



Nathan Trotter Co-President Evan Trotter (center) signs the contract as Len Dillon, chairman of the Industrial Development Authority (left), and Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams (right) look on.

Tin Ridge facility to strengthen U.S. supply chain, boost local economy

By Taylor Boyd

Henry County will soon be home to the nation's first large-scale tin processing facility.

Nathan Trotter, the largest tin and solder alloys manufacturer in North America, announced it will invest \$65 million to construct Tin Ridge, a metal production and processing facility at the Patriot Centre Industrial Park. The 115,000-square-foot facility will be built on Tract 4 of the park and is expected to create about 118 new jobs once operational.

Tyler Morris, vice president of Nathan Trotter, said the family-owned business was founded in 1789 in Pennsylvania by Nathan Trotter. The company currently

operates four tin refining and finishing plants in Pennsylvania. The Henry County project will be its first outside the state.

"We're here to break ground on a state-of-the-art facility focused on helping the U.S. produce and recycle more tin and tin alloys for mission-critical defense systems as well as commercial purposes," Morris said. "The U.S. considers tin a critical mineral. That's a word you hear a lot nowadays, right, as people have started to focus again on the raw materials that feed our economy. That's what we're here to do amidst intense competitive pressures around the world for metals that will produce essential technol-

(See Tin Ridge p. 10)



Rides, food, and fireworks highlight Henry County Fair

By Taylor Boyd

The fifth annual Henry County Fair will take place Wednesday, Sept. 24, through Saturday, Sept. 27, at Martinsville Speedway.

The event is sponsored by Henry County, the Henry County Department of Parks and Recreation, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, VisitMartinsville, Bassett Furniture, B99.9, SW Virginia Gas, Hooker Furniture, Bryant Radio Supply,

Sarver Properties, Campbell Family Foundation, and The Phillips Group, Inc.

Henry County Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams said the fair will feature rides, games, food, entertainment, and animal exhibits.

"With our fair we always specialize in entertainment, so we will have some awesome rides. We'll

(See Henry County Fair p. 5)

Carmichael challenges Easley for commissioner of revenue



Shasta Carmichael greeted supporters during a Sept. 6 meet-and-greet at The Ground Floor.

By Jessica Dillon

Shasta Carmichael is running for the office of commissioner of revenue against incumbent Ruth Easley. Carmichael said her decision to run came after receiving a surprising tax bill that pushed her to look for ways to better serve her

community.

"A few months ago, I received an envelope full of back taxes for 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, because I didn't have a business license," Carmichael said. "And when I opened that up and I looked at it, I thought about it. I said, 'If I got this, how many other business owners are dealing with the same thing?' And that's when I was like, 'I need to run so that I can give more clarity.'"

"My biggest thing is I want to help people, no matter who it is. I do want to be fair across the board, and I want to help people—not just business owners, but homeowners, everyday citizens," she said.

Even though Martinsville City Council sets tax rates and is responsible for approving city ordinances — including rules governing business licenses, Carmichael said she wants to help "everybody and help people be successful."

Carmichael said she brings a wide range of experience to the position.

"I have become well-rounded in

(See Carmichael p. 3)

Judge appoints special prosecutor to review Martinsville whistleblower report

By Jessica Dillon

A special prosecutor has been appointed to review a whistleblower report involving Martinsville city government, Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Hall said Wednesday.

Hall said Martinsville Circuit Court Judge G. Carter Greer signed the order. He added that the prosecutor is working with someone on the Virginia State Police — "someone who specializes in just this type of activity," Hall said, as part of the review.

Hall said the city's attorney, Sands Anderson, told him during a phone call that the report indicated possible criminal activity. But Hall stressed that he must rely on evidence, not secondhand accounts.

"Because I can't go to any court, any kind of judge, or any kind of jury, or anybody, or law enforcement, and say, 'because Sands Anderson said so.' That's not going to cut" it, Hall said, adding he must have evidence.

Hall declined to identify the prosecutor, saying the paperwork remains under seal.

Hall noted that after closed session on Thursday, August 7, city council Martinsville terminated the employment contract of Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who had been serving as the city manager. The council also asked the law firm of Sands Anderson to turn over its

investigation to the Martinsville Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

In a release, Hall said he and his colleagues met virtually with Sands Anderson attorneys on August 18. "They confirmed that they had created a report based on their investigation. We requested a copy of the report and any evidence that it was based on. Sands Anderson stated that they would need further clarification" from city council.

The council approved a second vote on August 26, directing its attorney to "release to the Commonwealth's Attorney printed versions of the report that deal with any criminal activity so that the Commonwealth's Attorney may take action as necessary."

"We subsequently received a heavily redacted report prepared by Sands Anderson. We again requested that we receive the unredacted report and any evidence that it was based on," Hall said. However, that has not been provided as of Wednesday.

Hall added his office tried to gather information from other sources, and even recreate portions of the report based on some items that were attached to the information provided to his office. Those efforts included conducting interviews, and amassing more than 1,000 pages of information.

"All evidence that we have ob-

(See Judge p. 2)

BZA reverses decision, allows Oak Level Raceway to open

By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) reversed its previous decision and will now allow Oak Level Raceway to open following a Sept. 10 special called meeting.

The approval came in a 5-0 vote.

During the special called meeting, Planning, Zoning & Inspections Director Lee Clark, A.I.C.P. said additional information was learned by his office that wasn't known by the applicant, Carl "Bo" Miller, or staff at the time of the original Aug. 27 vote, where the special use permit was denied.

"First, the applicant Mr. Miller, who is not the land's owner, discovered that a business license has been paid for and issued by Henry County's Commissioner of Revenue Office for Fork Mountain Raceway each and every year since 2007, even though events and operation of the track ceased at about that time," he said.

Clark said the stated intent of these renewals was to maintain the option to re-open the racetrack. He also reviewed and verified the county issued business licenses.

"Secondly, an examination of the files from 31.5 years ago revealed that a previous owner was issued a special use permit by this board, in the previous owner's name, and a business name different from the current business license. This proceeding, from before modern computer systems, was indexed in a way it was not easily found and



Oak Level Raceway owner Carl "Bo" Miller.

was unknown to the applicant and staff at the time of the hearing," he said.

Clark noted the board was now in a position where it had taken two contradictory actions concerning the same matter 31 years apart.

After his staff met with Miller and after consulting with the County's Attorney George Lyle, Clark said the recommendation is for the board to resolve the matter by issuing a special use permit with conditions to address some of the concerns raised at the Aug. 27 public hearing.

Conditions include race season running from March-October, with planned two races per month, but not to exceed 20 total; all engine noise, PA system, music, etc. to end by 11 p.m. on race days. No more than four exceptions for extenuating circumstances, but in all cases, shall cease by 12 a.m. The applicant is required to have trash/litter picked up along road and properties within one mile of track, following each event, and if necessary, the applicant will have the road washed of dirt/mud for up to one mile

in each direction leaving track, after each event. The special use permit will expire in two years of issuance, if not exercised.

Miller said the Raceway will be open for business in March 2026.

"In the meantime, we have some pretty cool things coming up. We're going to have an event announcement the week after next where we're going to draw some money in for the Henry County Sheriff's Department's Benevolent Officer Fund," he said.

If the facility's ready, Miller said Oak Level will also try to host an event for a local therapeutic riding group that provides therapeutic riding to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in November.

Miller added he's excited to have racing back at Oak Level and dirt track and short track racing back in Henry County.

"I know a lot of people are looking forward to it and so are we," he said.

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Vampire killing kits are among the rare artifacts on display in the new annex.



Antique rifles are secured behind custom glass walls.



Animal statues are featured on the lower floor of the annex.

MHC Historical Society opens annex filled with rare treasures

By Jessica Dillon

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society opened the doors of its new annex Sept. 6, inviting the community to step into a space filled with rare antiques, unusual artifacts and the passion of two people determined to preserve history.

The annex showcases the extraordinary collection of Dr. Mervin and Virginia King, longtime supporters of the museum who wanted to ensure their treasures could be shared with the public. Inside, visitors are greeted with everything from toys and steam engines to rifles, Indian artifacts and delicate pieces of ivory.

"This is mostly the collection of Virginia and Dr. Mervin King. They built this building for them to show off their collection," said volunteer Jack Stewart. "We have a wide array of displays here. Not just toys, but steam engines and rifles, Indian artifacts, ivory."

The opening felt more like a celebration than a ceremony. Families played games, children enjoyed activities, and a food truck set up outside while people wandered through the glass cases filled with history. Admission for kids was free, underscoring the society's goal of making the experience accessible to the next generation.

Stewart said none of it would have been possible without Dr. King's relentless energy.

"He was like an energetic rabbit," Stewart said. "He was in here every day, working on this. He's got just a good eye for displaying."

The annex's artifacts are preserved behind ActivWall glass, giving visitors a clear view of the collection while protecting its delicate details. Stewart said his personal favorites are the woodworking pieces.

"It was all done by hand, whether it was one piece or several pieces to make the crown molding. It was all done by hand," he said.

For Stewart, who moved to the area from a large city in Pennsylvania, the annex represents something remarkable.

"Our museum was not one tenth of what we have here," he said. "And our population of the city I came from was 10 times more than what we have in this whole county. So, this is not just a local, this is a big attraction."

He added that Martinsville's reputation for being small and quiet doesn't reflect what it truly offers.

"Martinsville is a small community but a growing community. Martinsville's got the friendliest people," Stewart said. "A lot of people say there's nothing to do in Martinsville. Well, if you're into hiking, there's all kinds of trails. There's beautiful mountains in this area. We have the natural history museum, we have an art museum, and now we have the historical museum here."

For Dr. King, seeing the annex open to the public was both a personal milestone and a gift to the community.

"That's good for everybody. That's for everybody in the whole community," he said. "Gotta eat, gotta sleep, gotta like that. It's fantastic."

King also stressed the larger role the annex could play in the region. Tourism, he said, is one of Virginia's fastest-growing industries—and museums like this one are a powerful draw.

Now, with the annex open, the Historical Society has given Martinsville not just another museum, but a place where history comes alive through carefully chosen displays and the dedication of those who believe in its value.

Judge

(cont. from page 1)

tained through our preliminary investigation will be turned over to a special prosecutor," Hall said in a release last week.

Visc Mayor Kathy Lawson on Tuesday again expressed concerns about employees interviewed for the report and their right to privacy. She added that Hall "has obtained information and is asking the judge for a special prosecutor."

In an email to Stephen Durbin of Sands Anderson and media outlets, Councilman Aaron Rawls wrote that Hall's receipt of the heavily redacted report "is in direct contradiction to the motion I made that was passed unanimously by Council. The motion I made was to provide '... versions of the report that deal with ANY criminal ac-

tivity...'

"The intent is to release, fully, all sections that address potential or actual criminal behavior. Bribery. Conflict of interest. Misuse of public funds. ALL of it and the associated context," Rawls said. "It sounds like we will need to bring this back, yet again, to our next council meeting. I want to be very clear that my patience for playing word games is exhausted."

"Please provide me with whatever motion language you deem required to release this information to the Commonwealth Attorney so that we can move on," Rawls wrote. "Also, let's get ahead of the forensic audit and prepare language for that as well."

Mayor LC Jones did not return a call for comment.

Correction

Sheila G. Clark is seeking Martinsville's Treasurer's position in the November election against Kendall Davis, not Cindy Dickerson who was incorrectly mentioned in a recent press conference.

Dickerson retired in July.

Clark has worked in the Treasurer's Office for 29 years.

Update at Mount Olivet highlights gains, challenges in academics

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County School Board met on Sept. 4 at Mount Olivet Elementary School, where members received an update on the school's academic progress and approved funding for several capital projects, including new school buses and elevators.

Principal Kelsey Gardner said she is proud of the growth Mount Olivet students have shown in recent years, though challenges remain.

"It is currently performing slightly below the division average and is 11 percentage points behind the state average in reading," Gardner said. "Addressing this performance gap is definitely a top threat for me. This year we are continuing our implementation of all-in tutoring blocks which utilizes all certified staff to provide targeted small group instruction and individualized education."

Gardner said the instructional team is working with teachers to analyze data and create focused intervention groups.

"Just in the first 16 days of school this year, these groups are fully operational and already supporting our students," she said.

Math performance has grown 13% at Mount Olivet, and absenteeism has dropped below 10%.

"We are partnering very closely with our families to ensure our students are here every day. We celebrate excellent attendance and emphasize the importance of being present to benefit from the high-quality instructions our teachers are providing," Gardner said.

The board also heard about funding for nutrition programs. The Virginia Department of Education awarded the School Nutrition Program an additional \$239,100



The Rev. Tyler Millner speaks about the importance of Black history in schools.

for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which serves all elementary schools. Because the FY 2026 School Nutrition Budget appropriation is insufficient to cover the program's costs, an additional local appropriation will be required.

In other action, the board approved the replacement of five school buses. Of the county's fleet, 45 65-passenger buses have exceeded 200,000 miles. The new buses will cost \$677,085.

Elevators will be added at Drewry Mason Elementary School and G.W. Carver Elementary School at a total cost of \$1,689,700, paid from the 1% sales tax. Drewry Mason's elevator will cost \$864,900, while the elevator at G.W. Carver will cost \$824,800. The project was awarded to Daniel Builders LLC of Danville.

Switchgears at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School and Laurel Park Middle School also will be replaced. RRMM Architects of Roanoke was awarded the \$170,000 project, which will also be funded through the 1% sales tax.

During public comment, the Rev. Tyler Millner called for more representation of Black history in the schools.

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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

Monday, September 15

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board - Academic & Student Affairs Committee meets at 11:30 a.m. in Room 106 in the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex I, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville. This is a public meeting, but public comment will not be received.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board - Budget & Finance Committee meets, 11:30 a.m. in Room 109 in the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex I. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board meets at 12:30 p.m. in the Flex Space of the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex I. This is a public meeting, but the board will not receive public comment

Tuesday, September 16

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

Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum, P&HCC Frith Hall, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Events

Tuesday, September 16

The Martinsville Henry County Republicans meet, 6:30 p.m., in the Republican Headquarters at Holiday Shopping Plaza, 1900-1972 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville, to plan for upcoming events and fall elections. Call 276-833-2636 with questions.

County Candidates Forum, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Patrick & Henry Community College, Frith Exhibit Hall. 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville.

Friday, September 19-Saturday, September 20

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Members Only event is Friday, 1-5 p.m. and you can join at the door. Sale is open to all from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. Bag sale with provided bag filled with hard-backed fiction for \$5. Shopping and some areas will be limited to 10 shoppers at a time.

Saturday, September 20

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

Lord's Acre Sale at Ridgeway Methodist Church,

Carmichael

(cont. from page 1)

my skill set. I've worked in banking, I worked in collections, I have an extensive history in customer service, which is probably the main thing that you need," she said.

She has also worked as an administrator, owned a small business, done graphic design, managed websites, and been involved in local government.

Carmichael has worked in city business for two and a half years, including helping run cameras at government meetings.

"I love the family that was in that building. And I was like, if something comes open, I'm gonna try to get in there because I love the fact that I get to serve my community through my job," she said.

She also organized the Worship on the Lawn event in 2023 to help bring the community together. The event is now in its third year.

"In the middle of all of that, I was like, man, I get to serve my community. And it's like a real big sense of community for me to do what I do every day. I do it because I care," Carmichael said. "So when I applied for the community engagement position, that was a huge blessing for me because, again, I get to serve my community."

Carmichael also pointed to city events like the Food Truck Pull Up, which gave her an opportunity to work with the commissioner of revenue's office and gain a better understanding of its role. She said she wants to help bring more events to the city and encourage business growth.

"I've been in leadership for over 15 years now. I learned how to manage people and processes. I know how to manage problems with excellence," she said.

"So altogether I bring technical, financial, administrative skills, creative skills and people skills. That's needed to serve the people of Martinsville effectively. And that's what I'm doing. That's why I'm doing what I'm doing—to serve the people of Martinsville effectively and to bring change to this community and to this office."

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.

Ridgeway Ruritan BBQ Dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., 111 Magnolia St., Ridgeway, \$12 per plate includes pulled pork or chicken quarter, roll, Cole slaw, baked beans, drink and homemade dessert. Take out or dine in options available. Preorder by calling or texting 276-340-5288, 276-734-9359 or 276-670-0117.

Magnolia & Main Books, 810 Main St., Ridgeway, will host award-winning author Natalie K. Hodge for a Meet the Author & Book Signing, 1–3 p.m.

Friday, September 26

Savory September: Wild, Wild West at Piedmont Arts. Get ready to boot scootin' boogie at this Wild West-themed fundraiser for the arts from 6:30-9:30 p.m., with live country and western music by Matt Boswell. Admission tickets are \$50 per person and include food and drinks. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for six. Tickets available at PiedmontArts.org. 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.

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 mhc-dca.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.

See tracks? Think train: SCC encourages use caution around railroad tracks

Tracks are for trains. Walking, bicycling or playing on railroad tracks, train surfing or trying to rush through closing gates to beat an oncoming train are extremely dangerous and illegal.

From September 15-21, 2025, the State Corporation Commission joins Operation Lifesaver Inc. – a nonprofit organization dedicated to rail safety education – in raising awareness about the need for pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and others to stay safe around railroad tracks and crossings. See Tracks? Think Train Week (formerly Rail Safety Week) promotes the critical importance of rail safety.

The Railroad Regulation section of the SCC's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety works in concert with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure the safe operation of railroads within Virginia. It conducts incident investigations, inspects railroad tracks and bridges to promote the safe movement of freight and passengers throughout the Commonwealth, inspects rail cars and locomotives to ensure compliance with FRA standards, and investigates constituent complaints regarding blocked rail crossings.

Every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train, according to Operation Lifesaver. Most of these tragedies could have been prevented.

Division Director Lauren Govoni and Virginia Operation Lifesaver coordinator Tracey Lamb encourage Virginians to remain

alert, use caution and obey signs and signals around railroad tracks. Always expect a train, they advise.

"Rail safety is everyone's responsibility, whether you're a pedestrian, passenger, photographer, motorist, bicyclist or emergency responder," Govoni said. "No matter who you are, always use caution around tracks and trains."

The SCC will partner with law enforcement railroad safety partners and other agencies to spotlight See Tracks? Think Train Week. Daily themes include commuter and transit safety, crossing safety and professional drivers, trespass prevention and photographer safety. Potentially life-saving information will appear on the SCC website and social media pages.

The 82% decrease in collisions nationwide at highway-rail grade crossings during the last 50 years is encouraging, but "there is still more rail safety awareness work to do," Lamb said. "If your vehicle ever stalls on the track, get out and move away; then call the phone number on the blue Emergency Notification System sign located at the crossing or call 9-1-1," she said.

Virginia Operation Lifesaver is administered by the SCC's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, which offers educational sessions and can be reached by phone at 804-371-1588. To learn more about railroad safety and railroad education in Virginia, visit the division's website or the Operation Lifesaver website.

Sports Schedule

The following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of September 15-20:

9/15	6pm	Volleyball	Summit at Carisle
	7pm	Volleyball	North Stokes at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	Gretna at Magna Vista
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Patrick County
9/16	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Martinsville
9/17	2pm	Golf	Basset at Martinsville (Forest Park CC)
	5pm	Cross Country	Bassett at Halifax County (Edmonds Park)
	5pm	Cross Country	Magna Vista at Halifax County (Edmonds Park)
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Floyd County
9/18	2pm	Golf	Magna Vista – match at Copper Cover GC
	4:30pm	Boys Soccer	Carisle at North Cross
	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Mecklenburg County
	7pm	Volleyball	Tunstall at Magna Vista
	7pm	Volleyball	James River at Martinsville
	7pm	Volleyball	Carisle at New Covenant
9/19	6:45pm	Volleyball	William Byrd at Bassett
	7pm	Football	Magna Vista at Franklin County
	7pm	Football	Martinsville at Dan River
	7pm	Football	

Thank You for reading
Henry County Enterprise

OPINION

CDC

Some in the media would have you believe that the Trump Administration's recent attempts to reform the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is an attack on American science.

This narrative became apparent when several CDC officials resigned their posts. One of those officials, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, cited his concerns about CDC policies shifting away from scientific reality and hurting public health.

If Dr. Daskalakis was actually paying attention, he would have noticed that the Biden CDC revealed itself to be a broken agency.

First, there was their failed COVID-19 test.

Then, the Biden CDC ignored what actual science showed and instead peddled recommendations based on political objectives.

Look no further than the Biden CDC's "Stop the Spread" campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notwithstanding that most children were not at risk from COVID-19, the CDC misled families and pressured children into believing that if they got the COVID-19 vaccine, they prevented viral transmission, schools could reopen and life would return to normal.

One faulty Biden CDC advertisement in 2021 claimed: "if you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities without wearing masks or maintaining physical distance."

These erroneous conclusions differed from the scientific conclusions of the Food and Drug Administration as well as vaccine manufacturers. Biden CDC Director Rochelle Walensky touted these claims even though CDC scientists warned that the claims could not be verified.

Walensky also bypassed the science when she allowed the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to rewrite portions of the Biden Administration's school reopening guidance. **

The above actions reflected a deeply politi-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

cized agency that operated with little respect for the actual science.

The Biden CDC's misguided responses to COVID-19 ultimately spelled trouble for the country.

Their actions inflicted widespread learning loss through their school closure guidance. My children suffered, as did yours.

The Biden CDC exacerbated mental health struggles and damaged the agency's credibility with the American public.

Public dissatisfaction over their actions played a role in Virginia when we elected a Republican governor in 2021 (the first Republican to win statewide in Virginia in 12 years).

Discontent over lockdown policies and vaccine/mask mandates also seemed to prompt the election of a Republican majority to the U.S. House in 2022 and a Republican sweep in 2024.

It makes sense for Republicans in Washington to deliver on promises made to the American people and to attempt to restore trust in the CDC.

So far, actions from President Trump's team have shown progress.

When a measles outbreak spread in West Texas, our public health leaders did not sit on the sidelines.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (a vaccine sceptic) even directed the CDC to deploy its measles task force to deliver thousands of doses of the MMR vaccine and provide greater resources to help control the outbreak.

In May 2021 when I visited a migrant intake facility in Fort Bliss, Texas, I found it interesting that while they were giving COVID-19 vaccines, they were not

giving other vaccines at that time.

It is also interesting that Texas, the U.S. state that saw the most amount of illegal border crossings under Biden-Harris open borders policies, was the scene of this outbreak.

Was this a coincidence? I think not.

Some of my doctor friends believe the migrant surge played a role because most illegals are not vaccinated.

But Trump shut down the flood of illegal migrants coming across the border and fortunately last month, Texas officials announced the end of the measles outbreak in West Texas.

I believe Biden-Harris open border policies threatened our national security and public health security, and I support President Trump's measures to reverse those harmful policies.

The Trump CDC is focused on protecting Americans from other infectious diseases and health threats as well.

Through new investments, the Trump CDC will create a preeminent biothreat radar detection system.

This system will establish screenings for previously undetected infections, devise mitigation strategies and keep Americans safer from infectious diseases entering the country.

Also, the CDC is using enhanced sewage inspection tools to help identify dangerous viruses and bacteria in the community.

As we saw during COVID-19, the CDC failed miserably and its public perception suffered accordingly.

It is only right to correct the Biden CDC's failures and deliver meaningful reforms to CDC's operations so we can rebuild the CDC to be a better, more respected and more trusted institution.

Is your love tank full or empty?

Just get your significant other to figure out what your love language is, and get him or her convinced they need to do better in it (good luck with that), and your love tank will fill right up.

I read Dr. Gary Chapman's book "The 5 Love Languages" after I saw a sign outside the Martinsville Branch Library saying that that book was the topic of "Book Talk Tuesday" from 5-6 p.m. Sept. 23. I figured it would make a good column as well as a good book talk.

I got the book, like you can, over the Library app on my phone. You also could do it the old-fashioned way and go to the library to get an actual copy.

In the book, Dr. Chapman he explains that there are five different ways people communicate love – how they feel they are loved, and how they show love:

- Acts of Service – You feel loved when someone does things for you
- Receiving Gifts – Receiving a heartfelt gift makes you feel loved
- Quality Time – You feel secure in love and appreciated when the other person gives you undivided attention
- Words of Affirmation – You feel loved when you are told that you are loved
- Physical Touch – Nothing speaks more deeply than appropriate physical touch (that's more than just plain enjoying sex, Dr. Chapman explains, because sex is a natural and common human urge that nearly everyone has, love or not. It means other kinds of touching, such as holding hands, cuddling, etc.).

As I was reading the book, each time I got to a new chapter describing the Love Language, I was convinced: Oh, that's me! I have no idea how to narrow it down.

Yes, I definitely feel loved when I am helped and supported and treated with acts of service. That is my style. Oh, wait, quality time – that's what



Holly Kozelsky

I need – quality time is my Love Language. Oh, hold on, it's the physical touch that's the big deal. Yes, I always love to have my hand held, run my hands up and down his arm, have his arm around me. That's the one it is.

Frankly, the only Love Language that doesn't interest me all that much is the gifts. And that might be because I'm old enough to have received all I need by now anyway.

And if I need the love languages to fill my love tank fuller, how I do I get my fella to read that book and get right with the program? I can just imagine his reaction to my making the suggestion: "Well, what do you want me to do?" he'd mean that in a nice way: He just wants me to get to the point and not launch into a long, rambling talk about it and he certainly would not have to read a book about it. He's thinking that was silly. I would just need to be quick and specific: Do I want him to hold my hand while we're walking the grocery aisle at the Food Lion? Or give me a back rub now and then? Or is my kitchen sink leaking and need to be fixed?

Meanwhile, I've got a handle on his love language, which isn't in the book. It's fishing. To show his love for me, my fellow bought me a very fancy important fishing pole. It was so fancy he had to explain to me what kind of fishing pole it is and why it's so special.

By the same token, me showing my love to him would be to go with him fishing and, if I'm really feeling romantic and wanting to emphasize how very much I love him, I would stay home and send him out fishing with his buddies instead.

I am writing this

with a fishing show playing on TV. He is avidly watching the fishing show. He turned the channel to that after we watched a couple of episodes of "The Paper," the new show on Peacock about working at a newspaper, in the style of the popular TV show "The Office," which of course was my viewing choice.

I turned to him and asked if he remembers which fishing pole is mine, since it's been a couple of years since he bought it for me and I figured it just got grouped up in with his fishing gear because of course I didn't bring it home to my house.

"Yeah," he said. "It's the black one."

"But you can use any of those fishing poles in there," he concluded, giving me a smile full of love and generosity.

Well, there you have it right there: He loves me, as demonstrated in his own love language.

All joking aside, the book does get you to thinking, and to figuring things out, and the talk at the library should be quite interesting. The flyer states:

"The 5 Love Languages by Dr. Gary Chapman is often presented in the context of romantic relationships. However, its core idea applies to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or relationship type. We will discuss how this book can help with the following:

- Understanding that everyone gives and receives love differently
- How to build better communication & resolve misunderstandings
- Fostering emotional intelligence
- Interpersonal relationships

Call the Martinsville library to register – 276-403-5430. Remember, the talk is from 5-6 p.m. Sept. 23.

Letters To The Editor

Danger in the eye of the beholder

I read with interest Dr. Glenn Mollette's article in the August 30, 2025 edition of the Henry County Enterprise, where he describes his fear and anxiety when visiting DC and New York City, decrying the threat that he sees everywhere, and thanking President Trump for his efforts to make America safe again.

Perhaps danger, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Because I have sons who have lived in DC, New York City, Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, I have had multiple opportunities to visit these large cities many times over the last 28 years. I can truly say that I have never felt the angst that Dr. Mollette describes feeling when he is in those cities, not even the time that I got lost on a hot summer night in DC and found myself in the Anacostia neighborhood. For those not familiar with that area, 97% of the people who live there are black and brown. I had to stop and ask for directions at several places (a takeout pizza place, a convenience store, etc.) and everyone I approached made every effort to be helpful while treating me politely and with respect. While I was aware that I seemed to be the only white face in the area, I never felt threatened, and I cannot imagine why anyone else would feel afraid in this situation.

Are there areas of DC, New York City, or even Richmond that experience more crime than others? Of course. The causes of this are myriad: unemployment, poverty, lack of stable housing, substance abuse, and so on. And it is certain-

ly prudent to avoid areas with higher rates of crime but addressing the root causes requires a comprehensive approach to such complex issues as systemic racism and income inequality.

So, what has been President Trump's response to crime in DC, where according to DC police data, the rate of crime has been dropping substantially? Members of the National Guard from various states have been deployed there, where they are mostly patrolling popular tourist spots as well as picking up trash, raking leaves, and laying mulch. The cost of this endeavor is about \$1,000,000 a day, which seems like a lot of money to pay for landscaping, even in DC.

If President Trump were truly serious about addressing crime, he might consider addressing the issue in the states with the highest rates of violent crime: New Mexico, Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee. The problem with that, of course, is that four out of these five states are red, Trump-supporting states, and he would rather target big, blue cities like DC, Chicago, and Baltimore. He is not really interested in attempting to solve the problem of crime, he is looking for retribution against anyone or any area that disagrees with him.

Unfortunately for our country, President Trump is only interested in advancing himself and his interests, not in what is best for the United States.

M. Martha Woody,
Martinsville

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

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

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

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Bassett High School graduate and current SEED student Summer Shelton completes classwork on P&HCC's quad.

SEED Fund updates approved by foundation

The Harvest Foundation's SEED Fund, local financial aid available to recent high school/home school graduates in Martinsville-Henry County who attend Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), will undergo adjustments for fall 2026 as The Harvest Foundation Board works to continue to ensure that the fund maximizes access to economic prosperity for students in MHC.

Beginning in the fall of 2026, students have the ability to access SEED in two ways:

A student who graduates with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 and lives in Martinsville or Henry County is eligible for SEED.

A student who graduates with a cumulative GPA slightly lower than a 2.0 and lives in Martinsville or Henry County is eligible to be considered for a Late Momentum Metric evaluation. The junior and senior year combined GPA of 2.0 will then support those students in

becoming eligible for SEED.

SEED students are required to complete eight hours of community service annually and must maintain a 2.0 GPA as a P&HCC student.

"The opportunity to come into college and have the guarantee that you won't have to spend anything out of pocket on your classes is a huge advantage in today's economic climate," said P&HCC SEED Coordinator Megan Willis.

Since fall 2018, The SEED Fund has supported over 1,600 students attending P&HCC and The Harvest Foundation has guaranteed the availability of this support for students through the class of 2035.

High school seniors interested in The SEED Fund are encouraged to meet with their school-based Career Coach or to contact Willis at 276.656.0348 or mwillis@patrick-henry.edu. Seniors and their families are encouraged to attend SEED Night on November 10 at P&HCC's MET Complex to learn more.

Henry County Fair

(cont. from page 1)



The Henry County Fair offers fun-filled rides and entertainment for the whole family.



Youngsters were delighted with the rides at last year's event. (Courtesy VisitMartinsville)

have over 20 rides that will be split between rides for younger children and rides for teenagers and adults," Adams said.

Each night will include two ground shows, beginning with the Jurassic Kingdom Show, a dinosaur-themed attraction.

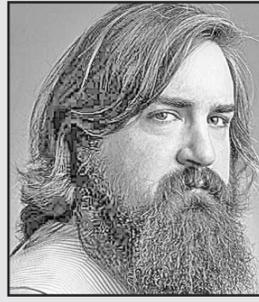
"Then we have the Pompeyo Amazing Dog and Magic Show,

which is a little bit different. They've been here for a few years, they were on 'America's Got Talent,' so they're adding a magic portion to that," he said.

The agricultural contest will feature competitive exhibits in several categories, including fresh fruit and vegetables, miscellaneous agricultural products,

OPINION

Regarding rural healthcare



By Ben R. Williams

I initially felt like I should write a column about the President declaring war on Chicago, but aside from a joke about how the Blues Brothers need to once again battle Nazis in their home city and a general sense of bafflement about how we got to this point without any of our Constitutional guardrails even attempting to function, I don't have much to say about it. So instead, let's discuss rural healthcare.

Cardinal News recently reported that three medical facilities in the Shenandoah Valley will soon be closing. The three primary care facilities, which are operated by Augusta Medical Group, are located in Buena Vista, Churchville, and Weyers Cave. Patients will instead be asked to visit other Augusta Medical Group care providers, all of which are a pretty long haul from these three communities.

Augusta Medical Group released a statement saying that the consolidation "is also part of Augusta Health's ongoing response to 'The One Big Beautiful Bill Act' and the resulting realities for healthcare delivery."

It's not hard to figure out how we got here. The One Big Beautiful Bill (which we'll henceforth refer to as the OBBB because its very name infuriates me) cuts about \$1 trillion in Medicaid spending. The hospitals that are most reliant on Medicaid are also the hospitals that have the lowest operating margins, which are generally rural hospitals.

"But wait!" you say. "Doesn't the OBBB also contain some kind of special protection for rural hospitals?"

Yes, but more realistically, no. There is something in the bill called the "Rural Health Transformation Program," a \$50 billion, five-year fund to ostensibly mitigate the impact of these severe Medicaid cuts. However, this fund doesn't make direct payments to rural hospitals; instead, it makes the funds available to states, and the states will need approval before spending the funds. Who makes those approvals? None other than Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator and TV snake oil salesman Dr. Mehmet Oz, continuing his life's work of harming our nation's most vulnerable with bad medical advice.

I suppose there's an outside chance that some of this rural

health fund will trickle to hospitals that need it, but given that the Trump administration thus far has served as a machine that turns taxpayer dollars into yacht payments, I have my doubts.

Obviously, it's concerning that any rural hospital would close because of the OBBB's Medicaid cuts. But as a resident of Patrick County, this literally hits close to home.

Almost two years ago, I wrote a column about the former Pioneer Community Hospital in Patrick County, which closed its doors in 2017 after filing for bankruptcy the year before. In February of 2018 when I was still a full-time journalist, I found myself standing inside the hospital along with 200 other folks, including state and local elected officials. Then-Governor Ralph Northam was in town to sign Senate Bill 866 into law, the first bill of his governorship. The bill was authored by Sen. Bill Stanley and was designed to keep Pioneer's certifications and licenses current so that when a new owner purchased the hospital, they would have fewer hoops to jump through to get it back up and running.

Eventually, the hospital was purchased by Foresight Health Group. I would never, ever refer to the folks at Foresight Health Group as a bunch of scam artists targeting desperate rural communities.

Anyway, that didn't pan out, but last November, the hospital was purchased by Braden Health Group. Per Cardinal News, Braden Health is a for-profit healthcare company that specializes in reviving small, critical-access, and fee-for-service hospitals in rural areas.

I never had a good feeling about Foresight, but Braden seems like the real deal. For one thing, unlike Foresight, they've demonstrated their desire to reopen the Patrick County hospital through such acts as "fixing up the building" and "mowing the grass." I believe they have every intention of reopening the hospital.

I don't want to jinx anything, but my big concern now is that despite their best intentions, Trump's Big Beautiful Bill will prevent them from reopening. The profit margins in for-profit healthcare are already razor thin, and the OBBB makes those margins thinner if not entirely nonexistent. No matter how well-intentioned, a for-profit healthcare company isn't going to operate at a loss just because it's a nice thing to do for an underserved community.

Of course, none of this would be an issue if we had universal healthcare in this country, the nut so difficult to crack that only 32 out of 33 developed countries have pulled it off. But that would be socialism, and we certainly can't have that. Better to bleed out in the back of a Toyota Tercel racing to the hospital in Mt. Airy, just as our Founding Fathers intended.

Column Sponsored by: Dr. Mensink

flowers and plants, quilts, crocheting, textiles, and more.

"We have all the wonderful animals from Affinity Acres, and you can really see a wide variety of animals. They bring their camel, they've had an armadillo, a porcupine, just all kinds of animals that you can see and interact with," Adams said.

Concerts will also be a highlight of the fair.

Adams said Wednesday will feature a tribute band night with Creedence Clearwater Recital performing.

"Thursday night is B99 night. We have Love Story — The unofficial Taylor Swift Tribute band, and then Friday is B99 night and we have national recording artist Rhett Walker," he said.

A fireworks display will close out the fair on Saturday night.

If the weather cooperates, Adams anticipates more than 5,000 people will attend over the four-day event.

"Last year we were slammed on Saturday, but we had the torna-

does Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, so rain interrupted the fair on all three of those nights. So, Saturday we had a record crowd," he said.

As the Henry County Fair is still new compared to others that have been around for decades, Adams said organizers are working to expand awareness.

"We're reaching out through a variety of means to let folks know" about it, he said.

Fairgoers can save \$5 per unlimited ride wristband if purchased before the event begins.

"They're good any night of the fair, so that can save a family of four or five people "\$20-\$25 right there," Adams said.

Unlimited ride wristbands cost \$25 and can be used any night of the fair.

"You can ride as much as you want the whole day and whole night," Adams said.

Tickets are available at www.colerides.com/tickets. For more information, visit www.henry-countyvafair.com.

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

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THANK YOU FOR READING

Regional passports unlock rural adventures at Virginia agribusinesses



While the pursuit of a passport stamp and prizes may draw visitors to rural areas, the ensuing adventures often bring them back for more.

Several Virginia locales and organizations have partnered with area businesses and attractions to collaborate on passport programs that encourage regional exploration.

In 2024, Richard's Fruit Market

manager Kayla Lawrence and her cohorts on the Frederick County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee introduced The Farm Explorer of Frederick County Passport program. The free passport books, available at the markets or at the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, entice families to explore the area's 10 farm markets from April through December.

About 5,000 passports for adults and 4,000 for children were distributed in its first season. Lawrence estimated 200 participants redeemed their fully stamped passport books for prizes.

"Our goal is for folks to support local farm businesses, get to know their community, and learn where food comes from," Lawrence said.

Broadway, New Market and Timberville introduced a Travel the Towns Passport program this spring with 54 total stops, spanning locations from main street to the countryside, including multiple agribusinesses.

"We saw an opportunity to collaborate, benefitting our collective businesses and encouraging residents to explore—getting to know the various towns right around the corner," noted Savannah Frazier, Town of New Market events and marketing director.

"All three towns are rural, so it

makes sense that a portion of our businesses are ag-related!" Frazier said.

About \$2,000 worth of prizes were supplied by business partners. Organizers are planning an extended timeline for next year's passport.

Foodies, hikers, agricultural explorers and history buffs seeking rural experiences in 11 interconnected cities and towns throughout Coastal Virginia will find endless surprises on four Coastal Virginia Passports.

"We're a region without visible borders to the traveler," explained Sarah Hughes, vice president of marketing and communications for Visit Norfolk. "Whether it's savoring local seafood, exploring vibrant arts scenes, or enjoying water views and outdoor adventures, everything is within an hour's reach—making it the perfect destination to explore through a passport-style journey."

Passes are received via text or email instead of an app, supplying mobile coupons as GPS technology automatically checks users in at each location. This season's pass expires March 1, 2026. Qualifying passports can be redeemed for prizes at regional visitor centers.

See the full story in Virginia Farm Bureau's summer Cultivate magazine.

Appropriations bill passes hurdle in House, heads to Senate

The U.S. House of Representatives voted and passed H.R. 4553, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, according to a Thursday release from U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith.

Griffith, R-Salem, introduced an amendment to the bill that increases funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy. This bill funds critical activities that bolster industries important to the people of Southwest Virginia.

Following passage of the bill, Griffith said he was "glad the House adopted my amendment to the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which directs additional millions of federal dollars to the DOE Office of

Fossil Energy. This is a critical office that develops innovative technologies for America to pioneer on the global stage.

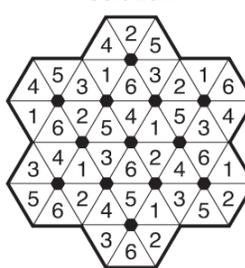
"The bill also supports nuclear energy innovation. Virginia's Ninth District is exploring the potential of nuclear energy and is home to an abundance of natural resources and emissions reduction technologies," Griffith said. "With this powerful combination, we can burn coal cleaner than anywhere else in the world and guide the world towards a cleaner and more sustainable future."

He added that by advancing the appropriations bill, "we can secure America's electric grid, lower energy costs for consumers and unleash American energy dominance."

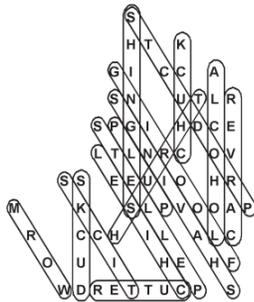
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3. Lumber;
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Crossing the Lines

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

School division ranks third in region, top 10 in state



Schools Superintendent Jason Wood

For the fourth year in a row, Patrick County Public Schools (PCPS) ranked within the top 10 in Virginia based on Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores.

PCPS also ranked third in the Roanoke/New River Valley area.

According to SOL data, Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the division's overall average of 82 percent is 10 points higher than the state average of 72 percent.

"We're very proud of all the hard work of everyone involved because we truly know it takes a village. That's why we kind of highlight it doesn't matter what our staff members' job title is, we all work together to do what's best for kids. In a small, rural school division you've got to rely on each other, so we have truly built a family atmosphere and culture in our school division that we pride ourselves on," he said.

Wood said he thinks this is why there are so many employees who stay with the division through retire-

ment.

"It's a great place to live, work, and raise a family and we want to continue to be a bright spot in our community and something everyone can be proud of," he said.

According to a media release, SOL data shows the division excels at working with economically disadvantaged students.

"In that subgroup, PCPS ranks second in the state in reading performance, third in the state in science, and eighth in the state in math," the release states.

Wood said the county has a large population of economically disadvantaged students.

"We strive to make sure we meet the needs of all of our students. Statistics show that as poverty goes up, typically SOL performance goes down. However, we're one of the school divisions who beat that trend and actually have excellent performance from all of our students, including the economically disadvantaged group," he said.

Volunteers worry about equipment, training issues under EMS deal



Jane Fulk, a member of Ararat Volunteer Rescue Squad, formerly served on the Board of Supervisors.

More than two weeks after the Patrick County Board of Supervisors signed a contract with Ambulance Services of Lexington Inc., doing business as Patrick County EMS, volunteers say they remain worried about what the agreement means for them and for the county's ability to provide emergency medical services.

The contract transfers the county's paid EMS staff, known as Station 8, from county oversight to management under Patrick County EMS.

The agreement shifts management of the county's paid EMS staff, known as Station 8, to Patrick County EMS, a subsidiary of Ambulance Services of Lexington. County officials said the move was intended to address staffing challenges and rising costs, while ensuring 24/7 coverage for residents. Under the contract, county-owned

equipment, vehicles, training gear, and pharmaceutical supplies will be transferred to the new provider. Supporters say the deal will improve coverage and streamline emergency services, but volunteers worry it sidelines their role, reduces access to equipment, and threatens the future of community-based squads.

Ararat Volunteer Rescue Squad member Jane Fulk said she believes the board should have included volunteer leadership in the discussion before turning over EMS assets and responsibilities to the hospital.

"One question from the board to the squads should have been do any of the squads need any of this equipment and would it be needed by the new EMS coordinator," she said.

Fulk said handing pharmacy responsibilities to the hospital for the volunteer squads has the potential of shutting down the Advanced Life Support (ALS) drug box exchange.

"And with no plan in place that we're aware of, the continuance of this practice is a problem for the volunteers," she said.

She added that, under the contract, the county reverts back to an EMS coordinator as it had before, but all training gear is to be turned over to the hospital.

"Is this with the okay of the Western Virginia (EMS) Council? I'm sure the board is aware of these matters and is actively working on solutions," Fulk said.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Tourism boost expected as Mabry Mill returns to iconic look



A ribbon cutting was held Aug. 25 to celebrate the completion of roof repairs at Mabry Mill.

Repairs to Mabry Mill were completed and celebrated with a ribbon cutting Aug. 25, just in time for the start of leaf peeper season along the Blue Ridge Parkway and in Meadows of Dan.

Patrick County Economic Development and Tourism Director James Houchins said the repairs, which included the installation of a shake roof, allowed Mabry Mill to return to its original condition.

"We have had a lot of concerns from the public about the way Mabry Mill was starting to look. So the (Blue Ridge) Parkway Foundation through generous donors and then through their philanthropy efforts took up the cause of getting the shaker roofs re-applied and reinstalled back on it, so that's going to improve the aesthetics of the building and make it more, of course, appealing to not only the community citizens but also the regular

tourists that are visiting the Parkway," he said.

Repairs on the mill began in June. The Parkway Foundation contributed more than \$100,000 to the project. Other costs were covered by the National Park Service.

Houchins noted Mabry Mill is one of the most photographed and iconic sites on the Parkway and in the world.

"It's really going to help us out in that department," he added.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook



MOST Affordable Cinema

\$5 tickets

Hollywood Cinema beside Walmart
Martinsville 276-656-3456

1-3-5

1-3-5-7

1-3-5-7

1-2-4-5:30-7-8

7PM



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

EIC
 RELDIF
 ♥ RATLE
 ♥ TILF
 ROTNIA
 OCG
 ♥ ALER
 NRCFA
 LIO
 ROSEAC
 FROFE
 ♥ GEOL

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. Tree trunk is wider. 2. Sun is shorter. 3. Walking stick is shorter. 4. Cap design is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Cloud is not as large.

MAGIC MAZE • WOOD

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

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

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| Alcohol | Cutter | Products | Thrush |
| Carver | Ducks | Pulp | Ticks |
| Chisel | Flooring | Shavings | Worm |
| Chuck | Pellets | Shingles | |

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Super Crossword

ACROSS

- It's on either side of a weather front
- Like some pain-causing toenails
- Award for "Nomadland"
- Decay of a plant's stalk
- Suave, glib sort
- 1/24 of a day, in French
- Astronauts' advisory group?
- Blows gently
- NHL great Bobby
- Dot in la mer
- Candied nut given to a kid to quell a tantrum?
- Advice for Fonda when she has a grievance?
- Finds a new purpose for
- Saudi export
- Adele's vocal range
- Without remuneration
- Big cheese
- FBI, e.g.
- "Lily White" novelist Susan

DOWN

- Part of YMCA: Abbr.
- Computer support whiz
- Supply with new weapons
- 2,100, to Caesar
- "— you in?"
- Communal
- Vodka brand, familiarly
- Suffix with 6-Down
- Abbr. for those with only one given name
- "Gee, I would never do that!"
- Perez of film
- Elevator company
- "— asking?"
- Big Apple mail abbr.
- Noting the differences between
- "I do so suffer!"
- Slimy shore deposit in some spa treatments
- Sleeve ends
- Bandleader Shaw
- Takes it easy
- Work ("Down Under" band)
- Industrial city in southern Poland
- Pal of Tigger
- Maligned in print
- "Excuse me"
- Fling
- Mishaps
- Ripped into
- Tall birds
- "The Power of the Dog" co-star Kodi — McPhee
- Spanish for "bear"
- Spongy ball
- Teeny-tiny
- Oak nut
- Enzyme in fat breakdown
- Thick soup
- Dracula creator Bram
- Philosopher with a "razor"
- Way to travel
- Plant firmly
- Channel that televises hearings
- Correct
- "Blue Suede Shoes" singer
- Della of song
- RSVP card
- encls.
- Say again
- Great benefit
- Single-named plus-size model
- Apt., e.g.
- Mag. edition
- Mets' div.
- Platform for iDevices

COMMERCIAL EXPANSION

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The world's tiniest robot is smaller than a grain of salt.
- Despite what you see when you gaze at the night sky, the moon's actually shaped like a lemon, with flattened poles and bulges on its near and far sides around its equator.
- In Utah, birds have the right of way on a highway.
- What's in a name? Well, a casket is a rectangular box with a lid, and a coffin is a six-sided box that's wider at the shoulders and narrower at the feet. In America, caskets are more commonly used than coffins.
- On the Titanic, more than 700 third-class passengers had to share just two bathtubs.
- Black and orange are the traditional colors of Halloween because the ancient Celts believed black symbolized the "death" of summer and orange represented the fall harvest.
- For the film "A Star Is Born," Bradley Cooper spent six months with a dialect coach trying to imitate Sam Elliott's voice, before he knew Elliott would be cast as his brother.
- Some female sharks store sperm after mating, potentially holding on to it for years before they're ready to reproduce.
- When trick-or-treating began gaining popularity in the 1930s, adults worried that kids "threatening" people with tricks if they didn't get candy would encourage them to become criminals later in life.
- The first cigarette lighter was invented three years before the first friction match.
- In 1993, a Mexican zoo owner was arrested for illegally purchasing an FBI agent in a gorilla suit, thinking the agent was an actual gorilla.
- On his deathbed, Steve Jobs asked for five different oxygen masks so he could choose the one with the best design.

Thought for the Day: "To acquire knowledge, one must study, but to acquire wisdom, one must observe." — Marilyn vos Savant

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

SWINGING STIFF-LEGGEDLY CREATES A WHOLE HOST OF FAULTS.

THE WORST IS LOSS OF BALANCE — THE ULTIMATE SCORE-WRECKER. HERE'S A WAY TO FIX THAT.

PRACTICE HITTING SHORT-IRON SHOTS WITHOUT ALLOWING YOUR HEELS TO RAISE.

THIS WILL PROMOTE GOOD LEG WORK BY FORCING YOUR ANKLES TO ROLL CORRECTLY — THE LEFT TOWARDS THE BALL GOING BACK, THE RIGHT TOWARDS THE BALL COMING DOWN.



"If Joey can't come out to play, what about his _____?"

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!

Servant
CAKELY _____

Area
PACES _____

Trudge
RUMBLE _____

Dirty
DROIDS _____

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

Measure aims to use church, higher-ed land for rentals

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner and others introduced the Yes in God's Back Yard (YIGBY) Act, new legislation designed to help faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education unlock the promise of their existing land holdings by transforming underused property into much-needed affordable housing. The bill would provide resources and incentives to support the development and preservation of affordable rental housing on property these institutions already own. The YIGBY Act is part of a comprehensive effort by Sen. Warner to tackle one of the most pressing economic challenges facing Virginians and families across the country: the rising cost of housing.

"Too many families are getting priced out of their communities because of the skyrocketing cost of housing," said Warner, D-Alexandria. "If we want to make housing more affordable, we need to get creative and take advantage of opportunities that already exist. The YIGBY Act is about breaking down barriers and giving faith communities and colleges the support they need to put their land to work creating safe, affordable homes."

The YIGBY Act would:

- Provide technical assistance to faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education seeking to use their land for affordable rental housing;
- Provide technical assistance to local governments on best practices to streamline permitting and reduce barriers; and
- Create \$50 million per year in grants for communities that adopt policies removing barriers to affordable housing on property owned by faith-based organizations or colleges.

The legislation has endorsements from the United Church of Christ, Lutheran Services in America, LeadingAge, True Ground Housing Partners, Virginia Housing Alliance, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Text of the bill is available here.

The YIGBY Act builds on a series of Warner-led proposals aimed at addressing the housing affordability crisis. Today, Sen. Warner is also re-introducing two pivotal bills to further his affordability agenda:

The LIFT Homebuyers Act (LIFT Act) creates a program offering 20-year fixed-rate mortgages tailored for low- and moderate-income, first-generation homebuyers in order to cut monthly housing payments and boost homeownership accessibility.

The Scaling Community Lenders Act would increase lending capacity for community financial institutions, expanding access to affordable housing finance in underserved communities.

Warner has made housing affordability a top priority, advancing proposals to increase supply, expand financing options, and reduce costs for working families. In recent months, he has introduced and supported a range of bipartisan bills to spur new housing construction and redevelopment, including the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, Preserving Rural Housing Investments Act, Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, New Markets Tax Credit Extension Act, the Rural Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act, and the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act. Additionally, Sen. Warner is a cosponsor of the Downpayment Toward Equity Act, which would provide federal grants to help first-generation

homebuyers cover down payments, closing costs, and other upfront expenses.

In July, the Senate Banking Committee advanced a package of bipartisan housing proposals to the Senate floor which included several measures championed and supported by Warner, including the RESIDE Act, legislation drafted by Warner and Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN) to create a new pilot program to help communities convert vacant buildings – such as abandoned hotels, warehouses, and strip malls – into affordable homes. That package now awaits consideration by the full Senate.

Martinsville Middle School launches The Bulldog Beat

Martinsville Middle School is excited to announce the launch of The Bulldog Beat, a new student column written by elected homeroom reporters. This project will highlight classroom activities, showcase Bulldog pride, and allow students to see their work published weekly in the Henry County Enterprise.

Homeroom reporters were elected by their classmates on Friday, September 5, during homeroom. These student leaders will gather weekly updates from their peers and submit them for publication.

Our 2025-2026 Homeroom Reporters

- Sixth Grade:**
 Epinoza's Homeroom-Mercy Moore
 Millner's Homeroom-Adelaide Brent
 Pierson's Homeroom-Semaiya Craighead
 Woody's Homeroom-Calleigh Whittle
 Scales' Homeroom-Nevaeh Daniels
 Clemons' Homeroom-Emery Taylor

- Seventh Grade:**
 Carter's Homeroom-Katherine Wall
 Norman's Homeroom- Alanna Gerlach
 S. Dillard's Homeroom-Shaurya Mahajan
 Lynn's Homeroom-KaZairah Adkins
 Talley's Homeroom-Jade Holland-Dallas
 Pell's Homeroom-Trinity Hairston

- Eighth Grade:**
 Sweitzer's Homeroom-Selena Stultz
 Smith's Homeroom-Aaliyah Hagwood
 Byrd's Homeroom-MaKiya Walton
 Galloway's Homeroom-Jaymi Henriquez Ramos
 Fletcher's Homeroom-Janette Carrillo-Llamas
 Witcher's Homeroom-Tay'Shawn Hairston
 Hunnicutt's Homeroom-Hailey Coleman
 Pendry's Homeroom-Katelyn Kriger-Sells

Roving Reporters- Miriam Carter, Maya Williams, and Taimir Manns

"The Bulldog Beat is a chance for our students' voices to be heard and celebrated," said Beverly B. Woody, SCA Advisor. "We are proud to showcase the talent, creativity, and school spirit of our Bulldogs."

Motorists urged to be aware of unseen distractions from emotional or mental overload

Scrolling through social media in traffic, chomping on a burger while changing lanes or applying makeup on the drive to work are common motorist distractions that can be observed visually.

"But we never talk about distractions you cannot see," said Shaina Finkel, program assistant for the Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition and past national president of Students Against Destructive Decisions. "Other distractions live in your head when you are stressed, overtired, overwhelmed, burnt out, or diagnosed with a mental condition that genuinely prevents you from the task of being fully focused while driving."

Finkel was a keynote speaker at the 12th annual DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit in Williamsburg Aug. 7-8. Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. is a conference sponsor.

Not all mental distractions are associated with negativity or stress, she continued.

"Maybe you just got a promotion and you're so excited, driving as fast as you can home to tell everyone in your family," Finkel said. "Your phone is tucked away, your eyes are on the road, your hand is on the wheel, but your mind is entirely somewhere else."

Conference panelists shared data collected on cognitive function and reaction times in drivers with conditions like ADHD and autism spectrum disorders.

Some of these motorists may have higher distraction potential and crash risk.

Meanwhile, Generation Z is vocal about mental health and anxiety topics, Finkel said.

"I know what it's like to be behind the wheel driving and not be OK," she said. "I'm too anxious, stressed, irritable or angry. I should not be driving right now."

Not only should those emotions be acknowledged, she said, "You have to take actionable steps to address that situation. We can only do better when we are brave enough to break down stigmas."

She recommended thinking about three self-check questions before driving:

Are you feeling overwhelmed, anxious or emotionally distracted right now?

Are you feeling overly excited and generally restless?

What is something you can do to reset right now before driving?

If stressed or jittery before driving, she suggested drivers ground themselves with exercises that engage the senses. She said to think about what you can see, hear and feel. Then take deep breaths and focus on one word, like breathe.

"In under one minute, we've assessed where we're at," Finkel said. "And we brought ourselves back to the present environment."



HENRY COUNTY
GENERAL & SPECIAL ELECTION
 Tuesday, November 4, 2025



THIS IS A GENERAL ELECTION FOR:

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Member, House of Delegates 47th House
Member, House of Delegates 48th House

Local Offices: Board of Supervisors: Blackberry, Collinsville, & Iriswood Districts
School Board: Blackberry, Collinsville, & Iriswood Districts
Special Election: School Board: Horsepasture District (for unexpired term ending 2027)

SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE
The District in which you live or vote will determine the candidates that will be on your Official Ballot

AN APPROPRIATE ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS

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

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

Tuesday October 14, 2025: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election. Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Henry County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE (EARLY) VOTING

Henry County Registrar's Office
 located at the Henry County Administration Building
 3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, Virginia 24112
Monday – Friday September 19-October 31, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, October 25 & November 1, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 1, 2025: Last day to vote an In-Person (early) Absentee Ballot at the Henry County Registrar's Office

MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING

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

Friday, October 24, 2025: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail.
 Applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025: Election Day
 ALL DROPPED OFF Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office by 7 p.m. (Virginia/Eastern Standard Time) to be counted.

Friday November 7, 2025: ALL Absentee voted ballots that are returned via mail must be post marked on or before election day and received in the Registrar's Office by NOON (Virginia time) to be counted.

BALLOT DROP OFF STATIONS

Monday – Friday, September 19-November 4, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Saturdays, October 25 & November 1, 2025: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Henry County Registrar & Elections Office
 Henry County Administration Building
 3300 Kings Mountain Road #103 Martinsville, Virginia 24112
On Election Day Only: All polling places and the Henry County Registrar's Office



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



FAX: 276-632-8278

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

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. RODRIGUEZ 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
 Deo. M. CLERK [J. JUDGE

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing on September 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Martinsville City Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112.
 The City plans to convey a parcel of approximately 0.04 acres, more or less, owned by the City and bearing Tax Map Number 26 (05)00 /01 and having a street address of 1020 E. Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia.
 The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed conveyance. Those seeking further information are invited to contact the City Manager's office, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. Telephone: 276-403-5000.

LEGAL



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://plow4va.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

Tin Ridge

(cont. from page 1)



Henry County Board of Supervisors member Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District (left) and Pam Coblér, of the Reed Creek District, discuss the site plans.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin with Nathan Trotter Presidents and Vice-Presidents and Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams.



State and local officials joined with Nathan Trotter officials to ceremoniously break ground on the project Sept. 9.



ogies.”
Without tin, Morris said there would be no electronics, semiconductors, data centers, flat-panel displays or fighter jets.

Tin is also used in circuit boards and electronics components for countless commercial and government applications, including defense systems, smartphones, electric vehicles, batteries, advanced robotics and aerospace technologies.

“This project demonstrates how government and business can work together to improve the lives of Americans, boost national security and strengthen our economy,” he said.

Morris said the new facility represents an upstream move for the company, which traditionally focused on downstream products.

“Now we’re trying to move as far upstream as we can and secure this supply chain. That’s the idea, to have as durable of a supply chain as we can in the U.S.,” he said.

Henry County was chosen in part because of its pro-business attitude, skilled workforce, utilities and transportation infrastructure, Morris said. Proximity to the port of Norfolk was also a key factor.

“That was very big in our site selection process,” he said. “We’re humbled to be a part of this community and this state.”

The site also allows for potential expansion.

“In a perfect world, we’d keep growing and definitely have the opportunity to develop a little bit more here and

continue to grow,” Morris said.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

“Our construction partners might get mad at me if I say too soon, but we’re certainly looking to move as quickly as possible to start getting shovels in the ground this year, then look to see if we can commission the facility by the end of next year,” he said.

Morris said the name Tin Ridge honors Henry County’s location in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

“That brand is something we’re launching brand new here today, and you’ll see it eventually” on what “we produce at this facility,” he said.

Co-President Evan Morris said the company is eager to take this step outside Pennsylvania.

“The community’s been very welcoming and made us feel comfortable about making this step,” he said. “We’re really excited about the opportunities here and the people who are here that are going to be our partners going forward. We’re really excited about the labor force that’s here that aligns with our values as a company and we’re ready to get started.”

Gov. Glenn Youngkin made the announcement, and thanked the company for its investment.

“Thank you for trusting us. Thank you for understanding that Virginia will work hard to support you, because we not only want you to be successful, we need you to be successful,” he said.

Youngkin said the project is significant both for economic development and national security.

“We talk about critical supply chains, and we talk about the critical minerals that are necessary in order to drive industries that are at the heart of the national security of the United States, and we need this facility,” he said.

The project also supports reshoring production back to the U.S., he said.

Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District, said the announcement reflects years of collaboration among state leaders, local officials, economic development professionals and the community.

“For our board of supervisors, economic development is not just an afterthought, it’s a core pillar of our budget and our priorities each and every year,” Adams said. “We know that when companies choose to invest here they are investing not only in bricks and mortar, but in our workforce and the future of our families.”

Adams said the county has long been known for the resilience and determination of its people.

“These qualities define our workforce and make this region an ideal place for advanced manufacturing and for companies that require both skill and determination,” he said. “When you combine that with our partnership and our commitment to progress, you get the kind of success that we’re celebrating today.”

Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner called the announcement a major win.

“This is a great day for Henry Coun-

ty in that Nathan Trotter has selected Henry County to grow its business in Virginia, creating 118 new, good jobs in advanced manufacturing, and invest a \$65 million capital investment into our community,” Wagoner said.

Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) President Mark Heath said the deal was nearly a year in the making.

“We’ve been marketing this site for 20 years almost, and it seems like we found the perfect client for it,” he said. “It’s a new build, which is good, and complements what we’re doing with our other sites and shell buildings. It’s good to be a part of a company that’s part of the rare earth minerals initiative.”

Heath said the company’s smelting operation will help diversify the area’s labor force.

Before the press conference, the Henry County Board of Supervisors and Industrial Development Authority approved a performance agreement with Nathan Trotter.

In exchange for the \$65 million investment, Henry County and the IDA committed \$500,000 in local performance-based incentives. The Martinsville-Henry County EDC committed \$500,000, and the Harvest Foundation committed \$650,000.

A \$1.5 million grant from Virginia’s Development Opportunity Fund was also approved by Youngkin to assist with the project.

For more information about the company, visit www.nathantrötter.com.

Harvest investment supports recovery, education through Hope Center Ministries



Back in June, the men at Hope Center Ministries enjoyed a softball tournament at the Axton Campus ball field. The field was refurbished with a 2023 Project Hope Grant.



Pictured from left to right are Recovery Pastor Toby Mase, First Phase Community Leader Kenneth Moyer, Harvest Foundation Program Officer India Brown, Director Justin Caba, and Intern Director Damion Cairo.



The men at Hope Center Ministries enjoyed a softball tournament at the Axton Campus ball field, which had been refurbished with a Project Hope Grant.

The Harvest Foundation recently announced an investment of \$365,000 over three years to Hope Center Ministries - Axton, Va., to expand access to long-term recovery services, education, and workforce development opportunities for men overcoming substance use challenges in Martinsville-Henry County.

“Addiction affects the entire community, from individuals to families and employers,” said India Brown, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. “Hope Center Ministries continues to be a consistent and proactive partner as we focus on increasing accessibility and strengthening our local behavioral health system. Their holistic approach to recovery enables men to overcome substance use disorder while creating a path to a bright future through vocational training and education. We ad-

mire their eagerness to create opportunities to ease obstacles, like admission costs and housing, that hinder the success of potential residents, current residents, and graduates of the program.”

Harvest’s investment directly impacts key steps in the recovery process, including removing financial barriers to treatment, expanding vocational certifications, and creating direct pathways to employment.

The program’s entry fee is \$700, which some clients can struggle to pay for, depending on their circumstances. Providing support within hours of the request is vital, as many times, a resident can fall through the cracks if they are not provided an opportunity for treatment immediately. Harvest funding will help alleviate that burden and ensure that even more residents can access much-needed recovery services.

Additionally, Hope Center Ministries continues its partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College through trade certifications to increase the available skilled workforce in MHC. Since the center began partnering with P&HCC, nearly 40 certifications have been earned by 25 residents.

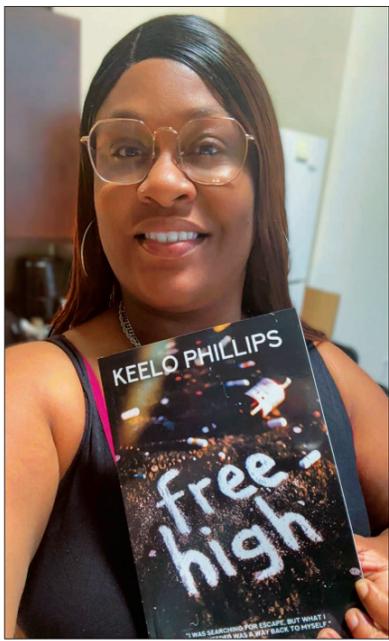
“The Harvest Foundation has been instrumental in the level of success Hope Center Ministries — Axton has been able to achieve in Martinsville-Henry County since opening our doors in 2017,” said Justin Caba, director of the Hope Center Ministries Axton campus. “Their unwavering support for HCM has led to an ever-growing number of lives changed and families restored.”

According to the Virginia Department of Health, overdose deaths in 2023 were significantly higher in Mar-

tingsville and Henry County than the state average. The rate per 100,000 residents was 105.2 in the City of Martinsville and 59.6 in Henry County, compared to 28.7 statewide. Within the West Piedmont Health District, which includes Martinsville and the counties of Henry, Patrick, and Franklin, about 2.7% of residents live with a reported substance use disorder, notably higher than Virginia’s overall rate of 1.7%.

Established in 2017, Hope Center Ministries has served more than 250 men since its inception. The center provides a recovery program from 8 to 12 months that integrates counseling, vocational training, and educational opportunities that prepare residents for long-term stability. Visit www.hopecm.com/locations/axton or search Hope Center Ministries - Axton, VA on Facebook.

Author turns battle with addiction into message of hope



Keelo Phillips with her book, "Free High."

By Jessica Dillon

Keelo Phillips recently published

her book "Free High," which details her battle with addiction. The book chronicles her struggles, how she fell into the cycle of substance use, and the difficult process of breaking free. Phillips hopes her story will inspire others to better understand addiction and encourage those struggling to take the steps needed to recover.

"I'm also a recovering addict. I've been clean for a few years now, the longest I've ever been in my life," said Phillips, 31, of Martinsville. "And just like a lot of people, I just got caught up with the wrong crowd at the wrong time."

"Free High" is Phillips' true story. She describes it as an honest look at addiction, the toll it took on her life, and most importantly, how she overcame it. She said she wrote the book to reach people who feel trapped by addiction and to show them that recovery is possible.

The first chapter, Phillips said, explains how she met people she be-

lieved were her friends, though she was already struggling with addiction before then. "I was addicted, I had an addiction before I even met them. So they weren't part of that addiction, but they played a big part. And, you know, everything that I went through, throughout the book."

Phillips' story also covers her time incarcerated because of decisions she made while in the cycle of addiction. She admitted it is still difficult to relive those memories. "This is real, this is real life story," she said. "Horrible things" happen when you're in the cycle. Writing the book, she added, was part of her healing.

"I didn't plan for it to go this far at first. I just wanted to, you know, write my feelings on paper because it was a tremendous thing that affected my life. So once I started writing, I'm like, this is actually good."

Encouragement from her mother and others helped Phillips continue the project and submit it to an editor.

"I got an army behind me, so I learn every day that they're pushing me to keep going," she said.

Phillips said she hopes "Free High" encourages people not to give up on themselves. "I just want anyone that's reading to know that no matter what you're going through, no matter how far down you feel, there's always a way forward," she said. "Addiction doesn't have to define you. Mistakes happen, and they don't break you. Trouble doesn't always last. You'll get through it."

She added that the book is the first in a planned series. She has already donated copies to local jails and said it can be purchased through Amazon.

"I'm telling y'all, it feels good when you first start, but I'm telling you once you start that drug, it takes over," Phillips said. "Whether it's addiction, whether it's gambling, whether it's money, you just gotta be strong-minded, and you gotta have faith that you can do it."

Latino Festival celebrates culture, connects community to resources

By Taylor Boyd

The Southern Virginia Latino Association will host its 6th annual Festival Latino of Southern Virginia on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Patrick & Henry Community College.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. near the West Hall building.

Festival Planning Committee Chairman Eli Salgado said the festival is an opportunity to celebrate Latino culture and connect people with local resources.

"For organizations to basically let people know about the resources, the services that they provide since we often know that there's many organizations that want to do outreach to the Latino community," he said.

Salgado said the event benefits both the community and participating groups.

"It's a win-win for everybody since everyone in the community can take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about local organizations, first responders, and academic institutions," he said.

The festival is family-friendly and open to all.

"It's a safe environment where everyone is welcome. We noticed that over the years more and more people from different segments of the community have assisted and they seem to really enjoy themselves," Salgado said. "They engage with the vendors, we've noticed that they really sit down and enjoy the performances, the music. They take their kids, so they know it's a family-

friendly event."

The festival will be held rain or shine. If weather permits, activities will be outside near West Hall and the adjacent parking lot. If it rains, the event will move indoors.

More than 60 vendors are scheduled to participate, and organizers expect more than 1,000 attendees.

Authentic Mexican restaurants setting up at the festival include La Juquilita and Asador El Vergel of Collinsville, and Taqueria La G and El Jinete of Danville.

Other food options will include Empanadas Meraki of Blacksburg, a Colombian restaurant offering empanadas, arepas, and buñuelos; Gustitos Boricuas with Puerto Rican pastries; and Daintea Cafe and Boba.

In addition to food and vendors, live music and a DJ will provide entertainment throughout the day. A ballet folklorico troupe will also return to perform traditional Mexican dances.

"They'll be performing again this year like they did last year, which is pretty much a traditional folklore Mexican dance," Salgado said.

The group is also seeking English/Spanish bilingual interpreters to volunteer at the event.

Sponsors include Sarver Properties/Sarver Cleaning Services, Danville Pediatric Dentistry, Florecitas Company, Meches Beauty, and others.

For more information, to request an accommodation, or to volunteer as an interpreter, contact Salgado at (276) 790-7082 or salgado@sovala.org.

6th Annual Festival Latino of Southern VA

Patrick & Henry Community College
645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville, VA 24112

Sept. 13, 2025
11 am - 4 pm

Free Entry | Family-Friendly
Clear Skies: Outdoor Event
Rain: Indoor Event
Music / Food / Activities
Nonprofits
First Responders
Schools / Higher Ed
Latino Businesses

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Patrick & Henry Community College

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Special accommodations available upon request. Call (276) 790-7082 or email info@sovala.org by Sept 10

The Southern Virginia Latino Association's 6th annual Festival Latino of Southern VA is set for Saturday, Sept. 13 at Patrick & Henry Community College.



New student artwork on view Sept. 26-Oct. 31 at Piedmont Arts

Students attending Albert Harris and Patrick Henry elementary schools will have work on display in the Foster Gallery at Piedmont Arts from Sept. 26-Oct. 31.

A free reception for the students and their families will be held from 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Piedmont Arts.

The Foster Gallery features work by young artists. It is an important part of the museum's community pro-

gramming. Exhibits in the gallery are curated in partnership with the Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County. A new exhibit is installed every six to eight weeks to allow work by students from all 19 schools in Martinsville-Henry County to be displayed during the year. The Foster Gallery is named in memory of Elnora B. Foster.

For a complete schedule of exhibits in the Foster Gallery, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Campbell named Harvest Foundation's first director of evaluation and policy

The Harvest Foundation has hired Clayton Campbell as its new director of Evaluation and Policy, a position created to strengthen the foundation's capacity to measure impact, support community-led progress, and advance systems-level change across Martinsville-Henry County.

Campbell brings more than a decade of experience in evaluation, data systems, and learning design to his new role. He has led monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) efforts for organizations funded by USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development), the Australian government's DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), and major foundations, building frameworks, dashboards, and reporting systems that connect day-to-day program activities with long-term community outcomes.

His global work spans early childhood education, financial inclusion, digital learning, and inclusive economic development, with hands-on experience across Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

"Clayton's expertise in building evaluation frameworks and shaping policy will help Harvest tell a clearer story of impact while ensuring we stay accountable to the community we serve," said Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation. "He will partner with grantees to measure what matters most in ways that are meaningful to their organizations and our community. We know our work is making a difference, and by tracking outcomes with greater intentionality, we can ensure our investments create the strongest possible impact for Martinsville-Henry County."

As director of evaluation and policy, Campbell will lead efforts to:

- *Develop and implement data systems that allow for accurate and



timely reporting to Harvest's staff, Board of Directors, and community partners.

*Strengthen organizational learning and evaluation processes that reflect the lived realities of MHC residents.

*Guide policy engagement and advocacy strategies that address key community priorities, including youth development, housing, behavioral health, and economic mobility.

"I believe evaluation should be a tool for connection, not just measurement," said Campbell. "My hope is to join hands with community members, grantees, and leaders across Martinsville-Henry County to ask the right questions, learn together, and advance every investment toward the future our community envisions."

Campbell is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese and holds advanced degrees in data science (University of Navarre, Spain) and marketing (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland), along with a bachelor's degree in international economics and development (University of Ottawa, Canada). He enjoys spending time in nature and with his children, and lives in Martinsville with his wife and two children.

Thank you for reading
Henry County Enterprise

Sheriff's deputy, K9 earn national certification



Henry County Deputy Blake G. Hankins and K9 Edo earned their national certification through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) last month.

Henry County Sheriff's Capt. Tim Compton, Sheriff Wayne Davis, Deputy Blake Hankins, K9 Edo and other personnel are pictured.

By Taylor Boyd

Henry County Sheriff's Office Deputy Blake G. Hankins and K9 Edo earned their national certification through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) last month.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said NAPWDA is the premier certifying organization for law enforcement canines across the country.

"All dogs that we currently utilize are certified by NAPWDA. We currently have four" police dogs, he said.

Edo, a five-year-old Belgian Malinois and German Shepherd mix, had already received his certification. However, as his previous handler was promoted, Hankins became his new handler.

"So it required both the dog and the handler to get retrained and recertified," he said.

Edo has served with the Sheriff's Office for three years.

Davis said Edo will serve in the patrol division where his primary responsibility will be the protection of the community through searching for criminals who have fled the scenes of crimes, apprehending those individuals, and the detec-

tion of narcotics.

Edo is Hankins' first K9 dog.

When getting certified, Hankins said he believes the biggest obstacle the pair had to overcome was establishing a level of trust between them.

"After that he's already trained, so the training took off and there's really no stop after that. We're pretty good. Every handler handles a dog differently, so he had to learn what I was asking and what I expected from him but at the same time I had to learn how he's been trained and what he understands and go from there," he said.

In the approximate four weeks they've been partnered together, Hankins said Edo's kept him on his toes.

"He's eager. He loves to work, he has a very high drive, he really enjoys his job, so it's fun. It's a good time," he said.

Hankins believes Edo's favorite part of the job is the patrol work, the apprehension of criminals, and finding narcotics.

"He's a narcotics dog, so" he really knows "how

to find narcotics. I can't speak for the previous owner, but he's very successful when it comes to locating narcotics. We've only been out of training for, I'd say about three weeks, so we haven't gotten any real work experience yet with narcotics. During training and everything he was very successful, he had no issues at all," he said.

Within the first three weeks of being certified, Hankins said he's utilized Edo about a dozen times, primarily in searching for narcotics around vehicles.

"I use him any chance I get. I mean, that's why he's here. He's a good asset to the community. Probably his favorite thing to do is come to work and get to work. Every time we get him out he's excited, he gets straight to work, - he's a good dog," he said.

Knowing there's a lot of substance abuse in Henry County, Hankins believes Edo serves the community well in working to get narcotics and dealers off the street.

Outside of work, Edo lives with Hankins.

"He stays with me 24/7. He has a kennel he stays in," he said.

Public voting opens for Uptown Partnership Music Grant

Uptown Partnership, the designated Virginia Main Street organization for the City of Martinsville, is thrilled to announce it has advanced to the public voting phase of the Levitt Music Series Grants. This opportunity could bring a free outdoor music series to Martinsville beginning in 2026.

With funding from the Levitt Foundation—a national social impact funder at the intersection of music, public space, and community building that supports the largest free outdoor concert series in America—Uptown Partnership hopes to qualify as a finalist to receive a multi-year Levitt Music Series Grant. The public is urged to support Martinsville's proposal by participating in the public voting process, which takes place September 5–15, 2025, at [levitt.org/vote](https://vote.levitt.org/vote) or directly at Uptown Partnership's proposal page: <https://vote.levitt.org/locations/uptown-partnership/>.

Levitt Music Series Grants are an exciting, multi-year matching grant program created by the Levitt Foundation to bring the joy of free outdoor concerts to towns and cities across the country. For the 2026–2028 grant cycle, the Levitt Foundation will award U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits up to \$120,000 over three years (up to \$40,000 per year) to produce their own Levitt Music Series: 7–10 free outdoor concerts annually, featuring diverse music genres and professional musicians, activating an underused public space, and creating a vibrant, inclusive community destination for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Uptown Partnership submitted Martinsville's proposal to present the free music series in Martinsville's Uptown District. The pro-

posal is now posted on the Levitt Foundation website, where the public can vote and learn more about communities across the country in the running. Each individual may submit one vote for up to five proposals of their choosing.

There are two easy ways to vote:

- Online at levitt.org/vote or on Uptown Partnership's page: <https://vote.levitt.org/locations/uptown-partnership/>
- Via text to 877-409-5525 using Martinsville's unique keyword: **MVILLE**

Reflecting the Levitt Foundation's mission that all projects be community-driven, the number of online and text votes received for Uptown Partnership will be a key factor in the final grant decision, announced November 18.

"We're honored to represent Martinsville on this national stage and to bring our community together through the power of free, live music," said Spencer Koger, Executive Director of Uptown Partnership. "This opportunity perfectly aligns with our mission as a Main Street organization to revitalize Uptown Martinsville as a thriving destination that connects people, supports businesses, and celebrates our city's culture and history."

Uptown Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the designated Main Street organization for Martinsville, VA. As part of the Virginia Main Street program, Uptown Partnership leads revitalization efforts through the Four Points of Main Street America: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. The organization partners with residents, businesses, and community leaders to remove blight, attract entrepreneurs, beautify Uptown,

VOTE NOW
Text **"MVILLE"**
To 877-409-5525

Levitt Music Series Grants

and create a vibrant, welcoming downtown district that fosters community pride and economic opportunity.

About the Levitt Foundation

The Levitt Foundation is a private family foundation that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. The Foundation supports changemakers and nonprofits across the country to activate underused public spaces through free outdoor concerts, creating

welcoming, joyful, and inclusive destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together, fosters belonging and social connections, creates economic opportunity, and invigorates community life. In 2025, Levitt Foundation grantees are presenting 650+ free concerts in more than 50 towns and cities across the country, with a total audience of nearly one million people. Learn more at www.levitt.org.

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