

Court rules in favor of Martinsville in sewer contract dispute with PSA

By Debbie Hall
A Martinsville Circuit Court judge has ruled in favor of the City of Martinsville in its long-running contract dispute with the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA), awarding the city more than \$7.4 million in damages and declaring the PSA liable for additional future costs.
The ruling, issued June 6 by Judge G. Carter Greer, states that the city is entitled to \$7,403,434 in compensatory damages — representing 47 percent of the cost to rehabilitate the Smith River Interceptor (SRI), a major sewer line. The court also found that the PSA will be responsible for its share of the cost to rehabilitate the Jones Creek Interceptor (JCI), based on the volume of its sewage that flows through that line. Work on the JCI has not yet been completed.
In addition to awarding damages, the court terminated the sewer service contract between the city and

the PSA. However, it deferred ruling on whether the city is also entitled to prejudgment interest — additional compensation for the time that has passed since the costs were incurred — until a hearing scheduled for July 22.
The ruling marks a significant victory for the city, which argued that the PSA had breached the contract by refusing to pay its proportional share of capital improvement costs for the two interceptors, which carry wastewater from the PSA to Martinsville’s treatment plant.
In a second amended complaint, the city sought damages and a court declaration that the contract should be terminated. The PSA denied liability, arguing that the city had breached the agreement first and that it should not be held responsible for capital improvement expenses.
At the center of the dispute was language in the decades-old con-

(See PSA p. 10)



The Henry County School Board held its first meeting of the summer.

School survey includes staff feedback on safety, support, and improvements

By Jessica Dillon
Henry County Public Schools presented the results of its 2025 employee climate survey, offering a look at how instructional staff feel about safety, support, communication, and school culture. The survey, conducted from May 12 to May 16, revealed both positive takeaways and key areas of concern.
Of the 722 instructional employ-

ees invited to participate, 709 responded — a 98.2 percent response rate. Teachers and counselors made up 69 percent of respondents, with the remainder consisting of other instructional staff.
Overall, the responses showed staff generally feel safe and supported. Most said they feel a sense of belonging at their school, and

(See School p. 2)

Council extends YMCA property option as city weighs purchase

By Jessica Dillon
The Martinsville City Council has approved a 90-day extension on its option to purchase the current YMCA property on Starling Avenue, giving the city more time to consider acquiring the five-acre site as the organization prepares to relocate.
The extension, approved during the June 10 council meeting, cost the city an additional \$500. The property, formally listed as the Family YMCA Incorporated of Martinsville & Henry County, is located at 3 Starling Ave. in the city’s historic Uptown District. It is listed for \$925,000.
The YMCA is in the process of building a new facility on the west end of Martinsville, with construction expected to be completed in 2027. Once the move is com-



After proclaiming June as National Safety Month, members of the city council gathered with police and fire department representatives in attendance.

plete, the current building will be vacated. The city’s option allows exclusive negotiation rights during the

extension period, and officials say the property’s location presents an opportunity for future economic

development.
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Martinsville’s Commonwealth’s Attorney Andy Hall does not plan to seek reelection in the November election.

Hall to step down as Martinsville prosecutor, endorses Flinn

By Taylor Boyd
Martinsville Commonwealth’s Attorney Andy Hall does not plan to seek reelection in the upcoming November election. Instead, Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney Patrick Flinn plans to seek the position.
Hall, who has served two terms in the role, said eight years is enough.
“I’m a big believer that an executive shouldn’t stay in office but for so long. I think two terms is enough, and the fact that I had Patrick in the office and waiting in the wings I felt it was an ideal time to step

down,” he said.
When Hall first took the job, he had served as former Commonwealth’s Attorney Clay Gravely’s chief deputy for four years and worked as an assistant deputy for about two years.
Gravely “was a politician, I wasn’t,” Hall said. “He of course resigned, and I took the position. I was worried because I didn’t know anything about politics — I was a prosecutor, I was a trial attorney.”
As an elected official, Hall said

(See Hall p. 2)

Rainey’s latest horror novel draws inspiration from local areas

By Jessica Dillon
Horror author Stephen Mark Rainey signed copies of his latest book, “The House at Black Tooth Pond,” during a recent event at Magnolia & Main Books in Ridgeway. The novel, released earlier this year, draws inspiration from locations in Henry County and Martinsville.
“It is set in an area that is loosely based on Martinsville, Henry County,” Rainey said.



Stephen Mark Rainey signed copies of “The House at Black Tooth Pond” during an event at Magnolia & Main Books in Ridgeway. He is pictured with his wife, Kimberly Brugger.

Two key settings in the book were directly influenced by local landmarks. One is a crumbling house the author and his brother discovered in the woods around 1990, near Everson Falls.
The pair were walking a dog in the evening when they stumbled upon an overgrown structure.
“That’s an old house. It’s just completely overgrown with a tree growing out of it,” Rainey said. “I went back later and went exploring inside. And I thought that I’ve got to use this in a book.”
The title’s pond is also based on a real place—behind Martinsville High School.

“I think when I was in 10th grade, our biology teacher said, ‘We’re gonna go down and take some water samples,’” he said. The pond had old stumps sticking out of the water, inspiring the name “Black Tooth Pond.”
“I would call it sort of a combination haunted house, cosmic horror kind of tale—if you’re at all familiar with things like H.P. Lovecraft.”
The fictional town in the book is called Aiken Mill, located in a made-up Sylvan County, and follows two brothers caught in a strange mystery.
“While exploring

the darkest corners of Sylvan County, psychology professor Mar-

(See Rainey p. 9)

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UPDATES



Hall

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one must meet people and get to know them, and he believes that was the best part of the job.

“I think any leadership position must be predicated to dedication to service. And I’m going to say that because I think we lose sight of that. Any leadership position must be predicated on a desire to serve. If you don’t have that you have no business being in elected office, none whatsoever,” he said.

While Hall doesn’t yet know what his next step will be, he said that as a Christian, he believes God will lead him.

“I believe the Holy Spirit will lead me exactly where I’m supposed to go. That’s where my faith is,” he said.

Hall said he plans to continue serving Martinsville in other ways, including on the Charter Review Committee.

“That’s been outstanding. I’ve been blessed in that I’ve been able to do a couple of things other than the law in the past 10 years. I served briefly with the school board, and I’m serving now with the Carter Review Committee. It’s been so refreshing learning things that I did not know before, just trying new things,” he said.

A lot of people, Hall believes, get decades into their careers and become too comfortable.

“The great thing about the school board or the Charter Review Committee is that it’s beyond my area of expertise. When they invited me to join the committee, I said, ‘Okay, but I know you’re probably thinking, well he’s a lawyer and can probably help us out in that way.’ I don’t know anything about that area of the law. But it’s been so much fun delving into the minutia of our city charter, other city charters, and learning new stuff, so I’ve enjoyed that immensely,” he said.

While serving as his chief deputy, Hall said Flinn has handled complex cases, including serving as second chair in a recent first-degree murder trial.

“I feel very confident that he would do a good job, and I wouldn’t leave otherwise unless I felt like there was good leadership waiting in the wings. But this is one of the reasons I felt like it was the ideal time for me to step down,” Hall said. Flinn is “much younger than me, he’s waiting in the wings, and I think he’ll probably be a career prosecutor.”



Martinsville's Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Patrick Flinn plans to seek the position.

Flinn has worked in the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office since graduating from law school and passing the bar exam in 2021. In addition to having fallen in love with the area, Flinn said he is seeking the position because he feels prosecution is what he’s been called to do.

“I think that there are some things I would like to do, that I think I would be in a good position to do, with everything that’s going around in this small town. I think it’s the next step that I can do to really have an impact,” Flinn said.

Because he’s been busy in the office, Flinn hasn’t yet completed the necessary paperwork to get his name on the ballot. But he said he plans to do so soon.

If elected, one of his goals is to get the community more involved with the office.

Throughout his time in the office, one of the biggest challenges he’s seen is getting cooperation

from witnesses, even when they report a crime.

“Let’s say they do report it, they cooperate with the police, well then fast forward a few months to when the file lands on our desk and we start to go to court, and then we don’t have any witnesses, we don’t have any victims that show up,” he said.

While it’s natural for people to not be tuned into the criminal justice system — “and probably a blessing for most people to not have to worry about that” — Flinn said the community is affected by crime and it also participates in the jury and legal process.

“I really want the community to see what’s really going on. I think that a crime happens, either we’re able to get charges and move forward, or it kind of gets out of peoples’ minds and then several months down the road, now we start having court proceedings. We still need to have people engaged and ready to go,” he said.

Flinn said this has impacted several cases, including one earlier this week when a witness wasn’t ready to go to trial.

He praised Hall as a mentor and boss who helped him learn the nuances of the job.

“I’m not going in as a sledgehammer because he kind of set the stage and we’re kind of one accord of a lot of things. One of the things that he has said, and I’m absolutely stealing this phrase, is he says that our main job really isn’t to lock people up and worry about jail, it’s to maintain the integrity of the system,” Flinn said.

He believes the next step is getting the community plugged into that system.

“We can’t have cases charged until we have cooperation and we can’t get cases across the finish line with the community’s involvement. So that’s kind of my overarching goal,” Flinn said, adding that Hall will continue to be his mentor.

“He definitely said he’d stick around and help me and be a resource to me. I know he’s still going to be plugged into Martinsville, he loves this area. One of the things he’s really gotten a lot of enjoyment out of is the Charter Committee, he’s loving that so I know he’s still going to be around. On one hand it’s a big step, it’s a big opportunity for both me and him, so I’m sad to see him go, but it’s also an exciting next step so I look forward to where that goes,” he said.

Council

(cont. from page 1)



A resolution was presented to the Fayette Area Historical Initiative African American Museum and Cultural Center (FAHI) after the council recognized Juneteenth as a national holiday.

a new member added to the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Names for school board appointments will be presented at the June 24 meeting.

City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who returned from per-

sonal leave on June 10, attended the work session earlier that day but left abruptly a few minutes into the regular meeting. No reason was given for her departure.

The council also:

*Recognized Juneteenth as a na-



LaNita Herlem accepted a commemoration for Flag Day.

tional holiday, with a commemorative plaque presented to the Fayette Area Historical Initiative African American Museum and Cultural Center (FAHI).

*Proclaimed June as National Safety Month, with police and fire

department representatives in attendance.

*Recognized Flag Day, with a plaque presented to LaNita Herlem.

*Briefly discussed the city’s refuse ordinance during the work session.

School

(cont. from page 1)

99.3 percent expressed confidence in their school’s ability to handle emergencies.

About 48.4 percent agreed they feel comfortable speaking with their principal, while 30 percent strongly agreed.

“We’ve got some strong takeaways,” said Superintendent Amy Blake-Lewis, highlighting that most staff believe employees work well together to create a safe, supportive environment. Additionally, 83.3 percent said staff actively encourage students to succeed.

In terms of resources, 64 percent strongly agreed they have adequate instructional space, and 86.9 percent said they have the supplies they need to do their job.

Concerns: decision-making, discipline, and cleanliness

Despite positive feedback, the survey also revealed concerns.

One key issue was decision-making. Just 55.1 percent of staff agreed they feel involved in decisions at the school level, while 27.1 percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

“That’s something we’re going to have to look at more seriously moving forward,” Blake-Lewis said.

Cleanliness was another area of concern. Combining those who disagreed and strongly disagreed, 28.5 percent of staff said their school is not clean.

Discipline and student behavior also raised red flags. Only 61.4 percent agreed or strongly agreed that discipline rules are applied fairly to all students. Meanwhile, 28.7 percent said students do not follow the rules at all, and just 58.6 percent said rules are applied consistently across all schools in



the division.

Support for students with disabilities drew a mixed response: 61.8 percent agreed, and 16.8 percent strongly agreed their school provides appropriate resources, while 18.2 percent disagreed.

“That’s a significant enough gap to require some strategic changes,” said Blake-Lewis.

In response to the feedback, the school division is implementing several initiatives.

The Safe and Civil Schools program is underway.

The Virginia Tiered System of Supports is being expanded in elementary schools.

Additional teams will be deployed to assist schools needing more behavioral support.

A new software tool, Educator’s Handbook, will be introduced to track discipline referrals and identify

behavioral trends.

New special education lead positions will be created across the division to standardize programming.

Deans of students will be added at Bassett and Magna Vista high schools to help manage behavior and give principals more time in classrooms.

Air conditioning installation was approved for 21 special education buses.

Backup cameras will be installed on 130 school buses to improve student safety.

A partnership with Emerald Education was secured to enhance math instruction through professional development and new resources.

The gifted education plan was updated to include more teachers and revised student identification categories.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, June 24
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

Monday, June 30
City School Board Meeting 6 p.m. in the Community Learning Center of MCPS Central Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

Tuesday, July 8
Ridgeway Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor’s Office, Ridgeway.

Events

Friday, June 13
Music Night at Spencer-Penn. The Country Boys will play in the Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m.; band starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions, including Spencer Penn hot dogs, will be sold.

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.

The Patrick Henry and Joseph Martin chapters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will host a Flag Day ceremony at 11 a.m., at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Juneteenth Festival, 2-8 p.m., Baldwin Park, 500 Swanson St., Martinsville.

Sunday, June 15
Thomas M. Slaydon will present a program on the history of Martinsville’s Hydroelectric Dam and Powerhouse at the Smith River, at 3 p.m., at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Tuesday, June 17
The Southern Gentlemen will return to the Bassett Historical Center, by popular demand, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18
Piedmont Arts will honor Marty Gardner and VisitMartinsville for its support of the arts at the 23rd annual Clyde Hooker Awards. The awards ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. Please RSVP attendance by Tuesday, June 17.

Sunday, June 22
Patrick County Historical Society will host local author Beverly Belcher Woody, at 2:30 p.m. at the historical museum, 116 W. Blue Ridge St., Stuart. Woody will talk about her popular “Patrick County Pioneers: Volume I” book and her weekly newspaper columns. Free. All history lovers welcome. Call (276) 694-2840 for more.

Tuesday, June 24
Town Hall Meeting with Joe Bryant, 7 p.m., Summerlin Meeting Room Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Sunday, June 22- Friday, 27
Vacation Bible School, “Magnified,” Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown, 2 to 5 years, 6:15 to 8 p.m.; completed K-12, 6:15-8:30 p.m.; adults, 6:15.

Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27
Magnified Vacation Bible School, 6-8:30 p.m., Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 tones Dairy Road, Bassett. Complete K-6th grade.

Thursday, June 26
Chamber of Commerce June Business After Hours will be held 5:30-7 p.m. at Chatmoss Country Club, 550 Mt Olivet Road, Martinsville.

Friday, July 4
The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host “Patriots on the Square” to celebrate Independence Day, from 6-9 p.m., with historical reenactments, free music, and concessions, at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Fieldale Parade, 9 a.m. in central Fieldale.

Saturday, July 12
The 11th Annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Christmas in July Blood Drive with the American Red Cross, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Stanleytown Elementary School Gymnasium, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments have priority. Schedule an appointment by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org, Sponsor Code: Brenda, or in the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

ONGOING

Summer Camps at Spencer-Penn Centre - June 9 through July 24; morning and afternoon sessions with snack provided. After camp care available until 6 p.m. at no additional cost. Campers must register in advance. Call or email (276) 957-5757, spencerpenn04@gmail.com for the registration link.

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.

Uptown Pub Run, Mondays at 6.p.m., meets at The Ground Floor, Martinsville.

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

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

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

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

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

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday, 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

Bingocize at Spencer-Penn Centre. Play Bingo and prevent falls with simple exercises. This free class is offered Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Chair Aerobics at Spencer Penn Centre, Tuesdays at 9 a.m. with Judi Perrin; \$5 fee, 45 minutes of exercise, strength building and fun.

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.

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

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

The Martinsville -Henry County Republican Committee meets on its summer schedule. Watch online at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2041797322550450>.

Farmers’ Market at Spencer Penn Centre, Thursdays 4-6 p.m. under the pavilion.

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.



Cole Phillip Byrd was presented with a scholarship by Commander Sonny Richardson.



Adjutant Curtis Millner Sr. presented Camden Noah Camden with a scholarship.

American Legion Post awards scholarships

The American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78, Martinsville, awarded two scholarships to local high school students.

The \$500 Homer Dillard Scholarship was awarded to Bassett High School senior Cole Phillip Byrd. He plans to attend Virginia Tech as a preferred walk-on for the varsity football team. Post Commander Sonny Richardson presented the scholar-

ship. The Carl S. Johnson Jr. Scholarship, also of \$500, was awarded to senior Camden Noah Holland, of Carlisle School, Martinsville. He plans to attend the University of Virginia in the fall. Camden was on the varsity golf team for four years while at Carlisle and won the state golf championship. Awarding his scholarship is Adjutant Curtis R. Millner Sr.

DRBA to be featured with hands-on river month celebration

In celebration of National Rivers Month, Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists, the Dan River Basin Association, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History, (VMNH), will present the latest installment in the Education Station series, National Rivers Month: A Salute to the Dan River Basin Association, (DRBA)! This interactive visitor experience will be held at the museum on Saturday, June 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Displays by DRBA Volunteer Environmental Educators (VEEs) will include trout fishing, river wildlife, macro-invertebrates, a watershed model, recreational water safety, litter management, how to evaluate water quality, and volunteer opportunities.

DRBA Assistant Educator and Virginia Master Naturalist, Regina Flora said, “we are delighted to showcase the amazing programs offered by DRBA throughout our watershed basin. DRBA provides education, stewardship and recreational programs through teams of volunteers, plus continues to be a key partner in creating the area’s future Mayo River State Park.”

The VMNH is located at 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. For admission details and visitor information, go to www.vmnh.net.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Thank You for reading Henry County Enterprise

OPINION

Are Blackouts or Brownouts Coming?

Many families have prepared for the return of summer. Plans include pool parties, barbecues and vacations. Some plans will account for summer heat. Air conditioning and other tools will be increasingly used to keep homes cool.

This increased electricity demand means that our electric grid will be under greater stress.

We are already hearing of potential breaking points this summer in our electric grid.

The Friday before Memorial Day, Energy Secretary Wright issued an emergency order directing the Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) to ensure a coal-fired power plant in Michigan remained operational.

Wright issued the order to minimize the risk of blackouts ahead of the high electricity demand expected.

New Orleans is part of MISO, a regional grid operator that provides transmission service to all or part of 15 U.S. states as well as Manitoba, Canada.

Notwithstanding keeping the plant open, the New Orleans metro area suffered a large and unexpected power outage during Memorial Day weekend. At the blackout's peak, more than 100,000 customers lost electricity.

According to news website Axios, utilities were aware of the strain on the grid for at least 48 hours before the disruption.

Reports confirmed that two of the region's nuclear power plants lost connection to the grid. One was due to expected maintenance, the other was unexpected. Constrained by a lack of energy supply, grid operators cut power to customers in New Orleans.

Entergy, an electric utility company in the region, said that the forced outages directed by MISO were done to



Morgan Griffith

Representative

prevent a larger scale and more prolonged power outage from impacting the electric grid.

This blackout was not the only major power outage in recent memory.

On April 28, Portugal and Spain witnessed the worst blackout in their history, affecting 55 million people, per British newspaper The Guardian.

Airports were shut down, cars drove on streets without traffic lights, hospitals resorted to backup generators and some people were stuck in elevators!

While the Iberian Peninsula blackout continues to be investigated, it is interesting to note that on April 16, Spain reported its first weekday where its national power grid was 100% reliant on renewable power.

A coincidence? Maybe, maybe not!

Coincidentally, in a recent Virginia Tech press release, professor and Power and Energy Center director Dr. Ali Mehrizi-Sani highlighted how the systems that control these clean energy sources are more susceptible to blackouts.

As parts of the world transition to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, the lack of seamless grid adaptation to the use of these sources, as illustrated by the blackout in Spain and Portugal and by experts like Dr. Mehrizi-Sani, threatens destabilization of electric grids and more blackouts.

For years in Congress, I actively warned about the threats posed by leftist

policies that attempted to gut our grid's reliance on fossil fuels and convert to renewables.

Federal policies, like the Obama-era "War on Coal" and the Biden Administration's so-called Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), shunning reliable baseload forms of energy like coal and natural gas have made our electric grid more vulnerable to failure.

California's reliance on renewables continues to subject residents to rolling brownouts. California has since, seemingly, mitigated the issue, but accordingly has one of the highest electricity rates in the country.

In 2013, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced plans to close eight coal-fired power units, citing a flat demand for power.

They have already closed five, but have opened several natural gas power plants.

TVA customers have experienced rolling brownouts as energy demand increases.

I have already introduced a bill this year to help improve our electric grid.

H.R. 3632, the Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025, allows states and regional grid operators to delay proposed closures of baseload power plants forced on them by state or federal mandates and regulations until a reliability solution is implemented.

This bill was passed by the House Energy Subcommittee on June 5.

There are also elements of the House reconciliation bill that support our electric grid.

In the House bill, we curtail some IRA tax credits, which disincentivize coal and natural gas power plants. We kept the incentives for nuclear because of its significant potential for baseload power.

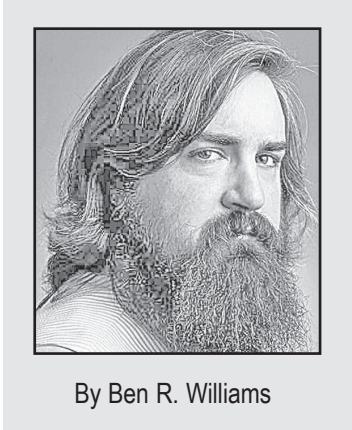
We also create an energy project insurance pool to help protect energy investors from permits being revoked for coal, oil, critical minerals, natural gas or nuclear installations.

This de-risking compensation fund will make it harder for federal policies to discourage and phase out these reliable sources of energy.

I will continue advocating for reliable energy solutions that secure America's electric power grid!

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

Regarding merit



By Ben R. Williams

I recently wrote a column about elderly people in politics. This week, let's take a trip in the opposite direction.

Late last month, a gentleman named Thomas Fugate was appointed as the head of the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

According to the DHS website, the mission of CP3 is to prevent terrorism and targeted violence through programs and partnerships that support public safety, law enforcement, and national security. They provide funding, training, and technical assistance to the American public, police officers, teachers, and countless others.

The previous head of CP3 was William Braniff, a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. An Army veteran with more than 20 years of experience, Braniff resigned from his position in March when President Donald Trump's administration cut CP3 staff by more than half.

It certainly sounds like Braniff left some big shoes to fill at a critically important federal agency! So who's this new CP3 Director Thomas Fugate?

First off, he's a graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio. In fact, the ink hasn't yet dried on his diploma; he graduated about 12 months ago. This is because he is 22 years old.

"Dang," you say, "this kid must be the Doogie Howser of counter-terrorism. What was he doing prior to becoming the head of CP3?"

According to his LinkedIn page, he owned his own landscaping business for two months and he worked at a grocery store. These are noble professions, but they aren't exactly the tip of the spear in the War on Terror.

So why was this kid selected to be the head of CP3? What unique skillset does he bring to the table?

"In a generation deprived of hope, opportunity, and happiness, I saw in one man a capacity for real and lasting change: Donald Trump," Fugate wrote on Instagram, recalling his political awakening which took place nine years ago when he was 13 years old.

Fugate interned for Republican lawmakers while he was in college pursuing his degree in politics and law, and he also had an internship through the far-right conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation. He has spent the last several years doing his level best to ingratiate himself with Donald Trump's administration, and he has succeeded beyond the point of absurdity.

I'll start with the obvious point: no 22 year old should be in charge of a branch of a government agency. I say this as a former 22 year old. Call me crazy, but I strongly feel there should be a minimum of ten years between becoming a head of government and having to ask an adult for permission to use the bathroom.

What's particularly galling, however, is that right around the same time that Fugate was hired to this position, the White House and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management released a 30-page "Merit Hiring Plan." Trump has been a big advocate of merit-based hiring during his second term, saying that you shouldn't be hired based on any of that woke DEI race or gender stuff, but on merit alone.

By the way, here's one of the actual essay questions prospective federal employees are now asked thanks to the new Merit Hiring Plan: "How would you help advance the President's Executive Orders and policy priorities in this role? Identify one or two relevant Executive Orders or policy initiatives that are significant to you, and explain how you would implement them if hired."

Between the Merit Hiring Plan, Fugate's meteoric rise, and the constant rhetoric about the perils of diversity, equity, and inclusion, it's pretty clear that the federal government's definition of "merit" has more to do with loyalty, race, and gender than actual achievement.

Put simply, they're not looking for the right stuff, they're looking for the white stuff.

~Sponsored Content~

Letters To The Editor

Post seeks donations from community

We are the American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78. We are a part of our nation's largest veterans service organization. Our vision is: "The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our veterans, the military and their families." Our mission statement is: "The American Legion strengthens our community, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families."

From our founding in 1931, we have sacrificed for this community, state and nation in all wars. Remember, "all gave some, some gave all." Now we need help from the community. In January of 2024, we lost our post home parking lot to flooding, (this is the fourth time since we have been at our present location). Since we are in a flood plain, we have been told by the VDOT that the only viable solution to our problem is to pave the parking lot. We do not have the funds. We do not receive funds from the county, state or nation and derive our funds from membership, donations and fund rais-

ers.

We need approximately \$61,000 for this project (pave the parking lot and repair the kitchen floor). To date, we have raised \$6,000 from community, businesses and individual contributions and \$4,000 from individual member contributions. We are a 501(c)19 tax-exempt organization. We are unable to obtain grants since our membership in our organization is restricted to Veterans only, (even though our service and sacrifice to the community and nation has never been restricted).

We humbly solicit your financial support to keep our organization operational (in the past ten years, three of our Veterans Post have had to close their buildings due to their needing major repairs that they could not afford).

Donations may be sent to The American Legion Capital Fund Campaign, P.O. Box 342, Martinsville, VA, 24114-0342.

For God and Country,
Curtis R. Millner Sr.,
Adjutant

Councilman Aaron Rawls filed a federal lawsuit because he was embarrassed.

When the city was coming down from the budget process, Councilman Aaron Rawls filed a federal civil rights lawsuit because he felt his civil rights had been violated. This lawsuit resulted from his removal from the city council chambers because he did not follow the proper rules of conduct. Rawls called his behavior free speech, but a closer look reveals it is just disrespectful behavior.

In his lawsuit, Rawls states, "he suffers personal humiliation and embarrassment in front of those attending the meeting, ... "including but not limited to family, friends, and constituents, and before other members of the public who have seen videos." To summarize, he got his feelings hurt. All people have felt this growing up as children.

Rawls filed his lawsuit against Martinsville Sheriff's Deputy Reva Keen and City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides. He alleged that Deputy

Keen of police misconduct and City Manager Benavides of conspiracy. He alleges their behavior was a violation of his civil rights. Instead of going through the front door and filing against the Sheriff's Department or the City of Martinsville, he decided to go through the back door and take on two city officials personally for doing their jobs.

To resolve Rawls' feelings, he would like a federal jury to decide his damages. Federal judges must contend with more pressing cases in the country and state. They are short-staffed and have the financial problems of the courts to contend with. However, Aaron Rawls wants his feelings put on the agenda to make him feel better. He will still feel vindicated when he loses because he wants the press. Satisfying your ego is less expensive, especially when you can bill it to someone else.

Lawrence Mitchell,
Martinsville

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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GIVE US YOUR VIEW:

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

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

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

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR TO AWARD BONUSES**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to §15.2-1427, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed amendment to the Henry County Code of Ordinances regarding authorizing the County Administrator, pursuant to the authority of Virginia Code Section 15.2-1508 to award bonuses to employees subject to funding approved by the Henry County Board of Supervisors. A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the County Administrator's Office in the Henry County Administration Building, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL25000536-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§1-211.1, 8.01-316, 317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Rd, 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re*
ALEJANDRO CHAVEZ ROCHA v. ALICIA DEL ROCIO
ARAUJO YONG
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII
IT IS ORDERED that the defendant ALICIA DEL ROCIO ARAUJO YONG appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before August 1, 2025.
JUNE 2, 2025

JUDGE J. DAVID A. SMITH

CLERK J. MICHELLE SMITH

LEGAL

Notice of Unsafe Structure
To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Property:
502 W Fayette Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Samuel D Lipscomb, Jr., Adonis Lipscomb, Tashema Waller, Julian Lipscomb, Olivia Lipscomb, Shavis Lipscomb, Syncere Lipscomb, and Any Unknown Heirs
1101 W Fayette Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Thomas & Sons Investments, and Any Unknown Heirs
210 Massey Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Tony L Millner, Jr., Mersdesca C Shelton-Millner, Toronia Millner, Felicia Millner, Savannah Millner, Joshua Sweets, Cyrus Sweets, and Any Unknown Heirs
411 Winston Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Harvey B & Mildred Dowell, Rebecca Moore, Cathy Richie, Barbara Lowery, David Crowder, and Any Unknown Heirs
413 Winston Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Harvey B & Mildred Dowell, Rebecca Moore, Cathy Richie, Barbara Lowery, David Crowder, and Any Unknown Heirs
The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:
502 W Fayette Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect.
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free of rodent harborage.
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
PM-304.15 - Exterior door not maintained to provide security.
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.
PM-601.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.
1101 W Fayette Street
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
PM-304.7 - Roof not sound and tight to admit water.
PM-304.13 - Windows not kept in sound condition.
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.
210 Massey Street
PM-106 - Unsafe and unfit structure, extensive damage due to neglect.
PM-402.1 - Occupied without proper utilities, lacks proper lighting
PM-403.1 - Occupied without proper utilities, lacks proper ventilation.
PM-504.2 - Occupied without proper utilities, lacks proper working plumbing fixtures.
PM-602.2 - Occupied without proper utilities, lacks proper heating facilities.
PM-703.2 - Lacks smoke detectors.
411 Winston Street
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
PM-304.7 - Roof not sound and tight to admit water.
PM-304.13 - Windows not kept in sound condition.
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.
413 Winston Street
PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.
PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.
PM-302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.
PM-302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.
PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
PM-304.7 - Roof not sound and tight to admit water.
PM-304.13 - Windows not kept in sound condition.
PM-501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.
PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.

ORDER
The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on these properties, the buildings must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.
Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property
Right of Appeal
You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

OPINION

From Stanley to Styrofoam:
The cup crisis of 2025

What ever happened to all the fuss and glory over Stanley cups?

For a year or two they were the hot thing women wanted for cool drinks, and all you ever heard about – whether from girls and women collecting them and showing them off, or from funny memes and comics making fun of that silliness. Now, however, Stanley cups don’t even register on the blip of radar as women are mourning Styrofoam cups.

Virginia has banned single-use expanded polystyrene, which most people call Styrofoam (after a brand of it), starting at the end of this month for food vendors with 20 or more locations, and at the end of June 2026 for all of them, big and small.

That law didn’t exactly sneak up on us: The General Assembly passed the single use foam containers ban in 2021.

However, as worthwhile and “it’s about time!” that this law is, somehow I missed any and all of the news leading up to the ban and its implementation. I only became aware of it when women all over MHC started blaming Chick-Fil-A for ruining their monstrously big cups of iced tea and Dr. Pepper which apparently they expected to be cold all day, and depended upon that foam cup to make happen.

It seems the criminal foam cup has knocked the once revered Stanley cup off its pedestal. Women (for some reason – to generalize - men just don’t seem to care as much) have been moaning and groaning so much over losing their foam cups that they’ve forgotten all about those silly Stanley cups they were once so crazy over.

The Stanley company long has made drinking vessels used most often by blue-collar men. In the early 2020’s the Stanley cup – a fancy, reusable water tumbler from the Stanley brand – started being coveted and purchased by women. Stanley cups keep cold drinks cold and hot drinks hot for a long time. They come in different colors and designs. A popular version of it is the 40-ounce one, called “Quencher,” with a huge handle. Another Stanley cup comes in a 64-ounce size. That’s half a gallon. Those cups cost \$45 to \$55 each, or more.

You can even get little vests and coats for your Stanley cup, which have all sorts of little pockets in them to store your stuff. It’s like you have a tight, pocketed-up purse, just with water inside, and you store your belongings on its outsides.

Other women prefer sticking rhinestones and such all over their Stanley cups in designs. Talk about a craze.

Stanley cups made the news a lot, not just



Holly
Kozelsky

for the crazy collecting. A woman’s car burnt up in a fire, but the Stanley cup in the center cup holder still had ice inside it. A video of that went viral.

Of all the things to stand up for, why choose foam cups? It’s used once, then is trash forever and ever and ever. That foam does not and cannot decompose. And they don’t even remain just “cup” trash. They break down into tiny plastic pieces that animals mistake for bits of food, or they just get into the animal’s body by being stuck to the real food the animal is eating. The foam eventually breaks down so small it becomes microplastics that end up everywhere – in our rivers, our oceans, our drinking water, our soils, our food chain and the air we breathe.

How dare we ruin the future environment for generations to come just for a short part of our day with a cold drink in our car’s cupholder?

A lot of women are angrily saying they are going to start bringing their own foam cups to Chick-Fil-A and pour their drinks into them.

OK, who cares? Throughout the history of civilization, people brought their own cups with them everywhere. This whole assumption that we’d be provided with disposable cups is only a blip on the radar of the history of time.

The first disposable cup was the Dixie cup, developed in 1907 by Lawrence Luellen of Boston. It was a paper cup made waterproof by being coated in wax. He apparently didn’t create it as a convenience but as a health improvement, to give people an alternative to sharing glasses or dippers at public supplies of drinking water (at least – those people who weren’t foresightful enough to bring their own cups).

Foam cups didn’t come into use until the 1960s, though the technology was invented earlier. That’s a long time for such trash and pollution to accumulate.

Instead of having a fit over the disappearing foam cup, ladies, just get that Stanley cup back out from your kitchen cabinet, put it back into your car’s cupholder, and pour that double-walled paper-and-plastic cup of tea or Dr. Pepper right into it.

It will all be OK in the end.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
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COLLINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
FIELDALE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PHASE 4
CONTRACT 1, 2, AND 3
BID #25-07103-3129

Sealed bids will be received at the Henry County Administration Building, Purchasing Department, Room 210, Henry County Administration Building; PO Box 7 (for postal) Collinsville, Virginia 24078-0007 or 3300 Kings Mountain Road (for UPS or FedEx) Martinsville, VA 24112 or electronically at (instructions will be in bid documents). The deadline for submitting bids is **3:00 PM on July 10, 2025**. The bids will be opened publicly and read aloud shortly thereafter at the same location.

A Bid Bond and Contract Security will be required of all bidders regardless of amount. Bidders shall be required to bind their bid for 30 days.

Bids will be received for the following:

CONTRACT 1 : Construction includes replacement of approximately 11,100 LF of existing water mains with new 8” and smaller water line, replacement and reconnection of existing service meter assemblies, service line replacements, and related improvements.

CONTRACT 2: Construction includes replacement of approximately 11,900 LF of existing water mains with new 8” and smaller water line, replacement and reconnection of existing service meter assemblies, service line replacements, and related improvements.

CONTRACT 3: Construction includes replacement of approximately 9,200 LF of existing water mains with new 6” and smaller water line, replacement and reconnection of existing service meter assemblies, service line replacements, and related improvements.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: The Lane Group, 119 North Main Street, Galax, Virginia 24333, Phone (276) 236-4588, e-mail state@thelanegroupinc.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Thursdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office or as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at:

Henry County Administration Building, Engineering & Mapping Department, Room 208 or Purchasing Department, Room 210, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia 24112
Online at: Valley Construction News, 426 Campbell Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24016
Carolinas AGC /iSqFt (subscription required)
Dodge Data & Analytics (subscription required)

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$ 120.00 for each set. A CD containing PDF files of the Bidding Documents may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to “The Lane Group.” Upon request and receipt of the document fee indicated above, Bidding Documents may be picked up at the Issuing Office. The Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents via delivery service for an additional fee. The date that the Bidding Documents are picked up/transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder’s date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office. The procedure for withdrawal of bids shall be according to provision B. 1 contained in Va. Code §2.2-4330, as amended.

If a contract is for one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) or more, or if the total value of all construction, removal, repair, or improvements undertaken by the bidder within any twelve-month period is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) or more, the bidder is required under Title 54, Chapter 11, Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, to show evidence of being licensed as a “Class A Contractor.” If a contract is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, but less than one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$ 120,000), the bidder is required to show evidence of being licensed as a “Class B Contractor.” The bidder shall place on the outside of the envelope containing the bid and shall place in the bid over his signature whichever of the following notations is appropriate:

“Licensed Class A Virginia Contractor No. _____”
“Licensed Class B Virginia Contractor No. _____”

The Henry County Public Service Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, handicap or familiar status. MBE/WBE firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or to waive any informality in the bidding procedures.

Bidders must comply with the following: the President’s Executive Order # 11246 prohibiting discrimination in employment regarding race, color, creed, sex, or national origin; the President’s Executive Orders # 12138 and 11625 regarding utilization of MBE/WBE firms; the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Davis-Bacon Act, and Section 436 of P. L. 1 13-76, American Iron and Steel. Bidders must certify that they do not or will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin.

An optional Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled to be held at **10:00 a.m.** local time on **June 24, 2025**, in the 1st Floor Board of Supervisors Room of the Henry County Administration Building located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia. Attendance is not mandatory, but all BIDDERS are encouraged to attend.

by: Mr. Dale Wagoner
PSA General Manager

Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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Joe Bryant

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June 24

7:00 pm
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Henry County Admin. Bldg.

Guest Speakers

Dale Wagoner, County Administrator

Wayne Davis, Sheriff

Lisa Hughes, VDOT Resident Engineer

George Lyle, County Attorney

Scott Grindstaff, Treasurer



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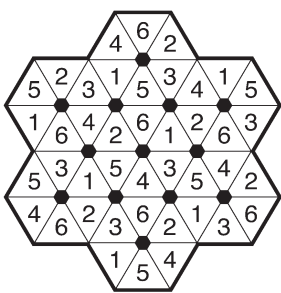
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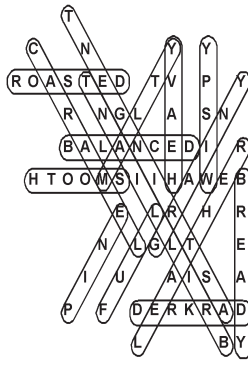
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Estate Auction

Saturday June 21, 2025–10 A.M.
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Directions: From US 220 Business in Collinsville, VA turn onto North Daniels Creek Rd., go to Lee Street on the left. Auction sign in yard at #147.

Real Estate: 3 Bedroom Home, 2 Bay Garage, Eat-in Kitchen, Laundry Room, Living Room, Central Air, Oil Heat, Partial Basement, Large Back Yard, Large Room Over Garage

Partial Listing: * 24 foot Ladder * 6 foot Ladder * 4 foot Ladder * 8 foot Pool Table / Ques / Balls * Sentry Floor Safe * Lea Bedroom Suite * Disney Collector Pins * Hepa Air Cleaner * Electronic Games * Pay Master * Wet/Dry Vac * Double Diesel Electric Set * Jewelry Chest * Massager * Wing Back Chair * Antique Record Player * Old Radio * 8 Drawer Dresser * Reclining Couch * 33 RPM Records * Paper Shredder * Type Writers * DVD/VCR Player * Computer Desk * Gibson Washer * GE Dryer * County Music CDs * Asst Kitchen Wares * Frigidaire 3 door * Tappan Range * Eureka Vac * Table Lamps * Bar Stools * 10 Standup Zipper Wardrobes of Women's Clothes * Shelf & Hanger Rack * Old Golf Clubs/Bag/Balls/Tees * Bowling Ball / Bag * Schwinn/Magna Bicycles * Yard & Garden tools * Flat Screen TVs * Hoover Carpet Sweeper * Guitar * Radio Control Train * Homelite Chain Saw * Designer Wall Phone * Child School Desk * Quartz Heater * Sleeping bags * Yamaha Key Board * Infrared Heater * Vintage Lawn Mower * and many more items.

Terms/Conditions: Everything sold "As Is". No Guarantees, No Warranties. Personal Property Sold Absolute, Highest price gets it. 10% Buyers Premium – Real Estate sold subject to Confirmation. 5% Buyers Premium. 10% Earnest Money Deposit. Inspections as requirement of sale to be done prior to Auction. Call Office for details. Selling for estate of E.T. Hudson. Announcements day of Action

Another Professional Auction Conducted by: **Evans Real Estate & Auction Company** 541 Memorial Blvd., Martinsville, VA 24112
276-632-SOLD (7653) • VAAR 433/028

D	R	A	K	E		P	A	D	M	A		N	O	L	A		C	A	S	K					
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Crossing the Lines

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

Candidate for supervisor arrested on felony charges

A candidate for the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has been arrested on multiple felony sex offense charges, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

Malcolm Roach Sr., 70, of 170 Fairystone Church Loop in Stuart, was arrested Monday, June 9, on 10 felony counts of attempting to possess bestiality materials.

Smith said his office executed a search warrant at Roach's residence on January 8. Computer devices seized during that search were analyzed by the Virginia State Police High Tech Crimes Division.

According to Smith, the analysis indicated that multiple bestiality websites were accessed between February 13–15, 2024. He also alleged the analysis showed attempts to delete content related to those websites.

Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt said the



Malcolm Roach Sr.

charges stem from indictments handed down by a grand jury seated in Patrick County on June 2.

An indictment is not a determination of guilt, but rather a finding that enough evidence exists to proceed to trial.

The indictments allege that Roach "unlawfully and knowingly attempted to produce, distribute, publish, sell, transport, finance, possess, or possess with the intent to distribute obscene material depicting a person engaged in sexual contact with an animal," Bobbitt said.

Each offense is classified as a Class 6 felony, which carries a potential sentence of up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

"These charges reflect the Commonwealth's commitment to thoroughly investigate and prosecute crimes involving obscene and exploitative content," Bobbitt said in a Monday release.

"These investigations are lengthy, technical, and can be complicated," Smith added. He said the investigation is ongoing.

Renovations underway to repair roof at Mabry Mill



The roof at Mabry Mill is being repaired.

Construction to replace and preserve the shake roof of Mabry Mill for future generations is currently underway.

The renovation, which started earlier this month, is expected to be completed in July.

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation Communications Director Rita Larkin said the organization is contributing more than \$100,000 for the project.

"Any other costs are being addressed by the National Park Service," she said.

According to a June 3 release, scaffolding will surround the mill and limit access to the building's interior during the renovation project. Park visitors will still be able to explore the adjacent turn-of-the-century structures and trails.

"This roof replacement project required extensive planning to ensure historical accuracy. This initiative is being undertaken with the assistance of the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC). The HPTC will install hand-riven white oak shakes crafted by Cumberland Mountain Craftsman based in Harrogate, Tenn. This vendor was carefully selected for its attention to detail and ability to create the 6,000 authentic shakes required," the release stated.

Swink plans to put financial expertise to work as Smith River Supervisor

Rick Swink hopes to put his financial expertise to work for Patrick County if he is successful in his November bid for the Smith River District seat on the Board of Supervisors.

A financial advisor with Edward Jones, Swink said his professional background in personal finance and budgeting gives him a solid foundation to help the county navigate fiscal challenges.

"While personal finance and public finance are slightly different, the basics are the same," said Swink, 40, who currently works remotely for the firm's home office.

He will face Malcolm Roach in the race. Incumbent Doug Perry is not seeking reelection.

Swink said he decided to run after hearing from several community members and spending time in prayer.

"Apparently, being new to the area is a good thing. I moved here back in September, and one of the hesitations I had about this is because I was new to the area that I thought I might not



Rick Swink is seeking the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the November election.

be well-received, but apparently new to the area is a pro in a lot of people's books," he said.

Swink relocated here from the New River Valley. Since considering a run for office, he said he has binge-watched Board of Supervisors meetings to get up to speed.

"It seems to me there's kind of a need for transparency and responsibility—both fiscal and to the citizens of the county and the district—and freedom to live the way people want to live out in this part of the state," he said.

Swink noted that many residents value the absence of zoning laws and want to maintain the ability to do what they wish with their property.

"And balancing that with people's desires to not have certain things nearby them is a little bit of a decision to make, but there is a responsibility to the citizens of the district to vote in their best interest," he said.

Shelton & Williams to headline final PCMA show before summer break



Shelton & Williams will headline the Patrick County Music Association's (PCMA's) Saturday, June 28 show.

Shelton & Williams will headline the Patrick County Music Association's (PCMA) final show before its summer break on Saturday, June 28.

The event will be held at the Rotary Building in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., with music beginning at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said Shelton & Williams, a trio, will perform a mix of country and bluegrass music.

"They do a variety of music," he said.

Jordan Morrison & The Foot-hill Boys, a PCMA show regular, will also perform.

PCMA's monthly music shows will resume in October at the Patrick County High School (PCHS) auditorium.


While last month's show drew a good crowd, Alley said its attendance was affected by conflicting events, including graduation at the Patrick County High School.

"We didn't do the greatest, but we didn't do the worst," he said.


Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds supporting firearm safety education for local youth.

For more information or to view past performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.


To read more about these and other stories, check out The Enterprise, www.theenterprise.net.




1-3-5-7-9




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1-3-5-7-9



1-4-7

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PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

XLU
♥TRODUE
OPLIS
PCAL
AXTIRM
♥EAP
LODL
CRYME
♥PSA
DOXACE
UMPEL
♥TIEM

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest are missing from tree. neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is lower. 6. Leaves

MAGIC MAZE

BEER FLAVOR DESCRIPTORS

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

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

Astringent	Caramel	Heavy	Roasted
Balanced	Dark red	Leather	Smooth
Bready	Full	Malty	Wispy
Brilliant	Grainy	Pine	

Super Crossword

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP

ACROSS 1 "Toosie Slide" rapper 6 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi 11 Mardi Gras city, for short 15 Wine vessel 19 French city 20 Web vending 21 With, in Paris 22 Margarine 23 1996 2Pac album with the hit "California Love" 25 Flo — ("Low" rapper) 26 Saintry ring 27 Mayhem 28 1986 Beastie Boys album with the hit "Fight for Your Right" 31 Equine beast 34 "Paper Planes" rapper 35 Unit of corn 36 1988 N.W.A. album with the hit "Express Yourself" 47 "— my case" 48 Ed of "Radio" 49 Gaffer's drive 51 Gotten along adequately 53 50 — ("In da Club" rapper)	DOWN 54 Reagan-era mil. project 56 Boxing great 57 "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" rapper 58 Solar beams 60 1992 Dr. Dre album with the hit "Nuthin' but a 'G' Thang" 64 Strengthens 67 How some food is fried 69 Des Moines natives 70 2020 Juice Wrld album with the hit "Come & Go" 74 Novelist Elizabeth George — 77 Battle-ready 78 — Typhoon Lagoon (water park) 82 2010 Nicki Minaj album with the hit "Super Bass" 84 Strong — ox 86 Six plus four 87 Half of dos 88 Statute 89 R&B singer Erykah 91 1980s jeans brand 94 Fee for the use of a pier 98 Wastewater 100 Kin of keno	ACROSS 101 2000 Eminem album with the hit "Stan" 105 Court divider 106 Charged bit 107 Actor Liotta 108 1993 Salt-N-Pepa album with the hit "Shoop" 115 Child poet 121 Napoleon 122 "Gold Digger" rapper Kanye 123 1986 Run-D.M.C. album with the hit "Walk This Way" 126 Bridle strap 127 — part (portray someone) 128 Meat jelly 129 Artist's stand 130 Russian news agency 131 Pro votes 132 Moist, as a turkey 133 "Work It" rapper Elliott	DOWN 1 Colorless 2 Part in a play 3 — lang syne 4 Ship's spine 5 Irish New Age singer 6 Candy from a dispenser 7 From — Z 8 Pioneer Boone, briefly 9 Actress Rogers of "Bosch" 10 Actor Baldwin 11 Magical land of C.S. Lewis 12 Egg capsule 13 Bury the — (omit the key part of a story) 14 College life 15 Companions 16 Jai — 17 Peddle 18 DJ — Herc (founder of hip-hop in 1973) 24 Online 'zine 29 CPR pros 30 Masking — 32 "Quiet!" 33 Actor Keach 36 Back of a 45 37 Treasure pile 38 Hollywood's Zellweger 39 Enzyme suffix 40 Skater Midori 41 Mine metals 42 Tea vessel 43 — for tat 44 Suffix with narc- or neur- 45 Extended family, to Hawaiians 46 Actress Gena Lee — 50 Twitches 52 "Troy" actress Diane 54 Hood's knife 55 Nixing mark 59 Big primate 60 Two- — sloth 61 Taking cover 62 French for "kings" 63 Actor Wilson 65 Strong criticism 66 Feudal toiler 67 "Your wish — command!" 68 LA-to-MI dir. 71 Zilch, in Peru 72 Do a sketch 73 Nutrition std. 74 Tater 75 — noir (wine) 76 Cain's eldest 79 Les — -Unis 80 Streisand film of 1983 81 — Dogg ("Drop It Like It's Hot" rapper) 83 Robert of "The Sopranos" 84 Singer Levine 85 — Hill Records ("Rapper's Delight" label of 1979) 89 "The Fresh Prince of — Air" 90 Poking tool	ACROSS 92 Suffix with project 93 Ontario's capital, on scoreboards 95 Nairobi natives 96 "Preach it!" 97 Portal 98 Without, in Paris 99 Greek vowel 102 Noon nap 103 Lilylike garden plants 104 Church song 108 Lil Uzi — ("Futsal Shuffle" rapper) 109 Zeno of — (philosopher) 110 Hitting stats 111 R&B singer of 1983 112 Omani, e.g. 113 Tabula — 114 Sharp barks 116 "What —!" ("How precious!") 117 Spicy cuisine 118 Actress Harper 119 Bits of land in la mer 120 TV's — May Clampett 124 Create a lap 125 — "T" ("O.G. Original Gangster" rapper)
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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• The longest road in the United Arab Emirates is the Sheikh Zayed Road. It stretches more than 300 miles, from Abu Dhabi through Dubai, and is home to Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

• Americans spend more than a year of their lives flipping channels.

• Jazz musician Louis Armstrong wore a Star of David necklace even though he wasn't Jewish. Armstrong grew up in severe poverty but found a loving second home with the Jewish Karnofsky family, who employed him in the family business. In their honor, he decided to wear a Star of David for the rest of his life.

• From 1869 until her death in 1906, Susan B. Anthony petitioned Congress annually for a women's suffrage amendment.

• Students, take note: Studies have found that comfortable clothing can have a strong effect on academic performance, with a correlation between formal/uncomfortable clothing worn during exams and lower than expected grades.

• The wood frog can hold its urine for up to eight months.

• Piet Mondrian's abstract masterpiece "New York City I" hung upside down in a museum for 77 years before experts finally noticed the error. However, they opted to keep it in that position for fear of damaging the piece.

• The TV series "30 Rock" was known for its fast-paced writing. In 2014, one reporter calculated that there was an average of 7.44 jokes per minute.

• In 1998, a Georgia student was suspended for wearing a Pepsi shirt to "Coke in Education Day."

• Tobacco use kills more people than the total number killed by AIDS, alcohol, motor vehicles, homicide, illegal drugs and suicide combined.

Thought for the Day: "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." — William Arthur Ward

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Weekly SUDOKU

6	1	3			9	5	2	7
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				8			1	5

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

HIT SOME BALLS WITH YOUR FEET TOGETHER — REALLY TOUCHING AT BOTH TOES AND HEELS — IF YOU'RE HAVING BALANCE OR TEMPO PROBLEMS.

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TRY TO MAKE A SMOOTH, EASY SWING, WORKING YOUR ANKLES AND KNEES ALONG WITH YOUR ARMS.

YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY HOW MANY SWING PROBLEMS VANISH DURING AN HOUR OR SO OF THIS TYPE OF PRACTICE.

JM

SCRAMBLERS

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

Dismay			
RADED			
Flurry			
TUGS			
Drop			
PLUMS			
Restrict			
SCORNE			

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Dr. Greg Hodges meets with community business leaders to discuss curricular needs as P&HCC plans for the coming academic year.

Rural Pathways Project enters new phase with continued P&HCC participation

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) is participating in Phase 2 of the Rural Guided Pathways Project, continuing the work it began in Phase 1. Colleges that are part of Rural Pathways work with each other — and with community partners in their regions — to implement evidence-based, institution-wide reforms grounded in the guided pathways framework. The project’s rural focus and in-depth participation of community partners set it apart from other guided pathways efforts.

“Rural Guided Pathways has assisted our team in taking the next big step as we work to support our students,” said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges, adding, “We have embraced the Caring Campus model, putting language to some things we already do and working together as employee groups to add to those methods of student support to ensure that our students truly feel like PHamily on our campus.”

Phase 2 of Rural Pathways builds on the incredible progress colleges made during Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 included 16 colleges and ran from 2022 through 2024. Phase 2 includes 28 colleges, many of which are continuing the work they started in Phase 1, and will run from 2025 through 2027.

Participating colleges commit to:

- *Designing and implementing a better student experience at their colleges.

- *Ensuring that more students earn credentials and move on to living-wage jobs or transfer to a four-year institution with junior status.

- *Collaborating with key stakeholders to increase economic opportunity in their region and be partners in the implementation of a cross-sector approach to guided pathways.

Implementing evidence-based reforms that will address inequity and lead to improved educational and workforce outcomes.

Rural Pathways provides a deliberate venue for rural college practitioners to collaborate while they work to improve student outcomes. Historically, rural community col-

lege leaders have not had many opportunities to problem-solve around the student success and completion issues that are particular to their culture, context, and capacity. They often struggle to apply strategies — even those that work well at urban and suburban institutions — in their rural context.

Rural Pathways gives rural colleges opportunities to work through challenging issues and collaborate with peer institutions, all in the context of a learning community that provides a broad range of supports.

The role of community partners also sets Rural Pathways apart. Throughout the three-year project, regional partners are an integral part of each college’s team and deeply embedded in pathways implementation. The value of involving external stakeholders in pathways work — and giving them specific roles and responsibilities — is amplified in rural settings, where students’ education, residents’ economic mobility, and the regional economy are so closely intertwined.

“We are excited to have Patrick & Henry Community College continue its participation in Rural Pathways,” says Gretchen Schmidt, senior fellow, National Center for Inquiry & Improvement (NCII). “Rural institutions have not had many opportunities to problem-solve around the student success and completion issues that are particular to their culture, context, and capacity. By being part of Rural Pathways, Patrick & Henry is demonstrating its commitment to making lasting changes that will improve student outcomes.”

NCII provides the project leadership for Rural Pathways. A team of implementation coaches, leadership coaches, and subject matter experts join NCII in working with participating colleges and developing the project’s curriculum. NCII also builds on longstanding partnerships with the Community College Research Center and the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program to support participating colleges.

For more information about Rural Pathways, visit ruralguidedpathways.org.

Opioid funding to support local services

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) has approved more than \$32.6 million in new grant funding for communities across the state, aimed at combating the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives.

Among the June 5 awards is \$3.4 million dedicated to seven Virginia communities where opioid overdose deaths among Black residents have more than doubled from 2019 to 2023.

“While the overall rate of overdose deaths in Virginia is declining, not all communities have experienced the same reduction,” said Sen. Todd Pillion, chairman of the OAA Board of Directors. “We are seeing alarming increases in the rates of fentanyl-related overdose deaths among Black Virginians. These additional funds are designed to empower communities to implement targeted interventions in disproportionately affected areas.”

To date, the OAA has funded more than 130 projects across Virginia. Dr. Sarah Thomason, vice chair of the OAA Board of Directors, underscored the value of using settlement funds to expand evidence-based care.

“As a clinician, I see firsthand the

transformative impact that comprehensive care can have on individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder,” she said. “These funds allow us to support strategies that promote healing and long-term recovery in the communities that need it most.”

Locally, several programs in the Martinsville-Henry-Franklin-Patrick region received funding:

- \$56,651 to Henry County for a Kinship Navigator position at Henry-Martinsville Social Services
- \$28,326 to the City of Martinsville for the same program
- \$1,197,347 to Henry, Patrick and Franklin counties and the City of Martinsville for the Piedmont Community Services Lighthouse Program
- \$364,062 to Henry and Franklin counties and Martinsville for overdose spike response and harm reduction access

The OAA was created by the General Assembly in 2021 to manage 55% of Virginia’s total opioid settlement funds. The rest is split between localities (30%) and the state (15%). Funds are legally restricted to opioid abatement and remediation uses, as outlined by court orders and state law.

Barnes selected Deputy of the Month



Henry County Sheriff’s Investigator Scott Barnes was recognized as Deputy of the Month. He has served 21 years with the sheriff’s office in roles that include a patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant and patrol deputy. Barnes, a Navy veteran, is currently a background investigator. He received passes from Livy’s Ice Cream, Chopstix Martinsville, Food Lion in Stanleytown, Hollywood Cinemas, and McDonalds in Martinsville. Barnes (center) is flanked by Henry County Sheriff’s Capt. Sandy Hines (left) and Michael Jarrett of Jarrett Marketing.

Student Briefs

Several local students were named to Dean’s lists for the Spring 2025 semester.

James Madison University:
Lara Hall of Martinsville, who is majoring in Biology - BS.
Ian Betton of Martinsville, who is majoring in Engineering - BS.
Sydney Witcher of Martinsville, who is majoring in Engineering - BS.
Kiara Brown of Bassett, who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Wells named to Ohio University’s Spring 2025 Dean’s List
Ohio University Chaddock + Morrow College of Fine Arts student Khela Wells, of Ridgeway, has been named to OHIO’s Spring 2025 Dean’s List.

The Dean’s List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2025, approximately 6,700 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for the Dean’s List.

Radford University:
Bellah Burch of Bassett, VA
Mackenzie Carter of Ridgeway, VA
Hunter Denton of Collinsville, VA
Jennifer Denton of Collinsville, VA
Taylor Holland of Ridgeway, VA
Dakota Carter of Axton, VA
Macy Deal of Martinsville, VA
Mykaela Dillard of Ridgeway, VA
Teirra Hairston of Collinsville, VA
Madison Harbour of Martinsville, VA
Savannah Haynes of Bassett, VA
Cara Helbert of Bassett, VA
Jasmine Hiatt of Fieldale, VA
Whitley Manns of Spencer, VA
Kaylee Rea of Martinsville, VA
Ataliah Rodriguez of Martinsville, VA
Pierson Turner of Axton, VA
McKenzie Vaught of Ridgeway, VA
Sienna Bailey of Collinsville, VA
Emma Hankins of Ridgeway, VA
Onaisha Jamison of Martinsville, VA
Isaiah Johnson of Martinsville, VA
Olivia Kendall of Axton, VA
Bhavna Sheth of Collinsville, VA
Shania Adams of Martinsville, VA
Morgan Cassell of Bassett, VA

Anthony Hairston of Martinsville, VA
Jessica Handy of Meadows Dan, VA
Jaqueline Hernandez Leal of Bassett, VA
Sydney Howell-Wampler of Collinsville, VA
Maria-Caleen Jennings of Collinsville, VA
Braylon Kidd of Martinsville, VA
LynAsshia King of Ridgeway, VA
Kendall Mayes of Bassett, VA
John Ratliff of Martinsville, VA
Olivia Ross of Martinsville, VA
Savannah Shelton of Bassett, VA
Jalyn Waller of Martinsville, VA
Connor Webber of Collinsville, VA
Cesar Argueta of Martinsville, VA
Lakyn Cochran of Axton, VA
Logan Lewis of Martinsville, VA
Cortay Price of Bassett, VA
Kevin Rodriguez Rosas of Martinsville, VA
Andrew Tang of Ridgeway, VA
Ainsley Jones of Bassett, VA
Alan Rodriguez Rosas of Martinsville, VA
Natalie Dominguez-Loredo of Martinsville, VA
Alexandria Holland of Martinsville, VA
Zy’Adria Martin of Martinsville, VA
Bethany Mills of Bassett, VA
Kylie Minter of Ridgeway, VA
Megan Parnell of Bassett, VA
Brianna Potter of Bassett, VA
Nicole Ramey of Martinsville, VA
Perla Vasconcelos Martinez of Martinsville, VA

James Madison University also announced students to graduate during the May 2025 commencement exercises:
Dylan Shelton of Axton, who graduated with a degree(s) in Intelligence Analysis - BS.
Suzanne Turner of Bassett, who graduated with a degree(s) in Education - MEd.
James Franklin of Collinsville, who graduated with a degree(s) in Sport and Rec Leadership - MS.
Caillie Smith of Martinsville, who graduated with a degree(s) in Speech Language Pathology - MS.
Dylan Royal of Martinsville, who graduated with a degree(s) in Music - BM.
Emily Kelly of Martinsville, who graduated with a degree(s) in Psychology - BS.

Rainey

(cont. from page 1)

tin Pritchett and his brother, Phillip, happen upon a crumbling, century-old house beside a body of water called Black Tooth Pond. A strange compulsion leads both men back to the house time and time again, but neither can remember any of the events that occur there.

As both Sheriff Parrott and the Pritchett brothers attempt to solve their respective mysteries, their paths begin to converge—paths that lead inexorably to the ancient, foreboding house at Black Tooth Pond.”

The book began as a short story before expanding into a full-length novel. Rainey is currently collaborating with author Elizabeth Massey on a new science fiction/horror project. The story

follows a group of people who awaken from a cryogenic experiment with no memory of who they are or what happened to them. As they adjust to life 30 years after being frozen, they begin to experience fragmented, haunting visions of a shared event from before their stasis. The memories are fractured and haunting, and as the group begins to piece them together and realize they aren’t done with the past.

“I love people who find my work and enjoy my work,” Rainey said. “That’s the people who actually support me as a writer. Even if it’s, you know, buying a book on Amazon, leaving a review—anything that gives me a way to know that, yeah, I’m not doing this totally in a vacuum.”

PSA

(cont. from page 1)

tract requiring both parties to share in the cost of future capital improvements to shared facilities. The court found that:
“The City has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the PSA has breached the contract.”
In his findings, Greer wrote that the PSA failed to prove that the contract had been altered through the parties past conduct or “course of dealing,” and that even though Martinsville did not provide the PSA with construction plans for the sewer upgrades, the PSA continued to use the facilities and is still obligated to pay its share.
“Reduced to its simplest terms, the contract obligated the PSA to share the cost of renovating the interceptors, and the PSA reneged,” the ruling states. “The Defendant’s failure to uphold its side of the bargain has cost the City millions of dollars, a terrible strain on a municipality that is struggling financially. For fifty years, the City faithfully has performed its duty under the contract by conveying the Defendant’s sewage through the SRI and JCI. The PSA has no legal right now to refuse to perform its duty.”
The ruling followed a three-day bench trial in January, during which both sides presented expert testimony. The court praised the parties’ post-trial briefs as “excellent.”
The PSA has not yet announced whether it will appeal the decision.
Public Information Officer Brandon Martin said, “We’ve just received news on the outcome of the litigation between the PSA and the City of Martinsville. At this point, there are a number of outstanding issues that we will need to discuss with our attorneys and Board members before deciding a path forward.”
Despite the outcome, Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner, who also is General Manager of the PSA, said the agency had made “good-faith efforts to reach a settlement at every stage of this case, believing that a fair compromise would help preserve the working relationship we truly value with the city.”
“While our proposals may not have met the city’s expectations on this particular issue, we believed then—and still believe now—that the long-term benefits of collaboration far outweigh any one dispute,” he said.
Wagoner emphasized the PSA’s commitment to the community: “From the outset, our actions have been guided by a long-term view of what’s best for the community. That perspective remains unchanged as we take the next steps — steps that will be impactful on local governments, business and industry, and the citizens we all serve.”
He also hopes that the case will have a broader positive effect.
“The impact of this case extends beyond the courtroom, and we hope this outcome can serve as a catalyst for stronger cooperation among local governments and public agencies in our region.”

Memorial Day service honors fallen with Phillips as keynote speaker



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis were among those to honor the fallen. (Courtesy David Kipfinger)

By Jessica Dillon

A Memorial Day service was held May 26 at Roselawn Cemetery in Martinsville. The event featured the presentation of colors by the Magna Vista High School JROTC, with Del. Eric Phillips serving as keynote speaker.

Several local officials, including Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis, attended to show their support.

During the somber ceremony, the traditional laying of the wreath took place, families of fallen soldiers were honored, and gunfire accompanied the playing of taps. Over the Memorial Day weekend, All Vets also completed their 22-mile ruck march to honor the fallen, concluding at Jack Dalton Park.

These tributes were part of a broader effort to support veterans, remember the fallen, and recognize their families.

“Memorial Day isn’t about backyard cookouts,” Phillips, R-Martinsville, said. He urged those in attendance to remember the fallen. “It’s a day to honor the sacrifice of men and women who gave their lives for our freedom.” Phillips emphasized that those who died in service were not just soldiers—they were family members, neighbors, and students. “Some had dreams just starting to take shape.”

He also shared a personal story about his grandfather, a World War II veteran who fought at the Battle of Anzio. Phillips said his grandfather joined the Army at 17 by altering paperwork and later carried his best friend, E.J., off the battlefield after he was wounded. E.J. died before they reached help. At his grandfather’s request, Phillips was named Eric Jason, in honor of the fallen friend.

“Even though I never met E.J., I carry his name and the memory of his sacrifice,” he said.

Phillips acknowledged the veterans in attendance and said they carry the responsibility of keeping these stories alive. He also recognized the families who have lost loved ones, saying their sacrifice is remembered by both the nation and the community.

He encouraged those present to go beyond remembrance and take responsibility for the freedoms earned through service. “It’s not enough to say, ‘thank you,’” Phillips said. “We have to live lives that honor their sacrifice.”

He urged citizens to serve their communities, support veterans, and ensure the legacy of those who died in uniform continues. “Let our actions be the legacy they left behind,” he said. “We are here because they gave everything.”

Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net and be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING


The Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, for the purpose of receiving the names of citizens interested in being considered for appointment to the Martinsville City School Board.

The upcoming appointment is for one (1) seat on the School Board, with a term of three (3) years, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.


This item is scheduled to be placed on the June 10, 2025, City Council agenda to set the public hearing date.

Citizens who are interested in being considered for this appointment are encouraged to attend the public hearing or submit their names in writing to the Office of the City Clerk prior to the hearing date.

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 276 403-5196.



Henry County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION
Tuesday, June 17, 2025



THIS IS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION
FOR:
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CANCELLED

SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE

AN APPROPRIATE ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS

Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before voting!
vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday May 27, 2025: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election.

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Henry County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE (EARLY) VOTING

Henry County Registrar’s Office
located at the Henry County Administration Building
3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, Virginia 24112
Monday – Friday May 2-June 13, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, June 7 & 14, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 14, 2025: Last day to vote an In-Person (early) Absentee Ballot at the Henry County Registrar’s Office

MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING

Request an Absentee ballot application: vote@henrycountyva.gov
Absentee ballots ARE counted

Friday, June 6, 2025: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail.
Applications must be received in the Registrar’s Office by 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025: Election Day ALL DROPPED OFF Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar’s Office by 7 p.m. (Virginia/Eastern Standard Time) to be counted.

Friday June 20, 2025: ALL Absentee voted ballots that are returned via mail must be post marked on or before election day and received in the Registrar’s Office by NOON (Virginia time) to be counted.

BALLOT DROP OFF STATIONS

Monday – Friday, May 2-June 13, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, June 14, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Henry County Registrar & Elections Office
Henry County Administration Building
3300 Kings Mountain Road #103 Martinsville, Virginia 24112
On Election Day Only: All polling places and the Henry County Registrar’s Office

Dawn Stultz-Vaughn, Director of Elections & General Registrar
3300 KINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD #103 MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24112
TELEPHONE: 276-634-4698 FAX: 276-632-8278

Email: vote@henrycountyva.gov
www.henrycountyva.gov/178/Elections-Registrar

Bike Barn expands hours for summer riders

The Martinsville-Henry County YMCA will extend summer hours for its Bike Barn program—with support from Brightspeed, the nation’s third-largest fiber broadband builder connecting Henry County families and businesses with super-fast internet service.

The Bike Barn, located along the Dick & Willie Trail, offers free bike rentals to the community. Whether someone is looking to enjoy a scenic ride, get in a quick workout, or explore the outdoors with their family, the Bike Barn makes biking accessible to everyone—no fees, no fuss. Since opening, it has become a go-to spot for residents of all ages, providing an easy, healthy, and fun way to move more and connect with nature.

Now, with Brightspeed’s gener-



ous support, the YMCA can keep the Bike Barn open longer throughout the week, reaching even more people in the community.

“Brightspeed is committed to expanding access—whether it’s

to high-speed internet or healthy, enriching experiences like those offered at the YMCA Bike Barn,” said Sabrina Anderson, Brightspeed local marketing manager. “By supporting extended summer hours, we’re helping create more opportunities for connection, exploration and community—on the trail and online. It’s all part of our mission to build brighter futures in the places that need it most.

New Bike Barn Summer Hours:
Monday/Tuesday/Thursday: 3 – 7 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

Extended hours are provided by Brightspeed, additional hours available upon request.

P&HCC’s Year in Review



By Dr. Greg Hodges
President, Patrick & Henry Community College

As president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), I am delighted to provide our community with a year-end report highlighting another successful academic year (2024/2025) for our institution.

We are thrilled that our enrollment growth continued with another increase in the total number of students served from the previous year. It is important to note that this is the first time in 20 years that P&HCC has experienced three years of total enrollment growth. This includes a 32% increase (as of May 19, 2025) in

Workforce enrollment over the previous academic year, which builds upon similar year-over-year increases from the previous two years.

The college also had a strong year of instituting new programs and initiatives. Thanks to the generosity of the Ratcliffe Foundation which provided a grant for \$176,267, P&HCC was able to launch a new heavy equipment operator program at the P&HCC Baliles & Reynolds Learning Center in Patrick County. Additionally, a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission allowed the college to partner with The Franklin Center in Franklin County to launch a nurse aid program and provide certifications in phlebotomy and certified medical assistance.

To further demonstrate our college’s commitment to regional economic development, P&HCC signed an MOU with the Henry County Adult Detention Center to become the training provider for the region’s justice-impacted population. Additionally, P&HCC successfully relaunched its Middle College program in conjunction with the regional adult education program to ensure that students have a pathway to both a G.E.D. and post-secondary education.

Patrick & Henry also expanded transfer partnerships and programs with our university partners and brought to scale new academic and workforce credentials to meet the workforce needs of our community. For example, the college is part of a consortium known as the SOVA Innovation Hub, which received \$600,000 from Go Virginia Region 3 to fund the Rise Collaborative which will fortify Southern Virginia’s standing as a central hub for fostering small business growth, innovation, and economic development.

The college also signed two articulation agreements (the Bachelor of Social Work and the Bachelor of Business Administration with Sports Management Emphasis) with Ferrum College. Additionally, P&HCC was one of eight colleges to sign the Tartan Transfer Agreement to accelerate transfer opportunities to those students who wish to transfer to Radford University

As part of our commitment to expanding career and technical education for our community, I was delighted to sign a three-way agreement with Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College to expand building trades training programs across the southern Virginia region. As part of this initiative, the college was awarded \$2.6 million dollars from the Region 3 Workforce Pipeline to expand the P&HCC Building Trades Academy. The success of the college has been noticed across the community, Commonwealth of Virginia, and country. For example, P&HCC was awarded \$127,527 from the Tobacco Commission for an Electrical Training Mobile Lab to serve Henry County Adult Detention Center and The Franklin Center. Additionally, the institution won the prestigious national Advising Success Network award from the Student Choice Awards for Holistic Advising Excellence in Advising Services and was selected to be one of 28 community colleges across the country to participate in Phase

Two of the Rural Pathways Initiative with the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement (NCII). P&HCC was also awarded \$150,000 from the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV) and VTOP (Virginia Talent Opportunity Partnership) to expand Work-Based Learning opportunities and was also awarded \$15,000 from SCHEV to facilitate middle school visits to our campus.

We are also extremely proud of the accomplishments of our student-athletes. P&HCC placed students in nationals for several sports including golf, track and field, and wrestling. Additionally, the 2024 NJCAA Division III women’s softball world series champions followed their impressive run with a runner-up title for the 2025 world series.

As always, the highlight of the year is celebrating the accomplishments of our students at our annual academic graduation ceremony. For many, they are not simply graduating; they are walking into a world of financial stability for themselves and their families. To that end, we are thrilled to share that for academic year 24/25, 515 academic students (a 13% increase over the previous year) earned 714 academic credentials (a 13% increase over the previous year) with 234 of these students (a 17.5% increase over the previous year) participating in our May 17 commencement ceremony.

For 63 years, P&HCC has been this community’s college. Now, more than ever, we are singularly dedicated to our mission of economic mobility for our students and their families. We accomplish this goal by providing our students with the high-quality education and training they need to be successful employees and employers. The economic renaissance in our region is very real, and P&HCC is a critical part of this resurgence.

It continues to be the honor of my life to serve as the president of Patrick & Henry Community College.



2025 BEST OF AWARDS
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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
WINNER
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Happy Father's Day in Heaven

ERNEST CLAUDE JARRETT



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Michael, Amy, Heather & Amanda*

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Grand opening held at new Sheetz location



Joe Bryant, vice chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and of the Collinsville District, was among the speakers when the new Sheetz location opened at 1020 Virginia Avenue, Martinsville, on June 10.



Supervisors Debra Buchanan (right), of the Horsepasture District, and Garrett Dillard (center), of the Iriswood District, also attended the grand opening.



Sheetz donated \$2,500 to both Feeding Southwest Virginia and the Special Olympics of Virginia.



The grand opening was celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, June 10.

Sheetz, a major Mid-Atlantic restaurant and convenience chain, officially opened its first-ever Martinsville store at 1020 Virginia Avenue, Martinsville, marking the chain’s second location in Henry County.

To celebrate, Sheetz hosted a grand opening celebration, with multiple prizes awarded, including a grand prize giveaway of free Sheetz for a Year.

Led by a mission to take care of people, Sheetz is deeply committed to the communities it serves. In honor of this grand opening, Sheetz donated \$2,500 to Feeding Southwest Virginia, an organization that provides food for neighbors across 26 counties and nine cities in the Southwest Virginia region. Customers attending the grand opening

are encouraged to donate a non-perishable food item to the nonprofit. Those who donate will receive a Sheetz branded thermal bag, limit one per customer while supplies last from 9-11 a.m.

Sheetz also donated \$2,500 to the Special Olympics of Virginia. A proud supporter of the Special Olympics for over 30 years, Sheetz also extends its support to the organization through product donations and event volunteers.

Ranking second in the latest Best Workplaces in Retail list by Fortune, this location will employ approximately 30 individuals. Earlier this year, Sheetz was also named to Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For®, marking the 10th straight year Sheetz has been named to this prestigious

workplace list. Sheetz was the only convenience chain included on this year’s list.

Named a Best Regional Fast Food Chain by USA TODAY’s 10 Best Readers’ Choice travel awards, Sheetz offers its award-winning Made-to-Order (MTO®) menu at this location where customers can order any of Sheetz’s customized specialty drinks or food items around the clock, including breakfast all day, subs, sandwiches, pizza, chicken, salads, cold brew, milkshakes, smoothies and more.

Sheetz operates 770+ store locations across Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland, with all locations open 24/7, 365 days a year.

Sports



Kayla Bartley



Greenly Elliott

Three Lady Pats named NFCA NJCAA DIII First Team All-American

Patrick & Henry Community College softball standouts Kayla Bartley, Laila Rodriguez, and Greenly Elliott have been named to the NFCA NJCAA Division III First Team All-American Team. This national recognition is one of the highest accolades in junior college softball and is a reflection of the trio’s standout performances throughout the 2025 season.

Kayla Bartley, one of the nation’s leading pitchers, was a dominant presence in the circle this season. Her power, unmatched competitiveness, and ability to rise in big moments made her a cornerstone of the Lady Pats’ postseason run.

Laila Rodriguez, a returning member of the 2024 national championship team, brought leadership and relentless energy to the field each game. Known for her versatility and speed, Rodriguez was a game-changer both offensively and defensively.

Greenly Elliott, also a 2024 national cham-

pion, set the tone for the Lady Pats as leadoff hitter and center fielder. Her ability to ignite the offense and cover ground in the outfield was instrumental in the team’s success.

Together, these All-Americans helped lead P&H to a national runner-up finish in 2025, continuing the program’s run as one of the elite in NJCAA Division III softball.

Head Coach Roger Campbell praised the student athletes for their remarkable achievements, saying,

“Kayla, Laila, and Greenly are the heart of our team. They’ve set the standard for what it means to be a Lady Pat—tough, selfless, and committed to excellence. What they’ve accomplished is nothing short of extraordinary, and they’ve helped put P&H softball on the national map. I couldn’t be prouder.”

The NFCA NJCAA Division III All-American Team is selected by a committee of coaches from across the country and honors the top players in the nation at the two-year level.

Four Lady Pats earn NJCAA Division III First Team All-America Honors



Laila Rodriguez



Greenly Elliott



Kayla Bartley



Rachael Gooch

Four standout student-athletes from P&HCC’s Lady Pats softball team have been named to the 2024-25 NJCAA Division III Softball All-America First Team. This recognition comes on the heels of a historic season that saw the Lady Pats finish as national runners-up at the 2025 NJCAA DIII Softball World Series.

The four Lady Pats earning First Team All-America honors are Laila Rodriguez (shortstop), Greenly Elliott (outfielder), Kayla Bartley (pitcher), and Rachael Gooch (catcher).

These student-athletes were instrumental in leading P&HCC to the regular season championship, which included a deep run to the national championship game, where the Lady Pats ultimately finished second to North Dakota State College of Science.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment not just for these four phenomenal athletes, but for our entire program. This honor reflects the commitment of our players, coaches, and supporters to building something special here,” said Athletic Director Brian Henderson.

“To have four players named NIAAA First Team All-American is incredible. These young women put in the work every day and pushed each other to be great. I’m proud of their growth, their leadership, and the legacy they’ve left for future Lady Pats,” said Head Coach Robbie Campbell.

To view the full list of NJCAA Division III Softball All-Americans, visit:

<https://www.njcaa.org/sports/sball/2024-25/div3/all-americans/index>

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