

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

(USPS-6)

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This map illustrates the water expansion along Horsepasture Price Road.

Supervisors deadlock on solar siting, advance major PSA project

By Taylor Boyd

While the Henry County Board of Supervisors were unable to reach consensus on solar development, they united behind a significant infrastructure investment during the Tuesday, Aug. 26, meeting, and

unanimously approved a \$6 million allocation to the Public Service Authority (PSA) to support a major expansion of public water service along Horsepasture Price Road.

The county's \$6 million contribution (See Supervisors p. 9)

Council rejects calls to release investigation; raises interim manager's pay

By Jessica Dillon
Martinsville City Council voted Monday, Aug. 26, against releasing an internal investigation report that led to the removal of former City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides. The decision drew sharp criticism from two council members and from residents who demanded transparency.

The vote deepened tensions that have divided council for months, and continues after Ferrell-Benavides' ouster, raising new questions about accountability in city government.

Council members Aaron Rawls and Julian Mei urged their colleagues to make the report public, arguing that citizens deserve



Patty Covington reads an email to council from frustrated citizens.

to know why the action was taken.

"You deserve to know," Rawls said. "I'm going to give you my word that you are going to find out anyway." He warned that

the community is "dealing with bad people" and insisted that disclosure is necessary to restore public trust.

Mei said withholding the report further (See Council p. 5)

Bassett High's new fieldhouse hailed as symbol of pride and persistence

By Jessica Dillon

Henry County Public Schools held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 22 to celebrate the opening of the new athletic fieldhouse at Bassett High School.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis, members of the Henry County School Board, Delegate Eric J. Phillips, Supervisor Garrett Dillard, former principals, coaches and community members joined together for the event.

Blake-Lewis emphasized that the project was years in the making and made possible through the county's 1% sales tax referendum. She called the facility a "point of pride" and a symbol of community support.



The Bassett High School Field House ribbon cutting took place at a preseason game Aug. 22, with Phillips, Martin, Vice Chairman Ben Gravely, and members Champ Hardie, Cheris Whitlow and Elizabeth Durdin among those participating in the ribbon cutting.

"This project represents more than just bricks and mortar. It is the culmination of years of planning, persistence, and a shared vision for what our students and community deserve," Blake-Lewis said. "It symbolizes pride in our students, pride in our schools, and pride in our community's future. To our student-athletes: may this space inspire you to work hard, dream big, and continue the tradition of excellence that makes Bassett High School so special."

She also thanked RRMM Architects, Quality Construction and the school system's facilities team for their work in completion (See Bassett p. 2)



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner speaks at King's Grant retirement community on Aug. 27.

Warner discusses Medicaid, ICE, climate at King's Grant

By Jessica Dillon

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner visited King's Grant retirement community on Aug. 27, where he addressed issues ranging from Medicaid and Social Security to immigration enforcement and climate change.

Warner said the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" could have major impacts on health care in Virginia.

"Medicaid is not just about poor people. Sixty-seven percent of folks who are on long-term care in Virginia are on Medicaid," Warner

said. He noted that a requirement to qualify for Medicaid is to spend down nearly all personal resources "until you're almost broke."

He said the bill could remove 300,000 Virginians from Medicaid.

"Not only are we going to lose 300,000 folks, it's also going to start cutting Medicare benefits as well because the way Medicaid and Medicare work together — if you undermine one, you undermine the other," he said.

(See Warner p. 11)

Austin's Second Chance focuses on men's mental health

By Jessica Dillon

Terrance Harris, executive director and founder of Austin's Second Chance, is working to fill a gap he saw in the community: support for men's mental health. The nonprofit also offers classes as part of its mission to build a safer, healthier community.

"Our mission is to build and create a comprehensible, social and need-based network for young men to utilize within the local community to address mental health concerns," Harris said.

Harris's journey into men's mental health advocacy began in high school, when his close friend Austin died.

"He was very close to a very dear friend of mine. And so his loss and his death affected me very deeply, which is why I started Austin's Second Chance," Harris said. "I started the charity in honor of him, in hopes not only to get his message out—to basically speak about how he



Terrance Harris, executive director of Austin's Second Chance.

died—but more or less to stop other people from hopefully finding that same way of ending."

The organization is led by Harris alongside a dedicated board. Elizabeth Carter serves as president, Mary Compson as program director, Ariel Johnson as vice president, and Tony Davis is on the board.

"We have so many members on our board who are committed to growing this initiative here that I'm so happy (See Austin's p. 6)

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FOR MORE UPDATES



County hosts state leaders for tour of future Mayo River State Park



Byrd's Ledge. A rock feature on the North Fork at the state line is known as Byrd's Ledge, in honor of William Byrd, who in October 1728 camped there and wrote in his journal about the natural beauty of the area.

Henry County recently welcomed a distinguished group of state and local leaders to tour the potential future site of Virginia's next state park along the scenic Mayo River.

The visit marked a significant milestone in the county's ongoing effort to formally establish the park and secure state support for its development.

The delegation included Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Stefanie Taillon, Deputy Secretary Corey Scott, and Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Matthew Wells. They were joined by Delegates Eric Phillips (48th District) and Wren Williams (47th District); Jim Adams, Chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors; Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District

Supervisor; and representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Eco Ambassador Council, the Harvest Foundation, the Dan River Basin Association, and the Martinsville Henry County Economic Development Corp.

The group toured key areas of the future park, including the stunning confluence of the North and South forks of the Mayo River—an ecologically and historically-significant feature that represents the heart of the site. One of the highlights was a visit to Byrd's Ledge, a breathtaking rock formation located along the Virginia trail that showcases the natural beauty and recreational potential of the area.

Following the tour of the Virginia side, the delegation crossed into North Carolina to explore the exist-



State and local leaders toured the convergence of the North and South forks of the Mayo River as part of a tour of the Future Mayo River State Park. From left to right: Del. Eric Phillips (48th District), Del. Wren Williams (47th District), Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Stefanie Taillon, Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner, Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, Henry County Board Chairman Jim Adams.

ing Mayo River State Park via the Deshazo Mill Access. The North Carolina park has served as a successful model for natural preservation and recreation, offering a glimpse of what is possible for the Virginia side with the proper investment and planning.

"This was a tremendous opportunity to showcase the unique natural and cultural resources of the future Mayo River State Park," Adams said. "The visit not only strengthened our partnerships with state leaders but also emphasized the importance of securing funding to make this park a reality for residents and visitors alike."

Henry County is currently working with DCR and other partners to com-

plete the master planning process, with a long-term vision of developing public access, recreational amenities, educational programming, and conservation efforts across the property. The Co

The Mayo River property, originally acquired in 2003, spans nearly 600 acres and represents a vital piece of the region's outdoor recreation and conservation strategy. The park is expected to bolster tourism, improve quality of life, and support environmental stewardship in Southside Virginia. For more information about the Mayo River State Park Master Plan, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/mr-masterplan>.

Bassett

(cont. from page 1)



Students, athletes and other dignitaries also participated.



Many helped celebrate the completion of the new Field House at Bassett High School.



Blake-Lewis was among those addressing the crowd.



Many helped celebrate the completion of the new Field House at Bassett High School.

pleting the project. Henry County School Board Chairman Teddy Martin praised the support of the community in helping the fieldhouse come to life.

"On behalf of the Board, we are grateful to the support of the community and the many who have dedicated themselves to making this day

possible," Martin said, adding the board was "thrilled" to mark the occasion with many, including Curtis Millner and Dr. Joe DeVault, both former board chairmen. "We look forward to many years of use of this amazing addition to Bassett High School and soon celebrating many more achievements here and

throughout the division."

Bassett High Principal Michael Minter said the building will serve students and athletes for years to come.

"This incredible facility is more than just a building," he said. "It is a symbol of Henry County Public Schools' commitment to excel-



P&HCC's Police Chief Gary Dove monitors campus cameras from the campus police department.

Two grants for surveillance cameras awarded to P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has received two grants to support surveillance camera upgrades on campus.

P&HCC received \$47,149 for surveillance camera upgrades from Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VDCJS) and \$10,000 from the Virginia Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Fund to purchase surveillance cameras for monitoring ingress/egress at one of P&HCC's remote sites as well as surveillance of several of the campus's parking lots and roadways. The camera to be installed at the remote site is equipped with license plate identification capabilities.

"Not only will this enhance the security and safety of P&HCC's campus, but it will also boost the security of the service region and allow the campus to assist law enforcement in the city of Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia. We look forward to implementing these technology resources to increase the overall security of our campuses," said Eric Arrington, P&HCC's Director of Technology.

P&HCC expects several immediate benefits to campus security thanks

to the VCDJS and HEAT grants, including improved surveillance capabilities for campus police, decreased time spent searching through video archives and performing real-time tracking of a subject; use of vehicle, people, and license plate data to assist neighboring, state, and federal police forces; and real-time alerting (face, vehicle, license plates) to ensure that P&HCC employees, students, and visitors are safe from known criminals or persons of interest.

P&HCC has a robust surveillance system in place, including a cloud-based camera management and storage solution, which, partnered with upgraded surveillance equipment, ensures a more high functioning surveillance system across campus that will enhance security. Additionally, P&HCC has a recognized and accredited police force, with 5 law enforcement officers and 3 security officers. Patrick & Henry Community College Police Department's mission is to provide a safe and secure campus for the community.

lence, a home for our athletes, and a space for our entire school to gather and build spirit."

The new fieldhouse includes lockers, restrooms, showers and offices for coaches. Fu-

ture plans include a television system for coaches to review game footage.

"Because of your commitment, we were able to provide our students with facilities that match their tal-

ents, their dedication, and their potential," Blake-Lewis said. "Together, we are building more than facilities — we are building opportunities, character, memories and pride for generations to come."

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

Thursday, September 4

Henry County School Board meets - 5:30 p.m., followed by closed session, at Mount Olivet Elementary School, 255 Lancer Lane, Martinsville.

Tuesday, September 16

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

Events

Friday, August 29

Haircuts by Clark's Cuts, professional, licensed beautician, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., upstairs at the Bassett Ruritan Club, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett. Suggested donation is \$15. All proceeds benefit the Bassett Ruritan Club. Walk-ins welcome.

Saturday, August 30

Celebrate Labor Day in Fieldale with Firework at Fieldale Pool, 8:30 p.m. Pool open 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Rain date is August 31.

Disaster Food Relief Ministry to hold yard sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Bassett food distribution site, 24 Gov Stanley Hwy, Bassett. Held rain or shine - inside if rain. All proceeds help to purchase necessary food & supplies to continue feeding those in need in Patrick and Henry counties. Call Starr Nicholas 804-761-7766 for more information.

Friday, September 5

Fido's Big Basement Sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 119 E Main St, Martinsville.

Saturday, September 6

Ham and Egg Breakfast, 7 - 11 a.m., Country ham, eggs, sausage, bacon, gravy, biscuits, pancakes, apples, coffee and juice; \$10 per person at Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett.

Martinsville Historical Society Public Grand Opening, 3-8 p.m., 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Bassett Heritage Festival, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., town of Bassett.

Wednesday, September 10

Join moderators Natalie Hodge and Jennifer Reis for a public listening session about Piedmont Arts. Share your thoughts on the future of the museum and how it can positively impact the community, 6-7 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. More info at PiedmontArts.org.

Saturday, September 20

Rangely Ruritan Breakfast, 7-10 a.m., 134 Caloway Drive, Fieldale. Donations accepted. Eat-in or take out. Proceeds go towards community projects.

Lord's Acre Sale at Ridgeway Methodist Church, 160 Church St, Ridgeway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds supporting local missions. Country Breakfast is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Hot Dogs will be available for \$3 each. Crafts, baked goods, fresh produce, plants, and canned goods will be available for purchase. The monthly free community breakfast will resume October 18.

Ongoing

BINGO on Mondays, Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A.L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. Concessions are available.

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

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

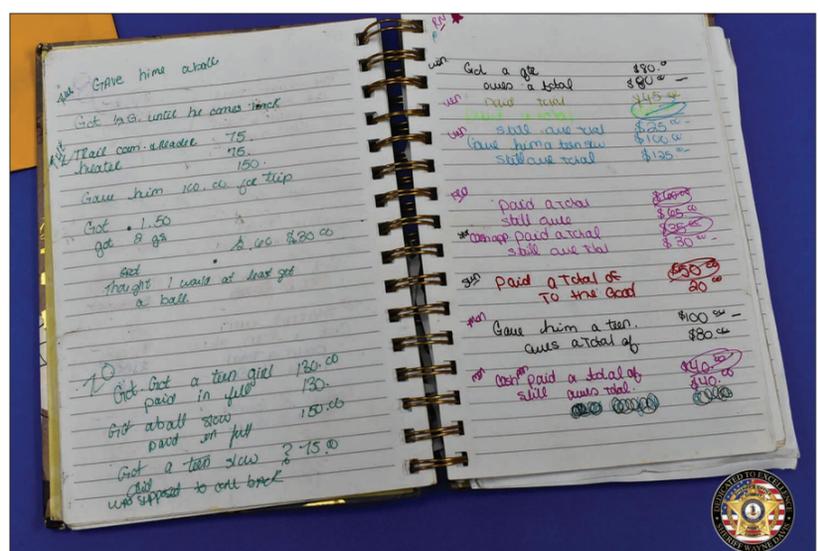
The Martinsville-Henry County Democratic Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at New College Institute on Fayette Street (park on Moss St.). RSVP at mhcdcv.org/meeting-rsvp for Zoom link.

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

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

Neighbors in the Know. Join staff and volunteers in the Hylton Library at the Spencer Penn Centre for activities and socializing on the third Monday of each month, 10-11 a.m. This free program is perfect for all ages. Registration is not required.

Two arrested after search warrant served in Bassett



Suspected drugs, firearm, ammunition, digital scales, and the ledger recovered during the search are pictured. If your name happens to be in that ledger, you may want to speak with the Drug Interdiction Unit at the sheriff's office.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team executed a narcotics search warrant on August 20 at 241 Penrose Drive, Bassett. The warrant was obtained as a result of an ongoing investigation led by the Sheriff's Office Vice Unit and Drug Interdiction Unit, which was initiated after multiple complaints were received from community members regarding suspected illegal drug activity at the residence.

suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine, along with a stolen firearm. Digital scales, ammunition, and a ledger containing names were also located. All suspected narcotics and evidence recovered will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis.

James Joshua Rumley, 34, was charged with three counts each distribution of Schedule I/II Drugs, possession with the intent to distribution of Schedule I/II Drugs, and one count each possess Schedule I/II drug while possessing a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm.

Elizabeth Lynn Robertson, 45, was charged with probation violation.

More charges are pending against both individuals as the investigation continues, according to a release.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office thanked the community for providing the tips that directly led to the execution



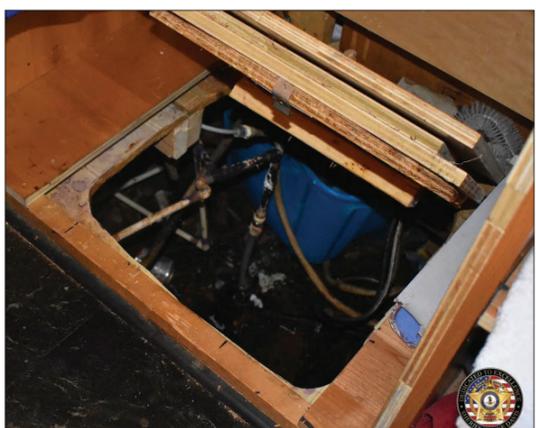
James Joshua Rumley



Elizabeth Lynn Robertson

of this search warrant. Anyone with additional information regarding illegal drug

activity is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or through



A trap door in the bathroom provided access to the crawlspace.

Crimestoppers at up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of suspects.

Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of September 1-6:

9/2	2pm	Golf	Bassett - match at Kinderton GC
	2pm	Golf	Magna Vista - match at Kinderton GC
	6pm	Boys Soccer	Carlisle at SVA
	7pm	Volleyball	Patrick County at Bassett
9/3	1pm	Golf	Martinsville at Carroll County (Olde Mill GC)
	5pm	Cross Country	Bassett at Tunstall
	5pm	Cross County	Magna Vista at Tunstall
	5pm	Boys Soccer	The Covenant at Carlisle
	6:30pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Morehead
	7pm	Volleyball	William Fleming at Martinsville
9/4	6pm	Volleyball	SVA at Carlisle
	7pm	Volleyball	James River at Bassett
9/5	5:30pm	Boys Soccer	Eastern Mennonite at Carlisle
	7pm	Football	Bassett at Gretna
	7pm	Football	Martinsville at Magna Vista
9/6	9am	Cross Country	Bassett at Cave Spring (Green Hill Park)

OPINION

Beyond the bridge, where strangers aren't welcome

He was having fun exploring on the four-wheeler, but I was nervous.

Our family didn't go on the other side of the bridge. We went up to the bridge, sure; and, in fact, when the old bridge was falling apart and an ambulance couldn't get to a cabin where there was a medical emergency, my parents headed the road campaign to raise money for a new bridge and oversaw its construction. But we didn't often travel beyond that bridge.

"The people on this side of the bridge are different," I warned him, as my parents had warned me. "They don't like strangers on this road."

"It's a road," he said, zooming noisily along the long distances between secluded private driveways.

"There's a cabin!" I alerted. We were on a driveway.

"We'd better git!", he replied, turning around at the closest opportunity.

We drove back down the road and parked near the bridge - on the safe side of the bridge, "our" side, of course. We wandered along the little river, clambering on rocks and looking at plants.

My heart sunk when I heard the sound of another four-wheeler. We'd never get back to ours in time to drive away. Instead, we went up to face the music.

A man in his seventies in a harsh acrid accent asked us what we were doing there. My companion, in gently rolling Georgian intonations, cheerfully explained that he just took me out to look at ferns and mosses at the creek, and that we were staying the week with my parents at the top of the mountain.

The man gave lectures about strangers going on the private road and that they are not welcome. These people here keep to themselves.

After a little back-and-forth, the man lightened up and got friendly.

"They call me the sheriff," he said. "No one ever comes up here, so someone hears a noise, everyone calls each other and I go check it out. In the winter, when her parents aren't here, I drive up to their place to make sure no one is there that isn't supposed to be."

He told stories of catching intruders, and prosecuting some based on photographs taken by hidden trail cameras.

"This place isn't what it was. Used to, people would come up here and go home. Now we got all



Holly Kozelsky

kinds of people.

"They've started coming here from New Jersey. NEW JERSEY!"

"That one over there," he said, gesturing back, "is from South Carolina. They aren't hardly ever here.

"But the ones beside me are NUDISTS," he said. "They walk around buck naked. I know we have a lot of woods between our properties, but I can't even take the grandchildren for a walk anymore. You never know what you'll see."

My companion nodded and agreed and said, "I know how it is."

But then the man talked about how, other than the nudists and the people from New Jersey, that this secluded area of woods in the North Country, bordering the 6-million-acre Adirondack State Park, was heaven on earth.

"I don't know why her parents even had electricity put in," he said, gesturing at me. "What a waste of money, when we have everything we could possibly want just by solar panels and generators."

In fact, for the first 15 years after they had built their cabins, my parents had everything fully lit, with a gas-operated refrigerator and washer and dryer, so it was all very comfortable. However, when electricity lines became possible, they indulged, looking for more convenience to their comfort.

"After all," the unofficial sheriff continued, "I don't have electricity but I can power everything I need. My old lady and sit in our recliners and watch TV all night long."

Well, that's one thing my parents don't have: TV. When you have the grandeur of the mountains, creeks, lakes, campfires, ferns, tall trees, fireflies and luna moths, who would want to ruin it with the noisy, flashy intrusion of television?

The old man backed off, indicating he'd leave us alone, but not without a parting shot:

"They call me the sheriff up here," he said. "If anyone hears anything, they call me."

We waved good-bye, and got back on our four-wheeler, and went to look at ferns a bit closer to our place.

A) Labor Day and B) Ukrainian Situation

Throughout our country's history, the American worker has constantly made important contributions.

American industry, powered by the great contributions of the workforce, helped our progression to be a global economic powerhouse. This dynamic duo of industry and the world's best workforce developed our workforce's skillsets and resources and ushered in national prosperity and wealth.

Without the worker, we could not build our cities and towns, supply Americans with goods and services nor support our communities.

The American worker also served as a catalyst in our war effort in World War II. Rosie the Riveter captures the spirit of the American workforce during that era.

Thanks to their efforts, America stands as the model nation in the world. Our communities run on the sweat of our workers.

Labor Day is about the worker, and I am proud to live in a powerful country strengthened by the heart and soul of the American workforce.

As President Ronald Reagan put it: "I would match the American worker against any in the world."

Some of our labor and innovative triumphs are memorialized in the U.S. Capitol.

Historical figures known for their inventions, such as Benjamin Franklin and Robert Morse, are honored.

In other Capitol works, the Wright Brothers are recognized for their role in the birth of aviation.

Aviation has led to great economic growth in the American economy. According to Airlines for America, commercial aviation accounts for 5% of U.S. GDP.

August 19th marked National Aviation Day!

But without the American workforce, there would not be a National Aviation Day.

As our workforce continues to make tremendous strides, I wish you a happy and relaxing



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Labor Day weekend.

Russia and Ukraine

The prospects of ending the Russia-Ukraine War have improved by President Trump's recent efforts.

President Trump held a summit in Alaska with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss a pathway to peace.

After that summit, Trump felt enough progress was made that he could move another step forward. He held a meeting just days later at the White House with European leaders, including Macron of France, Starmer of the United Kingdom, Merz of Germany and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Through these talks, further ideas about peace negotiations were advanced.

As of this writing, Trump is working to set up a bilateral summit between Putin and Zelenskyy. Should that meeting go well, then a final trilateral meeting involving the United States would be in play.

A major tenet of the peace discussions concerns security guarantees for Ukraine.

However, Ukraine is no stranger to deals that involve security guarantees.

In a 1994 agreement known as the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, Ukraine forfeited its nuclear weapons in exchange for independence and freedom from threats or uses of force against their sovereignty.

At the time, Ukraine's nuclear weapons stockpile was the third largest in the world!

Bill Clinton signed the memoranda on behalf of the United States. The United Kingdom, Ukraine and Russia all signed it. China and France signed similar

agreements.

Russia violated the Budapest Memorandum when it annexed Crimea in 2014. President Barack Obama did little to punish Putin for this move.

Then in 2022, after President Joe Biden failed to show strength in Afghanistan, Russia launched a full-scale invasion into Ukraine, where fighting remains more than three years later.

Given this history, Ukraine will appropriately be very cautious with how it proceeds in peace discussions where security assurances are given.

Will they trust the United States? The United Kingdom? France?

What will these security guarantees look like? Will they be similar in scope to those agreed upon in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum? Or will be they stronger?

If the United States makes promises, will we live up to the promises outlined in this new agreement?

Should we commit to an armed conflict with a nuclear Russia? I do not think we should.

Further, I would hope we would not give a "blank check" to Ukraine. "Blank checks" are how Europe went from the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand directly into World War I.

As the above history shows, weakness and ambiguous "blank checks" invite further and potentially larger conflicts.

Therefore, any agreement should be clear and unambiguous.

I believe American strength and decisiveness result in peace and a more stable world.

President Trump deserves credit for projecting American strength in the pursuit of peace.

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Published Each Saturday

USPS - 6

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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

The Henry County Enterprise (USPS-6) is published weekly for \$52 per year in state, \$53 per year out of state, by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Martinsville, VA.

Make America Safe

Dr. Glenn Mollette

I would love to go back to Washington, D.C. and feel like my wife and I could safely stroll the city at 9:00 or 10:00 at night. Actually, I would like to feel like we could safely walk the city at 10:00 in the morning. I am grateful that President Trump is taking a pro-active approach to making D.C. as safe as possible.

In 2024 there were over 14 million criminal offenses reported in the United States. (US Crime statistics, Bing.com)

How many cities, towns or even rural areas do you feel safe in today? My son and I were in NYC a few years back. We toured the Empire State building and it was almost 1:00 in the morning by the time we left the building and started looking for New York pizza. We walked back to Times Square and of course there were still people out but not that many. There wasn't a minute that I wasn't constantly looking around and wondering if we were safe. We had a good evening but it's aggravating to have to be concerned.

What town or community in America can we go and not have to be concerned? Even in the smallest villages in America, who knows if there is a mentally deranged person out and about looking for something bad to do

or someone to hurt? Drunks and drug heads drive our roads. The mentally sick choose unpredictable times to unleash their problems on unsuspecting victims.

From just recent events, we know that you might be shopping at a Target store, sitting in a classroom, worshipping in your church or just walking down the street for something bad to happen to you or any of us. No one is immune in any place in America.

It hasn't always been this way. I remember that I was a child when my parents started locking the doors of our house. There was a time we didn't even lock the doors. That was another era. Wouldn't you love to once again live in a country or an area where you felt so safe that you didn't bother with locking your doors? Wouldn't it be great if you didn't have to lock them during the day? What if you didn't have to keep a loaded gun close by or even lock your car?

Wouldn't that be a wonderful world?

Criminals stole 2969 cars in D.C. in 2024 and 2944 cars so far in 2025. This is bad for everyone, the victims, the insurance companies and the city.

God bless President Trump for trying to make America and D.C. safe again. I pray that God enables him to make every town in America a place where we feel safe.

Thank You for reading Henry County Enterprise

OPINION

Regarding the weird creeps

Last weekend I went to a big box hardware store to buy some paint. As I was waiting on the paint mixer, I was subjected to a nearby conversation.

A man was telling another man — a stranger, from what I could gather based on context clues — about The Transgender Menace.

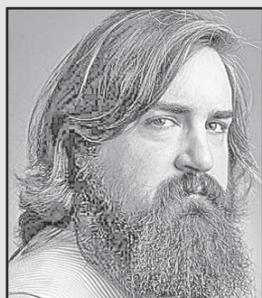
According to this fellow, our nation is in the midst of a crisis. Tiny children are getting hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and changing their gender. It's being encouraged by their teachers and parents. It's mental illness taking the form of a fad. Something must be done! They're already here! You're next! You're next! And so forth and so on.

First off, the man's argument was factually inaccurate, as only the smallest percentage of people are getting HRT before the age of 18, and then only with parental permission and a letter of support from a mental health professional. As for those 18 and older, I feel that if you're old enough to join the military, you're old enough to make any other personal decision.

Secondly, there is nothing I feel so passionately about that I feel the need to accost a random stranger about it in the paint aisle. On the other hand, I try to have a personality that isn't based on angrily reacting to the latest propaganda-fueled stalking horse, so maybe I'm the wrong person to ask.

I know several trans people, including a few I count as friends. I'll admit, I don't understand what it's like to feel that you were born in the wrong body. However, it seems to me that there are a lot of things I don't understand — Bernoulli's principle, the Cyrillic alphabet, the sudden proliferation of Labubus — but that doesn't mean they aren't real. Whether I understand it or not, planes continue to take flight, Bulgarians continue to speak Bulgarian, and backpacks continue to be adorned with weird little bunny gremlins.

Whenever I hear someone spewing hate toward trans people, whether it's coming from a dude in the paint aisle or the people elected to hold the highest offices in the land, there's always a temptation to argue back with facts. It's tempting to cite the statistic that fewer than one percent of trans people



By Ben R. Williams

regret transitioning, or bring up that trans and non-binary people are well documented throughout history and are nothing new.

However, I think the better argument is much simpler:

Getting worked up over what strangers may or may not be doing to their bodies is weird and creepy.

It's not just me, right? What's wrong with these people? Ten years ago, if you blocked the paint aisle to rant about children changing genders, people would assume you were deeply and perhaps dangerously mentally ill, and they would be right to do so. How has this become normalized?

I am fortunate to have many friends, and barring any war injuries, I assume they all have various parts that they conceal from public view for the sake of propriety. The amount of time I spend thinking about those parts or what they do with them is zero. This is because I am not a weird pervert. If I did spend a lot of time thinking about those parts or dictating what my friends are allowed to do with them, I expect I would have a lot fewer friends and probably end up on a list of some sort.

Isn't this country at least nominally supposed to be about freedom? Where's the freedom in controlling the deeply personal decisions that law-abiding citizens are allowed to make? Seems like Communism to me.

For all the talk of people brainwashing children into becoming transgender, there's only one dangerous group of people in this country who are controlling what others can do with their bodies. They call themselves the Supreme Court.

Column Sponsored by: Dr. Mensink

Community Chronicles



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

By Jarred Marlowe

In the main section of the Hairston family cemetery at the Beaver Creek plantation rest the graves of twenty-one Hairston family members who passed away while the family owned the property. But there are two graves in that same section that do not belong to the Hairstons, at least not by blood. Those two stones belong to Surry and Esther, an enslaved couple whose story quietly lives on in the history of Beaver Creek.

Surry and Esther lived on the Beaver Creek plantation during the mid nineteenth century. As is true with most enslaved people, very few records exist of their daily lives. However, through a handful of family writings, we are able to piece together small but meaningful glimpses into who they were.

One example comes from Ann Hairston, who owned Beaver Creek with her husband, Marshall. She once sent Surry into town for cheese. Rather than returning with something ordinary, Surry came back with the finest cheese he could find. Ann noted that it cost more than she would have paid, but she also wrote that Surry was the best servant they had.

Surry's responsibilities went far be-

yond errands. He served as Marshall Hairston's personal assistant and traveled with him each fall to Mississippi, where Marshall managed another Hairston property called Billy's Creek. They would spend the winter there preparing for the coming year before returning home in the spring. In Marshall's letters back to Virginia, he often closed with a postscript that said, "Tell Esther that Surry sends his love and is doing well." Those words reveal a devotion that distance and circumstance could not diminish.

The Civil War changed everything. Billy's Creek was burned near the war's end, most likely by Union troops. Marshall later wrote that he and Surry remained until they could hear the Yankee guns. Back in Virginia, the war came even closer to Beaver Creek when Stoneman's cavalry clashed less than a mile away. At the time, Confederate General Jubal Early, Marshall's cousin, was recovering from pneumonia at the plantation. It was Surry who warned Early that Union soldiers were near and urged him to flee. Early later recalled that Surry even misled Union troops, claiming that Early had just ridden out of town in the opposite direction. Early escaped capture, was given three hundred dollars in gold by his cousins, and departed for Mexico.

When the war ended in 1865, emancipation came to all who had been enslaved. By Christmas, most of the freed people at Beaver Creek had left to begin new lives in Henry County and beyond. But two remained, Surry and Esther. Marshall and Ann arranged for them to be formally married and gave them a home on the property, where they continued to live and work alongside the family.

We do not know exactly when Surry and Esther died. What we do know is how deeply they were respected. They were buried not in a separate ground, but inside the Hairston family cemetery itself, only a few plots from Marshall, Ann, and the children Esther had likely helped raise. Their gravestone is simple, inscribed only with "Surry and Esther," and decorated with a carved symbol of two hands joined together.

Surry and Esther, together in life, and together in death.

Savory September

Wild, Wild West

Country & western music by

Matt Boswell

- ★ Themed dishes
- ★ Custom cocktails
- ★ 50/50 raffle
- ★ Western flair attire

\$50 admission

INCLUDES FOOD & DRINKS

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6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26

Piedmont Arts

Piedmont Arts | 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville, VA | 276.632.3221 | PiedmontArts.org

Savory September is an annual fall fundraiser that supports Piedmont Arts exhibits and programs in Martinsville-Henry County. For more information on Piedmont Arts, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Savory September brings Wild West-themed fun to Piedmont Arts on Sept. 26

The event will feature country music by Matt Boswell and food by local chefs

Saddle up for some rootin', tootin' fun at Savory September: Wild, Wild West from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 26, at Piedmont Arts.

This Wild West-themed fundraiser for Piedmont Arts will feature themed dishes and custom cocktails prepared by a stable of local chefs, including:

- Anne Compson, Mary Compson, Brad Johnson and Janet Lewis
- Blanche and Tom Mahoney, Ester and Buz Schilbe and Barb and Guy Stanley
- Holly Burton and Tyler Lacy
- Kat and Dave Kitzmiller of Be Wicked
- Lori and Burr Fox and Julia and Blake Shumate
- Ouss Sahhar and Kerry Smith
- Page Beeler, Cindy Edgerton and Beth Sibbick
- Rachel and Shannon Cox and Donna and Jimmy McGarry
- Susan Critz, Judy Dashoff and Marty Gardner
- TAD Tavern

Guests can kick up their boot heels to live music by country and western artist Matt Boswell. Boswell is from Southern Virginia, where he grew up playing bluegrass and traditional country. He is an accomplished singer-songwriter and has shared the stage with artists such as Brad Paisley,

Blake Shelton, Montgomery Gentry, Dwight Yoakam and Terri Clark. His latest release, "The Way I Am," connects traditional and contemporary country music and features everything from heartfelt ballads to barn-burning country anthems.

The event also offers guests the chance to test their grit with Wild West-themed games and a 50/50 raffle. The winner of the raffle will split the pot with Piedmont Arts. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for six. They can be purchased in advance at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase during the event.

Suggested attire for the event is "Western flair," and guests are encouraged to incorporate denim, fringe, rhinestones and, of course, cowboy boots and hats into their outfits.

Admission tickets are \$50 per person and include food and drinks. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and PiedmontArts.org.

This event is sponsored by Diversified Trust, VisitMartinsville, Alliance Bee, Ameristaff, Bassett Office Supply, Children First Pediatrics of Virginia, P.C., Martinsville Eyecare, Sandy River Equestrian Center, Collinsville Printing Co. and Draper Flowers & Gifts.

Council

(cont. from page 1)

erodes confidence.

"I think a great deal of damage has been done in the community and to specific people, and I think if I was in the public and witnessing this, I would want to know what happened," he said.

Calling the ongoing turmoil exhausting, Mei added, "This has been the worst eight months of my life. It's like I'm playing Twister all the time — I don't even know where my arm is."

Rawls vowed to continue pressing for the report's release, saying he would "never" stop raising the issue.

Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson and Council member Rayshaun Gravely voted against disclosure, citing advice from the city attorney. Mayor LC Jones abstained. He later explained that was on advice of legal counsel.

Two residents also pressed council to release the report.

Patty Covington read aloud an email signed by 122 citizens.

"Citizens feel disrespected and taken advantage of," she said. "Taxpayers deserve to know the good, the bad, and the ugly about what's been going on in our local government."

The council approved increasing Interim City Manager Rob Fincher's pay to \$150,000 a year. A formal con-

tract is being prepared.

City employees who assume additional duties are typically entitled to a 5 percent pay increase, but Lawson said council felt that was not enough.

"We didn't feel it was sufficient," she said.

Mei defended the higher salary after some residents questioned the move, noting, "It's substantially less than the former, I might add."

In other business, council:

*Heard a presentation on increasing the city's tree canopy over the next 10 years.

*Approved the second reading of budget appropriations for debt services.

*Appointed two new members to the Board of Appeals and one to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors.

*Approved a \$55,000 grant match for a Lifepak 35 to replace cardiac monitors.

*Adopted a reimbursement resolution for Electric Fund financing, with a maximum possible amount of \$3 million, though the city is not obligated to borrow that amount.

*Approved Martinsville's participation in the national opioid settlement and a resolution on opioid-related crimes against the Sackler family.

email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

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FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Engineering Services

The City of Martinsville, Virginia is in need of professional engineering services for evaluation, rehabilitation design, construction administration, resident inspection and related services for a variety of wastewater and water projects including repairs and renovations to the wastewater treatment plant, Mulberry Creek Sewer Interceptor, Amy Avenue and Letcher Street sewer lines, water plant upgrade, and extension of a water line from Corn Tassel Trail to Mulberry Court. Funding is currently being pursued from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the wastewater treatment plant repairs and renovations.

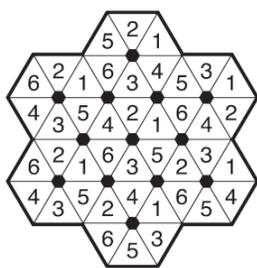
Firms interested in receiving a copy of the RFP may contact Zach Morris, Purchasing Manager, P.O. Box 1112; City of Martinsville Central Warehouse, 990 Fishel Street, Martinsville, VA 24112-3248 or call (276) 403-5354. Emails may be sent to zmorris@martinsvilleva.gov. Deadline for submittal of proposals is Monday, September 15, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Minority and female owned businesses or firms are encouraged to apply.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

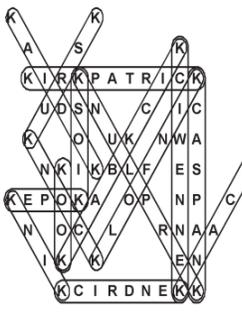
Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution



BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH "K"



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Badge
2. Agile;
3. Object;
4. Engine

Today's Word

JOGGING



answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Austin's

(cont. from page 1)

and proud to see the work that they do," Harris said.

Harris was raised by his single mother, Gladys Gravely, who inspired him to make positive changes in the world. As he pursued his master's degree and moved through different stages of life, the idea for Austin's Second Chance began to take shape.

"I finally decided to start writing the story about Austin's life. I'm currently working on a script called "Color," which is about a mother and father dealing with grief and all the problems that come with losing their only child from an accident to drug overdose," Harris said.

Writing the film, he explained, became part of his own healing process.

"I'm doing the work for me to heal. How can I do the work for others to heal? How can I help others?" Harris said. "Shouldn't you try to save the next set of Austins?"

Harris said he realized there were not many resources specifically directed toward men, particularly

young men, who are struggling with mental illness.

"I looked and I researched, and I realized that in our community, there are not really many male-centric organizations that help with men, especially young men, dealing with their mental illness," he said.

That realization helped shape the charity's mission.

"We're growing up in a community, in a world where we are now telling men that they should feel their emotions," Harris said. "The charity is working to support mental health events for men to help equip the community with resources to better themselves."

Harris said the organization wants men to know that help is available.

"If there is anyone out there who is struggling and dealing with suicidal thoughts or ideas, please reach out. Please reach out," he said. "We will get you to the services. We will figure it out."

Community members can learn more at www.austinssecondchance.com.

Crossing the Lines

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

Hospital leaders eye reopening as county finalizes EMS partnership



Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson gave a tour to volunteer fire and EMS and other community members.

Braden Health officials say they are working toward reopening Stuart Community Hospital by the end of the year, before its certificate of public need (COPN) expires. At the same time, Patrick County has approved a contract to transition its paid emergency medical staff to Patrick County EMS, a move leaders say will strengthen services without diminishing support for volunteer agencies.

The dual efforts represent two of the most significant health care developments for Patrick County in decades: restoring its hospital and reshaping its emergency response system.

Under the agreement approved by county officials, Ambulance Services of Lexington, Inc., doing business as Patrick County EMS, will take over management of

the county's paid EMS staff, known as Station 8, by the end of the calendar year.

Current employees will be offered positions with Patrick County EMS, ensuring a seamless transition, according to a county release issued Monday. The company has also pledged \$2 million to enhance local operations, including the purchase of new ambulances and advanced training for personnel. Patrick County EMS and Braden Health will handle their own direct billing, which county officials say will streamline operations.

The county will continue to employ an Emergency Management Coordinator, who will oversee disaster response, serve as liaison between volunteers and the Board of Supervisors, and manage EMS grants, training, and operational support.

Town receives positive result from 2024 audit



One Family Productions member Chris Prutting asked the Stuart Town Council for a donation for the upcoming Front Porch Fest 16.

The Stuart Town Council learned it received an unmodified opinion, or positive result, from its 2024 audit at its Wednesday, Aug. 20, meeting.

As part of the audit, both a qualified and an unmodified opinion on the financial statements were issued.

For the unmodified opinion, Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the business-type activities, which include water, sewer and sanitation funds, received the positive rating.

"The audit also identified several material weaknesses in our internal controls. For audit adjustments, the town has historically relied upon the auditors to make material adjustments to the financial statements, which indicates a

weakness in our internal control," Simmons said.

He noted this is something he has been working on over the past year.

"If you remember, when we first went to our financial management system, a lot of the information could not import from our old system to our new system. We had six months basically of information that was in the system, but didn't click exactly right. They had to make a lot of journal entries. That has been done for the audit itself," he said.

Simmons said the audit also noted a lack of proper segregation of duties, as a single employee has been responsible for most accounting functions for the town.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Sheriff's Office K-9 Crash is barking up the right tree



Senior Deputy Dustin Dillon, also a K-9 Handler, is pictured with Crash.

After a search and criminal apprehension in June, Patrick County Sheriff's Office K-9 Crash is excited to get back into the field and continue being a respectable member of the "paw-lice."

Crash, a Belgian Malinois, has been with the department since 2020. He previously served in Tazewell County as a narcotics dog.

Senior Deputy Dustin Dillon, who also is Crash's handler, said Crash performs basic patrols, tracking for human scent, area searches, article searches, apprehension and building searches for the office.

Since joining the depart-

ment, Dillon estimates Crash has been involved in about 50 cases, including search warrants, tracking and apprehensions.

"That don't sound like a lot in five years, but there's some K-9s that never really have one. Then of course you can't just send him on anybody. There are standards to when I can actually use him," he said.

Dillon said Crash is a big asset to the community, and notes there have been several cases he believes would not have been successful without the dog's tracking ability or his presence causing people to give up and surrender.

To read more about these and other stories, check out Henry County Enterprise at www.henrycountyenterprise.com.

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Movie listings for Bad Guys, Freakier Friday, Caught Stealing, Weapons, and Nobody 2. Includes showtimes (1-3-5-7-9, 1-4-7-9:15) and Hollywood Cinema beside Walmart Martinsville 276-656-3456 with \$5 tickets.



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

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TFLHI
♥AYRW

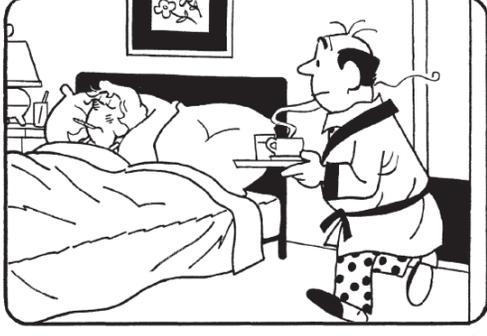
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's 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. Tray is longer. 2. Leg is longer. 3. Mattress is thicker. 4. Flowers are reversed. 5. Door knob is missing. 6. Shirt collar is different.

MAGIC MAZE ● ROCK

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

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

- And roll
- Bands
- Bottom
- Candy
- Climber
- Concert
- Formation
- Garden
- Hudson
- Of Gibraltar
- Quarry
- Solid
- Springs
- The boat
- Walls

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Super Crossword

MAKING M ENDS

ACROSS

- 1 "Venerable" Eng. monk
- 7 Place to grow cultures, for short
- 13 Furious with
- 20 "You can't get out this way"
- 21 Catwoman
- 22 Panamanian
- 23 Net access provider available on passenger flights?
- 25 "Jerry Maguire" studio
- 26 Petition
- 27 Hairy TV cousin
- 28 Women's garment with an adage printed on it?
- 30 Video chat between people stroking their dogs and cats?
- 35 Sail supports
- 36 Gridiron divs.
- 37 Maiden name precursor
- 38 52 weeks
- 41 Brewpub drink, in brief
- 44 Burning
- 46 Situation creating strife within a sports squad?
- 50 Perfume bottle
- 53 Partner of Prince
- 55 Guarantee
- 56 Gulf ship
- 57 Chinese soup additive
- 58 Hobby
- 60 Touring actor representing his kingdom?
- 65 Broody rock genre
- 66 Blast stuff
- 67 Starting from
- 68 Gymnast
- 70 Mild cheese
- 73 In days past
- 76 With
- 78 Ransack
- 83 Locale of Baylor
- 87 Time of note
- 88 "Laughing" scavenger
- 89 Big name in train travel
- 90 Hovering ominously
- 94 Establish contact (with)
- 95 Give a fleet commander new weapons?
- 97 Melancholy woodwinds
- 99 Immigrants' class, in brief
- 100 Minimally
- 102 Part of UNLV
- 103 Here, in Haiti
- 106 Grilling place
- 109 Put the notation "this means the opposite" next to a word?
- 112 Junk email touting wellness products?
- 117 It's continent
- 118 Razor name
- 119 Last king of the united Sweden and Norway
- 120 Stitched clothing line in the Haitian style?
- 125 Utterly foolish
- 126 Mole's path
- 127 Austria's capital
- 128 Discount item labels
- 129 Nome's state
- 130 "Strut" singer
- 131 Lively
- 132 No, in Berlin
- 133 Wise about
- 134 Come upon
- 139 Retired
- 140 Actress
- 141 Watson
- 142 Language akin to Aleut
- 42 Argentina's
- 43 "— you clever!"
- 44 High-speed train name
- 45 Gas option in Canada
- 47 Alter, as a computer program
- 48 Actress de Armas
- 49 Suffix with Marx
- 50 In favor of
- 51 Bit of untruth
- 52 In the way of
- 54 "Son of —!"
- 57 Roald Dahl's "fantastic" title
- 59 Sorority "O"
- 61 Kansas' capital
- 62 Duffer's goal
- 63 Academy URL ending
- 64 Glass edge
- 69 "You said it!"
- 71 Most wan
- 72 Yucatec speakers
- 73 In the know
- 74 ESPN events
- 75 In base eight
- 77 Handheld computer
- 79 Jason's ship
- 80 Luau garland
- 81 Jr. officer
- 82 West of "I'm No Angel"
- 84 Bruins' Bobby
- 85 Piper's cap
- 86 Garden dirt
- 91 Refinery input
- 92 Lady's title
- 93 Rick's love in "Casablanca"
- 94 Part of S&L
- 96 Yellow-disked blooms
- 98 Siren noise
- 101 37-season "Jeopardy!" host
- 103 Purpose
- 104 Writer — de Bergerac
- 105 1965 Yardbirds hit
- 106 Herbivore's meal
- 107 Heart parts
- 108 Object
- 110 Coleridge's "— Khan"
- 111 Wet spots in deserts
- 112 Frozen dew
- 113 "To be," to Horace
- 114 Vinegar, e.g.
- 115 — part (role-play)
- 116 Heavy hitter
- 121 Viral gene material
- 122 — and out
- 123 "Hail," to Horace
- 124 Vardalos of "Connie and Carla"

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The average lipstick has 293 swipes.
- In Missouri, if you are under 21, you can be charged with illegal possession of alcohol without even taking a breathalyzer test if you happen to be found taking out empty alcohol cans and bottles in your trash.
- The first-ever Olympic Games was won by a chef.
- There is a fish (salemia porgy) that when eaten causes severe hallucinations lasting up to 36 hours. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it served as a party drug during the Roman Empire.
- Warm and light colors appear closer, while cool and darker colors appear farther away.
- Chloroform was once touted as an asthma cure. Unfortunately, this would eventually result in the deaths of patients who had overdosed during an asthma attack.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at least 50% of ladder-related accidents involved individuals carrying items while they climbed. Additionally, each year, more than 900,000 people receive emergency room treatment from ladder-related injuries.
- Ninety-five percent of the average car's lifetime is spent being parked.
- Biologists have found that plants exhibit competitiveness among strangers of the same species, but are more accommodating toward their siblings.
- Left-handed people are more likely to use fountain pens.
- Tsutomu Yamaguchi was one lucky fellow. He was in Hiroshima for work when the first A-bomb hit, made it home to Nagasaki for the second, and lived to be 93.
- The eyes of the celestial eye goldfish are bigger than its stomach.

Thought for the Day: "It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird; it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad." — C.S. Lewis

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH POWER YOU'VE PACKED INTO YOUR BACKSWING?

STOP AT THE TOP AND SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN HOLD IN POSITION.

THE SHORTER THE TIME BEFORE YOU HAVE TO LET SOMETHING GO, THE MORE TORQUE YOU'VE CREATED BETWEEN YOUR UPPER AND LOWER BODY, THUS THE MORE SPEED YOU'LL GENERATE SWINGING DOWN AND THROUGH.



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!

Time **HECOP** _____

Intellect **MUNACE** _____

Save **EXPECT** _____

Budget **PEACH** _____

TODAY'S WORD

ADVERTISE!

Advertise With Us!

- What we offer:
- Flexible pricing
 - Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
 - Deeply discounted rates
 - Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, *STRETCH* your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

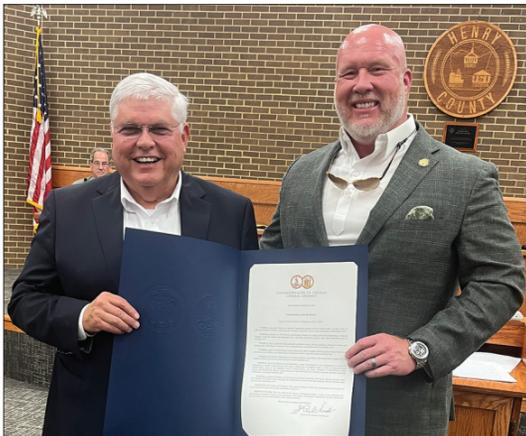
For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

Supervisors

(cont. from page 1)



Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, presented a General Assembly resolution. Rita Shropshire for her work on the Henry County Electoral Board.



Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, presented a General Assembly resolution to Barry Nelson honoring Autos of Nelson's 50 years in business.



MHC Heritage Museum Executive Director Holly Kozelsky spoke to the board about the expansion project.



Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, with members of V.F.W. Homer Dillard Post #78.

tion will help the PSA meet the financial requirements tied to a Virginia Department of Health funding package, which includes a low-interest loan and more than \$3.3 million in principal forgiveness. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$8.5 million.

Led by the PSA, the project includes the construction of about 64,000 linear feet of new water main. Once completed, it will create a redundant transmission route from U.S. 58 to the southern portion of the county's water system, including the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC).

"This project is a crucial step forward in strengthening our infrastructure to support continued growth at Commonwealth Crossing," said Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and of the Blackberry District. "When companies evaluate potential sites, they are looking for water systems that are reliable, resilient, and built for future expansion. This investment ensures we stay competitive and ready for the next opportunity."

The expansion builds on recent industrial momentum at CCBC, which has attracted companies such as Press Glass and Crown Holdings. In 2023, the state awarded \$22 million for site development at Lot 2 of CCBC and earlier this year provided \$750,000 for preliminary design work on Lot 3.

While a core focus is economic development, the Horsepasture Price Road project also brings relief to approximately 265 potential residential customers who currently lack access to public water. Testing revealed that more than a third of private wells in the area contain coliform bacteria, and many residents report low yields or a complete lack of water.

"A lot of families along this road have struggled with unsafe or unreliable water for years," said Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District. "Some have had to haul water, others have

drilled multiple wells just to get by. I am proud that we are finally able to bring them the security and peace of mind that comes with public water. This is a meaningful improvement to their quality of life, and I am grateful we can make it happen."

"This project strengthens our ability to attract new industry while also solving real problems for families who have struggled without reliable water," added Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District. "It is the kind of investment that supports growth and improves lives at the same time."

The PSA has pursued funding for more than a decade. With VDH financing now in place and local support secured, construction is expected to begin in 2026 following final engineering and permitting.

Solar Agreements
Votes on two proposed solar siting agreements were tied, and therefore did not pass.

The first proposal was with Firebird Solar, LLC.

Pruitt made a motion to approve, seconded by Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District. Pruitt, Dillard, and Adams supported. Vice Chairman Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, Buchanan, and Pam Cobler, of the Reed Creek District, opposed it.

"A motion that results in a tie vote fails," Adams explained.

The second proposed agreement, with Thunderbird Solar, LLC, also failed in a tie vote after a motion from Pruitt seconded by Dillard. Pruitt, Dillard, and Adams supported it, while Cobler, Bryant, and Buchanan opposed.

Both Firebird and Thunderbird are subsidiaries of Catalyze, LLC, a renewable energy producer.

County Attorney George Lyle said the companies plan to develop a solar power facility in the Ridgeway District.

"They have obtained from the Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals a special use permit. As development and process went on, and as negotiations for this sit-

ing agreement went on, they extended it through 2026," Lyle said.

He said state code allows siting agreements between localities and developers, with part of the deal involving cash payments.

"In this case, Firebird has proposed to make installment payments as described in the agreement of \$75,000 after the site is fully developed and brought online," he said.

If Thunderbird's facility is built and brought to full capacity, payments of \$125,000 would be made to the county.

Catalyze Project Development Manager Ed Switzer said the company currently operates 225 megawatts of projects across seven states.

"On our stormwater, we did get our approval from the Virginia DEQ (Department of Envi-

ronmental Quality) for our design. We received all of our approvals from an engineering perspective," he said.

Some residents near the proposed projects spoke against the agreements.

Sam Brantingham, (See Supervisors p.10)

LEGAL

ABC NOTICE
M & S MART, LLC, trading as M & S MART, LLC, 3090 A L Philpott Hwy, Axton, Virginia. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application, Convenience Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Saeed Saba, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200. COL-4800376

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ018659-01-00
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEJIA, DANIELA E YOLANDA MEJIA DIAZ /v. EDUARDO A. RODRIGUEZ ROMERO
The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN CUSTODY OF DANIELA E. ROGRIGUEZ MEJIA
It is ORDERED that the defendant EDUARDO A. RODRIGUEZ ROMERO appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 10/23/2025 at 3:00 PM.
08/20/2025

D. Wedget
Deo. CLERK J. JUDGE

LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing
The City of Martinsville Planning Commission will meet on September 15, 2025, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Room 208 of the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request(s):
1) **REQUEST for REZONE** - Application of the City of Martinsville requesting to rezone the following properties located along Commonwealth Blvd. from ED-G, Economic Development-General, to C-C, Commercial Corridor to correct existing non-conforming uses (Tax Map #s: 23(01)00/21, 22(01)00/86 86A, 22(01)00/91, 22(01)00/90, 22(10)00/AR, 22(10)00/A1R, 22(10)00/B, 22(08)00/A, 22(08)00/A-01, 22(08)00/C-01, 22(08)00/C-03, 21(06)00/C-04).
2) **REQUEST for REZONE** - Application of the City of Martinsville requesting to rezone property located at 100 S. Jackson Street from ED-I, Economic Development Intensive and C-C, Commercial Corridor, to R-T, Residential Transitional to allow for residential and commercial uses (Tax Map # 31(02)J/04, 31(02)J/03, 31(02)K/45, 31(02)K/44, 31(02)K/06).
3) **REQUEST for REZONE** - Application of the City of Martinsville requesting to rezone the following properties from C-C, Commercial Corridor, to R-T, Residential Transitional to correct existing non-conforming uses (Tax Map #s 31(02)M/5A, 31(02)M/5B, 31(02)M/5C, 31(02)M/5D, 31(02)M/5E, 31(02)M/5F, 31(02)M/5G, 31(02)M/5H, 31(02)M/5L, 31(02)M/5K, 31(02)M/5I, 31(02)M/5SM).
4) **REQUEST for REZONE** - Application of the City of Martinsville requesting to rezone approximately sixty-four (64) properties located along Broad Street, Bridge Street, Railroad Street and College Street from C-C, Commercial Corridor District, C-N, Neighborhood Commercial District, and ED-I, Economic Development Intensive, to R-T, Residential Transitional to correct existing non-conforming uses.
5) **REQUEST for REZONE** - Application of the City of Martinsville requesting to rezone property located at 500 Blue Ridge Street from C-C, Commercial Corridor, to R-T, Residential Transitional, to allow for residential and commercial uses (Tax Map # 37(01)00/07A).
Questions or comments regarding this matter can be directed to Hannah Powell at hpowell@martinsvilleva.gov or (276) 403-5156.
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, will hold a Public Hearing on September 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, City of Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, on the City's intent to submit a **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant**, in partnership with the **United Way of Henry County & Martinsville**. Interested persons may appear at the time and place stated above to present their views regarding the proposed grant application and the community development priorities it will address. A copy of the full text of the proposed grant application, including the City's needs assessment and proposed planning components, is on file in the office of the **Martinsville City Manager, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112**, and is available for inspection during normal business hours.
Notice Submitted By:
Peyton Nibblitt
Deputy City Clerk

LEGAL

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE
RECORD OWNER:
Gregory Shane Carr
Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall secure or remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to secure or remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to an paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Gregory Shane Carr
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER -
108 Ridgecrest Ave. - Collinsville District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 29.7(057)000/018, 19-21
Account Number - 180710000
County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENTION OF THE MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND ELECTRIC UTILITY REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S ELECTRIC UTILITY FACILITIES
Notice is hereby given that the Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, City of Martinsville Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, 24112, on September 16, 2025, during a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be called on the agenda, concerning the proposed issuance of general obligation bonds, electric utility revenue bonds or general obligation and electric utility revenue bonds of the City of Martinsville, Virginia. The estimated maximum amount of the bonds to be issued is \$3,000,000 and the proposed uses for which more than ten percent of the proceeds of the bonds is expected to be used is to provide funds to pay for costs of improvements, repairs and replacements to the City's electric utility system including but not limited to a substation transformer, and related legal, consulting and administrative fees. Persons may appear and present their views at the public hearing. If you should need auxiliary aids, please contact the Office of the City Manager at 276-403-5196 at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting.

LEGAL

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP
The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2025-2026. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubbertire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and **may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.**
Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plov4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).
Applications received by 7:00 PM on Thursday October 2, 2025 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.
Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.
Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

Black History in September: Seizing the Moment for Lasting Change



Portions of Millner's expansive collection.



Contributed

A sustained assault on Black History—both from within educational systems and through external campaigns to remove critical texts—is undermining self-esteem, cultural affirmation, and historical appreciation.

The evidence can be found in the government's campaign to dismantle corporate and college offices of diversity, equality and inclusion and the effort to ban books from library shelves.

These actions collectively threaten the recognition and celebration of Black contributions to our country and the world.

That's the view of the Rev. Tyler C. Millner, a Virginia pastor based in Martinsville and a longtime social justice advocate.

His response: To lead the charge to make the month for Black History in September as the new school year moves into high gear.

Launching Black History education in September, as schools reopen, offers a strategic opportunity to redefine how this vital content is embraced. We've long said that "Black History should be taught all year," and he believes this campaign can serve as the catalyst for making that a reality.

This change, he said, makes the statement of the seriousness and priority Black History should be for both our schools and the community.

By changing the month, Rev. Millner notes, we shift to an educational strategy, not just a cultural and emotional engagement restricted to the month of February after which the page is turned, and we go on to the next thing.

"We call upon school divisions, churches and major civic and social groups to pause and reflect, taking the moment to affirm what an incredible and neat idea it is to begin doing Black History now," Rev. Millner said.

He said that an exhibit in the uptown branch of the Martinsville Public Library and, hopefully, in other strategic sites will showcase this change and begin to educate the public about this initiative.

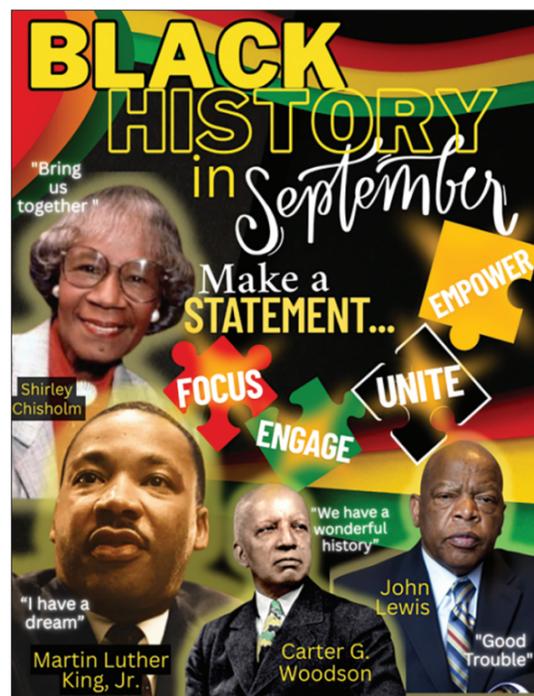
No one thing is being promoted as to the "how" to make this change.

Educators, parents/guardians, pastors and social groups leaders are urged, he said, to be creative and look for ways to be cooperative and ecumenical in making this change happen.

Remember: Black History is not only for Black people. It is for everyone.

As Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Week, penned, "We have a wonderful story..." As Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said, Black History "brings us together."

And as Congressman John Lewis noted, "There comes a time when you have to say something. You have to make a little noise. You have



to move your feet. This is the time. You have to not just dream about what could be—you get out and push, and you pull, and you preach. And you create a climate and environment to get men and women of goodwill to act."

Supervisors

(cont. from page 9)

who lives near the site, said he believes the public hearing wasn't properly advertised.

"There were no signs put up telling about this. We just found out this morning through word of mouth that this was being held today," Brantingham said.

Lyle said he suspected Brantingham was referring to the fact that in many land use cases, the county posts signs to alert adjacent property owners, but that was not required in this case. The legal notices were advertised according to law, he added.

Brantingham also asked if any changes had been made to the plan since its approval about three years ago, particularly concerning transformer line placement.

"Also in that agreement they said they would do whatever's necessary to shield our property from having to look at the solar farm all the time. We're 150 feet from the solar farm. Our house, like I say, is remote. We've been there 45 years, and our front porch is going to look directly on the solar farm," he said.

While a 90-foot buffer is planned between the facility and his property, Brantingham said his porch will still sit 60 feet from that boundary line.

"We're looking at 150 feet of clearance between our front porch where we have our bird feeders and sit regularly now that we're retired," he said.

Paul Nicholson also spoke in opposition, raising concerns about potential impacts to nearby springs and the water supply.

"It is detrimental to the community and that neighborhood, which I've been there 75 years. There's five springs above me, I've been in every one of them, I drank water out of them. But now having to deal with this because you people, somebody decided ahead of time how to vote. You all took more than five minutes to make a decision, I ain't got but five minutes" to talk, Nicholson said.

"You're talking about my life, community, and the people that are there are opposed to it," he added.

Nicholson, an electrician, said the facility will generate a constant hum and won't reduce electricity prices.

Assertions otherwise are "bull crap. It will not go down. What we're losing is clear air, and we got a detriment to water coming," he said.

Nicholson also questioned whether the board was informed enough to make the decision.

Pruitt said the meeting was the first time he had heard concerns

from Brantingham or Nicholson.

"I've talked to others in the immediate area, none of those have had anything negative to say. The responses that I've gotten from the general area about solar that's down the street, over on Old Sand Road was complaints about the burning," he said.

Pruitt added that both siting agreements included a ban on burning on the properties.

"Other than that, I've had zero complaints, other than the two we've heard tonight," he said.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from Matt Davis, of the Greater Bassett Area Community (GBAC) about the need to clean up the trash in the community.

*Heard from David Craig about the need to clean up trash in the community.

*Heard from Michael Tipton about the need to get the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to upgrade the drain systems.

*Heard an update on the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum expansion from Executive Director Holly Kozelsky.

*Approved an additional appropriation totaling \$450,000 received from two Virginia Department of Emergency Management grants for infrastructure improvements to the 911 center, as well as regional call handling equipment.

*Awarded three contracts totaling \$470,866 to purchase 10 replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

*Awarded a contract to Smith Turf and Irrigation for \$56,915 to purchase a Self-Contained Turf Sprayer for the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex.

*Appointed Twyla Dillard to an unexpired term on the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board set to expire on June 30, 2027.

*Appointed Buzz Custer to an unexpired term on the Patrick & Henry Community College Board set to expire on June 30, 2026.

*Approved a resolution authorizing outside counsel to execute documents necessary to participate in a settlement regarding pending opioid claims with the Sackler family and Perdue Pharma.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 7-acres of the Blackberry District from Suburban Residential District to Agricultural District. The applicant wishes to market the property for the potential to keep agricultural animals.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approxi-

mately 3.725-acres from Commercial District to Agricultural District. The applicant wishes to allow for the development of an RV park on the property.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of a lot in the Collinsville District from Suburban Residential District to Office and Professional District. The applicant wishes to offer a transitional living opportunity for young adults aging out of the foster system.

*Approved taking \$5,000 from the Horsepasture District impact fund to help V.F.W Homer Dillard Post #78 with its renovation and parking lot repairs.

Tolbut selected for prestigious Holocaust education fellowship

Dr. Heather Goins Tolbut, a dedicated educator at Martinsville High School, has been selected as one of only a handful of teachers nationwide to join the 2025-26 Museum Teacher Fellowship (MTF) Program at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Established in 1996, the MTF program develops a national corps of highly trained educators who advance Holocaust education in schools, communities, and professional organizations. Each year, the Museum selects up to 15 middle and high school teachers who demonstrate exceptional knowledge of Holocaust history, a strong commitment to education, and active involvement in their communities.

As a Museum Teacher Fellow, Dr. Tolbut will be immersed in Holocaust history, remembrance, and pedagogy. Fellows receive in-depth training and support to develop and deliver professional development workshops in their local areas using the Museum's resources. The primary goal of the fellowship is to expand access to high-quality Holocaust education across the United States.

"I am honored to be part of this meaningful work," said Dr. Tolbut. "Teaching the Holocaust is not only about history—it's about humanity, responsibility, and the ongoing fight against hate. I look forward to bringing these lessons to educators in my community and beyond."

"Dr. Tolbut is an outstanding educator who cares deeply about her students," said Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. "She exhibits professionalism, intellect, and passion while

*Heard an update on general highway matters from VDOT Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes.

*Heard from Phillips and Price-Hughes about funding to be used to mow grass.

*Approved the items of consent.

*Heard the monthly report on delinquent tax collection efforts.

*Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, presented a General Assembly Resolution to Rita Shropshire for her work on the Henry County Electoral Board.

*Phillips also presented a General Assembly Resolution to Barry Nelson of Autos by Nelson to honor 50 years of service.



Dr. Heather Tolbut

upholding a high standard of excellence. She is absolutely deserving of this prestigious honor."

Fellows are selected from among participants in the Museum's Belfer National Conference for Holocaust Education, as well as from an extensive application process. The program empowers teachers to lead transformative professional development experiences that inspire others to teach the Holocaust with accuracy, empathy, and purpose.

This is the latest in a series of honors for Dr. Tolbut. Last year, she was selected to attend the Sphere Summit at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and in 2022 was chosen for the Lincoln Fellowship through the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

For more information about the Museum Teacher Fellowship Program, visit <https://www.ushmm.org>.

Smith River Fest draws record crowd of more than 2,500



Vendors set up for the Smith River Fest.



The Joseph Young Magic Show wows the crowd.



"Frank" greets visitors and becomes an honorary law enforcement officer.



Activities and demonstrations were among the festival's many attractions.



By Jessica Dillon

The 19th annual Smith River Fest drew its largest crowd yet, with more than 2,500 people gathering at the Monogram Smith River Sports Complex on Aug. 23 to celebrate the area's outdoor resources.

The event featured vendors, live music, yoga, a 5K mud run, a river race, free tubing, and activities for all ages.

"We were busy all day long. Everyone enjoyed the vendors, the food vendor sold tons of food," said Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation. "The 19th annual Smith River Fest was probably our most successful one ever. The weather was perfect."

Mud run results

One of the day's main attractions was the Helgramite Hustle Mud Run, a 5K course that sent runners through a muddy pit.

In the men's division, Andrew Zachman placed first with a time of 19:57.22, followed by Jackson Guntner at 22:17.48 and James Smith at 23:52.56.

In the women's division, Megan Chilton won with a time of 27:11.07, with Leah Mlyn in second at 29:09.47 and Bella Sullivan in third at 33:15.84.

"The mud run went great. Lots of people enjoyed the animals, the rock climbing wall, the bounce houses, and the river tubing," Adams said. "It was just an awesome day all the way around."

River races

The Smith River was also the setting for the festival's water competitions. Winners included:

- Solo canoe: Kirk Havens
- Racing kayak (male): Lee Jones
- Kayak, 45 and under: Clayton Setliff
- Tandem canoe: William and River McDuffie
- Stand-up Hat Award: Raymond Oliver
- Kayak, 46 and over: Thomas Taylor

"We had a good flow on the river, and the boat race went well," Adams said. Free tubing was available before the race, with shuttles providing easy access. "The weather was awesome. It was hot enough to enjoy the cool waters of the Smith River, but not so hot that it was miserable. It was just great weather."

Looking ahead to the county fair

With the Smith River Fest behind them, Parks and Recreation officials are preparing for the fifth annual Henry County Fair, set for Sept.

24-27 at Martinsville Speedway.

"We have a ton of entertainment options," Adams said. "People can check out the agricultural contests, see all the animals in the petting zoo, and enjoy a wide assortment of shows you don't want to miss."

This year's lineup will include the Pompeyo Family Dog and Magic Show from America's Got Talent, and a new dinosaur act called Jurassic Kingdom. Evening concerts will feature Creedence Clearwater Recital on Wednesday, B99's showcase on Thursday, the Taylor Swift tribute band Love Story on Friday, and Spirit FM Night with Rhett Walker on Saturday. Fireworks will close out the event.

Fall sports and events

Parks and Recreation is also gearing up for fall sports, including flag football, junior tackle, girls basketball, and cheerleading. Registration is still open for some teams.

Upcoming fall and holiday events include the Great Goblin Gallop 5K in October and Christmas programs later in the season.

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BLACK HISTORY in September
 "Bring us together!"
 Make a STATEMENT...
 SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: "I have a dream"
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: "We have a wonderful history"
 CARTER G. WOODSON: "Good trouble"
 JOHN LEWIS: "I have a dream"

Creative Ideas For Celebrating Black History Year Round!
BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN SEPTEMBER

- PROMOTE LITERARY STORYTELLING** - Encourage individuals to write and share their personal narratives and family histories.
- DISCOVER THE UNKNOWN** - Learn something new, especially local Black history that's often overlooked.
- REFLECT ON THE GAPS** - Host conversations around what it means "not to know" and why certain histories remain hidden.
- HOST A FILM FESTIVAL** - Showcase documentaries, historical films, and creative works by Black filmmakers.
- ORGANIZE FIELD TRIPS** - Visit African American museums and historical sites such as: -African American Museum - Greensboro -Danville - "Bloody Monday" Mark -Roanoke - Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge and Statue -Martinsville - FAHI Museum
- EXPLORE RESILIENCE** - Ask: How did Black individuals achieve and excel despite systemic barriers, humiliation, and lack of support?
- CREATE A COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNT** - Design a school or home-based project that uncovers local Black history landmarks and stories.
- HOLD PANEL DISCUSSIONS** - Address critical topics in Black History education and brainstorm creative ways to engage year-round.

- FACILITATE BOOK READINGS** - Encourage both personal and communal reading in churches, civic groups, and community spaces.
- ASK: WHY IS BLACK HISTORY FOR EVERYONE?** - Explore how Black History enriches all communities, not just Black ones.
- TAKE A WALK WITH INTENTION** - Observe visual expressions of Black History in your surroundings - murals, monuments, architecture.
- SPEAK BOLDLY** - Host public talks or open mics on liberating Black History from the confines of February.
- REFRAME THE CONCEPT** - Invite fresh thinking: Are we discussing Black History - or history, period?
- UNPACK THE STATEMENT** - "There is no American History without Black History." What does this truly mean?
- REVISIT THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** - Consider whether current approaches to Black History need expansion or redefinition.
- DISCUSS THE POLITICS** - What makes Black History a political issue for both Black and white communities?
- CLARIFY RESPONSIBILITY** - Who is responsible for teaching and living Black History - home, school, church, or community?

Warner

(cont. from page 1)



Warner fielded questions from guests attending the event.

Warner also expressed concern over recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities.

"You can be for a secure border, but not for someone picking up a mom dropping off kids for childcare or picking up somebody who helps build your house," Warner said. "You can't just grab people off the street. And really, when you come up, and you got a mask on, and you don't even identify yourself..."

On climate change, Warner agreed it is a pressing issue.

"I can tell you home insurance rates in Louisiana and Florida are going up six, seven thousand dollars a year. That is purely because we got more of these storms," he said. "I don't know how you can argue our weather's not changing." Warner said he

wants to maintain environmental regulations and prevent "going back to the 1970s."

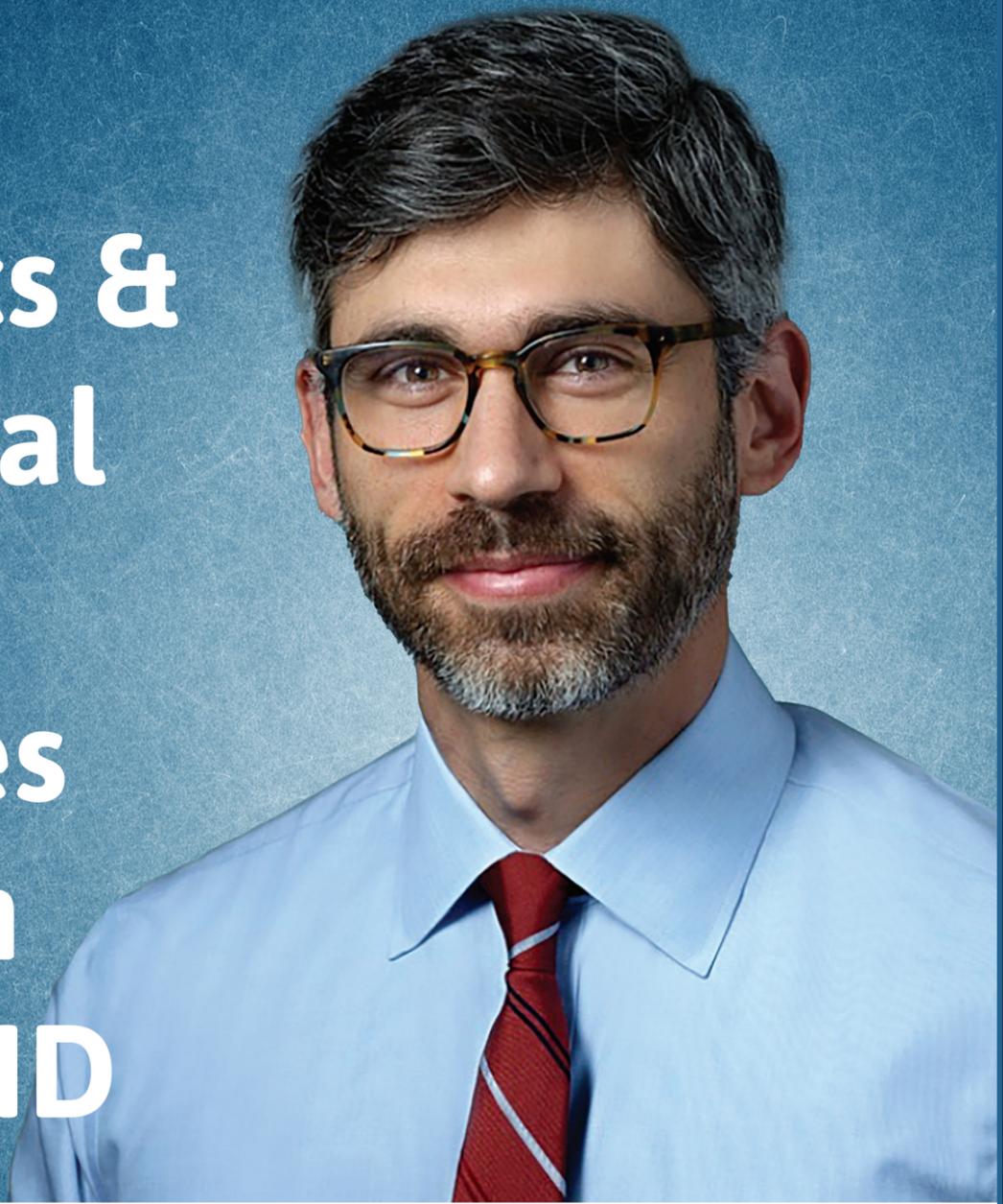
The senator also touched on federal education grants. He cited a Washington school division that received funding last year to upgrade computer systems in high schools.

"They made the mistake of calling the grant a digital equity grant, and the DOE boys came in and cut it out entirely," Warner said. "The grant's been held up. They relied on that promise." He noted such grants often help lower-income students the most.

When asked about possible changes to the "Big Beautiful Bill," Warner said, "I think we will have a shot and we will have a right to force a vote. That's the way the system works — you got to vote on these things."

Email submissions@theenterprise.net

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