

# Council approves tax rate hike amid public outcry, staff confrontations

By Taylor Boyd and Jessica Dillon

After two failed motions and a meeting filled with tension, accusations, and applause from the audience, Martinsville City Council narrowly approved a 4.5 percent real estate tax increase per \$100 of assessed value for fiscal year 2025–26 during its May 13 meeting.

The vote came after a contentious debate over the city’s spending priorities, admin-



Council member Rayshaun Gravely and Mayor LC Jones after a tenuous discussion at the meeting Tuesday.

istrative salaries, purchasing card expenses, and unresolved issues surrounding the city’s handling of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Council member Ju-

lian Mei opened the discussion by proposing a smaller, 2 percent increase—\$0.7352 per \$100 of assessed value—which was seconded by Aaron Rawls. The motion failed 2–3, with Mei and Rawls in favor and Mayor L.C. Jones, Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson, and Councilman Rayshaun Gravely voting against it.

During the discussion, Rawls cited potential cost saving (See Council p. 5)

# Fallen law enforcement officers honored at memorial



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis was among the speakers at the Peace Officers Memorial Service on Wednesday.

A regional Peace Officers’ Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, May 14, at the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) MET Complex, to honor and pay respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The memorial was held during National Police Week, which is held to recognize the men and women in law enforcement who protect and

serve, the families who stand behind them, and their sacrifices.

Speakers included Gary C. Dove, Chief of Police/Emergency Planning Coordinator at P&HCC, Chaplain Dr. C. Lee Hagwood Sr., Martinsville Mayor LC Jones, Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams, Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher, Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, Henry Coun-

ty Sheriff Wayne Davis and members of the Virginia State Police.

The service and commitment of officers from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, Bassett Police Department, Fieldale Police Department, Martinsville Police Department, and Area 42 of the Virginia State Police were among those honored.

Henry County Sheriff’s Officers included Paul Edward Grubb, End of Watch (EOW) July 1989; Melvin Brown, EOW June 1984; Willis Herman Ferguson, EOW March 1975; John Hughes Mitchell, EOW

May 1922.

Bassett Police Department Officer George S. Frame, EOW March 1923.

Fieldale Police Department Officer John J. Johnson, EOW January 1975.

Martinsville Police Officers George F. Carter, EOW June 1918; Jonathan W. Bowling, EOW January 2005.

Virginia State Police Officers Charles Eugene Morris, EOW 1962; James Michael Phillipi, EOW January 2014.

(See Fallen p. 3)

# PSA to hold public hearing on proposed rate increase

By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 19, regarding a potential water and wastewater rate increase.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Brandon Martin said the proposed increase is \$5 for both water and wastewater services.

“Currently, it’s \$30 for water and wastewater. If the rate increase is approved, it’d be \$35 for water and \$35 for wastewater, and that’s just for our residential group,” he said.

Martin noted that the rate will also increase by \$5 for non-residential users and RV/campgrounds, which currently pay \$45 each for water and wastewater.

While the PSA has been able to

delay a rate increase for some time, Martin said the rising cost of services has made it necessary.

“No matter what you do, even in your own personal life, things have gone up. So, the county still operates on some of those same services,” he said.

For example, Martin said he believes the cost of electricity has increased over the past decade, during which time the PSA has not raised its rates.

“But we haven’t been taking that into account in terms of the rates that our customers have to pay. We’ve been able to absorb it for as long as we can, but it’s gotten to that point where we can no longer continue to absorb it without affecting some of the other services that we provide. So, we’ve just (been) incorporating those rising costs into the rate now,” he said.

If approved, the rate increase is expected to take effect on July 1.



The Bassett Train Station Event Center was lined with plants during the Garden Week event.

# Bassett Train Station blossoms for Garden Week celebration

By Jessica Dillon

The Garden Club of Virginia’s Martinsville-Henry County chapters took over the Bassett Train Station Event Center on April 30 to make it their tour headquarters as part of Historic Garden Week in Henry County and Martinsville. Schools, organizations, and vendors were invited to showcase their wares while keeping to the floral theme. Factory Roast, a coffee truck, and the Bustique were also invited to set up outside the train station to offer unique shopping options to visitors.

“The beginning of Historic Garden Week dates to 1927, when a flower show organized by the Gar-

den Club of Virginia raised an impressive \$7,000 to save trees planted by Thomas Jefferson on the lawn at Monticello.

The Garden Club of Virginia operates as a non-profit organization comprised of 48 member clubs and 3,400 volunteers. Proceeds from Historic Garden Week fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia’s historic public gardens and provide graduate-level research fellowships,” says the Garden Club of Virginia’s website.

Regina Flora, a master environmentalist with the Dan River Basin Association, had an educational table set up to teach the public about (See Bassett p. 2)

# Phillips cites family, faith, and economic vision in re-election bid

By Jessica Dillon

Eric Phillips, 49, is seeking re-election to the Virginia House of Delegates representing District 48 as the Republican nominee. He will face Melody Cartwright, the Democratic nominee and an opponent he previously defeated in the 2023 special election. If re-elected, Phillips said he plans to continue prioritizing the interests of the Martinsville-Henry County area.

Phillips said he will maintain his focus on pro-life policies, economic development, and protecting Second Amendment rights.

“I’m glad to be running again for this seat, protecting those traditional rules that we mostly share in this

area,” he said.

“As the senior delegate from Southside, I will continue to be a champion for our traditional values. Since 2024, I have worked tirelessly to deliver for our district’s families and be a voice for common-sense conservative solutions. I look forward to continuing to fight for lower taxes, safer schools, and better communities that make our region the best place to live, work, and raise a family in our Commonwealth,” Phillips said.

He expressed pride in the area’s recent economic growth, citing the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre project and the return of high-paying jobs.

“We’ve had a long

fight back,” Phillips said. “The reason I’m running again is for economic development and jobs, for creating more housing, and traditional conservative values like being pro-

(See Phillips p. 7)

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UPDATES







Debra Ann Byrd (center, front row) poses with ninth grade students from Carlisle School who participated in an in-school acting workshop on May 8.



Debra Ann Byrd (center) poses with two attendees after her performance on May 8 at Piedmont Arts.

# Byrd brings her life story to the stage, leads an in-school workshop at Carlisle School

Actor and playwright Debra Ann Byrd performed her one-person show “Becoming Othello” on Thursday, May 8 at Piedmont Arts. The dramatic performance chronicled her journey from a single mother in Harlem to an award-winning classical actor tackling the role of Othello. The performance included monologues interspersed with verses from Shakespeare’s original play, dances and numerous costume changes. It focused on how acting

changed her life for the better. The engagement was made possible in part through the Mid Atlantic Tours program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Byrd also led an in-school workshop earlier in the day at Carlisle School. Around 20 ninth graders took part in the workshop, where Byrd taught acting techniques such as how to deliver lines and command the stage. The program was

presented by Piedmont Arts. Piedmont Arts’ educational outreach programs are presented free of charge to students and schools. The museum reaches more than 5,000 students per year with its programming. To make a donation to the museum’s Kay Smith Education Fund, visit [PiedmontArts.org/secure/donate.cfm](https://PiedmontArts.org/secure/donate.cfm). For more information on exhibits and events, visit [PiedmontArts.org](https://PiedmontArts.org).

## Bassett

(cont. from page 1)



bears, butterflies, and bees. The display featured preserved insects along with a real bear skin for the public to view. “They are all natives and we want to protect the native species here in Virginia.” Flora said that they are encouraging the public to plant more Monarch-friendly plants, as the butterflies are endangered. “Monarchs must have milkweed, there are several types of milkweed that grow in this area.”

Milkweed is the only plant that the breed will lay its eggs on and that Monarch caterpillars can feed on. Robin Humlan of Just Call Granny had a table where she provided information about the organization. Humlan said the event had a good turnout for the group and helped them make some “good connections.” Danielle Atwood, who owns Lavender SereniTea, LLC, had a table displaying various

sizes and designs of teacups, saucers, and pots. Atwood’s business focuses on setting up remote tea parties and she attended the event to: “help people become more aware of small businesses in Martinsville Henry County.” Those who bought tickets could go on a garden tour through several local gardens and historic locations. Plants were also for sale from the Magna Vista Horticulture Club, which directly benefited the club.

# Historical Society to host baseball-themed lecture

**Annual Meeting & Distinguished Lecture**  
*of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society*

**“BASEBALL CARDS AT THE EDGE OF WAR 1941: THE GAMES, THE GUM, AND THE GLORY”**

**Sunday, May 18, 2025, 3:00 P.M.**

*Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia*

**DISTINGUISHED LECTURER**  
Author  
Todd R. Marcum

**SPECIAL GUESTS**  
Former Players  
Major League Baseball

**Lou Whitaker**  
**Monty Montgomery**

Free Admission • Handicapped Accessible  
Attendees are asked to wear baseball attire

**BASEBALL CARDS AT THE EDGE OF WAR**  
1941: THE GAMES, THE GUM, AND THE GLORY

**TODD R. MARCUM**  
WITH ERIC GOULDSBERRY, ED ATTANASIO, TODD BOLTON AND OTHERS

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and Distinguished Lecture, “Baseball Cards at the Edge of War 1941: The Games, The Gum, and The Glory,” on Sunday, May 18, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Uptown Martinsville. Distinguished Lecturer Todd R. Marcum will present based upon his book of the same name. From the book, “The world was at war. But for the first 11 months of 1941, which included an exhilarating baseball season, America was not. Experience the exciting 1941 baseball season as Ted Williams chases .400 and Joe DiMaggio sets an unimaginable new standard. The lovable loser Dodgers take the National League by storm. Enjoy a detailed recap of the MLB season, but it wasn’t the only game in town. You’ll also read about an exciting Negro League season featuring Satchell Paige and a young Roy Campanella, among many others. Rarely before had three

companies issued baseball cards in the same season; you’ll read about the companies and people behind Goudey, Gum, Inc., and Gum Products and learn about the Play Ball, Double Play, and Goudey sets of 1941.” Special Guests will include former professional players of the Major League Baseball League: Lou Whitaker, of the Detroit Tigers, and Monty Montgomery, of the Kansas City Royals. Scott Norman, a former member of Virginia Tech’s The New Virginians, will perform a baseball classic with audience participation. Attendees are encouraged to wear their best baseball attire. Marcum, a Roanoke, Virginia-based marketing consultant and creator, grew up in Wayne County, West Virginia. He is a recipient of the American Advertising Federation Silver Medal for lifetime contributions to the advertising industry and a member of the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame. He conceived, wrote, and co-pro-

duced “Shine: The Legacy of Roanoke’s Advertising Men and Women,” a full-length documentary capturing the advertising and public relations history of Southwest Virginia. His first novel, Way Out Wayne, pays homage to his hometown and weaves in detail about the places of his youth. He is an active member of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, and is an avid baseball card collector. He lives with his wife, Rhonda, and does most of his writing on his screen porch with his dog, Gracie, by his side. Retiring President John Phillips will introduce the 2025-2026 officers and board of directors. Admission is free, and the public is welcome. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

**Monday, May 19**  
PSA Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., Administration Building Fourth Floor Conference Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Executive Committee meets at 11:15 a.m. in Room 145 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Budget & Finance Committee meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 124 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Academic & Student Affairs Committee meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 145 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Legislative Committee meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 125 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the Board will not receive public comments.

**Tuesday, May 27**  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

Board of Supervisors meeting, 3 p.m., Administration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

**Wednesday, May 28**  
Board of Supervisors Comprehensive Plan Joint Session, 9:30 a.m., Administration Building Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

## Events

**Friday, May 16**  
Quarter Auction, Oak Level Ruritan Club, 7668 Oak Level Road, Bassett. Auction starts at 7 p.m., \$5 for 2 paddles and a door prize ticket, extra paddles \$1 each; extra door prize tickets for \$1 per ticket or 7 tickets for \$5, Concessions available, Donations accepted for community projects.

**Friday, May 16-Saturday, May 17**  
The Mayo Fire-Baptized Holiness Association is to convene with Christian View Church on May 16-17, 2025. The meetinghouse is located at 261 Burbank Drive, five miles southwest of Ridgeway. Meeting times are Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 17**  
Bassett Volunteer Fire Department Hamburger Steak Dinner, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett.

Rangely Ruritan Club Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., 134 Calloway Dr., Bassett.

Hamburger Steak Dinner, 4 to 7 p.m., Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett. Eat-in or to-go plates are \$12. All proceeds benefit the Bassett Fire Department.

Rangely Ruritan Club Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., 134 Calloway Dr., Bassett.

Expressions Artwork Entry, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Piedmont Arts Artists living within a 100-mile radius of Martinsville. are invited to enter work in “Expressions 2025.” Artwork submitted for entry must have been completed within the last two years. Work previously exhibited in “Expressions” is not eligible. Up to two pieces of art may be submitted per artist. Unlike a juried exhibition, this exhibit is open-entry, and all submitted works in compliance with the entry rules are accepted. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in seven categories, as well as purchase awards, the Lynwood Artists Award and Best in Show. Download an entry form and guidelines at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

**Monday, May 19**  
Presented by Smith River Singers’ select ensemble Still Water Concert at 7 p.m. Cash Bar Social (no food) 6 p.m., Stoneleigh Estate, 375 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown. Admission free. Donations will be collected to benefit the Smith River Singers trip to New York to sing the Messiah in Carnegie Hall, Nov. 26-Dec. 2.

## ONGOING

Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, Mondays, rain or shine, through Labor Day, 5-7 p.m., at Shelters #3 & #4. This is a cash only market and parking is free.  
BINGO on Mondays, Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A.L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Concessions are available.

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, Martins-

ville.

The Bassett Ruritan Club, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, hosts breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month, \$9 for adults, and \$4 for children under 12. All you can eat, sausage, fried bologna, eggs, cooked apples, sausage gravy, biscuits, made-to-order pancakes, coffee, and juice. Dine in or carry out.

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

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

Bassett Ruritan Club hosts Rook Music & More on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon. Play Rook, work puzzles, make a craft and listen to a mixture of bluegrass, country & gospel music by different bands each week. If you want, bring a snack to share. This event is free to the public. Any donations received will go to the Bassett Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit [brrl.lib.va.us](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

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

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

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](http://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.

## Foreign exchange student program is seeking host families for the upcoming school year

Families across the U.S. have a unique opportunity to experience a new culture right in their own homes. World Heritage International Student Exchange Programs, a non-profit public benefit organization, is currently seeking warm and welcoming host families to open their homes to international exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience for families that fosters cultural understanding, builds lifelong friendships, while enriching local communities. Students, aged 15-18 years, come from over 60 countries around the world, including France, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Spain and many more. The students are carefully selected based on their academic performance, English proficiency, and personal character, and they are eager to become part of an American family, attend a local high school, and share their own traditions.

During their stay, World Heritage exchange students immerse themselves in American culture by living with and becoming part of a volunteer host family while attending a local high school. This experience allows them to improve their English skills, form lifelong friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of American life and values. In return, host families and communities benefit from the unique perspectives and cultural exchange that these students bring.

“Being a host family isn’t just

about providing a place to stay; it’s about making a student from another country part of the family,” says Debra Garbon, World Heritage National Director. “Many host families find that the experience is just as rewarding for them as it is for the student. The bonds formed often last a lifetime.” “Exchange students bring energy, curiosity, and fresh perspectives to their host families and communities. They attend local schools, participate in activities, and become a real family member.”

Host families provide a safe and supportive home, meals, and encouragement, while students come with their own spending money and health insurance, ensuring that hosting is a rewarding and enriching experience without financial burden. Anyone with a warm and welcoming home can host an exchange student! Host families come in many forms, including married couples (with or without children), single parents, young professionals, empty-nesters, same-sex couples, and retirees.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Families interested in hosting an exchange student or exploring study abroad opportunities are encouraged to learn more and apply by visiting [www.host.worldheritage.org](http://www.host.worldheritage.org) or contacting Debra Garbon at (800) 888-9040 / [info@worldheritage.org](mailto:info@worldheritage.org).

## Fallen

(cont. from page 1)



State and local fallen heroes were honored during National Peace Officer Week.

## Letters to the Editor Guidelines

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

Call 276-694-3101 or email [submissions@theenterprise.net](mailto:submissions@theenterprise.net) for more information.

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# OPINION

## Honoring our Police Officers

National Police Week takes place from Sunday, May 11 to Saturday, May 17.

This is when Americans honor our law enforcement officers.

It is estimated that there are more than 800,000 law enforcement professionals serving American communities.

These professionals are responsible for policing dangerous criminal behavior and protecting innocent civilians.

Additionally, law enforcement officers are diligent in their efforts to create relationships in their respective communities.

It is common to see officers at local community fairs, parades, etc. And I like to see them there because they are protecting us all.

Virginia's Ninth District is filled with dedicated officials who work tirelessly to protect and defend our communities.

Given the sheer size of the District, which is bigger than the State of New Jersey, there are dozens of law enforcement departments that protect our towns, cities and counties.

These departments share and maintain extensive and elaborate partnerships with one another.

Some of these partnerships include the Virginia State Police.

Virginia's correctional officers at state prisons and the federal USP Lee facility are responsible for oversight and management of convicted dangerous individuals.

Those who field dispatch calls for law enforcement departments also play a critical role in community safety.

They receive emergency calls and help facilitate action by first responders.

These situations can be very stressful. Accordingly, dispatchers go through significant training.

The Ninth District is also home to various groups and academies that prepare



Morgan Griffith

Representative

aspiring officials for a career in law enforcement.

The Southwest Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy and New River Criminal Justice Academy are two such agencies. They help educate recruits on best practices and procedures and create a pipeline of law enforcement talent.

Some of this talent is showcased in our schools through school resource officers. These officers help preserve safe education environments for public school students.

The police department at Virginia Tech offers free programs to students to learn about law enforcement activities.

Taken together, Ninth District law enforcement agencies account for the training of hundreds of dedicated law enforcement and public safety professionals.

These officers account for numerous stories that illustrate heroism, commitment to duty and selflessness.

Unfortunately, space restricts my ability to highlight each and every story. But here are just a few inspiring ones.

As Hurricane Helene swept through the region, Craig County Sheriff's Deputy Gregory May attempted to execute a daring rescue mission.

During the mission, Deputy May was struck by flying debris and sustained a concussion, a broken jaw, and a severe laceration under his neck.

Another recent story involves Buchanan County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Brandon Hall, who acted

decisively during a carbon monoxide incident.

Buchanan County Sheriff's Office credits Hall with saving the lives of two adults and a child.

This March, two deputies in Carroll County were fired on by a wanted gunman. The deputies were transported to hospitals but thankfully they survived.

A recent incident involving alleged MS-13 members at Wallens Ridge State Prison left five correctional officers seriously wounded.

The above situations not only underscore the immense dangers these officials face, but the fortitude and bravery that define their service.

Last August, Smyth County Sheriff's Deputy Hunter Reedy was assisting Marion Police officers respond to a traffic stop.

Suddenly, the driver pulled out a gun and fired shots at the officers.

Deputy Reedy was struck by the gunfire and killed. His partner, Deputy Michael Fedorchuk, was wounded.

Reedy was 27. He leaves behind his wife, Bettina, their three kids and wonderful memories.

We grieve their painful loss. We pray for their family's health and safety as they continue with their lives.

This is a solemn reminder that the families of law enforcement officials also endure immense tragedy and sacrifice.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our active serving officers and our fallen law enforcement officials' families.

Unfortunately, from the very first months I was in elected office until this year, officers in the Ninth District have been injured or slain by criminal elements.

This is one reason why I honor our police officers. And I thank them for doing their dangerous service.

Bettina Reedy is bringing her children to DC for National Police Week. They will pay tribute to their father.

And like them, I will say a prayer and honor a hero from Southwest Virginia.

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

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## Area man suffering Gorilla Derangement Syndrome

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A local resident and a zookeeper are at loggerheads after a wild gorilla was released into the man's home a little more than 100 days ago.

Homeowner Jim Russell, 40, said that he returned home from work one day in late January to find that a male silverback Western Lowland Gorilla had been intentionally released into his house.

"I walked in and I thought someone had set off a bomb in my living room," Russell said. "My TV had a hole in it. There were broken dishes everywhere. My toilet had been ripped right out of the floor. It took me years of work to reach this point in my life, and everything had just been totally destroyed for no clear reason. And then I go upstairs and see this gorilla standing on my bed, just smirking at me. My life has become a waking nightmare."

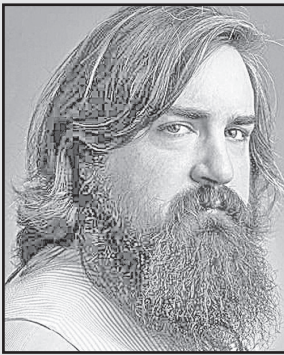
But Earl Arnold, zookeeper at nearby Monkey Alley Gorilla Acreage, said that Russell is overreacting.

"I'm moving apes day in and day out in this business, and yeah, sometimes a gorilla accidentally gets released into someone's house," Arnold said. "In the business, we call that 'shrinkage.' But I'll eventually get around to recovering the gorilla. In the meantime, this guy ought to just enjoy having this majestic creature in his home."

Arnold has called Russell's repeated calls to 911 and pleas to the media a classic example of "Gorilla Derangement Syndrome."

"All this guy can talk about is how much he hates this gorilla," Arnold said. "'Oh no, the gorilla's gonna make me lose my job. Oh no, the gorilla's gonna kill me.' It hasn't happened yet, has it? I tell you, this gorilla is living rent-free in this guy's head."

"Look, I can't entirely blame the gorilla," said Russell. "The gorilla doesn't know what it's doing. It doesn't even understand what's going on around it. But the fact is,



By Ben R. Williams

this gorilla is ruining my life, and of course I'm going to blame the people who set it loose in my house."

In a social media post, Arnold said that if Russell hates the gorilla so much, he ought to just move.

"I've tried to escape multiple times," Russell said. "The gorilla keeps blocking the doors and windows, and then it bats me around like a rag doll. I need medical attention, but of course the gorilla tore up my insurance card. It's not like it matters; my insurance was through work and I've lost my job because of this gorilla."

"It's always complaints with this guy," Arnold said. "I challenge him to say one good thing, just ONE good thing about the gorilla. He can't do it. That's G.D.S. for you."

While negotiations between the two men have gone poorly, Arnold said that he does have plans in place to remove the gorilla from Russell's home in 2028.

"Or maybe in 2032," Arnold said. "Nah, I'm just joking. Or am I? Nah, I kid. Maybe. We'll see."

"My home will be totally destroyed by 2028," Russell said. "And to make matters worse, this morning, a truck dropped off a howler monkey that's quickly become the gorilla's second in command. It's a deeply unpleasant animal and you don't even want to know what it did to my couch."

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## Letter To The Editor

### The Politicization of Christianity

In the months and years leading up to the 2024 presidential election, it appears that the evangelical Christian leadership in America has crossed a proverbial line. Not only did Franklin Graham, Robert Jeffress, Jerry Falwell Jr. and others endorse President-elect Trump, but other events have been discovered that were undertaken to provide Trump an extra push to win which will forever politicize Christianity.

Two months after Graham's endorsement at the July Republican Convention, CEO Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse staged an event at Valdosta Georgia on September 30, 2024, to allow presidential candidate Donald Trump to take credit for the work of Samaritans Purse. Graham invited/scheduled Trump's appearance to coincide with the delivery by Samaritan's Purse of food, gas and emergency supplies to that storm damaged community.

A little history is in order. In a February 1, 1981, article for Parade Magazine the late Pastor Rev Billy Graham declared that "I want to preserve the purity of the Gospel and the freedom of religion in America. It would disturb me if there was a wedding between the religious fundamentalists and the political right.... The hard right has no interest in religion except to manipulate it."

Unfortunately, Rev Graham's son (Franklin) did not see it that way. Building on a long term relationship with Trump starting with his endorsement of Trump in 2011, Franklin Graham endorsed and prayed for Trump at the 2024 Republican National Convention.

During the last 15 years, Graham has condemned Barack Obama for his faith and "fanned the 'Obama

birther' conspiracy and might secretly be a Muslim" before eventually apologizing. Graham condemned Pete Buttigieg for his homosexuality but not Trump for his infidelity. He chose not to condemn Trump for selling Bibles (printed in China) ... a clear sacrilege reference to the Gospel.

In summary, the late Billy Graham predicted the Christian right would try to manipulate religion and Billy's son, Franklin Graham, proved his father to be a prophet. As a consequence of his endorsement Graham was in technical violation of the Johnson Amendment crafted in 1954. The Johnson Amendment is a provision in the U.S. tax code that prohibits all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates.

Broadly, the church has lost sight of the heavenly end to which it aspires, the victory which Christ has won. The Republican Party feels buoyed by the call for Christian Nationalism through its use of cultural wars targeting transgenderism while avoiding "infidelity." Through its use of the world, Christianity has won some battles, while losing the war.

The church and its leaders need to fix our eyes on those unseen, eternal things, confidently reasserting a Gospel-centered witness distinct from the things of this world. According to Second Corinthians: "Franklin Graham and all pastors need to return to those "unseen" eternal things instead of the politics of the world."

Pastors and teachers should ... "teach how to fish in order to feed for a lifetime,"... not where to fish.

Randy Scott,  
Henry County

## Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of May 19 - May 24:

5/19

5:00pm  
5:00pm

Baseball  
Softball

Bassett at Magna Vista  
Bassett at Magna Vista

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# Council

(cont. from page 1)

measures to what he said was a proposed \$638,000 increase in spending, which included \$225,000 for Human Resources, \$360,000 for Procurement, and \$140,000 for leasing space to move facilities. Another area that saw a significant increase is the travel category.

“Depending on how you define what our baseline is for travel, we could look at \$60,000 to \$100,000 for travel. Then, we do have very, very significant increases in HR salaries of like \$225,000—I understand that’s positions moving, not people getting pots of money thrown at them,” and another “\$360,000 in budget procurement salaries,” he said.

Rawls said he likely would support the full real estate tax increase if it were used for public safety, police, fire, public works, water, wastewater, and electric workers.

“We definitely need that revenue so that we can implement phase one of the frontline workers, which is a minimum of a quarter million. Once we get our wage study, this is in addition to the three percent that’s already in the budget. So, we need another quarter million,” Lawson said.

Under the proposed budget, Rawls said the increased revenue would be spent on administrative functions.

“In the new salaries just of HR and procurement alone, I mean we’re looking at \$585,000, which — that’s pretty much the whole tax increase by itself, particularly when we discount the lease,” Rawls said.

With a lot of new information from finance staff, state agencies, and federal agencies, Rawls said the most comfortable thing would be a revenue neutral budget.

“To get our arms around what’s going on here, let’s get an actual plan for how we’re going to pay our people who keep our water on before they leave us. Then, I’m not saying I would never vote for a tax increase in the future. So, this is not a ‘no new taxes’ thing. I just want to know the exact plan. I just know I can’t vote for it if it’s going to administrative positions. I just can’t,” he said.

Regarding what he referred to as the “elephant in the room” of the \$1.4 million in purchase card transactions, Mei said the fact there are 135 purchasing cards is astonishing to him.

The Martinsville Bulletin reported bank card records indicate more than \$1.13 million was charged during the 2024 calendar year, and another \$276,900 in the first three months of this year; more than \$1.4 million over the 15-month period.

“Generally, on all of the monthly statements, there are hundreds of charges involving approximately 135 people to hotels and restaurants in the local area, throughout Virginia, and cities and counties across the country. Gas stations, convenience stores, pizza shops, Walmart, Kroger’s, Food Lion and dry cleaning businesses are among those listed,” according to the Martinsville Bulletin.

“In an organization of” 350 people “that’s—what? Like, I’m trying devil’s advocate to not think I’m insane,” Mei said.

During her presentation on budget reduction options for capital and fund balance replenishment, City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides I presented a list of possible reductions. These included lowering the cost-of-living adjustment from 3 percent to 1 percent, saving about \$169,000; eliminating two staff positions, saving over \$75,000; transitioning one position to other funding, saving \$87,000; outsourcing one function, saving \$34,000; cutting a proposed animal shelter position and eliminating a new park administrator role, saving a combined \$139,000; reducing holiday incentives, employee relations events, and travel and training budgets; and about \$97,000 could also be freed from economic development contracts.

“Regardless of what rate you adopt, we need to identify additional funds,” she said. “We do not have a rainy-day fund—we’re looking at only \$39,000.”

Lawson said she was unwilling to cut the 3 percent raise for employees.

Rawls suggested other savings, such as not leasing additional office space (saving \$140,000) and reducing purchasing card expenses by 10 percent (another \$140,000). Ferrell-Benavides replied that purchasing card savings would need to be tied to specific line items.

“That’s not in a fund,” she said. “Credit card expenses cover many things. I need a specific line item.”

During a discussion on the city’s purchasing cards, Jones said that while it’s okay to question, he believes council shouldn’t get too much into the weeds.

“I can understand that, but ... I don’t see how we saw some of the charges we got and then not ask questions, because ultimately, we’re responsible. We’ve been in a place before where council blamed their employees for their decisions, and I know that’s part of politics—to blame people because you’re a politician, you’re not going to take accountability—but I mean some of the things we’ve all seen, we can’t do this,” Rawls said, and asked why the city needs the money from a real estate tax rate increase.

“That’s what I want to know — why do we need the money? I don’t care what the rate was ... Until somebody looks at this budget and tells me they’re seeing something different, that’s all I can see in this. I don’t say this cutting to be mean, that’s where all this money is going. It’s a \$638,000 increase in revenue. Add up all the numbers I just gave you all—\$225,000 for HR, \$360,000 for procurement, and \$100,000-something for travel. Do the math, you’re at the \$600,000 and whatever right there,” Rawls said.

“You wouldn’t be where you were if you didn’t have your budget person. You had a line-item budget you couldn’t tell a thing about before I got here,” Ferrell-Benavides said

“Respectfully, city manager, we were in far better shape before you all got here,” Rawls said, as the audience clapped in agreement.

Police Chief Rob Fincher tried to keep the audience calm and quiet for the meeting to continue.

Jones said every council member praised Ferrell-Benavides on the budget she prepared when she first came to the city.

“Including you,” Ferrell-Benavides said to Rawls. “It was on the news. How wonderful it was to finally have it.”

“It’s funny when the audit comes out and you find the actual results and find out you can’t make routine federal findings, that we get threatened to pay back \$4.4 million of federal funds. Delegate Phillips (Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville), by the way, you deserve this praise. Next time you all see Delegate Phillips, walk up to him and shake his hand like he just gave you \$800, because he did. He saved us from having to repay ARPA money because our government could not make routine federal filings like the governments that preceded them,” Rawls said.

“That’s not true, sir. It’s completely incorrect,” Ferrell-Benavides said. “You know what? I will let our finance director come up here and explain to you what he had to do, and let’s make sure when we tell a story we tell the truth. We have a tendency to do reversion history. You had two filings that did not happen when your finance director quit, which is what we presented. If you (Rawls) were at the meeting, you would have heard it. We have presented it over and over. It’s on tape.

“The city is moving forward, but yes, thank you Delegate Phillips, because he did get us in so our new finance director could file those reports. He also, as you all approved—and could have approved earlier on and did not appropriate the funding until the last minute—he went in and made the changes. As a city we are moving. We may have some things that we need to work on, but we are moving. Yes, Delegate Phillips did help us get in, but as someone said, no one had submitted, but guess what? All of you received a list from VML (Virginia Municipal League) showing over 30 cities that had not filed, so we are not by ourselves,” Ferrell-Benavides said.

Rawls asked Ferrell-Benavides when she started working for the city and when the filings were.

Ferrell-Benavides said the September and December 2024 filings were missed and added that she started working for the city in 2023.

“Who was the boss of the people who were supposed to be filing these,” Rawls asked.

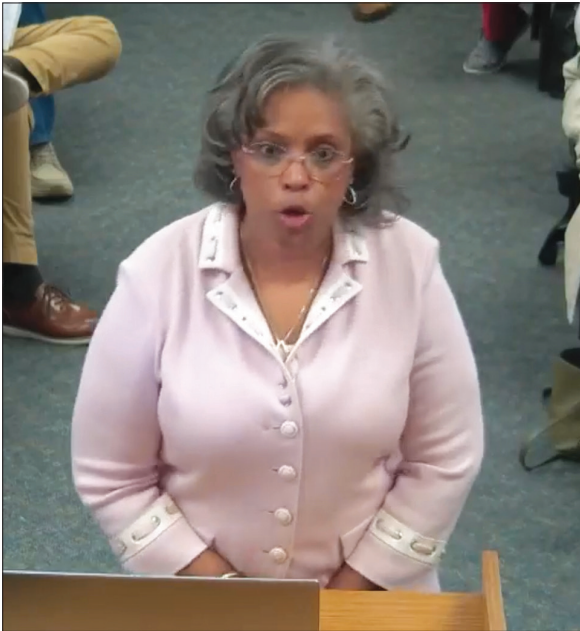
“She sure is, and she missed it and she takes full responsibility because I lost a finance director,” Ferrell-Benavides replied.

“Who is she,” Rawls asked.

“Aretha takes full responsibility,” Ferrell-Benavides said.

“Well then take it,” Rawls said.

“Why are you trying to put it all on her? Why did the finance director leave,” Jones asked, with Ferrell-Benavides echoing the question.



City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benevides responds to questions from council members.

“Because we had someone who wanted to interrogate them about stealing money,” Jones said.

“You accused her of stealing money,” Ferrell-Benavides said to Rawls.

“You accused her of stealing money, and that’s why she left,” Jones said.

Rawls said Jones was in the room with him.

“I was in the room with you, and that’s why I know it happened. Thank you for confirming it,” Jones said.

“You (Jones) referred her (Lawson) for criminal prosecution over the thing,” Rawls said to Jones.

Lawson then made a motion to set the real estate tax rate at 7 percent, to verbal disapproval from the audience.

As the council was waiting for a second to Lawson’s motion, Rawls told Martinsville Fincher there was a “man over there with an attitude problem.”

As Fincher moved to escort Human Resources (HR) Director Travis Hodges out of council chambers, Jones said council was going to take a recess. Ferrell-Benavides also moved to escort Hodges out of the room.

“He’s telling the truth. That’s why a couple of them (employees) left because of you. You sit over there and point the finger at everybody else,” Jones said to Rawls.

During the recess, Gravely appeared to put himself in between Jones and Rawls after a heated discussion.

“We’re having a conversation ... the people that left,” left, “because of this guy right here. Call and ask any of them, and that’s why you didn’t have any directors. We could barely find a city manager. Leon (Towarnicki, former city manager) wouldn’t even come back here. Why? Because of this guy right here,” Jones said of Rawls.

After the recess, Lawson withdrew her motion. She then made a motion to set the real estate tax at 4.5 percent, or 0.7533 per \$100 of assessed value.

It was approved in a 3–2 vote. Lawson, Gravely, and Jones voted yes. Rawls and Mei were the dissenting votes.

In other business, the council:

\*Heard from several residents who voiced frustration over the proposed tax increase, salary hikes, a 15 percent raise negotiated for the city manager, a loss of public trust and suggested regular forums where residents could question council members and hear from city departments directly.

\*Karen Doyle, a business owner, criticized the council’s conduct and cited misuse of taxpayer funds as a reason for not relocating her company to Martinsville. She referenced \$1.4 million in credit card charges over a 15-month period, including luxury hotel stays. “There’s no way I would bring my company here,” she said.

\*City resident Ural Harris challenged the cost of staff training. “If we’re paying them these salaries, they are to be trained. If not, fire them and hire somebody who is,” he said.

\*Presented proclamations for Business Appreciation Month, National Police Week, and Mental Health Awareness Month.

\*Approved the consent agenda.

\*Tabled approval of the March 17 meeting minutes.

\*Tabled discussion of the refuse ordinance until the June 10 meeting.

\*Discussed Virginia Municipal League (VML) Policy Committee nominations.

## Summer camp registration underway at Reynolds Homestead

Reynolds Homestead is offering a series of three summer camps:

### Camp Homestead

July 7 - 10

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Camp Homestead invites kids in grades 4 to 7 to spend three fun-filled days immersed in nature, creativity, and exploration on the beautiful grounds of Reynolds Homestead. Each day will include a short hike, outdoor games and activities, hands-on crafts, and a story circle that sparks imagination and reflection.

### Whimsical Wildlife and Wavy Worlds Art Camp

July 14 - 17

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join us for Whimsical Wildlife and Wavy Worlds, a four-day creative camp where art and imagination collide! Kids ages 7 to 12 will



explore the magic of optical illusions through

hands-on projects like swirling animal portraits, kaleidoscopic patterns, and interactive jungle scenes.

### Hands On - Mind On - Game On! Science Camp

July 21 - 24

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hands On – Mind On – Game On! is an action-packed, screen-free summer camp where science meets creativity and teamwork. Campers will explore force, motion, gravity, and energy through hands-on challenges using rockets, LEGO, marbles, and more.

Each session is \$60 per camper, with a bundle discount of \$150 if a camper is attending all three.

To learn more and register, visit [reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/education-programming](https://reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/education-programming).



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## Applications accepted for 2025 Charitable Contributions Fund Grant Program

Farm Credit of the Virginias, a lending cooperative serving Virginia, West Virginia, and western Maryland, announced that they are now accepting applications for the fourth cycle of grant opportunities through their Charitable Contributions Fund.

Through the Farm Credit of the Virginias Charitable Contributions Fund grant program, the cooperative supports and builds stronger partnerships with organizations that preserve and promote farmers and families in its rural communities. The program allows the Association to meet their mission to serve the agriculture industry by investing in the growth of agricultural programming.

Grants will be awarded for up to \$10,000 in funding. Funding will be considered for charitable projects that are either located in their 96-county territory or that serve communities where Farm Credit of the Virginias conducts business. Grants will only be awarded to non-profit groups and organizations, and will not be awarded to individuals or private farms. Ad-

ditional terms and conditions are available on the print and online application forms.

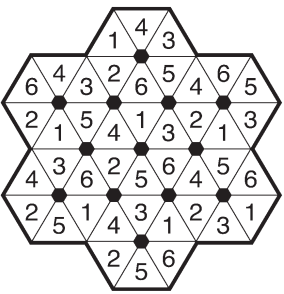
Grant applications for the current funding cycle will be accepted May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025. Grants will be awarded in August 2025. Applications and additional program details can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.farmcreditofvirginias.com/ccf>

Regarding the Charitable Contributions Fund, Brad Cornelius, CEO, said, "We are proud to support the agriculture industry and the quality of life in our rural communities through our Charitable Contributions Fund grant program. In this fourth funding cycle of the program, we look forward to providing crucial grant funds to dedicated organizations that align with our mission. It is a joy to learn about the far-reaching and lasting impacts of previous grant recipients in our communities, and we're pleased to see what more we can accomplish through the continuation of this grant program."

## Puzzle Answers!

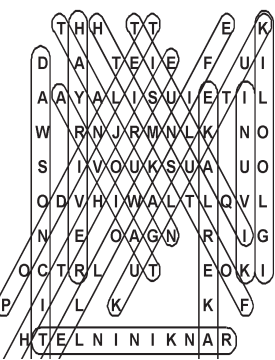
### (SNOWFLAKES)

solution



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### SCRAMBLERS

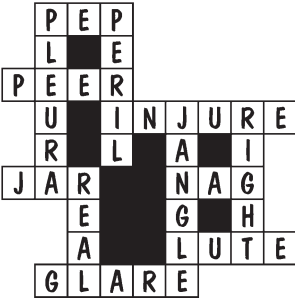
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1. Morale 2. Deport;  
3. Entice; 4. Pester

Today's Word

**STEREO**

**FEAR & KNIGHT**  
answer



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Crossing the Lines

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

Board recognizes CTE Skills USA students



School board members celebrated with Patrick County High School (PCHS) students who placed in the Career & Technical (CTE) Skills USA competition.

The Patrick County School Board celebrated Patrick County High School (PCHS) students who placed in the Career & Technical (CTE) Skills USA competition.

PCHS Principal Hope Perry said she believes CTE programs are one of the top things at the campus.

“Our kids are great, our staff is great, but our CTE program” is “what our kids are able to go into in the future straight out of high school, and they’re prepared and

they’re ready to work. I’m so very proud,” she said.

Teacher Melanie Culler said a team of three cosmetology students competed in the total fantasy look competition with the theme of under the sea

With one student acting as the make-up artist and another as the hairdresser, Culler said they transformed the third student into a jellyfish.

“They won first in district competition

and so they went onto place fifth,” she said.

Another student placed second out of 37 contestants in the fantasy mannequin competition with the same theme.

Philip Steagall, teacher, said a team of four competed in the Team Works category of the building competition.

“They get a set of plans, and they give them 20 minutes to make up a 3-5 minute presentation on how they’re going to complete the actual project,” he said.

Roach cites tax concerns, debt as motivation to seek office



Currently, Malcolm Roach is unopposed in his bid for the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

Malcolm Roach plans to seek the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the upcoming November election.

Incumbent Doug Perry does not plan to seek reelection.

Roach, 70, said he decided to run because he feels the county’s spending is out of control.

“Patrick County is a county of low-income people. Most people here are on fixed income where they just” have their “Social Security, and with this tax hike that they’re proposing they’re going to tax people right out of their homes,” he said.

Roach said he assists and counsels about 15 local elderly couples with their monthly budgets. After paying bills and buying necessities, he said some of them are left with only \$8 at the end of the month.

“This tax increase is going to put them in the spot where

either they buy food and pay for their prescriptions or don’t buy food. It’s just going to hurt them, and I just don’t understand it,” he said.

Roach noted the county is about \$36 million in debt and believes county leadership is worsening the situation.

If he moved to Henry County, just a few miles away, Roach said he could enjoy similar land, water, and natural features while paying \$0.17 less per \$100 in real estate taxes.

As a man of faith, Roach said he also takes issue with what he sees as the moral implications of passing debt on to future generations.

“What gives us the right to spend their money? Some of them aren’t even born yet, some of them haven’t even taken a breath yet and we already have them millions of dollars in debt. If I was them, I’d leave when I got older too,” he said.

Local officers mark National Police Week

Peace Officer Memorial Day was Thursday, May 15, and the week in which it falls is declared National Police Week. The names of 26,959 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are etched in the wall at the National Peace Officer Memorial in Washington D.C.

President John F. Kennedy signed the creation of Peace Officer Memorial Day into law on October 1, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. He added that the federal Posse Comitatus Act, passed in 1878, prohibits the military from being deployed against its own citizens in a law enforcement capacity.

“Sworn law enforcement officers are the everyday barrier that prevent evil, chaos, and complete recklessness from internally destroying our country,” Smith said.

The sheriff said that the most dangerous of all law enforcement professions are those of rural patrol officers. “Our deputies and troopers patrol our roadways alone, and commonly respond to calls alone, with backup often 15 to 30 minutes away.”

Two deputy sheriffs and one state trooper have been shot and killed in the line of duty in Patrick County.

“The southeast has always been statistically the most dangerous area of the country for law enforcement, with our southern Appalachian region certainly within that category “ Smith added.

The sheriff urges the public to visit the Officer Down Memorial website at [www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org).

“The stories of all 26,959 are here, it is sobering to learn how they died, and sadly, who they left behind.” Smith said.

Strawberry Festival, Songwriter Series set for Saturday in Stuart

Saturday, May 17, promises to be a jam-packed day in Stuart, with two major events — the 22nd annual Strawberry Festival and the third installment of the Songwriter Circle Series — set to bring live music, food, and crowds to town.

The Strawberry Festival will take place in Uptown Stuart from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons said nearly 100 vendors have registered for the event.

“I think we have come close to getting that many vendors before, but this is the first time we’ve ever been at this capacity prior to the festival. We’ve always had a little bit of flexibility to add vendors here and there, but we’ve had a lot of interest from a vendor standpoint this year in particular,” he said.

Because of this high level of interest, Simmons said the town does not expect to accept same-day vendor applications as it has in the past.

He believes the increased interest stems from improvements in accessibility on the town’s new website and Facebook page.

“I think that has helped with

making, or at least, getting it accessible for people to sign up. Because I’ve had a lot of inquiries through our new email and website,” he said.

In addition to a variety of food and craft vendors, live music will be featured throughout the festival.

Jordan T. Morrison & The Foothill Boys will perform from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by Marcie Horne and Mike Pendleton from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Ashley Stout will take the stage from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

While attendance varies based on weather, Simmons estimates that several thousand visitors could pass through Main Street with favorable conditions.

“Last year’s weather was pretty overcast and rainy, which definitely hurt attendance, but the year before that I think that we had anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 people because it was hot outside,” he said. Good weather “always makes a difference.”

The third Songwriter Circle Series will take place at the Star Theatre, with doors opening at 5 p.m. The show will be headlined by Jerry Salley, a three-time Grammy Award winner based in Nashville.



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-4-7-9:15



1-4-7-9:15



Hollywood Cinema  
beside Walmart  
Martinsville 276-656-3456





# Puzzle Time



## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

AJR  
NEIRJU  
♥AGELR  
ULET  
NALEJG  
PPE  
♥ALER  
IRPLE  
GNA  
REPUAL  
♥TGRHI  
EREP

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. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is longer. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is longer. 6. Bracelet is moved.

## MAGIC MAZE

PLACE NAMES IN NORTHERN CANADA

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

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

Arviat	Hay River	Kinngait	Rankin Inlet
Baker Lake	Igloolik	Kugluktuk	Whitehorse
Dawson City	Inuvik	Nauyasat	Yellowknife
Fort Smith	Laurel	Pond Inlet	

## Super Crossword

ROUGH JOURNEY AHEAD

ACROSS

1 Neighbor of Croatia

7 Pakistan's largest city

14 Rajiv or Indira

20 For only the price of production

21 Rarely used golf club

22 Alevite rival

23 Spectators' loud cheers

25 Sizable sofas

26 Angled

27 Southeast Kansas city

28 River islet

30 Beginner's painting class

31 Sousaphone, e.g.

33 Loaf flavored with a certain fragrant herb

39 Incorporates gradually

43 Hitler Griffey

44 Having a basic knowledge of arithmetic

45 "The Wild Wild West" actor

47 São — (largest of the Cape Verdes)

48 Actress Jessica

49 — parmigiana

50 Hi- — image

51 Golfer's peg

54 Vote in favor

55 Clarinetist Shaw

58 Wander

62 Temporary, as a committee

63 Creator of Oz

65 Neighbor of Croatia

66 Acquiesce, figuratively

71 Virgil epic

72 Noted Deco master

73 Paper opinion pieces

74 Many a song by Journey or Chicago

77 Eight x five

78 Knight's title

81 Suffix with journal

82 Alley- —

83 Flatware item

85 Ho-hum thing

86 Hurl

89 Site-to-site transfer of data

93 "Glass half full" attitude

96 JFK posting

97 Deprived of parental care

98 It's east of Croatia

101 "The devil — the details"

102 Cure- — (panaceas)

103 Alabama-to-Illinois dir.

104 Per unit

106 Pound pen

110 Popular video-sharing service

113 Apt thing to drive on while pondering this puzzle's theme?

118 Villa

119 Fine-food fan

120 Turn to ice

121 "Get —" (John Travolta film)

122 Chooses

123 Hurdled

DOWN

1 Fishhook part

2 Siouan tribe member

3 Read hastily

4 The Rhine flows into it

5 Thermal or lateral lead-in

6 Initially

7 Germany's Helmut

8 Lend — (pay attention)

9 — center (community facility)

10 Make public

11 — Magnon

12 "— I supposed to know?"

13 Darjeeling or pekoe

14 Gallivant

15 Darth Vader, in boyhood

16 CNN political commentator Ana

17 U.S. capital's vicinity

18 Allude to

19 Not al fresco

24 Drink mixer

29 Fact

32 Atop, to poets

34 Gumbo

35 Fasten shut

36 Terminus

37 Vocalist Sumac

38 Ask earnestly

39 Ask earnestly

40 Golf target

41 "SOS" band

42 Tyro

46 Born, on a society page

50 Lively frolic

51 Sousaphone, e.g.

52 Oklahoma city

53 Self-help writer LeShan

55 Go off script

56 Old Valerie Harper role

57 "Mazel —"

58 Ill-mannered

59 Up until now

60 "I Am Woman" singer Helen

61 Mined metals

62 Supermodel Wek

63 Minstrel poet

64 Social insect

66 Some antique autos

67 In time past

68 Gather in

69 Depend on

70 Mo. in spring

71 Exist

75 Unlace, e.g.

76 Having vulgar interests

77 To and —

78 Imminently

79 "Dies —" (hymn)

80 Comic Foxx

83 Salty Greek cheese

84 Neighbor of Yemen

85 Boils a little

86 Wild West sheriff's badge

87 Med. plan

88 Comic actor Mayall

89 Minister's study; Abbr.

90 "Love Story" novelist Segal

91 Switch to second gear, maybe

92 Chi preceder

93 Speechifies

94 Buff up

95 Chat with

99 Steal

100 John of lawn tractors

105 Fruit drinks

107 Wows

108 Stare

109 Stared at

111 Ex-Giant Mel

112 Lock go-with

114 Crooner Damone

115 Here, in Arles

116 Fizzling thing

117 Miracle- —

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- More than 300 different species of bacteria are found in dental plaque.
- Bones found at Seymour Island indicate that 37 to 40 million years ago, penguins stood at a formidable 6 feet tall and weighed 250 pounds.
- PEZ candies were originally anti-smoking mints.
- World War II is known as "the blessed war" to many Icelanders because the country has that conflict to thank for its independence.
- Jeanne-Genevieve Garnerin was the first female parachutist. In 1799, she jumped from a hot air balloon. This jump was recorded to be around 900 meters high (over 3,000 feet). She was also one of the earliest women to fly in a balloon.
- In the 1920s and '30s, many movie theaters had signs instructing ladies to "Please Remove Your Hats" to keep their elaborate headwear from blocking anyone's view.
- Jeannette Rankin became the first female member of Congress in 1916, four years before the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was ratified.
- Mike Tyson saw Muhammad Ali's last match at the age of 14 and got mad at Larry Holmes for beating Ali. Tyson called Ali on the phone and told him, "I'll grow up and get him back for you." Seven years later, Tyson met Holmes for a match, and the then-retired Ali stepped in the ring and said, "Remember what you promised." Tyson made good on his vow in the fourth round.
- The platypus doesn't have a stomach at all: Its esophagus goes straight to its intestines.
- Rainbows are full circles when viewed from a different perspective, and everyone sees a unique version depending on how their eyes perceive light.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it." — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦♦♦ Easy ♦♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

TO FADE SHOTS, AIM YOUR BODY A LITTLE LEFT OF TARGET, OPEN THE CLUBFACE SLIGHTLY, THEN SWING NORMALLY.

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IN BOTH CASES, AIM OFF AND OPEN OR CLOSE THE CLUBFACE MORE THE BIGGER THE CURVE YOU WANT.

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## SCRAMBLERS

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

Resolve  
**MOALER** \_\_\_\_\_

Exile  
**PETDRO** \_\_\_\_\_

Tempt  
**TEENCI** \_\_\_\_\_

Bother  
**PREEST** \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, boy, \_\_\_\_\_!

TODAY'S WORD  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# LEGAL

**COUNTY OF HENRY  
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearings on the following applications on **May 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

**Case R-25-06 Steve R. Martin; Steve Martin’s Family Properties, LLC**  
The property is located at 3119 Stones Dairy Rd, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 26.7/97F, 26.7(11)/97R and part of 26.7(11)/A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 8-acres from Agricultural District A-1 and Commercial District B-1 to Limited Industrial District I-2. The applicant wishes to add approximately 2 acres to the existing property, add an equipment shed, and bring the remainder of the property into conformity with current zoning.

**Case R-25-07 McArthur Lee**  
The property is located at 1690 Crestview Dr, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 14.8/158,159,160. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 6-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct a barn and to keep agricultural animals.

**Case R-25-08 Luke Aaron Kanode**  
The property is located at 334 Centerville Rd, in the Iriswood District. The property is shown on Tax Map 56.4/15R. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 11.4-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct additional accessory buildings, operate a home occupation under the proposed zoning, and to keep agricultural animals.

**Case R-25-09 William B. Wimmer**  
The property is located on the north east side of Stones Dairy Rd, directly across from the intersection of Morningside Dr, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 25.8/235. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.483-acres from Mixed Residential District M-R to Rural Residential District R-R. 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

# LEGAL

**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 has been scheduled for **May 28, 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 Special Use Permits for the following cases.

**Case S-25-05 The Lamar Company, LLC**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-215 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an off-site general advertising sign. The property is located on the south east side of Memorial Blvd, approximately 200’ north of Virginia Ave, in the Collinsville District, is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 41.2/28.

**Case S-25-06 Wright’s Funeral Service and Crematory, LLC**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the existing structure on the property to be used as a funeral home. The property is located at 1230 Oak Level Rd, and is better known as the former Bassett Country Club, in the Reed Creek District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 28.2/146,172,174,175.

**Case S-25-07 Mercy Hill Church**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the property to be used for a church camp that will include cabin groupings, a gymnasium, sporting clays, and an event center. The property is located at 330 Max Kendall Rd, in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 9.8/4.

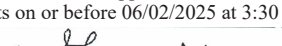
**Case S-25-09 Sunbine Music Foundation**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the property to be used as an event center. The property is located at 4220 Mountain Valley Rd, in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 34.7/21B,24C.

**Case V-25-01 Kirby-Greer Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Cunningham Tire**  
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-214 and 21-905 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the installation of a business sign to be installed up to the side property line, instead of the required side setback of 10’. The property is located at 2020 Fairystone Park Hwy, in the Reed Creek District, is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 27.3(15)/7-15,16A. 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

# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ018231-06-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* BOWDEN, MIA MAY  
HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS /v. ALISHA MAE BOWDEN  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF ALISHA MAE BOWDEN TO HER DAUGHTER, MIA BELLA SOPHIA MAY, BORN FEBRUARY 27, 2024.  
IT IS ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named Court and protect his interests on or before 06/02/2025 at 3:30 AM.  
05/05/2025



CLERK [ ] JUDGE

# LEGAL

**HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE  
INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE**  
RECORD OWNER:  
Frankie E. Trail

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

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure  
OWNER - Landowner: Frankie E. Trail  
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION  
NUMBER -  
3242 Blackberry Rd - Blackberry District  
Henry County, Virginia  
Tax Map: 26.5(004 )000A/034 ,35  
Account Number - 217115000

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

Phillips

(cont. from page 1)

life and pro-Second Amend-  
ment. Looking at the rights  
of victims more than looking  
out for the rights of crimi-  
nals.”  
Phillips said his time in  
Richmond has taught him  
the importance of relation-  
ship-building.  
“You have to be an honest,  
decent person if you’re going  
to get any bills passed and  
money back to your area,”  
he said. He emphasized the  
need for cooperation without  
compromising core beliefs.  
“I’ve been pretty successful  
in getting bills past.”  
Phillips said he maintains  
strong working relationships  
with local leaders, including  
in Pittsylvania County, and  
spends significant time ad-  
vocating for his district. His  
goal, he said, is to ensure  
residents continue to enjoy  
“a great place to live and  
work.”  
Phillips serves on several  
boards and committees. He  
is a member of the Board of  
Directors for the Boys and  
Girls Club of the Blue Ridge,  
chair of the Henry County-  
Martinsville Republican  
Committee, Region 6 vice  
chair of the 9th Congressio-  
nal District, and a member of  
the Republican Party of Vir-  
ginia’s State Central Com-  
mittee.  
He also is chairman of the  
City of Martinsville’s Indus-  
trial Development Author-  
ity, chairman-elect of the  
Martinsville-Henry County  
Chamber of Commerce Board  
of Directors, and serves on  
the chamber’s Executive  
Committee. In addition, he  
is a board member of the Up-  
town Partnership, a Virginia  
Main Street organization,  
and serves on the Blue Ridge  
Innovation Corridor commit-  
tee.  
“Serving in the House of  
Delegates is a privilege that  
I do not take lightly. We ac-  
complished a lot of what  
Governor Youngkin set out  
to accomplish this session,  
but there is still work to be  
done. I would be honored to  
earn your vote, and I am ex-  
cited to continue working ev-  
ery day to earn your trust,”  
Phillips said.  
Much of Phillips’ time is  
spent on legislative duties  
and community involvement.  
“If you add all that togeth-  
er, and you have two grand-  
kids and one on the way,  
you don’t have a lot of time  
for hobbies,” he said. “When  
I am with my boys, I like to  
ride our four-wheelers, and I  
like to play golf when I have  
time, which is not enough.”  
Phillips, his wife, Rebecca,  
and family attend the same  
church his grandparents  
helped establish, wand here  
Phillips said he met “the love  
of his life.” The couple have  
three children—Brandon,  
Tanner, and Lexi — and one  
grandson, Hutton. A second  
grandchild is expected soon.  
“I will have three grand-  
children. We are multiply-  
ing; we are stimulating the  
economy all by ourselves,”  
Phillips said. He added that  
he goes by “Pop” and feels  
like a young grandfather,  
while his wife enjoys being a  
grandmother.  
Phillips said he does not  
currently plan to debate  
Cartwright and will focus his  
campaign on traditional out-  
reach methods to increase  
voter awareness.

Thank you for reading Henry County Enterprise

# LEGAL

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE  
905 LIBERTY STREET  
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA  
(CITY OF MARTINSVILLE)**

In execution of a Deed of Trust signed by Frederick J. Wooden as sole Member and Manager of 1 Active LLC, dated December 5, 2023, and recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, as Instrument #LR202301360, granting and conveying John P. Hance, Esq., Trustee and subse-  
quent substitute trustees, William L. Kirby, III, Esq. and Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, certain real estate, in  
trust, the undersigned Trustees will offer for sale at public auction on the front steps of the City of Martinsville  
Courthouse, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, on **Monday, July 21, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**, the  
improved real estate lying in the City of Martinsville, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:  
**All those certain lots or parcels of land with improvements thereon located, situated in the City of  
Martinsville, Virginia, on the Westerly side of State Highway No. 108 (Figsboro Road), and being a  
portion of Lot 14 and all of Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18, as shown on a Map legended “Map of Property  
Belonging to C. A. Hodges and J. C. Eanes”, prepared by J. A. Gustin, CLS, dated May 9, 1946,  
and of record in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Henry County in Map Book 3, page 10,  
to which lots are more particularly described as follows, to-wit: BEGINNING at a point on the  
West side of Highway No. 108, which point is 10 feet South of the dividing line between Lots 14  
and 15, as shown on the aforesaid map, and running off from said Highway S. 860 W. 180 feet to a  
point on the rear line of Lot 14, which is 10 feet South of the rear dividing line between Lots 14 and  
15; thence with said rear line N. 40 W. 117 feet to the Northernmost rear line of Lot 18, in an  
Easterly direction 183 feet to the West side of Highway No. 108; thence with the said Highway, S.  
40 E. 150 feet to the point of beginning, and being all of Lot 18, 17, 16, 15 and a portion of Lot 14,  
as shown on the aforementioned map. For further reference to those lots herein conveyed see that  
certain Plat for Finney & Company, prepared by W. C. Brown, C.L.S., dated January 25, 1956,  
and of record in the aforesaid Clerk’s Office in Map Book 4, page 85.  
AND BEING the same property conveyed unto the Active LLC (now 1 Active LLC) by Deed dated  
December 5, 2023, and recorded in the City of Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk’s Office as Instrument  
#LR202301359, to which deed and map reference is here had for a more particular description of the  
property hereby conveyed.  
Parcel ID Number: 000155300.**

The sale is subject to conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way and other  
matters of record applicable to the property, and the real estate taxes from the date of sale.  
PROPERTY IS SOLD PURSUANT TO THE DEED OF TRUST TO THOMAS W. WRIGHT, JR. DATED  
DECEMBER 5, 2023, DATED AND RECORDED AS SET OUT ABOVE, IN THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT  
OF \$260,000.00.  
TERMS OF SALE: All cash.  
A deposit of 10% of the sales price by bank’s cashier’s check payable to the Trustee is required of the  
successful bidder at the time of sale, with the balance due within fifteen (15) days of sale, time being of the  
essence. In the event of default by the purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and  
expenses of sale and the Trustee’s compensation authorized by the Deed of Trust and the law in such cases,  
All costs of conveyance, which shall be by Special Warranty Deed, examination of title, recording fees,  
notary fees, settlement fees and Grantor’s tax, to be at the cost of the purchaser. Neither the Trustee nor the  
secured party will be required to deliver possession of the property to the successful bidder.  
The Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids and withdraw the property from sale, modify or waive the  
deposit requirements in whole or in part, and extend the period of time in which the purchaser is to make  
full settlement. Additional terms of sale may be announced at the sale. Any Trustee may act.



William L. Kirby, Esq., Trustee  
Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, Esq. Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
William L. Kirby, 111, Esq., Trustee  
Panagiotis C. Kostopanagiotis, Esq., Trustee  
106 East Main Street, Second Floor  
Martinsville, Virginia 24112  
276-666-1585 Telephone  
276-666-4046 Facsimile

# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ018230-06-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* BOWDEN, AVA MAY  
HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS /v. ALISHA MARIE BOWDEN  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF ALISHA  
MARIE BOWDEN TO HER DAUGHTER, AVA SOPHIA MAY,  
BORN DECEMBER 28, 2020.  
IT IS ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named  
Court and protect his interests on or before 06/02/2025 at 3:30 AM.  
05/05/2025



CLERK [ ] JUDGE

# LEGAL

**HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE  
INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE**  
RECORD OWNER:  
Nicole Smith-Fisher

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

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure  
OWNER - Landowner: Nicole Smith-Fisher  
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION  
NUMBER -  
1799 Jarrett Drive - Blackberry District  
Henry County, Virginia  
Tax Map: 26.5(000 )000 /132,  
Account Number - 004790001

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

# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ012037-17-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316  
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* HARRIS, SHAUNE LEE  
HENRY-MARTINSVILLE DSS /v. WANDA RENEE GORDON  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WANDA  
RENEE GORDON TO HER SON, SHAUNE LEE HARRIS, BORN  
JUNE 22, 2009.  
IT IS ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named  
Court and protect his interests on or before 06/30/2025 at 11:30 AM.  
05/05/2025



CLERK [ ] JUDGE

# LEGAL

**HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE  
INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE**  
RECORD OWNER:  
Gabriel Hernandez

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

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure  
OWNER - Landowner: Gabriel Hernandez  
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION  
NUMBER -  
223 Bowns Creek Rd - Blackberry District  
Henry County, Virginia  
Tax Map: 13.8(000 )000 /108,  
Account Number - 176100000

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

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



# GRASP awards scholarships to Martinsville, Patrick County students

Deniyah Hightower of Martinsville and Emily Stiltner of Patrick County were named Last Dollar Scholarship recipients, and Na'Dasia Cobbs of Martinsville received a Community College Scholarship in a recent round of awards distributed by GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.).

The nonprofit, college and career access organization—headquartered in Richmond—recently awarded 137 Last Dollar Scholarships totaling \$154,500 and 83 Community College Scholarships totaling \$83,000 to Virginia high school seniors graduating in 2025.

GRASP's mission is to ensure that every student has equal access to continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances. During the 2024–2025 academic year, GRASP provided free, confidential, one-on-one counseling in 113 Virginia high schools through a network of trained advisors.

More than 8,500 students were advised this year through in-person and virtual meetings, phone calls, emails, and texts. Advisors helped students

and families navigate the financial aid process, including the completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the VASA (Virginia Alternative State Aid) application.

GRASP now serves schools across Virginia—from Lee County in the southwest to Isle of Wight County in the east, and from Northumberland in the north to Patrick and Greensville counties in the south. Advisors are skilled in navigating the complexities of financial aid and share a strong commitment to expanding students' access to post-secondary education.

The organization's scholarship and advising programs are made possible through continued support from donors and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Last Dollar Scholarships are awarded to at least one student at each GRASP-participating high school. Community College Scholarships are given to students planning to attend community college to earn a career certificate or transfer to a four-year college.

GRASP applauds the achievements of its 2025 scholarship recipients. Many are the first in their

families to pursue postsecondary education. All were recognized for their commitment to continuing their education as a step toward future success.

This year, GRASP will host seven regional scholarship luncheons in Warsaw, South Hill, Cedar Bluff, Staunton, Richmond, Hopewell, and Williamsburg. These events will honor scholarship recipients and students participating in the SOAR Virginia® program—a Virginia529 initiative that supports students in achieving their postsecondary education goals.

Local legislators, school superintendents, and high school staff are also invited to attend the luncheons. For information on which officials will be attending each event, contact pbuckley@grasp4va.org.

Founded in 1983 by Senator Walter Stosch and Dr. Ray Gargiulo, GRASP continues to work one day per week in each participating school. Free appointments can be made through the schools' counseling offices. For more information, visit [www.grasp4va.org](http://www.grasp4va.org).

## Community mixer planned to kick off Project Hope 2025

The Harvest Foundation invites everyone to kick off this year's Project Hope initiative at a community mixer on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Gravely-Lester Art Garden, located at the corner of Starling Avenue and Mulberry Road.

This free, family-friendly event is an opportunity to learn more about the Project Hope grant program; connect with past grant recipients; workshop your own project ideas with program staff from The Harvest Foundation; and fellowship with the community and share wonderful refreshments from Jen's "Cakes with Personality."

"These local hope builders have poured their time, heart, and energy into making our community stronger," said Latala Hodges, senior communications and operating officer at The Harvest Foundation. "This is your chance to connect, learn more about what Project Hope is all about, and maybe even spark your own idea for bringing hope to your neighborhood — your way. Bring a friend, your family, your questions, and your heart for service."

Now entering its fourth year, Project Hope is a community engagement initiative that funds small, volunteer-led projects aimed at building stronger, more connected communities across Martinsville-Henry County. Grants are typically capped at \$15,000 and must be completed within one year.

A 13-member committee of local "hope build-



Pictured are volunteers from Luna Moth Tattoo Studio's Community Mural Painting Event at the Salvation Army on April 4. Funded in part by Project Hope, this event brought our community together in a beautiful way through art, connection, and shared purpose.

ers" reviews all applications and allocates funding — keeping the decision-making power in the hands of the community.

This year, The Harvest Foundation is partnering with the Dan River Nonprofit Network (DRNN) to support applicants throughout the process. If you're stuck on an idea, they can be your thought partner, guiding you through project content and support with templates and resources to strengthen your grant proposal. Contact [sheri@danrivernonprofits.org](mailto:sheri@danrivernonprofits.org) for more information.



Pictured are volunteers from Luna Moth Tattoo Studio's Community Mural Painting Event at the Salvation Army on April 4. Funded in part by Project Hope, this event brought our community together in a beautiful way through art, connection, and shared purpose.

The 2025 Project Hope Request for Proposals (RFP) is available at [theharvestfoundation.org/project-hope](http://theharvestfoundation.org/project-hope). For more information, contact India Brown at [ibrown@theharvestfoundation.org](mailto:ibrown@theharvestfoundation.org) or (276) 632-3329 ext. 112.

In case of weather-related updates to Saturday's Project Hope Community Mixer, check The Harvest Foundation's Facebook page here: [www.facebook.com/harvest.foundation.mhc](http://www.facebook.com/harvest.foundation.mhc).

## City school division announces leadership transitions for upcoming year

Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) announced a series of leadership transitions that will take effect July 1. These changes reflect the district's commitment to fostering professional growth, strengthening instructional leadership, and placing dedicated educators in positions where they can best serve our students.

Several familiar faces will begin the 2025-2026 school year in new roles throughout the division.

Bobby Dalton, a Martinsville High School graduate, is returning to his alma mater as assistant principal. Dalton previously worked at Martinsville High School before expanding his professional experience in other districts. With more than 25 years in education and deep roots in the community, he brings valuable leadership and insight that will benefit both students and staff.

Clarence Simington, currently serving as assistant principal at Martinsville High School, will transition to Central Office administration as the division's Truancy and Dropout Prevention Specialist. In this role, Simington will work closely with school administrators, counselors, and directly with families to reduce dropout rates and support student success across all grade levels.

Jill Holder, who has been the assistant principal at Albert Harris Elementary School since 2022, will move to Martinsville Middle School, where she will take on the assistant principal position. She brings nearly two decades of experience in education to the role having previously worked as a preschool and elementary teacher as well as instructional coordinator before moving into her assistant principal role.

Mark Toole, who has served as assistant principal at Martinsville Middle School since 2022, will join the Central Office team as Coordinator of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), CTE (Career and Technical Education), and Fine Arts. Toole taught math for 13 years at Martinsville High School, where he also coached the

MHS MADAWGS Robotics Team. His leadership and knowledge will be key in expanding and enhancing CTE offerings to prepare students for college and careers.

"I'm honored to take on this new role," Toole said. "I'm excited to work with educators, industry partners, and community stakeholders to strengthen our STEAM, CTE, and Fine Arts programs. Our goal is to empower students with the skills, creativity, and confidence they need to thrive in a dynamic global landscape and I look forward to doing what I can to help them succeed."

Barbara Brown, instructional coordinator at Albert Harris Elementary, will become the new assistant principal at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Brown has played a pivotal role in instructional planning and teacher support at Albert Harris and will bring that expertise to a new school community.

Stephanie Boyd, assistant principal at Patrick Henry, will make the move to Albert Harris Elementary School, where she will serve in the same role. This move brings her career at MCPS full-circle as she began her career with the district teaching at Albert Harris in 2008.

Liz Lynch, an award-winning STEM teacher at Patrick Henry Elementary, will also join the Albert Harris team as Instructional Coordinator. In 2024, she was selected as a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for K-12 STEM teachers.

"I began my teaching career at Albert Harris," Lynch said. "I've had so many opportunities to grow with MCPS at various schools and I'm excited to bring these skills and experiences back to Albert Harris as I continue to grow and support our students in this new role."

"These transitions represent our district's ongoing commitment to excellence, leadership development, and student-centered decision-making," said MCPS Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley. "We're confident that each of these talented educators will

thrive in their new roles and continue to make a positive impact on our students."

MCPS extends its gratitude to all

administrators for their dedication and service and looks forward to a strong start to the new school year under their leadership.

## Local triathletes power through White Lake competition



Pictured from left to right, (front), are Sophie Kendall, Christy Nester, Robin Hurd, Christina Kinkema, Anna Wheeler, Vanya Davis, Tina Sharpe, Leigh Reece; (back) Brad Kinkema and Pat Sharpe.

This past weekend a group of triathletes from Martinsville and Henry County traveled to White Lake, N.C. to compete in a triathlon festival that had an international and sprint triathlon. An international triathlon is a 1,500 meter open water swim, 28 mile bike and a 6.2

mile run. The sprint triathlon is a 750 meter open water swim, 18 mile bike and a 3.1 mile run.

Below are the results for the participants' age group and the distance in which they competed: (\*Relay participants included Anna Wheeler, Tina Sharpe, and Vanya Davis)

Brad Kinkema	Sprint	2nd	1:37.47
Christina Kinkema	Sprint	5th	1:59.46
Robin Hurd	Sprint		2:34.00
Leigh Reece	Sprint	1st	2:15.33
Pat Sharpe	International	4th	3:24.56
Christy Nester	International	3rd	3:11.30
Sophie Kendall	International	1st	3:20:00
Diamond Dog Divas*	International Relay	3rd	3:34.06



# Career Academy FFA hosts second annual horse show



Students from the Henry County Career Academy FFA competed in the second annual horse show Saturday at the Patrick Henry Saddle Club, showcasing their horsemanship skills and agricultural knowledge.

# Ceremony honors service through retirement of American Flags



Members of the local Veterans Honor Guard placed the blue fields in the fire.

Many of those in attendance saluted as the flags were retired.

**By Taylor Boyd**

Three American flags were formally retired during a ceremony held Wednesday, May 7, at the Henry County Veterans Retirement Center at Fair Haven Memorial Park. The event, which attracted veterans from Patrick County as well, marked the ceremonial opening of the county's new flag retirement center, created to honor and respectfully dispose of flags that have served their time.

Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District representative on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, thanked Wright Funeral Service & Crematory and the veteran service organizations whose contributions made the new center possible.

"Your generous donations, your support, including the purchasing of the flags, has made it possible to create a safe, respectful space where we can retire flags that have served our country with dignity," Buchanan said. "Your contributions are a testament to the strength of our community and the shared commitment we all have to honor those who have served in the armed forces."

Buchanan emphasized that the ceremony and the new center are about more than the physical act of flag disposal—they are about



Henry County Board of Supervisor member Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, spoke at the flag retirement ceremony on May 7.

preserving tradition.

"For generations, the flag has symbolized freedom, bravery, and the enduring spirit of our nation," she said. "The need to properly retire old, worn out flags is an essential part of showing our respect for those values."

The retirement center, Buchanan said, is one more example of the community's collective effort to ensure veterans and their families are treated with continued respect.

"For one, it offers an organized, dignified process for retiring our flags, ensuring that the tradition of respect and honor is maintained," she said. "Beyond that, it will act as a gathering place—a symbol in our community for pride and



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones (fourth from left) said the ceremony allowed the flags to be retired with grace and dignity.

patriotism."

Buchanan added that the center is also intended to educate and inspire.

"This retirement center will have a positive impact on our local community by offering opportunities for local youth, civic groups, and veterans' organizations to participate in flag retirement ceremonies and also education programs. It will foster a great sense of community, unity, and pride," she said.

She concluded her remarks by reflecting on the deeper meaning behind the American flag.

"In addition to celebrating the flag, this ceremony also celebrates the values of sacrifice, dedication, and service it represents," Buchanan said. "May this flag retirement center be a beacon of respect, patriotism, and pride for many years to come."

Martinsville Mayor L.C. Jones echoed Buchanan's sentiments, describing the event as a dignified way to dispose of flags and honor their symbolism.

"The flag retirement ceremony is a beautiful thing that allows the flags to be properly disposed of with grace and dignity," Jones said. "All the individual companies and individuals who donated to make this thing possible, thank them and thank everything you guys are doing for our community."

Scott Koebel, recruiting sales manager for WoodmenLife, explained the methods of proper flag re-

tirement.

"There are two ways to retire and honor American flags—by fire or by burying it," he said. "If you choose that route, that hole is deep, it's six feet like we bury our dead. We're going to do ours by fire today."

During the ceremony, the flags were carefully deconstructed. The red and white stripes were separated and distributed among attendees, who solemnly placed the red stripes into the fire first, followed by the white. The blue fields with stars were placed in last by members of the local Veterans Honor Guard.

Those in attendance stood in silence and saluted the flags as they burned, honoring their service to the nation.



# Elks Lodge invests in community

The Martinsville Elks Lodge recently made donations to several community groups, including:

**Fostering Champions** – donated \$1,000 to Fostering Champions, a 501©3 nonprofit, whose focus is to support teens in foster care, who often find themselves abandoned and neglected by the public, along with aiding aging out children to help them from becoming homeless, incarcerated, or trafficked. This is a local

group that was founded by a former foster child, Bobby Canipe. There are two homes for aged out fosters in Rocky Mount, VA and they have just broken ground for a new home in Martinsville. They are looking for anyone who may want to donate to help with the Martinsville home or help with the building project.



Pictured are Elks Exalted Ruler, Robin Byrd; Fostering Champions Founder and President, Bobby Canipe; Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler; and Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall.

**All Vets** – donated \$1,000 to All Vets, a local 501(c)3 Veterans group, to support their efforts in our community as well as their upcoming 2nd annual Henry County Memorial Ruck Walk on Saturday, May 24 starting and ending at Jack Dalton Park. The group will be traveling 22 miles across Henry County. Community members can join the group at Jack Dalton Park at 2pm and walk the final lap for a Walk of Remembrance.

Flags can be purchased for just \$10 each to memorialize Veterans and the flags are carried on the Memorial Ruck trek. All Vets is a group of United States military retirees, veterans, and active duty members, as well as military families and patriotic citizens who have come together to honor our fallen military and strengthen the living. All funds raised in Henry County stay in Henry County to support local veterans.



Pictured are Exalted Ruler, Robin Byrd; All Vets Treasurer, Sharon Ortiz Garcia; All Vets President, Patrick Rodgers; All Vets Committee Chair, Careen Rodgers; Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall; and Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler.

**Henry County Public Schools Career Academy** – donated 72 pair of safety glasses for the HVAC/Industrial Maintenance and Agri-

science Programs at the Career Academy. These tools help foster workplace safety and empower students to excel in their fields.



Pictured are Exalted Ruler, Robin Byrd; Career Academy Director, Brittany Brummitt; Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall; Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler.

**Martinsville Henry County Warming Center** – donated \$1,500 to the MHC Warming Center to be used to support the homeless in our area through

the months the shelter is closed. Ms. Nancy packs her van and delivers meals, clothes, ChapStick, socks, toiletries and many other items.



Pictured are Exalted Ruler, Robin Byrd; MHC Warming Center volunteer, Nancy McMillian; Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall; and Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler.

**Patrick & Henry Community College** - donated 50 pairs of welding

glasses and 60 pairs of safety glasses to the school's Welding Program.



Pictured are Exalted Ruler, Robin Byrd; P&HCC Welding Program Director, Randy Smith; Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall; and Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler.

**Grace Network Toy Drive** - donated \$1,000 to the Grace Network and Martinsville Speedway 2025 Toy Drive. The group buys and collects toys all year so that

they are able to ensure that every child they serve receives gifts during the holiday season, a simple gesture that can make a world of difference.



Pictured are Trustee Chairman, Allen Cobler; Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall; Toy Drive volunteer, Donna Floyd; and Past Exalted Ruler, Robert Stegall.

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