HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

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Board to weigh fire department billing proposal at meeting

By Debbie Hall

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal that would allow volunteer fire departments to implement a system and bill for certain services at their May 27 meeting. It begins at 3 p.m., with another at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

The billing proposal includes establishing a structured fee schedule for services provided by the volunteer fire departments, according to Public Safety Director Matt Tatum, who raised the issue on behalf of the volunteer fire departments.

The county's code authorizes the public safety department to charge for services and establish rules and regulations for administering charges. The fire departments have agreed to adopt a compassionate billing policy, meaning they will bill applicable insurance, but will not pursue direct payment from individuals for any remaining balance.

Proposed fees are included in the board documents. A sampling includes Motor Vehicle Incidents, with costs detailed for three levels:

Level 1 - \$618, Provide hazardous materials assessment and scene stabilization. This will be the most common "billing level." This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an accident/inci-

Level 2 - \$705, Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents) for hazardous fluid clean up and disposal if the fire department has to clean up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

Level 3 - Car Fire - \$860, Provide scene safety, fire suppression, breathing air, rescue tools, hand tools, hose, tip use, foam, structure protection, and clean up gasoline or

(See Board p. 2)



County and other officials break the ground on new housing projects.

County breaks ground on housing project in Villa Heights

By Jessica Dillon

A transformative housing initiative is underway in the Villa Heights section of Collinsville, marking a collaborative effort between the Henry County Board of Supervisors, the Harvest Foundation, and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC). The partnership aims to construct 13 single-family homes that had previously been removed and had suffered from drug-related incidents.

The project, located at 1616 Stultz Road, focuses on the construction of

three houses. In April, the Board of Supervisors awarded a \$608,940 construction contract to Taylor Enterprise of Bassett, Virginia, for the first three homes to be built on lots 9, 10, and 11. Construction is set to begin immediately, with additional homes to follow in phases as funds from home sales become available.

"This is more than just breaking ground on new homes-it's about rebuilding hope and opportunity in Villa Heights," said Joe Bryant, vice-chairman of the Henry County (See Villa Heights p. 2)

City installs gunshot sensors on trail, county says it wasn't notified

By Jessica Dillon

Recently, several unexpected gunshot detectors were installed along the Martinsville section of the Dick & Willie Trail, which offers miles of walking, running and biking paths through Henry County and Martinsville.

While such sensors are not uncommon in urban areas, their placement along a nature trail has raised concerns among local residents.

devices were installed without the knowledge of Henry County Parks and Recreation, which manages the trail system. The issue came to light after concerned community members called and emailed the department with

"We were not aware of that," said Roger Adams, director of the county Parks and Recreation Department. "A couple of people have called us that they were being scanned in some sort of database, (but) they are gunshot detectors."

The department began investigating how the devices came to be installed along the trail.

"We don't know all the exact details, but we are guessing some company put them in for them, and they spread them out over a certain distance." Adams said, adding he is checking to determine which right of way the sensors are

"We thought they (county) were notified," Chad Rhoads, Deputy Chief of the Martinsville Police Department, said. He added that relocating the devices would be a straightforward process.

He added that he personally walks the trail three to four times a week and understands the con-



Gunshot sensors along the Dick & Willie Trail prompted confusion from residents, and county officials, who did not know the devices would be installed.

cerns of local residents.

The Flock Safety sensors were installed by a private contractor hired by the city, Rhoads said. Placement was determined by coverage radius, which included portions of the Dick & Willie Trail.

Rhoads said it would not be an issue to relocate the devices.

"We've had to move (them) before," he said. "The detectors have been installed in inopportune spots before, and when complaints came in, they were moved."

The sensor closest to the trail is located near Northside Drive. While it is not directly on the trail, another sensor can be seen from the side of the road while walking the trail along Hooker Street.

There is no timeline yet for whether the sensor near the trail will be removed, but county officials are preparing to survey the area to assess options.

Fincher outlines travel, training process

By Debbie Hall

After recent purchasing card statements from the City of Martinsville sparked public scrutiny of some travel and other expenses, Police Chief Robert Fincher said his department's travel budget hasn't increased in 10 years.

"And we haven't gone over it either," he said.

The \$75,000 allocated for travel breaks down to about \$1.500 per each of the department's 50 employees, Fincher said. Of that amount, \$500 per person is earmarked for fees to the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy.

The remaining \$1,000 per employee is used to pay for required training and travel.

Approval for training follows a four-step process. It begins when an officer or non-certified staff member submits a required Training Request Form to their supervisor. The form details the proposed training.

If approved, it moves on to the captain, who ensures the employee's absence won't leave the department short-staffed. Next, the major reviews the request to determine whether the training aligns with the department's goals and standards, Fincher said.



Police Chief Rob Fincher, as the city's senior department head, is also the point of contact in the absence of City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who indicated at the May 13 council meeting she would not attend the May 27 meeting, but would attend the June 10 meeting.

If it passes those reviews, the request comes to Fincher for final con-

sideration. "I look at it to see whether we can afford it," he said, adding that he makes the final decision on whether

the training is approved or denied. Most training costs are reimbursed through state grant funds or other sources, Fincher said. While a city purchasing card may some-

(See Fincher p. 2)

Success rooted in community, Roberson tells P&HCC graduates

By Jessica Dillon

Dr. Stewart Roberson delivered the commencement address at Patrick & Henry Community College on Saturday, May 17.

"My recipe for success is to show up. Ninety percent of life is just showing up. Show up for work, for your family, for your community. Be present," Roberson told graduates and their family and friends gathered for the event.

"Second, work hard. I'm talking honest, good-sweat kind of hard—the kind that makes your back sore and your spirit strong. Third, be kind," he said, adding, "Success without kindness is empty. A kind word or

helping hand will take you further than anything."

Finally, Roberson encouraged graduates to "keep learning, whether it's in a classroom or under the hood of a car. Never stop growing. Education is fuel to fill your

He urged students not to forget their saying should give back to their community no matter where they begin—just as Patrick County native and former Gov. Gerald Bali-

"His aspiration was for value and the values of our hometowns, but he rose to become governor of this great commonwealth. Dur-



Dr. Greg Hodges shakes hands with a P&HCC graduate, as Dr. Stewart Roberson looks on. Roberson delivered the

ing his time in office, he focused on stream-

commencement address. lining transportation and improving access to education," Roberson said.

Other individuals, groups and organizations, such as the Harvest Foundation, have invested in and impacted the community, he said.

They teach us to believe in our community, and they remind us to give all that we have the capacity to do," Roberson said. "This community believes in you. Now it's your turn to believe in it. Keep learning, keep laughing, keep loving. Always, always remember—your success isn't how far you go. It's about how many you bring with you."

Roberson, chairman of the board of shareholders at Moseley

Architects, is a faculty member at the University of Virginia. With a career in education that began in 1977, he has held leadership

(See Success p. 2)



Success:

(cont. from page 1)

roles including superintendent of schools in both Hanover County and Falls Church, Virginia. His professional achievements have earned him several honors, including recognition on the Virginia Business Virginia 500 Power List, emeritus board membership with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, and honorary membership in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Virginia.

The Bassett High School Honor Guard, under the direction of 1st Sgt. Lonnie Corley, presented the colors and the national anthem.

Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC president, delivered the welcome, made introductions and presented faculty awards. Jewell Drew-

Villa Heights



Community College.

ery, chairman, offered greetings from the P&HCC board.



Graduates celebrated in William F. Stone Hall on Saturday.



Pictures of the housing plans were displayed at the site.

Board of Supervisors. "We are proud to work with dedicated partners who share our vision for strong, affordable neighbor-

Bryant added that work to get the project going had been something he worked on for eight to 10 years. "We had to build these houses,

we have to have houses in this community," Bryant said, and noted that housing is needed in other districts as well to help grow the county.

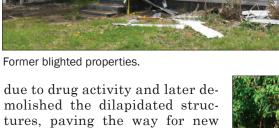
"This project is an example of innovation between public, private, and non-profit partners.

We've come together over several years to solve real challenges," he said.

Lee Clark, director of Planning, Zoning, and Inspections, said that 15 duplexes were removed to prepare for the new build. "The commitment from the board of supervisors is what made this happen."

In October 2024, the county entered into an agreement with the Harvest Foundation and WP-PDC to support the development of affordable housing ment.

The county initially acquired the parcels after seizing them



During the October meeting, the county formally transferred the deed to the properties to the WPPDC, clearing the final hurdle for development to begin. The Harvest Foundation is helping to back the project, including covering the carrying costs for two homes at a time. The cost of each home will be capped at \$200,000 to ensure an affordable price, and proceeds from the sales will return to the housing creation cycle in the area.

construction.



Joe Bryant, vice chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, addressed the crowd Tuesday. Bryant represents the Collinsville District.

Board -

(cont. from page 1)

other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

Add on services include Extrication -

\$1,859.00, Creating a Landing Zone - \$567.00 The proposal also includes proposed fees for

HAZMAT incidents, fires, illegal fires and water rescue incidents.

The proposed fees are based on national averages, with adjustments for local economic conditions, Tatum wrote.

In other matters, the board will:

*Hold an Overview and Public Review Session of the Draft Henry County Active Transportation Plan Background. In August, the board awarded Berkley Group, LLC, a contract to prepare an Active Transportation

Plan. An Active Transportation Plan outlines key projects and policies designed to increase accessibility and support healthier, more environmentally friendly lifestyles. The project was funded through a U.S. Department of Transportation Thriving Communities grant.

Officials from the Berkley Group will attend the meeting to present an overview of the plan, followed by a public review session in room #3 just outside the Summerlin Room. Residents will be able to learn more and provide feedback on the county's Active Transportation Plan.

*Consider several financial matters, including a categorical transfer for school bus purchases and an additional appropriation for employee bonuses - both requested by the school board; an additional appropriation for capital improvement items and YMCA facility campaign donation; additional appropriation of grant funds for the 911 Center and others.

*Hear regular updates from various depart-

*Consider meeting in closed session to discuss appointees to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Community Policy and Management Team, Local Finance Board for OPEB Liability, Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board, Piedmont Regional Community Service Board, and Southside Community Action Board, pending legal matters, acquisition/disposal of real estate and discussion of as-yet unannounced industries.

Fincher

(cont. from page 1)

times be used for upfront costs, the expenses are typically reimbursed later. For example, Fincher recently attended an

annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in Dallas, Texas. The cost, he said, was covered by the IACP.

"We have to initially pay for trips and sometimes training," when grant funds are used, he explained, noting that those costs are later reimbursed to the city.

Fincher said most training can't be completed

In-person classes are required for certain subjects — such as evidence collection and homicide investigations. "We can't do all of that online," he said.

Because many courses are centralized in higher-population areas, officers in southern and western Virginia often must travel to attend them.

Many of these classes are mandatory for of-

ficer certification or departmental accreditation, Fincher said of examples that include cultural diversity and legal updates.

After completing training, employees receive

certificates which are submitted to the academy. The academy tracks the information and forwards it to the state as required. When they return from a trip, department

employees must submit a full report and itemized receipts for each expense.

"Every single purchase has to be documented," Fincher said. If a receipt is lost, "every effort must be made to secure a copy." If that fails, "then the officer is required to provide a written

explanation — 'this is what happened, this is what it's for." Missing receipts can happen. For instance, Fincher recalled losing a receipt for parking while in Richmond. He said he would be con-

Fincher noted the department adheres to daily spending limits and follows the U.S. General Services Administration per diem rates. "Alcohol purchases are disallowed," he added.

Some charges on purchasing card statements such as fuel — may seem questionable at first glance but are tied to specific duties. For instance, officers need to refuel when taking those under Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs) to mental health facilities in locations like Williamsburg.

Other charges, such as those for paint and rollers, are tied to facility upkeep — such as

ensuring the animal shelter remains in compliance. If questions arise about specific expenses,

Fincher said he's open to providing context.

"We don't want there to be questions in the community about the reasons for certain expenses," he said. "We're above board. We want people to know our training and travel process.'

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

cerned about potential misuse of that policy if

anyone in the department made it a habit.

MMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, May 27

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

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, 3 and 6 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

Saturday, May 24

2nd Annual Henry County Memorial Ruck 2025, 2 p.m., 402 Jack Dalton Road, Martinsville.

Saturday, May 31

The Bassett Branch Library Expansion Committee and the Blue Ridge Library Foundation are hosting a BINGO Fundraising Event, to benefit the Bassett Branch Library Expansion Project, at the Historic J.D. Bassett Event Center, 3289 Riverside Dr. Doors open at 4 p.m. and BINGO starts at 6. Packets include 3 games per play; 20games per packet. First packet is \$20 and \$10 for each extra. Prizes per game, door prizes and 50/50. Cash Only. Concessions will be by Dianna's Taste of Soul. Check the Bassett Branch Library Expansion Project page on Facebook

Thursday, May 29

Mental Health Forum, 6-7:30 p.m., 215 W Fayette St., Martinsville.

Saturday, May 31

The Martinsville-Henry County Democratic Committee will host an inaugural benefit event, Paint the Town Blue, 6-9 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Visit https://mhcdcva.org/paint-the-town-blue-2025/ for tickets and more information.

Saturday, June 7

Rangeley Ruritan Club hotdog supper & country music show, featuring the Kitchen Pickers, 5-8 p.m. Two hot dogs, chips and drink for \$5.

Saturday, June 14

Barbecue Dinner, drive-thru only, 4– 6 p.m., Oak Level Ruritan Club, 7668 Oak Level Road, Bassett. Dinner includes barbecue, baked beans, slaw, rolls & dessert, \$10 per plate. Preorder by calling (276) 340-3041.

Tuesday, June 17

The Southern Gentlemen will return to the Bassett Historical Center, by popular demand, 10

ONGOING

Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, Mondays, rain or shine, through Labor Day, 5-7 p.m., at Shelters #3 & #4. Cash only market. Free parking.

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.

Renewal Brewing 32 Franklin St, Martinsville.

Uptown Pub Run, Mondays at 6.p.m., meets at

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club reg-

ularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

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

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

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

Bassett Ruritan Club hosts Rook Music & More on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon. Play Rook, work puzzles, make a craft and listen to a mixture of bluegrass, country & gospel music by different bands each week. Free to the public, but donations will be used by the club to pay for electricity etc.

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

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

fers 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

The Henry County Adult Learning Center of-

month at 6:30 p.m. at New College Institute on Fayette Street (park on Moss St.). RSVP at mhcdcva.org/meeting-rsvp for Zoom link. The Martinsville -Henry County Republi-

can 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 third Monday of each month, 10-11 a.m. This free program is perfect for all ages. Registration is not required.

Classroom, transportation, other investments approved by county board

The Henry County School Board has approved a series of key investments aimed at improving student learning environments, strengthening instruction, and updating school transportation at a meeting in May.

Culinary Arts Kitchen up-

The board awarded a \$147,245 contract to Vernon W. Peters and Sons of Ridgeway for upgrades to the culinary arts kitchens at Bassett High School. The company submitted the lowest of three bids. The improvements will modernize the kitchens to reflect current industry standards. Funding comes from the FY2025 Maintenance and Operations budget. 14 new buses to replace aging

To replace school buses more than 20 years old—some with over 300,000 miles—the board approved the purchase of 14 new buses through a state contract with Sonny Merryman of Rustburg. The total cost is \$1.68 million from the FY2025 Transportation budget.

65-passenger

\$1,054,792 total *Four 24-passenger special edu-

cation buses with ramps: \$438,316

*Two 22-passenger special education buses without ramps: \$186,262

New math textbooks for all grades

The board approved new math

textbooks for grades K-12 after educator-led review committees evaluated state-approved resources for quality and alignment with Virginia standards. *K-5 textbooks: \$757,643

*Grades 6 - 12textbooks: \$413,034

*Total cost: \$1.170.677 from the FY2025 Textbook budget.

Updated reading materials for elementary students

The board also adopted new highquality instructional materials for K-5 reading, following an in-depth review by teachers, specialists, and school representatives. The cost will not exceed \$855,000. Several of the items require cat-

egorical budget transfers and will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Thurman Foundation supports VMNH with \$5K grant

The Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children has awarded the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) a grant of \$5,000 in support of the museum's Year of the Engineer initiative to provide needbased, STEM education programming to area K-6 students during the 2025-26 academic school year.

"Since 2022, The Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children has been a tremendous supporter of the museum's ongoing efforts to make our STEM programming accessible to students throughout the community," said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. "Because of this funding, area school teachers will be eligible to register their classes for educational programming offered by the museum and have all associated programming fees waived. Additionally, eligible homeschool families can apply to receive scholarships that will cover the registration fees for the museum's programming that is specifically designed for homeschool students.' The museum determines eligibility

for need-based education scholarships based on the enrollment of students in free or reduced lunch programs within corresponding school districts. Requests for scholarships will open in the coming weeks and be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Financial barriers can sometimes be a deterrent to teachers who would like to provide their students with the unique educational programming that the museum provides," said VMNH Education Manager Christy

nity to participate in a museum edu-

cation experience."

The museum offers a wide variety of educational programs designed for K-12 students that can be delivered inside the museum's classrooms, inside school classrooms, or through virtual learning. All programs are correlated to state and national standards of learning, and teachers can select from pre-developed programs, or request a program that is tailored to specific class needs.

Additionally, the museum offers programming specifically designed for homeschool students, including the popular Homeschool Science & Engineering Academy. Through the funding provided by The Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children, qualifying homeschool families can apply for scholarships to cover the cost of the programming.

In addition to supporting opportunities for schools and homeschool families, funding provided by The Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children will allow the museum to continue working closely with community partners, such as MHC After 3, the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge to deliver after-school and summer programming.

"The museum has partnered with area non-profit organizations to provide their students and participants with a wide variety of after-school and summer programs for many years now," said Deatherage. "These partnerships wouldn't be able to continue each year without the generous funding of our supporters, like The Edgar A. Thurman Charitable Foundation

educational offerings, visit www. vmnh.net.

Nutrient management training to be offered in June and July

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-part agriculture nutrient management training school in June and July 2025. The school is for anyone interested in learning about the development of agricultural nutrient management plans or how to become a certified plan writer. The first session, June 24-25, is a

lecture series by Virginia Tech professors on soil science, soil fertility and crop production. The second session, July 8-10, will cover nutrient management plan writing using a case-study farm.

The two-day soils and crop lecture series will be hosted online. The three-day plan writing train-

ing will be in-person at Blue Ridge

9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration is \$150 for each session with a signup deadline of June 13, for the first session and June 30 for the second. Registration is available online at www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmtrain. Nutrient management continues

Cave, VA. Each day would run from

to be an important factor in a farmer's decision-making process when considering application of materials to supply nutrients to crops. Nutrient management plans determine rates for applying manure, fertilizers, biosolids and other soil amendments so that crop yields are maximized, and nutrient loss to ground and surface waters is minimized. Application rates are determined by a process using actual yield records or soil productivity when yield records aren't available.

Community college in Weyers See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com Deatherage. "This grant will play a significant role in helping eliminate those barriers and will allow us to offor Children." fer our programming to students who To learn more about the museum's may otherwise not have the opportu-

OPINION .

Clawing Back Power One Step At A Time

The U.S. Constitution outlines the three branches of government

The authority vested in Congress is derived from Article I.

The Constitution then addresses the Executive Branch in Article II: "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."

Next, Article III details Judicial Branch powers. The top authority within the Judicial Branch is the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Founding Fathers devised this system of government so each branch could serve as a balanced check on the other. They hoped this would prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.

They anticipated each branch would defend their prerogatives.

Congress, however, has had a worrisome trend.

Over time, Congress has steadily ceded its responsibilities to and delegated more powers to the Executive Branch, headed by the president.

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., historian and special assistant to President Kennedy, documents this growth of presidential power and how it has shaped the modern presidency in his book, The Imperial Presidency (1973).

The problem has grown since Schlesinger, Jr., wrote his book.

This rise in presidential power, enabled by both parties, is in part due to Congressional acquiescence.

One pertinent example is the budget.

Recently, President

Trump submitted his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2026 to Congress.

Trump's proposal details funding level requests that strengthen the nation's military, fund our border security, preserve social security, address drug abuse and men-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

better balance

My measure would

scales of power be-

tween the branches of

government, restore

a key Constitutional

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and allow Congress to

exercise a more active

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As a legislator, I will

continue to defend

Congress' prerogatives

and support efforts to

claw back our appro-

priate authority from the Executive Branch

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After Biden's deci-

Brett Blanton.

In 2023, President

ca's trade policies.

tal health and achieve American energy dominance.

The president's budget request simply serves as a roadmap for legislators. Because Congress controls the power of the purse and determines federal government expenditures, they ultimately decide what gets into the federal budget and what does not.

But this budget process was not always like this. In fact, the president's role in submitting a budget request did not exist before 1921.

What happened in 1921?

Congress passed a law authorizing the president to do so!

Because of Congress, presidents have more input in the budget process.

Another pertinent topic related to the rise of presidential power concerns U.S. trade policy.

President Trump's trade policies related to tariffs have garnered a lot of attention in his second term, prompting concerns that the White House exerts too much control over trade.

I have long held the belief that the Legislative Branch must claw back its trade powers from the Executive.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution specifically grants Congress the power to "regulate Commerce" with foreign nations.

That is why I introduced measures since 2016 and again on January 3, 2025, to transplant the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) from the Executive Branch to Congress where it belongs.

Your Community, Your Voice HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Published Each Saturday USPS - 6

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GIVE US YOUR VIEW:

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

Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication.

publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

If you have news about or an upcoming event

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

dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101
The Henry County Enterprise (USPS-6) is published weekly for \$52 per year in state, \$53 per year out of state, by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage

paid at Martinsville, VA.

Johnathan Phillips Exemplifies the Best of Community Service

Before the MHC Historical Society, I worked 18 years for another newspaper. Part of my job was to receive, then format and publish, announcements and press releases from local churches and organizations.



Holly Kozelsky

The oasis in that never-ending line of work was always an email from Johnathan Phillips, the president of the MHC Historical Society. I did not know him back then, but I knew the quality of his work.

I knew that whenever I'd click on

one of his emails, I'd be rewarded with a smooth, professional, useful announcement or press release about the Historical Society.

With most submissions, I'd have to spend a good amount of time tidying them up and getting them in format to be able to publish. Johnathan's, on the other hand, were written as if he himself were on the newspaper staff—not a rookie fresh from college, but a seasoned professional who wrote the book on how to do it.

If my time was limited, and I wanted the most bang for my buck, I'd grab a Johnathan Phillips email out of the inbox because I knew it would be ready to go with no hassle on my end.

After I joined the Historical Society, I learned much more about the depth of his attention to detail.

All day long on my first day at work, I received text messages from board members welcoming me. That idea could have come from anyone, but it sure seems like a Johnathan Phillips special touch.

In today's world, most people who want to make flyers use the prepackaged templates of Canva. Not Johnathan nor I; we each design from scratch on Publisher. Johnathan's creations, however, always have that magic spark that draws you in and makes you want to pay attention to his message. He works from a true talent.

Our board president is creative on many levels. He coordinates very enjoyable programs and events. He



Johnathan Phillips

leads a meeting with grand diplomacy, giving everyone a fair chance at input.

Johnathan Phillips, the Historical Society's outgoing board president—the May 14 meeting was his last—is a man of many talents; but by profession, he is a nurse. In fact, he has so much nurse education that his name is followed officially by "M.S.N., M.S. Ed., R.N., N.P.D.B.C."

I don't know what all that means, but I take it that he's a big deal of a nurse. That makes sense, because he's high level at whatever he does.

The Historical Society was just one of a long line of organizations Johnathan has served throughout his life. Among several, I think I've heard his name mentioned most with the Jaycees.

Many people like Johnathan give of themselves to make this community a better place by bolstering up and running its charitable and civic organizations.

Thank you to all the Johnathans out there in Martinsville and Henry County who contribute so much. We do not take you for granted.

Letter To The Editor

Councilmen Rawls and Mei try DOGE?

The Martinsville City Council held a budget meeting a few weeks ago to set the real estate tax rate. The rate had not been adjusted in many years, and city citizens were shocked at some of the increases on their property. Councilmen Aaron Rawls and Julian Mei attempted to be the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) team to influence the council's voting.

Rawls and Mei, the self-appoint-

ed techies, wanted to keep the tax rate as low as possible because some of their constituents would suffer the most significant increase. They specialize in real estate, buying and selling for a profit. But do they need to keep the tax rate low? They decided to do their version of DOGE.

They started intense criticism

of the city's credit card expenses to lobby for a low tax rate. Their effort was to show misuse of card charges, but their lack of seeing the whole picture led to the council meeting chaos. Rawls and Mei failed, and now the city is in an uproar. They have moved from creating a hostile work environment to creating citizen unrest. They tried to bring down the city council and administration, but they forgot to realise they are a part of the council. When you try to burn your own house down, it's called arson.

Now, some segments of the public

are accusing the city of Martinsville of corruption, and word is spreading around the area. But don't be alarmed, Rawls and Mei will sell you some real estate in this alleged corrupt city. What a sales strategy they have to make Martinsville great again!

Lawrence Mitchell,

Martinsville

Congressional staff to visit U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's ville.

Ninth District staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on May 28.

In Henry County from 10 –

In Henry County from 10 – 11:30 a.m., in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room - Board of Supervisors Meeting Chambers, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martins-

In Patrick County from 12:30

 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room,
 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office t (540) 381-5671 or the Abing-

at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

Residents among those named to Spring 2025 President's List

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) listed the following students as being named to the President's Spring 2025 List: Devin Desselle, of Collinsville; Simone Venable, of Bassett Erika Deal, of Bassett

assett. The spring term runs from Janu-

ary to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

UPINION

Darkness on the edge of town

The following is one of my favorite true stories.

In the mid-1970s, my mom lived in New York City. One day, she went to a free concert in Central Park. The headliner was Janis Ian, famous for penning the prescription sleep aid "At Seventeen." The opening act, meanwhile, was some young up-and-comer by the name of Bruce Springsteen.

This was during a small window when Springsteen and The E Street Band were critically acclaimed but hadn't yet achieved breakthrough success; "Born to Run" hadn't come out yet. But when the audience heard Springsteen, they lost their minds. After he finished his set, they demanded an encore, and then another. Finally, Springsteen left the stage and Janis Ian came out.

According to my mom, the crowd started booing Ian as soon as she started singing. Mind you, this was a crowd of people who presumably came there to see Janis Ian. Alas, she was no match for The Boss, and she left the stage after the audience drowned out her second song, at which point Springsteen came back and played an-

I can't exactly call myself a Springsteen fan - not enough songs about alien abductions and evil wizards for my tastes — but I respect him. I would argue that Bruce Springsteen is just about the most uniquely American musician since Woody Guthrie. He's a man who came from humble beginnings and rose to the highest levels of fame based on talent and grit. His songs celebrate the American people while criticizing the American institutions that fail them ("Born in the U.S.A." is the most misunderstood song since "This Land Is Your Land"). Bruce Springsteen is so powerfully American that when he wore bluejeans, he made BLUEJEANS more American.

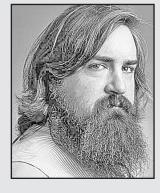
All of this leads us to a May 14 Springsteen concert in Manchester, England. During the concert, Springsteen said that President Donald Trump's Administration was "corrupt, incompetent, and treasonous."

"Raise your voices against authoritarianism and let freedom ring," he added.

Over the next few days, Trump decided to refute these allegations of being a corrupt authoritarian by taking to social media and infringing upon the First Amendment rights of a pri-

First off, he said that Springsteen was "not ... a talented guy," and then called him out for being a "dried out prune of a rocker" with "atrophied"

I get that these are pretty standardissue Trump insults, although I'd be careful about calling someone a dried-



By Ben R. Williams

out prune if they were three years younger than me and also looked like Bruce Springsteen. However, the real fun began at 1:34

a.m. Monday morning when Trump

posted on his Truth Social platform

that he was demanding an investigation into Springsteen, Beyonce, Oprah, and Bono. "HOW MUCH DID KAMALA HAR-RIS PAY BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN FOR HIS POOR PERFORMANCE DURING HER CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT?" Trump wrote. "WHY

DID HE ACCEPT THAT MONEY IF HE IS SUCH A FAN OF HERS? ISN'T THAT A MAJOR AND ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION?" I can at least answer that last part: no. Candidates can pay for endorsements as long as they disclose said payment in their campaign finance reports. And if the Harris campaign failed to disclose those payments, the

wrongdoing would be on the side of her

campaign, not the artist. But let's not

let the facts get in the way of a good

old-fashioned early morning all-caps

rage tweet. Trump went on to say that celebrities who endorsed Harris were just brought in to build up her sparse crowds, and there needs to be an investigation, and it's all illegal, and so forth and so on.

First off, I'm sure Trump does not have similar concerns about the big name celebrities that endorsed him, like Kid Rock and Scott Baio and Hulk Hogan. I'm sure the Trump campaign compensated those guys, possibly in the form of bus fare.

Most importantly, however, this is a clear-cut example of the government harassing a private citizen for using his free speech to criticize the government. This is literally a violation of Springsteen's rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment. Threatening to investigate any dissenters who fail to pay sufficient fealty to the Leader is the kind of thing they do in North Korea. It has no place in a functioning democracy.

Of course, this isn't Springsteen's first run-in with Trump. Back in 2016, his people sent Trump a cease-

Community Chronicles



A photo of the supposed haunted window (third floor window to the right of the chimney) at the Beaver Creek Plantation. (Photo taken by Jarred Marlowe)

By Jarred Marlowe

Beaver Creek, a stately plantation house nestled just outside of Martinsville, has long held its share of secrets. Chief among them is a chilling local legend: the ghostly image of former plantation owner Marshall Hairston, etched forever into a single pane of glass by a bolt of lightning.

According to lore passed down through generations, the mysterious image appeared in a doublehung dormer window overlooking the fields behind the estate. One stormy day, as the story goes, Marshall was said to be standing close to the glass, watching workers labor in the fields, when a lightning strike hit the window. From that day forward, an outline of his face was supposedly burned into the pane—an eerie imprint no amount of scrubbing could erase. In fact, many claimed that a cleaning rag would stick to the exact spot where the ghostly image lay.

For years, those in the know could point to the very pane bearing the image. Sightings and secondhand stories only fueled the legend, and Beaver Creek earned a quiet reputation among locals as a place touched by the supernatural.

I had the privilege of speaking some years ago with a former owner of the estate-who lived to the age of 95-who recalled seeing the image firsthand. According to them, the haunted pane remained in place for decades until a major renovation took place in the 1960s. During this restoration, as original windows were removed and reinstalled, the pane with the ghostly visage mysteriously vanished. Whether lost in construction or taken by someone who understood its value as a relic of local legend, no one can say.

Yet after further research into the architecture of Beaver Creek, I'm inclined to believe the tale may be more fiction than fact.

Historical records and architectural surveys indicate that the thirdfloor dormer windows-where the image was said to appear-were not part of the original home. In fact, they were added around the early 1900s by Marshall Hairston's daughter and her husband, long after Marshall's death in the late 1800s. Prior to that remodel, the only attic windows faced north and south, positioned between the home's twin chimneys on both ends of the home. But the fields Marshall allegedly gazed upon lay to the east and west-making the sightline of the story historically impossible.

Could he have been looking out from a second-floor bedroom instead? Perhaps. But the specific details of the story—his face in a third-floor attic window, the lightning strike, the phantom imprint—don't line up with the house's timeline or construction.

In the end, the legend of Marshall Hairston's image in the glass may be just that: a legend. Still, like all great ghost stories, it has endured the passage of time, adding character and mystery to a home already steeped in history.

And while lightning may not have left its mark on the window, the story itself continues to spark the imagina-

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

and-desist letter for playing "Born in the U.S.A." at a campaign rally, just as they sent a cease-and-desist to Ronald Reagan for doing the same thing back in 1984. It almost seems as though Trump liked Springsteen up until Springsteen made it clear he had no interest in touching the hem of Trump's garment.

But that is always the way with Trump: his biggest motivating desire

is the need to be loved. He wants to be worshipped by all and recognized as the best at everything, the smartest on every topic, America's most special boy. It drives him mad that his only celebrity endorsements come from washed-up has-beens and never-

It would almost be funny if the Constitution weren't on the line.

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Heritage museum expands reach with new annex, weekend hours



Davis Scott, previously an MHC Historical Society volunteer, has been hired as the MHC Heritage Museum's Staff Aide. He assists MHC Historical Society Executive Director Holly Kozelsky in projects and mans the museum so that it is open more often, including Saturdays.

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum has reached a milestone: Phase I of the much-heralded and highly antici-

pated annex is now open. Along with that, the museum has new, expanded opening hours. The museum, at 1 E. Main St., Martinsville, now

is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and it's also open Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phase I of the annex showcases significant collections of firearms going back at least 600 years; artisan and defense canes; antique toys including Marklin, Buddy L and Carette; Native American

artifacts; a gambling parlor; intricately designed horse tack; and Geroge Catlin art. Phase I of the annex also has a research library

with unique and rare volumes on the types of antiques displayed in the museum. The books have specialized and obscure information that cannot be

Admission to the museum is free to members (and note, membership renewals are due on June 1). For non-members, admission is \$10, with \$5 for ages 65+ and ages 2-17 and free for infants. Visi-

tors may take out memberships on the spot. A section of that floor of the annex also may be

rented for events. The Historical Society will set up



exhibits in the museum's annex. Randy Hundley (left) and Michael Sanguedolce clean and polish antiques before they are put on display.

tables and chairs. Renters and their caterers get the use of a food preparation area.

The expanded hours are thanks to the hiring of Davis Scott as Staff Aide. Until his hiring, Scott was a member of the MHCHS board of directors and an active volunteer who has participated in nearly all aspects of the Society's programs and museum. In addition to keeping the museum open during

open hours, Scott assists MHC Historical Society Executive Director Holly Kozelsky in planning museum materials and programs.

The regular volunteer hosts still have their traditional shifts-Johnny Nolen on Wednesdays, Michael Sanguedolce on Thursdays and Jack Stewart on Fridays. Additionally, more hosts are needed to help during the expanded opening hours. Please contact Kozelsky.mhchs@gmail.com or (276) 403-

5361, or stop by the museum, to see how you could be involved. Meanwhile, work on Phase II is moving along at a fast clip. Installed are two model train set-ups; displays of toy fire trucks, both horse-driven and motorized; an extensive assortment of tools includ-

ing wood-working tools and intricate lathes; fascinating locks; an early telephone switchboard and

equipment; medical equipment; a 5-foot-long plan-

tation style dollhouse made by the late Junior Gil-



Benefactor and donor Dr. Mervyn King (left) and volunteer Jack Stewart hang a Native American headdress in a display area of the museum. The pair work together every day setting up exhibits.

ley; and much more.

Grand events and celebrations will be planned to celebrate the opening of Phase II, which would be the opening of the entire annex. Details will be announced in the Summer newsletter as well as on www.mhchistoricalsociety@org and in local media.

Additionally, the Heritage Gift Shop inside the museum has been expanded to include clever and hard-to-find toys which were popular in years gone by, as well as modern toys. New to the gift shop are:

·Hats for babies, children and adults, including bonnets (solid colors and calico), Colonial tricorners, racoon tail caps, train engineer caps

·Slingshots, archery sets and cap guns

·Train fun, including pullback action locomotives, wind-up trains, Western railway train set, train puzzle, train whistles, engineer caps, bandanas and harmonicas

- Dream catchers ·Calligraphy sets, quill pens with inkwells and

 - ·Miniature farm animals and assorted horses Wooden brainteaser puzzles
 - ·Whimsical items, such as love bugs and whoop-
- ·Traditional games such as paddleball, ball-incup, Jacob's ladder, triangle game, jaw harp, jacks, and much more.

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Crossing the Lines

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

Board rejects proposed budget, makes additional cuts



County Administrator Beth Simms addressed some misconceptions about county finances at the May 12 board meeting.

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted against approving the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 budget and made several changes to it during its meeting on Monday, May 12.

Before the board discussed the budget, County Administrator Beth Simms addressed public questions regarding take-home vehicles, county debt, and the county's unassigned fund balance.

"Patrick County employees do not have takehome vehicles. Staff report to work in their personal vehicles and utilize county-owned vehicles for official duties such as maintenance calls, building inspections, and related services," she said.

As of July 1, the county's outstanding debt is \$26.7 million, with approximately 71 percent attributed to school construction and facility improvements.

"Much of the debt originated from capital projects between 2005 and 2010. All obligations are being repaid on schedule, with final maturity set for fiscal year 2040," Simms said.

Contrary to public claims of overspending, Simms said the county has made deliberate efforts to improve its financial position.

"One clear indicator is the growth in our unassigned fund balance. In FY 2020, our unassigned fund balance was \$6.4 million, representing 13.95 percent of operating expenditures. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, that fig-

ure had grown to \$15.5 million, or 22.74 percent of operating expenditures—an increase of more than \$9.1 million," she said.

Simps encouraged board members and resistance of the said of

Simms encouraged board members and residents to seek accurate information directly from county administration.

As the board still needs to trim approximately \$197,000 to balance the budget, Smith River District Supervisor Doug Perry suggested using a portion of the unassigned fund balance. "Taxpayers paid into it, and if it's above that

best practice number, then I think that would be a suitable use for that," he said. Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek

District, agreed.

"This is money that the county has paid in—

your tax dollars have gone to this," Wood said.

When discussing additional cuts, Mayo River District Supervisor Clayton Kendrick made a motion to remove the \$15,000 budgeted for financial advising from Davenport & Co.

"I think we ought to stop some of these outside studies this year," Kendrick said.

Dan River District Supervisor Andrew Overby seconded the motion.

"I think they're needed," Perry countered.

Based on Davenport's proposal, Overby said he didn't believe the services offered were beyond what county staff could do by researching what other localities have done.

Strawberry Fest attracts thousands to Stuart



The annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday attracted thousands of visitors to Stuart. The festival, in its 22nd year, also attracted nearly 100 registered vendors, which Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons said was a marked increase from previous years.

Station 8 relocates amid safety concerns



One of Station 8's rescue vehicles parked outside of the new facility – a former school board building situated beside the Patrick County Administration Building. (Contributed)

Patrick County's paid Emergency Medical

Services (EMS) service, Station 8, has started its move from its current facility to the former school board office beside the Patrick County Administration Building.

The move was decided on May 5. It is anticipated to be completed by June 6.

Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said the squad's current location on East Blue Ridge Street is unacceptable.

"They can't be in there. So, to get them out of that building, we moved them into the old school board building," Perry said, adding that County Administrator Beth Simms made the decision to move Station 8 to the new facility.

She said, "Look, here's what has to happen, here's what we're going to do.' I received an email, and I'm like, 'I'm fine with it.' Being a facilities thing, being that the county owns the building, being that there's no money—there's no need for the board to make that decision and vote on it," Perry said.

With the move, EMS Coordinator Scottie Cassell said he "was just told, and I follow orders." He deferred to Simms for additional comments.

Perry said he doesn't anticipate the move to be "a permanent, permanent thing. It's not the best place for them, but for right now, to get them out of that old, dilapidated, condemned building, it's the best route to take right now."

Perry explained the Department of Social Services (DSS) is going to need more space, along with other departments — and that will require moving and rearranging offices. He said those projects are still in the works and added that the county's facilities director is working to coordinate the best use of its properties.

"There's a plan, and like I said, for the right here and right now, to get Station 8 out of a really bad facility that they should have been moved out of quite some time ago—that's, of course, just the action we're taking," he said.

Primland donation advances Patrick Promise Initiative

Primland Resort donated \$10,000 to the Patrick County Education Foundation (PCEF) for its Patrick Promise initiative at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 14.

The Patrick Promise will extend support to provide free tuition to Patrick County High School (PCHS) graduates attending Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), similar to The Harvest Foundation's SEED Program that supports students in Martinsville and Henry County.

Steve Helms, vice president at Primland, said the business is happy to invest in Patrick County youth by donating to the Patrick County Education Foundation for the Patrick Promise initiative.

"For our PCHS seniors to be able to get an associate's degree at no cost is outstanding. I mean, my family all went to school here, my kids graduated and went on to school, and they were very fortunate and actually got community degrees when they were in high school, so it was fantastic," he said

Helms said the Primland Auberge Resorts Collection wants to see more of this type of commitment going forward.

"Primland is very proud to be able to make a little donation here to the Patrick Promise, and hopefully we'll get it over the hump and get some other folks out here to do the same," he said.

P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges said the Patrick Promise has a threefold goal: to increase the post-high school credential attainment rates for Patrick County, to decrease the population migration from Patrick County, and to increase the economic attractiveness and workforce development potential of the Patrick County region.

PCHS has "consistently now for several years ranked among the top 10 in Virginia. The flipside of



Pictured from left to right: P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges, Primland Vice President Steve Helms, P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood, Primland General Manager Will Rentschler, and PCEF Chairman Dr. Stewart Roberson.

that are the post-high school credential attainment rates, which lag behind significantly the region and the state as well, and the economic impediment that is to attracting new businesses and industry," he said.

Hodges said eliminating the population decline will help keep good, paying jobs in the county and potentially bring more into the area so people have a reason to stay and provide a good life for themselves and their families.

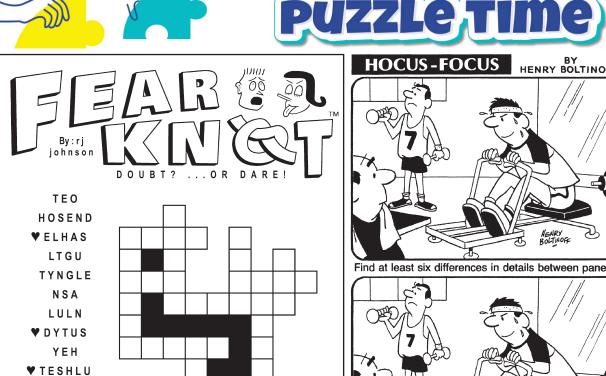




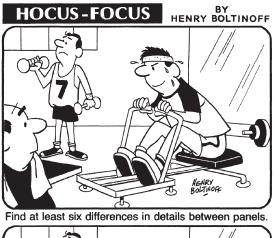
Hollywood Cinema beside Walmart

Martinsville 276-656-3456

1-3-5-7-9 1-3-5-7-9 1-3-5-7-9 1-4-7-9:15 1-4-7



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.





6. Number on shirt is smaller. Differences: 1. Stripe on sock is missing. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Towel is longer. 5. Hair is different.





MAGIC MAZE

O E T Q N J G D A X U R O L J BGFDEAXVSPNKIFC AMXIVLSQOLJHECA

X Y A V L T P M R N P N L J Y H F E L D D T P A B O Y X T V

T R P K T O O M A H K C I T I GEDIRSMOBNDLAZX

K C U L W U A U G D A E R B E T R R O T A T O P E M N R Q K FONLJI O GRIHFAUA

D C A Y X W V T S P R T P B C

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

Apple Bacon Banana Bread

Cake Cured ham Fruit Luck

Meat Pie Potato Reality Roast lamb The good life Tomato

Super Crossword 10 Skunk Pepé

of cartoons

11 Like crumbly

12 Rowing blade

13 Reggae's

before

Kamoze

14 Best Musical

"Phantom"

15 Silvery fish

follower

19 Fixes up text

24 Son of Odin

30 Holy relic

TV talk

biblical-style

35 Novelist Uris

36 "— get it!" ("Oh, makes

sense!")

Hilary

ski lift

32 Lake of

33 Hit hard,

16 Dharma

17 Private

18 Recycle

DISCRETE **CHARACTERS**

ACROSS 59 Poet Rich or 115 Port near 1 Broken stone actress for paving 8 Big petroleum Barbeau 60 "Yang Yang" company of singer Yoko 61 Painting in the past

GLOAN

♥ EUDS

15 Actress the Louvre 20 Erstwhile 64 Doc bloc empress of 66 Shoveled Russia 68 Boots out 21 Very narrow, 69 Hardware as a road pieces for

lead out? award Eris' Aphrodite 25 Blah feeling

26 NHLer Bobby 27 Upset infant's sound 28 "Look, mice!" 29 Least severe 31 Stein drinks 34 Original lion-logo

film studio 38 Arriver's declaration – buco 40 -41 A Nixon daughter 44 City Toronto

northeast of 48 To wit 54 Cascara and red ash are members of it 58 Deem worthy 111 Sphere

103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107

120

130

23

78 Outlaw 79 Similar to sonnets82 Diner offering 132 Phrase with 86 Sits to appear on the cover of, say 90 Pest control company 91 Hovel 94 Shredded, as DOWN

attaching

shelves to

walls 74 Wrinkly-faced

dog 77 Wallach or

Manning

Parmesan 96 Takes care of **97** 1980s game consoles 98 Honolulu site 100 Snazzily dressed 103 2011 Steve

Carell rom-com

Buenos Aires 116 "Louisville Lip" of boxing 117 Jeff Lynne's rock gp. 119 "Is that true about me?

120 Scope of influence 121 The "AA" and "BB" of an AABB scheme **127** Din 128 "Hamilton" composer

Lin-Manuel 129 City grid parts 131 Ends of no repeated letters (like each of this

37 Sacred song puzzle's seven longest 39 Violinist answers) 41 Kind of 1 Dead-end work position 2 Sky-blue hue 3 Corps core

6 Over again 7 Take care of 8 Oozy gunk

4 Uru. neighbor 5 Not well lit

42 Very impolite 43 2012 hit for Flo Rida 45 Calif. air hub 46 Advertising leaflets 47 Stevie Cherie

Wonder's "My 49 "Stop!," asea

51 Film director Kazan 52 Intense desire 53 "For" votes 55 Doing Atkins,

say 56 Do-fa linkup 57 "Get what I'm saying?' 62 Atlanta-to-65 Suffix with

pent-67 Chitchat 69 Apple or pear 70 Offer a view 71 Permit 72 Sphere 73 Mafia bigwig **74** Hazy air stuff

75 Mister, in Münster 76 "Lonely Boy singer Paul 79 At a distance 80 Sets of points, in math

81 Torah holders 83 — pork (Chinese entree) 85 Sleuth: Abbr 87 Purse part 88 Nitrate, e.g. 89 Ration 92 Pick-

95 Verb before perhaps 99 Words after man or sergeant 101 With, to Luc

102 House speaker after Ryan 103 Metallic sound 104 Novarro of

> 105 H.S. science class for college credit 106 Roster of least-soughtafter celebs 107 "Eleni"

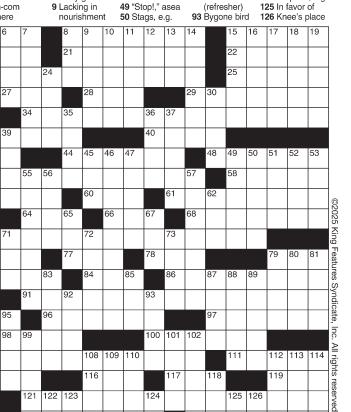
silent films

director Peter **108** "— your disposal'

109 Group trying to sack a QB **110** Swiss chocolatier **112** Like — in headlights

113 Ton of, informally 114 Bette Midler's "Divine" stage persona 118 Alibis, e.g.

122 Go quickly 123 Divs. of eras 124 Propane, e.g. 125 In favor of



By Lucie Winborne

· Benjamin Franklin never actually lobbied for the turkey to become the national bird, but he did write that the bald eagle was a fowl of "bad moral character" and that the turkey was "a much more respectable bird.

• The world's largest chocolate bar weighed 12,000 pounds.

• While digging up stones to build a house in 1885, Australian miner George Harrison found gold ore near Johannesburg, beginning the South African gold rush.

• In terms of galactic years, the sun is around 20.5 years old.

· Victorian floriography, the practice of assigning codes to flowers to send messages via bouquets and arrangements, associated basil with hatred! The curious link came from the ancient Greeks, who felt basil leaves resembled the opening jaws of a basilisk.

• In the 1800s, ducks were called "arsefeet," as their feet are so close to their posteriors.

• Painting designs and pictures on fingernails isn't just a modern trend. It was a familiar practice with the Incas, many of whom sported eagle motifs on their

· One percent of people are born with a 13th rib.

• To preserve the quality of the U.S. Constitution, on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., its protective cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40%.

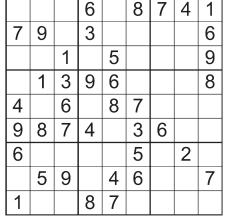
• In the U.K., fish and chips were traditionally wrapped in old newspapers, giving the meal a unique newspaper ink flavor. The practice eventually ended for health reasons.

• During the 1904 Summer Olympic Games, American athlete George Eyser won six medals in a single day, including three gold and two silver, in the vault, parallel bars and rope climbing competitions ... with a wooden prosthetic left leg.

Thought for the Day: "Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud." -Maya Angelou

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Weekly SUDOKU



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: ◆

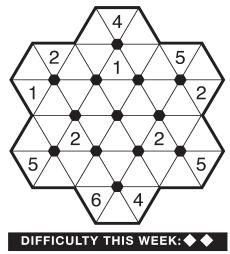
♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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ZHOMELTHREZ

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.

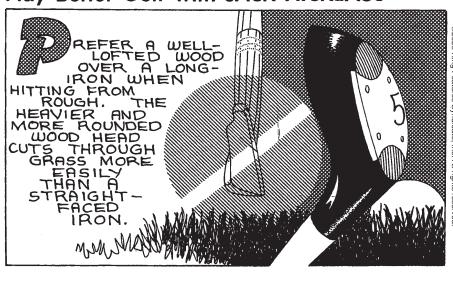


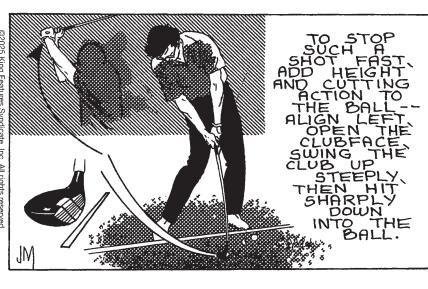
◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

128

131







cellar, I had no idea ... '

set in the

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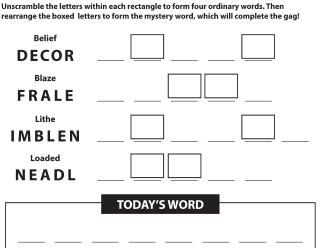
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Free Revolutionary War Living History event set for Saturday



The Blue Ridge Institute & Museum (BRIM) of Ferrum College will host a living history event on Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BRIM's Blue Ridge Farm Museum. The event will feature the Fincastle Company, a group of dedicated living historians who portray both military and civilian life during the American War of Independence. The event

MCPS releases honor, recognition lists

Martinsville City Public Schools released the names of students on the Honor Roll, Principal's List, and Counselor's List for the third nine week period.

Patrick Henry Elementary 3rd Grade Principal's List

Josiah Dean Ashby, Ethan Jay Barbour, Skylar Majorie Brigman, Kiah Benjamin Cooper, Piper Elaine Cruise, Aubrey Nicole Crutchfield, Jeremiah Isaiah Dalton, Kassidy Saige Glass, O'Bryant Hairston, Parker Stephen Hoyer, Kaylee Ingram, Holden Knox Lewis, Kayleigh Grace Marsh, Daniela Mendoza-Martinez, Autumn Savannah Miller, Butch Lee Mitchell, Aubrey Lillian Newsome, Ava Denise Ramsey, Gabriel Trevion Ray, Brock Addison Stanley, Jr., Zaria La'Star Stubblefield, Liam Cruz Trahan, Ny'Quis Latwoin Watkins

3rd Grade Honor Roll

Olivia Rose Akers, Madison Paige Bernard, Aubree Lee Bowerman, Emersyn Kaye Crockett, Madilynn Rose Dempsey, Aiden Emmanuel Dominguez, Amarion Lee Ferguson, Teegan Makaio Hairston, Aleisa Harris, Jaxon Elijah Harrison, Angela Joachin-Lopez, Joshua Lamont Leftwich Jr., Jonathan Samuel Lopez Balcazar, William Gregory Marshall

III, Alonza Mckindley Martin Jr., Alanah NeCole Martin, Zion-Selah Martin, Aiden Amier Mitchell, Monique Taraji Moore, Blaire Stephanie Priddy, Nayomi Krystal Reyes-Sanchez, Aiden Joeseph Rigney, Janelle Chanel Sanders, Aaliyah Marlayla Shareef, Gabriel Anthony Villasenor, Levi Xyir Walker, Joslyn Lachelle Wimbush 4th Grade Principal's List

Ashley Abdelnaser Bayoumy, Nathaniel Dean Butcher, Allison Dominguez Chavez, Madison Franchesca Ramos Duran, Aiden Elijah Kirby, Sebastian Chase LaPrade, Jacob Daniel Ratliff, Emmanuel Joseph Ray, Keri Sern Scales, Paris Brenea' Turner, Jade LaShae Venable

4th Grade Honor Roll

Emilia Anne Blankenbaker, Robert Alessandro De Leon Reyes, Adrielle Nariah Dickerson, Grayson Blake Hawks, Matthew Manuel Hernandez-Sanchez, Brantley Tyler Janey, Monae Shaday Moyer, Jaylon Daniel Palmer, DaMari Amir Perkins, Solomon Jeremiah Ray, Gabriella Espen Troncosco, Ashton LeAnder Wells, ZaMauria LaShey Williamson





NCI employees step into the spotlight with leadership honors

Two team members from the New College Institute (NCI) are turning heads - not just for what they do on the job, but for how they're growing as leaders beyond it.

Latoshua LeGrant, NCI's Chief Information Officer, and Trevor Martin, a Workforce Training Instructor, are both making waves through elite leadership development programs, reinforcing NCI's commitment to fostering talent and building a brighter future for the region. LeGrant was recently selected

for the prestigious Virginia Rural Leadership Institute (VRLI), a statewide initiative focused on cultivating innovative and civicminded leaders to strengthen rural communities. As part of the 2025 cohort, she'll participate in immersive sessions across rural Virginia and lead a hands-on Community Impact Project designed to create lasting change in her hometown.

"I'm thankful for this unique opportunity to explore and learn from the success in our small communities, expand my leadership skills, and serve as a catalyst for continued growth in rural Virginia," LeGrant said.

She's in good company — both NCI Executive Director Joe Sumner and Chief Advancement Officer Olivia Garrett are VRLI alumni. Sumner said it's meaningful to see another NCI leader following the same path.

"As a proud alumnus of the Virginia Rural Leadership Institute, I've experienced firsthand the value of this incredible program," said Sumner. "Supporting Latoshua as she begins her own VRLI journey is a full-circle moment — a testament to the power of investing in both people and

Meanwhile, Martin recently graduated from the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Leadership M-HC program — a seven-session experience focused on strengthening leadership skills, deepening community engagement, and sparking collaborative thinking.

"Participating in Leadership M-HC was incredibly rewarding,' Martin said. "It gave me a better understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in our area. I've grown professionally and personally, and I'm excited to bring that energy into my work at NCI.'

The program connects emerging leaders with business, civic, and nonprofit networks while encouraging participants to contribute to community-based projects and initiatives.

Sumner said both employees' achievements reflect a broader mission at NCI — to champion professional development and empower leaders who will give

"We are incredibly proud of Latoshua and Trevor," said Sumner. "Their commitment to growth and service is inspiring. These programs don't just build leaders — they build communities — and we're excited to see the impact they'll continue to make.'

F-C Middle School to receive **HVAC** system upgrades

School will undergo significant upgrades to its HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system, according to a release from Henry County Schools. This muchneeded improvement is being made possible through the allocation of \$909,850 in carryover funds from the schools' budget.

"I want to thank the School Board, Dr. Blake-Lewis and staff, and the community for its continued support for critical capital improvement efforts such as these

The Fieldale-Collinsville Middle and the work to overcome funding constraints and obstacles. These HVAC upgrades will enhance the learning environment at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle and ensure our students and staff benefit from a more comfortable and efficient facility," said Teddy Martin, chairman of the school board.

> The investment in HVAC improvements reflects the division's ongoing commitment to maintaining safe, modern, and well-functioning educational spaces for all students.





LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION 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 There Stoc

276-638-3987.

Case No. JJ018231-06-00

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,

LEGAL

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

KILL STOCK

increase of \$2,701,691.

LEGAL

Case No. JJ012037-17-00 ORDER OF PUBLICATION 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

Stoce

PUBLIC NOTICE

Henry County, Virginia, in partnership with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the Bassett Community Center Inc., is seeking funding from the 2025 Community Development Block Grant program to study and plan for revitalization of the Bassett Community Center in Bassett, Virginia. This planning grant is being applied for through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Per the requirements of the grant, a public meeting must be held to discuss business revitalization, hazard mitigation plans, and feasibility analyses in the project area.

A Public Input Meeting will be held on Monday June 9 at 5:30 pm, in the Summerlin Board Room at the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, VA 24112. The public is encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Henry

County, Virginia is required to disclose that future Planning Grant and Community Improvement Grant funding depends on completion of this public meeting. Input may be provided prior to the meeting by emailing Rebekah Morgan, or by calling

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on June 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter, in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, City of Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, on an intended amendment by the City Council to the City's fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. Interested persons may appear at the time and place above stated and may present their views at the public hearing. A copy of the full text of the proposed amendment is on file in the office of the Martinsville City Manager, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112 and is available for inspection during normal business hours. A brief synopsis of the proposed amendment is as follows: General Fund revenue increase of \$85,600, General fund expenditure increase of \$330,959, General Fund Capital Projects expenditure increase of \$93,830, School Capital Project fund increase of \$35,200, MRHA (Redevelopment and Housing Authority) fund revenue increase of \$283,755, Fleet Fund revenue increase of \$1,524,000, Fleet Fund expenditure increase of \$1,524,000, Water/Wastewater capital fund revenue increase of \$8,525,175, Water/Wastewater capital fund expenditure increase of \$8,525,175, EDA fund expenditure increase of \$500,000,

School Operating fund revenue increase of \$2,701,691 and School Operating fund expenditure

P&HCC, Franklin County bring Nurse Aide Program to The Franklin Center

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has entered into an agreement with Franklin County to expand healthcare programming to enable students to earn a Nurse Aide credential at The Franklin Center in Rocky Mount.

"We are honored to provide on-site, nurse aide instruction at the Franklin Center that results in industry recognized certifications and credentials," said P&HCC President Greg Hodges, adding, "While we offer a number of credentials with fancy acronyms at Patrick & Henry, our central focus is the J-O-B degree and courses like this do

The primary goals of the program are to improve the delivery of healthcare to the people of Franklin County and to promote economic stability among residents of southern Franklin County through training for industry recognized certifications and credentials.



Franklin County Administrator Chris Whitlow and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges sign the Memoranda of Understanding.

"Franklin County is delighted that Patrick & Henry continues to expand and broaden programs in Franklin County. The new programs announced today not only provide training for high demand occupations, but will also serve as a launchpad for further healthcare degree opportunities such as EMT offerings through the local high school as well as the BSN nursing degree program at Ferrum College," said Franklin County Administrator Chris Whitlow.

Hodges and Whitlow signed the agreement at The Franklin Center today with college officials, community members, and P&HCC board members present. The memoranda of understanding they signed affirms their commitment to provide healthcare instruction to individuals in southern Franklin County, further solidifying their collaborative efforts to support financial stability for members of the community.

Grants available to support veteran suicide prevention, opioid addiction services

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is seeking to award \$4 million in grants to support Service Member, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) suicide prevention and opioid addiction services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

In 2022, DVS developed the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program to help end the epidemic of SMVF suicide and opioid addiction and was tasked to build Federal, State, and local partnerships with profit and non-profit organizations to accomplish this life saving mission.

The SOS program aims to enhance understanding of suicide prevention and opioid addiction among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) and build community support capacity to ensure the RIGHT HELP is widely available RIGHT NOW for militaryconnected citizens and families.

The SOS program will serve as the steward of

these funds and is formally accepting applications through a Request for Applications (RFA) to establish awards for community-based suicide prevention and opioid addiction services in the Commonwealth of Virginia. "The fight against suicide is a collective ef-

fort," said Chuck Zingler, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services. "DVS is proud to partner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA,) other state agencies and the organizations receiving these valuable grant funds to provide extended resources to support the SMVF community every step of the way.'

Grant funds will be used to promote the use of best practices addressing suicide prevention and/or opioid addiction for SMVF in the following categories: women veterans, homeless veterans, justice involved veterans, caregiver support, and/or financial stability/literacy.

non-profit organization or community service provider/organization/locality serving Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For all nonprofit organizations, proof of an IRS 501(c)3 designation is required at the time of application.

To be considered for selection, applicants are to submit a complete response to the RFA no later than May 31, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Application Submission Instructions: To be considered for selection, an applicant must register at https://grants.dvs.virginia.gov/index.do first to access the grant application. The SOS grants portal uses a unique entity identifier (UEI) number and an Employer Identification Number (EIN). To request a UEI number, visit https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration.

Application assistance tutorials can be found on the SOS grants portal under announcements Eligible applicants must be a for profit or here: https://grants.dvs.virginia.gov/index.do.

Axton man charged in alleged stabbing incident

Kenneth Uron Martin Jr., 40, of Axton, has been charged with malicious wounding in connection with an alleged stabbing incident that occurred Saturday afternoon in Henry County. approximately

4:45 p.m. on May 17, Henry County Sheriff's deputies responded to a reported stabbing in the 1600 block of Birchwood Road in Kenneth Uron Martin Upon arrival, depu-

ties learned that the victim had already been taken from the scene in a private vehicle. Due to the severity of the injuries, the victim was later airlifted to another medi-



cal facility for further

treatment. Deputies and in-

vestigators secured the area and began processing the scene. Deputies spoke with witnesses and collected evidence from outside the home where two men were involved in an altercation.

K-9 Zajo was deployed to search a wooded area behind the home. During the search, Martin was found hiding in the woods and taken into custody without inci-He was transported

to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where he is being held without bond. The investigation is

ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or CrimeStop-63-CRIME pers at (632-7463).

Big M Awards recognize highachieving seniors, students

Martinsville High School hosted its Big M Awards ceremony on May 15, presented by the principals and assistant principals of the city schools. This award ceremony honors students at the end of the year with certificates and trophies for distinguished seniors. The "Big M" Trophy is awarded to seniors who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, are enrolled in at least three academic subjects, and have completed at least one honors The 2025 "Big M" Trophy was

awarded to the following outstanding seniors for their academic excellence: Anne Frances Agee, Adam Luis Aguilar Jr., Elvin Ariel Amaya Turcios, Naun Isai Andrade Paredes, Yadira Carrillo Tamayo, Keara Lanette Carter, Esmeralda Castillo-Ocampo, NaDasia Janae Cobbs. Ana Marie Compton, Kassidy Micahel Dodson, Sontrell Maciah Daniels, Xavier Patrick Dunham, Ruby Jacqueline Flores, Ava Brooke Grant, Abigail Fae Haskew, Aliyah Bailey Hairston, Deniyah Shanice Hightower, Aidan Michael Hood, Isabella Juliann Hood, Kamryn Nashay Kirby, Ashley Marishka Lintag, Gavin Luke Luther, Alondra Machuca Tiznado, Monserrat Machuca Tiznado, Skyla Daniele Martin, Honesty Nevaeh Martin, Rickyah Charlee Mitchell-Hairston, NaBria Millner, John Riley Nguyen, Jacey Claire Pamintuan, Terriah D'Nae Roberts, Jariyah Yanise Smith, Brooke Allison Turner, Isabella Haze Vega, Jayden Tyrion Aki Williams, Kaya Renee Yates, and Noah Alexander Young. Several students also received a

certificate of recognition for their efforts, including: Fifth Grade Albert Harris El-

ementary: Londin Bervine, Kambree Can-

noy, Blessing Carter, Miriam Carter, Sariyah Carter, Semaiya Craighead, Nevaeh Daniels, Amara Hemphill, Sofia Marcial, Nyseir Preston, Antonella Rodriguez, Amina Rumley, Daleyza Vazquez-Vazquez, Calleigh Whittle, Rania Womack. Fifth Grade, Patrick Henry

Elementary:

Aiden Andrew Boaz, Adelaide Elizabeth Brent, Ava Eloise Butcher, Aubree Brielle Carter, Amyrah La'Shae Dillard, Holden Matthew Hylton, Aubrey Ann Kirby, Mercy Pearl Moore, Daniel Matthew Robinson, Margot Grace Sharp, Natalie Marie Simacek, Emery Lynn Tay-

lor, Hailey Rain Turner, Wesley

O'Brien Walker.

Sixth Grade

Remington Levi Crockett, Maccabeus Zedekiah Daniels, Archer Barbour Deatherage, Brooklyn Jean DeShazo, Alanna Marie Gerlach, Jasmine Nicole Hairston, Trinity Angelee Hairston, Jade Indya Holland-Dallas, Jude Henry Hollingsworth, Wyatt Andrew Hoyer, Aubree Eden Mahan, Kennedy Koy-Monroe Martin, Virgil Abraham Moore, Yetzael Ramos-Tellez, Nvlah-Kav Scott, De'Covia Ni'Cole Smith, Jocelynn Aangel-Sherrice Walker, Katherine Rose Wall.

Seventh Grade Kevin Gabriel Avila-Santiago,

Zariyah A'neese Bouldin, Janette Guadalupe Carrillo-Llamas, Alan Carrillo-Tamayo, Litzy Contreras Rosas, James Andrew Hall, Fredy Josue Jimenez Romero, Jairo Samuel Mata, Freddy Munoz, Daniya Sue Penn, Quandel Fitzroy Richards, Ma'Kiya Yvonne Walton, Maya Elizabeth Williams. Eighth Grade

Zyad Abdelnaser Khalaf Mo-

hamed Bayoumy, Bridgette Alise Brent, Olivia Grace Campbell, Christopher Rolando Carpio Yanez, Mackenzie Ann Church, Kayleigh Alexis Cristobal, Jahvion O'Neil Dawson, Kaliyah Lanell Dawson, Nadia Yazmin Dominguez Gon-Marisol Garcia-Macias, Eyvonne Melvenna Hairston, Kendra Melena-Danielle Handy, Zoey Elise Hannans, Isaias Alfredo Lopez Valentin, Zy'Jerryah Lanier Martin, Amarriyah Harmoni Matthews, Renisha Jaqueline Millner, Hazel Wren Moore, Ayane' Ramani Pharr, Jeremiah Davant Porter, America Ramos Tellez, Samson Elijah Ray, Maheva Simon, Adreal Jaydon Stultz, Joel Marquise Sutphin, Josiah Maurice Sutphin, Elliot McKinley Thorn, Dayanna Yoseline Torres-Jose, Lailana Mongina Jeanne Vandermeuse-Siteki, Kailyn Amyah Venable, Malik Skyler Waller, Nevaeh Amahni Wilson, Arianna Marie Ybarra. Ninth Grade

Walter Isaac Amador Rios, David Alexi Argueta, Cristofer Emanuel Avila-Santiago, Amia Battle, William Dardan-Scott Bela, Latoya Marie Bradner, Jaryus Trevon Brim, Abbigail Savannah Campbell, Zhedrick Louise Capulong, Mason Luke Cassell, Maria Francheska Cheremos, Brennan Chase Coleman, Kira Lynn Compton, Cordell Elijah Daniels, Keyara Ronee Dillard, Ja'Da Nicole Eggleston-Wade, Christopher John Floyd, Ny'Kerion J'Von France,

(See Big M p. 12)

Charges of animal cruelty, assaulting deputies lodged

An Axton man was arrested Friday after allegedly beating his two dogs and later assaulting deputies during an attempted arrest. Luis Antonio Bac-

erra-Eames, 26, was charged with two felony counts of animal cruelty, two felony counts of assault on a law enforcement officer in connection with the alleged incident. He also is charged with a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest. He is currently being held without bond at the Henry County Adult Detention Center. On May 16, depu-

ties from the Henry County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Division responded to a complaint of animal cruelty at 131 Kimway Drive in Axton. The caller reported that the resident had been seen beating his two



a baseball bat, punching them, and striking one with a large rock. Deputies arrived at

the residence to check on the well-being of the animals. While assessing the situation, the suspect exited the home. After a brief conversation, deputies informed him he was leading to an alterca-

under arrest. Bacerra-Eames allegedly tried to flee and resisted,

tion with deputies.

tion, Bacerra-Eames allegedly bit one deputy twice and struck another multiple times with his elbow before he was subdued and taken into custody. He was transported to SOVAH Health Martinsville for treatment of minor injuries and later released into law enforcement custody. The two dogs were removed from the

property and will be evaluated by a veterinarian. They are currently being housed at the Henry County Animal Shelter. Anyone with infor-

mation regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or CrimeStoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). CrimeStoppers fers rewards of up to \$2,500 depending on the nature of the crime

and the value of the

information provided.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

During the alterca-

The WaterShed: A New Hub for Environmental Learning Along the Smith River



Ribbon Cutting at the WaterShed. From left to right: Cary McCrary, teacher at Snow Creek Elementary School; Ken Grindstaff, principal at Snow Creek Elementary; Jess Jarrett, Lester Group; Regina Flora, DRBA; Tyler Carter, Carter Bank; Callie Bondurant, Snow Creek Elementary student; DeWitt House, The Harvest Foundation; Roger Adams, Henry County Parks & Recreation; Jim Adams, Henry County Supervisor; Krista Hodges, DRBA; Chris Adcock, DRBA President board of directors; Ellen Jessee, DRBA board member; Rob Huffman, DRBA board member and Benny Luther, Henry County. (Contributed photos)

The Dan River Association Basin (DRBA), in partnership with the Eco Ambassador Council (EAC), The Harvest Foundation, Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, Henry County and other critical contributors, celebrated the completion of The WaterShed, a transformative outdoor education site located at the Bassett River Access along the Smith River in Bassett, VA.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Friday, May 16, 2025, at 10:30 AM at the same time students from Snow Creek Elementary were participating in their trout fingerling release, which is the final stage of DRBA's Trout in the Classroom pro-

The WaterShed is

that offers a permanent home for outdoor learning for the thousands of students who visit the river annually through DRBA's and other organizaenvironmental programs. Over 100,000 youth have learned here, but until now, they lacked shelter and basic ame-

The project would not have been possible without the generous cooperation of Bassett Furnishing Industries who provided the easement for the river access and allowed for the WaterShed and additional improvements to be constructed on the site.

"The WaterShed began as a vision to give our youth a stronger, more personal connection to the natural world—and seeing it come to life is incredBrian Williams, former Program Manager at DRBA. "Before I retired, I dreamed of a place where learning could happen outside the four walls of a classroom, right along the Smith River. Thanks to the dedication of our partners and the support of this community, that dream is now a real-

"This project reflects our community's shared vision for protecting natural resources while investing in the next generation," said Tyler Carter, EAC Representative from Carter Bank. "The Eco Ambassador Council was created to bring businesses together to drive regional change-and The WaterShed is a shining example of what collaboration

The Eco Ambassador Council, launched in 2020 by Carter Bank, has provided \$35,750 toward The WaterShed's total cost of \$65,500, contributing the largest single funder portion. Other support includes significant grants from The Harvest Foundation and the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, with in-kind commitments from Henry County.

"The WaterShed outdoor education site reflects the kind of community-focused investmentaligns with our mission," said DeWitt House, vice president of community investments at The Harvest Foundation. "By creating a hands-on learning opportunity for youth to learn and grow outside the classroom environment, this project promotes equitable access to learning and helps to build a healthy, vibrant MHC where every child can envision a bright future. We're proud to partner with DRBA in supporting the next generation of environmental stew-

The WaterShed is designed not only for instruction but also inspire—featuring interpretive signage, flexible learning spaces, and eventually, amenities like a pollinator garden and stormwater education features. The highly visible location along the Smith River is now a safer, more inviting space for hands-on, year-round learning.

Community "The Foundation sees The WaterShed as a natural classroom," said Michelle Eberly, Director, Grants and Donor Engagement. "It's a place where education, environment, and community in-

Brian Williams, retired Program Manager for DRBA, educated students about snakes and explained the critical

role they play to keep natural resources healthy.

Snow Creek Elementary students were the first to hold their Trout in the Classroom trout release event at the new WaterShed. One of the activities of the trout release field trip is that they learn about river ecosystems through DRBA's Tub of Bugs, an activity that gives youth the opportunity to feel and touch the living creatures that live in the Smith River.

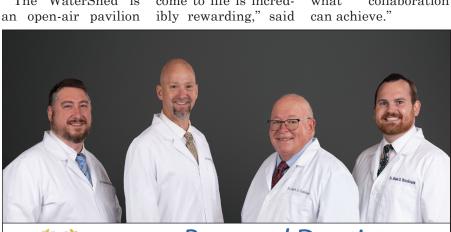
and lasting ways. The WaterShed represents the kind of forwardthinking, communityrooted project we're pate in a trout release, proud to support. By investing in outdoor education, we're helping to foster curiosity, responsibility, and a lasting connection to nature among our region's youth." The ribbon cutting

tersect in meaningful

event allowed funders to see the new facility in action and celebrate the collaboration that made it possible. "The WaterShed is

a tremendous asset for our community, providing a dedicated space where students can connect with the outdoors in a meaningful way," said Roger Adams, Director of Henry County Parks and Recreation. "We're proud to support a project that not only enhances environmental education but also encourages stewardship of the beautiful natural resources we're so fortunate to have here in Henry County."

Guests also had the opportunity to particia beloved component of DRBA's Trout in the Classroom program, founded in 2005 by EAC member, David Jones of Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, which is a hands-on environmental education initiative that connects students with local ecosystems by allowing them to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in their classrooms during an entire school year. Throughout the program, students learn about coldwater conservation, aquatic habitats, and the importance of protecting clean water. At the end of the school year, students release their trout into local rivers, fostering a lasting connection to nature and a deeper understanding of watershed stewardship.





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Email submissions@ theenterprise.net



Big M=

(cont. from page 10)



Kaya Yates was among those recognized.

Brandon Kyle Gearheart, Hudson Logan Grant, Leeayla Abrielle Hairston, Seth Douglas Hankins, Jonas Haze Hollingsworth, Navaih Sean'ta Hood, Isabella Claire Hurd, Demetria Shynia Johns, NyKira Chantel Johnson, McKenna Nicole Mahan, Jennyfer Marchorro Mendoza, Abraham Gabriel Michael, Keilaj'ah Nevaeh Morrison, Akorea Antwan Neblett, Aileen Yuritza Nolasco, Zion Faith Perkins, Sadie Alexandria Pickett, Camarion Damere Plunkett, Colby Bryson Robertson, Xavier Alonso Rodriguez, Erzart Shahini, Veronica Lorraine Smith, Symphany Chynah Necoal Talley, Zaina Denise Talley, Phyllis Marie Thompson, Ja'Corian Drakar Turner, Lilly Grace Wall, William Henry Wall, Paris Noel Waller, Baisley Preshea White, Addison Aleese Williamson, Ashley Gisselle Yanes

Tenth Grade

Crystal Shy'Ann Adams, Jaden Alexander Ayoub, Kyndall Maliyah Benton, Kayra Shawn Carr, Kristeena Lynn Decker, Sherman Chase Dillard, Fernanda Guadalupe DominguezMachuca, Angeliah Monae Eccles, Sarah Rose Greene, Alyana Nicole Hairston, Caden Amir Martin, De'Mari Dalevon Martin, Gabriella Frances

Michael, Aniyah Brenae Millner, Jazmin Rubi Mota-Ocampo, Julie Anna Nguyen, Ariyana Re Nae Nowlin, Erikka Noemi Ortiz-Soriano, Jaden Anthony Porter, Jayce Edward Prillaman, Joshua Louis Redd. Tyrese Lamar Smith. JaVonna Marjae Stubblefield, Yaretzy Ramos Telles, Caleb Tyree Valentine, Alexis Gabriel Villafana, Karter Anthony Winbush.

Eleventh Grade

Aubrey Blankenbaker, Quentin Isley Chism, Sincere Nasia Cook, Jemea Leshay Craghead, Kamori Re Yanna Dillard, Zaniah Ariana Dillard, Jordan Draper, Layla Renay Garrett, Ka Nyah Keymaine Giggetts, London Mylan Hairston, TyShawn Nicholas Hairston, Abigail Hernandez, De'Nyiran Tyjuahn Hodge, Ny'Asia Chenelle Hood, Jahrine Ezekiel Jones, Shawn Duane Joyce, Aerran Elysia Kellam, Myasia Kimiya Long, Nyasia K Long, Gregory Isaiah Moore, Yoshikoe Yazminah Moyer, Jun Hermes Olea, Evelia Kaye Olvera, Adrian Jerry Pickett, Jailyn Omarion Reynolds, Janetzy Meredith Rodriguez, Cassandra Cheyenne Sanchez, Avianna Zanae Watkins, Kaira Merci Womack.

Twelfth Grade

Christian Slade Brooks, Gabriella Ann Chilton, Ny'Asia Renae



Ruby Flores and many other students were recognized. (Contributed photos)



Gavin Luther was recognized at the Big M ceremony.

Cobbs, Dale Allen Cochran, Elijah Amauri Dixon, Natalie Gina Marie Dunagan, Jamirah Desirae Farris, De Montaye Tymez Hairston, Lauren Elizabeth Hall, Kimberly Servin Hernandez, Kasey Dawn Inman, Jose Antonio Lara-Alvarado, Zoe Wilhelmina Lewis, Aziah

Kamori Martin, Naikeem Deontae Penn, Alexys Monique Rumley, Jonathan Rodriguez Sanabia, Colin Javier Sechrist, Jaylen Roy Solomon, Benjamin Torres Orozco, Jackson William Via, Cayden Austin Walker, Timarius Monkell Wilson.

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