

Jones discusses politics, future after recent resignation

“Should I continue to sacrifice every part of me? I’ve lost my family, my health, my career, financially....” ~ LC Jones

By Jessica Dillon

LC Jones is fully invested in his community and takes pride in adhering to his campaign promise of putting Martinsville first — even with the toll it has taken and the sacrifices it has required him to make.

But would he do it again?

In a word, no.

Jones, who serves as the mayor and is a member of Martinsville City Council, recently stepped away from his career in law enforcement for the second time in the span of a few years.

A Martinsville Police officer for about seven years, Jones served as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Martinsville Middle School. He resigned from that post during his campaign after learning an employee could not serve as a council member.

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office later contacted him about potential employment, and Jones served as an SRO there for a little more than two years before his recent abrupt



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones

departure.

“I did resign, but it wasn’t like I just woke up that morning and said, ‘I’m going to resign,’” Jones said, adding that he was asked to

(See Jones p. 5)



The Martinsville School Board voted to submit an application for the Perkins Grant.

City school board seeks grant to bolster CTE program

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville City School Board voted to approve the submission of an application for the federal Perkins Grant during its regular meeting on April 14. The board also approved several policy amendments aimed at improving operations in schools and board meetings.

The Perkins Grant is a federal funding program that supports career and technical education (CTE) at the secondary and post-second-

ary levels. Director of Technology Shauna Hines presented details about the grant application to the board.

A total of \$83,255 is being requested, with \$42,420 allocated for professional development.

“One of our new classes we will be providing is cybersecurity operations and cybersecurity foundations,” Hines said.

The district’s welding program

(See City School p. 2)

Lawless to invest \$1 million, drive revitalization in community

By Jessica Dillon

Chris Lawless, who is running for the Collinsville District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, announced a \$1 million investment in a property that will become home to Lawless Welding and Fabrications Inc.

He announced the investment, ongoing work and plans at a press conference that was held at his newly acquired property at 1687 Stultz Road, a site formerly used by the Henry County Public Service Authority and Virginia Department of Transportation.

The site is the first piece of property the company has owned, Lawless said, adding that significant improvements to the property are already underway, with tree removal marking the beginning of a larger revitalization effort.

When completed,



STAR NEWS

Chris Lawless announced a \$1 million investment in property located on Stultz Road.

he said the site will be known as ‘Lawless Campus,’ a space he hopes will bring “posi-

tivity” and help drive revitalization in the Collinsville/Fieldale

(See Lawless p. 3)



Andrew Doss holds pieces of Bassett Furniture history in his hands.

Doss works to preserve town and company history

By Jessica Dillon

Andrew Doss is working to preserve the history of Bassett—both the town and the company that shares its name—and to share it with others.

Doss manages the Facebook group, Bassett – Looking Back. Moving Forward, a Facebook group where members can find historic photos and information about the town. He also helps preserve the company’s legacy as part of Bassett Furniture.

“I am unofficially the company historian,” said Doss, who was inspired to start after discovering the location of archived Bassett Pioneer newsletters. The newsletters, which celebrated employees and were produced in high print quality, held personal significance for Doss, a fourth-generation Bassett Furniture employee. He wanted to find photos of his family.

Community members soon began contributing their own copies.

“Ever since I’ve been doing it, people started donating, and I have tons of these things,” Doss said.

A coworker later suggested creating a digital archive, and Doss began compiling the material.

“I ended up scanning 20 years’ worth of these newsletters off and on, for four years.”

The Facebook group started as a side project.

“I honestly only figured maybe 100, 200 people would be interested. I had no idea of the kind of interest. At the time, it didn’t make any sense to me,” he said.

Today, the group has nearly 12,000 members.

Doss soon realized how deeply Bassett Furniture’s history was tied to the region, drawing interest from descendants of employees and others with family connections to the area.

“You have to think how many people were employed back from 1902, let’s just grab a random number, to 1980.”

Even people who never lived in Bassett have shown interest.

“Some of them didn’t even live in Bassett. They wanted to learn more

(See Doss p. 2)

All Vets to host 22-mile Memorial Ruck honoring fallen service members



Flags carried in the rucking team’s packs. (Courtesy Tobie Panos Photography, 2024)

All Vets, a Henry County-based non-profit organization, has announced the second annual county-wide Memorial Ruck, set for Friday, May 24. The 22-mile ruck will honor fallen military members and raise awareness about veteran support needs during Memorial Day weekend.

Escorted by the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, more than 25 participants will carry rucksacks filled with hundreds of American, service, and POW/MIA flags—each one representing a fallen service member.

The ruck begins at 6 a.m. at Jack Dalton Park, located at 130 Jack Dalton Road in Collinsville. The team will traverse a 22-mile route across Henry County, returning to the park by approximately 2 p.m. The public is invited to join participants for the final lap around the park’s Trail of Remembrance.

Jack Dalton Park will be adorned with flags and patriotic decorations. Following the final lap, All Vets will host a short storytelling presentation under the park shelter, providing space to re-

member and reflect on

(See Memorial p. 2)

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UPDATES



Doss

(cont. from page 1)

about this place where their great grandpa lived and died,” he said.

Doss earns no money from the group and says he is driven by a passion for history.

“I was already into history long before Bassett history.”

His interest was sparked by his wife’s involvement in family genealogy.

“She said you should look up your family sometime. I said my family never did anything. Then I realized that everybody” thinks that way. “When you start doing genealogy, you realize that you have somebody who did something pretty significant in your family,” he said.

Through his research, Doss discovered that his fourth great-grandfather served in the War of 1812.

“I didn’t know anything about the War of 1812, so I learned about it.”

This led him to join the War of 1812 Society and later the Sons of the American Revolution.

“I’ve been really active in Sons of American Revolution ever since.”

Doss is serving his first cumulative term as president of the group and has been its registrar since 2009, often conducting genealogical research on behalf of applicants.

“I spend not only a lot of time on my own family research, but on other people’s family research as well.”

As Doss began sharing company history with Bassett Furniture’s leadership, he received more inquiries.

“It made me sad when I first started here because I thought there wasn’t much history left at the company.”

Using old newspapers and online archives, he pieced together historical information. His efforts expanded when a former bank across from Bassett Furniture contacted him after finding documents from 1982, when the com-



Andrew Doss has a collection of historical items related to Bassett in his office. The one pictured, dated July 11, 1958, states it commemorates the First Tank Car Shipment “Dulux” Furniture Finishes To Bassett Furniture Industries.

pany sold the building.

Among the materials were aerial views of the plants, sales representative data, and company profiles.

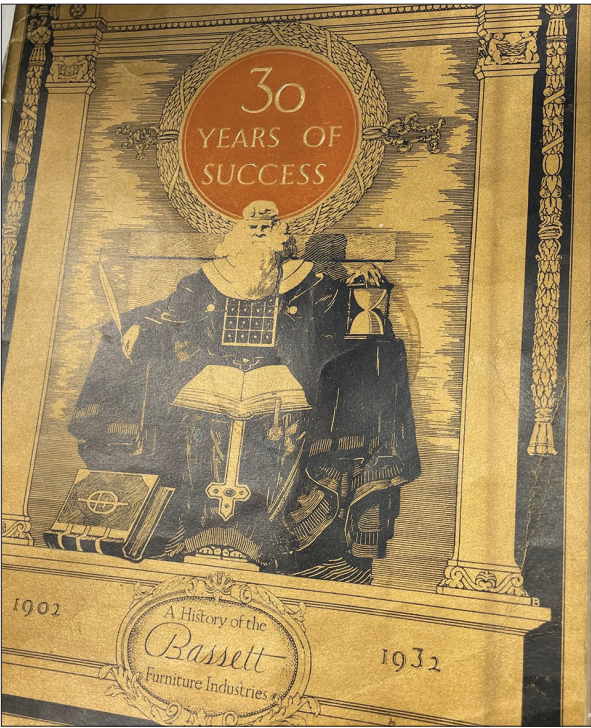
“It’s a cool thing for me to collect.”

This discovery marked his first foray into locating and preserving documents. His growing collection now includes items from J.D. Bassett’s desk. Bassett founded the Bassett Furniture Industries. His competitive spirit is credited with helping “spawn numerous other furniture manufacturing companies, among them Stanley, Vaughan, and Vaughan-Bassett, Hooker, United Furniture, Galax Mirror and Bassett Mirror, to whom he contributed manufacturing’ know-how and Initial capital,” according to homefurnishingshalloffame.com.

“They gave me access to the vault and things in annex storage.”

Some items were brittle, requiring careful restoration. Doss worked to scan and reassemble documents before storing them in protective sleeves.

“As years went by, more and more things



A History of the Bassett Furniture Industries, 1902-1932 is an informational book about the company’s history.

came to my hands and helped me become the source for Bassett information as well,” he said.

Doss has also played a role in clarifying misinformation and hopes to one day see Bassett’s history displayed for public viewing. He encourages others to join the Facebook group and share personal discoveries.

Doss co-manages a historical YouTube channel with friend and fellow group administrator Jarred Marlowe. The channel, “Doss-Marlowe: History in Sight,” features in-depth content about the history of Bassett and the surrounding area. Subscribers to the channel have access to more in-depth information about the history of Bassett and the surrounding area.

Memorial

(cont. from page 1)



More than 100 community members helped the team finish the county-wide ruck, escorted by the Henry County Sheriff’s Office.

the lives and service of fallen veterans. During the event, a plaque will also be presented to a local Gold Star widow, honoring her loved one’s sacrifice and the enduring strength of those left behind.

Army veteran Melissa Gaona will serve as the emcee.

Founded in August 2024 by U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Henry County native S. Patrick Rodgers, All Vets is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to “Honor

the Fallen and Strengthen the Living.” The organization honors fallen veterans through its annual Memorial Ruck and supports living veterans by organizing community events that promote physical wellness, education, and engagement.

The group is led by a board of directors and a committee that includes veterans, military family members, and patriotic citizens.

Funds raised through donations, T-shirt sales, and the sale of commemorative flags for

rucksacks will support local veterans and programs that align with All Vets’ mission.

Community members can follow updates, volunteer opportunities, and event details through the All Vets Facebook page: All Vets Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AllVetsVirginia/.

Flags can be purchased in memory of a loved one, friend, or unknown service member for inclusion in this year’s ruck. Visit the All Vets Memorial Ruck Store 2025 to learn more.

Harbour elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Madison Harbour of Martinsville, Virginia, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Radford University.

Harbour is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the num-

ber of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to “cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.”

City School

(cont. from page 1)

has also been expanded to accommodate five students, up from four. An additional \$9,000 will support a career counselor at Martinsville High School, with a focus on promoting CTE opportunities for special populations and non-traditional students.

Among the procedural changes approved during the meeting, the board voted to allow students to speak at future school board meetings. Students must show valid identification proving they are enrolled in Martinsville City Schools.

The board also approved a policy allowing three designated individuals to sign documents in the superintendent’s absence. These

designees must be approved in advance.

In addition to the grant and policy updates, the board heard presentations from Carter Bank and Trust and on the New Accreditation Model, Part II.

Other policy revisions included an update to the procedure for removing a board member and the addition of hazing prevention language to policy CLA – Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse. The board also reviewed a first reading of proposed changes related to electronic or remote participation, which would allow board members to join meetings remotely.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

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 Meeting, 3 and 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 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 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.

Breakfast at Bassett Vol. Fire Department, 6-10 a.m., 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett.

Friday, April 25

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

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.

Sunday, April 27

Bassett Ruritan Club, 277 Philpott Dam Road, is hosting a Bluegrass music jam, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Musicians are welcome to bring their instruments. No admission charge. For more information call Patti or Randy at (276) 629-8296.

Friday, May 2

Farewell Reception for Pedro Szalay 3-5 p.m., at Piedmont Arts. Szalay is retiring from Southwest Virginia Ballet at the end of June. He has served as the ballet’s artistic director for more than 18 years. He has impacted the lives of many youths and adults in Martinsville-Henry County through programs like Minds in Motion, Dance Español and Dancing for the Arts. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP attendance by Wednesday, April 30 at PiedmontArts.org. 215 Starling Ave, Martinsville.

Saturday, May 3

Storytime at Spencer- Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer, 10 a.m. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts, and other fun activities. Registration is not needed.

First Annual Veteran’s Concert, 4 to 9 p.m. Infinity Acres Ranch, 136 Joppa Rd #4242, Ridgeway.

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, cof-

fee, 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.

Lawless

(cont. from page 1)

areas and surrounding community.

A neighborhood cookout is planned once clean-up efforts are completed, and he has plans to incorporate murals on some or all of the buildings to brighten the community.

“Put your money where your mouth is — we are going to help revitalize this neighborhood,” Lawless said, and reflected on his personal journey. He described himself as a troubled college student and credited welding with turning his life around.

“Welding saved my life,” he said, adding that hard work and dedication fueled his success. “I would work a 40-hour job, and I would work my job on the side. If you would have asked me about this in 2011, I was just trying to make part-time, side money.”

Lawless also credited his wife, Brandy Lawless, for helping him grow more compassionate.

In addition to economic investment, Lawless emphasized the importance of civic involvement and volunteerism.

“These people have got to have someone to look up to, right?” he said. “Volunteers are the heartbeat of this place. Without them, I feel like taxes would go up.”

He acknowledged his visibility in the community and frequent appearances at events.

“I want everybody to see me and what I’m doing,” Lawless said. “If they don’t see you doing it, how do they know you’re doing it?”

Recently, Lawless participated in a new trash pickup initiative in Henry County and praised fire and rescue personnel for engaging students

in schools to boost volunteerism.

“It feels good at the end of the day, and that’s the kind of stuff I want these kids to see.”

He also stressed the importance of investing in youth and the local workforce. Lawless said the county lags behind Danville and needs “love” to keep young people from leaving.

“Everybody needs to start thinking about the kids and grandkids,” he said, and emphasized the need to promote skilled trades and expressed a willingness to collaborate with the school board on budget issues to support job readiness.

“I want to see my people staying here and keeping jobs, and keeping things going.”

Lawless said he will continue to focus on the issues central to his campaign in his November bid against incumbent Joe Bryant.

How to deal with seasonal allergies in VA

By **Zamone Perez**

Virginia News Connection

About one in four adults and one in five children suffer from seasonal allergies in Virginia, and experts have tips on how to treat them. You may know the feeling - the runny nose, sneezing, coughing and itchy eyes that come with spring allergies. Allergic reactions happen when you come into contact with an allergen that prompts the body to produce chemicals called histamines, creating the uncomfortable symptoms.

Dr. Gregory Carnevale, chief medical officer of UnitedHealthcare, says when you’re allergic, your body acts a lot like it’s being attacked.

“It’s when your body’s immune system responds in a way that it really shouldn’t. It’s a response that’s potentially harmful to the body, but it’s to an exposure that’s really unharmful to that one indi-

vidual,” he said.

UnitedHealthcare has a fact sheet on fighting seasonal allergies. It says you can run the air conditioners in your home or car, shower before bed, and use air purifiers to reduce pollen levels.

Richmond and Virginia Beach are among the top 20 “allergy capitals” in the U.S., according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. The rankings take into account pollen scores for a variety of plants, over-the-counter medication use and number of allergy specialists in the area.

Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, assistant professor and allergist, University of Virginia School of Medicine, says over-the-counter antihistamines are one of the most effective ways to treat seasonal allergies. He adds that taking them a little ahead of when seasonal allergies occur could provide even a little more relief.

“And to some extent, they can



work well if you know that you’re in the thick of the season, if you start taking them a little bit ahead of time. They’re probably even going to give you more benefit than if you use them retroactively,” he

explained.

Trees - like oak, maple and elm - grasses and weeds, such as ragweed and sagebrush, are the most common contributors to seasonal allergies.

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

OPINION

Easter

Prayer is a foundation of many households in our country and around the world.

I respect people of all faiths and religious practices and recognize they have their own holidays.

This year, Passover is April 12 to April 20.

Ramadan began on February 28 and ended on March 29.

Others have different faith traditions and holidays.

But for me and my family, this time of year we celebrate Easter.

In 2024, I celebrated Easter in a special way. I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land with the United States Israel Education Association.

The delegation consisted of Texas Congressman Randy Weber, New York Congressman Brandon Williams, former Tennessee Congressman Phil Roe and Oklahoma Senator James Lankford.

Others also went, including my son, Davis.

We first arrived in Israel on Good Friday.

The day consisted of going to the House of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest who presided over the Sanhedrin trial of Jesus before Jesus' crucifixion.

Located just outside the old city of Jerusalem on the eastern slope of Mount Zion, this place is believed to be where Jesus was put on trial the Friday before Easter.

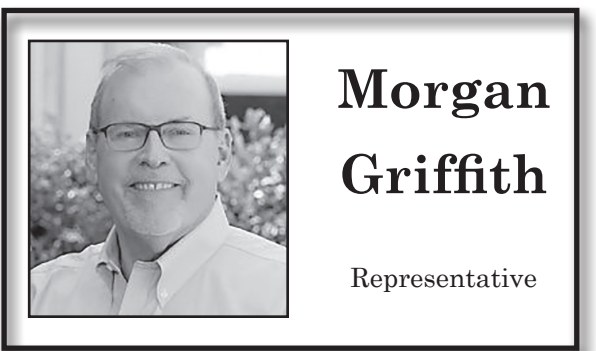
We also visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, something I really wanted my son to see.

While archaeologists are unsure, many believe that within the massive complex, are both the sites of crucifixion and the tomb where Jesus was laid.

There, we got to kneel down, pray and touch a stone slab on which was placed the body of Jesus.

The following day, on Holy Saturday, we went to a part of Israel next to Gaza known as the Gaza envelope.

At the time of our



Morgan Griffith

Representative

visit, Israel was more than five months removed from the October 7 terrorist attacks launched by Hamas.

Through the assault, Hamas murdered innocent civilians, men, women, children and even infants. They killed more than 1,200 people and took hundreds hostage (some of whom remain in Hamas' control to this day).

October 7 was the bloodiest day in Jewish history since the Holocaust. During the Holocaust, roughly 6 million Jews were slaughtered and many more were tortured and abused.

One of the sites subject to the October 7 attacks was the Nova music festival.

That Saturday, we visited with a survivor from the music festival. As the attacks unfolded, she hid in a bomb shelter. But Hamas militants got to the shelter and opened fire on everybody inside.

She was shielded from gunfire by the bodies of the dead on top of her. She told us she could hear Hamas soldiers laughing as they fired into the shelter.

The gruesome stories did not end there.

We also visited the Nir-Oz Kibbutz, a community that was ambushed by Hamas on October 7. We saw the carnage of the brutal attacks, including where houses were bombed and burned.

I met with a former resident of Nir-Oz who explained the events his community witnessed. His son was one of many taken hostage by Hamas during the attack.

At the time of our meeting, five months after the attack, his son was still hostage.

Recently, as part of a hostage deal, his son was returned home alive.

Others await their fate.

Hamas still holds innocent civilians hostage, while others have died in their custody.

Listening to the horrors of October 7 on that Holy Saturday before Easter was not easy for us.

This unfathomable day of heartbreak that I saw in Israel coincided with the biblical day marked by Jesus' descent into Hell.

Come Sunday morning, we went to the Garden of the Tomb for an Easter sunrise service.

Many believe this is where Mary Magdalene went to go see where Jesus' body lay, only to discover his body missing from the tomb.

What happened to Jesus' body?

The tomb was empty.

After his crucifixion, Jesus was resurrected and his disciples witnessed his return.

As a result, one will often hear the phrase over Easter: "He has risen!"

And the response: "He has Risen indeed."

No matter your faith, I hope that you have a happy and peaceful Easter season.

This Easter season, my family will reflect and pray on the emotional stories and the biblical versus that shaped the powerfully spiritual trip to the Holy Land that Davis and I experienced last year.

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.

How international economic policy works

MARTINSVILLE, VA — Buford Eggert leans against his old Ford tractor, chewing idly on an alder twig. Before him, his prized pig rolls around in its wallow.

"No flash photography," Eggert jokes. "This here is the world's most important pig."

Eggert isn't exaggerating. His pig — named "Arnold Ziffel" after Eggert's late uncle Arnold Ziffel — wields an enormous amount of power, and the future of the stock market rests on his pink, delicious back.

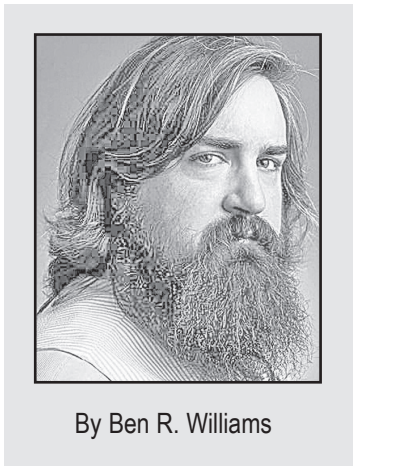
Unlike most pigs, Arnold's day job is deciding what tariffs the U.S. will impose on foreign nations.

"He's some pig," said Eggert, owner of Eggert's Soybean Farm, Apple Orchard, and International Trade Commission. "What happened was, I had a little article in the paper a couple months back about how my pig could predict when it was going to rain. Well, some government type saw that, and I guess a whole lot of folks in the federal government have been laid off and they're looking for cheap labor, so I got a phone call asking me about how accurate ol' Arnold's predictions were and whether he could do any other tricks."

"Next thing I know," Eggert said, "Arnold's got him a job determining our international trade policy."

The process is simple, Eggert said. Each morning, he and his farmhands apply stickers to 100 different apples. The stickers say things like "China 150%" or "Canada 45%." The apples are dropped into Arnold's trough, and Eggert carefully monitor which apples the pig eats. The results are then reported directly to the White House and the new tariffs are immediately Tweeted to the world at large by the President, just as our Founding Fathers intended.

"There are special cases, of course," Eggert says. "For example, what if Arnold eats one apple that says 'Canada 75%' and another that says 'Canada 40%?' In that case, the President puts a 75% tariff on



By Ben R. Williams

Canada that morning, and then the next day, he announces the tariff will be suspended for 40 days. It's a right elegant system."

There are also 'Dealer's Choice' apples, Eggert added. When Arnold eats one of those, Eggert throws a dart at a spinning globe and then counts up the change in his pocket.

"Yesterday we put a 78% tariff on some place called 'Queen Maud Land,'" Eggert said. "Woulda been higher, but I bought a thing of chewing gum that morning."

Since Arnold joined the federal workforce, other animals on Eggert's farm have also been recruited, he said.

"My rooster is the Undersecretary of Housing and Urban Development," he said. "That cow over there disburses grants for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And my goat tracks immigration enforcement data for ICE."

"Poor goat's up to three packs a day," Eggert added. "Heavy is the head that wears the crown, you know."

However, given his impact on the tariffs the U.S. is imposing around the world, Arnold remains the star of Eggert's humble farm.

When asked for a window into the insight Arnold uses to choose where to apply tariffs, Eggert simply laughed.

"Truth is, that pig don't know what the hell he's doing," Eggert said. "He's just in it for the apples."

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Congressional staff to hold office hours

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District STAFF will be available in Patrick County and Martinsville on April 23.

*City of Martinsville: 10 – 11:30 a.m., City Hall, Room 208, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

* Patrick County: 12:30 – 2 p.m., Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

In the event of inclement weather, traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If schools are closed in a locality, office hours will be closed as well.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of a closure.

Email submissions@theenterprise.net

Stock Market Roller Coaster – Don't Jump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

You never undo your seat belt or jump from a moving roller coaster. Nor, should you when it comes to our current Stock market.

Eight years ago, if you bought a share of VOO or Vanguard S & P 500 ETF stock, you may have paid about \$220 for the share. Today, as of this writing it's worth \$490.55. In other words, even with the fall of the stock market recently you have made good money on your investment. A couple of weeks back it was up to \$560 which means you were flying high on your profit. Still yet, you have done well.

If you bought your share of VOO two weeks ago at \$560 then you have lost \$70, at least for now. You may lose some more but you have to hold tight. Don't panic and sell now or you will have a loss. Ride it out and give the market time to settle down and rise again. If you have to cash in your stock then cash in while they are high.

Don't invest your grocery money in stock. This is the money you need every week for food, shelter, travel and overhead. This is not the money you spend on stock. If you do, then in two weeks you will have to sell your stock to eat and risk losing some of the money you invested. Only invest in stock what you don't currently need for general living expenses.

Who knows how the market will perform over the next few weeks. It's going to be a few weeks or months before the tariffs really shape up as to

what is really what. The reports are that numerous countries are coming to the table interested in making deals and playing fair with the United States. This will be good for us and them. As these deals stabilize look for the stock market to become more stable once again. If Japan, India, South Korea, Canada and Mexico all level the playing field with the United States our stock market will level out. If there are more reports of industry manufacturing coming to the United States the stock market will begin to rise again.

Now may be a good time to buy but keep in mind the market may go down some more. If you bought VIG two weeks ago then you've already seen a significant drop. Keep in mind you only lose it if you sell it when the stock is down. I feel confident that the stock market will come back bigger and bolder than ever but it may take a few months or longer.

The stock market has averaged making about ten percent over the last fifty years. This means it has had years when it made more and years when it made less. An average of ten percent is about the best you can do on your money over the long haul.

Now is not the time to faint or jump from the roller coaster. Rely on your stable income such as Social Security, or any other stable income you may have. If you have a regular paying job you may want to stay with it a little while longer if you can and if you enjoy your work.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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GIVE US YOUR VIEW:

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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Jones

(cont. from page 1)

resign during a meeting with Sheriff Wayne Davis and Capt. Sandy Hines. The reasons cited were concerns about the amount of time he was taking off and the strain on department resources.

“I think what played a huge part in it was the negativity, slanderous comments, comments from council members and from certain parts of the media,” Jones said. “I was still having to take the same amount of time” off as when he was hired.

He believes the controversy and negativity began to reflect poorly on the sheriff’s department. “I gave them the resignation letter. It wasn’t necessarily amicable, but I know they were ready to move in a new direction. With everything going on, I really think it had to do with the negativity on council and the time commitment I was able to provide at this time.”

Jones said he understood the department’s position, and acknowledged that the demands of balancing his mayoral duties with his job created time constraints that affected both his professional and personal life.

“I was expecting to have to make a decision on my time dedication one way or another by the end of this” school year, Jones said, adding that he is grateful to the sheriff and his office for the support during his time there.

“They called me with the offer and worked really well with me,” he said. “They were 100 percent good to me when I was there. I have no hard feelings... When one door closes, another one opens.”

In a release, Davis said that Jones was eligible to be rehired in the future.

But the career and financial implications have taken a tremendous toll.

“I basically had to quit two jobs of a career that I love and want to be a part of” to serve the community he loves, Jones said, and he believes that is in part to “the slanderous,

defamatory negativity from council members and the media.”

The public backlash related to his visibility in the community, have also taken an emotional toll.

“The way I’ve seen this community respond to things, this (public service) isn’t for me. It affects me financially, mentally, physically. I went a whole year without health insurance and got behind on my health stuff. Losing time away from my family” to attend to council duties, he said.

Council members and public speakers “don’t have to make up things about each other, we don’t have to call each other nasty names, we can discuss issues with respect and decorum,” he said.

While he supports freedom of speech, Jones said he believes people must take responsibility for the impact of their words. He noted that even his participation in charity work has come under scrutiny.

While working at community events, “when doing the right thing, you’re getting put down or ostracized for doing what I feel we all should do,” Jones said.

But he has always been involved and engaged in the community and worked at events to help better the community. His volunteer work is to benefit the community — not to create opportunities for his photo to be taken or to garner praise.

Despite the naysayers, the city has made progress, Jones said, and cited internal examples such as adopting the Rules of Council, putting a time limit on public comments and requiring respect and decorum from speakers to community events like expanded Black history celebrations, Cultural and Soul Expo, Cinco de Mayo, Food Truck Rodeo and others.

In addition, improvements are coming to Baldwin Park. “We announced that, and it’s

hardly got any attention. So many” positive “things got overlooked,” he said.

Jones is investing the new found time into working full-time on city business. Looking forward, “we’re about to start doing a Food Truck event at least twice a month, and these are things that you can’t just make happen,” Jones said, adding events and projects required work and planning.

Development/redevelopment projects like the Fayette Street Loft Apartments, Aaron Mills Apartments, and plans for the former BB&T building, should the council decide to follow through with them, also are signs of progress, Jones said.

“We will have a historic tax decrease,” he said of the upcoming tax decrease to .77 or .75 cents per \$100 of assessed value. “We can’t get to the” .71 cents for a flat tax, he said, but the nearly .25 cent decrease “never has happened before. People look past that. They can’t see the forest for the trees.”

That includes an upcoming consolidation and reversion study, and council members are working through the current budget process before they will hear the results of a recently concluded wage study that shows city employees continue to earn less than their counterparts in similar sized cities.

“People don’t see individually what we are doing,” he said. “I’m not going to be a part of that game of who wants what I just want to do the right thing to help as many people as I can” until the end of his term, and then he is finished with politics.

“I’ve lost basically two jobs and all I’m trying to do is the right thing. Should I continue to sacrifice every part of me, my family, my health, my career, financially ... for a community that doesn’t appreciate what we do as council members,” Jones asked. “When people ask, ‘are you going to run again,’ they don’t realize the sacrifices I’ve made.”

Registration begins April 30 for summer vegetable program

Registration opens April 30 for Virginia’s Farm Market Fresh For Seniors (also known as the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program) is available through the Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA).

Eligible seniors may receive a \$50 Benefit Shopping Card or a \$50 Digital Benefit that can be used to purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at participating Farmer’s Markets.

The number of people who can participate is limited. Beginning on Wednesday, April 30, the SAAA will take applications over the phone and in person. The agency will also continue to take applications throughout the following week(s) while the supply of the \$50 benefit lasts.

You may qualify to participate if:

- * you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before

June 1, 2025:

- *and you are a resident of Danville City, Martinsville City, Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County or Pittsylvania County,
- *and you do not live with, and are not an immediate family member of the farmer who grows the produce,
- *and you have a gross monthly household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program.

Those who wish to apply for the \$50 Benefit must contact the SAAA at (276) 632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571.

Beginning April 30, and continuing as long as the supply of the \$50 benefit lasts, applicants must be prepared to certify total gross monthly household income information when applying over the phone or in person. Southern Area Agency on Aging is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of April 21 - April 26:

4/22	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Halifax County at Bassett
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Bassett at Halifax County
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Summit at Carlisle
	4:30pm	Baseball	Hargrave Military at Carlisle
4/23	4:30pm	Boys Baseball	Carlisle at Virginia Episcopal
	5pm	Girls Soccer	Carlisle at North Cross
4/24	4:30pm	Girls Soccer	Chatham Hall at Carlisle
	5pm	Track	Bassett at George Washington
	5pm	Track	Martinsville at George Washington
	7pm	Baseball	Carlisle at Millennium

Spencer-Penn Centre's Pig Cookin' Contest

April 26, 2025

10am to 3pm

Entertainment for the Day

• ValleyStar Credit Union Cruise-In • Kiss the Pig Winner Announcement • Pig Pattie 50/50 • Visit Martinsville BARNIVAL: Children's Activities • Craft & Vendor Booths • Food Eating Contests (Adults & Children) • Cornhole & Beer Garden • And More!!!

HANDICAP PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED

Menu:

• Food available in Alumni Hall Starting at 10:30am

• BBQ and Slaw Tubs To-Go • BBQ Plates (includes slaw, baked beans, and roll) • BBQ Sandwiches • Kid's Meal (Hotdog, chips, and drink)

• Homemade Desserts

• Chicken BBQ Sandwiches Available Upon Request

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LEGAL

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

LEGAL

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.

LEGAL

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

Crossing the Lines

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

State study recommends more county support for volunteer fire, EMS services

A Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) study by the Virginia Fire Services Board recommends that Patrick County recognize volunteer fire and EMS departments as part of its infrastructure, develop a countywide fire and rescue strategic plan, adopt a fire and EMS ordinance, and implement several other measures.

The study was requested by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and conducted in partnership with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services.

"Many of the recommendations are tied to this common theme as it is critical to the continued delivery of fire and EMS services in Patrick County," the study states.

EMS Director Scottie Cassell said the study will be presented to the board sometime in April so members can decide whether to accept the report. The board is not required to adopt the

study's recommendations.

Cassell said the Fire Services Board conducted individual meetings with each fire and EMS department.

"I had no influence, the county had no influence over anybody, and nobody knew the questions that were going to be asked. They (state officials) sat down with them as long as it took to get through their survey with them," he said.

After the surveys were completed, the information was compiled and returned to the county in draft form for review.

"We looked over it, nothing needed to be changed, and we sent it back. We can't change any of the content, so we just had to make sure all the names were spelled right of the departments and everything," Cassell said.

The Department of Fire Programs then voted to approve the study as a recommendation before sending it back to the county in late March.

Healing Waters Spa finds success with expanded services and new staff



Healing Waters Day Spa offers a variety of massage, facial, nail, waxing, and eyelash treatments. From left to right: Sarah Foley, Tina Layman, and Kerri Rakes.

After 10 years of working part-time at Healing Waters Day Spa in Patrick Springs, owner Sarah Foley, LMT, recently committed to the location full time, expanding staff and services to meet the community's wellness needs.

Foley previously worked at Primland Resort for four years and at Indigo Wellness Spa, LLC, in Martinsville for about seven years.

"Then I came here and decided to start doing this full-time. My dream was to be here full-time, so I finally decided to make that jump and do it. I never really thought that it was something I could do full-time just because it's a smaller population. So, I used Martinsville and Primland kind of as my main focus and this was to kind of do it on the side, but my dream was to always grow this," she said.

After parting ways with Indigo in the fall, Foley informed her clients of the decision.

"They were all like, 'we'll definitely come to Patrick County. We'll follow you like it's not that far,'" she said.

Kerri Rakes joined the spa in October as its nail technician, and Tina Layman joined soon after as its esthetician.

Healing Waters offers a variety of services, including traditional Swedish massage, prenatal massage, manual lymphatic drainage, reflexology, spray tans, manicures and pedicures, waxing, eyelash treatments, and facial treatments.

While massages and spray tans are the spa's most booked services, Foley noted esthetician services are growing in popularity.

"There are no other estheticians around, so we knew that was kind of a newer service that we were going to have to introduce people to. But the response has been better than I would" have guessed. "I kind of thought it's going to be difficult just because a lot of people don't even really know what it is. A lot of times when we would say we have an esthetician they'd say, 'what's that,'" she said.

Rorrer to challenge Williams in November contest



Yvonne Rorrer

Yvonne Rorrer, of Patrick County, has announced her candidacy for the Virginia House of Delegates, against incumbent Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart.

Rorrer, 47, said she decided to run after becoming involved with House

Bill 1721, the Uniform Easement Relocation Act, which removes an arbitrary 10-year waiting period for easement relocation.

"I am currently in litigation over an easement. Basically, we own 20 acres of land, and there's a driveway, it's an old farm road, which affects many rural area farms, large pieces of land that people buy," she said.

Rorrer said the driveway on her family's property is 12 feet off their boundary line. Their neighbors filed a lawsuit for a prescriptive easement on that road.

"So, in the middle of our 20 acres, we now have a prescriptive easement running 12 feet off of my son's bedroom window for landowners who live behind us who have forefront property where they could build their own road" out to the main road, she said.

When the case went to court, the neighbors were granted the prescriptive easement because of its long-term use.

"By law in Virginia, you have to wait 10 years to move an easement

Jacks Creek Bridge welcomes spring in full color



Jacks Creek Covered Bridge stands in quiet charm amid vibrant spring blooms in Woolwine, Virginia — a timeless reminder of the region's rich history and natural beauty.

Fairy Stone State Park to host Earth Day events April 19–26

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Celebrate Earth Day

at Fairy Stone State Park

Shelters 3 and 4
967 Fairystone Lake Dr
Stuart, VA 24171

For more information, please call 276-930-2424.

EARTH DAY

APRIL 19-26

at VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS 800-933-PARK (7275) | www.virginiastateparks.gov

Special Events:

Saturday, April 19:

- Native Plants and Pollinators**
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Pollination Sensation Seed Bomb Workshop**
12 - 1 p.m.
- Visit from Fairy Stone Volunteer Fire Department**
2 - 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 20:

- Earth Day Craft: Create Your Own Forest Fairy**
2 - 3 p.m.
- Fungal Friends**
3 - 4 p.m.

Fairy Stone State Park will hold several special events to celebrate Earth Day.

To celebrate Earth Day, Fairy Stone State Park and other Virginia state parks will host special events from April 19–26 to highlight the importance of conservation and sustainability.

The events will take place at Shelters 3 and 4 in the park.

Beginning Saturday, April 19, Park Ranger Brian O'Kefe said there will be a talk about the park's trees from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a discussion on native plants and pollinators from 11 a.m. to noon.

Guests can craft their own seed bombs from noon to 1 p.m. The seed bombs can be used to help revegetate and regreen local areas.

"Then the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will be coming out later that afternoon" from 2 to 3 p.m., "doing a talk on safe practices on fires and dealing with wildfires in general," O'Kefe said.

On Sunday, April 20, guests will be

able to participate in another Earth Day-themed craft by making little fairies out of materials found along the trails from 2 to 3 p.m. A talk about the park's "fungal friends" will follow from 3 to 4 p.m.

"That next Saturday, the 26th, we're doing another talk on trees. Then we'll be having a volunteer program where folks will be coming out here helping us remove invasive plants from some of our trails," he said.

O'Kefe estimates 60 to 100 people will attend the events.

"A few of these events I know we've been doing for the past three or four years as an Earth Day celebration in general. A lot of these events, especially the one with the volunteer cleanup and the crafting, is brand new this year," he said.

For more information, call (276) 930-2424 or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

from the date of its existence. We go back to court after the easement's been established to move the easement back to the road that we had already built for these people, and they had been driving on for two-and-a-half years while we were in litigation. Just to get it off of our house, we spent almost \$40,000 building a new road," she said.

Although the judge leaned in her favor, he said there was no case law in Virginia determining when the 10-year period officially begins. "That's

why I started looking into how do I change a law because that 10-year period is arbitrary," she said.

Rorrer contacted the Universal Laws Office, which found Del. Vivian Watts, D-Annandale, to sponsor HB 1721. After the bill passed unanimously, Rorrer said it proved her voice mattered.

"I had to testify in front of one of the House committees, and that's kind of what got me interested in it and how all of the things work initially," she said.

\$5 tickets

Hollywood Cinema
beside Walmart
Martinsville 276-656-3456

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



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

TJO
JENTIC
HBTOC
ISRT
TCBJOE
♥EBN
♥ROYG
HUTGA
EYL
♥SURLET
♥ANCEO
♥ERHI

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. Pot is moved. 2. Box is larger. 3. Apron is different. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Curtain is different. 6. Nose is smaller.

MAGIC MAZE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: THE SAILOR SPENT YEARS —

At first	In a week	In stock	On Monday
At large	At large	In the car	On that day
At will	In love	In the past	On time
At work	In May	On cue	

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Taunt in fun
5 Pinball fouls
10 Tram loads
14 Raisin, at first
19 \$5/hour, e.g.
20 Maker of the RDX SUV
21 Leading man
22 Greased
23 "Pardon me"
24 — One (vodka option)
25 Suspenseful situations
27 Test giving information about red and white cells
30 Throws
31 Actor Chaney
32 Country west of Uru.
33 — Lanka
36 Triscuit or Ritz tidbit
43 Faint streak
47 Clean air gp.
48 Comet's path
49 "Us" director Jordan
50 Gamut
54 Remitted
55 Wiped away
56 — cone
57 Carell of "Date Night"

59 Clearasil or Stridex target
60 Jobs at hair salons
61 Roomy car
63 Doctors' gp.
65 "— So Fine"
66 Sun-hiding phenomenon
72 Suffix with lemon
74 — Blo (fuse type)
75 Beauty in "Beauty and the Beast"
76 Stuns with a charge
79 "There, I did it!"
81 "By gar!"
85 Whoop-de— (fuss)
86 Like sweethearts
87 Not at all dense
89 Withholding of no relevant facts
92 "Bam!"
93 Pitcher — Nomo
94 Subj. for U.S. immigrants
95 "Back —" ("Ditto!")

96 Larger version of a dictionary, say
101 Article in Essen
102 Bill for services: Abbr.
103 Scientist — Ho Lee
104 Triceps, e.g.
109 What you are giving when you contemplate this puzzle's theme?

115 Like some canvassing
118 Orem native
119 Eager
120 Wise truism
121 Article in Essen
122 Physicist Marie
123 Inferno
124 Put off
125 Really binged, for short
126 Long-term govt. security
127 Turned tail

DOWN

1 Chunk of land
2 Cowboy cry
3 Agenda parts
4 Office subs
5 Listens carefully
6 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
7 Guitar's kin
8 High-pitched
9 Sickly yellow
10 "This is bad!"
11 Part of ROM
12 "Layla" singer Clapton
13 Single-person show
14 Freaking out
15 "Norma Rae" director Martin
16 Bristol brew
17 Part of rpm
18 Mag VIPs
26 Hamilton's duel rival
28 "Holiday" actor Ayres
29 Like a stove burner turned way up
33 Does a rough plan of
34 Mend the inner layer of
35 Castle and Cara
37 Intel missions, e.g.
38 Backslides
39 Is mistaken
40 Lie next to
41 Clock info
42 Pro wrestler John
43 Sob
44 As to
45 Provoked major fighting
46 California's — Beach
51 Respite
52 Root canal performer, informally
53 Either of Frosty's eyes
54 Hauling truck
58 Hollow between hills
61 Plod heavily
62 Snag
64 Abbr. in many urban addresses
67 Not aweather
68 Actor Fox
69 Race created by H.G. Wells
70 Storeroom
71 Taco topping
72 Offered for breeding, as a horse
73 Niles' wife on "Frasier"
77 "Climb — Mountain" ("The Sound of Music" tune)
78 "— penny, pick it up ..."
80 Saudi, e.g.
82 Not worth —
83 Guy
84 Arctic vehicle
86 Inauspicious
88 Rapid runner
90 "Camelot" composer Frederick
91 "—: Vegas" (CBS series)
93 Sharp TV images, e.g.
97 — Chinese
98 Subtract, as an expense
99 Like "three men" of kids' verse
100 Convent woman
105 Work group
106 Part of ACLU
107 French river
108 Ceased
109 Implore
110 Make null
111 Actress Skye
112 — Scott case
113 Poi source
114 Slender
115 Pa
116 Keats poem
117 Stumblebum

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Every unborn baby grows a mustache in the womb, which then spreads to cover the entire body. The baby then consumes this fine hair, called lanugo, and excretes it after birth with its first bowel movement, which is a substance called meconium.

• In 2013, "Star Wars" was dubbed in Navajo, making it the first major motion picture to be dubbed in a Native American language.

• Your brain sees the world upside down. When the rods and cones of your retina send an image to the brain — say, you're looking at a tree — the image that gets transmitted to the brain is upside down. The brain automatically rotates the image in its visual cortex.

• Researchers at Oregon State University patented a strain of seaweed that's not only rich in protein, but tastes remarkably like bacon when cooked.

• The term "pipe dream" is a reference to the crazy dreams people have while smoking opium.

• Death rates in boxing exploded after the introduction of the boxing glove. Almost nobody ever died bare knuckle boxing because head punches often resulted in broken hands, so nobody used them.

• A typical piano has about 12,000 parts, 10,000 of which are moving.

• The shooting of JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was the first known human killing seen on live television.

• Nylon replaced silk as the most common dental floss material following silk's increased price during the second World War.

• Studies show that 88% of women wear shoes that are too small for their feet.

• After Korean soccer player Ahn Jung-hwan scored the goal that eliminated Italy from the 2002 World Cup, the Italian club where he played canceled his contract for "ruining Italian soccer."

Thought for the Day: "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." — George Bernard Shaw

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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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National CTE Signing Day held at P&HCC



BHS student Barak Martin signs his Letter of Intent as his parents Marcia Seaton-Martin and Floyd Martin look on.



Ethan Morrison was one of 50 students who won the national 3M Transformational Scholarship.

Together with dozens of other NC3 Leadership Schools across the country, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) hosted its annual NC3 National Letter of Intent Signing Day on April 10.

New and prospective career and technical education (CTE) students who plan to enroll at P&HCC for the 2025-26 school year took part in a signing ceremony attended by their family, friends, and school officials, at P&HCC's MET Complex and Patrick County Site. Participating students signed letters of intent that save their spot in the CTE program of their choice for the fall semester.

This national event sponsored by the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) mirrors the NCAA's National Signing Day for athletes who commit to play sports in college. It is designed to honor students who are entering a technical field and to celebrate the dignity of work.

"By signing our incoming students to Letters of Intent, we're telling them that we've reserved a place for them, and we want them. Technical education will prepare them for a strong career and a financially stable future," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

NC3's global industry partners, local area businesses, community leaders, and P&HCC's own corporate partners participated in this exciting event to show support and provide information to students and their families. At the event, students and family members were given the opportunity to meet with financial aid representatives as they plan for the fall semester.

In the event held at the MET

Complex, P&HCC welcomed students from Bassett, Martinsville, and Magna Vista High Schools to five programs.

Heavy Equipment Operation: Brayden Lawrence (BHS)

HVAC: Edwin Rivera-Macarena (MVHS), Tayvion Penn (BHS)

Motorsports Technology: Christian Beltran (BHS), Freddie Brim (BHS), Emmanuel Caro (MVHS), Joshua DeHart (MVHS), Josiah Pearce (MVHS), Nolan Robarge (MVHS), Hunter Sweet (MVHS), Diamond VanCedarfield (BHS), Saul Ville (MVHS)

Power Line Worker: Rustin Donovanant (MVHS)

Welding: Benjamin Barrow (BHS), Micah Cassell (MHS), Valia Garcia (MHS), Rachel Griffin (MVHS), Ian Hale (MVHS), Douglass Kidd (BHS), Barak Martin (BHS), Ethan Montrieff (MVHS), Hayden Robertson (BHS)

In the event held at the Patrick County Site, P&HCC proudly welcomed students from Patrick County High School to six programs.

HVAC: Nicolas Haden

Industrial Electronics Technology: Noah Wingfield

Power Line Worker: Benjamin Conner, Conner Goad, Evan Havens, Holden Jones, Ethan Morrison, William Turner

Plumbing: Jonah Shockley

Residential/Commercial Electrician: Lucas Taylor

Welding: Gavin Fain, Seth Geiger, Hunter Heath, Jude Martin, Hunter Pendleton, Lane Ross, Hunter Smith, Josiah Spangler

In addition to honoring the students who signed Letters of Intent, P&HCC was proud to present Ethan Morrison with one of 50 \$1,000 Skilled Trades - 3M Transformational Scholarship at the Patrick County event.

CRUISE-IN

AT KING'S GRANT



FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join us!

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rain Date: Friday, June 20th
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- Cruise on over to King's Grant for an evening of fun
- Explore some of the area's best classic and antique cars on display and meet the owners
- Enjoy live music and food

Open to all makes and models.
CAR CLUBS WELCOME.

Call (276) 634-1000 for more information.

Classic cars and community spirit take center stage at King's Grant Cruise-In

King's Grant Retirement Community is revving up for an evening of classic cars, live music, and family fun with its annual Cruise-In event on Friday, June 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Guests will have the chance to admire some of the area's best antique and classic cars while enjoying live entertainment and delicious local fare.

Held on the scenic grounds of King's Grant, this event offers a relaxed atmosphere where guests can explore restored vehicles, chat with car enthusiasts, and soak in the nostalgia of a bygone era. The Cruise-In is free and open to the public, with a rain date scheduled for Friday, June 20.

"This is one of those events that brings everyone together—from longtime car lovers to families just looking for something fun to do on a summer evening," said Erica Turman, Director of Corporate Communications for Sunnyside Communities. "King's Grant is proud to offer a space where community and connection can thrive."

All makes and models are welcome, and car clubs are especially encouraged to attend. Whether you're showcasing a showstopper or simply enjoying the view, the Cruise-In promises something for everyone.

For more information, please call (276) 634-1000.

Hairston recognized for service



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DEPUTY JAHEIM HAIRSTON

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Hairston has been a dedicated member of the Henry County Sheriff's Office since December 2022, working in our Corrections Division at the Adult Detention Center. He consistently demonstrates an outstanding work ethic, professionalism, and a deep commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Hairston goes above and beyond each day, and we are proud to recognize his hard work and contributions to the department.

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Bassett Historical Center presents WWI program on soldier's letters to his wife

The Bassett Historical Center will host a special presentation titled “A Few Lines to Margaret: A Personal Account of the First World War” on Tuesday, May 20, at 10:30 a.m. in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. The event is free and open to the public.

Through a collection of 45 letters written by a local soldier to his wife, attendees will experience the emotional depth of America’s involvement in World War I. These firsthand accounts, rich in humor, tragedy, dedication, and love, offer an intimate glimpse into the personal toll of the conflict often called the war of the Lost Generation. More than a century later, the story remains deeply moving and relevant.

The program will be presented by Hunter Haskins, assistant director of the Salem Museum & Historical Society in Salem, Virginia. Haskins will bring the story of the Paschal family to life, illuminating a chapter of history through one couple’s wartime correspondence.

Haskins is a 2021 graduate of Roanoke College, where he earned a double major in history and political science, along with a concentration in public/applied history. His professional background includes work as a blacksmith at Ferrum



Hunter Haskins

College’s Blue Ridge Institute, and from 2021 to 2024, he served as a history and humanities teacher at Carlisle School.

In addition to his current role in Salem, Haskins serves as secretary on the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Board of Directors. His passion for history was sparked and strengthened through his volunteer and internship experiences at the Bassett Historical Center from 2019 to 2022.

Haskins lives in Salem, Virginia.



Registration for the Critter Camp begins April 26. The camp will be held at Starling Avenue Baptist Church.

Registration opens soon for first ever ‘Critter Camp’

By Jessica Dillon

Starling Avenue Baptist Church is launching its first-ever ‘Critter Camp,’ with registration beginning April 26. The four-day event invites children to spend three hours a day interacting with animals and learning how to care for some furry, scaly, and feathered friends.

The camp, held May 27–30, is open to children in kindergarten through fifth grade and is the result of a collaboration with several local organizations.

“We received a Project Hope Grant from the Harvest Foundation and did some brainstorming to figure out what we wanted to do to promote hope to families,” said Anne Stultz.

The church saw an animal-based camp as a meaningful opportunity to connect with families in the area.

“It gives somewhere for the kids to go, a good safe place,” said Pastor Angela Zimmerman.

Adult camp volunteers — many of whom are church members and former teachers — have undergone background checks, and the church is maintaining a high adult-to-child ratio.

“There will be an adult for every two children, ensuring that there will be more than enough coverage to guarantee every child gets the care they need during the event. They will stay with the kids during activities and as they move between activities,” Zimmerman said.

“Our ladies have worked very hard, all the things have been thought

through and done well. They’ve been working on planning this for six months.”

Critter Camp will feature animals and programs from several partners. Infinity Acres is bringing animals including a llama, the SPCA will provide therapy dogs, the Dan River Basin Association will present bugs and snakes, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History will offer a session on black bears.

“They were all very willing when we contacted them,” said Zimmerman.

The camp is not biblically based and is open to all community members. It is not a Vacation Bible School program.

“The church wanted everyone to feel welcome to come to the Critter Camp,” said Zimmerman. “That’s the main thing, they are happy, having a good time, and able to learn something.”

The week will end with a family night on Friday featuring free hot dogs and an inflatable slide for children. The church hopes the event will help neighbors get to know one another.

“We just want to offer this for our community,” Zimmerman said.

In addition to Critter Camp, Starling Avenue Baptist Church continues its mission-minded outreach, supporting organizations such as Grace Network, the Pregnancy Center, and the backpack program.

“The church itself is very mission minded,” Stultz said.

Reptile Festival slithers into the VMNH April 25-26



The Virginia Museum of Natural History’s (VMNH’s) annual Reptile Festival is slithering its way back to Martinsville on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The 2-day event provides attendees with the opportunity to view a wide variety of live animals, investigate reptile specimens from the museum’s scientific collections, interact with reptile experts, and participate in an array of activities, ranging from reptile-themed games and crafts to balloon animals and face painting.

“Reptiles serve an incredibly important role in our ecosystem, but they’re often polarizing animals that have many misunderstandings and misconceptions attached to them,” said VMNH Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix-Wirt. “With Reptile Festival, our goal is to provide museum visitors with a unique adventure that also allows them to leave with a greater understanding and appreciation for these animals.”

During the event, numerous live reptiles - and amphibians - will be on display, including snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, and salamanders.

“This year’s edition of Reptile Festival places an emphasis on the reptile and amphibian life that calls Virginia and North Carolina home,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “Snakes, of course, will be a highlight of the live animal displays and attendees will be able to view a wide variety of them, from well-known species, such as the eastern copperhead, to lesser-known species, like the northern pine snake, to the secretive, such as the worm snake.”

Snakes won’t be the only live animals that visitors will find on exhibit.

“Lizards, ranging from the common fence lizard to the green anole, numerous turtles, frogs and salamanders can be found on exhibit both days of the

event,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “Though we generally don’t allow visitors to hold any of the animals, there will definitely be opportunities for two-finger touches and plenty of photo ops.”

In addition to the live animals, the festival will feature a wide variety of reptile specimens from the museum’s scientific collections.

“Despite only being established several years ago, the museum’s herpetology program has already amassed an impressive collection of scientific specimens, as well as live animal ambassadors,” said VMNH Biology Research Technician Marshall Boyd. “Reptile Festival will not only provide visitors with the opportunity to view these specimens, but also the opportunity to interact with the researchers who have helped amass the collections.”

Beyond the museum’s own displays of live animals and scientific specimens, Reptile Festival will feature exhibitors from outside organizations and institutions, including:

- *Box Turtle Sanctuary of Central Virginia
- *Averett University
- *Fairy Stone State Park
- *Herpetofauna of North Carolina
- *Herpetology Club of North Carolina State University
- *Herping Virginia
- *Science Museum of Western Virginia
- *Virginia Herpetological Society
- *Virginia Living Museum
- *Virginia Tech

“While the museum has its own impressive herpetology holdings, what helps make this festival truly stand out are the collections of live animals and other displays provided by our partnering institutions and colleagues,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “This year’s event features a diverse lineup of exhibitors that will help give visitors a better understanding of the reptile and amphibian life found right here in our own region.”

standing of the reptile and amphibian life found right here in our own region.”

Giving visitors the opportunity to interact with some of the region’s most prolific reptile experts is also a staple of Reptile Festival. For the first time ever, this year’s edition features the animals and expertise of Dr. Ron Grunwald, who will be presenting “The Herpetofauna of North Carolina”.

“The museum is excited to have Dr. Grunwald exhibit at this year’s event,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “His animal displays will provide a great sampling of the type of animals that can not only be found in North Carolina, but here in Virginia, too.”

It’s not just modern day reptiles that will take the spotlight during the festival. Ancient reptiles will also have their chance to shine at the event, with a science station hosted by the museum’s paleontology department comparing the massive crocodiles that lived millions of years ago in what we now know as Virginia and North Carolina to the reptile life that exists in the region today.

As with all museum science festivals, Reptile Festival will offer visitors an exciting lineup of interactive activities.

“All of the offerings that have become synonymous with Reptile Festival over the years will be available to visitors,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “Crowd favorites, such as face painting and balloon animals, will be available throughout both days of the event, as well as a variety of hands-on, reptile-themed activities hosted by the museum’s education department, researchers, and vendors. We’ll even offer the Reptile Festival Photo Booth for folks to capture a memory of their adventure. Best of all, it’s all included in the price of admission.”

Reptile Festival will also feature numerous on-site food options for visitors to choose from during the event, as well as new, reptile-themed souvenirs and merchandise available for sale.

“Whether you want to grab a quick snack or a full lunch, the Reptile Festival Food Truck Alley will be accessible to visitors throughout both days of the event,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “The event will also offer brand-new merchandise and souvenirs for sale that are specific to the festival.”

This year’s lineup of on-site food options includes Bahama Sno-Shack, Birrieria La Vaca, Chick-fil-A, D’s Hot Ice, Factory Roast, Ga-te Shoken, Kona Ice, MalloyDogz, Palumbo’s (Friday only).

Admission to Reptile Festival is \$10 per adult ages 18-59 and \$5 for children and youth ages 3-17, seniors ages 60+, and college students. Admission is free for children under 3, museum members, and members of museums and science centers that participate in the ASTC Passport program.

The museum also participates in the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Museums for All initiative, offering discounted admission to EBT cardholders. Through this program and additional funding provided by Hooker Furnishings, Carter Bank, and the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, visitors who present their EBT card and accompanying ID at the gate will receive free admission to the festival. The free admission offer is available to EBT cardholders from any state and up to 5 of their immediate family members living within the same household.

Parking for the event is free of charge and will take place off-site. Parking details will be made available on the museum’s website prior to the festival.

Reptile Festival is sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank, Bassett Furniture Industries, Boxley Building Materials, Hooker Furnishings, and The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust.

For more information about the festival, visit www.vmnh.net/events/reptile-festival.

Mural project sparks unity and hope in Martinsville



Melody Cartwright, Tony Davis, and Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper help paint the wall during the community event.



The Salvation Army, Warming Center, and Luna Moth Tattoo Studio collaborate to begin the mural's background.

By Jessica Dillon

After years of wear, a bare wall outside the Salvation Army building in Martinsville is getting a facelift. In partnership with the Harvest Foundation and Luna Moth Tattoo Studio, a mural is being added to the wall to complement the new community garden. Local city and county residents were invited to help paint the wall with a blue background.

The mural painting event brought in vendors, including food trucks and a DJ, and featured free giveaways. Brushes and paint were provided at no cost to people of all ages, encouraging participation in the mural's creation.

One of the owners of Luna Moth, Tony Davis, helped spearhead the idea. Davis has been working to better the community and was happy with the turnout.

"It's awesome. Today's my dad's birthday, and he lived right here. My aunt had a house

that was behind this wall, and it means a lot to me personally," Davis said.

Salvation Army Service Center Director Tekela Redd worked with the city to make the mural a reality. "The city has been behind me, Harvest is the main benefactor of getting started. Lowe's is another benefactor that donated all the supplies," Redd said.

Ariel Johnson, director of the MHC Warming Center, helped Redd come up with the idea for the mural. "We would sit and talk every week to try and find ways to help make the community better," Johnson said she was "excited" about the event.

"This wall has always kinda been an eyesore and now, it's going to be the beautiful thing that I'm hoping will be in family pictures," Johnson wants people who visit Martinsville to take pictures of the mural and for it to become a community staple.

Redd expects the mural to be fully com-

pleted by the end of April. "We're thankful for the ones that are out here, this is a great crowd." Several children attended the event, and the wall was quickly covered with support from community members.

Melody Cartwright, a political candidate, and Martinsville Sheriff Wayne Draper both joined in to help paint.

"I wanted to see this mural, and there's a lot of people" who felt the same, Draper said. "I really like this," he said, adding that he remembers when the building that created the lone wall was first torn down.

"It's on one of the main drags coming into the city, so we are trying to make it as pretty as we can," he said.

Vendors supporting the event included Siren Temptations, Palumbo's, Factory Roast, The Bustique, El Tilin Mexican Food, Daydream Photography, and Never a Phase Bakery.

Puppet-themed Family Day brings crowd to Art Garden for giant puppet parade



Members of Paperhand Puppet Intervention dressed as a rabbit and an opossum lead guests in a giant puppet parade around the Art Garden on April 12.



Guests carry giant puppets in a parade around the Art Garden on April 12.



Kids make mini puppets at puppet-themed Family Day.



Demi Nicole and her daughter Rory Chapman carry flags in the puppet parade at Family Day.

An estimated 100 guests took part in a puppet-themed Family Day hosted by Piedmont Arts and Beegins With You on Saturday, April 12 in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

Members of Paperhand Puppet Intervention, a theater group based in Saxapahaw, N.C., brought giant puppets resembling friendly animals, storybook characters and astrological

creatures to the event. They danced around the Art Garden dressed in costume and led guests in a parade around the grounds. Members of the group played music on drums, while those participating in the parade marched around the Art Garden holding giant puppets aloft.

Piedmont Arts Programs Coordinator Jennifer Gravely said the parade was fun for all in-

volved. "Everyone was invited to take part in the parade. We had all ages, from toddlers to adults, and everyone had a smile on their face."

The event also included crafts led by volunteers from event sponsor Carter Bank and an Easter egg hunt hosted by Beegins With You.

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

Continued claims fall as initial weekly filings climb

Virginia Works announced that 3,714 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending April 05, 2025, which is 44.2 percent higher than last week's 2,575 claims and 62.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,288).

Nearly 79 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (71 percent) were Manufacturing (928); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (490); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (254); Health Care and Social Assistance (212); and Retail Trade (169).

Continued weeks claims (17,598) were 0.2 percent lower than last week (17,625) and were 14.6 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (15,351). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (3,358); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,101); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,565); Retail Trade (1,413); and Manufacturing (1,276).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemploy-

ment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed

workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

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