



The 41st class poses for a commemorative photo following the ceremony at New College Institute.

Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy Graduates 20 New Officers

By Jessica Dillon

The Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy celebrated the graduation of 20 officers on November 27 as part of its 41st class. The ceremony, held at the New College Institute (NCI), marked the culmination of 11 weeks of rigorous training. Among the graduates, one officer will join the Martinsville City Sheriff's Office, while 12 will bolster the ranks at the Henry County jail. Another group of officers is set to graduate on December 12.

Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, attended the ceremony to commend the graduates on their dedication to public safety. "It takes a special individual to serve in any law enforcement position," Phillips said. "You've proven to your instructors that you've got the skills, courage, and judgment to graduate from this program."

Phillips, who serves on the House Public Safety Committee, emphasized his commitment to supporting law enforcement officers through thoughtful legislation. He shared insights from his role, highlighting how the committee strives to address the challenges officers face daily.

"My goal is to make your jobs easier and safer to complete," Phillips said, noting he had recently sought feedback from local sheriffs and police chiefs on potential legislation. One measure under consideration involves surveillance policies. "It could possibly make your jobs more difficult, and if it does, I'm not going to carry that kind of legislation because what you do is important."

Phillips concluded his address by expressing gratitude for the graduates' willingness to serve. "We need more men and women like you who are willing to stand up and do the brave, difficult work in our communities," he said.

(See New Officers p. 2)

Salvation Army Brings Holiday Cheer with Bell-Ringing Tradition

By Jessica Dillon

Each holiday season, the Salvation Army of Martinsville stations volunteers and paid workers across the area to ring bells and collect donations in their iconic red kettles. This longstanding tradition, which began in San Francisco in 1891 and added the familiar bell in 1900, supports families and individuals in need during the holidays.

In the Martinsville-Henry County area, bell ringers can be found at popular shopping locations, including Kroger, Walmart, Food Lion, and Belk, capturing the attention of holiday shoppers.

The organization enlists volunteers through an online registration system, filling multiple time slots for bell ringing. For those seeking paid opportunities, the organization also hires a limited number of workers.

"If you would like to get paid to ring the bell full-time or part-time, you'd just have to come into our office to apply," said Tekela Redd,



A Salvation Army bell ringer stationed outside a local retailer invites donations. (Contributed photos)

service center director for the local service center.

Redd noted that the paid positions primarily appeal to retirees or others with flexible

schedules. "We have a lot of older community members who are willing to come in. They are on fixed incomes, and this is a way for them to bring in a little

(See Salvation Army p. 3)

Bassett Volunteer Fire Department purchases new ladder truck after 30 years

By Taylor Boyd

The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department unveiled its newly acquired ladder truck during the Nov. 22 Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting, marking a significant upgrade after retiring its 30-year-old predecessor.

Fire Chief Junior Lynch credited the acquisition to financial support from the county and state. "The board financed \$1 million for the new truck," Lynch said. "Then we received some state funds that we receive on a basis to buy fire trucks. It was our turn to receive those, which was about \$220,000, so it ended up being a little over \$1.2 million, and the truck came in



right at \$1,180,000.

The remaining funds went toward equipping the truck to meet Na-

tional Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards. "They have a

(See Bassett p. 3)

Spencer-Penn Centre Hosts First Christmas Extravaganza

By Jessica Dillon

The Spencer-Penn Centre is bringing the holiday spirit to life with its inaugural Christmas Extravaganza on December 13. The large-scale event, designed to spread festive cheer, will feature a variety of activities for families, local vendors, and live music.

"It's going to be a great evening of Christmas fun," said Susan Sabin, the center's executive director. Inspired by a conversation with the board president about their shared love for Christmas, Sabin said the event aims to revive holiday traditions once celebrated at the

(See Christmas p. 4)



The MASH 4-H Club won the first Christmas Decorating Competition. The event has since become an annual tradition. (Contributed).

Holiday Extravaganza Brings Christmas Cheer and Reflection to P&HCC Stage

By Jessica Dillon

The festive sounds of Christmas will fill the Walker Fine Arts Theatre at Patrick & Henry Community College as the annual Holiday Extravaganza takes center stage. The production, a dazzling revue of holiday music and dance, is brought to life by performers from the Ray Hollingsworth Dance and Arts Studio, featuring vibrant costumes and beloved holiday classics.

The show offers audiences a mix of joy and reflection, divided into two distinct acts.



Pat Beam, the inspiration for Devin Pendleton's enduring Christmas spirit. (Contributed)

"Act one for us is all about the happy things

(See P&HCC p. 5)

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Axton Elementary Students Celebrate DARE Program Graduation

More than 40 Axton Elementary School students took an important step in making responsible choices and fostering positive relationships, by recently completing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. The program, taught by local law enforce-

ment officers, aims to educate students about the dangers of drug use, bullying, and other risky behaviors, while equipping them with strategies to make safe and healthy decisions. At Axton Elementary, students celebrated their achievement, hard work and the

skills they have gained. The DARE curriculum has evolved over the years to address modern challenges faced by young people, including social media safety, managing peer pressure, and fostering mental health awareness. The program, a collaborative

effort between schools and law enforcement, has been a staple in communities across the country for decades. Its success relies on partnerships with educators, parents, and local leaders who share a commitment to empowering young people. As the graduates

look ahead to new challenges, the foundation they've built through DARE will remain a resource they can rely on. For many, it marks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to making positive choices and contributing to their communities. (Contributed photos)



New Officers

(cont. from page 1)

Sgt. Darrell Wilson also addressed the graduates, urging them to carry their determination and perseverance into their careers. "I encourage each and every one of you to take the same tenacity, palatability, and desire to go forward and achieve that you presented for the last 11 weeks," Wilson said. "Be proud of this moment." Wilson praised the academy for its dedication to producing capable officers and noted its positive growth trajectory. Class president Jason Berry echoed these sentiments, offering a message of empowerment to his peers. "Let today be a reminder that change is possible," Berry said. "Each of you has the power to shape your own narrative. There will be challenges ahead, but remember that you are equipped to handle them."



Del. Eric Phillips addresses the 41st graduating class of the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy.

As the graduates embark on their careers, their training and commitment to public safety stand as a testament to their hard work and resilience. The Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy continues to prepare new classes of officers, ensuring a strong future for law en-

forcement in the region. The 41st class of graduates and their assignments include: Patrick County Sheriff's Office: Christopher Pilson; Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office: Ahyoncis Graves; Danville Sheriff's Office: Grayson Cassell, Kavel Fitzgerald, Valerie Jennings, Lisa Richardson, Riley Via; Martinsville City Sheriff's Office: DaiZhawn Giggetts; Henry County Sheriff's Office: Curtiss Amos, Jason Berry, Samuel Edwards, Martin Falloon, James Foley II, Brian Grigg, Samuel Haskew, Scott Marlowe, Daniel Nagel, Michael Nowak, Kenneth Parcell III, and Saylor Pruitt.

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

Monday, December 9
Martinsville City School Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Martinsville School Board Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

Events

Friday, December 6
Holiday Extravaganza, 7 p.m., P&HCC Walker Fine Arts Theatre, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Drive Thru Nativity Scene, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown.

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.

Saturday, December 7
Holiday Extravaganza, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., P&HCC Walker Fine Arts Theatre, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Holiday Fun Run, 9 a.m., Martinsville Speedway, 340 Speedway Rd, Ridgeway.

Drive Thru Nativity Scene, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Rd, Stanleytown.

Sunday, December 8
Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops, 3 p.m.,

Martinsville High School Auditorium. David Stewart Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops. Lobby and box office will open at 1 p.m., the auditorium opens at 2 p.m., and the concert begins at 3 p.m. Altrusa will collect non-perishable food items for Grace Network in the lobby during the symphony’s performance. Tickets are on sale for \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission, and \$10 for K-12 students. Family or individual adult WIC cardholders with ID receive free general admission. Tickets can be purchased online or at PiedmontArts.org.

Monday, December 9
Smith River Singers’ highly anticipated Christmas Concert is this Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville. This year’s centerpiece is Handel’s Messiah, performed with a full orchestra, professional soloists, and local students from Bassett High School as part of the orchestra.

Wednesday, December 11
Holiday Citizens Police Academy, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, 1024 Dupont Road, Martinsville.

First ever Christmas Extravaganza, Spencer Penn Centre, 5-9 p.m. Free admission and free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. More than 20 vendors. Live music, tree lighting, other activities.

Saturday, December 14
The 10th Annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Christmas Blood Drive with the American Red Cross, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stanleytown Elementary School Gymnasium, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments have priority. You may schedule an appointment by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org, Sponsor Code: Brenda, or in the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

ONGOING

Uptown Pub Run, every Monday at 6 p.m., meets at Renewal Brewing 32 Franklin St, Martinsville.

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 FIELDDALE 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.

Bassett

(cont. from page 1)

list of equipment for that truck that’s required to meet their standards,” Lynch explained, noting the purchase of tools like power saws and water supply appliances.

The department received the new truck just over two weeks ago. While it has responded to one call since its arrival, it has not yet been used for active firefighting. “It was a structure fire that we didn’t need to use it, but it is in service now,” Lynch said.

The previous ladder truck, purchased in 1986, had become costly to maintain, with approximately \$75,000 spent on repairs over the past decade. Lynch expressed confidence in the reliability and advanced technology of the new truck.

“It was getting to the age where it wasn’t really reliable. Now we have a truck that has more modern technology, and of course it has a warranty that will cover anything that happens in the next few years,” Lynch said. He added that warranties on various components range from one year to as many as 10 years.

Lynch expressed gratitude to Henry County for its role in securing the new vehicle. “Hopefully, the new ladder truck will last as long as the other one. Hopefully, it lasts 30 years,” he said.

The previous ladder truck, funded by contributions from local businesses such as Bassett-Walker, Bassett Furniture, Stanley Furniture, and Hooker Furniture, cost \$286,000 in 1986. Today, prices have surged dramatically.

“It’s crazy,” Lynch said. “Since we took delivery of this truck, when we signed the contract three years ago, it was \$1.2 million. To get the same truck today is about \$2.2 million or \$2.3 million. It’s almost doubled in price in three years. It’s mind-blowing.”

Salvation Army

(cont. from page 1)

extra money for the holidays,” she said. Bell ringers typically work from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with about six paid workers assisting the team of volunteers.

The campaign runs through the week before Christmas, raising funds for the organization’s various programs. “The funding goes toward our programs—our social services, our food, and our Angel Tree,” Redd explained. She added that a portion of the funds is allocated to disaster relief efforts.

Beyond ringing the bell, the Salvation Army welcomes canned food and monetary donations. “That funding is needed during the holidays to help those who get put out of their homes during the holidays or get their lights turned off,” Redd said.

The organization is still seeking volunteers who can dedicate a few hours to bell-ringing shifts.

The Salvation Army’s efforts extend beyond the red kettles. Recently, the organization hosted a Thanksgiving dinner and provided space for the MHC Warming Shelter to operate independently.

“Our location is a resource center,” Redd said, emphasizing that anyone in need of assistance



Members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Bassett Volunteer Fire Department pose with the newly acquired ladder truck after the Nov. 22 meeting.



Bassett Volunteer Fire Department’s new ladder truck, valued at \$1.2 million, replaces a 1986 model.

Despite efforts to sell the old truck through a dealer, it remained unsold for a year. Instead, it was sold to a local metal recycler who now uses



Joe Bryant of the Collinsville District gives a thumbs-up as he inspects the new truck’s ladder.

it in the salvage yard. “We hated for it to go to a salvage yard, but they are getting some use out of it,” Lynch said.



Volunteers and staff work on the holiday donation drive.

can visit or call for support.

The Salvation Army operates as a Christian organization, aiming to spread the message of Jesus Christ through acts of charity and community service.

For more information or to volunteer, stop by the resource center, call (276) 638-7259, or sign-up online at Registrertoring.com.



Red kettles and bells have become symbols of holiday giving since 1891.

OPINION

My Trip to Azerbaijan in Defense of Coal and American Fossil Fuel Innovation

As we approach the end of the year, multiple foreign summits gather and deliberate.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit took place in Peru, where President Biden and China's President Xi Jinping were in attendance. APEC is a partnership focused on economic growth in the Pacific and regional integration of the member country's economies.

President Biden then visited Brazil for the G20 Leaders' Summit, along with the leaders of the 19 member countries, the African Union and the European Union. These forums serve as opportunities to discuss economic issues related to trade and international development finance.

Biden held no press conferences at the summits, and he was left out of a photo with G20 world leaders due to "logistical issues."

Outside of Latin America, a different summit was also taking place.

The small Caucasian country of Azerbaijan, situated on the Caspian Sea and tucked north of Iran and south of Russia, served as host to COP29, the United Nations (UN) climate change conference.

I participated in a Congressional delegation to COP29 to advocate for strengthened American energy leadership and inform the world of leading technologies we have here at home in America that can be models for other countries to use as the world will continue to rely on fossil fuels well into this century.

Of the seven of us who attended representing the United States House, I came as the only representative from a district with heavy ties to coal.

In a featured press conference, the delegation stressed emissions reduction solutions that do not sacrifice American in-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

novation, economic development, or national security.

Following the press conference, a radical activist approached me at the dais and accused me of being a traveling salesman for American fossil fuels!

If she had added American innovation for making it possible to use those fuels more effectively and cleanly, she would have been right.

Many environmentalists are unsatisfied with the world's climate progress and accuse the United States of being a principal agent of greenhouse gas emissions.

I agree that we should mitigate carbon. But in the United States, we are embracing technologies that reduce our emissions.

U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector have declined by 14.5 percent since 2007.

Meanwhile, China continues its track record of being the world's worst polluter. Their energy-related emissions increased by almost 80 percent between 2005 and 2019, according to data from the International Energy Agency, an intergovernmental organization that follows the global energy sector.

What's worse is countries like China and India are treated as developing countries thanks to outdated UN classifications. Accordingly, they are not obligated or expected to contribute to climate finance aid like the U.S. and European powers do.

Further, under the Paris Accords, reached when COP met in Paris, China was allowed

to continue increasing its carbon dioxide emissions until 2030.

America leads in emissions reduction technologies, and the Ninth District is the home of innovative companies dedicated to capturing and mitigating carbon.

For example, Pulaski's MOVA Technologies cultivates an accomplished team to produce innovative technologies related to advanced air emissions filtration for numerous substances.

MOVA received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to advance a project capturing ammonia at poultry operations.

CNX Resources of Tazewell County is removing methane directly from working coal mines, instead of flushing the methane directly into the atmosphere.

Virginia Tech's Project CARDINAL is also exploring the feasibility of carbon dioxide storage in the region.

Later, as a part of COP29, I was a panelist on a bipartisan nuclear energy panel.

Nuclear energy, when done right, enables prosperity and helps counter climate risks a community may be facing.

This Congress, I supported the bipartisan ADVANCE Act and voted to favorably report it out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill has now become law and will modernize America's nuclear energy licensing policy with sweeping updates.

Such updates include establishing more efficient permitting for many types of traditional nuclear technologies and allowing for new nuclear technologies like Kairos Power's Hermes 2 Generation IV reactor in Oak Ridge, TN.

Appalachian Power Company recently announced plans to locate a small modular reactor in neighboring Campbell County.

Small modular reactors could be key nuclear pathways to provide more reliable, affordable and secure energy for major industrial development.

These solutions can help lower global emissions. I want to be sure that the United States pushes meaningful solutions, where we can lower our energy costs at home while cultivating appropriate stewardship of the environment.

Fo questions, concerns, or comments, call (276) 525-1405, (540) 381-5671, or email by visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Final Conclusions

At the first "In conclusion", my heart leapt with relief.

Eighteen minutes later and the third time the preacher said "In conclusion", my heart sank in despair.

You can only take so many false starts of when a boring sermon is about to end before you feel like you'll go insane.

And there still were a few more "In conclusions" to go that day.

I've sat through many a boring sermon in my time. We all have. It's part of life.

The preacher can't be expected to hit a home run at every ballgame. Some sermons have you at the edge of the pew, hands clenched, tears welling, heart swaying. Others are a regular sort of good or entertaining.

That's OK.

And there are guest speakers now and then. Sometimes they're great and get you all riled up for the better. Sometimes their level of delivery is -- well, to put it nicely, their sermons have the great advantage of really making you not take your own preacher so much for granted.

Then there was what my daughter and I sat through a few weeks back. The preacher was one of those yelling preachers, and usually a yelling sermon can be pretty entertaining, but this one was just plain loud.

How is it that words can just keep coming at you and coming at you and coming at you but yet even in the midst of the sermon you can't quite recall what it's about?

Why is it that the people who have the least to say take the longest to say it?

It's one of the tests of life: How outwardly we can project a look of interest, courtesy and even inspiration while inside we are shriveling up in tedium and frustration.

I faked it for as long as I possibly could until finally I just couldn't take it anymore. I had to do something to pass the time or I'd never make it out of church. So I did the only thing that is acceptable to do in church: I opened the Bible and began to read.

I read Revelations, because it always comes through in a pinch when



Holly Kozelsky

you need a little fun.

Yet I kept sneaking glances at my teenage daughter. She was doing everything right: sitting attentively with a polite look of interest on her face.

Each time I glanced over there, I was impressed.

"If she makes it until the end of church, I'm going to give her \$20," I told myself.

Even as I was ashamed at myself for not being able to sit through it, I was impressed by her.

At the end of church (the guest preacher ran over by 25 minutes - no surprise there), I stealthily passed her a \$20 bill.

"What's that for?" she asked.

"For keeping your composure and paying attention throughout that entire never-ending sermon," I replied.

"But that's what you're supposed to do in church," she answered.

Wow! All my years of training, and of forcing when she claimed not to be in the mood, had come to fruition. She was a good girl; I was a proud mama.

"You earned it this time!" I said, explaining how I had come up with the plan to pay her \$20.

She took it with a chuckle.

Now and then, a topic legitimately does require a whole lot of explanation of details to get everything put together in just the right way.

But most topics are more powerful if they are short and to the point. Wow your audience with something profound, then say goodbye before the rest gets so boring that the impact of the great part is overshadowed by tedium.

Throughout the years I have jotted down the names of really excellent preachers worth making the effort to hear again.

This time, for the first time ever, I jotted down that preacher's name to remember - to avoid.

Christmas

(cont. from page 1)

old school.

The festivities will include free photos with Santa Claus, a longstanding tradition at the center. "We've always done something with Santa, and it's been so well received," Sabin said.

The evening coincides with the center's monthly music night, featuring the Country Boys, who will perform at 6:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. "They can come listen to the music and grab their dinner," Sabin added. Concessions, including hot dogs, will be available for purchase.

Families can also shop for holiday gifts, as more than 20 local vendors will set up booths. Offerings will range from Tupperware and handcrafted holiday items to jewelry and other locally sourced goods. "It is mostly individuals selling made items, locally sourced items," Sabin said.

To accommodate parents, a daycare area will be set up in one of the classrooms, where children can enjoy crafts and snacks while their family shops.

The center will also host a blood drive during the event, starting at 4

p.m. Donors will receive a gift card as a token of appreciation from the organizing organization.

Sweet treats and hot cocoa will be available for purchase from Sugar Shack Sweets & Treats.

One of the event's highlights will be Spencer-Penn's first-ever tree lighting ceremony. "People will get to see our Christmas tree out on the courtyard for the first time," Sabin said.

The lighting will follow a Christmas tree decorating competition, where local businesses will vie for the top prize. Competitors include Lawless Welding and Wills on Wheels. The winning business will receive a deluxe sponsorship package for 2025, which includes their name on event flyers and other marketing perks.

The Christmas Extravaganza runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free for the public, though a \$5 donation is required to enter the music night. Food and music admission are cash-only, but many holiday vendors will accept cards.

The Spencer-Penn Centre is located at 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer, Virginia.

Nutrient management training set for January

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-part agriculture nutrient management training school in January. The school is for anyone interested in learning about the development of agricultural nutrient management plans or how to become a certified nutrient management plan writer.

The first session, Jan. 9-10, is a lecture series by Virginia Tech professors on soil science, soil fertility and crop production. The two-day soils and crop lecture series will be hosted through Microsoft Teams.

The second session, Jan. 14-16, will cover nutrient management plan writing using a case-study farm. The three-day plan writing training will be in-person at Brightpoint Community College in

Midlothian, Virginia.

Each day will run from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration is \$150 for each session with a deadline of Dec. 30. Registration is available online at www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmtrain.

Nutrient management continues to be an important factor in a farmer's decision-making process when considering application of materials to supply nutrients to crops and forages. Nutrient management plans determine rates for applying manure, fertilizers, biosolids and other soil amendments so that yields are maximized, and nutrient loss to ground and surface waters is minimized. Application rates are determined by a process using actual yield records or soil productivity when yield records are not available.

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OPINION

The Toledo Allegory

For decades, Toledo, Ohio was the glass capital of the world. If you wanted a specific type or shape of glass that everyone else said was impossible to make, the glassmakers in Toledo would figure out how to make it.

In the early 2000s, the Toledo Museum of Art decided to add a new wing: the Glass Pavilion. The add-on would not only serve as a museum of glass art, but it would be a work of art itself, built from long, curving glass panels.

There was just one problem: by the early 2000s, so much of America's glass manufacturing had been outsourced overseas that no company in Toledo had the capability to make the panels. And that is why If you decide to pay a visit to the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion, a monument to Toledo's rich history of innovation, you will find yourself surrounded by glass panels made in Shahe, China, the new glass capital of the world.

I first read this story back in 2006 when the Glass Pavilion opened its doors. It's been rattling around in my head ever since. It's the perfect allegory of America's shift from the post-war era into the global marketplace of the modern era. If you put it in a movie, critics would say it was too on-the-nose.

All of this leads us into the exciting world of tariffs.

I realize that at this late date, talking about how tariffs work is a bit like a surgeon telling a woman that while he couldn't save her husband, he CAN tell her all about the species of bear that mauled him to death. Nevertheless, the form of the Destructor has been chosen, so let's talk tariffs!

A tariff is a tax on the import or export of goods between countries. Tariffs aren't a bad thing — in fact, they can be quite useful! But like any tool, they have to be used with care and precision.

It's true that President Joe Biden introduced some new tariffs while he was in office. A good example of this is his 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles. The premise of the tariff is that Chinese automakers are able to flood the market with low-priced EVs that would unfairly compete with domestic EVs, and the tariff is designed to discourage that.

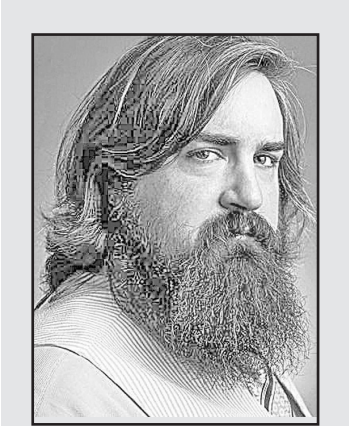
Is that good or bad? It's good if you have a job in the U.S. auto industry; it's bad if you want to buy a cheap Chinese car in the U.S. But what's important to note is that Chinese auto manufacturers are not the ones being taxed. U.S. consumers are the ones being taxed — or, at the very least, being forced to buy a more expensive domestic product rather than a cheaper foreign product.

That's all well and good if the domestic product actually exists. It becomes a problem when it doesn't.

Let's take a look at one of the most American products you can possibly buy: a pickup truck.

Every Ford F-150 is assembled in either Dearborn, Michigan or Kansas City, Missouri. However, the components that make up an F-150 come from all over. Most of the engine options are made in the U.S., but the 3.5 liter EcoBoost power plant is made in Mexico. According to Ford, 50 percent of the components in an F-150 are made in the U.S. and Canada; what percentage of those parts are made in which country is less clear, and which countries the remaining 50 percent of parts come from is also unclear. The Ford Maverick, meanwhile, is the one Ford truck completely manufactured in Mexico.

What about Ram trucks? The



By Ben R. Williams

Ram 1500 is assembled in Sterling Heights, Michigan, but the Ram 2500 and 3500 are built in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico.

If you look at any other American truck manufacturer, the story is largely the same: some trucks are assembled in the U.S., some are assembled in Mexico, and all of them use components sourced from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and parts unknown.

So what would happen if Canada and Mexico were hit with massive tariffs? I'll tell you what won't happen: truck companies are not going to keep their prices the same just because they love their consumers so very much. Vehicle prices are going to increase.

The other thing that's going to happen is that when domestic manufacturers see that consumers are willing to pay more for a rival's product, they're going to increase their own prices whether they've been impacted by tariffs or not. Why wouldn't they? They're leaving money on the table otherwise.

We've already seen this with the pandemic and the skyrocketing prices of goods due to "supply chain issues." One would imagine those issues have largely resolved in the last four years, but prices at the grocery store haven't gone down. Corporations have seen what the market is willing to bear, and they're going to make us bear it.

But maybe I'm wrong and domestic products won't increase in price. Then we can just buy domestic and the tariffs will work as intended!

Unfortunately, that's bad news for coffee drinkers, since the only two places in the U.S. where you can grow coffee beans are Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and I expect prices will go up as demand increases.

It's also bad news for anyone who likes fruits and vegetables that aren't corn or potatoes; the vast majority will only be available at limited times or entirely unavailable.

It's also bad news for anyone who likes buying consumer electronics. Get your big screen TV, Playstation, and iPhone while they're still relatively cheap!

Oh, and if you wear clothes, you should probably either add to your wardrobe now or embrace the naturist lifestyle.

Also, if you have any plans to use lumber, steel, petroleum, or any products derived from those things, it's best to stock up now.

I realize this column seems grim, and just lately, I can't help but wonder if I'm overreacting to our present moment. To that end, I looked up the last time in American history that sweeping blanket tariffs were enacted on tens of thousands of consumer goods as part of a politically-motivated policy of trade protectionism.

Unfortunately, it was called the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 and it's considered one of the leading factors in the Great Depression.

P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)

of Christmas. It's Santa, it's Ms. Claus, it's Christmas movies, it's tacky sweaters, it's cookies, it's all those things," said Devin Pendleton, coordinator of Campus Life and Fine Arts at P&HCC and director of the production.

Act two, however, delves into the more solemn side of the holiday season. "Folks have different associations with the holidays. It makes us a little more nostalgic, it makes us think about our loved ones we really miss the most at Christmas time," Pendleton explained.

A particularly poignant moment comes during a slideshow set to Mariah Carey's "Miss You Most at Christmas Time." Performers were invited to share personal photos of loved ones they are remembering this season, adding an emotional layer to the performance.

For Pendleton, the project is deeply personal. He honored his grandmother, Pat Beam—fondly known as Nanny—who served as a 911 dispatcher in Henry County. "Anytime I do holiday anything, I always lean into thinking about her the most. That's where I think I developed such a strong love for the holiday," Pendleton said.

This year's Holiday Extravaganza was produced with just 13 rehearsals, a swift turnaround compared to other shows by the P&HCC Patriot Players, who staged The Wizard of Oz and 9 to 5 earlier this year. "This is just another opportunity after an otherwise busy season to cater to a different demographic in our community that has a more

limited rehearsal schedule," Pendleton said.

The production reflects a mix of Pendleton's vision and input from the cast. "It's a Christmas show if I kind of come up with it every year," he said, adding he maintains a wish list, but caters songs to the actors. "We can kind of custom tailor certain things and situations for people in our show as you can see on stage."

Pendleton also played a key role in costuming the cast. He encouraged performers to embrace quirky holiday styles, including tacky sweaters and elaborate headpieces. "I asked actors to bring in things like their tacky sweater look and to have crazy headpieces because we haven't done that," he said. The sparkly costumes not only reflect the holiday spirit but also catch the theatre lights, enhancing the visual appeal.

After leading the cast through rehearsals and participating in the Martinsville Henry County Christmas Parade, Pendleton is looking forward to some well-earned downtime. "I'm just looking forward to being at home with my cat and partner Jacob, wrapping all the Christmas presents, eating all the things, and getting fat and sassy," he said with a laugh.

Performances of Holiday Extravaganza will take place December 4-6 at 7 p.m. and December 7 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Walker Fine Arts Theatre. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.phccpatriotplayers.com/tickets or \$25 at the door.

Giggetts welcomed to sheriff's office



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper (right) was among the members of the Martinsville Sheriff's Office to welcome Deputy DaiZawn Giggetts (center). Giggetts recently completed training at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy.

New city deputy DaiZawn Giggetts recently completed his courses at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy and was welcomed to the Martinsville Sheriff's Office by Sheriff Steve Draper and other staff members.

Giggetts also was named the recipient of the Director's Award, selected by staff. The award is conferred upon the student believed to have met and exceeded all academy expectations while possessing a willing attitude and inspiring those around them.



Martinsville Sheriff's Deputy DaiZawn Giggetts.

HCSO welcomes new deputies to the team



The Henry County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has added three new members to its ranks, welcoming Deputies Chase Robertson, Rodney "Gage" Ragans, and Rolondo Gallegos. The new deputies were introduced by Sheriff Wayne Davis (second from right), who expressed confidence in their abilities and commitment to serving the community.

"These outstanding individuals have already demonstrated their dedication to Henry County," Da-

vis said, noting that the addition of these deputies is part of the office's ongoing effort to enhance public safety and maintain strong relationships with the community. "We couldn't be more excited to have them on board," Davis said, adding the Henry County Sheriff's Office remains committed to fostering a safe and secure environment, and the addition of these deputies marks another step forward in achieving that goal.

Correction

Ariel Johnson was listed with an incorrect title in last week's edition. She is a supervisor for VA Harm Reduction with an official title of Director of Operations for the West Piedmont District. Her certifications are MSW and Supervisee in Clinical Social Work.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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Stay One Step Ahead of the Cold – Be Prepared for Winter’s Worst

As the holiday season approaches and winter takes hold, it’s important to be prepared for extreme cold and unpredictable weather. FEMA Region 3 is encouraging individuals and communities to embrace winter weather safety with the same care and attention they give to their seasonal celebrations.

The winter holidays bring joy and togetherness, but preparing for them can also present unique challenges, from icy roads to severe cold spells. “I encourage everyone to incorporate preparedness steps into the planning you are already doing for the holidays,” said FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney. “Personally, as I shop for my holiday groceries and gifts this year, I will be adding snacks, a lantern, and batteries to my list so my family is more prepared if we lose power in a storm.”

To help ensure a safe and memorable holiday season, here are key steps you can take to stay winter-ready and protect yourself, your family, and your home from the elements.

- **Know Your Risk:** Know the winter weather risks in your area. Pay attention to weather reports and storm warnings to prevent cold weather casualties and to stop the spread of illnesses like hypothermia, frostbite, flu & COVID-19.
- **Create a Winter Emergency Kit:** Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and on the go. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

- **Develop an Emergency Plan:** Establish a clear and concise communications plan with your loved ones so you know how to get in touch in an emergency. Before a winter storm or drop in temperatures, check in on your neighbors and friends, especially older adults or others who may have unique needs, to help them prepare.
 - **Pay Attention and Stay Informed:** Sign up for your community’s warning system. The Emergency Alert System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
 - **Prepare Your Home:** Winterize your home by insulating pipes, sealing drafts, and checking heating systems. Home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, and winter is when most home fires occur. Ensure that heating sources are in good working condition. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Taking these precautions can prevent emergencies and ensure a warm and safe living environment.
 - **Prepare to Travel Safe:** If you must travel in bad weather, exercise extra caution on the road. Slowing down and stopping on icy surfaces takes more time, so extend your following distance to 5-6 seconds instead of the usual 3-4. Always carry a winter emergency kit in your vehicle and stay informed about current road conditions.
- As you're preparing this winter, follow along with FEMA's #WinterReady campaign and FEMA Region 3 on X, LinkedIn, and Nextdoor, for more preparedness tips and resources.

City authorities investigate Chatham Heights Road shooting

The Martinsville Police Department is investigating a shooting that occurred on November 28. Officers responded to the 1300 block of Chatham Heights Road at approximately 7:52 p.m. after receiving reports of a shooting.

Upon arrival, officers discovered a 46-year-old Hispanic male suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to SOVAH Health of Martinsville. His current condition has not been disclosed.

A suspect was identified and detained at the scene. Investigators are working to process the area and interview witnesses to piece together the events leading to the shooting.

“At this time, we believe there is no further threat to the community,” police stated in a release.

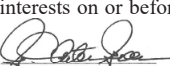
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VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
MARTINSVILLE CIRCUIT COURT
55 W CHURCH STREET, MARTINSVILLE VA 24112
HOLLEY NICHOLE WIMBISH v. MATTHEW STEPHEN WIMBISH
The object of this suit is to:
TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE
It is ORDERED that MATTHEW STEPHEN WIMBISH appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before JANUARY 30, 2025.
11/14/24

Judge

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application **December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.
Case R-24-14 Jose Tiznado and Ma Rodriguez
The property is located at 37 Horsley Rd, in the Reed Creek District. The property is shown on Tax Map 5.8(10)B. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.23-acre from Commercial District B-1 to Mixed Residential District M-R. The property is occupied by a double wide structure that was previously used as a commercial office. The applicant wishes to bring the zoning into compliance for residential use and financing purposes.
The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



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ganization pictured to support their continued volunteer work in the Community.

Nominations open for the 24th annual Jack Dalton Community Service Award

*Sam Acho – ESPN

[illegible]

"The Fuller Center believes that local leaders are in the best position to decide what our community needs and the most effective ways to address those needs," Stutz said. "They provide assistance and expertise while we promise to adhere to the simple, grassroots, Christian principles that guide the work. Locally, our work will not appear any different, but we believe this transition will allow us to be more productive and maximize the generosity of our support-

Previous award winners include Dr. Calvin Rains, Bill Adkins, Clay Campbell, Mary McGee, Charlie Bradshaw, Bob Petty, Thurman Echols, Nancy Bradshaw, Mary Jordan, Pat Ross, Claude Cobler, Beatrice Bullard, Barry Nelson, J. Smith Chaney, Jr., Paul Kennedy, Bob Norris, John Thomas “Smokey” Pegram, James L. Franklin, Jr., Dr. Joseph DeVault, Charlie “Junior” Lynch, Jr., H. William Martin, Joel Barnes, and all of the local frontline healthcare workers in 2020.

For more information on the Fuller Center for Housing, contact Stinnett at (276) 638-6484 or visit www.fullercenter.org/martinsville-henry.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Crossing the Lines

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

Council approves \$170,000 payment to resolve decades-old VRS discrepancy

Patrick Promise \$110,000 shy of launch

At its Nov. 20 meeting, the Stuart Town Council unanimously approved a \$170,000 payment to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) to address a decades-old discrepancy involving employee retirement contributions.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons informed the council of a letter received from VRS detailing a plan to resolve the issue over the next few years. “What we have talked about is, \$170,000 was paid to a previous town employee that was vested in the system that was paid out by VRS, but not paid into by the town and that goes back to the ‘70s,” Simmons explained. “I fully think that the town should be immediately responsible for that \$170,000 to VRS.”

Although Stuart is enrolled in VRS, Simmons said the town has not actively participated since the 1980s.

“The town enrolled in VRS in the ‘70s, and once you enroll in VRS you cannot get out of it,” he said. “At some point in the ‘80s, VRS changed the way that they report employment to the state, and at that time, I understand that the town tried to get out of VRS but basically has been non-reporting since that time.”

The \$170,000 payment is just

part of the issue. Simmons noted that the town owes approximately \$560,000 in back payments to VRS for employee contributions dating back to the mid-1980s.

“I’ve told [VRS] there’s no way we could pay that right off,” Simmons said. “So, they have come up with a payment plan over the next 31 months that would basically equate to \$17,500 per month that the town would be paying to VRS to make that whole. That does not include any interest in that outstanding balance.”

Mayor Ray Weiland expressed concern about the town’s liquidity if it commits to such a payment plan while balancing other upcoming projects.

“The longer we wait, the more that keeps billing onto us,” Simmons cautioned, but Weiland suggested exploring options to extend the repayment period.

Weiland added that potential developments, such as a hospital and an apartment complex, could contribute to the town’s tax base and utility revenues, improving its ability to meet financial obligations.

“We do owe the \$170,000, and for us to be in the good graces of VRS, we should pay them what we owe them,” Weiland said.

Teen Pens Sci-Fi Adventure



Bailey M. Walker released his debut science fiction novel, “The Underlands”, in September 2024.

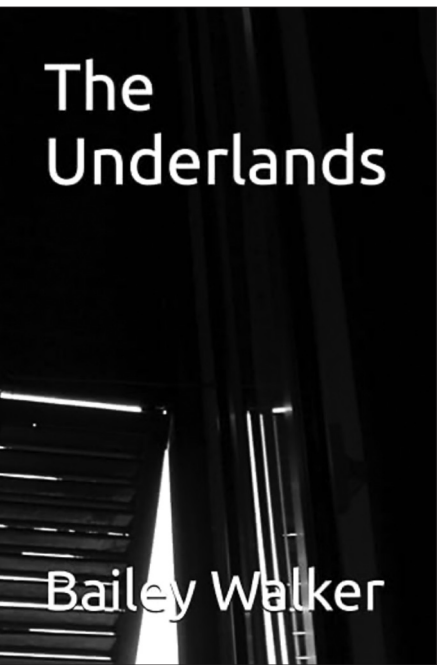
At just 14 years old, Bailey M. Walker has become one of Patrick County’s youngest authors with the release of his debut science fiction novel, “The Underlands.”

Walker said the book combines his love of science fiction with original ideas.

“It’s about a guy named Jack, and he is trying to survive with his friends. They go onto the surface, and basically there was a war nobody knew how it started or how it ended. They just know that basically the world ended,” Walker explained.

The book’s synopsis introduces Jack as a cadet training to explore the largely uncharted surface world, which has been abandoned since a war over 200 years ago.

“Jack does not know the perils he will face as he completes his training. A mysterious murder haunts his existence, and he places his friends in constant danger. He must overcome the



“The Underlands” is now available on Amazon and Kindle.

worst the Underlands has to offer, as well as the most terrible things from the surface,” the synopsis reads.

Reserves, according to the notice. CSA expenses include \$2.2 million, which is the total of the proposed amendment.

At its most recent meeting, the board discussed a portion of the CSA funds.

The meeting will be held in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building on Rucker Street in Stuart.

The Patrick County Education Foundation’s Patrick Promise program is just \$110,000 away from being fully funded for its first three years, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) President Dr. Greg Hodges announced during an update to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

“Frankly, we’re only \$110,000 away from being able to launch what would be a tremendous opportunity and benefit for the students of Patrick County and for the citizens of Patrick County to stay local,” Hodges said.

Hodges explained the threefold purpose of the Patrick Promise, emphasizing its potential impact on the county.

“To decrease the population migration from Patrick County, to increase the post-high school credential attainment rates, and increase the economic attractiveness and workforce development potential of the Patrick County region in general,” he said.

The Patrick Promise is modeled after the SEED Program in Martinsville and Henry County, which provides free tuition to P&HCC for local students. Hodges said the Patrick Promise aims to offer the same opportunity for Patrick County residents.

Hodges commended Patrick County Public Schools for its strong high school graduation rates. In 2023, Patrick County ranked within the top 10 performing constituencies in the state of Virginia.

“You all have much to be proud of with your on-time high school graduation rates,” Hodges said. “It’s something you should celebrate and should be a point of great pride.”



Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College, provided an update on the Patrick Promise, noting it is just \$110,000 away from launching for its first three years.

However, post-high school credential attainment rates in Patrick County tell a different story.

The national rate for adults aged 18 to 64 with post-secondary credentials was 53.7% in 2023, while Virginia’s rate stood at 59.3%. Patrick County lagged significantly at 28.8%, ranking 105th out of Virginia’s 133 municipalities.

“The Patrick County rate is, of course, about half of the Virginia average,” Hodges said, adding that the gap is widening. “Of the 133 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Patrick County ranks 105th, which is lower than all surrounding constituencies,” he said.

Banjorama set for Saturday



Sammy Shelor and The Lonesome River Band headline the annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama on Saturday, December 14, in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium with doors opening at 5 p.m. and music starting at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama hosted by the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will be held Saturday, December 14.

The event, which is held in partnership between PCMA and the Patrick County Tourism Department, will be in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium with doors opening at 5 p.m. The music will begin at 6 p.m.

The show is sponsored by Hopkins Lumber, according to PCMA President Denny Alley, who added admission will be free.

“It’s their (Hopkins) annual Christmas party to the county,” he said.

The Lonesome River Band, a contemporary bluegrass group, will be the feature act.

The band, which was formed in Meadows of Dan, has released 15 recording projects since its formation in 1982. The current six-piece band is led by Shelor, a Virginia Country Hall of Fame member and a five-time International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year recipient.

Shelor’s “had that band, I don’t know, 40 years. A long time,” Alley said.

About a dozen other banjo players will also take the stage during the show.

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

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100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from December 1924

The month of December has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in December 1924.

- Boston Arena hosts the first National Hockey League game ever played in the United States on December 1. The league's two newest franchises, the Boston Bruins and the Montreal Maroons, lock horns in a 2-1 game eventually won by the home team.
- On December 1, Richard L. Cowan of Toronto and C. Lewis Fowler of New York sign an agreement to start the first chapter of the Ku Klux Klan in Canada.
- More than 700 people perish when a devastating earthquake strikes present-day Indonesia on December 2.
- The SS Belgenland departs New York City on December 4. The ocean liner begins a cruise around the world that would last for more than months. Though at least 350 passengers are on board when the ship departs the Big Apple, just 235 remain for the duration of the trip.
- Decree No. 2980 creates the State of Syria on December 5, uniting the State of Aleppo and the State of Damascus under a common native assembly and administration.
- The Chicago Bears defeat the Cleveland Bulldogs 22-0 on December 7. National Football League rules at the time made no provision for a postseason championship, so the Bulldogs, in spite of the loss, are deemed the league champion because their winning percentage (.875) was better than the Bears' (.857).
- The Book-Cadillac Hotel, at the time the

tallest hotel in the world, opens in Detroit on December 9. The luxury hotel includes 1,136 rooms and 31 stories.

- Gold is discovered near the Swedish village of Boliden on December 10, revealing what would become the largest and richest gold mine in Europe. The mine would not be exhausted of its gold supply until 1967.
- American Tobacco Company founder James B. Duke gives \$40 million to The Duke Endow-



ment on December 11. The trust fund, directed to support four colleges, awards the largest share of the gift to Trinity College in Durham, North Carolina, provided the school change its name to honor James Duke's father, Washington Duke.

- Exiled former Albanian Prime Minister Ahmet Zogu leads an invasion of the country with guerillas backed by Yugoslavia on December 13. Zogu enters the capital city of Tirana on December 24 and declares the country a republic.
- On December 14, the temperature in Fairfield, Montana, drops from 63 F at noon to -21 F at midnight. The 84-degree change sets a record for the greatest drop in temperature in a 12-hour period.
- Masked and armed vigilantes seize 15-year-

old African American Samuel Smith from his hospital room in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 15. Smith, who had been arrested for shooting and wounding a white grocer, is hanged from a tree near the grocer's home. No one is ever charged with the crime.

- Fritz Haarmann is sentenced to death in Germany on December 19. Known as the "Butcher of Hanover," the "Vampire of Hanover" and the "Wolf Man," Haarmann had been found guilty of murdering 24 men, and is ultimately executed by guillotine in April 1925.
- After serving just 13 months of a five-year prison sentence, Adolf Hitler is released from Landsberg Prison on December 20. Hitler's release is part of a wider policy of general amnesty for political prisoners.
- A Christmas Eve party in a one-room schoolhouse in Babbs Switch, Oklahoma ends in tragedy on December 24. A student handing out presents accidentally brushes a wrapped gift against a candle flame near a dry Christmas tree, igniting a fire that ultimately kills 36 people.
- The Broadway Theatre in Manhattan opens on Christmas Day. The theatre remains open today, and is one of just a handful of theaters that is physically located on Broadway.
- Singing "Jingle Bells" at her parents' theater in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, two-year-old Judy Garland makes her show business debut on December 26.

The month of December has been home to many historical events over the years.

First degree murder charge issued Thanksgiving Day shooting

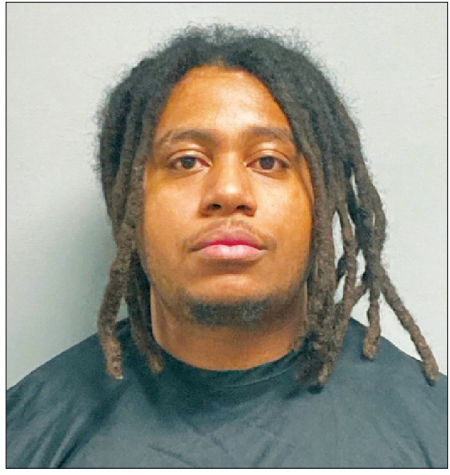
One person has been charged with murder and another charge in connection with a fatal shooting incident on Thanksgiving, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responding to reports of shots fired into an occupied dwelling at 143 Villa Road at approximately 5 p.m. on November 28, arrived to find Marquise Antonio Waller, 29, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

Waller was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators processed the area, collecting evidence to assist with the ongoing investigation. Waller's body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Roanoke for an autopsy.

Shortly after the incident, 25-year-old Takai Anthony Brodie turned himself in to authorities at the Henry County Sheriff's Office. Brodie was charged with first-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in connection with the incident. He is currently being held without bond at the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate and urges anyone with information



Takai Anthony Brodie about the case to come forward.

"If you have any details that could assist in this case, please contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463)," officials stated.

The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crimes. The reward amount varies based on the nature of the crime and the value of the information provided.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

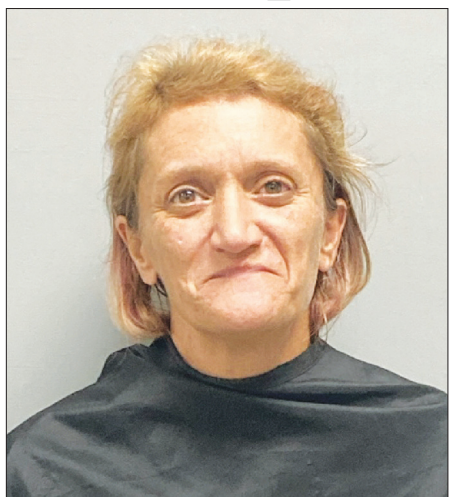
Ridgeway woman charged in alleged murder-for-hire plot

The Henry County Sheriff's Office has charged a Ridgeway woman in connection with an investigation into an alleged murder-for-hire scheme.

Gennieve McGhee, 44, was arrested on November 27, after evidence surfaced that allegedly suggested her involvement in planning a robbery and murder. The investigation began when a confidential source, acting under the direction of law enforcement, met with McGhee at her residence at 4399 Chestnut Knob Road in Ridgeway on November 26.

The source, equipped with audio and video recording devices, captured a conversation in which McGhee allegedly discussed detailed plans regarding payment arrangements and provided instructions for carrying out the robbery and murder. According to investigators, the recordings allegedly include McGhee outlining payment arrangements and providing specific instructions for how the robbery and murder should be executed.

McGhee has been charged with criminal solicitation of murder and conspiracy to commit a felony. She



Gennieve McGhee was taken into custody without incident by Henry County deputies and is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond.

The Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is reviewing the case. Authorities have stated that no further details will be released at this time, as the investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information related to the case is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751.

Warrant executed, arrest made in child exploitation case

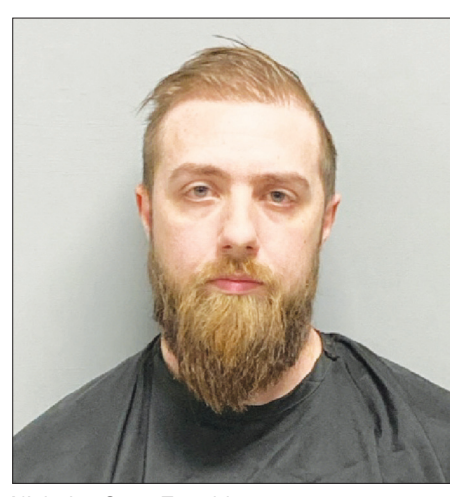
The Henry County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at 420 Glen Oak Circle in Ridgeway, on November 20, as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged child sexual exploitation.

The investigation began on August 28, when the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SOVA ICAC) received a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The tip had identified multiple files of suspected child sexual abuse material sent via private chat messages on a social media platform.

Investigators linked the activity to an IP address through an emergency disclosure request. A subsequent court order allowed Henry County investigators to obtain subscriber information from the internet service provider, confirming the account was allegedly registered to Nicholas Sean Trumble at the Ridgeway address.

During the November 20 search, law enforcement officers seized electronic devices, including a Motorola cellular phone belonging to Trumble. A forensic examination of the device, completed on November 26, allegedly revealed images and videos of child sexual abuse material that had been downloaded. These files depicted young children engaged in explicit sexual activity.

Trumble was taken into custody



Nicholas Sean Trumble by deputies and investigators with the Henry County Sheriff's Office on November 27 without incident.

Trumble, 36, of 420 Glen Oak Circle, Ridgeway, was charged with 17 counts of possession of child pornography, 2nd or subsequent offense; and one count of possession of child pornography, 1st offense.

Trumble is currently housed at the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the SOVA ICAC Task Force, continues its commitment to combating crimes against children and urges the public to report suspicious online activity to law enforcement or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Initial unemployment claims decreased last week

The 2,244 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending November 23, 2024, is 0.9 percent lower than last week's 2,265 claims and 103.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,104), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (247); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (246); Manufacturing (210); Retail Trade (176); and Health Care and Social Assistance (170).

Continued weeks claims (15,554) were 0.8 percent higher than last week (15,438) and were 35.0 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (11,522). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-re-

ported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,494); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,038); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,493); Manufacturing (1,321); and Retail Trade (1,235).

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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ENTERPRISE

Make Holiday Memories with Family-Friendly Crafts

The holiday season is a time for togetherness, where families gather to share meals, laughter, and create cherished memories. While baking cookies and decorating homes are classic holiday pastimes, crafting offers another opportunity for bonding and creativity across generations. This festive activity allows families to create keepsakes that will bring joy for years to come.

Here are some simple, family-friendly craft ideas to inspire holiday creativity:

Snowman Family Keepsakes

Handprint crafts are a timeless way to capture a moment in time. Adults and children alike can dip their hands into washable white paint and stamp them onto small canvases, wooden palletes, or even flowerpots. Once the paint dries, decorate the handprints with black dots to form snowman faces and add painted top hats and scarves. As years pass, these handprint snowmen will serve as a nostalgic reminder of how small those hands once were.

Wine Cork Reindeer

Recycle wine corks into adorable reindeer figurines. Use two corks for the head and body, and four for the legs. Attach googly eyes and a bead for the nose—red for Rudolph or black for a traditional look. Bend pipe cleaners into antler shapes and glue them to the head. These charming reindeer can be used as ornaments, tabletop decorations, or even as place card holders for holiday dinners.

Family Handprint Garland

Involve the whole family in this festive decoration. Trace everyone's handprints on colorful construction paper or cardstock and cut them out. Punch a hole at the top of each handprint, string a ribbon through, and hang the garland on a mantel or Christmas tree. This craft not only adds a personal touch to holiday décor but also symbolizes family unity.

Miniature Christmas Trees

Bring the outdoors inside with pinecone Christmas trees. Paint the tips of gathered pinecones with green paint and sprinkle them with white glitter or paint for a snowy effect. Attach a small wooden star to the top of each



Holiday crafting offers an opportunity to slow down, embrace creativity, and enjoy quality time with loved ones. Whether you're making keepsakes or festive decorations, the process is as rewarding as the finished products. So, gather the family, break out the glue and glitter, and let the holiday magic unfold at the craft table.

pinecone and glue them to wine corks as trunks. These miniature trees can brighten any corner of your home.

Decoupage Ornaments

Create custom ornaments using wooden or plastic balls. Cut scraps of fabric or colorful paper and dip them in craft glue or Mod Podge®. Cover the ornaments with the scraps in an overlapping pattern. Once dry, add a ribbon for hanging. These ornaments make thoughtful gifts or unique additions to your tree.

Paper Chain Advent Calendar

Count down to Christmas with a DIY Ad-

vent calendar. Cut paper strips for each day of Advent, which began on December 1. Create a decorative top link featuring a reindeer, snowman, or Christmas tree. Hang the chain and let children remove a link each day, building anticipation for the holiday.

Popsicle Stick Snowflakes

Transform simple popsicle sticks into colorful snowflake ornaments. Paint the sticks in festive hues, arrange them in starburst patterns, and glue them together. Add pom-poms, beads, or glitter for extra flair. Attach a loop of string to hang these handmade ornaments.

Be mindful of risks associated with outdoor burning and campfires

The crackle of cozy campfires and the smell of burning leaves are classic signs of fall. With recent weeks of dry weather, foresters and fire investigators urge Virginians to use caution with outdoor fires.

September's Hurricane Helene brought ample moisture, reducing the drought threat in the western areas of the state. However, the Virginia Department of Forestry reports that longer-term drought concerns persist in eastern areas and in northern portions of the Shenandoah Valley.

Though the general outlook for Virginia's fall wildfire season is for normal activity, the last two fire seasons have been extremely active. Record-breaking fire seasons in the fall of 2023 resulted in 156 fires burning nearly 25,000 acres in the fall, and 411 fires burning 20,000 acres last spring.

Nine out of 10 wildfires are initiated by people, and the leading cause of wildfires in Virginia is carelessness associated with outdoor burning—"with escaped burning debris being

the biggest offender," said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Because these fires are accidental, this means they are also preventable."

Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. investigators have responded to many accidental fires stemming from fire pits or burning leaves and yard debris.

"In most of the fires we see, the homeowner has gone inside for various reasons and the fire grows bigger or the wind picks up," said VFBMIC senior claims investigator Todd Jones. "As a firefighter and investigator, we advise everyone, if possible, to never leave the fire unattended."

Whether tidying the landscape or enjoying friends and firelight, have at least one form of extinguishment close by, he said.

"A bucket of water, a water hose or fire extinguisher," Jones continued. "Make sure ashes are cold or watered down before leaving them. Weather changes, and they can come back to 'life!'"

Also, become familiar with local burning laws and permit requirements.

Miller noted the commonwealth's 4 p.m. burn law is in effect only during the spring, but Virginia residents should check in with local officials for fire restrictions or burning bans, especially during fire season.

"These (restrictions) often change with no advanced warning, based on fast-changing conditions," he added.

To prevent and reduce the number of wildfires each year, VDOF recommends:

- *Avoid burning on dry, windy days.
- *Keep burn piles small, in flat areas, far from flammable vegetation.
- *Keep a rake or shovel and a water source nearby.
- *Stay with your fire until it is completely out (Drown, stir, ensure it's cool, repeat as necessary).
- *Completely soak cigarettes before disposing of them in a trash can.

Farmers seek support in balancing motherhood and farming

Farming with children can look like "running a 100-meter sprint," said first-generation farmer Pam Jones.

She often races to finish the day's bare essentials on her family's Loudoun County farm before her 8-month-old baby beckons her inside.

Like Jones, third-generation farmer Mo Moutoux discovered the give-and-take of motherhood and farming when her firstborn arrived.

"A lot of women think they're going to strap their baby on their back and go about their day, but that just does not become a reality," said Moutoux, who also farms in Loudoun County.

While she and Jones benefit from supportive partners and grandparents who share childcare responsibilities, an extra set of hands isn't always available.

They face the same hurdles as countless mothers today. Living in Loudoun County, finding childcare that's accessible, affordable and fit for flexible farming hours, "feels like walking a fine tight rope," Jones remarked.

The extra stress that farm women face can lead to mental health issues. A recent study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign found that women had 12 times higher odds of depressive symptoms and eight times higher odds of anxiety symptoms than the men in the sample.

"Farm women are a hardy breed, and sometimes we don't want to reach out for help or admit that some days are really hard. But it's okay to need help," Moutoux said.

She works to create a needed online space for fellow farming mothers to bond, share resources and offer mentorship.

The Moutouxes and other nearby farm families also started an outdoor playgroup to mitigate stress. Parents rotate childcare so everyone can focus on their farm tasks.

"It changed the game for a lot of us," Moutoux said.

When Jones and her business partner, Sarah Obuchowicz, struggled to grow their produce operation while raising their newborns, they added a part-time nanny to the team. Moutoux also added a part-time nanny to her payroll.

"Know what your support network looks like before you need it, because you don't want to burn out," Jones advised.

When feeling overwhelmed, she focuses on shifting her mindset—abandoning a to-do list mentality to slow down, cherish the present, and remember that nurturing the next generation is "the ultimate productivity."

Jones, Moutoux and fellow farm moms also have access to the AgriStress Helpline, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has interpretation services for 160 languages. Farm moms can call or text 833-897-2474 to receive direct emotional support, advice and resources from a trained professional.

Visit the AgriSafe website at agrisafe.org to learn more.

Read more in November's issue of Virginia Farm Bureau News magazine at bit.ly/40KhCGi.

Chestnut trees proliferate in Virginia following near extinction

Nostalgic Virginians are harvesting memories as iconic chestnut trees make a comeback from near extinction.

Chestnut trees once blanketed American forests from New England to Mississippi, and their edible nuts provided food for Native Americans, pioneers and wildlife. Early in the 20th century, a blight destroyed millions of trees.

Now, several disease-resistant chestnut hybrids are being raised across the country.

Multiple varieties of tree nuts were cultivated on 301 acres in the Old Dominion in 2022, according to the latest Census of Agriculture. The largest share of that harvest was chestnuts, produced on 133 acres.

This fall, multiple orchards across the state welcomed customers to pick their own chestnuts through late October.

After more than a decade of successful online and farmers market sales, Kim and David Bryant knew that fresh, local chestnuts were in high demand. They own and operate Virginia Chestnuts LLC in Nelson County, where their first trees were planted in 2009. Fifteen years later, they're shipping chestnuts nationwide and inviting visitors to pick their own.

"We didn't know if anybody would drive to where we are," Kim said. "And now more than half of our customers are coming from the Northern Virginia area, from Richmond. We had two different families come from Raleigh, North Carolina, to pick chestnuts."

Although it's too late to pick

chestnuts this year at the Bryant's farm, you can order online and have them shipped in time for the holidays.

In nearby Rockingham County, Daniel Jefferson and his family have been raising chestnuts since 2014. Like the Bryants, the Jeffersons began offering a pick-your-own option in 2022 as an experiment at East Rockingham Chestnuts.

"We didn't know if people were going to come and pick chestnuts," Jefferson said. "The first year we got a pretty good response. And then last year, even though we didn't get as many chestnuts, we got an overwhelming response for pick-your-own."

This year's crop has been bountiful, he added. So bountiful that they are now sold out of chestnuts for the season.

Both growers agree that pick-your-own chestnuts have been especially popular with customers from cultural backgrounds where chestnuts are a dietary staple.

"What I like about this is we have learned so much about people that have migrated to this country," Kim said. "And they want to tell us their stories about what brought them here, then their memories of chestnuts and their home countries. And so that's been the biggest joy for me. And it was totally not what we thought the business model was going to be—so it's just been a wonderful surprise!"

Learn more about Virginia-grown chestnuts on an episode of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Real Virginia at bit.ly/realvachestnuts.

Turkey 2 Miler Kicks Off Thanksgiving with Fitness and Fun



Runners cross the finish line during the Turkey 2 Miler on Thanksgiving morning.

By Jessica Dillon

The annual Turkey 2 Miler brought runners and walkers of all ages together Thanksgiving morning at the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex, with participants flocking from near and far — including Louisiana and Minnesota — to take part in the festive event.

The race, a Thanksgiving tradition for many families, followed a route through the Sports Complex and along a portion of the Dick and Willie Trail. Starting and finishing at the complex, participants were treated to picturesque views while competing for awards in various categories, including top male and female runners and age-group honors.

“It was great, the weather was cooperative,” said Brad Kinkema, executive director of the YMCA, which organizes the event. “The best thing about the Turkey Two is that families come out as part of their family tradition every year.”

Kinkema emphasized the event’s inclusive nature, welcoming both runners and walkers. “Whether

you’re running competitively or just walking with your family, it’s about being active together,” he said.

This year’s Turkey 2 Miler drew 225 participants, with some traveling from as far as Louisiana and Minnesota. “We had people from all over that came here to run; that’s very unique,” Kinkema noted.

Top Finishers

The male division saw a tight race for first place, with Jackson Gunter finishing at 11:50.54, averaging 5:55 per mile. Sage Turner claimed second with a time of 11:52.92, while Gilberto Aros rounded out the top three at 12:25.16.

In the women’s division, Cheyenne Marinus took first place with a time of 15:15.03, averaging 7:37 per mile. Jillian Gravatt followed closely in second at 15:23.94, with Rachel Hunsicker finishing third at 15:33.44.

After the final walkers crossed the finish line, participants gathered for an awards ceremony, where snacks and beverages were available. Inflatable turkeys provided a whimsical backdrop for



A festive group dons costumes representing a classic Thanksgiving meal.



Women’s first-place finisher Cheyenne Marinus crosses the finish line with a strong showing.

family photos, adding to the festive atmosphere.

“It’s wonderful to see families making this a part of their holiday tradition,” Kinkema said.

The Turkey 2 Miler is one of the final races of 2024. The Holiday Fun Run, scheduled for Dec. 7 at the Martinsville Speedway, will close out the year’s race calendar. Kinkema said that the 2025 season is set to kick off in February, with more opportunities for community fitness and camaraderie.

VMNH awards \$5,000 grant in support of JMU undergraduate research opportunity

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) has awarded Dr. Ángel A. García, Jr., Assistant Professor of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University, a grant of \$5,000 in support of an undergraduate research opportunity aimed at answering key questions about cave shields. The grant is made possible by the museum’s Pete Henika Memorial Fund, an endowment fund supporting high-impact research projects in the field of geology and other natural history disciplines.

“More than a tenth of the world’s ice-free surface is a mysterious zone where natural waters dissolve rocks, creating complex and unpredictable hydrological drainages, caves, and fascinating landscapes known as karst,” said García. “For years, researchers have been captivated by speleothems (cave formations), which offer valuable insights into past climates and extinct flora and fauna. Today, scientists continue to use these records to unravel the intricate dynamics between the ground and the atmosphere in karst environments. Among these formations, cave shields, are rare speleothems found in some caves around the world.”

Oval or semi-oval speleothems that grow in pairs, cave shields are divided by a hairline fracture from the walls, ceilings, and in some instances near the ground of a cave. First described in 1952, these formations have not been widely researched due to their relative rarity and inaccessibility. However, in the Shenandoah Valley, numerous caves contain diverse specimens of shields, presenting García and students with a unique opportunity to research their formation, age, and the environmental trends that they may record.

“This past summer, we acquired a fraction of a shield, which, after being polished, revealed itself to be a representative sample of the lower plate of a shield with a lot of promise for the study of such rare speleothem,” said García. “The acquired sample provides a clear representation of the concentric layers, offering a great opportunity to study aspects such as oxygen isotope equilibrium in the layers, trends of carbon and oxygen, and the construction of an age model to understand are the diverse mechanisms contributing to the formation of cave shields.”

To help advance this investigation, García will use the Pete Henika Memorial Fund award to support an undergraduate research opportunity aimed at answering key questions about the cave shields.

“This funding will enable us to delve deeper into the formation processes, age, and possible environmental records preserved within these rare speleothems, contributing valuable knowledge to the field of cave and karst studies,” said García. “The involvement of undergraduate students in this research is crucial, as it provides the students with hands-on experience in fieldwork and

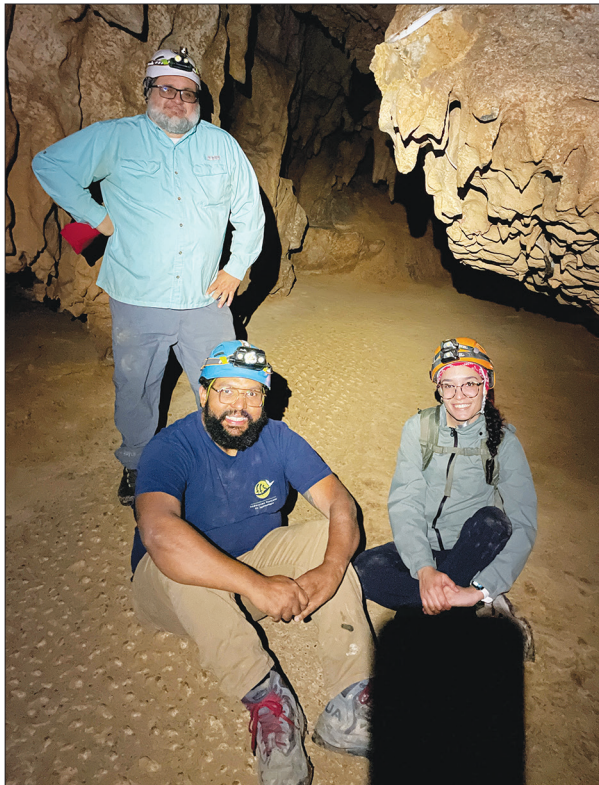


Student Bianca Maldonado-Arroyo holds the polished cave shield collected from Endless Caverns located in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. (Contributed)

laboratory analysis, develops their research skills, fosters mentorship and collaboration, and prepares them for future careers in geosciences and environmental science.”

Upon completion of the research, García plans to share the results with the museum to ensure that the findings are accessible to both the scientific community and the general public. Additionally, the cave shield sample will be donated to the museum for future public exhibition.

“The Pete Henika Memorial Fund was designed specifically to help facilitate the type of impactful research that Dr. García and his students are conducting,” said Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director of VMNH. “We look forward to following the progress of their research and learning more about Virginia’s rich geological story.”



Ángel A. García, Jr. (sitting, left), along with colleague Ángel A. Acosta-Colón (standing) and student Bianca Maldonado-Arroyo, inside Endless Caverns where the team collected the cave shield.

Puzzle Answers!

— WATCH —

— SNOWFLAKES —

solution

— SCRAMBLERS —

solution

1. Recoil 2. Adept; 3. Bleat; 4. Drape

Today's Word

BEARD

— FEAR KNOT —

answer

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

SWE

♥GITSNE

♥ERAGE

OMBO

OATSNA

BBI

FAWI

♥ODWEN

SAS

BAFMEL

♥EBSLA

♥TWSE

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.

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MAGIC MAZE

● — WATCH

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

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

Analogue
Blizzard
Day
Digital

Fob
Graveyard
Middle
Neighborhood

Night
Quartz
Smart
Stand

Stop
Swiss
Wrist

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Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Lagoons

6 Jaunty greeting

10 Basics

14 Aid in crime

18 Full of vitality

19 Purim's month

20 Patio cooker

22 Sage guide

23 Pope after Sergius II

24 Acting Ward

25 "Same here"

26 Arab country

27 Player hitting to prepare for a spike

30 Energetic journalist

32 Chicago-to-Tampa dir.

33 Suffix with leopard

34 Caroling song

35 Journalist covering a particular sector

38 To be, to Bardot

39 Lock of hair

40 Dubai's country, for short

41 "Kung Fu Hustle" director and star

45 Canonized Mlle.

46 Campers under canvas

50 Field unit

51 Jarred

55 Having no commercials

56 High-scoring hoops shot

59 Met or La Scala frequenter

61 "That didn't escape my notice"

62 Prior to, to bards

63 Pooch's cry

65 Country singer Blake

67 Andrea — (ill-fated ship)

69 Swimming sensation at the 1972 Olympics

71 Nine-sided shape

75 Comic buffoon

78 Entertainer Zadora

81 Deli salad

84 Injury rehab professional

86 Scattering in the field

88 Baja blanket

90 Vandals, e.g.

92 Gillette brand

93 Genghis Khan followers

95 Silvery gray

96 Deliverer of a fine spray

99 Text-scanning device, briefly

100 Revises text

103 First letter of the Arabic alphabet

104 130-to-135-pound bout competitor

108 "— Well That Ends Well"

109 Cavity fillers' org.

112 According to

113 Sheriff's star

114 Popular yoga pose ... or something found seven times in this puzzle

117 Color shade

119 Research facility

121 TV "Warrior Princess"

122 Duck with soft feathers

123 Tortilla treat

124 One of the singing Braxton sisters

125 Eternally

126 Love, to Lucia

127 Place of bliss

128 Stuck-up type

129 Relaxation

130 Crowded

DOWN

1 Give birth, as a whale

2 Margarines

3 Forerunners of cellos

4 Pernicious

5 Like July, order-wise

6 Dinosaurs, so to speak

7 Exemplar

8 Passageway

9 Brand of toothbrushes

10 DOJ heads

11 She wrote "Jane Eyre"

12 Apple quaffs

13 Most sluggish

14 Past time

15 Lousy pieces of advice

16 Rub out

17 Piano fixer

21 Talk like Dafny Duck

28 Past time

29 See 27-Across

31 See 30-Across

36 Sports sites

37 Snitching sort

38 Sort of sword

41 Fill totally

42 Sch. worker

43 Went wrong

44 See 41-Across

45 Give a bias to

47 Wildlife-tracking aids

48 Lulu Hogg player Peggy

49 Stitch up

52 GI address

53 "Blech!"

54 "The Raven" poet

57 Spanish river

58 See 56-Across

60 Red Muppet

64 Infant's cry

66 Nabisco treat

68 Doing sentry duty

70 See 69-Across

72 H.S.-level exam

73 "... bug — feature?"

74 Quarterback great Joe

75 Relief sound

76 Mao — -tung

77 Other, to Gabriela

79 About

80 Petri dish gel

81 Old JFK jet

82 Meadow

83 Haughtiness

85 Gridiron score after a throw, in brief

87 Street urchin

89 Alternative to "Section 2"

91 Steadfast

94 Spring farm machines

97 Earthen pot

98 Interpret wrongly

101 Starts eating, informally

102 "— kick from champagne" (Cole Porter lyric)

104 Milk, in Italy

105 Homer epic

106 Bulb unit

107 See 104-Across

108 Two of Henry VIII's wives

109 Append

110 Active sorts

111 Match up

115 "— Only Just Begun"

116 Very thin coin

118 2,000 pounds

120 See 119-Across

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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• In cities like Seattle and Des Moines, the number of parking spaces per acre is about five to 20 times that of residential units.

• Spiked and studded dog collars derive from the days of the ancient Greeks, who would give their sheepdogs sharply spiked collars to protect their necks from wolves while they watched over a shepherd's flock at night.

• A theory suggests that the entire internet, based on the mass of moving electrons, weighs about as much as a strawberry.

• The "Ding" bowl, purchased for \$3 at a New York garage sale, turned out to be a 1,000-year-old Chinese bowl from the Northern Song Dynasty. It later sold at auction for \$2.2 million.

• Big League Chew bubblegum created its biggest-ever pouch for Shaquille O'Neal, at an impressive 24 inches by 18 inches, more than 15 times the size of a regular pouch.

• The square dance is the official state dance (or folk dance) of 24 states.

• Ancient Roman artisans created a glass chalice known as the Lycurgus Cup with nanoparticles of gold and silver so the type of liquid it contained would determine its appearance. On display, the cup appears jade-green when lit from the front, but blood-red when lit from behind.

• Nepal's Kusunda language has no words for yes or no, or for directions such as left or right.

• Modern Olympics founder Baron Coubertin tried to create an Olympic event combining a 14-km race with a written essay to demonstrate prowess in mind and body. It never made it to the starting block.

• Contrary to popular belief, the bottom figures on a totem pole usually hold the most significance, as their placement keeps them closer to viewers.

Thought for the Day: "The key is in not spending time, but in investing it." — *Stephen R. Covey*

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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

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REASON IS, THE LESS PREOCCUPIED YOU ARE WITH LINE, THE EASIER IT IS TO JUDGE AND EXECUTE THE STROKING FORCE NEEDED TO ROLL THE BALL THE REQUIRED DISTANCE. AND THAT'S BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT — AND THE HARDEST — ELEMENT IN PUTTING.

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Harvest Youth Board Serves Holiday Joy at Annual Thanksgiving Eve Dinner



The W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner was ready to be served.

By Jessica Dillon

The Harvest Youth Board, supported by a team of dedicated volunteers, brought the community together on November 27 for the annual W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner. Hosted at Martinsville High School, this cherished event served free Thanksgiving meals to thousands, both in person and through delivery to pre-registered residents.

Youth Board member Maddie Crowe shared the event’s significance: “It gives back to the community and allows the Youth Board to show our motives.” Crowe worked alongside other volunteers to prepare meals for on-site diners and delivery recipients.

Among the many volunteers were Chelsea Cruise and Heather Lawrence from the TACS law firm, who helped pack food boxes. “We just really like being able to give back to the community,” said Lawrence.

In addition to the hot meals, free books were distributed to families with young children, promoting literacy as an added benefit of attending.

The Thanksgiving Eve Dinner, which began in 2016, has grown into a seamless operation. Scott Norman and his team of volunteers handled the cooking, while Youth Board members and other helpers packed and served indi-

vidual trays. Meals designated for delivery were organized into routes and bagged for safe distribution to homes across the area.

Lawrence highlighted the event’s importance to local residents: “A lot of people here within our community are lower-income or less fortunate, and having the ability to be served is a positive thing.” Cruise echoed this sentiment, saying, “It was really nice to be able to contribute.”

Jeanette Moore and Lou Smith, two of the diners enjoying their meals at the high school, expressed gratitude for the event. “It was really nice. I used to go to this school,” said Moore, adding that she was thankful “to be alive, for my mom, for my boyfriend.”

Angela Edwards, another attendee, appreciated the opportunity to connect with her community. “The dinner is a good chance to get to know some of the things in the community,” said Edwards, who also received food boxes. She expressed her gratitude for being “able to get the stuff we need.”

For regular attendees like Willi Myers and Imogene Hylton, the dinner is an annual highlight. “This is really great what the Harvest Foundation does,” said Myers. “Take a look at all of these volunteers, all these kids giving up their time to help other people—you



Volunteers work together to assemble plates for individuals and families at Martinsville High School.



Free books are provided to families with young children to encourage literacy.

couldn’t ask for more.”

Myers noted that age had made preparing their own Thanksgiving meal difficult, making the dinner especially meaningful. “We’re thankful to have each other,” Myers said, adding that the meal was “delicious.”

William Ashworth, who attended with his grandchildren, heard about the dinner from his doctor’s office. “We decided just to come out and eat, and see other people,”

Ashworth shared.

The event left a positive impression on all in attendance. From the volunteers’ dedication to the sense of community fostered over a warm meal, the W. Dan Prince III Thanksgiving Eve Dinner continues to spread holiday joy.

The dinner is set to return next year, promising another opportunity to bring together the Martinsville community in the spirit of giving.

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Creative Ideas to Elevate Your Holiday Décor

As the year winds to a close, homes across the country are being transformed into festive wonderlands. Nearly 70% of Americans plan to display outdoor holiday decorations this season, with over a third starting their decorating before Thanksgiving, according to Today's Homeowner.

While traditional displays have their charm, there's always room for creativity to make holiday décor truly stand out. Whether you're looking to refresh your approach or try something entirely new, these tips can add unique touches to your festive displays.

Decorate Beyond the Living Room

Holiday décor doesn't have to stop at the tree and mantel. Extend the festive spirit to other rooms in your home. Add holiday-themed towels, shower curtains, or even lighted greenery to bed frames for an unexpected touch. These subtle additions can spread the holiday cheer throughout the house.

Coordinate Ornaments and Gifts

Unify your holiday look with a color theme that ties together your tree ornaments and wrapped presents. Use white wrapping paper as a base and customize it with paint or markers to match your chosen hues. This cohesive approach can make your tree and its surroundings feel polished and intentional.

Reimagine the Wreath

Round wreaths are a holiday classic, but experimenting with geometric shapes can bring a modern twist to your décor. Use wire or other materials to create square or diamond-shaped wreaths for an eye-catching display.

Play with Color Palettes

Traditional holiday colors like red and green have timeless appeal, but introducing unexpected shades can make your décor stand out. Consider using lighter tones from the same color family or adding accent colors such as purple, blue, or even metallics for a fresh and creative look.

Rethink Holiday Bouquets

Skip the flowers and craft a centerpiece from natural elements like pinecones, berries, and greenery. Use unique vessels such as cocktail shakers or tall glasses to give these arrangements a modern flair.

Accent Trees with a Twist

Styrofoam cones can serve as the base for creative accent trees. Cover them with poinsettia branches for a bold red display or stack lemons and oranges for a fresh, citrus-scented centerpiece.

Suspend Your Tree Topper

Instead of the usual star or angel perched on the highest branch, suspend a tree topper from the ceiling just above the tree. This whimsical approach draws the eye upward and adds an unexpected twist to your décor.

Mix and Match Table Settings

For holiday gatherings, create a one-of-a-kind dining experience by mixing and matching tableware. Combining different patterns, textures, and colors can result in an eclectic, festive tablescape.

Go Neutral with a Wintry Touch

If bold holiday colors feel overwhelming, try a neutral palette. Natural wood tones, whites, creams, and muted greens create a subtle, wintry ambiance that blends seamlessly with your home's existing décor while still feeling festive.



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