



Jim Adams



Joe Bryant

## Adams, Bryant elected to fill top slots

The Henry County Board of Supervisors selected its chairman and vice-chairman for the upcoming year during its 2025 Organizational Meeting on Jan. 6.

Jim Adams, of the Blackberry

District, was chosen to serve as chairman and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, was elected as vice-chairman.

“I am grateful for the continued (See Adams, Bryant p. 8)

## Supervisor, businessman charged with assault

By Staff Reports

A warrant was served on Joe Bryant on December 30 alleging assault and battery, according to Bryant and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

The warrant “was citizen generated” was not in connection with his office, Davis said.

The sheriff said the complainant, in this case Cecil Handy, did not call or visit the sheriff’s office on Friday, December 20, to report the alleged incident.

On Saturday, “December 21, he drove himself” or had someone else drive him to the Magistrate’s Office, and sought the warrant, Davis said.

The document then made its way through the court system, and the sheriff’s office received and served it on December 30, he said, and added the warrant was permitted.

Davis explained that a magistrate makes the decision to permit

or not permit the document when it is initially filed. Essentially, a permitted warrant means those served promise to appear, and is not taken to the Henry County Adult Detention Center (HCADC) to be booked or have a mugshot taken.

The process differs for non-permitted warrants, in which the person is placed under arrest, booked into the HCADC, and has a mugshot taken.

“We serve dozens of permitted warrants every week,” Davis said, and underscored the fact that the magistrate makes that determination.

Bryant, of Bryant Radio Supply, Inc., said he has retained an attorney and declined to comment.

The Collinsville District representative on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Bryant was reelected to serve as its vice chairman on January 6.

## Jones, Lawson to lead Martinsville City Council



The Martinsville City Council. From left to right: Aaron Rawls, Julian Mei, Mayor LC Jones, Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson, and Rayshaun Gravely.

By Taylor Boyd

At its Thursday, January 2 reorganizational meeting, the Martinsville City Council elected LC Jones as mayor and Kathy Lawson as vice mayor.

This is Jones’ second term as mayor and Lawson’s first as vice mayor.

Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk Jeannie Nunn first issued the Oath of Office to new council members Rayshaun Gravely and Julian Mei and the reelected Lawson before calling for nominations for mayor.

Mei nominated Lawson for the mayoral position, which she declined.

Gravely then nominated Jones for the role, which was seconded by Lawson. Council member Aaron Rawls nominated Mei for the mayoral position, which Mei seconded.

Nominations were then closed. Jones then won the mayoral seat with a 3-2 vote. Jones, Gravely, and Lawson cast their votes for Jones, while Rawls and Mei voted for Mei.

After taking his seat as mayor to the applause of the audience, Jones called for nominations for vice mayor.

Rawls nominated Mei, which Mei seconded, and Gravely nominated



Kathy Lawson (left) was elected as Martinsville’s vice mayor, and LC Jones (right) was reelected as its mayor.

Lawson, which was seconded by Jones. Nominations were then closed before Lawson won the vice mayor position in a 3-2 vote.

Jones, Gravely, and Lawson voted for Lawson, while Mei and Rawls voted for Mei.

Lawson then moved to the vice mayor’s seat, which is to the right of the mayor. Rawls, who previously served as vice mayor, moved to the far end of the council table.

In other matters, the council:

\*Approved the council’s regu-

(See City Council p. 3)

## High-Energy Community Meeting Packed With Updates, Community Matters

By Holly Kozelsky

Reed Creek Supervisor Pam Cobler led a fast-paced, information-packed community meeting Tuesday at the Dyer’s Store Fire Department. A capacity crowd showed up to hear county updates from five county officials and had their questions answered, all within an hour.

The meeting was opened by Dyer’s Store VFD Chief Randy Smith and Assistant Chief John Chitwood.

County Administration

Deputy County Administrator J.R. Powell said that citizen input on the Comprehensive Plan which the county is working on is important. The plan would outline “where we want Henry



Pam Cobler, Scott Grindstaff, Tiffany Hairston, Matt Tatum and JR Powell were among those to address concerns and field questions at a recent Reed Creek District Community Meeting. (Photos by Mary Quirk)

County to be 20 years from now and what does it take to get there from where we are today.” Topics it ad-

resses include land use, land development, community amenities, transportation and the economy.



Reed Creek District Supervisor Pam Cobler invites people to take her business card and contact her at any time.

(See Community Meeting p. 2)

## Local representatives’ proposals address healthcare, public safety, and funding

By Taylor Boyd

Local delegates are gearing up to propose over 20 bills at the 2025 General Assembly session that got underway Wednesday, tackling issues such as healthcare, public safety, and funding initiatives.

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, plans to introduce 12 of the 15 bills he is allowed, including the Unfunded Mandate Reduction Act, which he described as a “Good Governance Bill.”

“What it does is it looks at unfunded mandates that the state has put upon the localities, and it takes a review of those unfunded mandates and makes suggestions to the state about how to

alleviate this unfunded mandate for the locality,” he said.

Williams believes the bill could save taxpayers money and has encountered minimal opposition. The act will conclude after three years, with policies vetted during its term. However, the policies would have been thoroughly vetted by the end of that time period.

“That’s a cool one that’s gotten some traction by localities because it could save their taxpayers money. I haven’t had a lot of opposition to it right now at all, there might be concerns about the process as far as what’s required to slow down legislation and look at it more carefully,” he said.

Williams plans to call it a “Good Governance Bill,” in part to hopefully help it gain enough traction in the General Assembly to pass.

Another notable proposal is the Healthcare Sandbox Bill, aimed at addressing rural healthcare challenges by creating experimental zones for alternative healthcare models.

“Instead of those projects having to meet the Certified Public Need requirements, the CPN laws, it would allow them to waive those,” Williams said. He explained that the bill could enable emergency services in underserved areas like Patrick County, which previously

(See Local Representatives p. 8)

VISIT  
HTTP://WWW.  
HENRYCOUNTY  
ENTERPRISE.COM  
FOR MORE  
UPDATES



0 51497 10908 0

Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA

# PAY THE DAY

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH

JOIN TODAY!



The day of the month is the amount you pay to begin your membership.

www.martinsvilleymca.com

276-632-6427

JANUARY 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4
\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10	\$11
\$12	\$13	\$14	\$15	\$15	\$14	\$13
\$12	\$11	\$10	\$9	\$8	\$7	\$6
\$5	\$4	\$3	\$2	\$1	\$1	

Must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid photo I.D. Limited to one offer per membership. Offer expires 01/31/2025. Additional restrictions may apply.



For a better us.®



# Community Meeting

(cont. from page 1)



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis addressed the capacity crowd.



The crowd listened attentively as Matt Tatum provided an update on Public Safety.

An online survey was conducted for a couple of months, “but there are still many ways to be involved,” such as to read about the plan through handouts and on the website, make comments and read drafts of the plan, he said.

Powell described the county’s budget. The 2024 budget was \$216 million, he said, with the majority – 62.2% -- going to education. Sixteen percent goes to public safety.

“If there’s a (funding) need, we address it. That doesn’t mean we always get what we want ... but there’s a plan,” he said.

The county has secured an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to extend the Patriot Centre’s main roadway “to give us access to another 200 acres of land to continue economic development” there, Powell said.

Meanwhile, the \$28 million improvements at Commonwealth Crossing “already has some really good prospects,” he said. It’s “just a matter of time and there’s going to be a really good industry coming to that locality in the Ridge-way area.”

The county’s 5-page Legislative Agenda, which is posted to the county’s website, outlines the county’s aims for this session of the General Assembly. They include increased funding for industrial recruitment incentives; transportation funding to improve the U.S. 220 corridor coming from Greensboro, N.C.; funding for School Resource Officers; improvements in the new Mayo State Park; housing; and public safety funding to support local fire departments and EMS squads.

### Sheriff’s Office

Sheriff Wayne Davis said that the energies of the Henry County Sheriff Office (HCSO) are focused primarily on getting illegal drugs, such as methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl, “removed from your community. The sales of narcotics affect everyone in Martinsville and Henry County.”

Reducing the numbers of drug sales also reduces the numbers of thefts, he said. In 2024, thefts were lower than before, and there was only one homicide, “which is a decade-low record. All other forms of violent crime are down as well.”

With the help of county administration, he said, the HCSO developed its first narcotics intervention unit, which has “two deputies patrolling day in, day out.”

In the new Community Engagement Unit, four deputies “engage the good people of this community who otherwise would not have the opportunity to engage with the sheriff’s office” by attending events such as community meetings, festivals, schools and recruitment events.

The DARE program is back in schools, he said.

The Adult Detention Center has a new program with Patrick & Henry Community College to teach job skills to inmates. The first program involves certification with herbicides and pesticides, and there are hopes to expand

the program to other trades such as welding and electrical.

Homelessness is “a relatively new problem” to the area, he said, over the past 2 years. That has been attributed to larger cities sending homeless people to the local area. “It is not a crime to be homeless,” he said. He attributed “an influx of panhandling” to the increase in homelessness.

### Public Safety

Director of Public Safety Matt Tatum summed up his department: “If you dial 911 for any purpose other than the Sheriff’s Office in Henry County, you’re getting someone from my office.” His department includes paid staff and volunteers.

The department has “eight people in the administrative side of things. We have four divisions within the department.”

Emergency management: “I look after ... mostly the planning side of things, until a disaster hits,” he said. For example, he was seriously considering opening an emergency shelter on Monday to help the more than 3,000 electricity customers in the Bassett area whose power had gone out on a frigidly cold day.

Fire prevention: Kiah Cooper is the county’s new fire marshal, replacing Lisa Garrett, who retired on Jan. 1. Before, he had been the assistant fire marshal, a role now held by Kevin Hendricks.

Training division and volunteer coordination: They work with the 250 volunteers who make up Henry County’s eight volunteer fire departments and four volunteer rescue squads, making sure they are up to date on training. He encouraged the audience to look into volunteer opportunities: “If you have a valid driver’s license and 16 hours of training, you could drive an ambulance,” for example.

Operations commission: Thirty-two personnel are assigned to the 911 center, with eight people on each shift. That division has six vacancies.

In 2024 there were 1,852 calls for the fire departments, almost 9,500 calls for emergency medical service and 36,000 calls for the sheriff’s office, he said.

The Public Safety Department, in partnership with the Red Cross, installs smoke detectors in homes for free for families who cannot afford them, he said.

Tatum said the Public Safety Department has been hit hard by inflation. The rise in cost of groceries does not begin to compare “to what the emergency services are seeing,” facing nearly double cost on some specialty vehicles and equipment over just a few years. In 2021, a fire truck cost \$316,000, and a smaller truck from the same manufacturer cost \$516,000 just a year later. He just received quotes back for a truck for another fire department, coming in at more than \$600,000.

A heart monitor for an ambulance costs \$60,000, a stretcher costs \$30,000 and a load system costs another \$30,000.

“When this fire department calls



A capacity crowd gathered at a Reed Creek District Community Meeting to hear updates and share concerns. (Photos by Mary Quirk)



Champ Hardie, Scott Grindstaff, Tiffany Hairston, Wayne Davis, Matt Tatum, JR Powell and Ben Gravely stood in front of the room to answer questions.

and says, ‘We’re having a bingo, break-fast steak dinner’ or other fundraiser, “please, if you can at all possibly, support it,” because the volunteer departments need their community’s support both in volunteering and funding.

### Revenue and Treasurer

Commissioner of Revenue Tiffany Hairston said her department’s main goal is to “always be fair and equitable with our assessments.” The department assesses vehicles, houses, business equipment – “any property in Henry County, we tax it.”

The department follows guidelines laid out by the Constitution of Virginia and upholds the local county ordinances.

“We aren’t politicians. We don’t make laws,” said Henry County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.

Hairston said the Corporate Transparency Act is new, and people who own businesses have until Jan. 14 to file with them. The fine is “\$500 a day if you don’t do it, so please – it’s basically a big government tax. They want to make sure no one is money laundering. It’s a state finance group; they still require us to file and tell who” the owners and the actors in their businesses are.

The meals and occupancy tax is due on the 20th of every month, and business licenses have to be filed and paid by March 1, she said. The county also needs a list of business equipment, she added.

Personal property taxes is owed “based off of who owns the property on Jan. 1,” she said, adding that it is important that anyone who sells a vehicle should notify her office when it is sold.

“We depend on the DMV and citizens when they tell us who the owner is” of a vehicle,” Grindstaff said.

“There are over 73,000 cars in Henry County.”

The Commissioner of Revenue’s office has 10 employees and sends out more than 30,000 real estate bills, she said. Reassessments will be done soon.

Hairston said assessors go out in pairs to look at houses and buildings, walking around outside. If they see that someone is home, they knock to explain what they are doing.

There are three levels for citizens to appeal a tax assessment: the Commissioner of Revenue’s office, the Board of Equalization and Circuit Court.

Grindstaff introduced Tiffany C. Hairston, an assistant in his office.

She has almost the same name as the Commissioner of Revenue, except for a different middle initial, he said, which confuses many callers.

### Questions and Concerns

After their talks, the speakers, along with school board members Ben Gravely and Champ Hardie, answered questions from the crowd.

A few people said that the assessors should be better identified, because people are uncomfortable seeing unknown men walk around in their yards. Hairston said she just bought some yellow vests at Walmart and will put labels on them, and their vehicles are labeled.

“My bull’s colorblind,” said one man, and the room erupted in laughter.

Willie Martin, a past Dyer’s Store VFD chief, said incentives are needed to encourage new volunteers, especially young people. “Most (volunteers) are over the age of 40 ... What’s going to happen in the future?”

An EMT and firefighter program was in the county schools in 2023, Tatum said, “and we’re in the process of starting that program up again,” Gravely said.

Martin said he worries that high schoolers who complete those programs would go into paid rather than volunteer work.

“That’s a loaded one,” Gravely responded.

Tax incentives have been tried in different areas of the state, Tatum said, but that did not seem to be the right way to motivate younger people, because they pay less tax on income and don’t yet have much in terms of vehicles or property.

“The best recruitment tool is peer to peer,” Tatum said: “Talk with your buddies.” Invite them to the fire department.

Martin asked about a “situation” in the community, a business ... “that is not zoned correctly and is creating some havoc.”

Cobler said it may be a matter best handled by contacting Powell’s office.

“It has been brought to someone’s attention before. It had been somewhat cleaned up,” but became bad again.

“Are you saying this community is concerned?” Cobler asked.

“Quite a few people are here for that reason,” Martin said.

“There’s a process to address those concerns, and that has begun,” Powell said.



# SPECTRUM MEDICAL

## 2 Convenient Locations

### Danville

109 Bridge Street  
4th Floor  
434-793-4711

### Martinsville

1075 Spruce Street  
276-790-3233

NO REFERRAL NEEDED  
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE



# 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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net).)

### Meetings

**Friday, January 10**  
Arts and Culture Committee Meeting, 1 p.m., Room 32, Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

**Tuesday, January 14**  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

**Wednesday, January 15**  
Henry County Planning Commission meeting, at 5 p.m. (in Conference Room #5), followed by public hearing at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Meeting Room, Henry County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

### Events

**Friday, January 10**  
Music Night at Spencer-Penn, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Spencer-Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Rd, Spencer.

Reading & Discussion with Naomi Hodge-Muse, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin Street, Martinsville.

**Saturday, January 11**  
Reading & Discussion with Naomi Hodge-Muse, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin Street, Martinsville.

**Monday, January 13**  
The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library will meet in the basement of the Martinsville Branch Library, 310 E. Church St., Mar-

tinsville, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Friday, January 24**  
Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Piedmont Arts for “Words Matter: Contemporary Native American Works on Paper,” “Bjørn Sterri: Family Photographs” and “Creating Memories Through Glass and Art” by Steve Eanes. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments. RSVP attendance by Tuesday, Jan. 21, at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

### ONGOING

A series of four classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Historical Center on each Tuesday in February (4, 11, 18, 25). There is no charge for the classes, but a reservation is needed. When you sign up for the first class, you will automatically be signed up for the other three classes. The classes are limited to 12. Call the center now (276) 629-9191 to reserve a spot.

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](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

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

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

Neighbors in the Know. Join staff and volunteers in the Hylton Library at the Spencer Penn Centre for activities and socializing on the first and third Monday of each month. A different presentation and activity weekly, followed by a way to get you moving. The program is an hour long and activities for children will be provided. Every third Monday, 10-11 a.m., a music program will be provided. This free program is perfect for all ages. Registration is not required.

## City Council

(cont. from page 1)



Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk Jeannie Nunn issued the Oath of Office to new and re-elected council members. She is pictured with Kathy Lawson, Rayshawn Gravely and Julian Mei.



lar meeting schedule as the second and fourth Tuesday of every month except for November and December, which will be on the third Tuesday.

\*Heard remarks from each council member. Rawls directed his comments to Lawson.

“It’s an extremely unfortunate tone that we’ve set for this council. If I hadn’t had the messages shared with me – no, I know you well enough I knew that you knew these things anyway. I just want it for the record, it is not meant to bring drama, but I don’t know how to serve the future without making the present known,” he said.

Rawls alleged Lawson supported a person she knows has hurt the community, lied about members of the community, and supported people who have threatened local businessowners.

“A five-foot, 100-pound girl has impeded law enforcement operations, has injected himself in inappropriate manners, does not clearly know how to moderate or manage these meetings, you know these things,” Rawls said. “The only thing that I want to note here is you had an opportunity to support someone decent, Julian (Mei), who’s one of the best community advocates we’ve ever had in Martinsville. The only reason I mention this is I don’t want you to go and say, ‘well, I had no idea. I wasn’t there’ because you’ve pulled that card a lot. ‘I had no idea what was going on.’ You knew who this person was when you supported them.”

Noting that he’s grateful to be an elected council member, Mei said he will do everything he can to serve the residents’ interests first and foremost before any other considerations.

“As for remarks previously

made up here, I think we could have chartered a different course for the city, but I’m willing to stay on the ship regardless of what course it’s directing, or in which-ever direction the ship is going,” he said.

“We have many people within and without looking at us, and I can’t speak for anybody else, but I’m going to set the proper example and I’m going to lead with dignity. I look forward to working with everybody on making our home that we love so much the best possible example, successful government, successful community we can possibly be,” he said.

Gravely firstly thanked God and his family and friends for their support in his campaign.

“I look forward to serving the citizens of Martinsville, as I stated I would from Day One. I told you all I would do my best of my ability in doing whatever is needed to move Martinsville forward, and I would just like to thank you all and the best is yet to come,” Gravely said.

Lawson thanked Jesus, the citizens for the faith they entrusted in her and the fellow council members, her family for their support and the sacrifices they’ve made and will make in their service to Martinsville, her employer and colleagues, and everyone who helped with her campaign.

“Last Sunday, Dr. Christian entitled his sermon ‘How to Begin 2025 with a Clean Slate.’ I thought that is what we as a council and a city need to do to move our city forward. We have the opportunity to bring positivity and progress to our community. We cannot allow negativity to cloud the good works of our citizens, our businesses, and this council,” she said.

Lawson said Martinsville can and will bring forth new programs



Several city residents attended the Thursday, January 2 Martinsville City Council reorganizational meeting.

and projects that will move it forward.

“To our administration and staff: we have a lot of work to do. And I thank you for the opportunity,” Lawson said.

Like Gravely and Lawson, Jones thanked Jesus Christ for providing him and his fellow council members the opportunity to serve Martinsville.

“I want to thank you all for coming out, for taking the time on an early morning to be amongst us in this ceremony. For those of you here and for those who are watching at home, this job on the city council is not an easy job. Campaigning is hard, but actually being up here in these positions and facing the disposition, the

disagreements, the agreements sometimes, and not just reaching the satisfaction of your constituents is hard,” he said.

Jones empowered, implored, and asked residents to hold councilmembers accountable, pray for them, be gracious to them, and communicate with them.

“We don’t all make the right decisions even when we all vote the same. It may not be the decision that’s best for all citizens, but for the majority. As we move forward in 2025, I just ask that for all of us on council to move in a direction that moves this city forward in a positive manner,” Jones said.

## Letters to the Editor Guidelines

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



# OPINION

## Review of 2024

We are now in 2025. It is a common exercise around this time to reflect on the previous year. There is much that I want to highlight from 2024. Below are some of my accomplishments.

**Committee Work**  
As Chairman of the Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee, I chaired 10 hearings that explored a wide range of topics, including but not limited to health care, drug pricing and the impact of President Biden’s open border policies.

Under my leadership we have issued more than 50 investigative letters to key agencies, figures and others as a result of hearings and reports.

As a part of my investigative work with the Energy & Commerce Committee, I participated in numerous forums with public health officials that were in various leadership positions during the outbreak of COVID-19.

This included closed-door transcribed interviews questioning former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Dr. Anthony Fauci and former National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Dr. Frances Collins.

Following its two-year investigation, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic issued a final report this past December that confirms some of the ideas that I advanced in hearings and depositions, including the inadequacies of NIH oversight.

Finally, I contributed to efforts on the Committee on House Administration.

Our Oversight Subcommittee investigated the Select Committee on the January 6 Attack, specifically what was included and excluded from its J6 published report.

The subcommittee discovered that the J6 Select Committee didn’t ask certain officials to testify publicly, and “optics” concerns



Morgan Griffith

Representative

caused a significant delay in mobilizing the National Guard on January 6.

Additionally, I was one of six Members of the House who voted to advance the SAVE Act to the full House for consideration.

The SAVE Act prohibits non-citizens from voting by requiring states to obtain proof-of-citizenship when registering individuals to vote in federal elections.

Our elections must be secure in order to ensure fair outcomes and restore confidence in U.S. elections.

**HALT Fentanyl**  
To my frustration, one critical piece of legislation that I wrote and which passed the House with bipartisan support had been held up in the Senate.

My HALT Fentanyl Act would permanently designate fentanyl and all fentanyl analogues as Schedule I drugs.

Democrat leadership in the Senate did not allow for any vote to take place on the bipartisan measure that was a top priority for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and which President Biden even signaled his support for.

HALT Fentanyl is included as a bill to be quickly considered in the first-day rules package for the 2025 session.

That means it can be taken up in the House without additional committee work and get a vote in the next several weeks.

Then the measure should be quickly considered in the Senate, which is now controlled by Republicans.

Many of the good bills that didn’t get though the Senate, like HALT Fentanyl, will hopefully get due con-

sideration in the Senate this term.

**Hurricane Helene**  
Our region was battered by Helene, and the journey taken to deliver disaster relief funding was essential. I worked with U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to get results.

After Governor Youngkin quickly submitted Virginia’s Federal Emergency Declaration, the two Senators and I successfully pushed President Biden to approve the declaration.

We also did the same when Governor Youngkin requested a Major Disaster Declaration, an attempt that also produced favorable results.

As a successful advocate for disaster relief money late in the year, I am hopeful the executive branch of government can get these monies to our communities quickly.

Once the federal executive branch has done its job, I also look forward to seeing how these funds are used to help countless communities and people in the Ninth District recover from Helene.

Keep in mind, the executive branch is currently run by the Biden Administration, and the Trump Administration will not take over until twelve noon on January 20.

I will continue to monitor where more work can be done to equip our communities with the relief resources they need.

Recognitions, Constituent Services and More

These are just a few slivers of my 2024 end-of-year report. Visit my website for a more in-depth overview of my work and milestones my office reached at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/biography/end-of-year-reports.htm>. Call the Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, the Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or email by visiting [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov) with questions or comments.

## From Snow Days to Snowplows: A Look at Winter Storms Past and Present

By Holly Kozelsky

In the winter when I was a kid, there were more than a few days when we’d be riding on the school bus through the country, then some kid at a bus stop would come running out of the house up to the bus shouting, “No school! No school! It’s snow!”

We’d all cheer, including the teenage bus driver, and the driver would turn the bus around and run the route in reverse, dropping us all off back home.

There wouldn’t be a flake anywhere in sight, but if any school official had spotted one or even heard of one in our 707-square-mile county, school was out for the day, and the kids still at home would hear it on the radio - and as the saying went, if the school buses had run, that counted as a school day.

These days, school is cancelled at a similar pace, but with a whole lot more procedure and rules and red tape as far as letting the parents and kids know (as well as having adults instead of high-schoolers driving our buses).

The community wasn’t so quick to back off school and work in past generations, though. Our grandparents and great-grandparents were a hardier bunch who continued to go to work, school, shopping and even the theater in the snow.

I’ve learned that during my regular practice of reading a great many old newspaper articles covering the past 105 years. Articles I’ve read showed how life continued despite snow, so I have the general idea of that, and here below is information from notes I’ve taken from some of those articles.

People were so intent on going about their routines, in fact, a Martinsville ordinance that took effect in 1915 required all property owners to have the sidewalk or walkway fronting their properties cleared of snow within 6 hours of the snowfall. The fine for not doing so ranged from \$1 to \$5 (\$31 to \$156 in today’s dollars).

The Jan. 14, 1921, Henry Bulletin had an ad for Banner Warehouse, which stated that “owing to the snow and bad weather for handling tobaccos, our sales have not been large this week, yet we had fairly good sales each day ... We have a full corpse of buyer and the bidding is more spirited and the outlook is good for continued active market.”

The five inches of snow which covered the ground on Jan. 10, 1927, only impeded traffic in town “somewhat, but bus lines continued to maintain scheduled times,” the Jan. 11, 1927, Henry Bulletin stated.

The first snowfall of 1929 occurred on Feb. 5. The Henry Bulletin on Feb. 8 noted that the 4 inches of “frosted liquid” did not seem to hamper traffic at all, and the bus and train schedules ran “almost on their usual time.”

The City of Martinsville bought its first snow plow in 1936 and put it to the test on an 11-inch snowfall on Feb. 7, 1936, the Martinsville Bulletin of that date reported. Also on the job of removing snow were “Four gangs of shovelmen, many from the relief rolls ... shovelling snow into trucks to be hauled away



Holly Kozelsky

and dumped on the outskirts of the city.”

A snow storm March 4-5, 1932, wreaked so much havoc in the area that “Garage concerns reaped a harvest during the two-day episode in towing crippled machines, as well as disposing of a large stock of tire chains and radiator alcohol, left on hand as a result of the mild winter,” the March 8, 1932, Martinsville Bulletin reported. That snow was heavy enough to have all city schools closed. However, county schools in “the larger and more accessible communities” probably remained in session, Henry County School Superintendent J.F. Hollifield told the newspaper. He had received phone calls from “several teachers from smaller schools” telling him that “they could not reach their posts.” The rural mail carriers headed out from the post office with mail to get as far as they could on their routes.

In the 1940s, people depended on public bus routes for transportation, and those buses ran even in the snow. A report on Feb. 21, 1947, stated that snow and sleet prevented Greyhound buses from arriving, but buses going from Martinsville to Danville, Stuart, Bassett and Chatham were still in operation.

On March 13, 1947, a major snowstorm had hit the area, but that did not stop hundreds of people from attending the Barter Theatre’s production of “State of the Union, which was sponsored by the Bassett Rotary Club and held at the Bassett High School auditorium.

And it was a white Christmas in 1947, with snow falling, but the snow did not stop the Pythians, their volunteers and more than 1,000 youngsters and elderly folks from attending the Knights of Pythias’ Christmas tree celebration on the lawn of Courthouse Square.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Church Street Extension was barricaded closed to traffic to allow children to go down the sloped street sleighing. Employees of the Recreation Department supervised the children, and a bonfire in an oil barrel was kept going to keep them warm.

Even as late as 1996, Martinsville City Public Schools developed new snow-day routes for buses. These as-needed routes were just on the main roads, which were expected to be clear of snow, and it was hoped that the students would get themselves to those main roads to be picked up for school.

However, it’s supposed to snow this weekend, and though I love history I’m a modern day woman. I’ll be at home with my phone and computer charged up, plenty of gas in the tank for the propane heater, and lots of water saved in pots in case the power goes out.

My car will stay right where it is in the driveway and not budge until the roads are clear.

## Bell to retire from the WPHD this month



After almost nine years of building and directing the population health and communications functions of West Piedmont Health District, Nancy Bell is set to retire later this month. Beginning in the summer of 2016, she was among the

first Population Health Managers in the VDH.

In her role, she has conducted a half dozen Community Health Assessments & Improvement Plans resulting in several million dollars in grant funds in the district for various issues. She created a diversified and stable Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce and a path for CHWs to specialize in such unique applications as CHW-Paramedic, CHW-Peer Sup-

port and is working on CHW-Doula certifications.

Additionally, she served as media spokesperson for the health district and the localities during the COVID pandemic and expanded the Population Health unit to include focus on equity and outreach.

She has been recognized as 2022 Community Star by the state office of rural health and received national recognition for WPHD

as a 2023 Model Best Practice (NACCHO) award for deploying CHWs as data collectors, ensuring community response was representative of actual population. Currently, she serves as President of the Virginia Rural Health Association.

What does this busy, productive person have planned for retirement? To visit all the state parks in Virginia and all of the national parks in the country.



# OPINION

## An open letter from Merrick Garland

My fellow Americans,  
Since 2021, it has been my honor to serve as the 86th Attorney General of these great United States. I am proud of the work I have done over these last few years.

Having said that, I realize that my tenure has not been without controversy. Every day, it seems like another opinion piece is written about how I've failed to prosecute the former President in a timely fashion. Many choose to lay this blame entirely at my feet, believing that by delaying prosecution until after the election, I allowed the former President to avoid criminal charges due to either incompetence or malice.

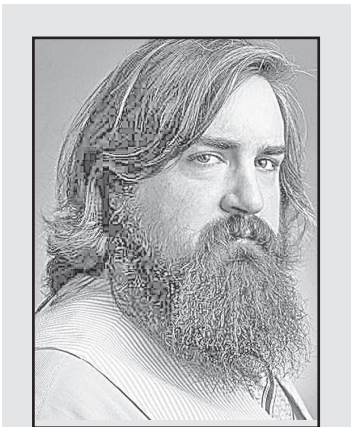
Ladies and gentlemen, I am neither incompetent nor malicious. Am I slow? Perhaps. But while the wheels of justice may grind slowly, they grind exceedingly fine. For my part, I have been tasked with bringing charges against a former President whose corruption knows no bounds, who has filled his cabinet corrupt and incompetent hangers-on, and who has perhaps created the greatest and most sensational scandal in the history of American politics.

It should be no surprise that bringing these charges against the man took time, but what others may criticize as slow, I celebrate as thorough.

Having said that, both my supporters and detractors alike will be pleased to hear the announcement that I have for you all today.

Your long wait is over. I, Merrick Garland, am formally bringing charges against former U.S. President Warren G. Harding.

Yes, President Harding and his Interior Secretary Albert Bacon Fall may have believed they had escaped justice for their role in the Teapot Dome Scandal, but nothing gets past Merrick Garland. And of course, I hear the question on all of



By Ben R. Williams

your lips; rest assured, Navy Secretary Edwin C. Denby isn't off the hook either.

No man is above the law, not even Warren G. Harding. He might have been able to get away with his terrible handling of the Great Railroad Strike of 1922 and stripping life insurance from our proud World War 1 veterans, but he won't get away with this.

Furthermore, I am strongly considering filing additional charges against the fat cats at Sinclair Oil and the Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company. Just because they sell the product that keeps our Model T's purring and our lanterns burning bright doesn't mean they can sidestep the law.

We all know what went on inside the little green house on K Street, President Harding. Tell George Remus and the rest of the Ohio Gang to watch their backs.

Now the only question that remains is whether or not these charges will stick. While our current President is still in office, I intend to work closely with him to ensure that they do. I realize many people dismiss him as green and inexperienced, but I believe this Georgia peanut farmer has a few tricks up his sleeve.

## Free Flu Vaccine Clinic Rescheduled

Due to the potential for hazardous winter weather this weekend, the free flu clinic originally scheduled for Saturday, January 11, at the Habitat Restore in Danville has been rescheduled. Pittsylvania-Danville Health District will continue to partner with the Danville-Pittsylvania County Habitat for Humanity to provide free flu vaccines on Saturday January 25, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Habitat Restore, 2805 Riverside Drive, Danville. For any questions regarding this rescheduled event, please call (434) 766-9887.

This walk-up event offered during the rescheduled date will offer influenza (flu) vaccinations for everyone ages 3 and older. A limited supply of free influenza vaccine will be available for this event on a first-come, first-served basis. A parent or legal guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18.

The purpose of these exercises is to simulate a mass vaccination event in which the health department and local agencies would work together so community members could be vaccinated efficiently during a time of emergency. Near Southwest Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will assist health department staff with this exercise. The vaccine is provided by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Preparedness.

"We've already documented cases of influenza this season in the area, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health recommend vaccination each year for everyone 6 months and older," said Scott J. Spillmann, MD, MPH, director, Pittsylvania-Danville Health District. "Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its potentially severe complications."

All persons aged six months or older should be vaccinated against influenza each year. Par-

ticular effort should be made to vaccinate people at higher risk for influenza complications, including:

- \*Pregnant and postpartum women, or those who will be pregnant during the influenza season;

- \*Persons 65 years of age or older, including residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;

- \*People who have chronic lung or heart problems, including asthma; and

- \*People who have other serious medical conditions, such as diabetes, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, anemia, cancer, weak immune systems (including those with HIV) or a seizure disorder.

Influenza, commonly called "the flu," is a serious disease caused by the influenza virus that affects the respiratory tract. It is highly contagious and generally spreads from person-to-person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can be transmitted even before flu-like symptoms appear. A person usually becomes sick one to three days following exposure to the virus. Typical flu symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

To minimize your risk of contracting or transmitting the flu, follow these simple steps:

**Get vaccinated;**

- \*Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, for at least 20 seconds;

- \*Cover your cough, either by using a disposable tissue or coughing into your sleeve, not your hand; and

- \*Stay at home when you are sick.

For more information, call the Danville Health Department at 434-766-9828 or visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/).

## Letter To The Editor

### Martinsville City Council - What Problems?

There have been many discussions and opinions in the past few months about the Martinsville City Council, past and present. These discussions center around the personalities and actions of individual council members. The critics believe that every council member should have the same mindset, which is against representative politics and human nature. Every family has different personalities in the household; when three individuals are involved in any decision, there is politics. Each city council member brings something to the table. The problem came in when the plot to control the whole table failed.

In the latest city council election, there was a plot to control the city council and not just three voting members. There were meetings to select the candidates, the mindset, money raised, plans drawn out, and the ultimate takeover. There have been public speeches by some council members and citizens' opinions about their disappointment. They can not believe that "most citizens voted in a fair election" about who they feel should be council members, and the super-pack organizers did not win. The resulting outcome

is what is called democracy.

Their disappointment of not getting their way has emerged in the readings of manifestos and the condemnations of fairly elected council members by the city's citizens. Like kids who did not get what they wanted, they have resorted to tantrums, vocal bursts, and nastiness. There are news organizations with limited bylines who have helped this frenzy by not reporting the facts of individual council members and others who feed off the frenzy because they smell blood in the water.

There are no real problems concerning the governing of the city of Martinsville. There are capable and experienced professional administrators, school educators, and city workers who take pride in their jobs. The city of Martinsville will prosper if some believe and keep the non-believers at bay. The main problem is those who bring 'drama' to the city council because their plans fell through, and then they were demoted and had to sit next to those who they defamed in their plot for conquest that failed.

Lawrence Mitchell,  
Martinsville

### Racism in Martinsville

Is Martinsville, VA racist? Well, the whole city can't be racist. Are there racists living in Martinsville? Of course. Are there cities in America with zero racist residents? Is America the only country that's had racial tension?

In an Enterprise article from Aug. 23, 2024 there are quotes from both councilman Rawls and Mayor Jones. Jones is quoted saying that Rawls said he would make sure that Rashaun Gravely received no "white votes" in the Martinsville election. Rawls is quoted saying, "Jones tried to make it a race thing to cover up his agenda because he can't support it with substance." So, it appears the race card was played from every direction.

I'd say that Martinsville is doing pretty good considering our City Manager, Mayor, a newly elected councilman, and the Superintendent of city schools are all black. I'd Five members of the Board of Directors for The Harvest Foundation are black. Now, we don't want to start appointing/electing people simply based on skin color, but neither do we want to hold anyone back based on skin color. We're supposed to judge each other on the contents of our character, not the color of our skin. We all remember that quote, right?

Are there racist citizens in Martinsville? Of Course. However, I don't think it's correct to act as if the bulk of the community is. However, we have our divisions still. Well, how do we fix these problems? Someone had the idea to host a prayer meeting at St. Paul High St. Baptist church and portray it as a government sponsored event by twice placing the city logo on

the advertisement. Is the "state-church" making a comeback from the 1700s?!

Yes, the most divided people in town, the sectarian pastors, are going to tell everyone else how to unify. What a joke. The "prayer meeting" included Charles Whitfield (Missionary Baptist), Allen Preston (Apostolic - Charismatic Holiness), Greg Hodges (Independent Baptist), and Faith Weedling (United Methodist).

Here's a rundown of their divisions: Whitfield is a "Trinitarian", but Preston is a "Unitarian," believing Jesus is the sole member of the "Godhead." Whitfield and Preston both believe baptism is by immersion only, but Weedling believes baptism can be accomplished by pouring or sprinkling. Weedling is a woman preacher, which Whitfield and Preston would allow, but Greg Hodges would not. Also, Weedling's denomination is a big pusher of the LGBT agenda which the other three should be against, but who knows if they'd publicly call it "sin" these days.

People used to say, "Don't mix politics and religion". Well, I say what's the difference? Sectarian pastors are now just as unsavory as any politician ever thought about being. The Pastors want to be politicians, and the politicians want to use the pastors to get the vote of their congregants.

Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, etc,... just be a Christian in the body of Christ! Follow the Bible, not culture or the dollar. Be a neighbor to all, not just those of the same ethnicity.

Caleb Robertson,  
Martinsville

## Children's Jewelry Sets Recalled Due to Excess Lead, Cadmium Levels

Yaomiao began a January 2 recall of 6,900 children's jewelry sets found to contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban, and levels of cadmium that are prohibited in children's products by the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

Lead and cadmium are toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

Products recalled include, but are not limited to: Yaomiao Unicorn Children's Jewelry Set (pictured), Yaomiao Unicorn, Butterfly, and Rainbow Necklace and Earring Children's Jewelry Set and Yaomiao Children's Necklaces and Rings Jewelry Set. For additional products in the recall, visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/>



Yaomiao-Childrens-Jewelry-Sets-Recalled-Due-to-Risk-of-Lead-and-Cadmium-Poisoning-Violations-of-the-Federal-Lead-Content-Ban-and-Federal-Hazardous-Substances-Act-Sold-Exclusively-on-Amazon-by-LordRoads.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled jew-

elry sets, take them away from children and contact LordRoads for a full refund. Consumers will be asked to dispose of the recalled jewelry sets and send a photo of the disposed sets to [simlordroadple@163.com](mailto:simlordroadple@163.com). LordRoads and Amazon are contacting all known purchasers directly.



# 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.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON  
Call (276) 694-3101

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

### SERVICES



Virginia Press Services

#### Woodwrx, Inc.

Est. since 1988

Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.

Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: [Bob@Woodwrx.net](mailto:Bob@Woodwrx.net) Website: [Woodwrx.net](http://Woodwrx.net).

#### Thomas Land Solutions LLC

Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC



### AUCTIONS

FIREARMS AUCTION. LIVE, ONLINE & PHONE BIDDING December 13th 1pm & 14th 10am. Military, Modern, Sporting & Classic Firearms. [www.montroseauction.com](http://www.montroseauction.com). 478-376-4559 Greensboro, GA. GAL 2006

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, [landonc@vpa.net](mailto:landonc@vpa.net)

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule

a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Offer for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

### LIVESTOCK SALES

BCIA CULPEPER SENIOR BULL SALE, Saturday, December 14, Noon, Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise, Culpeper, VA. Selling 80 Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Gelbvieh Balancer, Hereford, Simmental and SimAngus bulls. Catalog 540-231-9159. Sale information available at [www.virginia-bcia.com](http://www.virginia-bcia.com). Sale available online at <https://www.virginia-bcia.com>.



Virginia Press Services

liveauctions.tv/

### SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court



Virginia Press Services

appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliver.com>

# Do Your Homework Before Buying a Franchise Business

Franchising is a popular option for many Americans who want to be in business for themselves. In fact, there are more than 800,000 franchises in the United States. They offer something for almost every business interest, from fast-food restaurants and gyms to home improvement, auto repair and tax preparation services.

Franchises can provide an established business model, instant brand recognition, training and marketing support, and enhanced buying power due to the franchisor's network.

However, buying and operating a franchise business can require a substantial commitment of time, money and resources. And there is no guarantee of success. For this reason, the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Division of Securities and Retail Franchising (Division) encourages Virginians who are considering buying a franchise to educate themselves before they enter into a binding legal contract to purchase a franchise.

"Consider your financial resources, goals, strengths, interests and skills and assess your risk tolerance," said Division Director Doug Joyce. "Evaluate the company that is offering the franchise and ask other franchisees about their experiences with that company. Thoroughly review and understand franchise obligations, restrictions, disclosures, costs and your rights."

A franchisor must provide each prospective franchisee with a detailed Franchise Disclosure Document (FDD) at least 14 days before they invest in that franchise business. Required by federal and Virginia laws, the FDD consists of 23 specific items of information, including the history of the franchise being offered; information about its officers and directors; costs to the franchisee; obligations of the franchisor and franchisee; financial statements; restrictions; franchisor operating practices, and renewal, termination or transfer of a franchise. The FDD contains the answers to many of the questions a prospective franchisee may have when assessing a franchisor and the franchise being offered. Joyce encourages prospective franchisees to read the FDD thoroughly and make sure they fully understand it before they buy a franchise business.

Franchisors are required to register franchises operated in Virginia with the Division before offering or selling them to the public. Alternatively, some franchises may qualify for an exemption from registration. To find out if a franchise is registered in Virginia, contact the Division at 804-371-9051 in Richmond or toll-free at 1-800-552-7945 or visit its website at [scc.virginia.gov/RegSearches#FRANCHISE](http://scc.virginia.gov/RegSearches#FRANCHISE).

I will clean out basements, garages, etc. and haul away anything, brush also, Free Estimates! Call Scott 647-5563 or 276-806-4433

Guaranteed Paying the Most - Buying CARS & TRUCKS. Running or not, ATV's, tractors, stamps, old coins, jewelry & fire arms. 647-5563 or 806-4433

## HUGE SELECTION OF LIFT CHAIRS



Small, Medium and Large size chairs available

Starting at Only \$795

Riverside Furniture  
1580 Greensboro Road  
Martinsville VA  
276-632-1286  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm • Saturday 9am - 2pm



Virginia Press Services

attorneyva.com.



Virginia Press Services

kit! Call 888-608-4974

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/virginia)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

## LEGAL



## LEGAL

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA PROPOSED TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to §15.2-1800, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed transfer of real property known as the old Henry County School Bus Garage, located at 119 Coffman Drive, Collinsville, VA.

## 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 on **January 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing **Case R-25-01 Robert Cessna** The property is located at 14748 A.L. Philpott Hwy, in the Housepasture District. The property is shown on Tax Map 51.1/18. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2.34-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to use the property for agricultural 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

## LEGAL

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ017611-13-00 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE § 8.01-316 HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* STOKES, LATRELL HENRY MARTINSVILLE DSS v. UNKNOWN FATHER The object of this suit is to: PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 16.1-283, TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF LATRELL STOKES, A CHILD BORN MAY 29, 2020 TO ROLITA STOKES.

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his interests on or before 02/05/2025 at 3:00 p.m. 12/17/2024

*Dorothy Aldred*  
Sec. IV CLERK [4 JUDGE]

## LEGAL

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

Michelle Marie Scott & Victor Manuel Valle Flores Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure OWNER - Landowner: Michelle Marie Scott & Victor Manuel Valle Flores

PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER - 525 Kings Mill Rd. - Ridgeway District Henry County, Virginia Tax Map: 72.5(000)000 /050 Account Number - 215140002

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

## LEGAL

### COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **January 29, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case:

**Case S-25-01 Kelly K. Boyd** A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 3 sites. The property is approximately 3.2-acres, located between 772 Axton Rd and 780 Axton Rd in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 55.6/145C. 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



Crossing the Lines

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

Weiland reflects on more than two decades of service



Ray Weiland reflected on 23 years of service to Stuart, including 12 years as mayor.

Ray Weiland, a dedicated public servant, marked the end of his 23-year tenure with the Town of Stuart on December 18, receiving accolades during his final town council meeting. Weiland, who served as mayor for 12 of those years, chose not to seek reelection following his promotion to Engineering Field Director for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water.

In his new role, Weiland oversees the Danville Field Office, which regulates nearly 400 waterworks across 17 counties and four cities, including Patrick County. He explained his decision to step down, in part citing potential conflicts of interest.

“Some of this grant money comes from the Office of Drinking Water, and I just didn’t want...anyone thinking there’s any kind of conflict of interest there,” Weiland said.

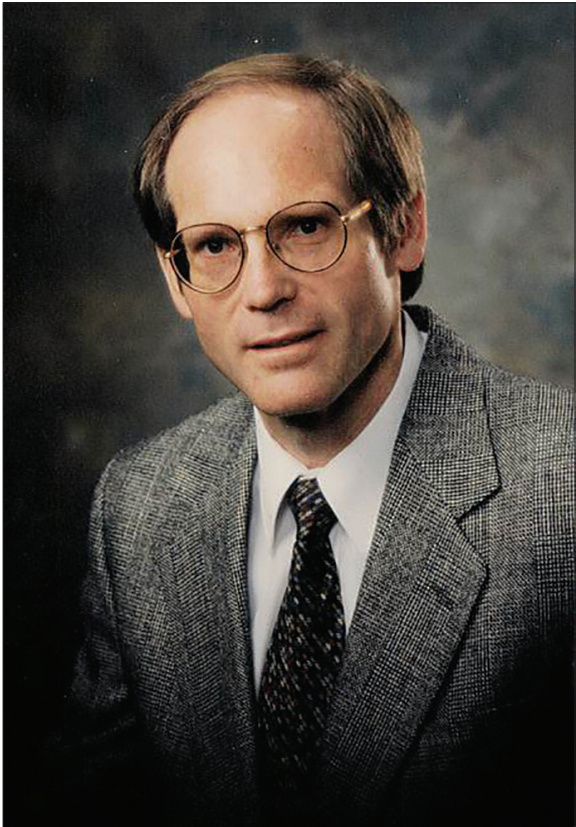
While his focus now shifts to his role with the VDH, Weiland remains open to serving the town in other capacities.

“If they ask me to be on a committee or something...I would be more than happy to do that and help them out in any way that I can,” he said.

Weiland extended his gratitude to Stuart’s residents for their support over the years.

“They allowed me to serve the town for so long...it’s been an honor,” he said.

Lifelong Servant, Leader, and Advocate Remembered for Dedication to Community



Victor Williams’ life was defined by his tireless service, compassion, and leadership. Whether through his contributions to healthcare, local government, or the rescue squad, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and care that will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

D. Victor Williams Jr., a prominent figure in the Patrick County and Martinsville communities, passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at SOVAH Health in Martinsville. He was 70 years old.



Jamie Kerley operates The Ridge Gun Range in Ararat, Virginia.

The Ridge Gun Range Fosters Safety and Confidence, Particularly for Women

Jamie Kerley, owner of The Ridge Gun Range, is on a mission to empower women with the skills and confidence to handle firearms for self-defense.

Kerley’s focus stems from a belief that women often don’t realize they can be targets.

“I’ve actually sat in the Walmart parking lot in my car for about 15-20 minutes and watched women just hop out of their cars on the phone, not paying attention to their surroundings. They don’t realize that at any moment they could be a target,” she said.

Kerley emphasized that in today’s world, everyone faces some level of risk. However, she believes many women avoid carrying firearms because they lack familiarity and comfort with them.

“They’ve never had anybody show them. I hate to say it like this, but other than their uncles or their dads,” Kerley said most women haven’t interacted with firearms.

Kerley herself has no law enforcement or military background. Instead, she describes herself as “just a chick who took a concealed carry course” and felt compelled to share her knowledge.

The facility includes a regular gun range, a long-distance rifle range, and a clay range.

For more information, contact Kerley at (276) 251-2013 or theridgerange@yahoo.com. Details are also available at Facebook.com/TheRidge-GunRange.



A snowplow took a break in a parking lot in downtown Stuart after clearing roads as a winter storm blanketed the area Sunday and Monday.

Winter Storm Brings Snow, Ice, and Cleanup Crews Across the County

As a snow and ice storm swept through the region Sunday and Monday, plows became familiar sights on roads across the county. Snow accumulations varied widely, with some areas seeing several inches, while others experienced lighter coverage.

The situation shifted Monday as freezing rain moved in, creating icy conditions before temperatures climbed slightly, melting much of the snow in some areas.

Williams was known for his unwavering commitment to service, spanning decades in healthcare, local government, and community volunteerism. His legacy includes significant contributions to the Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad, local healthcare facilities, and the Town of Stuart, where he served as mayor from 1986 to 1988.

A 30-year lifetime member of the Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad, Williams was certified in Advanced Life Support/EMT-Shock Trauma and Cardiac Tech. Derek Wagner, president of the rescue squad, highlighted Williams’ dedication and leadership.


“I think what I will remember most about Victor is he was a caring person, easy to talk to. He sure helped Jeb out through some tough times with his business knowledge and wisdom,” Wagner said.

Though his call activity decreased in recent years due to health challenges, Williams continued to support the squad as vice president and, in 2024, began serving as president. Wagner emphasized Williams’ passion for doing things right and his desire to see others succeed.


“If he was going to do something, he wanted to do it right. He’s definitely going to be missed, and he was a friend to most of us down there,” Wagner said.

Fellow squad member Galen Gilbert praised Williams’ thoughtful approach and problem-solving abilities.

“He knew his stuff, he was a good provider, and very reasonable about everything. You could bounce all the questions off of him, and he would go through all of them and figure it out,” Gilbert said.




**MUFASA**  
THE LION KING  
DECEMBER 20




**2**  
**MOANA**



**KRAVEN**  
THE HUNTER



**KEANU REEVES**  
1-3-5-7-9PM  
**SONIC 3**  
THE MOVIE



**RED ONE**  
CHRISTOPHER MCKUORRY  
1-4-7-9:15

**\$5** tickets

**HOLLYWOOD CINEMA** beside WALMART  
Martinsville 276-858-3456



# Adams, Bryant

(cont. from page 1)

trust and support of my fellow supervisors,” said Adams, who was selected to lead the board for the twelfth time during his 23-year tenure.

“This board has always worked together with a shared commitment to the betterment of our community,” Adams said. “Together, we have faced challenges and celebrated successes, and I look forward to another year of collaboration and progress. Thank you for your confidence in me, and I am excited to continue working alongside such a dedicated group of individuals.”

Bryant will serve his fourth term as vice-chairman after he was selected for the position following his 2021 re-election bid.

“I am truly honored to accept the nomination as vice-chairman,” Bryant said. “Over the years, I’ve wit-



Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District (right), County Administrator Dale Wagoner, and Debre Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, and other members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and county staff are pictured at an Organizational Meeting Monday.

nessed our county grow and evolve in ways that fill me with pride, and it’s been a privilege to serve in a leadership capacity during such an

exciting time. The progress we’ve made is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone on this board. I look forward to con-

tinuing our efforts in the coming year.”

- In other matters, the board:
- Set the regular meeting dates for 2025. The Board will meet every fourth Tuesday in the month except December, when the meeting will be held Dec. 16 to avoid scheduling conflicts with the holidays.
  - Adopted the Board’s bylaws for 2025, including changes to the Board’s policy on remote attendance.
  - Adopted the budget calendar for the fiscal year 2025-2026 County Budget.
  - Scheduled its 2025 Planning Session for Feb. 13 from 3-7 p.m.
  - Approved the sale of the old Henry County School Bus Garage to Meeks Commercial Properties, LLC., and set a public hearing on the sale for Jan. 28.

# Local Representatives

(cont. from page 1)

ously missed out on establishing a standalone ER due to CPN restrictions.

Williams hopes the initiative will gain traction, noting, “Hopefully the initiative taken on this type of legislation will have some success.”

If the projects work well, Williams said they will receive the right to expand. If they don’t work, then they have to reform or withdraw.

Williams said this bill is more addressed to the challenges rural communities are facing when it comes to healthcare opportunities.

“We were limited in Patrick County to a 30-mile radius for a hospital to have an Emergency Room (ER) due to COPN laws. Those COPN laws say 30 miles from a hospital, you can have a stand-alone ER, but you have to be within those 30 miles, and we missed out. This Sandbox law would allow that to be approved instead of having to go by the current rules of COPN,” he said.

Williams noted the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) didn’t seem to have any immediate concerns about the bill, and that no one else has reached out to him about any complaints about the proposal.

“Hopefully the initiative taken on this type of legislation will have some success,” Williams added.

Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, plans to introduce 10 bills, with a key focus on public safety. His flagship proposal is a statewide bill to provide funding for volunteer fire departments and emergency services through a Fire Protection Fee, which is “about getting more funding for our volunteer fire departments and emergency services, so it would be a state-wide bill,” he said.

Phillips said this bill would allow individual localities to hold a referendum for residents to vote yes or no to fund public safety in a dif-

ferent way.

“There would be a one-cent fee if you have a residential dwelling and a one-cent fee if you have a commercial building like for businesses. It would be up to the citizens to impose that fee on themselves, just like they did with the one percent school tax,” he said.

As a Republican, Phillips said he doesn’t like fees or taxes, “but I do want to make sure we’re safe and it’s going to be a real crisis in rural Virginia, rural communities, if we can’t figure out this issue with volunteer fire departments,” he said.

He noted the vast majority of fire departments in rural Virginia and in Henry and Pittsylvania counties are volunteer agencies.

“Volunteerism is down post-COVID” in all sectors. “At the same time, the cost of buying equipment and firetrucks and things like that just keeps going up, and there’s no way to have enough Brunswick Stews and enough black pot chicken dinners to be able to pay for a \$2.5 million firetruck. They were buying used trucks in some cases, and they’re still almost \$1 million,” he said.

Because of this, Phillips said volunteers not only have to volunteer their time to run calls but fundraise a lot more than in the past, as well as write federal government grants to be able to get the equipment they need, and go through more training to achieve the qualifications to be able to volunteer in the first place.

“In rural areas...nine times out of ten, even if you’re in a car wreck or something, the first responders is usually going to be somebody from your local volunteer fire department. They usually show up before anybody. So, what happens if you don’t have enough volunteers, and they’re not funded well enough? I don’t know about you, but if I have a fire at

my house or if I have a wreck, I want somebody to show up well-trained, well-qualified with good equipment,” he said.

In addition to meeting with over 30 volunteer department chiefs, Phillips said Virginia has done two studies on the issue and both concluded it’s a massive problem.

“It’s a crisis that’s probably a half-billion unfunded problem. What I’m proposing is certainly not going to fix the problem forever, but it’s going to be a start until we can figure out long-term what we’re going to do to be able to get these folks the money they need to protect our communities,” Phillips said.

Another bill Phillips hopes to get passed will remove the sunset provision that prevents the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and Go Virginia from using funds on the same project.

“Right now, they are able to, but that bill sunsets every couple of years. Going forward, there’s no question if it’s a worthy project. You can use funds from both state agencies on that project.” It will allow them “to be able to fund more than one project at the same time,” he said.

Phillips also seeks to address workforce development with a bill to ensure the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) counts students in workforce and FastForward training programs in its enrollment metrics.

“Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) President Dr. Greg Hodges estimated the college has around 1,190 students receiving that training on top of its full-time students,” Phillips said, noting that these students currently do not factor significantly into funding calculations.

“But that 1,190 people don’t really get counted in any significant way towards their funding and things like that,” he said.

# Girl Scouts Kick Off 2025 Cookie Season

The Virginia Skyline Council kicked off the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie season, a time when Girl Scouts everywhere hone their entrepreneurial skills as they find new and inventive ways to sell cookies, unboxing brighter futures for themselves. With the much-anticipated cookie season back in full swing, cookie lovers can rejoice as they indulge in the classic cookie lineup.

The 2025 cookie lineup is jam-packed with the full spread of highly sought after cookie flavors, including Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-si-dos, and more. At the close of the 2025 cookie season, the beloved Girl Scout S’mores cookie flavor will be retired. Girl Scout S’mores enthusiasts can get their hands on the last of these favorite sweet treats by reaching out to a Girl Scout seller or troop or booth sale (Cookie Finder at [www.gsvsc.org/cookies](http://www.gsvsc.org/cookies)).

When girls participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest entrepreneurial program in the world, they acquire a host of invaluable entrepreneurial skills, including goal setting, money management, decision-

making, people skills, and business ethics. Each box of cookies sold allows Girl Scouts to develop an inextinguishable entrepreneurial spirit, gaining courage, confidence, and character as they conquer new feats and embark on new adventures. Girl Scouts obtain transferable life skills as they earn a variety of badges and awards, including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins and Entrepreneur badges.

This season, Virginia Skyline Council calls on community members to support their favorite cookies—and the girls behind each box. All proceeds from cookie sales stay with Virginia Skyline Council troops to fuel inspiring experiences throughout the year including camp, amazing trips, service projects. and much more.

## How to Purchase Girl Scout Cookies This Season

Girl Scout Cookie season runs until March 31 in the Virginia Skyline Council region. Fans of Girl Scout Cookies can support Girl Scouting by purchasing cookies for \$6.00 a box in a few

different ways:

\*If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to purchase cookies.

\*If you don’t know a Girl Scout, visit [www.gsvsc.org/cookies](http://www.gsvsc.org/cookies) to use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder to find cookie booths in your area. Can’t find a local booth? Then contact us at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) and we’ll find a local troop to fix that cookie craving you have!

\*Beginning February 21, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at [www.girlscout-cookies.org](http://www.girlscout-cookies.org)

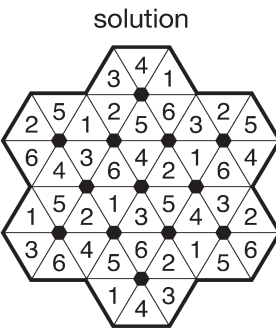
cookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to first responders and local causes.

\*You can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies now and in the future.

Girl Scouts in grades K–12 can start their journey to fun, friendship, and new experiences by joining the world’s largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any point in the year: [www.gsvsc.org/join](http://www.gsvsc.org/join)

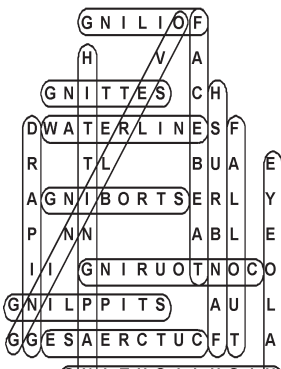
# Puzzle Answers!

## SNOWFLAKES



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

## MAKEUP TERMS



## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Rage
2. Enigma;
3. Scowl;
4. Bedlam

Today's Word

LEDGE

## FEAR & THE KNIGHT

answer



## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

THANK YOU FOR

READING HENRY COUNTY

ENTERPRISE





# Puzzle Time



## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

LIL  
HIPSLO  
LHOCT  
♥NTIH  
HINCLE  
OGH  
♥ESLA  
NURGI  
♥PTO  
SOGSER  
♥HENSO  
GLOO

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

## HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tail is moved. 2. Window is different. 3. Fingers are not showing. 4. Ear is larger. 5. Blinds are added to shoe. 6. Laces are added to shoe.

## MAGIC MAZE

## MAKEUP TERMS

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

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

Contouring  
Cut crease  
Draping  
Face beat

Fallout  
Fan brush  
Foiling  
Halo eye

Highlighting  
Hitting pan  
Overlining  
Setting

Stippling  
Strobing  
Waterline

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Super Crossword

ADDED WEIGHT

**ACROSS**

1 Posh parties  
6 Lumberyard tool  
12 Rd. crossers  
15 Quick bite  
19 Japanese film genre  
20 Mob code of silence  
21 — au vin (chicken dish)  
22 Qualified  
23 Milk or egg container in a precinct refrigerator?  
25 Volcanic event  
27 Bible book after Genesis  
28 Strike zones, to pitcher Kershaw?  
30 Hefty slice  
32 White-coated Scottish terrier, for short  
33 Ohio city whose residents all have messy mop tops?  
41 It merged with Exxon in 1999  
45 Studio alert  
46 Off-course  
47 Dalai —  
50 Brian of electronica

51 Play spiritedly  
52 People evaluating a central California city?  
55 Wedding vow  
56 Seder bread  
57 Makes public  
58 Suffix with million  
59 Has a feeling  
61 Shepherd of "Mr. Iglesias"  
64 Conjunction with a slash  
65 Appliance invented by the first U.S. president?  
70 "A Bell for —" (novel)  
72 Caged (up)  
73 "24" actress  
76 William who played Hopalong Cassidy  
77 T. Rex, e.g.  
78 — fatuus (delusion)  
81 Longtime "Conan" ailer  
82 Rocker known for the loud crashing noises in his songs?  
87 Flapjack chain, in brief

88 Aykroyd of "Soul Man"  
89 Sty beasts  
90 Beachgoer's headwear  
91 Phase  
92 Occur next  
94 Tactful  
95 Seder bread  
96 Churchill asked "Who dislikes me?"  
96 Glorify  
100 Mai — (cocktails)  
101 Name of a labor union in a city south of Los Angeles?  
109 Pressure felt at liftoff  
113 "Sounds right to me"  
114 Clara who collected cleansing cakes?  
116 See 75-Down  
117 — Father  
118 Songlike  
119 Cleo of song  
120 U. of Maryland athlete  
121 Born, in Lyon  
122 Gave lip to  
123 Actor Murphy

**DOWN**

1 Stare in awe  
2 Strong as —  
3 "— & Stitch"  
4 In the center of a vessel  
5 Not religious  
6 Mythical bird  
7 Apple line  
8 Alternative to JavaScript  
9 Madrid Mlle.  
10 "This is not —" (warning to kids)  
11 Desire  
12 Act segment  
13 Legal wrongs  
14 Crouch down  
15 "StarTalk" cable chan.  
16 NYC theater award  
17 ATM hole  
18 Egg sources  
24 Actor  
26 Fundamental  
29 Have title to  
31 Film director  
33 Johnson of Britain  
34 Battery pole  
35 "Mo' Money" star  
36 Health expert on TV  
37 Former BP gas chain  
38 Shaggy ox  
39 Blowup stuff  
40 Ear-related prefix  
42 Else  
43 Opening lines  
44 Aesop's hare, notably  
47 Actress Dern  
48 Playful trick  
49 Mothers  
52 An obi is one  
53 Standard  
54 One-named New Ager  
56 Prefixed with -dermal or American  
60 Wall St.'s "500" index  
61 Big name in fuel additives  
62 Weeding tool  
63 Bring to a halt  
64 Brings pain to  
66 Cake coating  
67 Taboo things  
68 Mess up  
69 Prince, e.g.  
70 First five of 26 letters  
71 Gold-medal swimmer  
74 Cable streaming app until 2020  
75 With 116-Across, it has trembling leaves  
77 Scooby- —  
78 With a sharp image, briefly  
79 Aussie "Hi!"  
80 Abbr. on a food package  
83 "— the rub!"  
84 "General" on Chinese menus  
85 Core  
86 Half of dos  
87 "Such a pity"  
91 Sound from a cold sufferer  
93 Maintenance  
94 Natal lead-in  
95 "Othello" foe  
97 Illegal burning  
98 Edition  
99 Make a goal  
101 Figure skater  
102 Horrid giant  
103 Regretful person  
104 CEOs' degs.  
105 Law firm aide, for short  
106 Baseballer  
107 Siouan people  
108 Schnozzola  
110 Doping juice  
111 Tot's plea  
112 Sword  
115 Silent assent

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Shonda Rhimes got the idea for the TV series "Grey's Anatomy" after a doctor told her how hard it was to shave her legs in the tiny hospital shower.

• The first Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds were produced in 1908 because they were cheap to make. The nuts took the place of some of the more expensive milk chocolate, which meant Hershey's could keep the price of the candy at a nickel.

• A website called Myfridgefood.com lets you enter whatever ingredients you have in your fridge and tells you what you can make with them.

• One of the reasons your lungs feel refreshed when walking through a pine forest is because of an anti-inflammatory compound called a-Pinene, found in conifers. It is used as a bronchodilator in the treatment of asthma and is abundantly present in marijuana.

• An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague, or "Black Death."

• The Hardy Tree in London's St. Pancras churchyard is named for Thomas Hardy. The Victorian author worked at the burial ground in the 1860s and rearranged tombstones around the base of an ash tree to make room for a railway expansion.

• If you're a man and pee on a pregnancy test and it's positive, you could have cancer.

• Because of the amount of granite in its construction, Grand Central Station produces more radiation than is allowable at a nuclear power plant.

• In India, a statue of Jesus had "holy" water mysteriously dripping from its toes, which worshipers would collect and sometimes drink. A man traced the fluid's source to a clogged toilet behind the wall, condensing on the statue.

\*\*\*

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

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## 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

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

YOU'LL PLAY YOUR BEST GOLF BY BUILDING YOUR GAME UPON A LIMITED NUMBER OF LONG-PROVEN FUNDAMENTALS .... NO MORE THAN EIGHT OR TEN.

YOU'LL PLAY YOUR WORST GOLF BY GOING FROM FAD TO BAND-AID TO GIMMICK AND BACK AROUND AGAIN.

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

DON'T KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS? LEARN THEM FROM A COMPETENT TEACHER THEN STICK WITH THEM AT ALL COST. THAT'LL TAKE PATIENCE INITIALLY, BUT WILL PAY LARGE DIVIDENDS OVER THE LONG RUN.

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fury  
GEAR  
Mystery  
GEMANI  
Grimace  
COWLS  
Chaos  
AMBLE

### TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

“Your clerk will be with you again as soon as we can coax him off the window \_\_\_\_\_.”

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## ADVERTISE!

### Advertise With Us!

What we offer: .....

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

What we have: .....

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

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

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



# Morgan promoted to new post at WPPDC

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) is proud to announce the promotion of Rebekah Morgan to the position of Director of Community Development.

Morgan joined the WPPDC in early 2024 as the Community Development Specialist. Since then, she has made significant contributions to several regional initiatives, including the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project, the Patrick County Business Development Center, the Martinsville MiNet Expansion, and the Dan River Basin Association’s marketing and infrastructure planning for the Southern Virginia Blueways System.

A project that was meaningful for her was her work with the Woolwine Park Association, where she helped identify funding opportunities and applied for grants to improve I.C. DeHart Memorial Park in Patrick County. The Association was awarded a grant from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, which they used to purchase a bike wash station and shower for their mountain bike trails. Rebekah plans to continue collaborating with the Association and pursue additional funding for further park upgrades.

“Rebekah has been a tremendous asset to our team. She has received outstanding accolades for her work from our localities, community partners, and funding organizations for her grant writing skills,” said Kristie Eberly, executive director. “Her ambitious drive to explore new opportunities and her collaborative approach with our localities have made a significant impact. We are excited to see her continue to excel in this new role.”

In her new position, Morgan is looking forward to pursuing opportunities that will allow the WPPDC to provide more robust community development capacity to the region’s localities and community partners. She stated that rural communities struggle with being able to bring their needs to fruition because they don’t have the capacity to carry out projects with the limited resources and staff. She would like to explore ways to increase capacity in the region by identifying the critical needs of our partners and creating a pool of resources to lend the helping hand needed.



Rebekah Morgan is the new director of Community Development at the WPPDC.

“We have a lot of great community sparkplugs in our region who work tirelessly to improve the communities they serve, and working for the WPPDC has allowed me to meet them and work alongside them on some amazing projects,” said Morgan. “I never know what idea someone is going to approach me with, and it’s a lot of fun helping brainstorm how to make that idea come to fruition. I want to see our region thrive, and the WPPDC exists to provide the extra hands that our partners need to be successful at what they do.”

Morgan holds a Master of Public Administration from Troy University and a bachelor’s degree in Women’s and Gender Studies from the University of South Florida. She served in the Marine Corps as a Special Intelligence Communicator and System Administrator. Before her role at the WPPDC, she was the Assistant Park Manager at Fairy Stone State Park.

The West Piedmont Planning District is a regional planning organization serving the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania; the cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount. The WPPDC seeks to carry out its mission by facilitating regional thinking and dialogue among the district’s local government, K-12 and higher educational institutions, economic development organizations, workforce development, and other key stakeholders. Learn more at [westpiedmontpdc.org](http://westpiedmontpdc.org).

# County Fair wins ten state awards



**By Jessica Dillon**

The Henry County Fair won a record 10 media awards at the Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference that was held in Williamsburg, Va., on January 2-5. The awards were in recognition of excellence in production, promotions and operations of county fairs and festivals throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“Winning 10 media awards at the Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the Henry County Fair,” said Roger Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation. “This recognition highlights our commitment to excellence in putting on an event that brings our community together. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing to set the standard for county fairs across Virginia.”

The awards won by the Henry County Fair include:

- 1st Place for Fair Poster
- 1st Place and Best of Show for TV Commercial (FOX 8)
- 3rd Place for Fair Shirt
- 1st Place for Fair Logo
- 3rd Place for Radio Commercial (Spirit FM)
- 1st Place and Best of Show for Fair Website
- Creativity Award for our division
- Overall Creativity Award for all fairs

The fair entered the contest for the past two years, but not for its first year. Each year, it received a total of four awards.

“Each fair can submit nominations for whatever categories they do and want to enter,” Adams said. Winners are picked by judges from the Virginia Association of Fairs.

Adams said that there are about 35 fairs in total in Virginia. There was a single entry from the Henry County Fair for each category.

Adams said the county is proud of the achievement and look forward to setting the “standard for fairs across Virginia.”

The Henry County Fair is a newer county fair, and Adams said there were a few factors helping them win more than in previous years. “I think having additional experience putting on the fair for the past few years.”

He also attributed the county’s “fresh” look at the fair as helping, even though the county is a newer contender in the state fair category, with only four fairs being held so far.

“This recognition highlights our commitment to excellence in putting on an event that brings our community together,” Adams said. “We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing to set the standard for county fairs across Virginia.”

The 5th Annual Henry County Fair will be held September 24 – 27, at Martinsville Speedway. “It will be an awesome fair as we celebrate our fifth anniversary,” Adams said.

Contact Henry County Parks and Recreation at (276) 634-4640 for more information. Entertainment opportunities will be announced in the coming months.

# Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of January 13-18:

1/13	7pm Girls Basketball Carroll County at Martinsville	1/15	5pm Wrestling Bassett at Magna Vista
1/14	4:30pm Swim & Dive Bassett vs Martinsville (at Hargrave M.A.)	1/16	6pm Wrestling Martinsville at Halifax County
	5pm Girls Basketball Carlisle at New Covenant	1/17	6pm Wrestling Martinsville at Hargrave Military Acad.
	6pm Boys Basketball Carlisle at New Covenant		TBA Swim & Dive Martinsville at George Washington
	7pm Girls Basketball Halifax County at Bassett		5pm Swim & Dive Magna Vista at Halifax County
	7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at George Washington		7:30pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Martinsville
	7pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Halifax County		7pm Girls Basketball Bassett at Mecklenburg County
	7pm Boys Basketball George Washington at Magna Vista		7pm Boys Basketball Mecklenburg County at Bassett
			8pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at Martinsville
		1/18	7pm Girls Basketball TPLS Christian at Carlisle

# DRBA Educates the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards



Outdoor classroom at Snow Creek Elementary with rain barrels. (Photos by DRBA)

Thanks to a generous grant from the Roanoke Women’s Foundation, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) partnered with Snow Creek Elementary in Franklin County to provide all students in grades K-5 with real world environmental science focused projects, presentations and activities over the last two years.

This unique learning opportunity for students encompassed award-winning programs such as a nationally certified Monarch Waystation, weather monitoring station, Trout in the Classroom, Streamside Trees in the Classroom, a rain barrel system, outdoor classroom, a girls’ after-school science program and classroom presentations. The Dan River Basin Association worked closely with staff and administration at Snow Creek Elementary to build lasting environmental education programs that align with Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) guidelines and provide authentic hands-on opportunities for students.

Sue Weinstein Nussbaum of the Roanoke Women’s Foundation said, “The Roanoke Women’s Foundation was pleased to award the Dan River Basin Association a grant for \$30,000 in 2022. The leadership and staff of DRBA have utilized the funds over the past two years to cultivate knowledge and to interact directly with the surrounding environment. Dan River Basin Association is developing future stewards of our environment by reaching elementary school students and building behaviors that result in the care of our natural habitats.”

The Dan River Basin Association is the only environmental non-profit in the area, which perfectly aligned DRBA with providing this innovative learning opportunity for the elementary students, starting with early nature experiences, as early as kindergarten and continuing to provide those experiences into upper elementary grade levels, with hopes of motivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Carrie McCrary, lead teacher on the project from Snow Creek Elementary, said, “My students were able to get first-hand experience in nature, they were able to see nature up close, and they have been able to sit back and realize the importance of preserving what they have learned



Snow Creek Elementary fifth grade students plant native bushes alongside outdoor classroom.

to love. Having an outdoor classroom beside a weather station and a monarch waystation is a pretty cool opportunity for adults and students alike. We have truly enjoyed the opportunity that the grant has provided, thanks to DRBA and the Roanoke Women’s Foundation.”

DRBA’s education staff and their Volunteer Environmental Educators (VEEs) provided programs and presentations to students focused on watershed education topics like erosion and ways to control it such as planting trees, water conservation, and introducing wildlife that depends on the waterways for survival. Students learned about their local watershed and how pollution can impact waterways through in classroom presentations and investigating aquatic insects.

DRBA worked with Snow Creek Elementary to build a space for upper elementary students to take learning outside in an outdoor classroom. The outdoor learning space includes four picnic tables on a gravel area next to a nationally certified Monarch Waystation where they can investigate and learn about monarch butterflies. The outdoor classroom also includes a rain-barrel water-collection system and a weather monitoring station.

Krista Hodges, DRBA’s Director of Environmental Education, added, “Studies have shown that not only does frequent outdoor learning experiences often improve academic success, but it can also create a sense of belonging among youth in their own community. DRBA is proud to be the community partner that helps to sustain and connect teachers with environmental education programming available to the schools.”

DRBA has provided hands-on programs such as Trout in the Classroom, Streamside Trees in the Classroom and other programs and presentations for over the decade to Franklin County. The programs focus on improving academic success in STEAM, inspiring environmental awareness and teaching an appreciation of the natural world for pre-school through high school.

To learn more about DRBA’s environmental education programs that reach 8,000 students throughout the Dan River basin annually and how to sign up for programs, visit [danriver.org](http://danriver.org).

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



# School Performance, Support Framework in VA Receives Federal Approval

Completing the final step for full implementation of Virginia’s School Performance and Support Framework, the United States Department of Education has approved the Virginia Department of Education’s amendments to Virginia’s consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). With the Biden Administration’s final approval of the Virginia State Board of Education’s accountability reforms, the School Performance and Support Framework regulatory process is now complete.

“We are pleased that this final agreement from the Biden Administration brings certainty to Virginia’s School Performance and Support Framework,” said President of the Virginia State Board of Education Grace Turner Creasey. “The federal approval of the meaningful accountability reforms we have implemented means the new Framework is fully in place and affirms our commitment to high expectations, transparency, and prioritizing resources to those students and schools most in need.

“We are especially grateful that the Biden Administration’s approval recognizes that changing the Framework mid-school year would have been especially disruptive to schools and students,” continued Creasey. “Having received this final federal approval, Virginia educators and families know the expectations set for their public schools and students remain in place and they can continue to work towards those goals without worry of the planning and preparations they have already completed being disregarded.”

Last year, following nearly a year of public hearings held across the Commonwealth, including 30 engagements bringing together more than 1,000 participants to discuss the proposed Framework, as well as multiple rounds of public review of the Framework and additional public comment periods, the Virginia Board of Education implemented the School Performance and Support Framework for Virginia schools. The Framework’s new accountability measures give parents, school leaders, and communities greater awareness of their schools’ performance through enhanced transparency and clear

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

Previously, Virginia operated under two different programs for school accountability. These unaligned programs—one state and one federal—created a disconnect on expectations for schools and students, presented parents and communities a muddled picture on a school’s performance, as well as forced school divisions to manage their school performance measures under two separate criteria. Under the School Performance and Support Framework, the State Board of Education has aligned Virginia’s state and federal accountability programs to create one set of clear and straightforward expectations for schools while eliminating the redundancy of school leaders having to manage under two disjointed programs. The Biden Administration’s approval of the Framework completes that transition to one aligned state and federal system.

Since the implementation of the Framework last year, VDOE has worked closely with school divisions and educators, providing trainings, sharing best practices, and publishing resources and plans to help educators and parents aid in their students’ success.

In November 2024, Governor Glenn Youngkin launched the Road to Readiness School Performance and Support Framework Resource Hub, a comprehensive online support center providing parents, students, educators, and communities with first-time access to preliminary data on school performance and information on the support mechanisms available to enhance student and school performance. Resources are continually added to the Hub to help assist parents and educators as they prepare their students for academic success.

In fall of 2025, results will be published for the 2024-25 school year, and parents, schools, and communities will gain deeper insight as to where their schools are seeing success, as well as the areas of focus needed for improvement of their school as well as schools throughout the Commonwealth.

# Clearing the myths: Simplifying SNAP benefits to fight senior hunger



**Trimmel Gomes**  
*Virginia News Connection*

Hunger doesn’t retire, yet millions of older Americans struggling to afford food may not realize help is within reach.

Misconceptions and stigma often prevent eligible seniors from accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the nation’s largest anti-hunger initiative.

However, with simplified application processes and renewed outreach efforts, advocates are working to break down these barriers and connect seniors with the support they need.

Norm Gold - a consultant with Feeding America and an AARP community ambassador - highlighted these challenges and the importance of outreach.

“If it’s too much of a pain for them to do it, they don’t,” said Gold. “Most seniors don’t want to have to deal with it, honestly, I’m one of them, I’ll be 70, and that’s just the way older people are. To make it easy, that’s why they’ve got the simplified application. That’s what’s made it much easier for them.”

A free webinar tomorrow aims to clear up myths and misconceptions

about SNAP benefits, and highlight how the program supports older adults struggling with food insecurity.

The event, titled “SNAP Food Benefit Myths, Rumors and Misconceptions,” begins at 1:30 p.m. and is open to everyone who registers at [events.aarp.org](https://events.aarp.org).

Brian Jacks is associate state director for community outreach at AARP Virginia. He emphasized the benefits of clearing out misconceptions to help encourage more seniors to apply.

“Number one, SNAP is not just for families with children,” said Jacks. “Any adult of any age who meets the income requirements is eligible. Secondly, your participation in SNAP will not take the benefit from anyone else who needs it.”

To encourage participation, AARP Virginia has worked with food banks and community ambassadors to conduct outreach through health fairs and festivals, distributing materials highlighting SNAP benefits.

People can call 211 to connect with local resources for direct assistance with accessing SNAP benefits.



# VA lawmakers aim to strengthen debt protections

**Trimmel Gomes**  
*Virginia News Connection*

As the Virginia General Assembly convenes, new legislation protecting working families from harsh debt collection practices is on the table.

With consumer debt at record levels and a recent report from the National Consumer Law Center giving Virginia a “D” rating for its debt exemption laws, advocates are calling for reforms to prevent more families from falling into poverty.

Jay Speer, executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center, explained Virginia’s current laws leave many vulnerable to devastating financial consequences.

“It just creates a really difficult situation when there are a lot of people in this boat,” Speer observed. “You have trouble paying one of your bills, and it goes to judgment. And then, if the laws don’t protect your assets, then you just basically get into a downward spiral, and you can’t get out of it.”

Virginia’s wage and bank account garnishment laws have long been criticized for pushing families deeper into poverty. While critics may argue such reforms could hinder creditors, one proposed bill from Del. Phil Her-

andez, D-Norfolk, seeks to protect a minimum of \$5,000 in family bank accounts from garnishment, ensuring families can cover essential costs like food, housing, and medical care. The General Assembly begins Wednesday.

Another bill by Del. Carrie Coyner, R-Hopewell, seeks to end Virginia’s unique policy of 100% wage liens for tax debts, which Speer argued harms individuals, particularly those without legal help.

“They can actually garnish your entire paycheck or put a lien on your paycheck and take 100%, while other creditors can only take 25% or less in the case of when you’re not paid very much,” Speer explained. “The tax debt can take 100%. So you can only imagine if you suddenly find out you’re not going to get any wages at all.”

Speer also pointed to Virginia’s homestead exemption, which allows homeowners to protect a portion of their property’s value from creditors, as another area where the state falls short. While legislation passed in 2024 increased the exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000, Speer contended it remains inadequate given today’s real estate market.

# New administration could help farmers by addressing meat industry monopolies

**Trimmel Gomes**  
*Virginia News Connection*

As inflation and falling crop prices continue to affect Virginia farmers, their advocates said the incoming Trump administration could take steps to reform the nation’s industrial agriculture system.

Ideas include ending foreign farmland ownership, blocking a U.S. Department of Agriculture rule mandating farmers use electronic ID tags on livestock and ending lobbying by global food corporations. The latest federal data show net farm income dropped by more than 4% this year, after declining by nearly 20% in 2023.

Joe Maxwell, chief strategy officer for Farm Action, said voters overwhelmingly support reforms to break up major corporations’ hold on the nation’s food system.

“Eighty-eight percent of rural voters in battleground states during this last election cycle say they would be more favorable toward a candidate who supports cracking down on meat-processing monopolies and ensuring local businesses can compete,” Maxwell reported.

Maxwell predicted food producers will likely be hit harder by President Donald Trump’s tariff plan. This month, Congress passed a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill, with \$10 billion in economic aid to farmers and temporary funding for federal

farm programs.

Chris Newman, cofounder of Blackbird Farms near Colonial Beach, views monopolies in meat processing as a critical issue. As a poultry integrator, he supports bringing back the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, which provided millions in grants to independent businesses before ending last year.

“That pumped a lot of money, I believe tens of millions of dollars, into the expansion and the creation of new, smaller and more regionally oriented meat processors,” Newman recounted. “There’d be more competition in these areas and so, more businesses like mine would be able to spin up and offer some competition to the big integrators like JBS, Smithfield, etc.”

Maxwell added a new Farm Bill would offer a chance to make major changes to benefit small farmers and consumers, and boost local supply chains.

“We believe with the current environment, it is reasonable to have the perfect opportunity to get both parties pushing for antitrust reform and action within the next two years,” Maxwell projected.

According to a Farm Action report, between 2017 and 2022, more than 140,000 farmers nationwide went out of business.

# Initial unemployment filings fall

According to Virginia Works, 1,468 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending December 28, 2024, which is 34.2 percent lower than last week’s 2,230 claims and 29.1 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,070).

Nearly 74 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (64 percent) were Manufacturing (174); Construction (168); Accommodation and Food Services (140); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (115); and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (82).

Continued weeks claims (15,712) were 2.4 percent lower than last week (16,104) and were 27.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,357). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-report-

ed an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,350); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (1,996); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,396); Manufacturing (1,353); and Retail Trade (1,166).

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.



# Prepare to file in 2025: Get Ready for tax season with key updates, essential tips

With the 2025 filing season quickly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service encouraged taxpayers to take key steps now to prepare for filing their 2024 federal income tax returns next year.

The IRS continues to improve taxpayer services to help people prepare for tax season with more digital tools and options available. The IRS encourages taxpayers to sign up now for an IRS Online Account to make tax season easier and help safeguard their tax information.

There are a number of things taxpayers can do to get ready as the end of 2024 nears and the start of the 2025 tax season approaches.

The IRS’s Get Ready page on IRS.gov offers practical tips and resources to help taxpayers prepare. It highlights key updates and important steps for taxpayers to consider to make tax filing easier in 2025.

This reminder is part of a series designed to help taxpayers “Get Ready” for the upcoming filing season. Taking action now can reduce stress and ensure a smoother filing process next year.

## Do more with an IRS Online Account

Individuals can create or access their IRS Online Account at Online account for individuals. With an IRS Online Account, they can:

- View key details from their most recent tax return, such as adjusted gross income.
- Request an Identity Protection PIN.
- Get account transcripts to include wage and income records.
- Sign tax forms like powers of attorney or tax information authorizations.
- View and edit language preferences and alternative media.
- Receive and view over 200 IRS electronic notices.
- View, make and cancel payments.
- Set up or change payment plans and check their balance.
- Get an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN)

An IP PIN is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a federal tax return using an individual’s Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. It’s a vital tool for ensuring the safety of taxpayers’ personal and financial information.

New for the 2025 filing season, the IRS will accept Forms 1040, 1040-NR and 1040-SS even if a de-

pendent has already been claimed on a previously filed return, as long as the primary taxpayer on the second return includes a valid IP PIN. This change will reduce the time for the agency to receive the tax return and accelerate the issuance of tax refunds for those with duplicate dependent returns.

The best way to sign up for an IP PIN is through the IRS Online Account. If an individual is unable to create an Online Account, alternative methods are available, such as in-person authentication at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. More information is available on how to sign up at Get an identity protection PIN (IP PIN).

## Deadline for 2024 last quarterly estimated payment is Jan. 15, 2025

Taxpayers with non-wage income—such as unemployment benefits, self-employment income, annuity payments or earnings from digital assets—may need to make estimated or additional tax payments. The Tax Withholding Estimator on IRS.gov can help wage earners determine if they need to make an additional payment to avoid an unexpected tax bill when filing their return.

**1099-K reporting changes**  
Taxpayers who received more than \$5,000 in payments for goods and services through an online marketplace or payment app in 2024 should expect to receive a Form 1099-K in January 2025. A copy of this form will be sent to the IRS as well.

Although the IRS is taking a phased in approach to implementation of the Form 1099-K reporting threshold, there have been no changes to the taxability of income. All income, including proceeds from part-time work, side jobs or the sale of goods and services is taxable. Taxpayers must report all income on their tax return unless it’s excluded by law, whether they receive a Form 1099-K or not. The law doesn’t allow taxpayers to avoid taxes on income earned just because they didn’t get a form reporting the payments received.

It is important for taxpayers to understand why they received a Form 1099-K and how to use it along with their other records to figure and report the correct amount of income on their tax return. It is also important for taxpayers to know what to do if they received a Form 1099-K but shouldn’t have. In either situation, good recordkeeping is key. Having good records will help make tax filing easier.

## Prepare to include digital assets on taxes in 2025

Just like previous filing years, taxpayers must report all digital asset-related income when they file their 2024 federal income tax return. A digital asset is property that is stored electronically and can be bought, sold, owned, transferred or traded. Examples include convertible virtual currencies and cryptocurrencies, stablecoins and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

If a taxpayer had digital asset transactions last year, they should be sure to keep records that prove their purchase, receipt, sale, exchange or any other disposition of the digital assets and that includes the fair market value, as measured in U.S. dollars of all digital assets received as income or as a payment in the ordinary course of a trade or business.

When filing 2024 federal income tax returns, taxpayers will be asked to answer “Yes” or “No” to the following question:

“At any time during the tax year, did you:

- (a) receive (as a reward, award or payment for property or services); or
- (b) sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of a digital asset (or a financial interest in a digital asset)?”

Taxpayers should be prepared to answer the question by reviewing the digital assets landing page and FAQ available on IRS.gov. In addition to checking the “Yes” box, taxpayers must report all income related to their digital asset transactions. Information on how to report digital asset transactions, including calculating capital gain or loss, determining basis and reporting the income on the correct form can also be found on the digital assets landing page.

## Understand refund timing and how to avoid delays

Several factors can influence the timing of a refund after the IRS receives a tax return. While the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, taxpayers are advised not to depend on receiving a 2024 federal tax refund by a specific date for major purchases or bill payments. Some returns may require additional review and take longer to process if there are possible errors, missing information, or indications of identity theft or fraud.

Additionally, under the PATH Act, the IRS cannot issue refunds for tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. The IRS must hold the entire refund—not just the portion associated with these credits—until the review is complete.

## Gather and organize 2024 tax

## documents

To make tax time easier, taxpayers should establish an effective record-keeping system, either electronic or paper, to organize all important documents in one place. This includes year-end income forms such as Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks or other payers, Forms 1099-K from third-party payment networks, Forms 1099-NEC for nonemployee compensation, Forms 1099-MISC for miscellaneous income, Forms 1099-INT for interest income and records of all digital asset transactions.

Having all necessary documentation ensures taxpayers can file an accurate return and reduces the likelihood of processing delays or refund issues.

## Use direct deposit for a faster refund

Filing electronically and selecting direct deposit remains the fastest and safest way for taxpayers to receive their 2024 tax refunds. Direct deposit ensures quicker access to refunds compared to receiving a paper check.

For those without a bank account, resources are available to help. Individuals can learn how to open an account at an FDIC-insured bank or use the national Credit Union Locator tool. Veterans can explore the Veterans Benefits Banking Program for financial services at participating banks.

Tax refunds can also be deposited onto prepaid debit cards or through mobile payment apps, provided they have routing and account numbers. Taxpayers should confirm with the mobile app provider or financial institution which numbers to use when completing their tax return.

## Free filing options

Seventy percent of all taxpayers can use free brand name tax software to prepare and file their federal income tax return electronically using IRS Free File. All taxpayers, regardless of income level, can also use IRS Free File Fillable Forms.

Taxpayers living in participating states with relatively simple tax returns can use Direct File and file their tax return online directly with the IRS. The Direct File program is another option for taxpayers to file their taxes. Taxpayers can see if they are eligible for Direct File.

Older adults, members of the military and many other taxpayers—depending on their income—may also qualify for free tax return preparation and electronic filing by IRS-trained volunteers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

# LNG report sparks calls for change amid rising costs, environmental concerns

**Trimmel Gomes**  
*Virginia News Connection*

The Department of Energy is taking a close look at the economic and environmental impacts of liquefied natural gas exports, which some experts argue are driving up household energy costs and worsening climate challenges.

The report comes as LNG export projects rapidly expand, with U.S. demand at record levels and expected to grow as new facilities open.

In Virginia, household natural-gas bills have increased 50% since 2016, far outpacing inflation, said Jeremy Symons, principal at Symons Public Affairs. He attributed the increase to growing LNG exports, which limit domestic supply and drive energy costs.

“A single LNG plant - the controversial CP2 facility that’s being proposed for Louisiana - would export



twice as much gas every day than Virginia consumes,” he said. “That means that, even though it’s happening on the other side of the country, it drives up energy prices across the country.”

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund has gathered more than 5,000 signatures urging the Biden administration to pause LNG export licenses until a full re-

view is completed.

Supporters of these exports argue that expanding infrastructure bolsters U.S. energy independence and strengthens global energy markets.

Symons encouraged the public to use the 60-day comment period to ensure that affected communities are heard.

Quentin Scott, federal policy director for the Chesapeake Climate

Action Network Action Fund, emphasized the environmental risks and called on the Biden administration to act decisively.

“Secretary [Jennifer] Granholm said it in her own words,” he said, “that continuing to export LNG at the scale and the trajectory in which the United States has been exporting LNG over the last few years is unsustainable and not good for consumers, not good for businesses, not good for our environmental and climate goals.”

As Virginia faces rising costs and environmental pressures, the debate over LNG exports has become more urgent. Scott said he hopes the Department of Energy’s findings and public comment period will bring attention to the local and national implications of America’s growing liquefied natural-gas industry.

# Matching grants now available to Virginia dam owners

Owners of the commonwealth’s more than 2,500 regulated dams may now apply for matching grants from the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund.

A total of \$5 million is available for dam safety projects.

The fund is managed by the Virginia Resources Authority on behalf of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

“These grants will assist dam owners to take necessary steps to safeguard lives, property, and increase local communities’ flood resilience. Dam safety is key to protecting public safety and we encourage all eligible dam owners to apply,” said DCR Director Matthew Wells.

Dam owners in Virginia are responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of their dams. In the event of a failure, dam owners are responsible for any downstream damage.

All grants are reimbursements and require a 50% match. The maximum amount per grant will be determined based on amounts requested for eligible projects, application scores and available funds.

Requests must be submitted by 4 p.m., Feb. 28, 2025.

Grants are offered to local government or privately owned dams across three project type categories:

Type 1 projects: Unknown hazard dams: up

to \$1 million is available for initial engineering studies for dams with Unknown Hazard classifications.

For the following two categories, a total of \$4 million in matching funds are available:

Type 2 projects: plans, specifications, engineering studies and instrumentation

Type 3 projects: dam repairs, safety modifications or removal

Go to [www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dam-safety-funding](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dam-safety-funding) to download the grant manual.

For more information, contact your regional dam safety engineer or email [dam@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcv.virginia.gov).



# Musical program to be held Sunday

Because of snow last weekend, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society’s Christmas Music Program has been postponed to Sunday, Jan. 12, at 3 p.m. Admission is free. The program will be held at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Performers will be:

- Briana Tatum, accompanied by Baxter Jennings, with “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel”
- Amy Stuart, accompanied by John Fulcher, with “In the Bleak Midwinter”
- The For Heaven’s Sake Trio (Linda Via, JoAnn Byrd and Virginia Young) with “Rejoice,” “With Exceeding Great Joy” and “Call Him Lord”
- Gale Buck with “Christmas Medley”
- Dylan Chappell with “Silent Night” and, accompanied by Lynn Pritchett, “Go Tell It On The Mountain”
- Valeria Edwards
- John Fulcher and Baxter Jennings with “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” and “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”
- Jo Ann Linscott with “Winter Wonderland” and “A Time For Love”
- Lynn Pritchett and Virginia King, accompanied by Ann Martin, with “We Three Kings,” “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”

# Historical Society to celebrate civic groups at Founders Day



The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will celebrate civic groups at Founders Day on Sunday, January 19, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse. The Keynote Speaker will be Joyce Staples who will speak on the importance and significance of civic duty based upon the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. A retired English professor of Patrick & Henry Community College, she serves as board chair of the Fayette Area Historical Initiative and board secretary of the Trinity Presbyterian Church Foundation. She is a member of the Boards of Directors of the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation and Grace Network. She is a member of the Martinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is a past president of Piedmont Arts.

Staples will be followed by the following Distinguished Speakers:

- Martha Woody, Past President, Altrusa International of Martinsville and Henry County
- Brittany Scott, President, Charity League of Martinsville & Henry County
- Ralph Lawson, Past President, Martinsville Exchange Club
- Graves Anthony, Member, Bassett Kiwanis Club
- Lori Floyd, President, Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club
- Brad Kinkema, President, Martinsville-Henry County Rotary Club
- Charlie Bowman, District Secretary, Ruritan National

Participating civic groups will



Joyce Staples

have informational tables with artifacts and membership information following the presentation. Former and present members are encouraged to attend and wear or bring organization mementos.

“The Historical Society celebrates annually those who helped to create and sustain our area on Founders Day,” said John Phillips, Historical Society president. “This year we recognize those serving our community. Joyce Staples will first provide a lesson on why we should serve, followed by presentations by those actually serving.”

Admission to Founders Day is free. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum will be open following the presentation.

# Feedback sought by VDOE on draft overdose response guidelines

To help ensure that parents are notified by their child’s school division in the occurrence of a school-related overdose, the Virginia Department of Education is offering a series of feedback sessions for parents, educators, and community members to share their thoughts on the Virginia Board of Education’s newly proposed School-Connected Overdose Response and Notification Guidelines to help local school divisions develop effective action plans for school-connected overdoses and timely parental notification.

The proposed guidelines build upon Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s Executive Order 28, issued in October 2023, which mandated that schools notify parents within 24 hours of any school-connected overdose. The executive order followed nine opioid-related overdoses in Loudoun County schools. Final parental notification guidance for school divisions was released by the VDOE in February 2024. Senate Bill 498, passed by the General Assembly in 2024, further required the Virginia Board of Education to create comprehensive guidelines addressing overdose response and notification.

Virtual Feedback Sessions An-

nounced

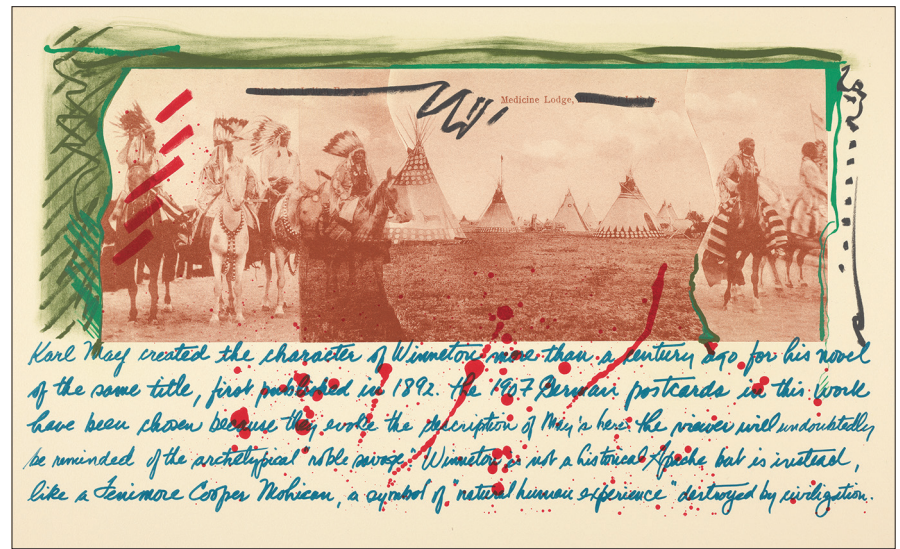
To ensure public involvement in shaping these policies, the VDOE is hosting three virtual feedback sessions:

- Thursday, January 9, 2025 — 5:30-7 p.m.
- Monday, January 13, 2025 — 5:30-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025 — 5:30-7 p.m.

Participants must register to attend or speak at these sessions via Zoom. Feedback can also be submitted through an online public comment form.

These sessions provide an opportunity for community members to express their expectations and concerns regarding the guidelines and to contribute to the policies that will shape how schools respond to and communicate about overdoses.

Those interested in participating in the virtual sessions or sharing feedback on the guidelines can visit the VDOE’s Substance Use and Overdose webpage at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/parents-students/parent-resources/substance-use-and-overdose> for registration and additional resources.



Medicine Lodge, 1997, Robert Houle (Saulteaux Anishinaabe, Sandy Bay First Nation, born 1947), lithograph. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Funds provided by Margaret A. and C. Boyd Clarke and Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund, 2020.158

# New exhibits at Piedmont Arts feature Native American works on paper, photos

Piedmont Arts will host an opening reception in honor of its new exhibits from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24, at the museum.

“Words Matter: Contemporary Native American Works on Paper” underscores the richness and diversity of the contemporary Indigenous experience told through the medium of printmaking. The works are linked by the belief that words have immeasurable power, particularly when reckoning with how written language has been weaponized against Indigenous people throughout the history of the Americas.

The exhibit introduces several contemporary Native American artists, including Rick Bartow (Wiyot), Demian Diné Yazhi (Diné/Navajo), Marie Watt (Seneca), Larry McNeil (Tlingit), and others. All artists represented in the exhibition have chosen to incorporate text into their images, using the language of the colonizers of their land to tell their own stories. In this way, words play a powerful role in reclaiming a lost history and adding to the incomplete American narrative. In doing so, they also offer messages of hope, humor and resilience.

Accompanying the exhibit is a display of work by Indigenous comic book artists, writers and illustrators titled “Untold History.” These exhibits were organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

“Bjørn Sterri: Family Photo-

graphs, 2001-2015” is comprised of 14 framed photographs by the Norwegian artist. From 2001 to 2023, Sterri photographed his wife Alejandra and their sons Jens Linus and Pablo to create an achingly beautiful chronicle of connection, change and growth. Drawn from the first fifteen years of this work, the exhibit conveys the emotional complexity of the passage from childhood to adulthood, the challenges and joys of partnership and parenthood, and the tension between individual identity and family structure. This exhibit was organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

“Creating Memories Through Glass and Art” featuring stained and fused glass works by Steve Eanes will be on display in the Lynwood Artists Gallery.

The opening reception is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. Music by Joanie McPeak. A gallery talk will be held at 6:15 p.m. RSVP required by Jan. 21 to (276) 632-3221 or at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

Exhibits will be on display Jan. 25-March 15. Exhibit admission is always free.

Exhibits and reception sponsored by Olivia and Pres Garrett, Ben Gravely, Shana and Japhet LeGrant, Lynwood Artists, and Barbara and Guy Stanley.

For more information on exhibits and events, visit [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

# Regional council welcomes three newcomers



The GO Virginia Region 3 Council has welcomed three new members: Elizabeth Leggett, Vice President, Leggett Town and Country; Ilsa Loeser, Founder and Owner of Letterpress Communications; and Kelly Lanier-Arnold, Senior Program Manager, Microsoft.

Leggett has co-run Leggett Town and Country since 2002 and also boasts 20 years’ teaching experience in Danville Public Schools. A member of the Danville School Board, she earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and government from the University of Richmond and her master’s degree in education from University of Virginia.

Loeser founded Letterpress Communications in 2015 and has also served on numerous local boards, including the Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce, Farmville Downtown Partnership and Longwood Center for Visual Arts. A former journalist and 2012 graduate of Longwood University, Loeser is currently pursuing her MBA at Duke University.

Lanier-Arnold has served as senior program manager at Microsoft since 2021, following nearly two decades as a faculty member



and apprenticeship coordinator at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville. Among her roles at Microsoft, she drives community engagement programs with data center regions and oversees workforce development training programs.

As members of the Region 3 Council, Leggett, Loeser and Lanier-Arnold join a team composed of community leaders from throughout the region. The group represents a broad network of business leaders, educational institutions, economic developers, and government-elected officials and staff, and is charged with guiding Region 3’s vision and priorities.

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



# Culture, learning all the rage on international trips

**Zamone Perez**  
*Virginia News Connection*

Travel agencies say Americans are still embracing overseas trips, including destinations where the itinerary is loaded with learning opportunities about local culture. There are tips for Virginians on where to book and how to stretch their dollar. Those who help consumers plan their vacations report a strong appetite for experiences where cultural immersion is the main attraction.

Brittany Duffy, travel expert at EF Go Ahead Tours, said it might

mean going off the beaten path more in towns and villages, as opposed to sticking with the common tourist sites in the heart of a major city across the globe.

“Not just checking a trip off their list, but really becoming more connected and seeking that personal growth opportunity and having those unforgettable moments,” Duffy explained.

She pointed out guided tours, in places like Latin America and Scandinavia, can bring you to under-the-radar spots, like family-run farms serving dinner. Com-



## VMNH, local naturalist and caving groups create a special ‘Education Station’

The Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists and the Virginia Museum of Natural History, (VMNH) have collaborated to create a spectacular finale for all ages at the closing of the Masters of the Night bat exhibit, to be held at the museum on Saturday, January 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 11 will be the last day to visit the museum’s temporary bat exhibit, which explores bats from around the world. There are many interactive stations such as an opportunity to experience bat senses of hearing and touch, as well as various bat skull replicas.

The January 11 “Education Station” will feature a presentation on Virginia native bats by the Southwestern Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists, an introduction to the wonders of caving by the Blue Ridge Grotto caving group and a special presentation at 1 p.m. by Rick Reynolds, Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) non-game biologist, entitled, Bats of Virginia: Changing Times and Challenging Issues. Families can also try to solve a scavenger hunt and help complete a bat mural.

“The addition of the Education Station experience represents an expanded partnership between the Southwestern Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalist Chapter

and the VMNH” said Christine Stewart, Education Station project leader with the Southwestern Piedmont Chapter. Stewart added, “the stations will allow naturalist volunteers to educate the public about various Virginia native plants and animals and their environments. They will also highlight specimens from the museum’s collections that are rarely on display as well as some never-before-seen specimens from the museum’s archives.”

Plans are to make the Education Station an ongoing feature held on one or two Saturdays a month. Upcoming Education Station topics include Black Bears in Virginia on January 18, with more to be announced soon.

The museum is located at 21 Starling Avenue, in Martinsville. Check its website for more information to plan your visit: <https://www.vmnh.net/plan-your-visit>.

For information about the local chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists contact Stewart at [stonegarden1306@gmail.com](mailto:stonegarden1306@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwesternPiedmontMasterNaturalists/>.

For more information about the Virginia Museum of Natural History or the Education Station series, contact Marshall Boyd, Research and Collections, at [marshall.boyd@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:marshall.boyd@vmnh.virginia.gov) or (276) 403-8525.

panies like EF Go Ahead Tours have flexible financing requiring a small deposit, with additional interest-free payments spread out well in advance of your trip.

Virginia ranks tenth in the country for its rate of passport holders, tied with Utah and Florida.

Duffy emphasized timing is another key tool in keeping vacations budget-friendly and accessible.

“Considering traveling in the shoulder season, April, May, October, November,” Duffy advised. “You still see really pleasant weather but you got smaller

crowds and lower prices.”

Research firms say younger adults are increasingly booking vacations, including solo trips, while older adults said travel is becoming too expensive. But baby boomers are still open to flying elsewhere if they can find value, such as doing so during off-peak seasons.

Experts said lower costs should not come at the expense of personal safety. One example would be using public transportation late at night in unfamiliar areas. They said calling a taxi is better in such situations.

Be sure to like the  
Henry County Enterprise  
on Facebook

# Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:  
[www.norrismemorialservices.com](http://www.norrismemorialservices.com)

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.  
Martinsville, VA,  
276-638-2778

# SPECTRUM MEDICAL

## Meet Our Providers

**DR. RAMON RUBERTE THIELE**  
*Total Joint Surgeon Specializing In Hips & Knees*

## The full SPECTRUM of Musculoskeletal services in an integrated system... offering the FUTURE of Healthcare today.

- ORTHOPEDICS
- RHEUMATOLOGY
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- FAMILY MEDICINE
- SPINE CARE
- CLINICAL RESEARCH
- SPORTS MEDICINE OUTREACH
- PHYSICAL THERAPY

# SAME DAY X-RAYS

- ORTHOPEDIC WALK-INS ACCEPTED
- SHORTER WAIT TIMES
- CASH PAY OPTION AVAILABLE

# NO REFERRAL NEEDED

UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE

## 2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

### DANVILLE

109 Bridge Street • 4th Floor  
434-793-4711

### MARTINSVILLE

1075 Spruce Street  
276-790-3233

MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM