





# Protesters

(cont. from page 1)

ing how many things we are deeply concerned about, especially for this area where we are over 25 percent living in poverty. For them to take away anything from us is devastating, especially for our children. I think we need to just keep standing up,” said Cartwright. She called Trump’s action “unconstitutional”. “We need our representatives to back us and keep on sending him to court.”

Callie Hietala, communications and public outreach coordinator for Martinsville City Schools, echoed those concerns. She said that Trump’s administration had undermined trust in democracy, including science, facts, and the electoral system. Hietala warned that dismantling federal education programs could have serious consequences for students in Title

I schools, which serve a high percentage of low-income families.

Concerned that Trump is “dismantling” democracy with his actions, Hietala called on “our officials (to) protect us a little bit more. Dismantling the federal branch of education can have significant impacts to our kids in our community,” she said.

Liz Lynch, a STEM teacher at Patrick Henry Elementary School, highlighted the importance of robotics education and workforce preparation. She worried that eliminating funding for STEM programs could hinder students’ future job prospects.

Lynch helps to teach children about robotics, an industry that has a growing need in the workforce. “We push our kids to be the best in robotics.”

# Refuse Ordinance

(cont. from page 1)

Maggard provided an overview of the ordinance, including updates to legal penalties, which have been downgraded to a Class 3 misdemeanor. He emphasized that the ordinance is about more than just uptown dumpsters. “It’s more than just the uptown piece, it’s more that will affect the city residents as a whole.”

Maggard presented cost estimates for the program, noting that the current weekly expense is \$5,000, with a shortfall of approximately \$2,000. He also said that under the proposed plan, no resident or business would need to walk more than half a city block to reach their assigned dumpster.

Council Member Aaron Rawls noted the ordinance would affect fewer than 100 businesses within the five-day collection radius. Many businesses share waste collection accounts due to being located in multi-unit buildings.

“You may have 20 businesses in there, but they don’t have 20 different accounts,” Rawls explained, with Maggard estimating there are approximately 78 individual accounts in the uptown area.

Commission Chairman Joseph Martin echoed concerns raised by residents during the public hear-

ing, including issues related to disability access, pest attraction, overflow, and fairness.

Martin suggested a hybrid approach that would reduce trash pickup from five to three days a week while maintaining strategically placed dumpsters in the uptown area. He also recommended a six-month trial period to assess the effectiveness of the program and allow for adjustments.

Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson asked for clarification. “Is it your recommendation that we do have dumpsters for people who want to use them?” Martin responded that some businesses have expressed support for the dumpster program.

Lawson emphasized the city’s role in supporting businesses.

Rawls raised concerns about the city’s ongoing litter issues, presenting a photo showing cardboard and trash scattered across uptown streets.

“The current trash issue is not a flattering look,” he said, adding that dumpsters would help contain waste and prevent it from being blown around.

Martin acknowledged the concern but noted that windy days would still result in litter escaping from dumpsters and recycling

If the Department of Education is dismantled it will affect students with special needs, STEM education, and all types of “crucial funding for students,” Hackenberg said, adding that deportation threats have affected his students and raised concerns about the impact of immigration policies on local students.

He recalled incidents during Trump’s first term when some of his students left the country out of fear. One parent reportedly declined to travel for an academic competition near Washington, D.C., due to concerns about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Hackenberg described recent deportation policies as “indiscriminate arrests” and pointed to legal protections, such as the Family

bins.

The discussion also covered challenges in waste collection staffing, with officials noting that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find workers willing to ride on the back of garbage trucks.

Commission member Jonathan Martin suggested that the city should focus on accommodating businesses and residents to ensure compliance. Nelson Evans, another commission member, raised concerns about the impact of the plan on residents with disabilities who may struggle to transport their trash to designated areas.

“I put my trash cans on the sidewalk in front of my house, I can see that being an issue,” Evans said.

Riggs Roberson, vice chairman of the commission, supported a hybrid approach, stating, “I’m never in favor of fewer options.”

Roberson also raised issues with residential waste pickup, citing his own experience with overflowing trash cans and having to use additional contractor bags.

Maggard acknowledged the problem and expressed openness to finding solutions. “You are not alone, there are others that produce a lot.”

Lawson added that overflowing

Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prevent schools from disclosing students’ immigration status. He stressed that all children have a right to an education without fear.

Cartwright encouraged residents to stay engaged, emphasizing the importance of state representation in shaping policies. She criticized Republican Del. Phillip Phillips, stating that his effectiveness as a lawmaker had been limited. If power over education and immigration policy shifts back to the states, she argued, having strong advocates in state government will be crucial.

Protesters said they hope their demonstration will inspire more people to speak out on issues affecting education, immigration, and government accountability.

trash is only an issue if left uncollected for several days.

The council and commission also discussed strategies for reducing littering across the city. City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides suggested implementing a trial period with strategically placed dumpsters and exploring options such as validated valet trash services for residents who do not use city waste collection services.

Littering remains a persistent issue in several areas of the city, including Oakdale Street. Rawls voiced frustration over the lack of enforcement. “I think that the only thing that’s unacceptable for me is that you can keep on littering and trashing our community.”

Mayor LC Jones reminded residents that they have the right to file a criminal complaint against littering offenders. However, Rawls said many police officers hesitate to issue citations and called for stronger enforcement of litter laws.

The refuse ordinance remains under review, with city officials working to refine the proposal based on community feedback. A trial period and further adjustments may be implemented before a final decision is made.

# Renovations

(cont. from page 1)

volves renovating restrooms near the Summerlin Room, where many county board meetings are held. These restrooms were identified as a priority due to their frequent public use.

The narrow layout of the existing bathrooms made wheelchair access difficult, requiring a complete redesign to ensure compliance with ADA regulations.

Daniel Builders of Danville is handling the renovations, which are expected to take a few months to complete at a cost of \$198,500.

“It is moving pretty quickly, I think that they plan to have it done here in the next couple of months,” Martin said.

Once work on the first-floor restrooms is complete, the county will begin renovations on the second floor, and continue upgrading additional bathrooms throughout the building.

Despite the temporary closure of restrooms near the Summerlin Room, Martin said that most meetings will continue to be held in the Administration Building throughout the renovation process.

cess.

“They will do them (renovations) in a rotating fashion. So, there will be some that are operational at least through the entire project period,” he said, noting that officials aim to minimize disruptions.

The restroom renovations are part of a broader series of updates aimed at modernizing the Administration Building. One of the most noticeable changes was the removal of the counter at the building’s entrance, which was once used to greet visitors and direct them to different departments. The area has now been converted into a lounge space with reading materials.

In addition to accessibility improvements, the county is also replacing outdated lighting throughout the building with energy-efficient LED alternatives to help reduce electricity costs.

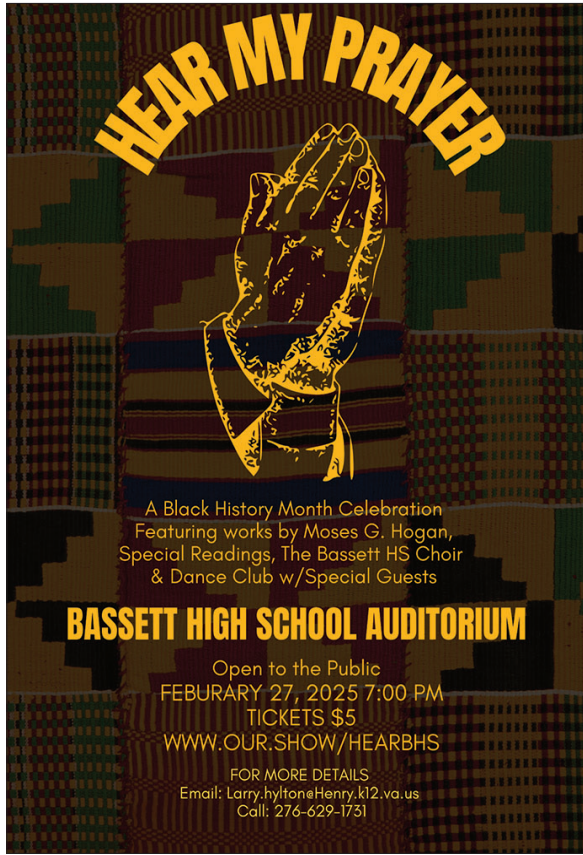
Martin acknowledged that maintaining the county’s administrative headquarters while addressing countywide needs is a balancing act, but assured residents that the county is committed to

steady progress.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” Martin said. “We have to balance what’s going on here at the administration building with the needs of the entire county.”

He added that officials will continue to “plug away” at the updates to ensure the best possible service for citizens.

## Black History Month Observance to be held at BHS



A Black History Month Celebration  
Featuring works by Moses G. Hogan,  
Special Readings, The Bassett HS Choir  
& Dance Club w/Special Guests

**BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Open to the Public  
FEBURARY 27, 2025 7:00 PM  
TICKETS \$5  
[WWW.OUR.SHOW/HEARBHS](http://WWW.OUR.SHOW/HEARBHS)

FOR MORE DETAILS  
Email: [Larry.hylton@Henry.k12.va.us](mailto:Larry.hylton@Henry.k12.va.us)  
Call: 276-629-1731

The first ever Black History Month Observance will be held at Bassett High School at 7 p.m., on Thursday, February 27.

Garrett Dillard will serve as the guest speaker, and Ben Gravely is one of the readers. Dillard serves on the Henry County Board of Supervisors; Gravely is a member of the Henry County School Board.

The choir will perform works by Moses Hogan. The writings of WEB DuBois, Harry T. Burleigh and others will be featured.

Tickets are \$5, and available at [www.ourshow/hearbhs](http://www.ourshow/hearbhs).

For more information, email [Larry.hylton@Henry.k12.va.us](mailto:Larry.hylton@Henry.k12.va.us) or call (276) 629-1731.

# Homicide

(cont. from page 1)



Jahil Arman Martin was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the 2023 shooting death of Nyjeon Brandon.

ville investigators were on-site in Greensboro when Martin was taken into custody.

“Unfortunately, this hasn’t been an easy case. It’s been very complex. We’re not finished with it and will continue up through the trial,” Fincher said. “We have been in touch with family members, particularly the mother of the victim, to let them know what has developed and what has taken place.”

The complexity of the case contributed to the length of the

investigation. Fincher said and explained that key pieces of evidence needed forensic analysis before authorities could move forward with an arrest.

The shooting, which Fincher described as a “more of a drive-beside” attack, took place “between two cars as they were traveling up the road.”

A second person also was injured during the incident, which was captured by traffic cameras. A video of the incident will be released at the trial, Fincher said and alleged other individuals present at the scene were uncooperative with the police, further delaying the case.

“That’s been one of the challenges, but it’s not one that we haven’t been able to overcome,” Fincher said.

He also alleged there were efforts to conceal evidence, though the motivation remains unclear. The attack occurred at 2:25 a.m. and was captured on traffic camera footage.

Authorities believe multiple individuals were involved in the case, and additional arrests are expected.

The chief alleged “some of the persons that were with the victim at the time it occurred, were involved in criminal activity as well.”

Fincher characterized the homicide as an “outright execution.” He alleged that it was premeditated and that Brandon was the intended target. He emphasized that his department remains committed to seeking justice for the victim’s family.

“Our heart goes out to (Brandon’s mother) and all of the family members,” Fincher said, noting that the arrest is “a relief, but we also know that we have more work to do.” He emphasized that Tuesday’s arrest “is likely not going to be the only arrest in this case. How quickly that occurs depends on the evidence that comes forth.”

Anyone with information about the case is encouraged to contact Barrow at (276) 403-5458 or Martinsville-Henry County Crime Stoppers at (276) 632-7463. Crime Stoppers allows anonymous tips and offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest.



# 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

**Monday, February 24**  
PSA Board of Directors Regular Meeting, 6 p.m., Henry County Administration Building 4th Floor Conference Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

**Tuesday, February 25**  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, 3 and 6 p.m., Henry County Admin Building Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Henry County School Board will hold a Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors, 5 p.m., followed by Closed Session, 3rd floor Henry County Administration Building.

**Monday, March 3**  
Vendor meeting for the 2025 season of Monday Market at Fairy Stone on Monday, 1 p.m., at Fayerdale Hall in Fairy Stone State Park. All interested vendors are invited to attend.

Economic Development Authority Meeting, 4 p.m., Gardner Board Room, New College Institute, Floor 3, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

## Events

**Tuesday, February 25**  
MHC Lancers (Longwood University) Alumni will celebrate Love Your Longwood Day, 5-7 p.m. at Ground Floor in Martinsville. All Alumni are welcome. Email Melody Margrave @ [mmargrave@yahoo.com](mailto:mmargrave@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Wednesday, February 26**  
Culture and Soul Expo: African Americans and Labor, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., TAD Space, 20 East Church St Martinsville.

Nuisance Ordinance Lunch & Learn, 12 p.m., New College Institute, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

**Saturday, March 1**  
Wild Game Supper, 5 p.m., Stone Memorial Christian Church, variety of food options available, including chicken and vegetables. Donations appreciated; earmarked for hurricane victims in N.C. and Tenn.

Storytime at Spencer-Penn, 10 a.m., program includes special readers, crafts, and other fun activities. Registration is not needed.

**Tuesday, March 4**  
Fast Track Trade Show V.I.P. Business Night, 4-8 p.m., Clock Tower at Commonwealth Centre, 300 Franklin St., Martinsville.

**Wednesday, March 5**  
Fast Track Trade Show, 4-7 p.m., open to the public, Clock Tower at Commonwealth Centre, 300 Franklin St., Martinsville.

**Friday, March 7**  
Under The Big Top, 7 p.m., Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave, Martinsville.

**Tuesday, March 11**  
On Tuesday, March 11, at 10:30am, Debbie Youngman will present a program about her new book, “The True Story of The Christian Cat and the Distillery Dog”, a story about a unique friendship between a very unlikely pair. This program which is free and open to the public will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. Books will be available for purchase from the author for \$15.00.

## ONGOING

**Through April 7**  
Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change (formerly known as Kwik Lube) locations at 700 Liberty St., Martinsville, and 6518 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway, are accepting monetary donations to support local school teachers in need of supplies, technology, snacks, etc. The goal is to raise \$50,000 that will be evenly distributed between school divisions in Henry County and Martinsville.

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, Mondays 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, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, hosts breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month, \$9 for adults, and \$4 for children under 12. All you can eat, sausage, fried bologna, eggs, cooked apples, sausage gravy, 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.

Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

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.

# Charter

(cont. from page 1)



Members of Martinsville City Council at the February 18 meeting. The next city council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 25, when members will vote on the formal resolution establishing the Charter Review Committee and hear updates on other city matters.

version conversation, and just killing that conversation all together. The reason we’re doing this committee is because we haven’t had any major changes to our charter since probably the ‘50s... We’re just looking at an overhaul and giving citizens the opportunity to kind of look at this thing, and I think we put together a good group,” Jones said.

Ferrell-Benavides added more information about the committee’s task. “We’ll be working not just to go through and look at the entire charter, but also working with the subcomponents of it because it’s not just a city function, there are constitution officers, and we’ll be working with them. We do have at least one representative of our constitutional group on that,” Ferrell-Benavides said.

She added that the City of Danville recently used a similar process and revamped their city charter. “This is a great opportunity. The City of Danville just completed a similar exercise and did a full revamp of their entire charter. We’ve gone with small changes, but we feel this is a very big lift,” Ferrell-Benavides said.

A full description of the committee’s duties will be presented alongside the formal resolution at the Feb. 25 meeting.

In other matters, the council:

- \*Heard a presentation and considered a request from Brad Kinkema, CEO of the Martinsville YMCA. He requested \$500,000 from the city to support the development of a splash pad at the upcoming Lester Family Martinsville-Henry County YMCA facility. The planned facil-

ity will feature indoor and outdoor recreational spaces, rental areas for events, and an early learning center.

Kinkema emphasized the splash pad as a key feature of the project and noted that it aligns with recommendations from the city’s Parks and Recreation Study.

“One of the key features is the splash pad. We’re very excited about that, I know the city’s excited about that because that was one of the things that was in your Parks Study. It was the number one thing, I believe,” Kinkema said.

He also requested \$500,000 from Henry County for the project, calling it a cost-effective investment compared to building a separate facility, which could cost up to \$2 million.

“I think it’s a great joint venture for the municipalities and the YMCA,” Kinkema said.

- \* Adopted Rules of Council as presented by Nibblett. Ferrell-Benavides stated that the city did not previously have governance documents or rules of the council. “We were provided with examples from other communities throughout Virginia and as we started this process, we discovered that we really needed to look at the legislative pieces of it and make sure that they were consistent,” she said.

Most city organizations adopt their rules on an annual basis, and the documents have the flexibility to be changed and adapted as laws and standards change.

Nibblett stated that the intention of the documents is just to act as a guideline. “These are supposed



Martinsville Police Deputy Chief Chad Rhoads discussed the coyote problem in the city.

to set operation rules and establish policies for the council. They’re really meant to be kind of a guidebook or reference point, especially for new oncoming council,” Nibblett said.

The document will be made available on the city website.

- \* Heard concerns about the ongoing coyote problem in the city. Dean Johnston, a city resident, represented a group of multiple concerned citizens who had been experiencing an issue with large numbers of coyotes encroaching further into the city and onto their properties.

Johnston played a video he received from a Mulberry resident’s house of a large pack of coyotes barking and howling.

Johnston read an excerpt from the Virginia Department of Wildlife and Resource (DWR) webpage, which lists coyotes as a nuisance animal. “It is important not to encourage or even tolerate coyotes around your residence. The longer they are allowed to remain, the bolder and more aggressive they are likely to become to humans and pets,” he read.

Johnston noted that coyotes pose a threat to small pets and children, but there are few options available to city residents.

“I’ve lived here in Martinsville for a long time. I have a granddaughter that’s three and a granddaughter that’s one and a half,” he said. “A lot of people here have small dogs that they like to go on a walk with. It’s a predatory animal, it kills for its food, and it does not need to be inside the city where we have limited ability to remove those animals,” he



Peyton Nibblett provided information about the Rules of Council, adopted by the city council.



Brad Kinkema, CEO of the Martinsville YMCA, requested the city to contribute \$500,000 towards a splash pad at the Lester Family YMCA.

said.

Johnston asked that the city work with state wildlife officials and allow residents to work with law enforcement to remove the coyotes.

Martinsville Police Deputy Chief Chad Rhoads confirmed that discussions were underway with state agencies and city officials. He stated that a removal plan was being finalized and could be implemented as early as next week.

Residents could see a difference “as early as next week,” Rhoads said, though details were not publicly disclosed.

Council member Julian Mei suggested blasting and grading work on a road construction project in Patrick County as a potential reason for the influx of coyotes into the city. Mei suggested air horns and spiked collars/harnesses for dogs as a possible short-term deterrent.

- \*Tabled discussion of the refuse ordinance until the second council meeting in May.
- \*Approved minutes from the Jan. 28 meeting.



OPINION

Men in Women’s Sports and Other Executive Orders

The fast-paced work of President Trump is headlined by a series of his Executive Orders.

One of his Orders coincided with National Girls and Women in Sports Day, an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of female athletes.

President Trump hosted an event at the White House to mark the occasion.

Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports was issued by President Trump to protect opportunities for women and girls to compete in safe and fair sports.

To the dismay of many Americans, biological males have been permitted to play in women’s sports at various levels.

In Southwest Virginia, Roanoke College was considering welcoming a biological male to the women’s swim team.

This news prompted members of the women’s swim team to speak out and object to the move.

Another female swimmer who has been an outspoken activist on this issue is former University of Kentucky athlete Riley Gaines.

Gaines had to compete in free-style events at the 2022 NCAA swimming championships against a biological male.

Riley Gaines spoke at a recent event I attended. She said she felt totally violated as a female athlete when she had to change in the locker room with an anatomical male.

Further, when she got up on the blocks in the same heat with the male, she could see the large bulge in his groin area. She said when she looked at his feet on the block, they were at least size 13.

In that race, Gaines and the male swimmer tied for 5th place. However, the



Morgan Griffith

Representative

NCAA officials gave the only 5th place trophy they had to the male.

They told Gaines her trophy “will be coming in the mail.”

She was not even allowed to pose on the podium with the 5th place trophy.

In my opinion and that of most Americans, female athletes in this swimming meet were denied an opportunity to have a fair competition.

In other spaces, female athletes are getting physically injured. In North Carolina, a high school volleyball player sustained a concussion, head and neck injuries as a result of a biological male spiking a ball into her.

Despite years of progress in advancing women’s athletics and equality in sport, through acts like Title IX, too many institutions have allowed fair competition to falter.

This erosion of progress means biological women are left with fewer opportunities for achievement. Their potential is discarded on the side of the road like a half-eaten apple core.

To put a stop to this unfairness, this January I was proud to vote in support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

This commonsense legislation prohibits federally funded education programs or activities to allow a biological male at birth to participate in programs meant for biological females.

While it awaits consideration in the U.S. Senate, I appreciate President Trump for issuing this directive to keep men out of

women’s sports.

Some groups have decried the directive and threatened not to comply.

In Virginia, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) is the governing organization that regulates athletic competitions among public high schools.

VHSL, which bucked Governor Youngkin’s 2023 “model policies” to prohibit biological males competing in girls sports, initially claimed to not know about any Trump Executive Order and vowed to continue following the current VHSL policy of allowing transgender student-athletes to participate in girls sports.

Just a few days later, VHSL reversed course. They will now comply with the Trump Executive Order.

The NCAA also changed its policies to reflect this order. Under these new guidelines, female student-athletes will no longer have to go through what Gaines did.

This success follows a string of wins stemming from Trump Executive Orders.

As discussed in a previous newsletter, a slew of border security and immigration-related Orders direct enhanced resources to our southern border and crack down on illegal immigration, human trafficking, etc., which resulted from Biden’s open borders.

Trump also signed a series of military Executive Orders that terminate woke policies and reinstate service members discharged from the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Such respect for our soldiers and our defense is fueling a rise in interest among Americans to join the U.S. military.

Just as Trump prepared to return to the White House, the U.S. Army reported its most productive December in 15 years.

President Trump’s leadership in just a month has given many prospective student-athletes and soldiers hope.

I will continue to advocate for common sense policies that deliver unbiased, fair environments to our student-athletes and our soldiers.

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.

The Myth of the Paperless Office: Drowning in Digital and Physical Clutter

By Holly Kozelsky

Do you remember the grand promises of a “paperless office,” back a few decades, when computers first came onto the scene?

We were promised that everything would be handled on computers, significantly reducing the need for papers.

Alas, what we have found instead is that computers generated more and more and more paperwork than we ever imagined possible.

Back in the days when each document was prepared on its own, individually, filled out by hand (typewriter) with copies made by carbon paper or run through a copier, everything was done more deliberately. Each paper had to matter. It had to be worth it to generate, because it took time to do it.

When computers came along, it became possible to produce more and more paperwork with just a push of a button and very little deliberation involved.

I worked in real estate for about 10 years at the turn of the century (what a weird thing to be able to say, but it was from the 1990s to the early 2000s). The explosion of paperwork is nowhere more apparent than in real estate closings. The loan packages of the earlier closings I attended were just a handful of papers. Then they became more and more. Then the 40-page loan package became the norm.

The day the loan packages included a document that states something along the lines of “This is to certify that I have signed the other papers” was the day I rolled my eyes and threw my hands up.

Photographs were the same. Decades ago, picture-taking was so rare that it was only done when two factors hit at once: a momentous occasion was happening, and someone happened to have a camera which happened to have film with some shots still left on it.

Pictures were taken sparingly, because once you used all 12 or 24



Holly Kozelsky

or (for the freewheelers) 36 shots on the roll, you were done.

Then you’d mail it or take it to be developed, and it was always exciting to get it back.

The pictures would mostly be big blurs, or an eclipse of a thumb, or something wildly off center. If a big blur had a head showing somewhere, even half off in a corner, that picture was worth keeping.

Today’s kids have more pictures of just one event than our generation had of our entire childhoods.

What this all does is create an explosion of clutter that we are drowning in. The so-called paperless office has stacks and stacks and stacks of papers that have to be filed or thrown away, and more coming every minute. Our devices are filled with photographs, but how many were printed out to hang on the wall or keep in a wallet? How many survive after a phone gets dropped in a toilet?

I myself generate tons and tons and tons of documents and drafts and designs on my computer, and there are so many pictures on it that I am expecting at any moment for my computer to give up. Yet it keeps going.

When I was a girl, my mother said something yours probably did too: “Clean up as you go along.” One day as I was hunting through stuff on the computer, those words came back to me.

I’ve got to file and delete and clean up documents and photos on my computer as I go along.

Sometimes I remember, or I have the time, to do it.

For the most part, I just shudder, try not to look, and make a new folder on the computer to start again.

Probation reform is moving through the General Assembly



By Del. Wren Williams

Criminal justice reform has become a key focus in Virginia, with lawmakers embracing policies that emphasize rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and give individuals second chances. These reforms are essential to creating a more effective and humane justice system that helps individuals reintegrate into society, fosters personal responsibility, and promotes public safety.

Under Governor Glenn Youngkin’s leadership, Virginia has made significant strides in advancing criminal justice reform through initiatives such as the “Stand Tall, Stay Strong, Succeed Together” Reentry Initiative. This executive order strengthens the state’s commitment to supporting successful reentry for individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system. By prioritizing collaboration between state agencies, non-profit organizations, and local communities, the initiative provides

critical resources such as education, job training, mental health services, and stable housing to help individuals transition successfully back into society.

Virginia’s approach aligns with successful models seen in other states, such as Florida, which has implemented policies allowing individuals on supervision to earn credits toward reducing their terms by engaging in rehabilitative actions. This system, which rewards proactive efforts like completing educational programs, job training, and securing stable housing, fosters personal accountability and helps individuals move beyond their past mistakes. By offering individuals the tools to rebuild their lives while maintaining accountability, Virginia can create a similar path to success.

Moreover, Virginia lawmakers are working to bring the state’s probation system in line with these progressive approaches through proposed legislation such as House Bill 2252 and Senate Bill 936. I am proud to be patroning the House version of this bill.

These bills would allow individuals on probation to reduce their terms based on their participation in rehabilitation programs, much like the systems implemented in Florida. This would not only encourage self-

improvement but also alleviate the burden on probation officers and reduce the state’s overall resources spent on prolonged supervision.

The push for these reforms in Virginia reflects a bipartisan consensus that the status quo — focused on punitive measures — has not yielded positive results. By focusing on rehabilitation, Virginia is moving toward a more effective and efficient system that benefits individuals, communities, and taxpayers. Reducing recidivism, offering second chances, and providing the necessary resources for reintegration help create a safer and more productive society.

The ongoing efforts in Virginia demonstrate that criminal justice reform is not an either/or between punishment and rehabilitation. Instead, Virginia lawmakers are proving that a balanced, compassionate approach can reduce crime, save money, and help individuals rebuild their lives, ultimately benefiting the entire state.

*Williams represents the 47th House District, which covers Carroll, Floyd and Patrick counties, part of Henry County and the City of Galax. A Republican from Stuart, Williams also is the president of Schneider & Williams, P.C. in Stuart.*

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# OPINION

## Regarding mental health

By BEN R. WILLIAMS

According to the National Health Interview Survey, 16.5 percent of Americans take some sort of prescription medication for their mental health. Even if you don't take a mental health medication, you're almost certainly close to someone who does whether you know it or not.

And if you don't think you know anyone who takes a prescription for their mental health, you know me.

When I was about 14 or 15, I started developing terrible anxiety. Over time, my anxiety began to manifest in the form of obsessive compulsive disorder. Before I could go to sleep each night, I had a checklist of things I had to do — often multiple times — to ease my anxiety before I went to bed. Eventually, this checklist stretched to an hour in length. Suffice it to say, I was absolutely miserable.

On top of the anxiety, I began experiencing good old-fashioned depression. "Everyone feels sad sometimes," you might say. Oh, but this wasn't that. I would be out and about, having a good time with friends or family on a bright clear day, not a care in the world, when without warning, a black wave of despair would crash over me. There would be no warning, no trigger. I would just suddenly feel deeply, cataclysmically depressed for no particular reason.

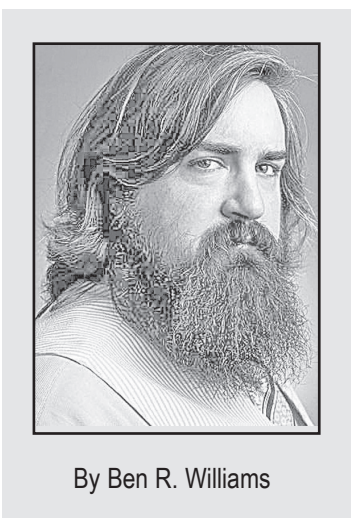
I wasn't crazy about seeing a doctor, but when I was 16, I finally agreed to it. The doctor recommended I try taking a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (or SSRI). He said that my brain, like the brains of many people, had a chemical imbalance that could be corrected by taking this medication. I wasn't thrilled with the idea — I didn't want to walk around feeling drugged-up all the time — but I was so miserable that I agreed to try it for a couple of months and see how I felt.

After a couple of weeks, I realized that for the first time in years, I felt NORMAL. I didn't feel at all like I was drugged — if anything, I felt far more clear-headed. I no longer felt the need to go through a stupid checklist before I hit the sack. I still felt anxiety and depression, but I felt them when it was appropriate to do so, when something happened that would make anyone feel anxious or depressed. It was life-changing.

I've been taking an SSRI for 24 years now — specifically, I take citalopram, which is the generic form of Celexa. I wouldn't recommend it for everyone — I'm not a doctor — but it's worked wonders for me. And I don't feel any shame in taking it, any more than someone with high blood pressure or diabetes should feel ashamed for taking a vasodilator or insulin.

Having said that, I never really expected to broadcast to the world that I take a brain pill, but it feels important to do so. This is because Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wants to take prescription mental health medication away from me and 55 million other American citizens.

RFK Jr., our newly-minted Secretary of Health and Human Services, has called upon the federal government to combat the "growing health crisis" of chronic disease. He wants the government to "assess the prevalence of and threat posed by the prescription of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, antipsychotics, and mood stabilizers." In the past, RFK Jr. has claimed that people taking antidepressants are more likely to be school shooters (this is objectively untrue based on actual data) and has called people like me who take SSRIs "addicts."



By Ben R. Williams

How does RFK Jr. want to help wean people off these drugs he believes are so dangerous? With labor camps, of course! During a videotaped podcast last week, RFK Jr. said, "I'm going to create these wellness farms where they can go off these illegal drugs, off of opiates, but also illegal drugs, other psychiatric drugs, if they want to, get off SSRIs, to get off of benzos, get off of Adderall, and to spend time as much time as they need — three or four years if they need it — to learn to get reparented, to reconnect with communities."

You know, I'm going to give RFK Jr. credit for one thing. I never would have thought that conservatives would rally behind a woo-woo New Age moonbat former heroin addict antivaxer granola hippie, but I guess if you put all that BS in a tailored suit and give it a face that looks like it caught fire at a track meet and someone put it out with a track shoe, it lends a veneer of respectability to the message. If he didn't have a famous last name, RFK Jr. would be the aging stockboy at a natural foods co-op who's been relegated to third shift because he won't stop creeping on the college girls and would go home every morning to a rundown RV that doesn't have a working shower because he'd rather spend the money on crystals that make you virile.

If RFK Jr. succeeds in taking aim at SSRIs, antipsychotics, and mood stabilizers, I'll be in rough shape (unless of course I can buy my medication in bulk from another country that still has a functioning government). I'll be depressed, anxious, and struggling. And you know what? I'd be one of the lucky ones. Even at my worst point, I was still making straight As in school, so I expect I could hold down a job, I'd just be miserable while doing so.

But I personally know people who wouldn't be so lucky. I know people who literally cannot function without their mental health medication. If RFK Jr. is successful in his deranged mission, people are going to lose their jobs, people are going to lose their relationships, and yes, people are going to die, most likely by their own hand.

The argument I've heard from the right regarding RFK Jr.'s plan is simple: he won't be able to do it. Either federal judges will step in and slap his wrist or powerful pharmaceutical companies will flex their money and influence and prevent the federal government from taking people's medications away.

For what it's worth, I think that argument is likely correct. But if the best defense against Trump's cronies is that an overstretched judiciary or a corporate overlord won't allow them to do the things they desperately want to do, it begs the question: wouldn't it have been simpler to just appoint qualified candidates who want to help Americans instead of dangerous crackpots who want to hurt us.

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## King's Grant Residents Shine on the International Stage at Opening Minds through Art Show

Ten of the talented resident artists in the King's Grant Retirement Community were selected to participate in the prestigious International Opening Minds through Art OMA Art Show. Out of 400 submissions, their works stood out, earning them a place among artists representing 14 U.S. states, as well as Canada and Indonesia.

The artists, ranging in age from 63 to 102, exemplify the vibrant creative spirit thriving within the King's Grant community. Their participation in this global event highlights the power of artistic expression at every stage of life.

Special recognition goes to Tammy Shorter, Healthcare Administrator, and Melissa Massey, Assisted Living Event Coordinator, whose dedication and support helped make this achievement possible. Their commitment to fostering creativity and engagement among residents continues to enrich the King's Grant community.

"The talent and creativity of our residents are truly inspiring," said James Souter, executive director of King's Grant. "This recognition on an international stage is a testament to the incredible artistic spirit that flourishes within our community. We are honored to see our residents' work celebrated in such a meaningful way."

Souter added, "Pro-

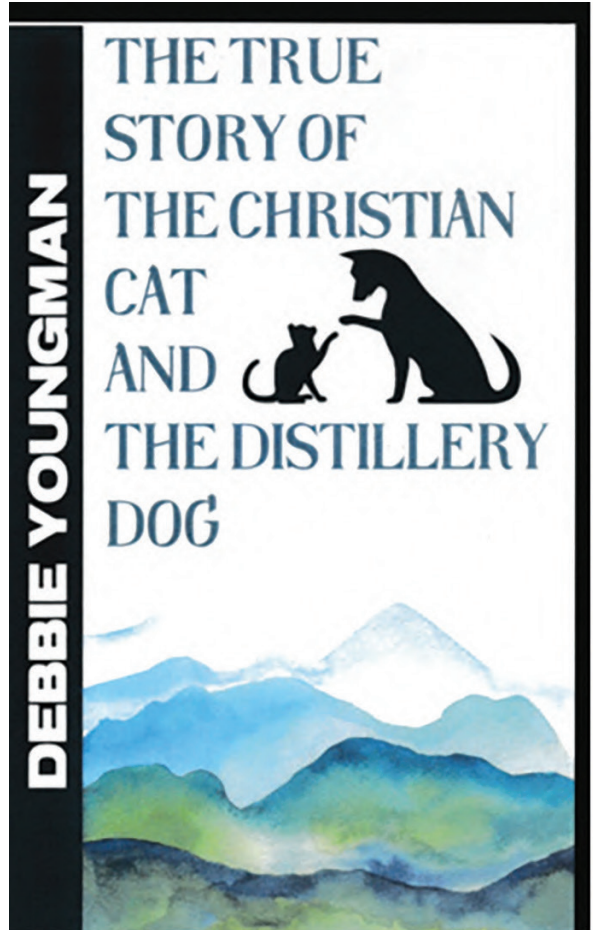
grams like OMA allow our residents to express themselves in ways that are both therapeutic and deeply fulfilling. Art has the power to bring joy, spark memories, and connect us with others, and we're proud to be a community that nurtures and celebrates these creative endeavors."

The OMA program is an intergenerational initiative that promotes creative expression for indi-

viduals living with dementia. Being featured in this internationally recognized exhibit underscores the talent, passion, and perseverance of King's Grant residents, reinforcing the community's commitment to lifelong learning and enrichment.

For more information about King's Grant and its programs, visit [www.sunnyside.cc/our-communities/kings-grant/](http://www.sunnyside.cc/our-communities/kings-grant/).

## Youngman to present program at Bassett Historical Center



Debbie Youngman will present a program about her new book, "The True Story of The Christian Cat and the Distillery Dog", March 11, at 10:30 am, in the Bassett Historical Center. The book details a story about a unique friendship between a very unlikely pair. This program which is free and open to the public will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. Books will be available for purchase from the author for \$15.

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## Shively named Deputy of the Month

Henry County Sheriff's Deputy Anson Shively was selected Deputy of the Month. With 27 years of dedicated law enforcement service across the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Danville Sheriff's Office, Shively has served in multiple roles, including the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations, Community Engagement, and the School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit. Currently assigned as the SRO at Laurel Park Middle School, Shively goes above and beyond in building positive relationships with students and ensuring a safe and welcoming environment. Whether assisting children in inclement weather, fostering a space where students feel valued, or effectively maintaining school security, Deputy Shively is truly a rock star to the students, staff, and community.

His impact extends beyond safety—he is a mentor, protector, and role model for the youth. His extensive experience as a Defensive Tactics Instructor, former Honor Guard member, and SWAT team mem-

ber reflects his unwavering commitment to

(left), Michael Jarrett of Jarrett Marketing LLC,

Livy's ice cream shop, and McDonalds of Mar-



law enforcement and community service.

Shively (second from left) is pictured along with Capt. Sandy Hines

and Sheriff Wayne Davis (far right).

Chopstix in Martinsville, Papa's Pizzeria Hollywood Cinema,

tinsville provide free meals, movie passes, and ice cream and the Certificate of Appreciation.

Puzzle Answers!

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solution

UP — OR DOWN —

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Dabble 2. Malign; 3. Loathe; 4. Dancer

Today's Word

CELLMATE

FEAR

KNIGHT

answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings have been scheduled for **March 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the applications to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearings on the following applications on **March 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

**Case R-25-03 Brent D. Tucker**  
The property is located at 924 Trenthill Dr, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 14.6/373,373A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 8.5-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to use the property for agricultural purposes.

**Case R-25-04 Chris Lawless**  
The property is located at 1687 Stultz Rd, in the Collinsville District. The property is shown on Tax Map 41.2(2)/1A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.978-acres from Government and Special Use District G-S to Limited Industrial District I-2. The applicant wishes to use the property as a welding and fabrication business.

**Case R-25-05 Kenneth T. Lewis**  
The property is located at 3975 Chatham Rd, in the Reed Creek District. The property is shown on Tax Map 32.4/17. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.19-acre from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to use the property for a commercial automobile repair garage. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.  
Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



Crossing the Lines

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

Williams announces reelection bid as 2025 races take shape

Incumbent Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, is among the state candidates seeking reelection in November, along with candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General.

“In three years, I have proudly stood up for rural Virginians who are struggling with rising healthcare costs and limited accessibility to adequate health-care resources while remaining a strong conservative voice” for traditional Southwest Virginia values, Williams said when announcing his reelection bid.

“Our record has been one that stands up for the rule of law while defending the rights of



Del. Wren Williams

hardworking Virginia families. From protecting our Second Amendment to securing medical resources for Patrick County to standing up to utility companies and delivering reduced rates for Southwest communities, our office has been a voice for

Southwest and Southside Virginia,” Williams said.

He added that he remains committed to “being a conservative champion and advocate” for President Trump’s America First agenda. “There is a lot at stake this year ... I look forward to hitting the campaign trail and listening to voters’ concerns” throughout the 47th District, which includes Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick counties, part of Henry County, and the City of Galax.

Williams also is the president of Schneider & Williams, P.C. in Stuart. He and his wife, Britt, have two children.

Overby mounts reelection bid as board faces legal threats amid transparency push

Since taking office in December, Patrick County Supervisor Andrew Overby said he has worked to fulfill his campaign promises of increasing transparency and engaging with residents. However, those efforts have put him and other board members in the crosshairs of a colleague.

Over the past few weeks, Overby, of the Dan River District, said another board member has attempted to “threaten, bully, silence, and intimidate” supervisors while also trying to restrict public access to government proceedings. He accused the supervisor of controlling information by labeling emails as confidential and claiming AI-generated statements as copyrighted material. Overby made these remarks in his official reelection announcement last week on Facebook.

At the most recent board meeting, Overby said the supervisor “threatened the county, board and multiple



Andrew Overby

individual supervisors with a lawsuit in hopes of achieving a payday, at your expense. Rest assured, I will not bend to this supervisor’s malicious attempts to silence and obstruct transparency.” We all must stand together against this corruption and expose it wherever it is found.”

Overby’s comments referred to a document titled “Notice of claim and intent to bring civil and/or criminal action,” which was delivered to the county attorney, county administrator, and board members on February 10.

While distributed during the closed session, the notice was not part of that initial closed meeting. The

board returned to the public session long enough to cite legal matters as a reason to reenter a closed meeting.

During that subsequent closed meeting, Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, remained in the hall.

A copy of the notice obtained by The Enterprise indicated it was distributed by Stephen D. Marshall. In it, Marshall outlined his intent to file legal action against Patrick County, the Board of Supervisors, and Supervisors Jonathan Wood, Clayton Kendrick, and Overby. Marshall alleged violations of his constitutional rights in both their official and individual capacities.

Marshall cited emails he marked confidential on Jan. 13 and Jan. 16 that involved matters of public concern including government operations, and “issues of public importance. ...The emails were leaked and subsequently published” in this newspaper on Jan. 22.

Braden Health Updates Supervisors on Hospital Restoration Progress

Representatives from Braden Health, the company working to reopen the former Patrick County Community Hospital, provided an update on the facility’s restoration efforts at the Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting on Feb. 10.

Kyle Kopec, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO), said the company has made significant progress since acquiring the hospital. Construction work is well underway, and officials invited county leaders to tour the site and learn more about ongoing projects.

The company has nearly completed replacing sections of the hospital’s roof. Medical gas lines, including oxygen and vacuum systems, have been relabeled and plumbed in preparation for the installation of external oxygen tanks and pads, which are required on the facility’s exterior.

“As far as sewer systems and mold, the sewer system is being overhauled currently as far as our plumbing and things that lead to that,” Kopec said. Mold mitigation, “we’re proud to report that the folks that we’ve hired to do that have taken care of it and isolated it, so



Kyle Kopec (left), co-founder and COO of Braden Health, along with other representatives, gave an update on the work to restore and reopen the hospital.

we’re feeling pretty good, doing a lot of renovations and things,” he said.

Kopec thanked officials at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), which is ensuring Braden Health is meeting the necessary regulations as different phases of work are completed. Kopec added that the VDH is expected to tour the facility in late February or in March.

While construction continues, the company is not yet prepared to announce an official reopening date. Asbestos assessments and final determinations on sewer system piping remain key factors in the project timeline. Kopec emphasized that these elements, along with ongoing contracting work, could impact scheduling.

Residents raise ongoing transparency, and spending concerns at recent board meeting



Numerous residents attended the February 10 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Several speakers addressed the February 10 meeting of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, highlighting transparency concerns and encouraging others to attend meetings and voice opinions.

Noting the recent spate of negative publicity facing the county, Kurt Bozenmayer said numerous residents have spoken at board meetings and on social media regarding issues including county finances, employment issues, toxic chemicals, and the hospital in the past few months.

“Lately that has spilled over into a major finger-pointing exercise between individual supervisors that has extended into the weekly reporting of The Enterprise newspaper. I believe that a major contribution to this growing hostility, the inability, or unwillingness, of the county administration to provide answers to questions raised by citizens,” he said.

If the county administration provided answers, either through the administrator’s office or by statements from su-

Envision Critz, a local nonprofit organization, is working to establish a community center in Critz, across the street from Hardin Reynolds Memorial School. The organization has been developing the project for about two and a half years and has partnered with Reynolds Homestead and Virginia Tech to gather community input on the center’s potential offerings.

The primary focus now is securing funds to pay off the mortgage on the property, according to Envision Critz President Tom Steele. The organization needs to raise approximately \$70,000 before it can begin developing the center and implementing requested community features.

“We’ve kind of got the bones in place to do this. What we’re working on now is paying for the property that we have a mortgage on. We have roughly \$70,000 that we need to raise to pay off the mortgage so we can get started developing the center and all of the things that the community has asked for,” he said.

Many grants that could help fund the project require full ownership of the property or prohibit using grant money for property purchases, Steele said. As a result, paying off the mortgage is a critical step before further progress can be made.

“So, it’s really important that we get that taken care of so that we

pervisors, Bozenmayer said he believes it would go a long way to dispel the growing hostility. He added the answers could be provided on social media or in a weekly newspaper column.

“Social media and the press are not going away, and the longer the county takes the ostrich approach, or the supervisors fight amongst themselves, the more distrust is going to be expressed by the citizens,” Bozenmayer said.

Envision Critz seeks funding to advance community center project



The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a Barbecue Fundraiser on Saturday, February 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Plates are \$15 each and include a choice of pork or chicken sandwich, slaw, baked beans, chips, a drink, and dessert.

move forward with developing the community center,” he said.

To support this effort, the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club is hosting a barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Plates, priced at \$15 each, include a choice of pork or chicken sandwich, slaw, baked beans, chips, a drink, and dessert.

Donations can be mailed to Envision Critz P.O. Box 156 Critz, VA 24082.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/EnvisionCritz.

\* Expressing her concerns about the county’s spending practices, and residents being viewed as an annoyance and not an importance, Karen DeCapp said residents “want and seek truth, transparency, fairness, and respect. This should not equate to ‘bad treatment’ by those who are asked. While I have only spoken out in five meetings, six counting this one, in 10 years, I’ve had several people shake my hand and thank me,” she said.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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# PUZZLE TIME



## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

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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. Vest is moved. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Chair is taller. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Chart is different. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

## MAGIC MAZE

● UP — OR DOWN —

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A SMALL, NARROW RIVER

Beat

Cast

Field

Gradable

Grade

Hill

Loading

Scale

Side

Stairs

State

Surge

The mountain

Tick

Town

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## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Brief ad

5 Resistance units

9 Circular paths

15 Imprison

19 Starch-yielding plant

21 They may disturb sleep

22 — -Seltzer

23 Nut acquired with great effort?

25 Nail salon job, in brief

26 — box (TV)

27 Cathedral in London

28 R&B's Brown

29 Prohibits

30 Erfurt article

31 Sprinkle sofa shams with water drops?

35 Calf-roping event

37 Link with

38 Casino cube

39 "Boo!" shouter

43 French city on the Rhone

47 Tax org.

48 Stan of jazz saxophone

49 Catholic dignitary's vigorous strength?

52 West African country

54 Juneau native

55 Directives

57 Like Stoker's "Dracula"

61 Steal from

62 Liking a lot

64 Overly crooked?

66 Quite dry

68 Stock debut, for short

70 "Nope"

71 Often-twisted cookie

72 Long-billed wading bird that loves perching on flexed arm muscles?

78 Testing stage

81 Early 1960s atty. gen.

82 Navy engineer

83 Made airtight, say

85 Liken (to)

87 Joan of folk

89 Climate that promotes the growth of powdery fungus?

91 Pale-looking

94 "Get 'em, Fido!"

96 Model X carmaker

97 Runs after

98 Aussie leaper

99 Grand house

101 "You're — pall!"

103 Class teaching the techniques of Civil War photographer Brady?

108 Marcel Marceau's clown

109 — -Cherry (Ocean Spray flavor)

113 Pretty good grade

114 Antennae and tentacles

116 Chicago airport

117 Unlatch, e.g.

118 Baseballer Rod when not using a chauffeur?

122 Indian bread

123 Literary afterthought

124 Great skill

125 Small vortex

126 Literary journalist Gay

127 Syringe fluids

128 "Iliad" city

4 Big fusses

5 "... Mac — PC?"

6 Goofed (around)

7 Quebec city

8 Stair unit

9 At just the right time

10 Author Dahl

11 Actress Jacqueline

12 "Kinda sorta"

13 Golf peg

14 Detroit-to-Memphis dir.

15 Crawford of the NBA

16 In style

17 "Told ya so!"

18 — faire

20 Soggy

24 Pat gently

28 "Let's Get Loud" singer, familiarly

30 1996 presidential candidate

31 Bob

32 2006 Nintendo debut

33 Salon service

34 "We have the OK"

35 Japanese "energy healing"

36 Thereabouts

39 Egyptian beetles

40 Dietary unit

41 Coffee type

42 Ave. crossers

44 Old Italian money

45 Stops

46 Look for

48 U.S. naval base in Cuba, for short

50 Crazy caper

51 Small bird

53 Lav, to Brits

56 Sailor's mop

58 Victory cries

59 Lacking frost

60 Snug-fitting necklaces

63 Artistic work

65 "Riverdale" network

67 "You Light Up My Life" singer

Boone

69 City in Utah

73 Stir-fry tidbit

74 Teeter-totter

75 Café au —

76 Macpherson or Fanning

77 Gets hitched

79 Protective shoe tip

80 "— and the Night Visitors"

84 Oscar — gp.

86 School org. (rapper)

88 Galvanizing element

90 Cary Grant played a male one in 1949

91 Radius or ulna

92 S.O.S. or Brillo product

93 Very helpful tip, informally

95 Pigeon sound

99 "Bonjour, — amis!"

100 Fashion frill

102 Michael formerly of Disney

104 Word on Winnie-the-Pooh's pot

105 Total overhauls

106 Suit fabric

107 Wallach of film

109 Intone

110 Less typical

111 "Am not!" retort

112 Full of the latest info

115 Spacewalks, in NASA lingo

116 Mo. #10

118 Tennis unit

119 Air quality gp.

120 — Mama (rapper)

121 School stat

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In Israel, the movie title "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" was translated as "It's Raining Falafel."

• The Latte Index, which was developed by The Wall Street Journal, compares the price of a tall Starbucks latte in dozens of cities around the globe to estimate which currencies are overvalued and undervalued.

• While Finland refers to itself as the "Land of 1,000 Lakes," it actually contains 188,000.

• Gucci manufactured a pair of jeans named the Gucci Genius Jeans that sold for an astonishing \$3,134.

• In 1859, America was swept by a moral panic over young people playing ... too much chess.

• Eighty-five percent of Vakkaru Island in the Maldives is made up of fish feces.

• After Thomas Edison was confined to a wheelchair in his last years, his good friend Henry Ford bought one as well so the two could have wheelchair races around their adjoining Florida estates.

• Fifteen minutes of shivering from cold temperatures can be the metabolic equivalent of one hour of exercise.

• At the age of 104, a fellow by the name of Jack Reynolds became the oldest known person to get a tattoo. He followed that up by becoming, at age 105, the oldest person to ride on a roller coaster.

• St. Nicholas is the patron saint of penitent murderers.

• America's first female state senator was a Mormon polygamist who not only ran against, but defeated, her husband.

• In 2009, an Italian neurosurgeon had a heart attack in the middle of performing surgery. He powered through it when he realized his patient wouldn't recover if he stopped. Half an hour after finishing the surgery, the dedicated doctor had an angioplasty.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." — *Victor Hugo*

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

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## 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!

Trifle

LABBED

Bash

LAMING

Despise

AHOTEL

Strut

CRANED

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

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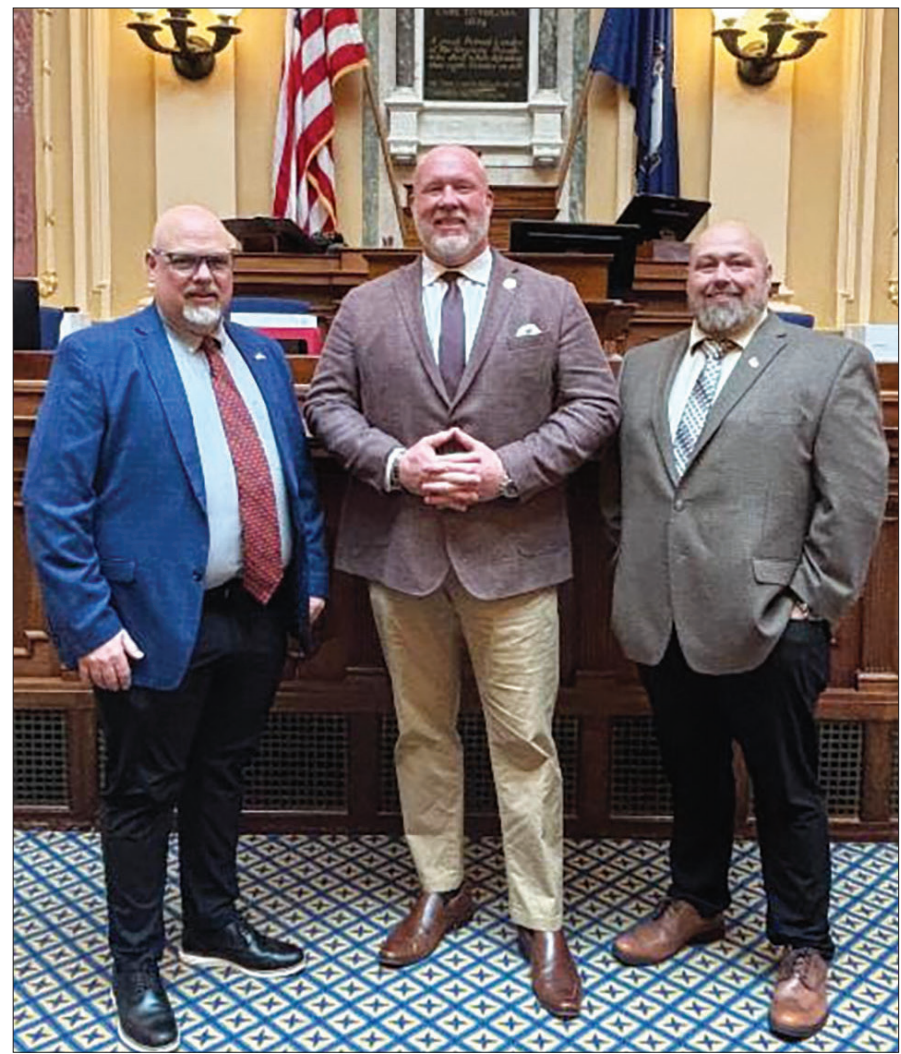
# Student artwork on display this spring at Piedmont Arts



Artwork by students from Martinsville-Henry County will be showcased this spring in the Foster Gallery at Piedmont Arts. Students attending Carlisle, Fieldale-Collinsville, Laurel Park and Martinsville middle schools have work on display through March 1. A free reception for the students and their families will be held from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Piedmont Arts. If schools are closed due to inclement weather on Feb. 19, the Foster Gallery reception will not take place. Students attending Carlisle, Meadowview, Mt. Olivet and Carver elementary schools will have work on display March

4-April 12. A free reception for the students and their families will be held from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, March 12 at Piedmont Arts. Students attending Axton, Sanville and Stanleytown elementary schools will have work on display April 15-May 10. A free reception for the students and their families will be held from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 30 at Piedmont Arts. The Foster Gallery is an important part of Piedmont Arts' community programming. Exhibits in the gallery have been curated in partnership with Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County for more

than 25 years. A new exhibit is installed every six to eight weeks to allow work by students from all 19 schools in Martinsville-Henry County to be displayed during the year. Piedmont Arts and Charity League believe that an early exposure to the arts is critical for a well-rounded educational experience. These exhibits encourage young people to participate in the arts while offering the community the opportunity to celebrate the artistic talent of area students. For more information on educational outreach, exhibits and events, visit PiedmontArts.org.



Pastor Michael Harrison, Del. Eric Phillips, and the Rev. Michael Hendricks.

## Collinsville pastor delivers invocation on House floor

Pastor Michael Harrison of The Community Fellowship of Collinsville was chosen to give the invocation on the House of Delegates floor on February 10. Harrison provided a powerful message of wisdom and prayers for our servants and victims of the hurricane and flight disasters, according to Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville. Phillips added that while in Richmond, Pastor Harrison and the Rev. Michael Hendricks, Associate Pastor of The Community Fellowship Church, toured the Capitol and saw the amazing history and statues dating back to 1619 with the Virginia House of Burgesses, the first democratically elected legislative body in the British American

colonies. "Our door is always open for you to share your positions before the Virginia General Assembly," said Phillips, who represents the 48th District. The number in Richmond is (804) 698-1048. The district office number is (434) 326-5878. Phillips also can be reached via email at delephillips@house.virginia.gov.

## Congressional staff to visit localities

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be in Patrick County and Martinsville on February 26. Staff will be in the City of Martinsville from 10 – 11:30 a.m., in City Hall, Room 208, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville. Staff will be in Stuart from 12:30 – 2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart. In the event of inclement

weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a county or city's schools are closed, then office hours will be cancelled. Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

## VOTE NOW!

Give a shout out to your favorite businesses around Martinsville & Stuart - Patrick & Henry County



Cast your votes from Feb. 21st to March 21st



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Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in The Enterprise on April 30, 2025 & The Henry County Enterprise on May 3, 2025.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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JAN. 4 2006

APR. 14  
1949

RUTH D.  
JAN. 8 1929  
AUG. 22 2010

TOGETHER 26 FOREVER



**By Jessica Dillon**

YMCA Executive Director Brad Kinkema said the idea for a local interscholastic bike team has been in development for some time. The project gained momentum when Hunter Doss, a cycling tournament competitor from Carlisle School, chose to organize a race for his required Carlisle Project. Kinke-

The first race will be held on March 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex at 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton. The course, a cross-country trail, is

“We have some beautiful counties here. So, there’s a place to do bike races here,” Kinkema said, adding that the goal is to compete in the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) and develop a structured racing program for young athletes.

The YMCA has extensive experience hosting races, and organizing multiple foot races each year as part of the Martinsville Mile series. The addition of a cycling race is expected to expand local fitness opportunities and encourage more youth participation in competitive sports.

The Henry County School Board recognized School Resource Officers (SROs) from the Henry County Sheriff's Office for their dedication and service to county schools.



Martinsville Police Officer Justin Havens (center) is pictured with Michael Jarrett (left), and Police Chief Rob Fincher.

Havens joined the Martinsville Police Department just over a year ago. Before becoming an officer, he worked for two years as a 911 dispatcher at the Martins-

Local businesses, including Chopstix Martinsville, McDonald's (Commonwealth Blvd.), Food Lion (Stanleytown), and Hollywood Cinema, contributed free meals and movie passes in recognition of Havens' achievement.



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