin to sambuca
28 Dessert, to a Brit
30 Bro's sibling
31 Whitewater transports
32 About to receive something special, elementally?
37 Afflictions
39 Madison Ave. products
40 Canon camera line
41 Vital vessel
42 Detective
43 Briscoe on "Law & Order"
45 Brooks

47 Unpaved road surface
48 Ontarians' national anthem, elementally?
50 Bullring cheer
52 Rx requests
53 N-R linkup
54 Cyclotron bit
55 Upgrade electrically
58 Committing a basketball infraction
61 "Not gonna happen," elementally?
68 Without requiring me to change times
69 Like Columbus, by birth
70 Weird sort
71 1998 Spike Lee film, elementally?
74 Copious, as sweating
76 Declared it to be true
77 Pair
78 — Tin Tin
79 Ancient Cuzco citizen
83 ICU staffers
84 Bill Clinton's veep, elementally?
90 Like many big grins
92 Absorb, as spilled ink or gravy
93 Collect
94 Skylit lobbies
95 "— tree falls in the forest ..."
97 Lass
98 Surrender
99 Puccini opera, elementally?
103 French painter Edgar
107 ThinkPad's original co.
108 Like LeBron James, a record 18 times
109 Estrate
111 Baldwin of "It's Complicated"
113 "You have my word," elementally?
117 Not far from
118 Pizza cooker
119 Insect stages
120 TV's — May Clampett
121 Port in Norway
122 Cruel Roman emperor
123 Smiles evily

124 "The Thin Man" dog
DOWN
1 Being tried, legally
2 Tuscan tourist city
3 Letter stroke
4 Meeting secretly, in a way
5 Extremist sect
6 Ear ailment
7 French city
8 Stat of engine speed
9 Intend (to)
10 Put down
11 Low seats with no backs
12 Rejoinder to "Am not!"
13 Alarm clock headers
14 "Ad — per aspera"
15 Civil War prez
16 Utilize sparingly
17 Strayed off course
18 Ice needles, e.g.
24 Actress Caron
25 Whale pod
29 Asterisk
33 "Rats!"
34 Notion
35 Didn't waste
36 Gad about
38 Colleague of Trotsky
42 Spa scrubber
43 Unearth
44 Sedating Vicks product
45 With 67-Down, kitchen tool
46 Hoopster — Abdul-Jabbar
47 Kid's "cootie"
49 Gear piece
50 Injury, to a tot
51 Lucy of "Elementary"
56 Besides that
57 Brand of shoes and leather goods
59 Chou En- —
60 Don of talk radio
61 Ensnared
62 Shot — (ice hockey stat)
63 Snake type
64 Dog sound
65 Cell with an axon
66 Thirst for
67 See 45-Down
69 Thor and Loki
72 Miss Poppins
73 Gimlet liquor
74 "Poultry in motion," e.g.
75 Red cosmetic
77 Brief swim
79 Language of Rome, to its natives
80 Prominent people
81 Polenta base
82 On the job
85 Company ID
86 Provo's state
87 Equine hybrid
88 Football great John
89 Gunpowder or matcha
91 "How funny"
92 Toddler, in Turin
95 Smitten romantically
96 Financial backer
98 Wine storage locale
100 "March comes in like —, ..."
101 Make illegal
102 Purple hue
104 Irritates
105 Off-kilter
106 "So long!"
110 — of March
112 Lead-in to Magnon
114 Overhead rails
115 Sickly pale
116 Iron source

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The term "lawn mullet" means having a neatly manicured front yard and an unmowed mess in the back.
 - Weird AI Yankovic wrote his parody song "The Saga Begins" before "Star Wars: Episode I" was released. Lucasfilm denied his request to see the film early, so he relied on internet spoilers for plot details.
 - The human stomach can dissolve razor blades.
 - In 1987, Steve Rothstein paid \$250,000 for a lifetime unlimited first class American Airlines ticket. He even hopped on planes to get a sandwich or to go to a baseball game in other cities. It cost American Airlines around \$21 million, and they ended his contract in 2008.
 - In Italy, it's considered bad luck to lay bread upside down — either on a table or in a basket.
 - Thanksgiving Eve is the biggest drinking and pizza night of the year.
 - When the Italian writer Umberto Eco visited Paris for the first time, he only walked down streets surviving from the Middle Ages. He was studying medieval history at the University of Turin at the time and was obsessed with the era.
 - In an emergency, coconut water can be used for blood plasma, due to its high levels of sodium and low levels of potassium.
 - There are beaches in the Maldives that glow in the dark.
 - When pencils went into mass production in the 1890s, the finest available graphite to fill them came from China. Pencil manufacturers wanted everyone to know that they used only the best Chinese graphite, so they painted their pencils yellow, the traditional Chinese color of royalty.
- ***
- Thought for the Day:** "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." — *Samuel Ullman*
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

TO WIN MORE BETS AND SILVERWARE THIS SEASON, GIVE UP SOME COURSE OR DRIVING RANGE TIME FOR LONGER SPELLS ON AND AROUND THE PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN.

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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!

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EARTH

TODAY'S WORD

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STIC planting day offers lessons to students

By Taylor Boyd
Albert Harris and Patrick Henry elementary school students planted trees at Fairy Stone State Park as part of the Streamside Trees in the Classroom (STIC) Planting Day in October.
Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) Executive Manager Krista Hodges said STIC, which started in 2012, is aimed at fourth grade students.
It is a partnership between DRBA, Fairy Stone State Park, Philpott Lake Army Corps of Engineers
“The trees that they are planting today are the black willows, they’re native black willows, so they’re planted along the rivers and streams. We plant them along the streams to help estab-

lish a riparian buffer, or stream-side vegetation,” she said.
The riparian buffers help to reduce erosion, control flooding issues, and help keep pollution from getting into the rivers and streams, Hodges said.
“That’s one of our goals with the program is to replant these riparian buffers, but also to get the students out here to experience this hands-on learning opportunity. We’ve got different partners here today that are doing programs that are based on erosion, natural resources, we’re talking about trout, we’re talking about water safety here as well, so a lot of these partners come in and they provide activities and things for the students to participate in while they’re planting their trees,” she said.



Students from Albert Harris and Patrick Henry elementary schools planted trees along the streams and creeks at Fairy Stone State Park to help create a riparian buffer.



Fairy Stone State Park rangers taught the students about fairy stones.



Students learned about erosion during the STIC program day.



Students also learned about native snakes.



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CONTACT US

Retired Four-Star Gen. Dennis Via inspires students with school visits



Retired four-star Army Gen. Dennis Via and Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis. (Contributed photos)

Retired four-star Army Gen. Dennis L. Via, a distinguished Henry County native, recently visited Laurel Park and Fieldale-Collinsville middle schools, as well as Bassett and Magna Vista high schools, to share insights from his military career.

A graduate of George Washington Carver High School, Via's journey began in Henry County, where his father, Henry Via, worked as a house painter and small contractor, and his mother, Margaret Via, was a homemaker. While working in a local textile mill, Via initially planned to become a building contractor. His path changed when a high school masonry teacher encouraged him to attend Virginia State University, a historically Black institution in Petersburg, Virginia.

During his sophomore year, Via joined Army ROTC, graduating in 1980 as a distinguished cadet



Current and former county school officials, educators, along with Curtis R. Millner, Sr., of the American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78, and others, with Gen. Dennis L. Via, who recently visited county students.



Gen. Dennis Via took questions from students while visiting schools in Henry County last week.



Army Gen. Dennis Via addressed students attending middle and high schools in Henry County.

with an officer's commission. He began his military career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, serving as a platoon leader at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Over the years, Via rose through the ranks, commanding the 3rd Signal Brigade and serving in key staff roles across the United States, Europe, and Southwest Asia. He earned a master's degree in management from Boston University and graduated from both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Via became a respected military educator, contributing articles to several Army publications, and in 1999, authored a strategic report for the U.S. War College titled "The Division G6: Strategic Signal Leadership for Information Superiority in the Army After Next."

In 2002, Via relinquished command of the 3rd Signal Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, to take a role in Washington, D.C. His most notable assignment came a decade later, when he was appointed the 18th Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. In this position, he led a workforce of more than 140,000 personnel with a \$50 billion budget and established the Joint Task Force Global, the U.S. cybersecurity defense organization under U.S. Strategic Command. Nominated by President Barack Obama, Via became

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