

Supervisors to consider Villa Heights bid, facility upgrades

By Debbie Hall

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will consider awarding a contract on a Prototype 2 house on lot twelve as part of the Villa Heights Housing Project during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 24.

The Planning, Zoning, and Inspections staff are asking the board to award a \$207,900 contract to Taylor Enterprise, Inc. of Bassett, which was the low bidder.

The housing project is a partnership between the county, Virginia Housing, West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the Harvest (See Villa Heights p. 9)

Exclusion from Sorensen event sparks backlash

By Jessica Dillon

Two Martinsville City Council members and other city officials were among those invited to attend a June 14 meeting hosted by the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. The private event, held at the New College Institute (NCI), was closed to the public and media—prompting concern after Council member Julian Mei, who had not been invited, was asked to leave when he tried to attend.

“I simply wanted to hear what my elected officials and some city staff were presenting, and I was asked to leave, and left,” Mei said.

Mayor LC Jones and Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson both participated in the meeting, which was arranged and led by the Sorensen Institute—a non-partisan organization affiliated with the University of Virginia that offers civic leadership training focused on ethics and effective governance.

While the event was not publicly advertised, officials said it followed a long-standing format that typically involves the sitting mayor and vice mayor. Lawson noted that the city had no control over the guest list.

“Sorensen is a leadership academy,” she explained. “People apply, are accepted, and pay to take part. It’s a private program, not a public meeting.”

Lawson also emphasized that NCI, which served only as the venue, had no role in determining who was invited. “It wasn’t anything sinister, the way social media is making it seem,” she said. “It was their meeting. They just happened to be at NCI.”

The meeting was also closed to the press. Lawson said that out of more than 800 events NCI hosts annually, only a small number include media. “This wasn’t a city or council meeting,” she said. “It was a private nonprofit event. I was invited to be a part of their panel, and that’s it.”

Jones said he attended the meeting as a guest and saw Mei in the room but did not interact with him. He recalled seeing Sorensen staff speak to Mei and noted that Mei appeared “agitated.” Jones said he was unaware there had been any issue until he saw reactions on social media afterward.

“He should have just said who he was,” Jones said, adding that the situation could have been avoided with a simple conversation. “He walked right by us. He could’ve said, ‘What’s going on?’ and we would’ve gone in and asked if he could join. It could’ve been avoided.”

Jones also pushed back on the idea that anything improper had occurred. “There was no secret meeting,” he said. “This happens all the time. We get invited to speak to groups or be on panels. If the people inviting us want the media there, that’s their decision, not mine.”

He added, “Attempts to portray the event as secretive or divisive were damaging to Martinsville’s image and growth.”

After the meeting, Mei criticized a city social media post that praised the event, saying it struck the wrong tone. “It reminded me of Shakespeare’s line from Hamlet, ‘The lady doth protest too much, methinks.’”

While he said he wasn’t personally upset, he acknowledged that others were. “Clearly, this upset more people than it upset me. I spent the rest of my day with friends, attending events, and making floral arrangements. Is this a great country, or what?”

Council member Aaron Rawls, who was not invited and said he learned of the event only the day before, also criticized Mei’s exclusion.

“I was alarmed because some members of our government require constant supervision,” Rawls said. “I am glad Julian tried to go and keep an eye on things for our citizens.”

He added that Mei would have been a better fit for the event’s panel. “I find it ironic and somewhat disheartening that a public institute nominally dedicated to ‘ethics and trust’ in government would prohibit an elected official from attending an event in a public building in his own locality.”



Sheriff’s Office moves to in-house medical staff at detention center

By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office is currently interviewing for more than a dozen positions at the Adult Detention Center after deciding to transition all medical services from a private contractor to in-house employees.

When the Adult Detention Center opened in March 2022, Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said the previous administration elected to use a contracted medical vendor for its services.

“At that time, that went out to bid and multiple medical vendors had an opportunity to bid on it, in which Wellpath was selected to provide medical services for the jail,” he said.

When he took over as sheriff in 2023, Davis said he and his office looked into how they could improve things.

“So, we have done quite a lengthy study on looking into the services provided by Wellpath. I (See Sheriff’s p. 3)

Easley among candidates certified for November ballot

Ruth Easley, a Martinsville native and incumbent Commissioner of the Revenue, has qualified to be a candidate for re-election on November 4.

“I have served as Commissioner of the Revenue for 23 years and have provided consistent and transparent leadership during turbulent times during my tenure in office. I want to continue to build on a tradition of integrity, service and trust,” Easley said.

A graduate of Martinsville High School, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center as a Master Commissioner of the Revenue, Easley is the first female commissioner of the revenue—and the longest serving—in the city’s history.

“It has been my esteemed honor to serve the citizens of Martinsville, providing innovative services while carefully safeguarding customer information in an efficient and respectful manner.”

Easley will be challenged by Shasta Carmichael. As of this publication, Carmichael’s pe-



Ruth L. Easley is currently the only candidate for Martinsville’s Commissioner of the Revenue to qualify for the November ballot.

tition signatures had not been certified.

Incumbent Treasurer Cindy Dickerson did not seek reelection. Sheila Clark is certified to be on the ballot, challenged by Kendall Davis. His paperwork had not been certified as of Wednesday afternoon.

In the Commonwealth’s Attorney race, Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney Patrick Flinn and Lynda Hartsell, of Law Office of Lynda S. Hartsell, Esq., PLLC, will vie for the post. Incumbent Andy Hall will not plan to seek reelection.

Incumbent Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper is currently the only candidate on the ballot for the position.

In Henry County, Chief Deputy Registrar Carol Blades confirmed that all candidates are certified to be on the ballot.

Board of Supervisors:

•Blackberry District: Incumbent Jim Adams will be challenged by Ray Reynolds.

•Collinsville District: Incumbent Joe Bryant will face Chris Lawless.

•Iriswood District: Incumbent Garrett Dillard is the only candidate seeking the seat.

School Board:

•Blackberry District: Sherri Vestal and Jonathan Martin will vie for the seat. Incumbent Tom Auker will not seek reelection.

•Collinsville District: Cherie Whitlow will be on the ballot. Incumbent Elizabeth Durden did not seek reelection.

•Horsepasture District: Valeria Edwards will seek the seat in a special election.

•Iriswood District: Incumbent Ben Gravely is the only candidate.

Dillard seeks second term on board



Garrett Dillard will seek a second term as the Henry County Board of Supervisors’ Iriswood District in November.

By Taylor Boyd

Garrett Dillard plans to seek a second term as the Henry County Board of Supervisors’ Iriswood District representative in the November election.

He is currently running unopposed.

Dillard said he decided to seek another term because he believes the role plays an important part in community development.

“Having diverse voices on the board really is important, and I’ve en-

joyed working with the board members that are there. I just look forward to continuing to make progress with some of the things that we’ve started working on, especially recently,” he said.

If reelected, Dillard said he wants to find ways to increase recreation opportunities for youth in the community.

“Definitely want us to put more time into some type of Healthy Henry County cam-

paign. We’ve done some things, but I want us to pick the pace up with that some,” he said.

Dillard also wants the board to get a good grasp on the county’s housing issue by removing dilapidated houses and finding ways to creatively address the housing shortage.

I’m “hoping to keep the positive momentum that we as a board have going, and just continue to look for creative ways within our budgetary confinements and within our guidelines as a board,” for ways that we can “make Henry County the best possible place that it can be to live,” he said.

During his first term, Dillard said he worked to ensure the Henry County school system’s 1 percent sales tax was handled properly.

“Initially the funds were going to be used to pay down the debt for Meadowview Elementary School, but technically that’s not what they should have been used for. So, getting on

the board and keeping that conversation going so that they would be used for new construction and/or renovation was important,” he said.

Dillard believes he also helped increase the number of conversations the board has had about issues affecting the county, such as drug use, crime, and poverty.

“What we’re hoping (See Dillard p. 3)

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Movies in the Park series kicks off Friday

Henry County Parks and Recreation will continue the summer tradition designed to bring families together for fun, free entertainment in a safe and welcoming outdoor setting with its Movies in the Park series.

The series gets underway on Friday, June 20, with a showing of “Inside Out 2” at Jack Dalton Park. The event is free to attend. Music and games will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the movie will begin at 8:50 p.m.

Other movies scheduled include “Wicked,” on July 18 and “Despicable Me 4” on August 22.

Each movie night will include pre-show activities, family-friendly vendors, and plenty of open lawn space for blankets and chairs. Concessions will be available on-site.

“Providing events like Movies in the Park is part of our core mission—to promote community involvement, offer recreational op-



portunities for all ages, and make great use of our public spaces,” said Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation. “It’s a fun way for families to enjoy the parks and spend time together.”

Participants are encouraged to bring their own seating and arrive

early for the best spots. In the event of rain, updates or postponements will be shared on the Henry County Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

For more information, call (276) 634-4640 or visit www.henrycountytva.gov/189/Parks-Recreation.

County school board approves key upgrades

The Henry County School Board approved a series of strategic investments aimed at enhancing student safety, comfort, and educational infrastructure for the upcoming fiscal year.

At a recent meeting, the board committed more than \$2.1 million to upgrades across four key areas: school technology systems, transportation for students with disabilities, cafeteria food services, and bus safety.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrades

As part of its ongoing effort to improve digital access and reliability in schools, the board approved the replacement of critical servers that support districtwide operations. The new system will feature secure, scalable hard-

ware with warranties to ensure long-term service and adaptability to growing demands.

The total cost for the server replacements is \$100,161.78, funded through the FY25 Instruction and Technology budgets.

Air Conditioning for Special Education Buses

In a move to improve transportation conditions for students with disabilities, the board approved the installation of air conditioning units on 21 special education (SPED) buses that currently lack cooling systems.

Kingmor Supply of Mount Crawford, Virginia—identified as the sole source provider—was awarded the contract to complete the installations. The work is expected to cost approximately



Charity League President Ashley Taylor presents a check for \$50,000 to YMCA Director Brad Kinkema for the creation of a child care room at the Lester Family YMCA facility. In recognition of the contribution, the YMCA will name the room “The Charity League Child Care Room.”

Charity League donation will support child care room at new YMCA

The Martinsville-Henry County YMCA announced a \$50,000 contribution from the Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County for the creation of a dedicated child care room in the new Lester Family YMCA facility.

In recognition of this gift, the space will be named “The Charity League Child Care Room.”

“For nearly 100 years, Charity League has worked to serve the needs of children in Martinsville and Henry County, and when Brad and his team presented us this opportunity, we felt it was a great fit to continue that mission for years to come,” Charity League President Ashley Taylor said. “We know both the YMCA’s facilities and staff create a safe space where children can grow, both physically and mentally, so they can create a lasting impact on our area.”

This partnership highlights the power of community collaboration in

creating spaces that serve future generations and strengthen local families.

“The YMCA is excited to partner with the Charity League to help a dream become a reality with their gift of \$50,000,” said CEO/Executive Officer Brad Kinkema of the YMCA. “Both the YMCA and the Charity League are about serving kids and youth, so this is a perfect partnership.

“Charity League’s investment in the naming of a childcare room will help ensure the new Lester Family YMCA becomes a reality, and we are all very grateful for their generous support.”

Community members and organizations are invited to support the new Lester Family YMCA through donations, sponsorships, or volunteer involvement. To contribute or learn more, visit martinsvilleymca.com/capitalcampaign or contact the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA directly.

\$321,000 and will be funded through the FY25 Transportation budget.

The breakdown of the costs includes:

6 Type A buses at \$16,000 each: \$96,000

15 Type C buses at \$15,000 each: \$225,000

Food Supply Contract for School Cafeterias

To ensure consistent and reliable meal service, the board also awarded a food supply contract to RRS Foodservice, a division of J.L. Culpepper & Co., Inc., based in Ashland. RRS was the sole respondent to the district’s formal solicitation and has provided dependable service for the past five years.

The contract, valued at approx-

imately \$1.55 million annually, covers the 2025–26 school year and includes an option for up to four additional one-year renewals. Funding will come from the FY26 School Nutrition budget.

Backup Cameras for School Buses

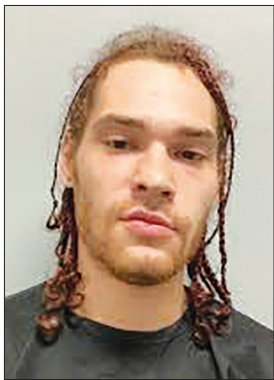
As part of its commitment to student safety, the school division will install backup cameras on 130 school buses. Kingmor Supply submitted the lowest qualifying bid among three vendors and was awarded the contract at a cost of \$157,742.

The other proposals came from: Blue Bird: \$162,169.48

Sonny Merryman: \$181,350

The project will be funded through the FY25 Transportation budget.

Arrest made in 2024 case



Aaron Ray Snider

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a sexual assault on September 12, 2024. Following the report, investigators began working to gather evidence and conduct interviews related to the case.

During the course of the investigation, Aaron Ray Snider was identified as the suspect. Investigators collected evidence, which was submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis. Based on the findings, warrants were obtained for Snider, 28, on a single count of rape.

As the investigation progressed, the sheriff’s office received information that Snider had fled Henry County. Since that time, investigators have been actively working to

locate him. On June 11, “credible information led investigators” to Beaufort County, North Carolina, according to a release.

With the assistance of local authorities, Snider was located and arrested without incident on June 12. He is currently being held in North Carolina without bond, pending extradition to Virginia. Due to the sensitive nature of this case, the name of the victim will not be released.

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office would like to thank the public and our law enforcement partners for their assistance in this ongoing investigation.

This investigation is ongoing, anyone having information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2500.00 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.



Jake Earles will perform a mix of Americana, country, folk and soul at Franks and Dranks on July 18.

Enjoy annual cookout and concert at Piedmont Arts

Franks and Dranks, the annual summer cookout and concert presented by Piedmont Arts, will take place from 6-9 p.m., Friday, July 18 in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

Guests can enjoy a meal of hot dogs and fixings, a cash bar and live music by Jake Earles, a singer and guitar player from Axton, Va. He spent 20 years

living in Nashville, Tenn., playing everywhere from honky tonks to the Grand Ole Opry. He has toured the country with acts such as Tim McGraw. Earles brings a mix of Americana, country, folk and soul to the stage.

Guests are asked to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. In the event of inclement

weather, Franks and Dranks will be held at Piedmont Arts.

Admission is \$20 per person and includes food. Tickets are available at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

This event is sponsored by Burton & Company.

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

Womack-Miranda to be featured at Piedmont Arts

Sonya Womack-Miranda will be featured on June 26 at 12:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

Piedmont Arts Guild notes that Womack-Miranda is a descendant of Sarah Miller who lived on the Sharswood Plantation in Pittsylvania County. Her book, UnNamed: The Search for

Sarah Miller, is a culmination of a decade-long genealogy search for her ancestors.

The public is invited to attend the program in the galleries to hear Womack-Miranda talk about writing her book. This story has been featured on 60 Minutes and in the Washington Post, as well as local stations.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings	
Tuesday, June 24 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., NCI Lecture Hall. 191 Fayette St., Martinsville.	
Monday, June 30 City School Board Meeting 6:00 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 20-Saturday, June 21 The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Friday, 1-5 p.m. for Members Only; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. is for public. One area will be limited to 10 shoppers at a time.	
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 Stones 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, June 27 Movie on the Ballfield – with a family friendly movie. Free Admission. Concessions available. Spencer-Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.	
Friday, July 4 The Martinsville-Henry County Historical So-	
	ciety 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 5 Storytime, 10 a.m. in the Hylton Library. Spencer-Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.
	Friday, July 11 Music Night, Ben & Eric Marshall will play in the Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m., music begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions will be sold. Spencer-Penn Center, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.
	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 - through July 24; morning and afternoon sessions with snacks 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.
	Chair Aerobics, Tuesdays at 9 a.m. with Judi Perrin. 45 minutes of exercise, strength building, \$5 fee, Spencer Penn Centre.
	Bingocize, Tuesdays at 10 a.m., help prevent falls with simple exercises. Free at Spencer Penn Centre.
	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.

Dillard

(cont. from page 1)

with this new budget is that we’re going to allocate a certain amount of funds to each district and that would allow that district supervisor to use those funds at his or her discretion, but you have to have the approval of the board. That’s one of the ideas I proposed to” County Administrator Dale Wag- oner, he said.

The creation of the fitness court at the Smith River Sports Com-

plex was another accomplishment, Dillard said, along with being responsive to his constituents.

“People calling and needing things, whether it was grass or VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation), and making sure I was responsive to those and mak- ing sure that county administra- tion and different county depart- ments took care of those things in a timely fashion,” he said.

One sought in connection with bomb threat

Authorities in Henry County are seeking information about the whereabouts of a man wanted in connection with a bomb threat at a local Dollar General store.

Robert Stockton Jr., 37, is wanted on warrants of threats to bomb or burn.

According to the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, deputies respond- ed on Monday, June 16, around 6:10 p.m., to a reported bomb threat at the Dollar General store, located at 2662 Greensboro Road.

Upon arrival, deputies immedi- ately assisted in evacuating the store to ensure the safety of all patrons and employees.

The Virginia State Police also responded to the scene and de- ployed an explosive detection can- ine to search the interior and exterior of the business. After a thorough search, no explosive de- vices or suspicious items were lo- cated. The store was deemed safe and resumed normal operations



Robert Eugene Stockton Jr.

shortly thereafter.

Warrants were obtained for Stockton, according to a release.

Anyone with additional in- formation about the incident or Stockton’s whereabouts is en- couraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crime Stoppers at 276-632-7463 (63-CRIME). Those who provide information that leads to an arrest and conviction may be eligible for a cash reward.

See more at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Thank You for reading
Henry County Enterprise

Sheriff's

(cont. from page 1)

really need to give a lot of credit to my staff here. They put countless hours into this,” he said.

Davis noted that one factor lead- ing to the decision was that the current contract with Wellpath is up for renewal on June 30.

“There were a number of reasons why we elected to not renew the contract. Number one, Wellpath did not fulfill their staffing met- rics according to the contract set in place. What that means is we were paying for more staff than they were providing,” he said.

Davis cited one example: Well- path was obligated to provide a medical director, who must be a doctor.

“That doctor could work remote- ly and be accessible, but that has to be done sometimes because it’s not always the best practice. For example, that medical director for Wellpath only came into the fa- cility one time in three years and that’s just not acceptable,” he said.

Another factor was the contract cost. Davis said the contract with Wellpath was about \$1.7 million, and would have increased to more than \$1.9 million on July 1.

“So when we looked at this, we were able to hire two part-time employees, which is a part-time medical director who will be in the building multiple times a week, one nurse practitioner who’s on a part-time basis and will be in the building multiple times a week,” he said.

There will also be 12 full-time positions, including four regis-

tered nurses (RNs), four licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and four certified medication technicians (CMTs).

“We can provide all of that at a cost savings that at a minimum would be hundreds of thousands of dollars and on the high end could save the taxpayers up to a million dollars annually,” Davis said. “So in essence, the best way to put it is we can provide a much higher lev- el of service for less money at the cost of the taxpayers. In addition to that, they are Sheriff’s Office employees to which we have full oversight of.”

Davis said he has not received any pushback on the change.

“I think obviously anytime you can provide a better service for less money it’s an absolute win-win,” he said.

Wellpath was essentially a mid- dleman in the process, Davis said, as the office would pay the compa- ny, and they would hire nurses to work in the facilities.

“Then they (Wellpath) got a huge markup on just the hiring and per- sonnel management. Well, I just don’t see that it’s worth the taxpay- ers in Henry County paying hun- dreds of thousands of extra dollars for a middleman vendor when we can do it directly ourselves, and again, have direct oversight, pro- vide a better, higher level of ser- vice for less money,” he said.

The window for applications has closed, and the department is cur- rently conducting interviews to fill the 14 positions.

OPINION

Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19th marks America's celebration of Juneteenth.

The national holiday is meant to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States.

Interestingly, this date does not signify the official nationwide end to slavery.

Slavery was a fairly common practice, even in the North, as the United States transitioned from its colonial period to its independence.

In fact, full emancipation would not be granted until 1827 in New York and 1847 in Pennsylvania.

According to the Equal Justice Initiative (website), even after Congress abolished the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1807, traders from Massachusetts and other states continued activities trafficking Africans.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the abolition movement which advocated for the freedom of slaves spread. In the North, prominent abolitionists, like Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, gained many supporters, mostly in the North.

Debate over slavery intensified in the halls of Congress as the country grew and admitted new states. The admission of "free" states and "slave" states complicated legislative efforts and national unity.

During the American Civil War on New Year's Day of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Proclamation declared "all persons held as slaves" in states that were in "rebellion against the United States" were free.

The Proclamation could not be enforced at that time, as the South did not recognize Lincoln's order.

In addition, the Proclamation did not



Morgan Griffith

Representative

apply to border states which had not seceded from the Union.

Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C., were all slaveholding areas, but they did not secede from the Union. Accordingly, the slaves in those areas were not freed as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Therefore, slavery was still practiced in both the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War.

West Virginia separated from the Commonwealth of Virginia during the Civil War. On June 20, 1863, the U.S. Congress formally recognized West Virginia as a state.

After General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court-house in April 1865, others in the South followed suit in laying down their arms.

Accordingly, the path to freedom could commence and/or continue for many slaves. Juneteenth focuses on those in Galveston, Texas.

Galveston's slave community was unaware of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. On June 19, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, where they notified the local slave population that they were free.

However, more progress had to be made to fully destroy the institution of slavery in the United States.

The U.S. Constitution amendment that abolished slavery, the Thirteenth Amendment, was ratified by the States in 1865, but not until December, well after Union Troops arrived in Galveston.

As the Reconstruction era continued, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments soon followed to expand rights to slaves.

Despite these significant milestones, Juneteenth always resonated within the African American community as the major date to celebrate their freedom.

For many years even before its birth as a national holiday, Juneteenth celebrations were commonplace in many African American communities.

Of those to launch such celebrations in Southwest Virginia, I remember my friend and former colleague in the Virginia House of Delegates, Onzlee Ware.

The two of us were often on opposite sides of legislative efforts. We differed in policy ideas and beliefs.

As a result of knowing each other while practicing law in the Roanoke Valley, Delegate Ware and I became friends. We were not afraid to work across the aisle to get things done for the people we represented in the Roanoke Valley.

Accordingly, Delegate Ware, the first Black legislator from the Western part of Virginia, invited me to a Juneteenth celebration that he organized.

Because of his invitation, I began to recognize the importance of this day.

I appreciated Delegate Ware for the invitation and the opportunity to spend time with the community that spread awareness about Juneteenth.

While Delegate Ware has since passed away, my memories of him and his leadership in making me and many others in Southwest Virginia aware of the importance of Juneteenth will always remain.

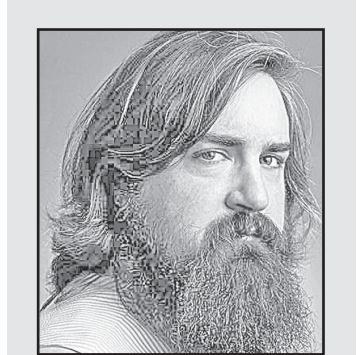
Folks in the Ninth District commemorating Juneteenth include the Fayette Area Historical Initiative in Martinsville. I visited them last year during their Juneteenth celebration.

There will be many other such celebrations in Southwest Virginia this year.

To everyone in the Ninth District, no matter your heritage, I hope on this Juneteenth you will reflect on the value of freedom.

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

The new normal



By Ben R. Williams

I realize that President Donald Trump had a rough weekend. I can only imagine how upsetting it must be to plan your own birthday party with a big military parade to prove to everyone that you're a special boy, and then when the day comes, the stands are two-thirds empty, the crowd size is roughly equivalent to the turnout at a Jeff Dunham puppet show at the Berglund Center, and the only sound you can hear is the squeak of the treads on a Sherman tank because apparently DOGE cut the Army's budget for 3-in-1 Oil.

To make matters worse for Trump, the most conservative estimates put the turnout for the nationwide "No Kings" protests that took place on the same day at around five million people, or roughly 1.5 percent of the U.S. population. I imagine that stings, especially if your soul is a yawning chasm that begs to be filled with the respect and adoration of anyone who wanders into your field of vision.

Like I said, it was a bad weekend for Trump, and I understand his mind was probably in a dark place. Having said that, Trump's Father's Day post on Truth Social was more chilling than usual.

I expect the post was actually written by Trump's deputy chief of staff and political advisor Stephen "Wormtongue" Miller, but he did a solid job of nailing the random capitalization, so it's difficult to tell. Nonetheless, let us take a journey through this unhinged post and break down the important points.

The post starts by praising the strength and courage of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who Trump claims are being harassed by "Radical Democrat Politicians" just because they're an army of masked brownshirts with seemingly no oversight who have taken to disappearing people off the streets in unmarked vans. Won't somebody think of the poor ICE officers? You can't even kidnap someone and send them to die in an El Salvadoran prison without getting criticized these days.

However, Trump continues, ICE should not be deterred in their important mission.

"ICE Officers are herewith ordered, by notice of this TRUTH, to do all in their power to achieve the very important goal of delivering the single largest Mass Deportation Program in History," Trump wrote.

First off, announcing something on your social media site doesn't make it a legal order. This is why those copied and pasted announcements that you're not giving Mark Zuckerberg the rights to your Facebook photos of your grandkids don't do anything.

Secondly, ICE has a lot of work to do to carry out the largest mass deportation in history. They're competing against some real heavy hitters: the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, the Trail of Tears. But if anyone can do it, they can!

I'm going to quote Trump's second paragraph at length because there's a lot to unpack.

"We must expand efforts to detain and deport Illegal Aliens in America's largest Cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, where Millions upon Millions of Illegal Aliens reside," Trump wrote. "These, and other such Cities, are the core of the Democrat Power Center, where they use Illegal Aliens to expand their Voter Base, cheat in Elections, and grow the Welfare State, robbing good paying Jobs and Benefits from Hardworking American Citizens. These Radical Left Democrats are sick of mind, hate our Country, and actually want to destroy our Inner Cities ... There is something wrong with them. That is why they believe in Open Borders, Transgender for Everybody, and Men playing in Women's Sports."

It's hard to even tell where to begin here. First off, no one is supporting completely open borders, and absolutely no one believes in "Transgender for Everybody," a phrase that falls somewhere between meaningless and insane.

Next, I find it hard to believe that Democrats are cheating at elections, given the current state of the nation. The Democratic Party barely seems capable of winning elections much less cheating at them.

Also, where are all these undocumented immigrants who are stealing the best jobs and living off welfare? Most undocumented immigrants I've seen have been working the worst jobs imaginable, like picking tobacco or doing hard manual labor on behalf of a contractor who's paying them slave wages. No one has ever said, "Yeah, I almost got that job as bank manager, but instead they gave it to that guy who speaks ten words of English and doesn't have a social security number."

Finally, the generation just hitting voting age likely won't remember this, but there was once a time when a President served all the people in the country. He didn't declare that the opposition party was a bunch of sick, twisted monsters who hate America. The problem with that sort of rhetoric is that it can cause the President's base to do something really bad. To pick a random example, someone might become radicalized by that sort of message and then impersonate a police officer in order to assassinate a state lawmaker and grievously injure another one.

The post goes on to say that REAL Americans are cheering on ICE, which is one of the more blatant examples of the "no true Scotsman" fallacy I've seen recently. Trump adds that "Mass Destruction Migration" has turned "once Idyllic Towns into scenes of Third World Dystopia," and that the federal government will continue to focus on "the REMIGRATION of Aliens to the places from where they came."

By the way, if you haven't heard the term "remigration" before, it's an idea that comes to us from far-right parties in Europe and has been likened to ethnic cleansing. It's basically sending non-white immigrants and their descendants back to their country of origin regardless of their citizenship status. It's a horrifically cruel concept, and the use of that specific term was not a mistake.

For the last ten years or so, the popular refrain on the left has been that none of this is normal. Maybe this sort of rhetoric isn't normal, but after that much time, it's become unsurprising and largely expected. We're currently experiencing an era in which the U.S. Justice Department will charge you with domestic terrorism for vandalizing a Tesla dealership but not for assassinating a sitting state Representative you disagree with politically.

But I guess I'm missing the whole point of Trump's post, which is that we should all have sympathy for poor misunderstood ICE. Just like its namesake, the agency is cold, hard, and doing its level best to ruin the lives of everyone who lives in a major city up north.

~Sponsored Content~

Congressional staff to visit in June

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in Martinsville and Stuart on June 25.

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

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

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

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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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LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **July 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **July 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

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

Case R-25-10 Mark Brogan; Smith River Rentals, LLC

The property is located at 3775 Fairstone Park Hwy, in the Reed Creek District. The property is shown on Tax Map 15.7/59. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.22-acre from Commercial District B-1 to Neighborhood Commercial District B-2. The upstairs of this building already contains two grandfathered apartments. The applicant wishes to rezone the property, which will enable him to apply for the required Special Use Permit, to allow for the conversion of the downstairs into an AirBNB apartment.

The application for this requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

LEGAL

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

[Signature] JUDGE
[Signature] CLERK

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., Mersdessea 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

Old enough to hire help, wise enough to enjoy it



Holly Kozelsky

Just as there is a bell curve to furnishing your house, for the serious gardener there's also one for the yard.

At some point in life, your need to acquire gives way to the need to dispose. Noticing that you've crossed over the top of that bell curve can come as quite a surprise, or at least, an eye-opener.

When we're young and just starting out, we need it all: furniture, knick-knacks, linens, utensils, and on and on and on. We take what's given to us, and we buy within the range of what we can afford.

It does rather come as a surprise, doesn't it, after so many years of needing to get stuff to fill our house, to realize all of a sudden that our house is, indeed, full. We need to start giving stuff away, not bringing stuff in.

If you like to garden, the yard is like that, multiplied exponentially.

In the beginning years, no matter how much you've planted, the yard seems to stretch on, empty. The saplings are small, and the new shrubs are tiny. There's just so much space in between them all. And it's a struggle to keep weeds out of nascent flower beds.

Eventually, after what seems to be an eternity of waiting, things fill out.

If you're not really paying attention, suddenly, out of the blue, branches and vines have exploded everywhere. A once tidy and lovely landscape is out of control and must be reined in with saws, clippers,

trimmers, axes, loppers, shears and weed eaters.

The hard part is: You plant everything when you're young and energetic. By the time everything's grown large and unruly enough to need to be gotten under control, you're old and tired.

A little bit last year and a lot this year, I've been thinking, "Why?" Why did I plant all that?" My yard wears me out just looking at it.

Every now and then I go outside to pick up sticks and fallen branches, or do some pruning, or some reining in. I can't tell you how many trips I've taken yard debris way out to the edge of the woods, on the other side of the big field, but I can say thank God for the powerful riding mower and cart attachment that does most of that work. I used to walk all the way out there pulling branches and buckets full of debris behind me, but I didn't mind it so much then.

This past weekend I happened upon the miracle of two teenage boys looking to make some summer cash. For the first time in my life, I paid someone to work in my yard.

I watched in wonder as, in the course of just two sessions, they accomplished what would have taken me all summer and fall to do – if I focused only on yard work at the expense of family time, hobbies and a social life.

I felt that paying teenage boys was my heading down the downward slope of that bell curve of gardening and yardwork. I used to want to make more, more, more work for myself, but this is the year I've crossed over to wanting less.

And as I watched how quickly and competently an 18-year-old hustles, I realized my age and didn't feel so bad for not getting around to everything I had wanted to do.

I was 18 once, and worked like that, even at 28 and 38, and it's OK to be old and tired now, and pay the kids.

I gave them some spending money, and they've given me the gift of free time and relaxation and the ability to enjoy the summer.

SPORTS



Dylan Grabowski



Carson McCoy

Grabowski and McCoy named NJCAA All-Americans

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) baseball standouts Dylan Grabowski and Carson McCoy have earned spots on the prestigious 2025 NJCAA Division II All-America Team. Grabowski was named to the Second Team and McCoy received Third Team honors, a significant national recognition for both student-athletes and the P&HCC baseball program.

Grabowski, who was also named the Region 10 Player of the Year, had a dominant season at the plate and in the field, consistently delivering in critical moments and leading the Patriots to a strong season.

McCoy, who earned Region 10 Co-Defensive Player of the Year, showcased elite defensive skills throughout the year, making highlight-reel plays and anchoring the infield with poise

and precision. His steady glove and strong leadership were instrumental in the team's defensive success.

"These are two young men who truly represent what P&HCC Athletics is all about: talent, work ethic, and character," said Brandon Nania, head baseball coach, adding, "Dylan and Carson are competitors who elevated everyone around them. Their All-America selections and regional honors are well deserved."

The NJCAA All-America Team honors the top junior college players across the nation and reflects the dedication, performance, and impact both players have made throughout the 2025 season.

For more on P&HCC Athletics, visit www.phc-patriots.com.

Chipotle plans 2026 opening for new restaurant

The Lester Group announced that it has signed a lease agreement with Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc. to bring a new restaurant to the community. The anticipated opening of this Chipotle location is projected for the first quarter of 2026, marking an exciting development for local dining options.

To ensure the successful construction of this new facility, The Lester Group has partnered with Blair Construction, a reputable firm known for its expertise in building quality commercial establishments. Together, they will work diligently to create a welcoming and efficient space that embodies Chipotle's commitment to serving fresh, high-quality Mexican cuisine.

"This partnership with Chipotle reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering local development and adding value to the communities we

serve," said Andrew Palmer, VP Lester Properties, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Blair Construction and eagerly anticipate the opening of this location and the positive impact it will have on the area."

Chipotle has built a strong reputation for its dedication to serving delicious food made from responsibly sourced ingredients. This new restaurant will provide residents with convenient access to Chipotle's beloved menu items, from burritos to bowls to tacos, all made with uncompromising quality.

The addition of Chipotle is expected to boost the local economy by creating job opportunities. With a convenient location and the brand's commitment to exceptional dining experiences, the new restaurant will undoubtedly become a staple for residents and visitors alike.

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ence with line conversion work, performance improvements, and training; training in diagnostics, adjustments and printers. Email resume to Hannah.Schaefer@crowncork.com; reference job title in subject line.

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Administrative appointments approved for new school year



Victoria Clements

At a recent meeting, the Henry County School Board approved recommendations to fill several administrative appointments for the 2025-26 school year.

Victoria Clements has been named Assistant Principal at Laurel Park Middle School. Clements holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Radford University and has served as Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Stanleytown Elementary since 2007.

"I am so honored to accept the position of Assistant Principal for Laurel Park Middle School and excited to join the Laurel Park school community," she said. "Creating a safe environment for all students to learn and grow is my highest priority. I'm committed to building relationships so that I can support students, teachers and families, to accomplish one common goal - student achievement."

Dr. Kelly Wilson will be Assistant Principal at G.W. Carver Elementary School for 2025-2026. Wilson holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Liberty Univer-



Kelly Wilson

sity and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Averett University. In addition to five years' previous experience as an elementary assistant principal, she also has more than fifteen years of experience as a middle school teacher, teaching most recently at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.

"It is with great honor that I accept the position of Assistant Principal at G.W. Carver Elementary School, allowing me to collaborate with students, families, and teachers on a different level. I look forward to fostering relationships with the G.W. Carver school community to cultivate academic, social and emotional growth in students to assist in building a strong, positive community," she said.

"I'm pleased to have these educators stepping into new roles as assistant principals," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis. "Their passion for student success and dedication to learning will greatly benefit our schools as they continue the important work of supporting student growth and achievement."



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Town Hall Meeting
with
Collinsville District Supervisor
Joe Bryant

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7:00 pm Summerlin Meeting Room Henry County Admin. Bldg.	Guest Speakers <i>Dale Wagoner, County Administrator</i> <i>Wayne Davis, Sheriff</i> <i>Lisa Hughes, VDOT Resident Engineer</i> <i>George Lyle, County Attorney</i> <i>Scott Grindstaff, Treasurer</i>
Your concerns are my concerns.	

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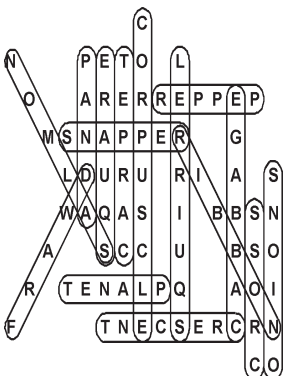
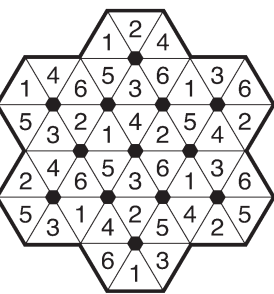
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Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution

RED —



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Tacit 2. Patch;
3. Caper; 4. Slough

Today's Word

PROTEST



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

Crossing the Lines

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

Dozens of dogs removed in Patrick County case

More than 40 dogs were removed from a Kibler Valley area property on Thursday, June 12, by the Patrick County Sheriff's Office, Animal Shelter, and several nonprofit animal organizations.

After receiving a citizen complaint and calls about the animals, Patrick County Sheriff's Capt. Eric O'Connell said patrol officers were sent to the location on Squirrel Creek Road and conducted an initial assessment.

"That's what kind of stirred the social media response, and that's where some of the organizations started vocalizing concerns

based on some pictures and videos that this citizen obtained, I must say illegally, because they did trespass on the property," he said.

While working on the situation, Animal Control Deputy Christian Gilbert said he first reached out to some organizations that had contacted the sheriff's office about the issue, including People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

"I talked to someone from PETA before going out there. When I went out to the house Monday, I did not make contact with the owner, but I did talk to a neighbor who told me that the" owner wasn't at home, he said.

Because the animal shelter couldn't handle the influx of 45 to 50 dogs in addition to the other animals it receives routinely, O'Connell said getting other organizations involved was essential.

"The majority of these went to various parts in Virginia with the intention of rehoming them. That was the intention," he said. SFC Virginia took in 15 dogs, Old Dominion Humane Society took in 13, Augusta Dog Adoptions took in six, Dogs Deserve Blue Ridge took in four, Sanctuary Rescue took in three, and the local animal shelter took in five.

County to consider ordinance for social services bonus



County Attorney John Fitzgerald (left) discussed the DSS bonus and public hearing with the board.

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors scheduled a public hearing for Monday, July 14, to consider creating an ordinance that would allow Department of Social Services (DSS) employees to receive a bonus.

As outlined in the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) budget approved by the General Assembly, County Attorney John Fitzgerald said full-time DSS employees are eligible to receive a one-time, state-supported bonus of 1.5 percent of their base salary.

This will take effect on July 21.

"In order to receive these funds, the county must have a local ordinance in place au-

thorizing the payment bonuses as per section 15.2-1508 of the Code of Virginia," Fitzgerald said.

He noted the ordinance would simply fulfill that requirement and does not authorize any new or unbudgeted expenditures.

"The recommended action is to schedule a public hearing" for an ordinance authorizing the payment bonuses, he said.

Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, clarified that the funds are state pass-through money.

"That's no new increases for Patrick County, correct?" Wood asked.

Fitzgerald confirmed that was correct.

Annual Bushels & Barrels Festival set for June 20-21

The 11th annual Bushels & Barrels Local Food, Wine & Beer Festival will take place Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, at the Reynolds Homestead.

The event is a partnership between the Homestead and One Family Productions.

Kristin Hylton, Homestead communications and community programming specialist, said the weekend kicks off Friday evening with a farm-to-table dinner catered by Pickle & Ash and sponsored by Clark Gas & Oil.

"We usually have about 75 people that attend that. It sells out almost every year. It's just a really beautiful evening," she said.

Live music for the three-course meal will be provided by Jamie Woodall & Friends. Beer and wine will be avail-

able for purchase.

On Saturday, the main event runs from 4 to 10 p.m. and will feature four bands: Jon Tyler Wiley & His Virginia Choir, TC Carter Band, City Dirt Band, and Griffin.

"We will have our beer trucks set up. Usually, we have about 14 to 20 beers on tap at any one given time," Hylton said.

Daring Wine Company, Childress Vineyards, and several local breweries will also be on site. Food trucks from Pickle & Ash, Bootleg BBQ, and Sweet Surrender Ice Cream Co. will offer a variety of food options.

"It's just a one-day, couple-of-hour event, but it's very family-friendly and it's here at the Reynolds Homestead, so it's a beautiful property," she said.

For more information, visit www.onefamilyproductions.org.

Wrestling showdown to benefit PCHS Girls' Basketball

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

presents

Summer'25 Showdown

STUART ROTARY MEMORIAL BUILDING
264 WOODLAND DRIVE, STUART, VIRGINIA

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

JUNE 21ST: 7PM BELL TIME

CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JUNE 22ND: 4PM BELL TIME

A group of professional wrestlers posing for a photo. Some are wearing masks, some are shirtless, and some are holding championship belts. They are standing in front of a beach background.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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\$15 AT THE DOOR

LITTLE CAESAR'S - STUART, VA
STAGECOACH ON MAIN ST.

NICW

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold its third annual Summer Showdown on Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22.

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold its third annual Summer Showdown on Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22.

The two-day event will be held at the Stuart Rotary Memorial Building, with the bell for the first match ringing at 7 p.m. on Saturday and at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

In addition to local wrestlers, Scott Rutter of Rutter's Martial Arts said wrestlers from West Virginia, Tennessee, and other localities are coming together to host the family-friendly show for the community.

"We are offering to give all the concessions and the proceeds that's coming in to benefit the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Girls' Basketball Team," he said.

Between the two days, Rutter said there are 12 matches scheduled.

"There's so much stuff we weren't able to put it all on one poster," he joked.

Saturday's main event will be Raging Rebel Robert Stanley challenging Bobby Yela for the Mid-Atlantic Heritage Championship.

The show is sponsored by Rutter's Martial Arts, Lawless Welding & Fabrication, Inc., and Impressive Prints & Designs.

Advance tickets are \$10 for children ages 6-13 and \$12 for adults 13 and up. Tickets at the door are \$12 for children and \$15 for adults.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Little Caesar's and Stagecoach on Main in Stuart.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/NationalIndependentChampionshipWrestling.

To read more about these and other stories,

check out

Henry County Enterprise at

www.henrycountyenterprise.com.

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

A movie poster for Lilo & Stitch, featuring the character Lilo and the alien Stitch.

A movie poster for Final Destination, featuring a skull and a person in a dark, ominous setting.

A movie poster for How to Train Your Dragon, featuring a dragon flying over a sunset.

A movie poster for Bring Her Back, featuring a woman in a dark, suspenseful setting.

A movie poster for Elio, featuring a young boy and a large alien.

OPEN EVERYDAY

\$5 tickets

Hollywood Cinema
beside Walmart
Martinsville 276-656-3456

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FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

ASE
ZAREST
DWEAP
♥SKRI
QUILCE
♥EWD
OKOC
RSTKI
♥KAS
NIPKLU
HWTAC
♥AKEL

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. Word on sign is different. 2. Door is different. 3. Wheel is larger. 4. Box in window is moved. 5. Building is not as wide. 6. Hat is different. 7. Man's shirt is different. 8. Boy's shirt is different. 9. Boy's pants are different. 10. Boy's shoes are different. 11. Boy's hat is different. 12. Boy's hair is different.

MAGIC MAZE

● RED —

LYVSPMJHEBYVTQO
LIGDBYWCTRPMKIF
NDXBPETOYWLWUSQO
MOKIARERRREPPEPF
FDMSNAPPERBZGXW
USQLDURUORINALS
JHFWAQASDICBBSN
AYAWVSCCTUSQBSO
PRNTENALPQLKAOI
FIHFETNECSERCRN
CBZYWVUSRQPNMCO

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

Cabbage	Cross	Pepper	Snapper
Carpet	Dwarf	Planet	Square
Corpuscle	Onions	Ribbon	Squirrel
Crescent	Panda	Salmon	

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Super Crossword

“YOU'RE FREE TO GO”

ACROSS

1 Magic's org.
4 — about (close to)
8 Wounded by a bee
13 Tennis player Stefan
19 Loc. of Las Vegas
20 — Reader (eclectic digest)
21 Tinfoil maker
22 Cat helping with extermination
23 Start of a riddle
27 Difficult duty
28 Syrup source
29 “Is it —?” (“Are we on?”)
30 Karmann — (classic Volkswagen)
31 Riddle, part 2
35 Antipollution org.
36 Looks keenly
37 Preceding night
38 Ended a fast
39 Flower part
41 Hepburn of “Sabrina”
42 Town crier's cry
44 Exits quickly, informally
46 Seniors' gp.

48 Riddle, part 3
55 Process unit
58 Android rival
59 On the briny
60 Tiny amount
61 Riddle, part 4
67 Certain male physique, informally
69 Month, in Madrid
70 Cheers for a torero
71 Lofty poem
72 Former Swedish car
74 Shiba — (dog breed)
75 Clever
77 Riddle, part 5
80 Actress and singer
81 Formerly, old-style director
84 “Candyman” director
85 “Ah, OK”
86 Riddle, part 6
93 Liability
94 “— a Preacher Man”
95 Alou who played in the 1997 World Series
99 Power to evoke pity
103 Mexican of old

105 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
106 B&B, e.g.
107 Computer printer brand
108 Citi Field stat
109 End of the riddle
113 Kin of Kong
114 Like the flesh of an orange
116 Life sketch, in brief
117 Folk tales
118 Riddle's answer
124 De-intensity
125 Cinematic swordsman
126 Two squared
127 Shapiro of NPR
128 Unearth, with “up”
129 Sabers' relatives
130 Cries noisily
131 IRS digits

DOWN

1 Wichita-to-Bismarck dir.
2 Be an advantage to
3 Street in Manhattan's Alphabet City
4 Lingers past, as the welcoming time
5 Utmost
6 Infant's garment
7 A daughter of King Lear
8 Pronounce
9 “Dr. Pimple Popper” airer
10 Coll. near Beverly Hills
11 “Beats me”
12 Strategies
13 German painter Nolde
14 Put on, as a garment
15 Irked
16 Book read during Purim
17 Employ again
18 Oil-covered
24 Habited sister
25 Rival of FedEx
26 Sheep's call
31 Ho-hum
32 “Up and —!”
33 “Puh-leeze!”
34 Not sick
36 Insect stage
40 “Gangnam Style” rapper
41 Naval fleets
43 Absorbed
44 E-journals
45 To boot
47 The “13” of PG-13, e.g.
49 Official helper
50 Swimming star Thorpe
51 Prefix with life
52 — strip (geometric curiosity)
53 Right away
54 Winona of the Green Party
55 Fr. resort port near Nantes
56 Oscar winner
57 Neighbor of Montebello, Calif.
62 The Astros, on scoreboards
63 States as fact
64 Little ‘un
65 NFL stats
66 “So icky!”
68 Targets of sit-ups
72 Catch the scent of
73 Petri dish gel
76 Distant
77 “— be great if ...”
78 Inside dope
79 — torch (luau light)
82 Abbr. for three primary colors
83 Light on fire
87 Thick Japanese noodle
88 Winter hrs. in Kansas
89 Movie magnate
90 Marcus
91 Prefix with potent
92 People who pamper
96 El Capitan's range
97 Makes precious
98 — Balls (snack brand)
99 Rang, as a church bell
100 Come into view
101 Sub-Saharan bloodsucker
102 Was the emcee for
104 Like some sealable bags
105 “Same here”
108 — elbows with
110 Blood-typing letters
111 Little quarrels
112 Ad — committee
114 — Le Pew
115 Time past
119 Embrace
120 Suffix with script
121 How- — (DIY books)
122 Central point
123 Gibson liquor

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Dorothy Straight was just 4 years old when she wrote and illustrated “How the World Began” for her grandmother. It was officially published two years later.

• Worms make up the majority of a robin's diet, but it won't mind if you leave out a dessert tray as well. In fact, robins are partial to pastry dough, fruit cake and coconut cake.

• Flowers placed at a grave were originally brought to promote good will with the spirit of the deceased.

• Movie director Guillermo del Toro owns a house containing a room with an endless rainstorm projected onto all its windows and audio to match. He often uses this room to write in.

• Red hair is the thickest hair color by strand.

• Chock full o'Nuts coffee does not contain nuts. It's named for a chain of nut stores that the founder converted into coffee shops.

• On his deathbed, Steve Jobs asked for five different oxygen masks so he could choose the one with the best design.

• The silhouette on the official NBA logo is Los Angeles Lakers guard Jerry West.

• Tsutomu Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima for work when the first A-bomb hit, made it home to Nagasaki for the second, and lived to be 93.

• M&Ms were invented exclusively for American soldiers in World War II.

• Lake Hillier in Western Australia stays a striking deep pink color all year long. Some scientists believe its hue is due to high salt levels combined with a salt-loving algae, Dunaliella salina, and a pink bacteria called halobacteria.

• Tribal African tongues and other languages describe blue and green as different shades of the same color.

Thought for the Day: “Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.” — *Albert Einstein*

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN HIT FROM ANYWHERE UP TO TWO CLUB LENGTHS BEHIND THE MARKERS.

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SO TEE OFF WITH THE CLUB THAT WILL PUT YOU ON THE FLATTEST PART OF THE FAIRWAY.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Given				
ATTIC				
Mend				
CHAPT				
Skip				
PACER				
Swamp				
GHOULS				

TODAY'S WORD

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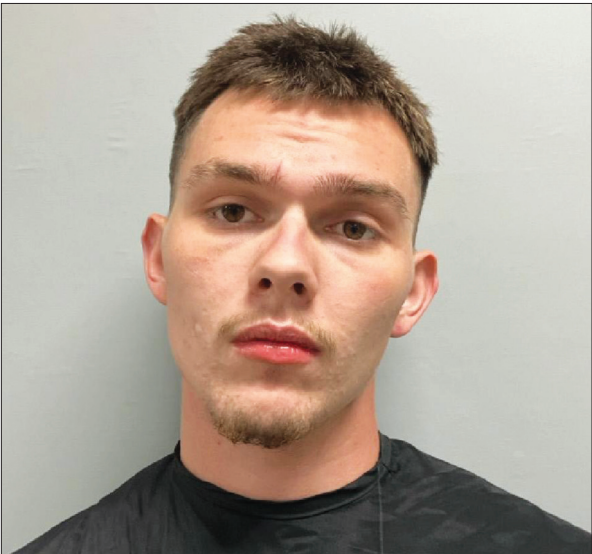
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Suspected narcotics were seized during a June 11 search. (Contributed photos)



Phillip Stephen Ray Thompson



Zackary James Denny



Ronald Gene Edwards Jr.

Deputies seize narcotics during traffic stop

The Henry County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Interdiction Unit conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that allegedly was being operated by Ronald Edwards Jr. and two other occupants on June 11.

Deputies had prior knowledge that Edwards allegedly was operating the vehicle with a revoked license. The vehicle stopped in the parking lot of AutoZone on Virginia Avenue. As deputies approached, they observed Edwards and the front seat passenger, Zachary Denny, crawling over each other, allegedly in an apparent attempt to switch seats.

A K-9 unit was deployed and gave a positive alert on the vehicle. A subsequent search revealed numerous bags of suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, unidentified pills, a digital scale, and packaging materials commonly associated with the distribution of narcotics.

Field tests confirmed the presence of methamphetamine and fentanyl, according to a release.

When Edwards was advised he was under arrest, he allegedly fled the scene on foot while still in handcuffs, crossing Virginia Avenue before being quickly apprehended by deputies.

Edwards was charged with possession of fentanyl with the intent to distribute, and obstruction of justice (fleeing while under arrest). He is being held with no bond.

Denny was charged with possession of fentanyl and possession of controlled paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$3,500 secured.

Phillip Thompson was charged with possession of methamphetamine. His bond was set at \$2,000 secured.

Additional charges are expected pending lab analysis of the substances seized, authorities said.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office remains committed to combatting illegal drug activity in our community and holding offenders accountable.

Villa Heights

(cont. from page 1)

Foundation.

The board meets at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Supervisors are scheduled to hear updates from County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff and Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

The board will also consider:

*Awarding a contract of \$155,290 to Daniel Builders, LLC. of Danville, to renovate four bathrooms on the second floor of the Administration Building. The existing bathrooms are original to the building construction of 1974 and are not compliant with guidelines set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Funding for the renovations is included in the FY 2025 operating budget.

*Approval of an additional appropriation of \$19,942 from State Asset Forfeiture funds to buy a 2025 Kawasaki Mule ProFXR 1000L All-terrain Vehicle (ATV), as requested by Sheriff Davis. The equipment would enhance the department's capabilities at events such as Martinsville Speedway, numerous outdoor festivals and woodland terrains, Davis said.

*Allocating \$45,000 in grant funds received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) through its School Resource Officer (SRO) grant program. Davis intends to use the funds to continue funding an SRO at the Career Academy for the upcoming school year. The grant requires a local match of \$13,042, which will come from Davis's current budget.

*Awarding a contract to J.L. Culpepper & Company, Inc. of Danville, to supply food for the Henry County Adult Detention Center. While the contract does not stipulate a total expense amount due to fluctuations in the number of inmates, the FY 2026 budget includes an allocation of \$730,000. This contract would cover the majority of the food items used in the ADC.

*Awarding a \$229,889 contract to low bidder JC Joyce Trucking & Paving Company, Inc., of Patrick Springs, to repave the Training Center parking lot.

*Awarding a \$106,071 contract to MainMicro Technologies Corporation of New York, New York for Microsoft Office 365 licensing. The existing Microsoft software used by county staff is reaching the end of its support life, leaving the county computer network vulnerable and expensive to maintain. The proposed migration to Office 365 aligns with industry standards and will improve the county's cybersecurity, productivity, and disaster recovery capabilities. A portion of the cost will be reimbursed by the 911 Center and the Public Service Authority.

*Appropriating \$54,017 received from the Virginia Department of Health's Return to Locality Funds. The funds are derived from a fee for each vehicle registered in the county. The funds can be used to pay for items such as emergency medical services, training, supplies, and/or equipment. Currently, the funds are distributed equally between the volunteer rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety. Any unspent funds as of February 1, would be directed towards projects aimed at enhancing the overall EMS system.

* Approving a total of \$1,350,000 in two categorical transfers: \$1,200,000 from the Instruction category to the Maintenance category, and \$150,000 from the Administration, Attendance, and Health category to the Maintenance category, as requested by the school board. According to Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis, the funds would be used to upgrade lighting at several schools and install air conditioning in the Axton Elementary School gym.

*Meeting in closed session to discuss appointees to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Local Finance Board for OPEB Liability, Patrick & Henry Community College Board, and Roanoke River Basin Association; pending legal matters; the acquisition/disposal of real estate; and of as-yet unannounced industries.

At the 6 p.m. meeting, the board will:

*Hear an update on general highway matters from Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

*Consider adopting an ordinance to provide a 1.5 percent one-time bonus to employees of the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services. The board approved the bonus in May, however the state requires an ordinance before disbursement to DSS employees.

Regional network expands support for area nonprofits



Staff from the Dan River Nonprofit Network (DRNN) meet with nonprofit leaders and community stakeholders during a session at The Ground Floor coffee house in Uptown Martinsville.

The Harvest Foundation will invest \$759,108 over the next three years to expand nonprofit support services in Martinsville-Henry County through a new partnership with Dan River Nonprofit Network (The Nonprofit Network).

"The Harvest Foundation is always looking for ways to support the local nonprofit community beyond funding," said Harvest Program

Officer India Brown. "Nonprofits are on the front lines. They deeply understand the needs and challenges our community faces. That's why it's so important for us to help provide them with the resources they need to thrive. Over the years, we've built a strong relationship with Dan River Nonprofit Network. Their passion for supporting nonprofits and their depth of knowledge is inspiring. We're

thrilled to welcome them to the Martinsville-Henry County community and even more excited to make this incredible resource available to our local nonprofit partners."

Over the next three years, The Nonprofit Network will focus on hiring key staff, including an MHC Coordinator, curating consultant networks, and establishing a strong foundation of trust and collabora-

tion among local nonprofits. The initiative will also facilitate networking events, mentorship opportunities, and strategic partnerships with local organizations.

"This initiative is a significant step forward in fostering a more connected and sustainable nonprofit sector," said Evelyn Riley, Executive Director of The Nonprofit Network. "We want to equip organizations with the tools they need to thrive, promote partnerships, and ensure nonprofits have access to the resources required to maximize their impact."

The Network will provide a hub for regional nonprofits to share knowledge, build relationships, and access tailored training and development programs. Research conducted by DRNN and the Community Spaces Network found that nearly 60% of surveyed nonprofit organizations expressed a need for professional development resources, while 80% sought capacity-building supports and networking opportunities.

"We believe the nonprofit sector plays a crucial role in strengthening communities," Riley said. "This hub will serve as a catalyst for nonprofits to grow, share resources, and work together to drive meaningful change."

Local nonprofits have already begun to consult

with The Nonprofit Network. Terrance Harris, founder and executive director of Austin's Second Chance, said that as a newly established nonprofit in the area, his experience with the network has been incredibly valuable.

"Their expertise, dedication, and comprehensive resources made me feel genuinely supported from day one," Harris said. "In my very first meeting, they not only listened to my needs as the founder of Austin's Second Chance but also took the time to understand why I started the organization and what it means to our community. The Network's presence, kindness, and commitment will undoubtedly benefit Henry

County and its charitable sector for years to come."

The Nonprofit Network's expansion aligns with The Harvest Foundation's commitment to supporting a vibrant Martinsville-Henry County, fostering community connectivity, and strengthening nonprofit capacity and partnerships. As a convener of community organizations, The Network's mission is to increase capacity, build connections, and foster collaboration, ensuring local nonprofits have the knowledge and tools they need to succeed.

For more information about The Nonprofit Network and upcoming opportunities, visit danrivernonprofits.org.



Andy Doss demonstrates how a bayonet locks on to his reproduction 1766 French Charleville.

Doss delivers special presentation at Nolen Reunion

Andy Doss, President of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, recently delivered a special presentation at the annual Nolen Family Reunion, held at Floyd Baptist Church on the first Saturday of each June.

Doss spoke on the topic of local militia organization in early Virginia, offering insight into the formation of Floyd County from Montgomery County and the structure of regional militia service during the 18th and early 19th centuries. His lecture highlighted the duties of early militia soldiers, includ-

ing clothing requirements and the ways in which counties organized and maintained their military units.

To conclude the event, Doss led the audience outside for a live demonstration of musket firing, providing an engaging and memorable visual for attendees of all ages.

In addition to his role with the SAR, Doss serves on the Board of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society. He can be reached at genealogy@vt.edu for inquiries about local American Revolution history, Bassett history, or speaking engagements.

Traffic stop in Bassett leads to arrest, manhunt



Brandee Feazelle



James Shaffer

A Henry County Sheriff's Office Deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a green Ford Ranger pickup truck in the 1500 block of Stones Dairy Road, in the Bassett area of Henry County on June 10, around 4 p.m.

Authorities allege the driver of the vehicle failed to stop, continuing down Stones Dairy Road at a low speed before turning onto Jarrett Drive, the vehicle continued down Jarrett Drive. During the pursuit, the passenger door opened multiple times, suggesting that one of the occupants may have been attempting to flee.

The vehicle eventually came to a stop behind 1053 Jarrett Drive. The driver, identified as Brandee Feazelle, exited the vehicle and allegedly tried to flee on foot but was quickly apprehended by the deputy.

The front seat passenger, identified as James Shaffer, allegedly fled the scene on foot into a wooded area behind a nearby trailer. A third person, who also allegedly fled, was apprehended by another deputy on scene, found to have no outstanding warrants and subsequently released.

Feazelle and Shaffer were both found to have outstanding warrants for their arrest. A K-9 Deputy responded to the scene and conducted a track in an effort to locate

Shaffer, but the search was unsuccessful.

A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed items that appear to be narcotics and narcotic paraphernalia, according to a release. Those items were collected and will be sent to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Western Lab in Roanoke for testing.

Feazelle, 25, 3669 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville, was arrested on outstanding warrants of possession of Schedule I or II Controlled Substances and Probation Violation.

She also was charged with Fail to Stop for Law Enforcement, Loud Exhaust, and Improper Tread Depth.

She is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond.

Authorities continue to seek Shaffer on two counts of charges of Possession of a Scheduled I/II Drug.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident or Shaffer's whereabouts is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

More than \$750,000 in scholarships awarded to local students



Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County students who received awards from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia for the upcoming academic year.

The Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia is proud to announce the awarding of over \$750,000 in scholarships for the 2025–2026 academic year, with more than \$500,000 benefiting students from the Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County areas.

This year, the Foundation received over 5,500 scholarship applications, and 238 students were selected as recipients—138 of them from our local community.

“We are thrilled to help empower these bright students as they take their next steps in education,” said Foundation leadership. “These scholarships are a testament to the generosity of local donors and the promise of our youth.”

With assets totaling more than \$120 million, the Foundation has served the Roanoke Valley since 1988 and the Martinsville-Henry County area since 2005. The Foundation manages hundreds of endowed funds and has invested over \$70 million into the communities it serves since its inception with nearly \$10 million of

that specifically in educational scholarships.

Scholarship Recipients for the 2025-26 school year are:

Saige Adams
Sienna Bailey
Marissa Bentley
Breanna Boyd
Emily Bray
Finley Brightwell
Kiara Brown
Sara Bull
Delaney Burris
Cole Byrd
Jordan Caldwell-McGhee
Elizabeth Caro Tamayo
Elijah Chandler
Sydney Clark
Lakyn Cochran
Baylie Coleman
Kennedy Coleman
Brittany Collins
Daryl Combs
Caroline Cook
Lani Craig
Alyson Cuthbertson
Preston Davis
Laura Dillard
Saniya Dillard
Elijah Durant
Austin Elliott
Abdullah Farooq
Jamirah Farris
Madison Ferguson
Joseph Fincher
Rachel Fincher

Sarah Finley
Lacey Flanagan
Damaris Foddrell
Carson Foley
Cassidy Foley
Justin Ford
Hailey Chitwood Gammons
Luke Gardner
Alexis Garten
Heaven Garten
Kaylyn Gary
Emily Gilley
Hunter Goad
Ava Grant
Anthony Hairston
Donna Hairston
Mackenzie Hairston
Dawood Haji
MaKayla Hall
Michael Hardy
Jordan Harris
Liam Heaslip
Holden Hendricks
Camden Holland
Taylor Holland
Isabella Hood
Scottie Hubbard
Allyson Hundley
Benjamin Jarrett
Destiny Johnson
Zachary Johnson
Caleb Joyce
Mallory Kaczor
Olivia Keaton
Olivia Keller
Olivia Kendall
Ava Knight

Nicholas Kurczewski
Kelcie Lemons
Candice Lockard
Lauren Luther
Jamie Lynskey
Catherine Martin
Jessanie Martin
Taylor Martin
Kennedy McPherson
Kaci Meade
Emma Metzger
Destyni Millner
Nabria Millner
Kailei Minter
Hannah Mitchell
Ella Montgomery
William Morrison
Abigail Mosley
Chandler Motley
Zoie Pace
Krishna Patel
TMesha Penn
Tyrese Perkins
Elizabeth Poe
Justin Pool
Tyler Powell
Kristian Preston
Nala Preston
Bear Priddy
Landon Prillaman
Lydia Prillaman
Kelsey Reece
Leah Reece
Taylor Reed
Zeariah Reeves
Brandon Reid
Miranda Reynolds

Saylor Robertson
Jennifer Ruiz
Diego Salinas
Hannah Schelling
Shaley Shreve
Taylor Slate
Jariyah Smith
Lisa Smith
Faith Sprinkle
MaKayla Sprouse
Bailey Stanley
Amare Thaxton
NaTevis Toney
Chevon Trotter
Eden Turner
Maria Turner
Haley Underwood
Tyra Valentine
Adam Varner
Alyssa Veasey
Destiny Walker
Devin Walker
Michael Walker
Samantha Wall
Kayla Webb
Emily White
Monet Williams
Sydney Witcher
Ethan Yates
Emily Yeatts
Hannah Young
Bianca Zelaya

For a full listing of scholarship funds, or to learn more about the Community Foundation, visit www.cfwesternva.org.

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Distinguished alumni celebrated at awards dinner

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored 11 P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at an awards dinner on Friday, June 13 at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have completed a minimum of twenty-four credit hours at P&HCC, have demonstrated success within their field of expertise, and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.

This year's award recipients are Jake Abell; Jerri H. Crews, RN; Jeanette Frazier, OT; Alfredo Huerta; Eric W. Hunt; James Keaton; Rita McBride, RN; Craig O'Der; Andrew C. Palmer; and Beverly Belcher Woody.

Abell graduated from P&HCC with his Associate's Degree in Small Business Management/Entrepreneurship in 2022. He continued his education earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Leadership from Liberty University in 2023. He also completed a Beer Brewer Professional Certificate from Virginia Tech and the University of Richmond. Abell is the owner and Brewmaster at Scuffle Hill Brewing Company. A graduate of Bassett High School, he has served as Military Police in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged as a decorated Corporal. Abell completed the GROW MHC program of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild and is Vice-President of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Board of Directors.

Crews earned her Associate's degree in Nursing from P&HCC in 1996. She serves as a school nurse with Henry County Public Schools at Meadow View Elementary School. A graduate of Laurel Park High School, she also works with Health Connect providing health screenings and instructing diabetes and chronic health classes. Crews is an Emergency Medical Technician under Henry County Public Safety and is a CPR, First Aid, and AED Instructor with the American Heart Association. She and her siblings and their families own and operate The Legacy at Hatcher Farm, a wedding and event venue on the family farm in the Leatherwood community.

Frazier earned her Associate's degree in General Studies from P&HCC in 1996. She continued her education at Jefferson College of Health



Alfredo Huerta, Beverly Woody, Eric Hunt, Andrew Palmer, Craig O'Der, Jeanette Frazier, Rita McBride, Jake Abell, James Keaton, Jerri Crews

Sciences, earning an Associate's Degree in Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant in 1996 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in 2003. Frazier is an Occupational Therapist at Bassett Physical Therapy. A graduate of Laurel Park High School, she had previously worked as an Occupational Therapist at SOVAH Health, Stanleystown Health and Rehab, and Professional Therapy of Roanoke. Frazier is the consulting Occupational Therapist at Tackfully Teamed Riding Academy and a member of the board of directors. She is also an active volunteer at Edwards Adult Day Care Center and at Kearfott Memorial Church.

Huerta graduated from P&HCC in 2015 with his Associate's degree in General Studies and a certificate in general education. He is scheduled to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Aerospace Management, Flight Operations in the summer of 2025 from Averett University. Huerta is a police officer with the Martinsville City Police Department and the School Resource Officer at Martinsville High School. He has received a Crime Stoppers Award and a Co-Life Saving Award. Huerta has also obtained his commercial pilot's license. A graduate of Bassett High School, he has worked as a sales specialist with The Brick Running & Tri Store, a tutor for English Language Learners with Henry County Public Schools, a Press Operator with Packaging Products, Inc., and a temporary worker with Ameristaff Employment Agency. Huerta is the assistant coach for the Martinsville High School Girls Varsity Soccer team and has served as a track and cross country coach for several high schools and elementary schools in Henry County. An avid runner, he has completed nineteen triathlons, three full Iron Man events, and thirty-six marathons, including five appearances in the Boston Marathon.

Hunt earned his Associate's degree in Business Administration from P&HCC in 2005. He went on to complete an Associate's of Funeral Service Education in 2007 from Fayetteville Technical Community College. Hunt is the founder and wedding officiant of

Myrtle Beach Wedding Officiant, LLC. A graduate of Stanleystown Baptist Academy, his professional background includes serving as operations manager and licensed funeral director/embalmer at Bassett Funeral Service, guest services manager at Brittain Resort Management, assistant banking center manager at Bank of America, property manager at Jennings & Company, Inc., and digital brand manager at Berry Financial Group, Inc. Hunt has served on the boards of Focus On Youth CASA and was a founding board member of the Jesus Jam Foundation. He is a member of the International Association of Professional Wedding Officiants, an ambassador for the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Myrtle Beach Hospitality Association.

Keaton graduated from P&HCC in 1993 with an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice. He continued his education at Radford University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1995. Keaton currently serves as a police officer at Patrick & Henry Community College. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, he served as a Boatswain's Mate Second Class Officer in the United States Navy during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and later in the United States Navy Reserves. Keaton was a deputy sheriff with the Henry County Sheriff's Office, a technician with Martin Furniture and Cabinetry, a technician with GCS Electronics, and a technician/certified fire, water & mold specialist with ServPro. While in the United States Navy, he earned multiple medals. Keaton was also an Officer of the Year with the Henry County Sheriff's Office and earned the Director's Award for the Piedmont Criminal Justice Training Academy. He is a certified CPR & AED Instructor. Keaton serves as an Elder at Stone Memorial Christian Church.

McBride earned her Associate's degree in Nursing from P&HCC in 2009. She is currently completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Averett University. McBride is the Director of Critical Care Unit

at SOVAH Health. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, she began her career as a pharmacy technician at SOVAH Health when it was Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and advanced to Unit Secretary of the Critical Care Unit while enrolled in the nursing program at Patrick & Henry Community College. After graduation, McBride worked as a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. She then became clinical manager of Critical Care Unit before being named the director of the Critical Care Unit, PICC, and Dialysis. McBride is an active volunteer at Day Star Ministries where she works with the children's ministry, vacation bible school, and children's productions.

O'Der earned his Associate's degree in Administration of Justice in 2016. He continued his education at the British National Senior Investigation Officer Academy/Metropolitan Police Crime Academy at New Scotland Yard in London, England. O'Der currently serves as a special agent with the United States Department of Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, and is the mayor and town manager of Ridgeway. A graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School, he was a Sergeant in the United States Army before joining the Henry County Sheriff's Office as a Criminal Investigator, Master Deputy Sheriff, the first School Resource Officer at Bassett High School, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program instructor in elementary schools. O'Der then served as an Inspector General Law Enforcement Special Agent and Polygraph Examiner with the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Office of the State Inspector. He is a member of the Virginia Municipal League and Martinsville & Henry County Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Piedmont Masonic Lodge and the American Polygraph Association. O'Der is a former soccer official with the Virginia High School League and General Manager of the High Point Thomasville HiToms Baseball Organization's developmental teams program.

Palmer earned an Associate's degree in Business Tech-

nology-Management from P&HCC in 2013. Palmer is the Vice President of Lester Properties and the President of Lester Development Corporation. A graduate of Bassett High School, he was a materials handler at Heritage Home Center, owner of Palmer's Golf Cart Sales, owner/franchisee of Sears Hometown Store, collector at Wells Fargo Bank N/A, and commercial leasing manager at The Lester Group. Palmer is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, a member and former president of the Martinsville/Henry County Lions Club, a member of the Knights of Pythias, a board member of the Fuller Center of MHC, and the vice chairman of organizational improvement for the Martinsville/Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Woody earned her Associate's degree in Paralegal Studies from P&HCC in 2000. She continued her education at Old Dominion University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Specialization in Professional Writing in 2010 and a Master of Science degree in Education from Regent University in 2021. Woody serves as a U.S. History teacher, Student Council advisor, and Speech and Debate Team coach at Martinsville Middle School. A graduate of Patrick County High School, she worked in textiles at Bassett-Walker, Inc., Spencer's Inc., and Pluma, Inc. After an internship with Henry County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, Woody worked at the Franklin County Circuit Court clerk's office and the Henry County General District Court clerk's office. She then served as a long-term substitute teacher and remediation tutor at Franklin County Public Schools. Woody was named Teacher of the Year in 2024 and District Teacher of the Year in 2025 for Martinsville City Schools. She is a member of the Virginia Educators Association and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She is the regent of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Woody is on the board of directors of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum. She writes a weekly local history column called "Patrick Pioneers" for the Stuart Enterprise newspaper and authored a local history book Patrick Pioneers Part One and has helped to narrate the PBS documentary Rock Castle Home.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Distinguished Alumni Awards program, please contact the P&HCC Foundation at (276) 656-0250.

Community Garden Mural unveiled at ribbon cutting

By Jessica Dillon
A ribbon cutting on June 11 marked the official unveiling of a new mural at the Salvation Army in Martinsville, where a community garden is also planned.

Tekela Redd, director of the Salvation Army of Martinsville VA, Service Center, is now focused on preparing the garden. "I just want to see vegetables and herbs for our community to take in."

The mural was started in April and painted by Tony Davis and members of Luna Moth Tattoo Studio in Collinsville on a remaining wall of a former building at 603 Memorial Blvd. South.

Tony Davis said there is still a bit of work left to do on the mural. "We are going to be adding a few more flowers and butterfly silhouettes." Davis said the feedback has



An official ribbon cutting was held June 11 to unveil a new mural at the Salvation Army in Martinsville.

been "fantastic," and that people would cheer them on while painting. Some citizens have even started taking photos with the butterfly wings at the center of the mural.

Lt. Antonio Hodges, a commanding officer of the Salvation Army, said the mural is "very unique to Martinsville." He said the Martinsville branch had been placed un-

der his leadership in the past year and a half. "We wanted to do something nice for the community. We wanted to be more involved, to start serving in different capacities."

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones, Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson, and council member Rayshaun Gravely attended the event. Jones said he is looking forward to the com-

munity garden and intends to help. "I have a garden at home, and I have a bunch of different flowers, so I'm excited to see what it's going to look like."

Lawson, who previously served on the advisory board for the Martinsville chapter of the Salvation Army, said there has long been a vision to do something with the

wall. "It's so nice that Tekela has taken it and run with it, and done such an amazing job. Instead of it being an old rundown service station, it's a beautiful mural."

Gravely, who currently serves on the board, said he's watched the mural grow. "It used to be a rundown little spot, and now look how beautiful it is." He also helps with the warming center and wants to continue giving back. "I plan to be all hands on deck with the garden. We want some good vegetables and some good fruit."

The garden site was cleared by inmates under the supervision of Steve Draper, along with some visitors who stayed at the warming center. "I think that it doesn't matter your circumstance—you can still do things to help," Gravely said.

Axton gym to get AC as school board wraps up fiscal year

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County School Board met June 12 to close out the fiscal year, wrapping up a series of expenditures. These included funding for air conditioning in the gym at Axton Elementary, lighting upgrades across the division, and updates to several school board policies to meet new state requirements.

Director of Policy and Legal Services Christy Landon presented several state-mandated changes that will take effect July 1. Many of the changes focus on opioid and overdose-related issues. These include criminal background restrictions for employment, requirements for opioid antagonist storage and training, cardiac emergency plans, a new student overdose notification policy, and updated classroom instruction on opioid overdose response.

New requirements for advanced math placement in grades 5 through 8 will also go into effect. Students can now be automatically enrolled, with parents having the option to opt them out. Policies regarding cell phone use, student health services,



The county school board met on June 12 to close out the fiscal year.

and seizure medication access are also being updated. These changes will be voted on during the July 10 meeting.

Categorical transfers approved by the school included \$1.2 million from the instruction category to the maintenance category and \$150,000 from the administration, attendance, and health category to maintenance. When approved by the Henry County Board of Supervisors, the funds will be used to install air conditioning in the Axton Elementary gym, at a cost of \$55,000, and upgrade parking lots and lighting at several county schools, totaling \$850,000.

The bulk of the outdoor work will take place during the school

year, while indoor work is scheduled around student breaks. Havtech of Roanoke was awarded the Axton gym air conditioning project, making Axton the final school in the division to receive gym air conditioning. The lighting contract was awarded to Triangle Electric of Ridgeway.

Up to \$3.15 million will be allocated to the school division's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust fund, pending availability of end-of-year funds. An estimated \$41.2 million in year-end payroll and vendor obligations is also projected for FY25.

The next board meeting will be held July 10 at 9 a.m. at the Administration Building, to accommodate summer hours.

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