

Proposed fiscal 2025-26 budget holds line on taxes, dips into savings

By Cole Hall
At a special meeting on April 3, the Henry County Board of Supervisors reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025–26, totaling \$222,815,547—an increase of \$15,073,695, or 7.3 percent, from the previous year, even though the county’s primary revenue sources are projected to decline by 2.1 percent collectively.
This proposed spending plan would support essential county services, including public schools, law enforcement, emergency services, and other core utilities that impact residents daily.



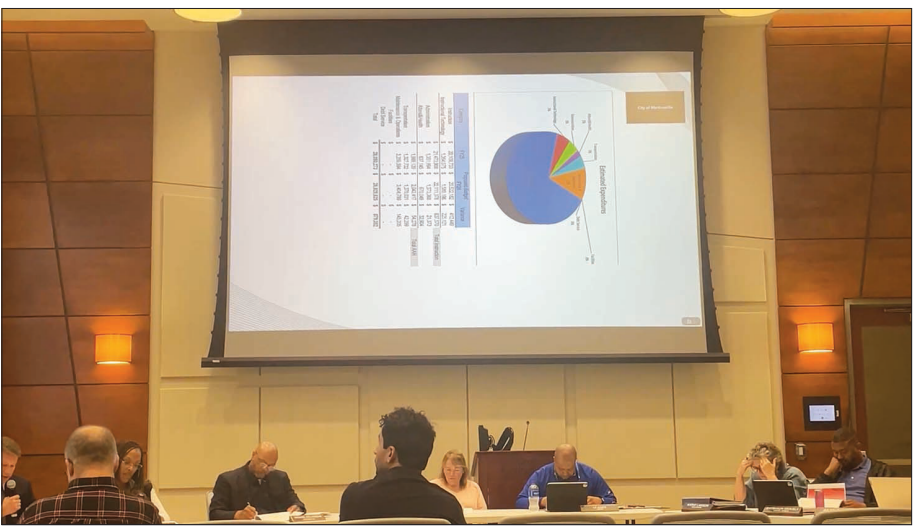
Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner presents the proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting. (Contributed)

County Administrator Dale Wagoner explained the proposal included no recommendations to increase (See Fiscal p. 10)

Edwards welcomed at first meeting as interim board member

By Jessica Dillon
Valeria Edwards took her seat as the interim Horsepasture District representative during the Henry County School Board’s recent meeting at Magna Vista High School.
“I know you’re going to do a great job,” Mary Martin, a former school board member, said during public comment. “Your resume speaks for itself.”
“It’s a pleasure to be here, it’s a pleasure to serve,” Edwards said.
The meeting also included a student showcase and approval of the Fiscal Year 2025–26 Perkins Grant.
Career and Technical Education Coordinator Kyana Smith presented the Perkins Grant, a federal program supporting career and technical education at both secondary and post-secondary levels.
“We hope to see an increase in this year’s funding,” Smith said. The division is seeking a \$27,458 increase to support technology, equipment, student activities, professional development, and software subscriptions. Funding is expected in July 2025.
In other matters, the board:
Recognized several students for academic excellence and national honors, including Chandler Motley – African American National Recognition Award, Kennedy McPherson – Rural National Recognition Award,
Breanna Boyd – First Generation National Recognition Award, Destiny Walker – QuestBridge Scholar.
*Bassett High School Honorees
Boys Basketball:
All Piedmont District First Team: Isiah Perkins
Second Team: David Cook, Zyreak Manns

Honorable Mention: Nate Green, Josiah Cahill
Region 3D Second Team: Isiah Perkins
Girls Basketball:
All Piedmont District First Team: Egypt Phillips
Second Team: Addison Wimbush, Alexis Hodge
Region Second Team: Egypt Phillips
Honorable Mention: Alexis Hodge
Varsity & JV Girls Basketball (2024–25):
Piedmont District Regular Season and Tournament Champions
Player of the Year: Miranda Reynolds
First Team: Miranda Reynolds, Sanaa Hairston, Mya Moyer
Second Team: Amari Hairston
Honorable Mention: Akira Martin
Region 3D First Team: Miranda Reynolds
Region 3D Second Team: Sanaa Hairston, Mya Moyer
Technology Awards
Southern Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC) award recipients included Jason Wyatt – Technology Support (Network Developer), Kyana Smith – Technology Teacher, Becki Bishop – Technology Instruction Support (Media Specialist, CCE), Brittany Brummitt – Technology Leadership (Coordinator, Career Academy).
*Christy Landon, director of Human Resources, presented policy updates, part of the board’s triannual review process.
The board also recognized the following observances:
*2025 VSBA Workforce Readiness Month
*Month of the Military Child
*National School Library Month



Martinsville City Council members are pictured at a joint meeting with the Martinsville City School Board.

City officials hear proposed school budget

By Taylor Boyd
The Martinsville City Council and Martinsville City School Board heard the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 expense budget of \$28,929,625 and the proposed \$28,093,421 revenue budget at a Monday, April 7 joint meeting.
Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, Jr. said there is a variance of \$836,204 between the two budgets.
“That’s again, after looking at everything we anticipated that’s coming in,” he said.
Talley said the division is anticipating receiving \$22,195,938 in state entitlements, \$5,542,637 in local funds, and \$354,846 in grants and other funds.
The local funding is \$5,542,637 with a Required Local Effort (RLE) and Required Local Match (RLM) of \$650,000.
“So, our new request looking at what we requested from the last year is \$186,204. That’s our net from last year; what was appropriate

last year. This should hopefully cover our local match and entitles us to get the state funds that we need. Those of you that have done this budget before know that without that local match, we don’t get funds. The state subtracts from what we actually need,” Talley said.
The expense budget increased by \$879,352 from the previous year.
Within the budget, \$20,522,182 will be used for the instruction line item, an increase of \$412,449 from the previous year, and \$1.6 million is for instructional technology.
Direct administration will have an expenditure of approximately \$1.4 million and attendance and health will have \$670,000. These line items have increases of \$21,373 and \$32,904 respectively.
Approximately \$1,370,000 is earmarked for the Transportation category and Maintenance has a proposed expenditure of \$3,404,799. Transportation has an increase of \$42,299 and Maintenance has an (See City Officials p. 9)

Four constitutional officer seats on the ballot in upcoming election

By Taylor Boyd
The City of Martinsville’s four constitutional officer positions - Commonwealth’s Attorney, Commissioner of Revenue, Sheriff, and Treasurer - will be on the ballot in November.
Director of Elections Sara Workman said no city council positions will be on the ballot.
“That will not be until next year. It will just be two seats next year because they just had an election last year for the three,” she said.
Those wishing to have their names on the ballot for these positions must turn in their election packets by Tuesday, June 17 at 7 p.m.
Workman said the only candidate that’s turned in their packet is Sheriff Steve Draper.
Council member Rayshaun Gravely is the only person to have

picked up a packet from the Registrar’s Office.
While candidates can run as write-in candidates in the election, Workman said it’s easier to have your name on the ballot “because you have to have a certain percentage of people that write your name in. But yes, you can win through a write-in vote,” she said.
Candidates can pick up election packets at the Registrar’s Office Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
While the packets are available online through the Department of Elections website, Workman said they aren’t as detailed or set out as the ones available in the office.
“You kind of have to hunt and fish through it through the Department of Elections website, but they do have all the information on the website, and it lays out everything there as well,” she said.

Cartwright to challenge Phillips for state post

By Jessica Dillon
Melody Cartwright, 68, is challenging incumbent Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, for the 48th House District seat, which includes the city of Martinsville and parts of Henry and Pittsylvania counties.
Cartwright, a democrat, said she is seeking the post on Nov. 4 because she believes in “no election unopposed,” and that “it’s crucial to keep the Commonwealth of Virginia Blue in 2026.”
Her top three platforms are human rights, fully funding public education, and affordable housing and healthcare.
“Human rights is a pretty big area, and that includes civil rights, which I thought we already handled. We are going backwards under Governor Youngkin, he’s been wanting to take history out of school books,” Cartwright said.
She also supports rural healthcare expansion and the protection of women’s rights.
“Women’s rights, you are walking those back too. It’s not just about abortion, it’s about a lot of things like women’s health and birth control,” she said.
Cartwright said she plans to advocate for full funding of the Department of Education



but noted that school funding is uncertain.

“We don’t know with education, because

right now (President) Trump wants to take out the national education system and throw it to the states,” she said. “I will be a fighter to roll that back if it happens.”
She has spoken with Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley Jr. about supporting local schools.
“I’m going to be talking to our people here in Martinsville,” she said.
Cartwright also wants to bring more jobs to the region and defend Medicaid.
“Right now, the House has approved to take out a lot of the Medicaid,” she said.

She is hopeful the state will “turn blue” to help advance her agenda. (See Cartwright p. 10)

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Piedmont Arts' Bus to Broadway presents Kimberly Akimbo May 4 at DPAC.

Bus to Broadway is bound for Durham arts center on May 4

Take the Bus to Broadway to see a matinee production of “Kimberly Akimbo,” Sunday, May 4 at Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) in Durham, N.C.

The winner of five Tony Awards including one for best musical, “Kimberly Akimbo” is a hilarious and heartwarming story about growing up and growing old, in no particular order. Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. She is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on a great adventure.

The musical features Tony Award-winning book and lyrics by

David Lindsay-Abaire (“Shrek”), a Tony Award-winning score by Jeanine Tesori (“Fun Home”), choreography by Danny Mefford (“Dear Evan Hansen”) and direction by Tony-nominated director Jessica Stone.

The van will depart at 10:30 a.m. from Piedmont Arts and arrive in time for a 1 p.m. performance at DPAC. The van will return to Piedmont Arts immediately following the performance.

Tickets are \$180 per person. A boxed lunch option is available for an additional \$10 and must be ordered in advance. Tickets are available at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

For more information on exhibits and events, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Byrd brings ‘Becoming Othello: A Black Girl’s Journey’ to Piedmont Arts on May 8



Actor and playwright Debra Ann Byrd will perform the one-person play “Becoming Othello: A Black Girl’s Journey,” Thursday, May 8 at Piedmont Arts.

The play is a gripping and realistic tour de force that chronicles Byrd’s journey from a single mother in Harlem to an award-winning classical actor tackling the role of Othello. Interspersed with multimedia elements and verses from Shakespeare’s original play, she bares her soul in this vulnerable and resonant story of perseverance, discovery and unconditional love.

Byrd is the founding artistic director of the Harlem Shakespeare Festival and artistic director at Southwest Shakespeare Company in Arizona. For her portrayal of Othello, she won an outstanding achievement award from Audelco and a best lead actress award from Broadway World Phoenix. She has served as writer-in-residence at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, artist-in-residence

at the Folger Institute and the Southwest Shakespeare Company and as a community scholar at Columbia University. “Becoming Othello” was written by Byrd and directed by Shakespeare & Company founder Tina Packer.

A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. The run time for this performance is 1 hour and 45 minutes with no intermission. This show is based on Byrd’s real-life experiences and includes content that may be distressing.

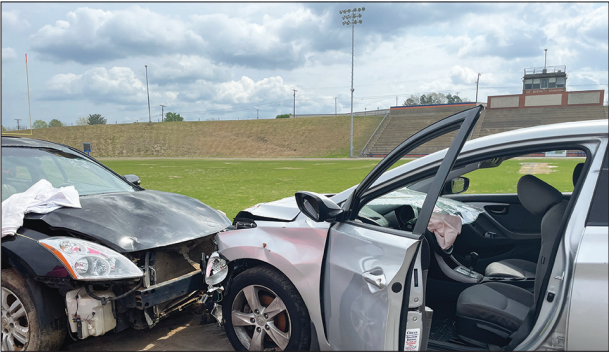
Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students in grades K-12. Tickets are available at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

This engagement is made possible in part through the Mid Atlantic Tours program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on exhibits and events, visit PiedmontArts.org.

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

Crash reenactment sends strong message to young drivers



A mock car accident scene was set up at Bassett High School before prom to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

By Jessica Dillon

On Friday, April 4, Bassett High School, authorities and public safety personnel brought back a crash reenactment event not held in a few years. The simulation took place on the football field the day before the school’s prom, aiming to raise awareness about the dangers of texting while driving — an issue the school identified as a greater concern than driving under the influence (DUI).

The event was graphic in nature, as students watched a reenacted fatal car crash unfold in real time. EMTs pulled actors from the wreckage, performed life-saving procedures, and transported the injured victims by ambulance. Authorities were also on scene, further enhancing the realism of the drill, and a hearse was used to demonstrate the devastating aftermath of dangerous driving decisions.

“I’m glad we have this opportunity for our students to be prepared and be aware of dis-

tracted driving of any kind. It’s one of the things we always want to do,” said Michael Minter, principal of Bassett High School. Minter emphasized the importance of student safety, especially on a night like prom.

Dustin Elgin, training captain at Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad and a Bassett alumnus, led the operation.

“I think 2010 was the last time that Bassett High School did one of these,” Elgin said. Mock disaster scenarios are commonly used to educate a wide range of people.

Elgin noted that, fortunately, DUIs are no longer the most pressing concern.

“Texting and driving is the biggest concern, so it changed up the idea a little bit to match that,” Elgin hopes to make the activity an annual educational event.

Returning to Bassett was a meaningful experience for Elgin.

It “feels great, it’s been a while since I’ve

been here honestly, since I’ve graduated and such,” he said.

The cars used in the simulation were donated by Meeks Recycling and Salvage. The rescue squad completed pre-cut work on the vehicles for airbag safety before they were brought on-site.

Several agencies participated in the event, including the Bassett Rescue Squad, Bassett Fire Department, Collinsville Fire Department, Henry County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia State Police, Henry County 911 Center, and Bassett Funeral Home. AirLife One conducted a flyover during the simulation.

There are currently no plans to conduct the reenactment at Magna Vista High School. However, Elgin remains optimistic.

“Once we get this under our belt and work out the kinks from this one, there’s a good possibility we will open it up for both Bassett and Magna Vista” high schools, he said.

P&HCC partners with Influxer to boost student-athlete branding

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) is partnering with Influxer, a leading platform for athlete branding and name, image, and likeness (NIL) management to provide P&HCC student-athletes with the tools and resources necessary to capitalize on their personal brands while balancing the demands of athletic and academic success.

Through this partnership, P&HCC student-athletes will have access to Influxer’s cutting-edge platform, which offers comprehensive services including brand development, social media strategy, contract negotiation, and financial literacy training. This initiative reflects P&HCC’s ongoing commitment to empowering student-athletes both on and off the field.

“We are thrilled to partner with Influxer to create new opportunities for our student-athletes,” said Brian Henderson, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Athletics Director at P&HCC. “NIL represents a new era in college athletics, and our goal is to ensure that our athletes are prepared to navigate this landscape successfully. This partnership will



P&HCC Assistant Athletic Director Ruthanne Duffy previews NIL merchandise for P&HCC athletes.

give them the knowledge and resources to maximize their potential while maintaining focus on their academic and athletic goals.”

Influxer’s platform will also provide student-athletes with data-driven insights to help them understand the value of their personal brand

and connect with potential sponsorships, endorsements, and other NIL-related opportunities.

“Influxer is excited to work with Patrick & Henry Community College because Brian Henderson and the administration understand not only the immediate benefits of working with us, but also the long term resources for their student-athletes,” says Keith Miller, Influxer Vice-President. “NIL is not simply transactional, but an opportunity which Influxer wants to further into the development process for their student-athletes.”

P&HCC’s partnership with Influxer underscores the college’s dedication to enhancing the student-athlete experience and preparing students for success beyond their playing days. The program will be implemented immediately, with informational sessions and onboarding set to begin in the coming weeks.

For more information about the partnership and upcoming NIL programming, contact the P&HCC Athletics Department at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, April 14
City Council Budget Meeting with City Constitutional Offices, 5 p.m., New College Institute Room 204, 191 Fayette St, Martinsville.

Monday, April 21
PSA Board of Directors Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Administration Building Fourth Floor Conference Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Tuesday, April 22
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, 3 and 6 p.m., Administration Building Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Public Hearing - Henry County School and County Budgets, 6 p.m., Administration Building Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building Council Chambers, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

Events

Friday, April 11
Music Night at Spencer Penn with Travis Frye and Blue Mountain. Gate opens at 5 p.m. and the band starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions, including the ever popular Spencer Penn hot dogs, chicken salad, BBQ, and homemade desserts, will be sold.

Saturday, April 12
Fish Fry by American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 139 Creekside Drive, Martinsville. Fish sandwiches are \$9, homemade desserts are \$2, sodas or water are \$1. Drive-through event with limited dining-in. Call (276) 224-5679 or (276) 340-5169 to place orders.

Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Service Center, 2285 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

Celebrate The Resurrection, 11 a.m., Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch, Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett.

Family Day with Paperhand Puppet Intervention, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Gravely-Lester Art Garden, by Piedmont Arts and Beegins With You. Features puppet-making crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a giant puppet parade. Free and open to the public. More info at PiedmontArts.org. Sponsored by Carter Bank.

Monday, April 14
The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library meet in the Main Branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 15
Martinsville -Henry County Republican Committee, 6:30 p.m. at the Henry County Adminis-

tration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville.

Tuesday, April 15-Thursday, April 17
Martinsville City Public Schools will host in-person kindergarten registration, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at MCPS Central Office (746 Indian Trail). Translation services are available by calling (276) 403-5833. A list of documents required for registration is available on the Back to School page of the MCPS website.

Friday, April 18
Henry County Parks & Rec Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m., Jack Dalton Park, 130 Jack Dalton Road Martinsville.

Saturday, April 19
Family Easter Celebration 10 a.m., games, egg hunt, Bible stories, crafts, prizes, and free lunch. Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown.

Friday, April 18 - Saturday, April 19
The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Members Only sale is Friday, 1-5 p.m. (can join at the door); Saturday sale is open to the public, 9:30 a.m. -2 p.m. BAG SALE (we provide the brown bag)-fill your bag with as many hard-backed fiction for \$10. Special area for shopping. Shoppers will be limited to 10 at a time. All proceeds reinvested in library system.

Friday, April 25
Opening reception for the new exhibit “Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware Through Time,” 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the MCH Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville. The exhibit, curated by MHC Heritage Museum Intern Raylee Wilson, features kitchen tools from days gone by. Complimentary refreshments will be served. Admission to the reception is free for members and at regular admission fees for non-members; RSVP attendance to wilson.mhchs@gmail.com or call 276-403-5361. The regular admission is \$10, with \$5 for 65+ and ages 2-17, and free for infants. Memberships will be available at the reception, for year-long free admission.

Saturday, April 26
Oak Level Ruritan Club Community Yard Sale, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., 7668 Oak Level Road, Bassett. Spaces are \$20, vendors welcome. Concessions available. To reserve a space, call (276) 340-3158 or (276) 732-8096.

Reptile Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Ave, Martinsville.

Martinsville Half-Marathon and 5K, 8 a.m., Gazebo on Depot Street, 101 Depot St, Martinsville.

14th annual Pig Cookin’ Festival, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Spencer-Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.

ONGOING

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.

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.

The Martinsville-Henry County Democratic Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at New College Institute on Fayette Street (park on Moss St.). RSVP at mhcdcv.org/meeting-rsvp for Zoom link.

The Martinsville -Henry County Republican Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday every month, 6:30 p.m., Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

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.

Heritage museum to host cookware exhibit opening reception



MHC Historical Society intern Raylee Wilson is seeking loans of antique cooking vessels and utensils, as well as locally significant recipes, for an upcoming exhibit on the history of local cooking.

An opening reception for the new exhibit “Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware Through Time” will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the MCH Heritage Museum.

The exhibit features kitchen tools from days gone by, such as wooden molds and service dishes, cast iron supplies, Depression glass and cookbooks. It also includes the earliest version of the Cuisinart, a food processor that made a splash in Martinsville when it was introduced.



The exhibit “Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware Through Time” features items used in the kitchen or over the fire in years gone by.

The reception features complimentary cuisine from the olden days such as relish trays, tea sandwiches and syllabub, plus, tea, beer, and wine. The historical society welcomes classic old recipes to use for making refreshments that would be of local and historical interest; send to wilson.mhchs@gmail.com.

The exhibit was curated by Raylee Wilson, a Ferrum College intern for the museum. It features artifacts loaned by Kerry Tillary, Katie Connelly, Jack Stewart, Johnny Nolen, Margaret McGlothlin, Holly Kozelsky



You are invited to the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's

Opening reception for

Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware through time

What people of the past have used to put meals on the table (or just around the fire)

Friday, April 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
MHC Heritage Museum
1 E. Main St., Martinsville
mhchistorical society.org

Free to members
Non-members: \$10 adults,
\$5 65+ and 2-17; infants free

A fine time to get your membership which grants free admission to the museum all year —\$45 individual, \$55 family

Enjoy homemade old-timey and retro hors d'oeuvres including:

- Cheese straws
- Tea sandwiches
- Deviled eggs
- Cocktail meatballs
- Relish Trays
- Syllabub
- Cobbler
- Sweet tea
- Beer
- Wine



MHCHS Intern Raylee Wilson curated the exhibit “Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware Through Time,” which will open with a reception Friday, April 25.

and Dr. Mervyn King.

Admission to the reception is free for members and at regular admission fees for non-members; RSVP attendance to wilson.mhchs@gmail.com or call (276) 403-5361. The regular admission is \$10, with \$5 for 65+ and ages 2-17, and free for infants. For year-long free admission, memberships will be available at the reception.

The main level of the museum’s new 13,000-square-foot is now open, and attendees of the reception will be able to tour that section which features antique

firearms, canes, toys, Native American artifacts, baskets, pottery, Remington statues, George Catlin art, horse tack and a gambling parlor. The lower level of the annex will open around summer, with antique model trains, toys, a Junior Gilley miniature plantation house, tools and more.

The former Henry County courthouse, built in 1824, houses several displays of local history, and three temporary exhibits, “Connected Community,” “Sew Special” and now “Pan-tastic Journey: Cookware Through Time.”

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

OPINION

Making U.S. Federal Elections More Secure

With a new U.S. President and new leadership in the U.S. Senate, House Republicans are working hard to deliver important, common-sense bills to President Trump’s desk.

These bills range from all policy issues, including cracking down on illegal immigration and illicit fentanyl, unleashing American energy independence and protecting girls in women’s sports.

Some of these bills are ones that saw success in the House last Congress. They were reintroduced this Congress with the hope that the U.S. Senate under Republican control would move to pass these measures.

One such measure was the Laken Riley Act.

Named after the University of Georgia student tragically murdered by an illegal alien while out on a jog, the Laken Riley Act requires law enforcement to arrest and detain illegal aliens who commit crimes.

Because of the great severity of southern border crossings, House Republicans worked rapidly to get the Laken Riley Act across the finish line.

We were successful, and President Trump signed the bill into law just 10 days into his second term!

We hope to repeat this achievement with other commonsense bills that passed the House in the last Congress.

Another such bill with promising prospects is the Safe-guarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.

The SAVE Act is fairly straightforward. It will strengthen America’s voting laws by requiring states to obtain proof of citizenship when registering people to vote in federal elections.

During the last Congress, I was proud



Morgan Griffith

Representative

to vote to advance the SAVE Act out of the House Committee on Administration.

When the bill was considered by the full House, I supported the measure again.

Now that Republicans control the Senate as well, House Republicans are preparing to pass this meaningful legislation again to safeguard American elections.

We are already seeing other states and localities take action to protect their elections and preserve election integrity.

To begin April, a statewide vote in Wisconsin took place to consider a state constitutional amendment.

The amendment is designed to strengthen Wisconsin’s current voter ID law by enshrining the requirement to present identification to vote into the state constitution.

This was similar to what used to be the law in Virginia. But, because it wasn’t a constitutional requirement, it was changed a few years ago by the legislature.

Wisconsin voters approved the proposal with more than 60% of the vote!

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Wisconsin is one of 36 states that ask for or require people to provide some form of identification when they show up to vote at the polls.

Election developments are also taking place in very liberal areas of the country as well.

In March, the New York State Court of

Appeals considered a New York City law, Local Law 11, that allows non-citizens to vote in City elections.

The New York City Council passed the measure in 2021, and the City’s mayors allowed the bill to become law.

However, on an overwhelming basis, the liberal Court of Appeals ruled that the law was unconstitutional!

New York City non-citizens will not be able to vote in local elections, but Washington, DC cannot say the same.

2024 was the first year where non-citizens could vote in DC local elections.

Given the above attempts to allow non-citizen voting, I am working to rein in these efforts and protect American elections from illegal voting.

Last Congress, I introduced the NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act. The bill withholds some federal dollars that go to localities that allow non-citizens to vote in their elections.

I plan to lead the bill’s introduction again for this Congress.

Congressional action will be important to strengthen our elections, but President Trump is also working on this issue.

In late March, Trump issued the Executive Order, Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.

The Order calls for actions to be taken to enforce the citizenship requirement in federal elections, verify voter eligibility, and strengthen our voting systems.

Congress will codify many of these Trump Executive Orders into law, and we can start by passing the SAVE Act.

Like almost all legislation, the SAVE Act does not resolve all issues. Accordingly, additional legislation is likely to be enacted in the next couple of years.

Making our election process both safe from bad actors and easy for U.S. citizens to use is the goal I will continue to strive to make happen.

Call the Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, the Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or email by visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov with questions or comments.



The Trap of Low Expectations

By Bryan Golden

How much you accomplish in life is influenced by what you expect to accomplish. Those with low expectations have a low threshold for what they will be satisfied with. For them mediocrity or less, is good enough.

People with high expectations have a standard of excellence for themselves and what they want to achieve. They push themselves to accomplish challenging goals. They set the bar higher than may be comfortable.

Your expectations are the first step for programming your mind to work towards a particular goal. Your expectations determine what you will be satisfied with. Typically, your mind will not accomplish more than you expect.

What would happen to an athlete who expects to lose each race? Their training would never be at a winning level. They would not put much effort into preparation. They would not push themselves during a race. That’s why you won’t find competitive athletes who expect to lose.

What expectations do you have for yourself? What expectations do you have for the future? Your mind will only meet, not exceed your expectations. If you have low expectations, the best you can achieve are low results.

Let’s look at some examples of the negative impact of low expectations. An athlete who expects to lose has no chance of winning. A small business owner who expects to go bankrupt will not succeed. A teenager who expects that no one will like him or her will have a difficult time socializing. A performer who expects to deliver an awful performance will disappoint the audience.

Low expectations create a self-fulfilling prophecy. Since your mind strives to at best, meet the expectations you set, low expectations severely limit your achievements. Success demands high expectations.

Can you imagine an Olympic skier who expected to fall? Of course not. Such a mindset would make winning impossible. They would not be

training to win. During the race, they would not be competing to win.

Would a person who is opening a new business expect to go bankrupt. Such an attitude virtually ensures bankruptcy sooner than later. If bankruptcy was a foregone conclusion in their mind, they would then make endless poor financial decisions.

A person who expects that no one likes them, or will like them, subconsciously acts in a manner which repels the people they come into contact with. Their behavior creates a self-fulfilling prophesy, which then reinforces their low expectations.

What would happen to an actress or actor who expected to give a terrible performance before going out on stage? Would they have any chance of delivering an award-winning presentation? Of course not. Their mind subconsciously limits their actions because of their low expectations.

Any low expectations you have for yourself also create a self-fulfilling prophesy. You bring about the same results you are expecting. This is the trap of low expectations. The only way to break free is by elevating your expectations.

Take some time to thoroughly and honestly assess the expectations you have for yourself and for your life. In order to make positive changes you must have high expectations. Don’t waste time formulating justifications for any low expectations.

Excuses for why you can’t, or won’t accomplish an objective, prevent you from doing so. These excuses program you mind with low expectations. “I’m not smart enough,” “I don’t know how,” “Nothing I do works,” or “I really don’t want that much,” are just some of the endless examples of low expectation excuses.

If you don’t already do so, start setting high expectations. Don’t accept mediocrity. Raise your own bar for what you want out of life.

Bryan is the author of “Dare to Live Without Limits.” Contact Bryan at Bryan@columunist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2025 Bryan Golden.

(Opinion Cont. on p. 9)

Community Chronicles



A photo of the 1938 Bassett Furnituremakers, the Bi-State League Champions (Photo courtesy of the Bassett Historical Center).

By Jarred Marlowe

The Bassett Furnituremakers were a minor league baseball team based in the small town of Bassett, Virginia, active from 1935 to 1940. Competing in the Bi-State League throughout those years, the team quickly became a powerhouse in regional baseball, earning playoff berths every season and capturing three straight league championships from 1936 to 1938—each under a different manager. In 1950, the franchise name was briefly revived when the Bassett Statesman relocated mid-season from Wytheville due to a polio outbreak, joining the Class D Blue Ridge League.

Throughout their run, the Furnituremakers held affiliations with three Major League Baseball organizations: the New York Yankees (1936–1937), Cincinnati Reds (1938), and Brooklyn Dodgers (1939). These connections brought talented young players to the team, including future Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto, who made his professional debut with Bassett in 1937 at age 19. That season, Rizzuto hit .310 with five home runs in 64 games and played a key role in securing the team’s second consecutive championship. Reflecting on his time in Bassett, Rizzuto fondly remembered the kindness of

the locals, though he admitted the accents on both sides made communication a challenge.

The Furnituremakers played their home games at Riverside Park, which could seat up to 1,800 fans. The ballpark sat almost exactly in the same footprint that the current baseball field is located beside the HJDB Event Center on Riverside Drive, and it featured field dimensions of 325 feet down the lines and 387 feet to center field. Because of its central location, the park served as a community hub where residents gathered to cheer on their team and experience the thrill of America’s pastime.

Although the Bassett Furnituremakers disbanded after the 1940 season, they remain a significant chapter in the area’s sports history. Their success, small-town charm, and brief connection to major league talent left a lasting impression on both the community and the broader fabric of minor league baseball in the American South.

Jarred Marlowe is a local resident and historian. He is a member of the Col. George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Blue & Gray Education Society, and the committee chair for the Martinsville-Henry County 250 Committee. He may be reached at marloweja15@gmail.com.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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

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

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

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Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of April 14 - April 19:			
4/14	4:30pm	Baseball	Carlisle at Roanoke Catholic
	5pm	Softball	Dan River at Magna Vista
	5pm	Boys Tennis	Magna Vista at Lord Botetourt
	5:30pm	Baseball	Halifax County at Martinsville (Hooker Field)
	5:30pm	Girls Soccer	Carlisle at Chatham
	6pm	Baseball	Bassett at Tunstall
	6pm	Softball	Bassett at Tunstall
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Tunstall at Bassett (Smith River Complex)
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Halifax County at Martinsville
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Bassett at Tunstall
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Martinsville at Halifax County
	4/15	4:30pm	Girls Tennis
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Martinsville at Bassett
4/16	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Hargrave Military at Carlisle
	4:30pm	Baseball	Bassett at Martinsville
	5pm	Baseball	Carlisle at Virginia Episcopal School
	5pm	Baseball	Magna Vista at Martinsville (Hooker Field)
	5pm	Softball	Dan River at Bassett
4/17	5pm	Softball	Magna Vista at Martinsville
	6pm	Girls Soccer	Martinsville at Magna Vista
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Magna Vista at Martinsville
	4pm	Track	Bassett at Floyd County
	4pm	Track	Martinsville at Floyd County
	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Bassett at Magna Vista
	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Halifax at Martinsville
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Magna Vista at Bassett
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Martinsville at Halifax County
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Carlisle at Miller School of Albemarle
	4:30pm	Girls Soccer	Carlisle at MSA
	5pm	Baseball	Halifax County at Bassett
	5pm	Softball	Halifax County at Bassett
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Bassett at Halifax County
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Halifax County at Bassett (Smith River Complex)



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TOWN OF RIDGEWAY FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Pursuant to Code 15-2506 of the 1950 Code of Virginia as amended, and Federal Regulation 31 CFR51.14, a public hearing will be held by the Ridgeway Town Council on the 2025-2026 proposed budget to receive citizen comments and suggestions on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Ridgeway Mayor’s Office, Ridgeway, Virginia. Town Council will consider any public input received prior to taking final action on the budget. Copies of the proposed budget are on file in the Office of the Mayor at 806 Main Street, Ridgeway, VA.

Craig A. O’Der, Jr.
Mayor

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COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings have been scheduled for **April 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permits for the following cases:
Case S-25-04 Roger and Deborah Wheatley
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 10 sites. The property is 1.056-acres, on the east side of Axton Rd, and 0.3-mile south of Cascade Rd. The property is in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 66.7/28N.
Case S-12-03 Tobin Doman
A request for an amendment to an existing Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance. In March of 2012 a Special Use Permit was granted to this property to operate a billiards and arcade business. One of the conditions of approval was that no ABC license would be issued to the establishment. The current applicant wishes to amend that condition to allow for him to apply for an “on premise wine and beer” license. The property is located 6629 Greensboro Rd, in the Ridgeway District, is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 62.4(34)/8-12. 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

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHANGES IN THE POLLING PLACE FOR FIELDALE PRECINCT #201

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, April 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed amendment to the Henry County Code of Ordinances regarding changes in the polling place for Fieldale, VA. A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the County Administrator’s Office in the Henry County Administration Building, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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TOWN OF RIDGEWAY Public Hearing Notice Town of Ridgeway, VA PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PAYMENT AND DELINQUENT DATES FOR REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

Notice is hereby given pursuant to §15.2-1800, Code of Virginia, that the Town of Ridgeway will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed changes to the Personal Property and Real Estate Tax due dates and delinquent dates. Council is considering moving the due date for real property taxes from December 5 to October 1 of a tax year and moving the date on which real estate taxes would be delinquent from December 5 to November 1 of a tax year. The Council is considering moving the personal property tax due date from December 5 to December 1 of a tax year and moving the date on which personal property taxes would be delinquent from December 5 to December 16 of a tax year. Copies of the proposal are on file in the Office of the Mayor at 806 Main Street, Ridgeway VA.

Craig A. O’Der, Jr.
Mayor

See more at
www.henrycounty
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA
FY 2025-26 SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET, TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing will be held on April 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Summerlin Boardroom of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 King’s Mountain Rd, Collinsville, VA, to RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE CONTEMPLATED SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET AND THE TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET COLLECTIVELY TOTALING INCLUDING THE SETTING OF A REAL ESTATE TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$.555 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION, SETTING A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1.55 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION, and SETTING MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX RATE OF NOT MORE \$1.55 PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION. Citizens may view the Proposed FY 2025-26 Budget on the County’s website at www.henrycountyva.gov or the Henry County Administration building. The Board of Supervisors may consider any public input received prior to taking final action on the budget.

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CONTEMPLATED BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

In compliance with Section 15.2-2503 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the following budget synopsis is prepared and published for information and fiscal planning purposes only. The inclusion of any item in the budget does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for the item or purpose. The budget has been prepared by the County Administrator based on estimates and requests to the Board of Supervisors from various agencies and County departments. Final approval and release of funds for any item is the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors.

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on the school budget to receive citizen comments and suggestions on April 22nd at 6:00 PM in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building on King’s Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia. All citizens are invited to attend and offer any comments or suggestions. The Board of Supervisors will consider any public input received prior to taking final action on the budget.

Proposed FY 2025-2026 School Budget

Revenues:	
State Funds	\$ 83,460,628
County Funds	23,398,263
Federal / State Grants	11,153,000
Other Funds	1,712,366
Total Revenues	\$ 119,724,257
Expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ 77,039,635
Administration/Attendance and Health	5,249,196
Transportation	9,236,079
Operation & Maintenance	10,052,927
Facilities	1,450,000
Debt Service/Transfers	3,456,111
Technology	3,536,384
Federal / State Grants	11,000,000
Contingency Reserves	50,000
Less Reduction in	
Requested Local Funds	(1,346,075)
Total Expenditures	\$ 119,724,257

Copies of the proposed budget are on file in the office of the County Administrator, King’s Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia, and on the Henry County website, www.henrycountyva.gov.

Dale Wagoner
County Administrator

COUNTY OF HENRY, VIRGINIA SUMMARY OR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES PROPOSED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 REVENUES

General Fund:	
General Property Taxes	\$ 34,183,130
Other Local Taxes	24,214,000
Permits, Fees & Licenses	86,000
Fines and Forfeitures	170,250
Revenue from Use of Property	3,826,500
Charges for Services	536,754
Miscellaneous Revenue	100,000
Recovered Cost	4,345,879
Non-Categorical Aid State	3,655,828
Shared Expenses (Categorical)	14,532,168
Categorical Aid State	137,609
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	4,000
Categorical Aid Federal	207,009
Non-Revenue Receipts	25,000
Reserve Funds	1,778,455
Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 87,802,582
Special Fund:	
Law Library	5,800
Central Dispatch	2,511,171
HCO/MTSV Industrial Site Project	0
Special Construction Grants	0
Industrial Development Authority	2,123,400
Children’s Services Act	5,985,818
Marina	214,400
Self-Insurance Fund	14,911,000
Henry-Martinsville Social Services	11,585,104
School Fund	119,724,257
School Textbook	1,315,000
School Cafeteria	7,289,654
TOTAL, ALL BUDGETED REVENUES	\$ 253,468,186
Less: Interfund Transfers	(30,652,639)
NET REVENUES	\$ 222,815,547

EXPENDITURES	
General Fund:	
General Government Administration	\$ 4,825,148
Judicial Administration	4,495,303
Public Safety	29,435,585
Public Works	5,244,452
Health and Welfare	1,006,954
Education	62,414
Parks, Recreation & Cultural	3,178,021
Community Development	2,771,618
Nondepartmental	901,865
Capital Projects	93,000
School Capital - 1% Sales Tax	5,700,000
Debt Service	242,452
Operating Transfers Out	29,845,770
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 87,802,582
Special Funds:	
Law Library	5,800
Central Dispatch	2,511,171
HCO/MTSV Industrial Site Project	0
Special Construction Grants	0
Industrial Development Authority	2,123,400
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NET EXPENDITURES	\$ 222,815,547

COUNTY OF HENRY, VIRGINIA CONTEMPLATED TAX LEVIES For Year Ending June 30, 2026

Tax Levies (Per \$100 of assessed value)						
Mobile Homes Real Estate	Other Personal Property	Machinery/Tools Business Equipment	Cars	Motor Vehicle License Fee	Motorcycles	Trailers
FY ‘24-25 General Fund						
General Fund Levy	\$0.555	\$1.55	\$1.55	\$20.75	\$12.00	\$12.00
Proposed FY ‘25-’26 General Fund Levy	\$0.555	\$1.55	\$1.55	\$20.75	\$12.00	\$12.00

The effective reimbursement rate for the Personal Property Relief Act on a quality vehicle is 29.00%

The State Law requires that property be assessed at fair market value, which is defined for the purpose of motor vehicles as loan value and business equipment and machinery & tools as the following percentage of original cost:

Year 1	97%
Year 2	87%
Year 3	77%
Year 4	67%
Year 5 til Disposed	57%

Copies of the proposed budget are on file in the office of the County Administrator, King’s Mountain Road, Collinsville, VA, and on the website at www.henrycountyva.gov.

Dale Wagoner
County Administrator

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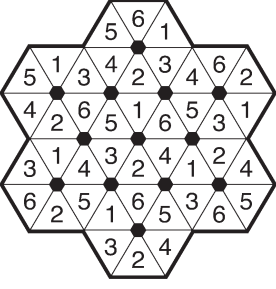
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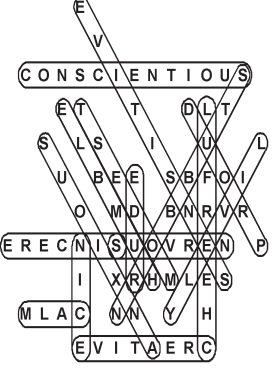
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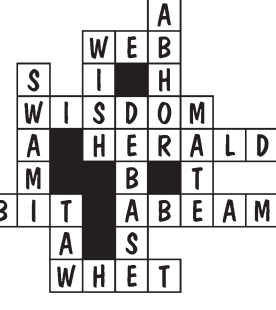
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MICHAEL

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MAE

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TETE

FLIESAT

PYRAMIDS

ERIS

CLOSELY

SUSPENSE

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Crossing the Lines

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

Work returns to normal as blaze investigation continues

Patrick County joins 250th celebration talks in Williamsburg



Gregory Pallets & Lumber's Stuart site is set to return to business as usual following a structure fire on March 28.

More than a week after a commercial structure fire occurred at Gregory Pallet & Lumber's Stuart site at approximately 1 a.m. on March 28, work at the facility has returned to normal and is fully operational.

Operations Director Dan Lovern said 95 percent of the company's business is operated by its Roanoke facility.

"Then we have another facility in Elliston, Virginia, so we're running at 100 percent. We had a small operation there" in Stuart, "so the manufacturing, or the facility repair, and some equipment" was lost in the blaze, he said.

An estimated 10 acres of the approximately 20-acre facility along with numerous structures, vehicles, and other equipment was burnt in the fire.

While he doesn't have an exact figure of how much revenue was lost due to the fire, Lovern said work is being done to calculate it.

No employees are expected to lose their jobs because of the fire, he said.

"In fact, we've probably kept them on just cleaning the site up. We have three drivers that run out of there and they've been running everyday - we just worked them into

our Roanoke rotation. We have other facilities, so we've been able to put supplies in there from our other facilities," Lovern said, adding the facility is expected to restart work in the repair business this week.

Due to the scale of financial loss and physical damage caused by the fire the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Virginia State Police are assisting the Patrick County Sheriff's Office in investigating the cause and origin of the fire.

Lovern said that as of April 2, the company hasn't seen the fire reports or received any information from investigators.

As with the Meadow of Dan Elementary School fire more than a decade ago, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said federal investigators were called into help – partially because of how large the fire was and the amount of property loss.

"It's nothing suspicious at all. I will tell you that," Smith said.

Lt. Steve Austin said the sheriff's office has relinquished the case to the Virginia State Police.

"Our involvement was to secure the scene while the State Police investigators investigated the fire," Austin said.

The Patrick County VA250 Committee was represented in Williamsburg as the third and final "A Common Cause" gathering was held March 24–26. The event brought together organizers from across the country who are helping plan America's 250th birthday celebration on July 4, 2026.

Attendees came from 40 states and 61 Virginia localities to hear from historians, state and national planners, and to exchange ideas with other local organizers.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin welcomed attendees to Williamsburg and emphasized the opportunity the milestone presents to educate future generations about "what it has meant, what it means, and what it will mean to be an American."

One highlight for those of the Virginia delegation



Gov. Glenn Youngkin welcomed attendees to Williamsburg.

was a special video presentation showcasing historical landmarks and moments from around the Commonwealth. The video concluded with the tagline, "America: Made in Virginia," which drew applause from Virginians in attendance.

Carly Fiorina, national honorary chairman of VA250, followed the video with remarks about the significance of Virginia's role in American history.

"We do not say 'America: Made in

America' as a brag, or as a challenge. We say it because we feel a special obligation," she said.

Over the next 16 months, events commemorating the Semiquincentennial will take place across Virginia and the nation. The Patrick County VA250 Committee is currently working on a number of local events, which will be announced on the committee's Facebook page, facebook.com/PatrickCountyVA250, as details are finalized.

Stuart Book Club celebrates 100 years of service, reading, and community impact



Back row (left to right), back row first – Denise Smith, Suzanne Hutchens, Eva Hopkins, Linda Wilson, Betty Kirkpatrick, Barbara Pendleton. Front row: Diane Ross, Peggy Rogers, Janice Woods, and Phyllis Lemke are current members of the present day Stuart Book Club. (Not pictured, Randy Williams)

Children, reading, books and serving others are still priorities in our community, but this all started 100 years ago with the beginning of the Stuart Book Club, one of the oldest civic organizations in Patrick County.

The Patrick County Branch Library had its beginnings with the ladies in the club, who also provided needed items for students in the school, provided Christmas treats for children in the streets of Stuart and promoted reading through their various projects. These are just a few of the things the club has accomplished by meeting monthly and volunteering actively for the past 100 years.

It is believed that during the early 1920s, local resident M. R. Taylor asked the Board of Supervisors for permission to clean out the basement of Patrick County Courthouse to form a reading room for the young men of the community. The Stuart Book Club, which was formed in 1925, picked up on this idea right away, and in 1932, they started the Corner Library located in Clark Bros. Hardware, which was at the corner of Main and Blue Ridge streets in Stuart with John L. Clark assisting by acting as librarian.

The club collected, donated and

were given books by the Extension Service of the Virginia State Library, so it started the library with approximately 300 books. The lending library continued for about 20 years until the present county library was officially opened. The club's current projects still include giving free books to children during parades, providing money for children to buy books at book fairs, supporting the local library and book mobile, and they have given a collection of Spanish books to the library in memory of Ann Belcher, a popular PCHS Spanish teacher.

Through the years, the club has done such worthy projects as furnishing the clinic room for Stuart School so that sick students would have a cot to lie on, provided hot meals for the students before the school lunch program began, furnishing care packages for WWII soldiers with soap and other needed items, They also knitted sweaters and socks and rolled bandages for the War effort. Members also collected and gave magazines and flowers to Stuart Hospital, as well as a donation of \$1,500 to the building fund for the R.J. Reynolds Memorial Hospital. The club even had a float in the 1976 Bicentennial Parade in Patrick County.

Massage therapist brings passion for healing to new business

Stuart's newest business, Much Kneaded Massage, opened its doors on March 21, offering a range of massage services to the community.

Owner Cate Frable, LMT, MLD-C, launched the business after moving to the area from Pennsylvania, where she spent seven years working as a massage therapist at a destination resort.

"I just always knew when I went into massage I would want to have my own office, and it just felt like the right timing. I found this space, and when they showed it to me, it was perfect. It just seemed to line up well," she said.

Though she hasn't been open long, Frable said she has already received positive support from the community.

"I'm really happy that people seem excited. From what I can tell, there's one other massage therapist in the county and one who's retiring. I think massage is for everybody. I fully believe in the equity of massage, and I just really wanted to make something accessible and to help the community," she said.

Throughout her career, Frable said she has worked with cli-



Cate Frable opened Much Kneaded Massage on Main Street last month.

ents from all walks of life, from CEOs to bus drivers.

"I genuinely believe that the power of touch is so important, even for children. I massage my kids, and they love it. Also, the accessibility of it is important in my opinion. I'm not trying to make a killing, I'm just trying to make a living, and I really want to help make a difference," she said.

Though Frable describes herself as typically shy and anxious, she said she feels calm and focused when working with clients.

"I don't feel anxious; I'm just in that mo-

ment, and my goal is for everyone to come off my table feeling less pain or less stress and anxiety. As goofy as it sounds, I've been told, 'Oh, you have a gift,' and I kind of want to share that in whatever way I can, and this just seems like the right way to do it," she said.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/MuchKneadedMassage.

To schedule an appointment, call (276) 968-0933, email CateFrableLMT@gmail.com, or visit much-kneaded-massage-100558.square.site.

1-3-5-7-9

1-3-5-7-9

1-3-5-7-9

1-3-5-7-9

1-4-7-9:15

\$5 tickets

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beside Walmart
Martinsville 276-656-3456



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

ITB
DISMOW
HOBRA
HWSI
♥ADSBEE
TWA
♥AMET
MAWIS
BEW
DREHLA
EMABA
♥EHTW

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. Tree is moved. 2. Hat is reversed. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Glove is missing. 5. Fence is reversed. 6. Window is moved.

MAGIC MAZE

PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES

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

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

Anxious
Calm
Cheerful
Conscientious

Creative
Humble
Lively
Modest

Nervous
Nice
Proud
Rude

Sensitive
Sincere
Stubborn

Super Crossword

FROM ALABAMA TO LOUISIANA

ACROSS

1 Complaints to otologists
9 Foreboding
16 ESPN datum
20 Feelings
21 Alternative to chocolate
22 Rev gauge
23 Ailment
27 suffering from being given too much leeway?
25 Bicolor whale
26 Poet Hughes
27 Tooth doctors' org.
28 Scarf down
29 Cantata's kin
30 "The Chi" airer, in brief
33 Alpo alternative
36 Things people run on racetracks in Switzerland's capital?
39 Coke and Pepsi's business?
43 Collide with
44 Robots in human form
45 "Fer cryin' out loud!"
48 Barkeeper on "The Simpsons"

49 Audio game from Hasbro
50 Soothsayer
52 Off-limits
54 Farrow of film
57 Storytellers' leagues?
63 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
64 Tech sch.
65 Some raptors
66 Vinaigrette alternative
67 Team letdowns
70 Apple tablets
72 Mild
73 Actor Koteas
74 Thighbone
76 Watering tube
79 Earth's star
80 Bivalve mollusk that's neither anxious nor perturbed?
85 1040 ID
86 Sock fillers
87 Instant, in some brand names
88 "— come to save the day!"
90 Blubber
92 Suburb of Buenos Aires
95 Etched computer components

97 Eight-note spans
101 Monty Python member wearing no jewelry or fancy clothes?
103 Topmost point on a perfume bottle?
106 Alan of "Tower Heist"
107 Blast source
108 Lindsay of "Machete"
109 Barney Miller player Linden
110 Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"
112 Sallie —
115 Gung-ho
116 Like a shutter so shabby there's no point in putting in a new louver?
123 Head, in Nice
124 Attacks like a bird
125 Tombs for pharaohs
126 Greek strife goddess
127 In a very similar way
128 Cliffhanger feeling

DOWN

1 Conger, e.g.
2 Docs' org.
3 Decompose
4 Working hard
5 Quote
6 Magician Harry
7 Call a halt to
8 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.
9 Exiled Roman poet
10 Gruesome
11 Ballpoint fluid
12 S.F. NFLer
13 City in southwest New York
14 Long, loose overcoat
15 Airline to Sweden
16 Snitching sort
17 Kill pattern
18 Say "yes" to
19 "No kiddin'?"
24 Lip off to
29 Interoffice note
30 Wound cover
31 Academic A-lists
32 Ancient cuneiform language
34 Attaches
35 Deep thinkers
37 Retina locale

38 Home of Pago Pago
40 Seed case
41 Wee amount
42 TV host Banks
46 Arctic boot attachment
47 Pawn
51 Approximate
53 U.S. soldiers
54 One of the Leeward Islands
55 Contained as a part of
56 Very pale
58 "— a pity"
59 Pottery piece
60 Downcast
61 Uno + due
62 Spy novelist Fleming
63 Smart — (wise guys)
68 Actor Elliott
69 PC key abbr.
71 "Pick up the Czech," e.g.
72 "Well, I'll be!"
74 Antagonist
75 Grades K-6: Abbr.
77 Longtime bud
78 Like cut bread
81 Many times
82 Gator's kin
83 Karate blow

84 Blue-green
89 Has no life
90 False appearances
91 Maker of Skin So Soft
93 Apt. units
94 True-to-fact
96 Finger-pointing people
97 Recently
98 Four-leaf —
99 One of the Windward Islands
100 "Dr." of insoles
102 Diner grub
104 Sine, for one
105 Actor Cary
111 Eensy
113 "Right away!"
114 "Game of Thrones" actress Bianco
116 Packers' and Panthers' gp.
117 Sugar suffix
118 Co- — (some apartments)
119 Sch. in Manhattan
120 "Hamilton" composer — Manuel Miranda
121 TV plugs
122 Mao — -lung

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• When the Apostle Paul wrote about seeing "through a glass darkly," there were no glass windows in the Greco-Roman world.

• There are more trees on earth than stars in our galaxy.

• The Roman Empire didn't have a Foreign Office, but they did boast a "Bureau of Barbarians."

• Canada has a strategic maple syrup reserve to ensure global supply in case of emergency.

• Actress Angelina Jolie once attempted to hire a hitman to kill her, instead of committing suicide. Fortunately, the would-be assassin successfully talked her out of it by asking her to wait a month.

• The largest print photograph ever taken was 111 feet wide and 32 feet high.

• In 2008, the Municipality of Florence officially apologized for expelling Dante Alighieri seven centuries earlier.

• A cat's ability to see well at night is due to its tapetum lucidum, a structure that reflects visible light back through the cat's retina. It's also what causes the eyes' weird "glowing" effect in the dark.

• Records suggest that between 1529 and 1532, King Henry VIII gambled away nearly a million pounds, by modern standards.

• Retired Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt was offered the position of wide receiver in the NFL but declined it due to the hits that NFL players typically take.

• "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychw-yndrobwl'llantysiliogogoch" is the world's longest train station name. Located in Wales, the moniker has no historical significance, but was created in the 1880s as a marketing ploy to attract tourists!

• More germs are transferred by shaking hands than kissing.

• Fearing someone would murder him at Alcatraz, Al Capone practiced his banjo in the shower room.

Thought for the Day: "Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work — that goes on, it adds up." — *Barbara Kingsolver*

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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JM

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SHOTS STARTING CONSISTENTLY RIGHT OF YOUR AIMING POINT INDICATE THE BALL IS TOO FAR BACK IN YOUR STANCE.

SHOTS STARTING LEFT OF YOUR TARGET LINE INDICATE THAT THE BALL IS TOO FAR FORWARD.

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“Why don’t you run along home while I do some _____?”

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!

Echo
PARTEE _____

Usual
OUTERIN _____

Walk
EPISTAR _____

Zero
THUGA _____

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School board approves key leadership appointments



Dr. Joshua Bocock



Jennifer Gunter



Emmanuel "Tremain" Kidd



Anthony Swann

At a recent meeting, the Henry County School Board approved the Superintendent's recommendations to fill several administrative appointments for the 2025-2026 school year.

Dr. Joshua Bocock was named Magna Vista High School Principal.

"I am truly honored to serve as the next Principal of Magna Vista High School," said Dr. Bocock. "Magna Vista has a rich tradition of excellence in all areas, and my goal is to work together with the entire community to make Magna Vista one of the best high schools in the state."

Dr. Bocock has a wealth of educational experience, having served as a high school teacher, assistant principal, curriculum coordinator, Governor's School director, and principal. A Henry County native and graduate, he previously served nine years as a teacher at Magna Vista. He has served as Principal at Dan River High School in Pittsylvania County for the past two years.

Jennifer Gunter will serve as an assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. Gunter has worked in education for more than two decades, first as a teacher and then as a school counselor. She has served as a school counselor at Meadow View Elementary since its opening in 2018.

"I am truly honored to join the Fieldale-Collinsville family as an assistant principal. I am very excited to return home where I graduated in 1997, and began my teaching career 23 years ago. I look forward to working alongside the incredible staff, students, and families to support academic growth, social-emotional development, and a strong school community. It is my passion to assist in creating a positive and supportive learning environment where every student can thrive. Together, we will build on the school's traditions of excellence and success, ensuring the best opportunities for our students.

Emmanuel "Tremain" Kidd will

also serve as an assistant principal at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.

"I am deeply honored to join the Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School community as assistant principal. With 15 years of educational experience, I am committed to building on the strong foundation of excellence that exists here. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated teachers, staff, and families to create an environment where every student can thrive academically and personally. Together, we will continue to inspire growth, foster inclusion, and prepare our students for success."

Kidd has served as an elementary teacher, special education pre-referral chairperson, paraprofessional and athletic coach. He is currently a physical education teacher at Albert Harris Elementary in Martinsville.

Anthony Swann was appointed principal at Meadow View Elementary School. Swann has served as a teacher, instructional coach, and an assistant

principal of an elementary school. He currently serves as Assistant Principal at Monterey Elementary School in Roanoke City. He was also recipient of the 2021 Virginia Teacher of the Year award, the highest teaching honor in Virginia, and became the first sitting teacher to be appointed to the Virginia State Board of Education in 2021.

"I am so elated to join Henry County Public Schools as the new principal of Meadow View Elementary! It is an honor to serve this school and community as I support the teachers and students with academic excellence and growth! I look forward to the journey ahead!"

"I am thrilled to welcome these talented individuals to the Henry County Schools leadership team," said Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis. "Their expertise and dedication will play a key role in fostering collaboration with faculty, staff, and families to enhance student growth and achievement."

City Officials

(cont. from page 1)



Members of Martinsville City Council (left) held a joint meeting with the Martinsville City School Board on April 7 to hear the proposed school budget.

increase of \$145,205.

The projected enrollment for the upcoming year is 1,865, with 1,675 students in K-12, 110 children in preschool, and 80 students in adult education.

Talley said the General Assembly passed a three percent raise and step for school employees, which totals \$636,172.

"For those of you that have been on council and served before know that they don't always fund what they ask us to do and call those unfunded mandates. So, the General Assembly is not going to pay for everyone to get a three percent raise, and you already know that. The budgeted requests are around \$570,000," Talley said.

Of the initial division-level and school-level requests totaling \$902,422, the budget requests were narrowed down to \$570,200.

Talley said the approved requests include a reading specialist for Albert Harris Elementary School and contract adjustments for Martinsville Middle School, and two special education teachers at Martinsville High School.

"There are divisions who have, and you can Google

it, removed their special ed students from educating. We refuse to do it, never want to do it, because if you have a special needs child or somebody in your family has special needs, you understand it is important that they have an education too, and we will never have the heart to disband our special needs program because our students are our students, regardless," he said.

Tally said the other approved requests were for technology software, HR software inflation, pupil personnel professional development, a board certified behavioral analyst, a social worker, and an English Language teacher.

"We basically cut most of what was asked for in half," he said.

The division's mission statement is to create a safe and supportive learning environment that engages students in individualized learning experiences. To achieve the mission statement, Talley said there are values that are central to any organization that's going to be effective including integrity and ethical behavior and academic excellence.

"As you know, up to 2015 none of our schools were

accredited. Since 2015, all of them have been, so we don't just talk about it. We do what we say because the education our young people get is vital to anything that's going to happen to be successful," he said.

Diversity, equity and inclusion; respect, compassion, and positive relationships; family and community engagement, and service to others are other values of the division. Talley said the division has three annual goals with the first having all schools distinguished as measured by the Virginia Performance Framework by spring 2026.

"Safe and Supportive Schools - it's very important that we reduce discipline by 10 percent every year. Family Engagement - we actually monitor and count how many events we have and how many parents come from our community because since 2015 we have an open school and an open environment," he said.

In other matters, the council:

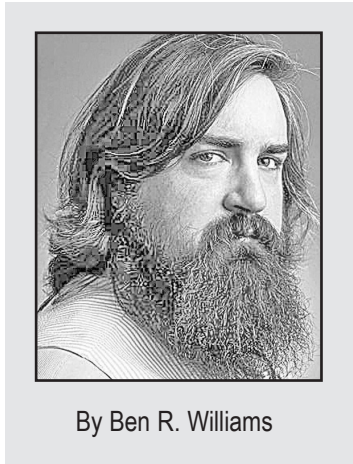
*Heard an update FY25-26 city budget presentation from City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides.

*Approved the real estate tax exemption on the first reading.

Opinion

(cont. from page 4)

The final, most essential command



By Ben R. Williams

I realize that some readers think I'm a partisan hack, so I'm going to start this column by saying something negative about former President Joe Biden and something positive about President Donald Trump.

We'll start with Biden. He should never have run for reelection. At the end of his first term, he was 82 years old. I know some folks that age or older who are still as sharp as ever, but Biden's only debate with Trump proved he was not one of the exceptions. It was painful and embarrassing to watch, and

it was wrong for those near him to cover up how much he had deteriorated. Sure, he dropped out of the race eventually and threw his support behind Kamala Harris, but the die was cast. Just as Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy is tarnished by her unwillingness to step aside, Biden's bid for a second term will be the specter that haunts his own legacy.

And now for something positive about Trump. Back in February, Trump announced that he was going to do away with the penny. I support this move 100%. It makes no sense that we continue to produce a coin that's worth one cent but costs 3.7 cents to make. There's no reason we can't do away with the penny and round every price to the nearest five cents. If Trump succeeds in doing away with the penny, I'll gladly tell anyone who asks that I support the move.

Having said all that, it's no secret that I don't think Trump is a good President, to put it mildly. I also think Biden was a better President than I expected him to be, which may largely be to the

credit of his cabinet.

But I share these two observations to prove a shocking point: it is possible to criticize someone you largely agree with, and it is also possible to praise someone you largely disagree with. Very few things in life are purely black and white. The worst person you know might raise a good point occasionally; the best person you know might fumble.

I think it's important that we remind ourselves of this every once in a while because just lately, I feel like I'm losing my mind. In the lead-up to the 2024 Presidential election, Trump said voting for Harris would be the same thing as voting for the stock market to collapse.

"You want to see a market crash?" he said at an October rally in Pennsylvania. "If we lost this election, I think the market would go down the tubes." At an earlier rally, he said that voting for Harris would usher in a "Kamala economic crash, a 1929-style Depression."

But of course, Trump won the election. And thanks to his economic policies, he has created

the worst start to a stock market following an inauguration in modern history.

That isn't hyperbole; it's a simple fact. And this isn't like the market crash of 2001 that followed former President George W. Bush into office; in that case, the dot com bubble had already burst and the market crash was inevitable. Trump inherited a strong bull market from Biden and is well on his way to turning it into a bear market after fewer than three months in office. The impending recession will be solely the fault of Trump's tariffs and economic policies.

Trump's argument is that Americans need to just hang tough and endure some brief hardship, after which manufacturing will return to America, high-paying jobs will abound, and Cadillac will presumably bring back the '59 Deville.

None of that is going to happen, but this column isn't even about that. It's about Trump's supporters.

Imagine if Biden, Harris, or Barack Obama had won the presidency and tanked the stock

market within three months of being inaugurated. Imagine if when confronted about it, they told people they just needed to hang tough and endure this momentary hardship. Imagine if after that, they had blown off further questions to go golfing.

Republicans wouldn't just demand impeachment; they would demand blood sacrifice. They would demand heads on pikes paraded through the streets. I remember the angry coverage Fox News devoted to Obama's love of dijon mustard and ownership of a tan suit; had Obama ushered in the worst financial catastrophe in decades, I imagine the shrieking rage of the various talking heads on Fox would have been audible from outer space.

You can't have it both ways. You can't vote for a guy because he said his opponent would tank the stock market and then praise him when he tanks the stock market himself.

Or you can, but no one's even going to pretend to take you seriously anymore.

~Sponsored Content~

Turbine teams win big at regional STEM contest



Taco Turbines

Three teams from Martinsville City Public Schools earned recognition at the regional KidWind Challenge, held March 30 at Randolph College in Lynchburg.

All three teams—the Taco Turbines and Rainbow Turbines from Patrick Henry Elementary School, and the Turbine Turtles from Albert Harris Elementary School—walked away with awards in the competition, which challenges students to design and build small-scale wind turbines and solar structures as part of a fun, STEM-focused approach to learning about clean, renewable energy.

The Taco Turbines, coached by Liz Lynch and Lizzy Fulcher, earned first place and will advance to the state competition at James Madison University.

The Turbine Turtles, coached by Cyndi Jones, placed third. The Rainbow Turbines received the Judges Award. In recommending the team for the honor, one judge wrote: “The Rainbow Turbines were one of the most persistent groups here today. They tested their blades an astonishing 11 times and each time tweaked a component to see the impact ... Keep up the good work and

never stop trying!”

“KidWind helps students to see science in action,” Lynch said. “They’re able to change things in real time and get data which can help them make decisions. It gives them an opportunity to learn more about renewable resources and how we can harness them to produce energy.”

“I like designing the [turbine] blades and the feeling of triumph when you get it right,” said Margot Sharp of the Taco Turbines. She said that participating in KidWind was good for students like her because she gets to learn about clean and renewable energy at a young age.

Naryah Williams, also of the Taco Turbines, recalled the team’s excitement when they learned they won first place: “It felt amazing,” she said. “I was so happy. We ran up to the front to get our award.”

KidWind is a national program that introduces students to renewable energy concepts through hands-on challenges, encouraging innovation, collaboration and critical thinking.

“Our students continue to make great connections between math, science, and real-world applica-



Taco Turbines with Coaches



Rainbow Turbines



Turbine Turtles

tions,” enthused MCPS Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. “Our teachers are developing outstanding future engineers!”

Lynch said she was proud of not only her team, but all the MCPS teams that competed.

“Competitions like this encourage our students to grow and learn, and it’s always so exciting to see them take on new challenges and succeed,” she said. “We as teachers already know they’re capable of anything they put their minds to, but it’s always awesome to see them learn that for themselves.”

Members of the MCPS KidWind teams are:

Taco Turbines: Margot Sharp, Amreen Nurula, Wesley Walker, Kavany Flores, Naryah Williams, Kenyon Jones, Jacob Ratliff, Mason Rea, Mercy Moore, Elena Alvarez.

Rainbow Turbines: Aiden Boaz, Allan Meyers, Bailey Clarke, Christian Smith, Emmie Stewart, Lanay Pruitt, O’Derion Deshazo, Sebastian LaPrade, Soulionna Walker.

Turbine Turtles: Vincent Andrieux, Micah Barton, Kyleigh Flood, Conner Brecht, Ana Romero Rameriz, Kaidance Williamson.

Fiscal

(cont. from page 1)

taxes on residents. Instead, Wagoner proposed balancing the \$222,815,547 budget by transferring \$1,778,455 from the county’s savings.

“As we navigate through these uncertain economic times, we understand the strain many of our residents are feeling,” Wagoner said. “Costs are rising, and while revenues remain relatively flat, we are committed to easing the burden on our taxpayers. We know that raising taxes is not the solution, especially when so many are already stretched thin. That’s why, instead of increasing taxes, I’m recommending that we tap into our rainy-day fund to ensure we continue delivering the essential services our community relies on, without adding more pressure to those who can afford it the least.”

Primary funding sources include real estate taxes, personal property taxes, and the machinery and tools tax. Costs for services are continuing to rise, yet revenues remain stagnant, forcing the county to make difficult choices about where to allocate its limited resources.

Expected growth from state contributions and revenue from sales taxes are projected to offset some of the anticipated decline.

With additional revenue from the Commonwealth, Wagoner

proposed a 3 percent cost-of-living increase for all state-supported positions, such as teacher and deputies, and all county employees.

Additionally, all eligible county and compensation-board funded employees would receive a 1.5 percent stipend. State-supported positions in public education would receive a one-time stipend of \$1,000.

The proposed budget for public education is \$119,724,257 which is an increase of 11.87 percent compared to the current year’s original budget. The proposed local contribution increased by 8.15 percent for a total of \$23,398,263. Of that amount, \$2,496,242 is dedicated to paying down the school’s debt service. Another \$5.7 million is set aside from the 1 percent sales tax for school facility construction and renovation projects.

Also under the proposal, the Sheriff’s Office would receive funding to support 12 new positions at the Adult Detention Center. This coincides with a decision by the sheriff to terminate the inmate medical services contract with a private provider and manage the services in-house, a step that is anticipated to decrease total expenses for the center by 3.2 percent.

The budget also includes funding for an

additional officer for the Animal Services division, 11 new vehicles, a K-9 dog, and associated training and supplies. The total budget for the Sheriff’s Office would increase 1.14 percent.

The proposed budget for public safety would grow 12.19 percent, primarily due to the addition of four new positions to improve the response to fire and emergency medical services (EMS) calls. The cost for these positions is expected to be offset by additional revenue from billing.

As a way of preparing the next generation of emergency responders, the proposed budget also includes funding for an EMS Educator to teach emergency medical technician courses to high school students in the Career Academy.

Wagoner is also recommending the establishment of a District Impact Fund. This fund would allocate resources for each magisterial district and enable board members to fund targeted improvements for their respective districts. Approximately \$210,000 from rental vehicle taxes would be used to jumpstart the fund, and an initial distribution of \$35,000 per district would be allocated.

A work session was held April 8 to give board members an opportunity to make any changes before a public hearing is scheduled on the proposal.

Cartwright

(cont. from page 1)

“I don’t have answers to everything. I am a fast learner, and when I get there, I will have a lot of allies,” she said. “According to all the stats, especially if Abigail Spanberger becomes governor, we will be a Blue state.”

Spanberger and Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears are currently vying for the gubernatorial seat.

Cartwright said she does not yet know how much her proposals may cost but does not expect them to result in a tax increase.

“We as democrats will have to figure it out,” she said.

She said candidates in red districts serve an important role: “One, make their opponents actually run a campaign and tell voters what their platform is. Two, make ‘em spend money which would have ordinarily gone to other districts. Three, increase the point spread, if possible, and four, be the point guard to support all up-ballot Democratic candidates like” Spanberger.

Cartwright first ran in the 2024 special election. She is once again untested as the Democratic nominee.

“I am the only democrat that’s running,” she said. “No one will run against me. There will not be a primary for me for the House of Delegates.”

A retired state employee and long-time activist, Cartwright has advocated for Medicaid, education, housing, and workers’ rights. She has served as an election official and worked more than 25 years for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

She is a member or advocate with several organizations, including the MHC NAACP, FAHL, MHC Warming Center, SPCA, YMCA, Piedmont Arts, National ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center, Virginia LGBTQ, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, and the National Organization for Women – Virginia Chapter. She has also served as secretary for the MHC Democratic Committee.

A Martinsville native, Cartwright is a graduate of Martinsville High School, Patrick Henry Community College, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

More information is available at www.MelodyforVA48.com.

Second Public Meeting Old Bassett Heights Housing Rehabilitation Project

The County of Henry will hold the second Public Community Meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Henry County Administration Building, in the Summerlin Board Room; otherwise known as the Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville VA., in order to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the Old Bassett Heights Community located in Bassett, VA. A fact sheet with the number of residents who will benefit from this project will be provided and plans to minimize displacement will be presented for comment. Citizens will also be able to comment on past use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are urged to attend. For additional information, contact Micah Montgomery, Community Development Specialist by phone at (276)634-2517, Virginia Relay Number 711 or by email mmontgomery@henrycountyva.gov. Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the County of Henry at P.O. Box 7 Collinsville, VA 24078. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

Memorial motorcycle ride raises awareness, celebrates musical legacy



The Suicide Prevention Memorial Ride got underway. The event was to honor Isaac Rakes, create awareness and raise funds to help send Patrick County High School students to band camp.

By Jessica Dillon
The Fraternal Order of Eagles # 3739 in Bassett held a Suicide Prevention Memorial Ride last month, in honor of Isaac Rakes, a Patrick County High School student who died by suicide on March 20, 2022.

Isaac was passionate about music, enjoyed being part of the school band, and looked forward to band camp each year. The ride raised funds to help Patrick County High School students attend band camp in his memory. It at-

tracted a large group of bikers, many of whom had been personally affected by suicide. John Dillon, known as “John Deere,” was among the participants. “Every person, somehow or another, has dealt with suicide. Family members, friends, and military—there’s a lot of suicide in the military. I want to support any organization that tries to reduce the suicide rate,” said Dillon. Dillon emphasized the importance of supporting those who are



Several local businesses donated items for a raffle to raise additional funds, and as door prizes.

actively working in suicide prevention. “Without support, it’s so easy to make a wrong decision,” he said. He added that community involvement matters deeply. “I’m here because I don’t want to see anyone commit suicide, simple as I can put it.” The emotional toll on survivors, Dillon said, is far-reaching. “It’s gonna affect them, it’s just that simple.” Isaac’s grandmother, Rhonda Brown, also attended the event. “We are raising money to support the Patrick County March-

ing Band right now, but we hope to branch out. Music is very important, and he was a marching Cougar, and he was on the drum line, so we raised money to help their expenses. I’m very thankful to the Eagles and to them,” Brown said. The ride followed U.S. 58 before looping back to the Eagles Club. It was led by a biker known as Thumper. “He truly was born to play music; he taught himself to play the piano and guitar. He started in the band on the horn and then went

Need Help? You’re Not Alone.

If you’re struggling, feel overwhelmed, or know someone who is — there’s help. Talking about mental health isn’t always easy, but reaching out can make a huge difference. You’re not alone, and people care about you.

Signs Someone Might Need Help:

- Talking about feeling hopeless or wanting to disappear
- Pulling away from friends or family
- Big mood swings or feeling super down
- Saying goodbye or giving away stuff
- Trouble sleeping, eating, or keeping up at school

If You Need to Talk, Here’s Where to Start:

- * Call or text 988 — Free, private support any time, 24/7
- * Text HOME to 741741 — Crisis Text Line connects you with someone who gets it
- * Talk to a trusted adult — A teacher, school counselor, coach, or parent can help

Local Help is available in Henry and Patrick counties and Martinsville at Piedmont Community Services.

- * Call the Crisis Line at 1-855-245-6350
- * Visit the website: www.piedmontcsb.org

Remember:

- * It’s okay to ask for help.
- * You don’t have to go through it alone.
- * Your life matters—and there are people ready to listen.

Congressional Art Competition in Ninth District underway



Rishi Nair of Blacksburg High School won the 2024 Congressional Art Competition in Virginia’s Ninth Congressional District. His artwork is entitled ‘Mabry Mill.’

Each year, the U.S. House of Representatives sponsors the Congressional Art Competition for high school students, according to Rep. Morgan Griffith. This competition is an exciting way for a student from our region to represent the Ninth Congressional District in Washington. The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in the Ninth District. The chosen theme for 2025 is “Commemorating Virginia’s Contribution to the American Revolution.” Interested students must submit a photograph of their original artwork to either Griffith’s Christiansburg or Abingdon offices by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28 for consideration. Each entry must be accompanied by a complete student information release form to qualify. The overall winner of our district’s competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol and will be invited to Washington for a reception. The second and third place selections will be displayed in my Christiansburg and Abingdon offices. Art works entered in the contest may be up to 26 inches by 26 inches (including the frame) and may be up to 4 inches in depth. Artwork must be

two-dimensional and cannot weigh more than 15 pounds. The work may be:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed)
- Collages: must be two dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art
- Photographs

All entries must be original in concept, design and execution. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition. For more information on the annual Congressional Art Competition, call Griffith’s Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405 or visit the Congressional Art Competition website.



Anna Wheeler paddling the Dan River (Photo by DRBA)

DRBA appoints new recreation and stewardship manager

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) appointed Anna Wheeler as the new Recreation and Stewardship Manager. Wheeler served as the North Carolina Program Coordinator for DRBA since September 2021. Before that, she served as DRBA’s Recreation Assistant and various roles at Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines. “I am excited about the creation of our new position, Recreation and Stewardship Manager, which will play a pivotal role in the development, protection, and conservation of recreational assets throughout the entire Dan River watershed,” DRBA Executive Director Tiffany Haworth said. “The ability to span state lines and leverage resources will empower DRBA to have an even greater impact in the region.” “I am especially excited that Anna Wheeler has accepted this important role,” Haworth added. “Anna’s unwavering dedication, expertise, and proven experience in developing and implementing recreational and stewardship initiatives are truly exceptional, and I have no doubt she will be instrumental in expanding DRBA’s impact.” DRBA has designed, constructed and/or enhanced more than 100 trails, parks, and river accesses in the bi-state, 16-county, 3,300 square mile footprint of the Dan River Basin since it became a nonprofit in 2002. In addition, DRBA has organized countless cleanups, habitat restoration, and water quality monitoring projects to ensure our natural resources are preserved and protected for future generations.

“I am honored to take on this position and expand DRBA’s recreation and stewardship projects,” said Wheeler. “The Dan River Basin is home to unique flora and fauna and the perfect destination for outstanding outdoor experiences, both of which need to be promoted, conserved, and protected.” In her position of NC Program Coordinator, Wheeler has developed numerous programs and outdoor assets throughout all of the North Carolina counties that are part of the Dan River

Basin. Projects include developing the Rockingham County Rivers and Trails Master Plan, Hogans Creek Park, Dan River State Paddle Trail, appointment of local stakeholders in safety and river events, and developing events for NC’s Year of the Trail. She is actively engaged in the Rockingham County Tourism Board, Mayo River State Park Advisory Board, Martinsville YMCA Board, and the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County Board. “In this new role, I am excited to apply the experience I’ve gained from creating and implementing successful projects in North Carolina to benefit all the counties within our watershed,” said Wheeler. “I am truly thrilled to help ensure that every county in the Dan River Basin has access to trails, parks, and river access points, as well as the tools and resources necessary to protect and preserve their natural resources.” Wheeler has a bachelor’s degree in biology-ecology, evolutionary, and environmental science, and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Appalachian State University. She also has a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. Wheeler has been on various panels at conferences including the first Great Trails State Conference, and earned the Judges Award and second-highest fundraiser at Piedmont Art’s Dancing for the Arts. Wheeler lives in Martinsville, and is an avid hiker, fisher, paddler, and environmental advocate. The mission of the Dan River Basin Association is to promote and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River Basin through education, recreation, and stewardship. DRBA works to fulfill that mission by building river accesses and trails, educating people of all ages about protecting our natural resources, and protecting our water resources through water quality monitoring, cleanups and master planning. The Dan River basin is 3,300 square miles including sixteen counties throughout Virginia and North Carolina.

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A granite headstone for the Johnson family. It features the name "JOHNSON" at the top. Below it are two sections: "MARTIN L. FEB 13, 1927 JAN. 4, 2006" and "RUTH D. JAN. 8, 1929 AUG. 22, 2010". There is a small heart-shaped emblem between the two sections with the date "APR. 14, 1949". At the bottom, it says "TOGETHER FOREVER".

Huber Engineered Woods helps grow trees and young stewards



Youth plant trees along a stream for erosion mitigation.

Since its inception in 2008, Growing Kids and Trees has been a statewide youth project for planting hardwood seedlings in riparian stream buffers and communities. 4-H groups, Scouts, private schools and other youth organizations participate annually in the project.

The local VA Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent works in collaboration with the Extension District Foresters (there are four in the Commonwealth) to plan organized community planting projects, as well as supporting Earth Day and other events where children receive a tree to plant at home. Virginia Department of Forestry nurseries have been the source of most of the seedlings, and VDOF works with VCE to assist with giving “Tree Talks” at local and community schools upon request.

To date, nearly 400,000 native hardwood seedlings have been distributed to youth groups in Virginia, and thousands of acres of watersheds have been protected, with wildlife habitat and shade provided to communities around the Commonwealth.

Huber Engineered Woods sponsors this statewide project and joins the VA Forestry Educational Foundation in the total sponsoring effort. Virginia Cooperative Extension

sion also appreciates Huber Engineered Woods for its steady support of Virginia Tech’s SHARP Logger Program (www.sharplogger.vt.edu) and Virginia Forest Landowner Education Programs (www.forestupdate.frec.vt.edu) through its Sustainable Forestry Initiative goals.

The purpose of this project is to improve water quality by restoring forest cover to residential and stream buffer loca-

tions. Students are encouraged to take seedlings home to plant with the help of a parent or youth leader, or students may plant seedlings as a group (preferred). Studies show that planting and caring for a tree builds community involvement and a sense of stewardship for years to come as the tree grows. For more information contact Jason Fisher at 434-476-2147 x3389 or jasonf@vt.edu.

Nelson Automotive donates 30 trees to support parks, schools



A total of 30 trees donated by Nelson Automotive are being planted along the Dick and Willie Trail and on school grounds across Henry County. Sixteen trees were provided to Henry County Parks and Recreation, while 14 were given to the county’s public schools.



WPPDC hires two community development specialists

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) added Jennifer Denton and Paul Jadrnick to its team as Community Development Specialists, who provide grant writing, grant administration, and technical assistance services to municipalities and non-profit organizations within the planning district.

Denton formerly worked at Virginia Tech as a Fiscal Assistant in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Radford University and an Associate of Applied Science from Patrick and Henry Community College.

One of her favorite projects was working with the Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture at Virginia Tech. She supported the fiscal team in issuing payments to program producers and ensured accurate reporting to the USDA and VT departments. This experience highlighted how effective project management and strong internal systems bolster community work. Denton enjoyed contributing to a project that promoted sustainable agriculture, strengthened producer relationships, and ensured resource accountability, emphasizing the importance of behind-the-scenes efforts in community development.

“I’m really looking forward to contributing to impactful, community-driven projects that will directly improve the quality of living in this area for residents in the WPPDC region,” Denton said. “I’m especially excited about working across different localities to help identify needs, secure funding, and implement solutions. The opportunity to collaborate with local governments, nonprofits, and residents to build stronger, more resilient commu-

nities really motivates me, and I’m eager to bring both creativity and strategic thinking to that work.”

Jadrnick was employed as the Grants Manager at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia. Before transitioning to the non-profit and public service sector, he had a career in education. Jadrnick graduated from Asbury University with a degree in English.

He emphasized that his most significant accomplishments are often the small victories—whether it’s a strategic conversation that redirects a project or an effective project plan that ensures everyone is aligned. Those moments are what keep him motivated.

“I am most excited about the opportunity to serve and collaborate with WPPDC’s many partners on the frontlines of building a bright future for the West Piedmont region,” Jadrnick said.

“We are excited to welcome Jennifer and Paul to our team,” said Kristie Eberly, WPPDC executive director. “Their direct experience in the grant world will be instrumental in empowering our partners and advancing numerous projects that make a meaningful impact on our communities.”

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.



Salamanders take center stage at Education Station

Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists and the Virginia Museum of Natural History, (VMNH) present the latest installment in their Education Station series, The Magical World of Salamanders! The Series provides an interactive experience for visitors and will be held at the museum on Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

President of the Virginia Herpetological Society (VHS) and Assistant Curator of Herpetology at the Illinois Natural History Survey, Dr. Arianna Kuhn, will give a presentation on salamanders, “The True Hidden Gems of Appalachia,” at noon.

Research Technician at VMNH and Vice President of VHS, Marshall Boyd, will be available throughout to share information on the amazing world of amphibians, their transformative life cycles, and how this diverse group has adapted

to live in and out of the water.

Virginia Master Naturalists will be available to talk about how to become a Master Naturalist, and Virginia’s native salamanders, including one called the Hellbender.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History is located at 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. Check the museum’s website for more information and admission fees at <https://www.vmnh.net/plan-your-visit>.

For information about the local chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists, email Christine Stewart at stonegardn1306@gmail.com, or www.facebook.com/SouthwesternPiedmontMasterNaturalists/.

For more information about the VMNH or the Education Station series, contact Boyd at (276) 403-8525 or marshall.boyd@vmnh.virginia.gov.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook