



U.S. Army veteran John A. Rehder was honored with the 2025 Outstanding Military Veteran Award. He is flanked by officials from Henry County and the City of Martinsville. From left: Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors; Debra Buchanan, Horsepasture District supervisor; Martinsville Mayor LC Jones; Rehder; Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson; Council Member Julian Mei; and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis. (Photos courtesy of rbs news now)

Rehder named 2025 Outstanding Military Veteran

By Jessica Dillon

The 2025 Outstanding Military Veteran Award was presented to John A. Rehder during a Veterans Day ceremony held Tuesday at the HJDB Event Center in Bassett.

"The individual we recognize today has lived a life of quiet leadership and consistent service. He spent nine years in the U.S. Army Reserve, attaining the rank of sergeant first class. Over the course of his military career, he filled many roles," said Henry County Board of Supervisors Horsepasture District Debra Buchanan.

"His commitment to service didn't stop when he took off the uniform. In fact, you could say

that was just the beginning," Buchanan said. "He's been a Jaycee member, a Cub Scout adviser and committee chairman for Pack 188, and has served as an election officer for the past 10 years, helping ensure the integrity of our democratic process. He's also served his community as a member of the Ridgeway Town Council and currently as vice chairman of the Ridgeway Zoning Board."

"It means a whole lot to me because I am proud of my American Legion Post 42 — proud of the work that I do for them and proud that I have served," Rehder told rbs news now after

(See Rehder p. 11)

Council divides over NAACP Gala funding, eyes cuts to outside agency aid

By Jessica Dillon

During a special meeting on Nov. 3, Martinsville City Council considered a request from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to serve as a major sponsor for its upcoming gala. The request, which would have provided funds for a scholarship, failed twice on tied votes. The discussion also raised broader concerns about the city's approach to outside agency funding.

Council previously agreed to sponsor racecar driver Joey Arrington, but members Aaron Rawls and Julian Mei said they worried that decision set a precedent.

"It had to do with Martinsville's brand at large," Mei said, explaining why he supported the earlier sponsorship. Rawls added that if he had more time to think about the decision, he likely would not have voted in favor of it.

Council members agreed that breaking a record through Arrington's effort reflected well on the city, but when it came to the NAACP request, opinions split. Council member Rayshaun Gravely made both motions to fund the organization, calling it a good cause. After the first vote tied, he made a second motion to grant \$500, which also failed.

Mayor LC Jones said the council should remain flexible in responding to community requests. He also expressed frustration that Arrington's sponsorship seemed to move through more easily than the NAACP's.

(See Council p. 10)



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Nov. 11 to unveil the new fieldhouse at Magna Vista High School, with school and county officials. Photo courtesy of rbs news now.

New fieldhouse marks milestone for Magna Vista and Henry County schools

Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) celebrated the ribbon-cutting for the new athletic fieldhouse at Magna Vista High School on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis, along with current and former members of the Henry County School Board, former principals, coaches and community members, gathered to mark the occasion.

Blake-Lewis said the project represents more than bricks and mortar; it reflects years of planning, persistence and community support through the 1 percent sales tax referendum. She described the fieldhouse as a symbol of commitment to student success, community pride and future readiness.

RRMM Architects was recognized as were Concrete Foundation Inc. and the HCPS Facilities Maintenance Team for their roles in the

project.

"This project is a reflection of our strategic plan in action — providing spaces that support student wellness, foster leadership and enhance both academic and extracurricular engagement," Blake-Lewis said. "Whether our students are preparing for competition, team-building or personal growth, this space ensures they have the environment and resources to excel."

Following her remarks, Blake-Lewis invited Henry County School Board Vice Chairman Benjamin Gravely, of the Iriswood District, to the podium.

"Today marks more than the unveiling of the building. It marks a new chapter for our students, athletes and community," Gravely said. "This fieldhouse represents the epitome of athletes and coaches aligned with teamwork, vision

(See New Fieldhouse p. 2)

Commissioner's outreach event to provide 400 Thanksgiving meal kits

By Taylor Boyd

As part of her office's community outreach initiative, Henry County Commissioner of the Revenue Tiffany Hairston will hold a Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag Drive-Thru on Saturday, Nov. 22.

The event will start at 2 p.m. at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.

Since being elected commissioner in 2023, Hairston said her office has regularly set up at local events to distribute informational pamphlets and answer questions from the community. The office also uses Facebook to keep county residents informed about what's happening throughout the county.

The Thanksgiving meal "is just another thing that we want to do. That's part of the commissioner outreach initiative that we started to just do things for the commu-



Henry County Commissioner Tiffany Hairston's Community Outreach Initiative will hold a Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag Drive-Thru on Saturday, Nov. 22.

nity," she said. "It just happened to fall at a time when the government shut down and stuff, because we've been taking these bags and donations in probably for over a month, a month and a half now."

While she originally thought of the idea a couple of years ago, this is the first year Hairston has been

(See Meal Kits p. 10)

Board discusses grading changes, district updates

By Jessica Dillon

The Henry County School Board met Nov. 6 to review the current grading system, receive updates on the RISE 2030 plan, and recognize several achievements. Members also congratulated School Board Member-elect Sherry Vestal on her win for the Blackberry District. Vestal will take the seat currently held by Thomas Auker next year.

The county school division recently adjusted grade weighting to 40% formative and 60% summative assessments. The change is intended to better align instruction and assessment with state expectations while supporting student growth and success.

A study showed that while students' grades have improved, Standards of Learning (SOL) scores have not in-

creased at the same rate, causing concern among parents and teachers. The data analysis aims to identify the reason for the discrepancy.

Of the 33.19% of students who have an A average, only 8.8% received an advanced score on their SOLs. If grades accurately reflected student progress, 84.67% of students would be passing. The current predicted fail rate is 15%, but the actual fail rate is 31.73%.

To address this, county schools joined the Comprehensive Instructional Program (CIP). Through the program, the grading weights shifted from the previous 30% formative and 70% summative ratio to 40/60. The program also revised which assignments could be scored or retaken. Rolling grades are now used, displaying averages across the semes-

ter rather than by marking period.

A parent, Myndi Mullins, expressed concern about how the rolling grade system affects students.

"I have spent the last two weeks scrolling back to find this communication. Had I been aware of this failure of communication with this rolling grade book, my son would not be in Algebra 1. You guys are not taking into consideration what you're doing to GPA with this rolling grade book. And I'm going to use the Henry County School," Mullins said.

Mullins said she felt the system does not grade in students' favor and could negatively affect their overall GPA.

Superintendent Amy Blake-Lewis also provided an update on RISE 2030.

(See Grading p. 2)

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 UPDATES



Grading

(cont. from page 1)

outlining four key areas of focus: parent and community partnerships, high-quality instruction, high-quality professionals, and creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

"I've prepared tables showing the work of each committee within our RISE structure. There are four key areas of focus," Blake-Lewis said.

The update included information on community engagement, such as tracking visitors to the school booth at the Latino Festival held at Patrick & Henry Community College. The report also noted teacher feedback and

confirmed that bus GPS systems were installed over the summer.

During public comment, one speaker addressed an incident in which her son's teacher allegedly cursed directly at him, saying, "shut the f--- up." She said her son had not misbehaved and was humiliated in front of his peers. The parent criticized the administration for not holding the teacher accountable and for prioritizing the school's image over student safety. She said it was not the teacher's first outburst and asked the board to investigate and enforce higher professional stan-



The Henry County School Board met at Rich Acres Elementary to hear an update on the grading system.

dards. She warned that future incidents could escalate if students feel disrespected and urged the board to act decisively to protect all students' dignity and safety.

In other matters, the board:

- *Recognized VSBA Bullying Prevention Month.

- *Read a Veterans

Day Proclamation.

- *Announced that Henry County Public Schools received two Awards of Ex-

cellence from the Chesapeake School Public Relations Association (CHESPRO) for outstanding work

in school communications.

- *Recognized the VSBA Award of Recognition.

New Fieldhouse

(cont. from page 1)



Several people participated in the ribbon cutting. Photo courtesy of rbs news now.



Athletes have plenty of space to change and store their belongings inside the new field house. Photo courtesy of rbs news now.

and commitment." Magna Vista High School Principal Joshua Bocock also reflected on what the new facility means for the school and community.

"This investment in our sports facilities is an investment

in our community and our student-athletes," Bocock said. "With modern restroom facilities, a larger concession stand and locker rooms, 'The Hole' has gained some wonderful upgrades that will make it more hospi-

table for our fans and student-athletes."

The event concluded with members of the Henry County School Board and Magna Vista High School administrators participating in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

P&HCC and Martinsville City Sheriff's Office Sign Training MOU



P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Martinsville City Sheriff Steve Draper sign a memorandum of understanding to establish a training partnership between P&HCC and MCSO.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and Martinsville City Sheriff's Office (MCSO) have entered into an agreement for P&HCC to become the training provider for the city's justice-impacted population.

"Our justice-impacted population needs hope and that is what we are here to provide. The plans we have

now provide them an opportunity to receive training and education that, upon exiting the program, allows them to get a good paying job to support their families. P&H is honored to become the training provider for Martinsville City," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

The primary goals of the agree-

ment are to reduce recidivism among justice impacted individuals and to promote economic stability among such individuals through training for industry recognized certifications and credentials. P&HCC instructors will provide instruction on-site at the Martinsville City Jail Annex, providing coaching to assist students in successfully completing

the training programs and connecting justice-impacted individuals to community support resources and employment opportunities.

"I'm a believer in second chances. We are pleased to be part of this agreement and are grateful to the college for providing this training to our population," said Martinsville City Sheriff Steve Draper.

Minority Business Consortium establishes office at NCI

The Minority Business Consortium (MBC) has officially established an office in the Baldwin Building at New College Institute (NCI), creating a powerful partnership dedicated to advancing equity, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity throughout Southern Virginia.

The collaboration between MBC and NCI aligns two missions centered on community impact by connecting education, business, and innovation to strengthen the region's workforce and economic resilience. Together, the organizations will empower minority-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and aspiring professionals through education, technical support, and access to resources that fuel long-term success.

"The Minority Business Consortium's presence at NCI represents more than shared space. It is a shared purpose," said Joe Sumner, Executive Director of New College Institute. "MBC's leadership and commitment to equitable economic growth directly complement NCI's work to expand access to education and opportunity. This partnership will help ensure that more of our region's talent can participate in and benefit from Virginia's economic momentum."

Empowering Entrepreneurs and Building Inclusive Growth

Founded to address systemic barriers facing minority business owners, the Minority Business Consortium provides hands-on support to help entrepreneurs launch, sustain, and scale their businesses. Services include mentorship, capacity-building workshops, access to capital networks, and partnership development across public and private sectors. By co-locating with NCI, MBC will expand its footprint in the Martinsville community by reaching more small business owners, students, and local leaders who are ready to grow their enterprises and strengthen the local economy.

"We are thrilled to join the New College Institute family," said Christy Harper, Executive Director of the Minority Business Con-

sortium. "This move allows us to serve the community in a more direct and collaborative way. By partnering with NCI, we can combine education and entrepreneurship to open doors of opportunity for those who have historically been excluded from them."

Eric Jones, Chair of NCI's Board of Directors, added, "This partnership perfectly reflects NCI's role as a convener and connector. By welcoming MBC into the Baldwin Building, we are deepening our commitment to equitable growth and ensuring that our educational and workforce efforts truly reach every corner of the community."

"Our mission is to ensure that minority businesses have equal access to opportunity. Partnering with NCI allows us to amplify that mission through collaboration, shared resources, and a community of support that is ready to grow together," stated MBC Board of Directors Chair Charles Whitfield.

MBC's new office at NCI will serve as a hub for business development, resources, programming, training, and collaboration to create pipelines for minority-owned businesses to connect with educational institutions, local industries, and state-level initiatives.

"Our focus is on empowering people with the knowledge, tools, and networks they need to thrive," Harper added. "Together with NCI, we'll build stronger businesses, stronger communities, and a more inclusive economy for all."

Community Celebration: MBC Meet & Greet Event

To celebrate its new office and partnership with NCI, MBC will host a "Meet & Greet" event on Thursday, November 6, 2025, in the Martin-Lacy Lecture Hall.

This event will provide an opportunity to meet and network with the Minority Business Consortium and its entrepreneur ecosystem partners. Community members, entrepreneurs, and partners are invited to attend, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and learn more about MBC's initiatives and opportunities for engagement.

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, November 17

Patrick & Henry Community College Board - Budget & Finance Committee meets at 11:30 a.m., room 109, Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex I, 67 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville. Public meeting, but comments will not be received.

Patrick & Henry Community College Board meets at 12:30 p.m. in the Flex Space of the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Complex I, 67 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville. Public meeting, but comments will not be received.

Tuesday, November 18

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 450 Commonwealth Blvd W, Martinsville.

Library Board Meeting, 3 p.m., Martinsville Library, 310 Church St E, Martinsville.

Events

Saturday, November 15

Spaghetti Dinner, Rangeley Ruritan Club, 4 - 7 p.m., 134 Calloway Dr., Fieldale. Eat in or take out, \$10 per plate. Features regular and alpha gal spaghetti. Plates include spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and drink. Proceeds go for community projects.

Sunday, November 16

Better Life Ministries worship night, 6 p.m., 32099 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Spencer.

Tuesday, November 18

Horsepasture Community Meeting, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Horsepasture Ruritan Club, 16209 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville.

The Martinsville-Henry County Republican Committee meets, 6:30 p.m., Henry County Administration Building 1st floor Summerlin meeting room.

Wednesday, November 19

The library board meets at 3 p.m. in the Martinsville Library.

Laurel Park Middle School Choir will hold its 2025 Fall Choral Concert. Program begins at 6 p.m., at the school, 280 Laurel Lane, Martins-

ville. Free admission. For information, call 276-632-7216.

Tuesday, November 25

Laying the Past to Rest: A History of Funeral Traditions by local historian, Jarred Marlowe, 10:30 a.m., in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room, Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett.

Friday, December 5

The Art Garden Christmas Tree Lighting, 4-6 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Holiday music, a visit from Santa, themed crafts and a snack of cookies and hot chocolate available. Free and open to the public, sponsored by Brightspeed and Carter Bank. The tree is sponsored by Press Glass and Chip Wyatt of State Farm.

2nd annual Christmas Extravaganza, 5-9 p.m. special tree lighting ceremony in the courtyard at the Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.

Saturday, December 6

2nd annual Christmas Extravaganza, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Storytime with Santa, free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, more than 20 vendors. Food and beverage trucks. Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer. Christmas Tree Decorating Competition will be available for tours and voting.

Breakfast With Santa, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., \$10 for all you can eat. Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett.

Ongoing

Christmas Cheer is accepting applications through Friday November 21, at its office in the Clocktower Building, 300 Franklin St., Suite 220, Martinsville.

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.

The 30th annual Coat Drive for Kids is underway through Nov. 28. To donate a new or gently used coat, call Debra Parsons Buchanan at 276-358-1463 or drop them off at Hollywood Cinema or One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road.

Uptown Pub Run, Mondays, 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.

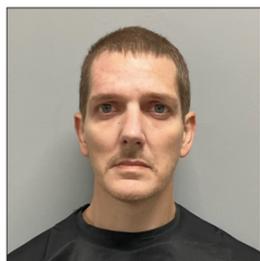
Bingocize at Spencer-Penn Centre. Play Bingo and prevent falls with simple exercises. This free class is offered Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

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

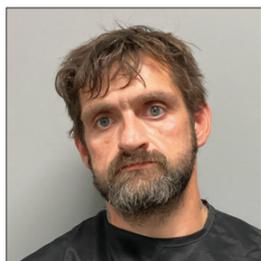
TOPS FIELDDALE VA 0626 meets on Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bassett Public Library, 3969 Fairystone Hwy, Bassett. New members are welcome. For more information, call Patti Farmer (276) 358-0489.

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 mhcdeva.org/meeting-rsvp for Zoom link.



Derrick Lyn Phillippe



Levi Enoch Dunmire



Sarah Burnette Foster

Barricade incident ends with multiple arrests

Henry County Sheriff's deputies attempted to serve an arrest warrant at 607 Longview Drive in Bassett, on November 11, around 9:20 p.m., according to a release.

Upon arrival, deputies could hear individuals inside, but no one would come to the door. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to call the occupants out, deputies obtained a search warrant, and the Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team responded to assist.

SWAT personnel continued making announcements for the individuals inside to exit the home. After approximately three hours, one individual came out of the residence and was taken into custody.

Deputies then entered and methodically searched the residence, locating and arresting all wanted individuals.

A total of three individuals were taken into custody.

Derrick Lyn Phillippe, 39, is

being held with no bond on a Henry County charge of obstructing justice, and several Franklin County charges, including three counts sell, distribute Schedule III drugs, and one count each first offender violation and probation violation.

The release states that Phillippe was found allegedly hiding inside a footlocker with household items stacked on top to conceal him.

Levi Enoch Dunmire, 38, is being held with no bond on four counts probation violation.

Sarah Burnette Foster, 37, was charged with obstructing justice. Bond was set at \$2,000.

"Our deputies and SWAT personnel displayed professionalism and patience throughout this incident," Sheriff Wayne Davis said. "Their methodical approach ensured that the situation was resolved safely and without injury to anyone involved. I'm proud of their teamwork and dedication to protecting our community."

Narcotics search warrants on Reed Creek Drive result in two arrests

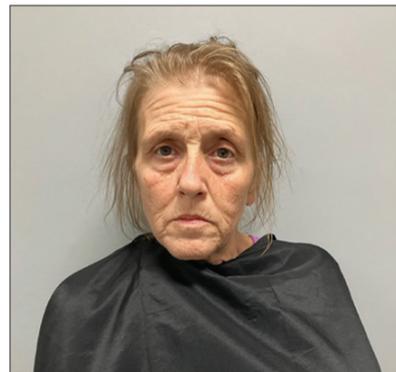


William Maximilino Servin

On November 5, around 8:30 p.m., the Henry County Sheriff's Office served two narcotics-related search warrants at 1805 Reed Creek Drive and 1815 Reed Creek Drive in Henry County, Virginia.

The warrants were obtained following a multi-month narcotics investigation conducted by the Henry County Sheriff's Office VICE Unit. The primary target of the investigation was William Servin, who had been under investigation by the VICE Unit for several months in connection with the distribution of illegal narcotics. Rhonda Hutcherson was also identified as being involved in the ongoing criminal activity associated with these locations, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

Throughout the course of the investigation, the VICE Unit allegedly purchased illegal narcotics from the Reed Creek Drive residences, including transactions that occurred within the past month, further confirming the ongoing illegal drug activity.



Rhonda Marie Hutcherson

The Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team assisted in safely serving the warrants. During the search of both residences, investigators alleged they recovered a quantity of suspected methamphetamine, packaging supplies, and digital scales consistent with the distribution and use of narcotics.

As a result of the operation, Servin and Hutcherson were arrested and both are incarcerated at the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Servin was charged with sale Schedule I or II drugs.

Hutcherson was charged with possession of Schedule I or II drugs.

This investigation remains active. Anyone with information related to the illegal distribution of narcotics is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office VICE Unit at (276) 638-8751 or Crime Stoppers at (276) 63-CRIME (276-632-7463). Information leading to an arrest and conviction may be eligible for a cash reward.

Spencer attorney's license revoked

Effective August 22, 2025, the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board revoked Christopher William Roop's license to practice

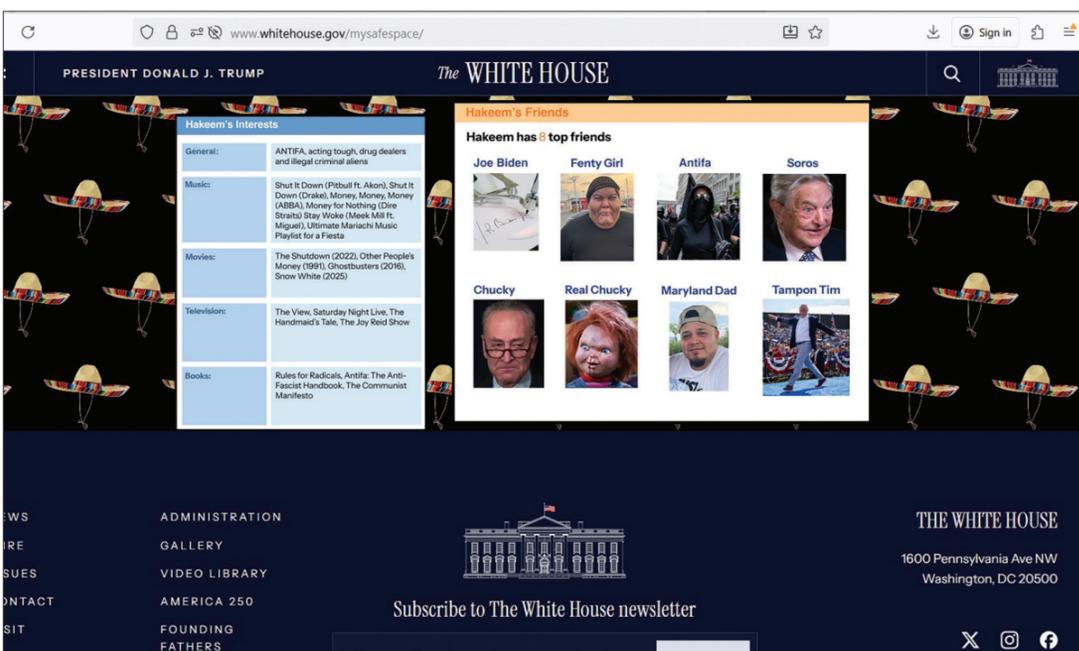
law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Roop's office was located in Spencer, according to a notice from the Virginia State Bar.

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OPINION

Satire belongs in comedy, not on government websites



“General: ANTIFA, acting tough, drug dealers and illegal criminal aliens
 “Music: Shut it Down (Pitbull ft. Akron), Shut It Down (Drake), Money, Money, Money (ABBA), Money for Nothing (Dire Straits), Stay Woke (Meek Mill ft. Miguel), Ultimate Mariachi Music Playlist for a Fiesta
 “Movies: The Shutdown (2022), Other People’s Money (1991), Ghostbusters (2016), Snow White (2025)
 “Television: The View, Saturday Night Live, The Handmaid’s Tale, The Joy Reid Show
 “Books: Rules for Radicals, Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook, The Communist Manifesto.”
 Then, in a bottom right rectangle, is the section for “Hakeem’s Friends.” Hakeem has 8 top “friends.” They are: “Joe Biden, Fenty Girl, Antifa, Soros, Chucky, Real Chucky, Maryland Dad and Tampon Tim.”
 And the second-to-last word in that last sentence is one I’ve never written in any newspaper article or column and never thought I’d have to or that I would. Gee, thanks, White House, for putting that on me.



Holly Kozelsky

There’s nothing more fun and interesting than a good piece of satire. I’m a big fan of Mad Magazine, The Onion, a lot of Saturday Night Live skits, and Ben Williams’ columns.
 To enjoy satire, one can’t be too easily offended. We have to have the ability to chuckle at ourselves as well as our opponents. Even satire that goes against what we believe in is a light-hearted look at what may be a weakness or fallacy among our beliefs, or at least, it’s a good way to understand how the other side feels.
 Though most people seem entrenched to fight their side no matter what, I make a point to look at matters from both points of view.
 That brings us to a wildly satirical page I came across the other day.
 It’s “My Safe Space – A Place for Dems.” It’s a web page that looks like a MySpace page from the early days of social media. The page has

a lot of light-colored blocks with text inside, against a black background with colorful floating Mexican sombreros.
 The name of the “account-holder” is “The Democrats.” It features two men, one wearing one of those sombreros, and says “Shut it down! Male, 55 years old, Brooklyn, New York – last working day 10/01/2025. Mood: Difficult.” Those two men are Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.
 A bar at the top reads “Hakeem is your extended shutdown network.”
 Under “Hakeem’s Blurbs,” it says:
 “About Me: Hey we’re Democrats in the House and Senate. We love DEI, transgender for everyone, and handing out taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants. We couldn’t care less if our men and women in uniform get paid or if our neighborhoods are safe - we just love playing politics with people’s livelihoods!
 “Heroes: Anyone who identifies as a radical leftist. Transnational gangs, illegal immigrants
 “Who I’d like to meet: Honestly, we couldn’t meet enough members of Antifa or illegal immigrants. They’re so awesome.
 “Nicknames: ‘Sombrero Guy’ ‘Temu Obama’ ‘Dollar Store Obama’ ‘Chuck E. Cheese Obama’
 “Hakeem’s Interests:

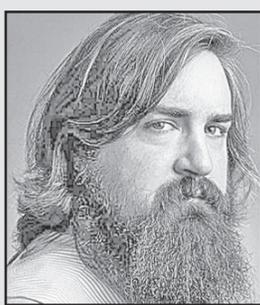
Because, indeed, though that should be a few pages of Mad Magazine, or part of a segment of Saturday Night Live skit, instead, it is part of official communications and PR from our very own federal government’s White House website.
 Why doesn’t everybody just stay in their own lane? Leave the satire to the entertainers, and please just give us a serious, professional and non-embarrassing government.
 And yes, of course – stay in your own lane - same for me! I have been writing columns for more than 20 years, and they are usually about family life, gardening, community or mild foibles. They have very rarely been about politics. Suddenly, in these past couple of months, a few of them have been about politics.
 I don’t like that switch any more than you do, but things have just gotten crazy lately, and how can I not notice?
 Good government shouldn’t be noticed. It should just happen, and citizens should be able to live their lives and focus on other things. Instead, this year, we have whiplash for doing so many double-takes. This happened? That happened? Can this be real?
 Even the shy, cat-loving, gardening-crazy, home cooking-mom homebodies like me are bothered by it.

SCHUMER: We’ll never stop fighting for you, unless it becomes kind of difficult

From the desk of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
 My fellow Democrats,
 Sen. Chuck Schumer here. It’s been a crazy couple of weeks in Washington, D.C., and I realize that many of you probably want some clarity on what exactly happened with the government shutdown.
 Let me start by saying that the Democratic Party has recently experienced some unbelievable wins and faced some devastating challenges. The Nov. 4 elections offered up a Democratic blue wave and a fiery repudiation of President Donald Trump. Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill proved that moderate Democrats who would have passed for Republicans 50 years ago still have a place in American politics.
 Of course, our party also suffered a devastating loss when Zohran Mamdani proved that Democrats are willing to vote for some-

one who is exciting and offers hope for a better tomorrow. That’s obviously not what the Democratic Party is about, and hopefully we can move on quickly and return to the comforting embrace of the status quo.
 But I mainly wanted to talk to you today about the government shutdown. To briefly summarize, the federal government was shut down for 40 days because the Republicans wanted to do away with Affordable Care Act subsidies. Should those subsidies expire, 24 million Americans will face skyrocketing health insurance costs next year.
 Millions of people were about to lose their healthcare, and we, the Senate Democrats, refused to give up on them. We refused to pass a budget that didn’t have protections for our most vulnerable citizens.
 We held strong. We presented a united front. We fought for you.
 But then, of course, things got kind of hard and people were mean to us, and what can you do, am I right?
 Look at me: a man doesn’t resemble Henry Kissinger this closely unless he knows a thing or two about negotiating. So when I heard that Democratic Sens. Catherine Masto, Dick Durbin, Maggie Hassan, Tim Kaine, Angus King, Jacky Rosen, Jeanne Shaheen, and John “Fee Fie Fo Fum” Fetterman were thinking about folding like Superman on laundry day, I had a lot of thinking to do.
 Obviously, I voted against the deal. And I want to point out that it’s crazy to think that I went behind closed doors and asked these eight moderate Democrats to take the fall since they weren’t up for re-election. It’s also not true that as Senate Minority Leader, I have lost all control of my own party. The truth is a third thing in the middle of those two that makes me look good.
 But look, I get their reasons. Yes, we all want to fight for your precious little health insurance that keep you alive, but have you ever considered how annoying it is to get phone calls day and night from major corporate donors who are all snippy because our airports are collapsing? It gets old fast, let me tell you.

Some people want to frame the end of this shutdown as “the single biggest failure of a party lately defined by failure arriving at a time when they actually had some momentum.” To that I say, people also criticized British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain when he ceded a big chunk of Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany in 1938, but you know what? Seven years later, Hitler was dead, and all’s well that ends well.
 Look at it this way: if the Democrats had stood firm, you could have kept your health insurance. But by giving up and letting the Republicans take your health insurance away from you, we have something really solid to campaign on during the midterms! I know that’s going to drive a lot of folks to the polls. The survivors, anyway.
 The Democratic Party is a lot like the Starz subscription you bought six years ago so you could marathon “Ash vs. Evil Dead” and then forgot to cancel: our mission is to coast along on your fond memories of things we did many years earlier and hope that you continue to support us even if we don’t have anything particularly exciting to offer. Your half-hearted, vaguely resentful support is what we live for.
 The main thing I want you to take away is this: for too long, there has been a narrative that moderate corporate Democrats in positions of power are only looking out for ourselves. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is not a party that looks inward; it looks outward. So believe me when I say that when we absolutely fumbled our massive leverage during the shutdown, we weren’t failing ourselves; we were failing YOU.
 And you’re welcome.



By Ben R. Williams

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OPINION

Veterans Day/Medal of Honor



Morgan Griffith

Representative

On November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day.

America is blessed with patriotic men and women who courageously served in conflict. Such service requires our reflection and appreciation.

One way we show appreciation is through the highest decorated military honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Who has received the Medal of Honor?

What are their stories?

Unfortunately, I cannot tell all of their stories.

However, you can check out their stories at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Notwithstanding all the stories, I can highlight those with known connections to Virginia's Ninth District.

The Medal of Honor recipient list includes Russell County's Patton George Whitehead (Whited).

Due to the lack of preservation of records, there is not much detail surrounding Private Whitehead's service.

What we do know is he served the U.S. Army during the Indian Campaigns and received a Medal of Honor for gallantry in action.

In 1877, Private Whitehead was presented with the Medal of Honor, and his actions were significant enough to not only receive the Medal, but to have it to presented to him by General William T. Sherman.

The next Ninth District figure who received a Medal of Honor served during the Philippine Insurrection.

As part of their defeat in the 1898 Spanish-American War, Spain ceded its territory in the Philippines to the United States.

Nonetheless, American forces faced armed resistance and opposition from some Filipinos.

During the conflict, Army Corporal James Robert Lee Gillenwater of Rye Cove in Scott County was put in a position where he had to fend off a heavy insurgent force.

With the assistance of one other soldier, Corporal Gillenwater fought valiantly and carried two bodies from the field of action, one killed and one severely wounded.

In March 1902, Corporal Gillenwater received his Medal of Honor.

As the 20th century dawned, America was a rising power and world conflicts would challenge America.

We called upon new generations of servicemembers to rise to the occasion.

Facing these challenges, the U.S. Marine Corps delivered remarkable action during World War II.

By 1944, the United States was closing in on the Japanese homeland. American forces were deployed as part of Operation Stalemate II to combat Japanese forces on the island of Peleliu (peh-luh-loo).

Of those deployed to Peleliu was 20-year-old Corporal Lewis Kenneth Bausell of Pulaski.

On the first day of fighting, Corporal Bausell put himself at the head of his squad and led a charge against a hostile pillbox.

As the squad reached the pillbox, a live grenade was hurled towards the squad.

Corporal Bausell dove on top of the grenade to shield his men from the explosion, giving up his life.

America honored Corporal Bausell's ultimate sacrifice by posthumously awarding him the Medal of Honor.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps describes Peleliu as "the bitterest battle of the war for the Marines" as the number of perished Marines exceeded that of any other amphibious operation in the Pacific Theater.

One of our bloodiest wars since World War II was the Vietnam War, where Carroll County's Charles Bedford Morris participated in a truly devastating battle.

Despite a gunshot wound to his chest and sustaining several other wounds, Sergeant Morris engaged in combat, commanded his men, and even administered first aid to his wounded men and dragged the wounded to a protective area.

Morris' platoon staved off the enemy and captured enemy ambush plans. Uncovering this information prevented an ambush and saved many lives.

Morris' heroism was honored in 1967, when President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Morris the Medal of Honor at the White House.

Today, Morris is buried in Carroll County.

Another Vietnam Veteran is Marine Corps Captain Wesley Lee Fox.

Captain Fox faced heavy fire from a hidden enemy force as he led Company A, which had less than 90 active men out of 240.

Against all odds, Captain Fox steered his unit into a better position and beat back the enemy force. Captain Fox refused medical attention until his wounded men were evacuated.

President Nixon awarded Captain Fox the Medal of Honor in 1971.

After Fox retired from the Marines in 1993, he served eight years as Deputy Commandant of Cadets at Virginia Tech.

In 2015, I met Captain Fox at a Blacksburg Post Office ceremony. The ceremony showcased the unveiling of the Medal of Honor postage stamp.

If you know other stories, please share them with my office.

We honor all our veterans and these heroes on Veterans Day.



—Barker selected— Deputy of the Month

Christy Barker was selected Henry County Sheriff's Deputy of the Month, in partnership with Jarrett Marketing, Papas Pizza, Livy's Ice Cream, Food Lion in Stanleytown, Hollywood Cinema, and McDonald's in Martinsville.

Barker started her law enforce-

ment career with the Martinsville Sheriff's Office in 2018, and joined the Henry County Sheriffs in 2022 where she served in the corrections division, evidence custodian, and the patrol division. The award was presented for her dedication, hard work, and professionalism.

Youngkin order will reestablish the Presidential Fitness Test in schools

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order (EO) 55 to reestablish the Presidential Fitness Test in the Commonwealth's public school divisions, reinforcing the Commonwealth's commitment to whole-child wellness and academic excellence.

"By reinstating the Presidential Fitness Test, we're renewing a proud national tradition that honors the connection between physical wellness and civic readiness," said Youngkin. "When we talk about the future success of the Commonwealth, what we're really talking about is the health and success of Virginia's students today. Preparing students for the future requires more than exemplary in-class instruction; we're helping young people cultivate strength, accountability, and personal responsibility."

"Research continues to show us that building vibrant, healthy learning environments is not just about what happens in the classroom; it's also about helping students build healthy lifestyles," said Secretary of Education Aimee R. Guidera. "Students have benefitted from a focus on whole-child wellness and the Presidential Fitness Test plays a valuable role in this."

Executive Order 55 directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in coordination with local public school divisions, to reestablish the program in Virginia schools and review current wellness-related criterion-referenced fitness assessments to ensure alignment with the

2022 Virginia Physical Education Standards of Learning and forthcoming federal guidance, in accordance with Executive Order 14327. EO 55 also establishes a Task Force to inform the development of implementation plans as well as professional development and instructional resources aligned with the Standards and state law once federal guidance has been released.

The order reflects the Youngkin Administration's dedication to supporting the physical, mental, and academic development of every student in the Commonwealth. Through standards-based physical education, students are learning how to collaborate with others, and practicing teamwork, leadership, goal-setting, and responsible decision-making.

Studies consistently show a clear connection between physical activity and academic success. Regular activity enhances focus and student engagement, qualities that benefit our children in and out of the classroom. When we provide students with opportunities to challenge themselves, in school, we ensure that they are equipped and empowered to navigate the challenges of life. The Presidential Fitness Test is one such opportunity.

It was introduced in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and later formally established in schools in 1966 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. The test has remained a nationally recognized benchmark of youth physical education.

No charges filed in Axton shooting that left one dead

The Henry County Sheriff's Office received a call around 11:35 p.m. on November 11 reporting a gunshot victim at 84 Sand Stone Court in Axton.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies, along with Henry County Public Safety, responded to the scene, and upon arrival, first responders located an individual who had sustained a gunshot wound.

The victim, Ronald W. McGugan, 46, was pronounced deceased at the scene following an argument with his brother and other family members.

Investigators from the Henry

County Sheriff's Office processed the scene for evidence and conducted multiple witness interviews.

The sheriff's office has consulted with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and based on the evidence gathered at this time, no charges will be filed in this incident.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crime Stoppers line at 63-CRIME (276-632-7463). Information leading to an arrest and conviction may be eligible for a cash reward.

Letter To The Editor

The Martinsville City Council Dance

It looks like there is a dance at the city council. Lately, people 'dressed in lawsuits' from all walks of life have been coming to the city to participate. The party keeps growing, but people are sitting around. Could it be that an elected DJ, playing the wrong songs—the Blues?

At the city council, it's becoming evident that this party is becoming expensive—lots of planning meetings, location issues, uninvited guests, onlookers, and some security expenses. The Blues is the kind of music that brings you down. It looks like an elected DJ

knows no other tune to play to the people who will be charged highly for listening to his music.

There is a solution. Leave the party early, stop listening to him, and wonder why you are putting up with this. The DJ is just a temporary hire that needs to be replaced. A democratically elected group of people runs this party. The old saying "One monkey doesn't stop the show" means that one person's actions shouldn't stop the larger effort, if you come to your senses.

Lawrence Mitchell,
Martinsville

Grand Marshal selected for Ridgeway Parade

In celebration of National Animal Shelter Week, the Town of Ridgeway announced that the Henry County Animal Shelter has been selected as the Grand Marshal for this year's Ridgeway Christmas Parade.

The Town wishes to recognize the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Henry County Animal Shelter for their ongoing commitment to caring for and protecting animals in our community. Their compassion and tireless work embody the true spirit of service that makes Ridgeway and Henry County a better place for all residents—both two-legged and four-legged.

"Our community deeply appreciates the Henry County Animal

Shelter for everything they do," said Craig O'Der, Mayor of Ridgeway. "Honoring them as Grand Marshal is our way of saying thank you for their dedication, especially during National Animal Shelter Week."

The Ridgeway Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Ridgeway. Community members are encouraged to attend, show their holiday spirit, and celebrate this year's theme of kindness, community, and compassion for animals by lighting up their parade entries.

For more information about the parade or how to participate, please contact Ridgeway Town Hall at (276) 956-2328.

Thank You for reading

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Horsepasture District Supervisor
&
Dale Wagoner, County Administrator

Sheriff Wayne Davis
Sheriff's Office

Lisa Hughes
VDOT Resident Engineer

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
Horsepasture Ruritan Building
6:00-7:30 pm

email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings have been scheduled for **December 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make recommendations on the applications to the Board of Supervisors. The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **December 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

Case R-25-19 Bittersweet, LLC
The property is located at 812 Wagon Trail Rd, in the Horsepasture District. The property is shown on Tax Map 59.3/130A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.6-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Office and Professional District B-3. The applicant wishes to have the option of using the property for either a hair salon, consulting office, or both.

Case R-25-20 Joshua Blancas
The property is located at 2456 Kings Mountain Rd, in the Reed Creek District. The property is shown on Tax Map 29.6(73)B/36B,36C,36D. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.3-acres from Commercial District B-1 to Limited Industrial District I-2. The applicant wishes to use the property for both limited manufacturing (coffee roasting), and a retail use. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **November 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

Case R-25-17 Ronald Keith Oliver
The property is located at 294 Hales Fishpond Rd, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 25.5(2)21,22,23. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.655-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant wishes to market the property for the potential placement of a double-wide manufactured home or site-built home.

Case R-25-18 Ralph E. Seidle, Jr.
The property is located at 2125 Sunset Dr, in the Reed Creek District. The property is shown on Tax Map 15.2/264. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 6.18-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to place a manufactured home on the property. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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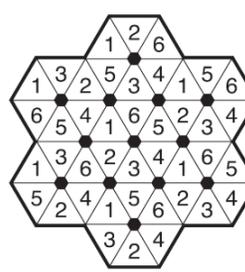
Xpress Lane Inc trading as Xpress Lane, 5781 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway, Henry County, VA 24148-3323. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Speciality Establishment Application Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mohammed Humza Farid, Owner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

THANK YOU FOR READING

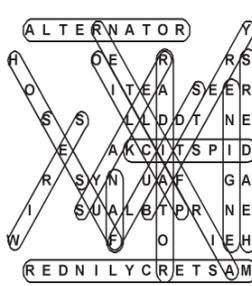
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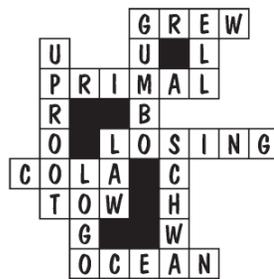


SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Stage; 2. Drudge; 3. Blithe; 4. Menace

Today's Word
LAUGHING

FEAR & KNIGHT
answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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Crossing the Lines

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

Training the Trainers: Students Gain Real-World Experience in Sports Medicine

They're not just handing out water. At Patrick County High School, student athletic trainers are essential members of the sports community—supporting athletes through injuries, hydration, and recovery, all while gaining hands-on experience.

"A lot of times folks only see them at the games, but they're here all week, working with our kids at practice, before practice, after practice, trying to make sure any little bumps or bruises they have along the way, we're getting that addressed and



The Cougars trainers before the October 17 football game. (L to R) Avery Foley, Gail Browning, Jasmine Reynolds, Skye Ayers, Journey Moore and Gonzalo Vargas.

taken care of," said Cougar head football coach David Morrison. That support continues on the sidelines, where Sports Medicine students work with athletic trainer teacher, and cer-

tified strength and conditioning coach Gail Browning.

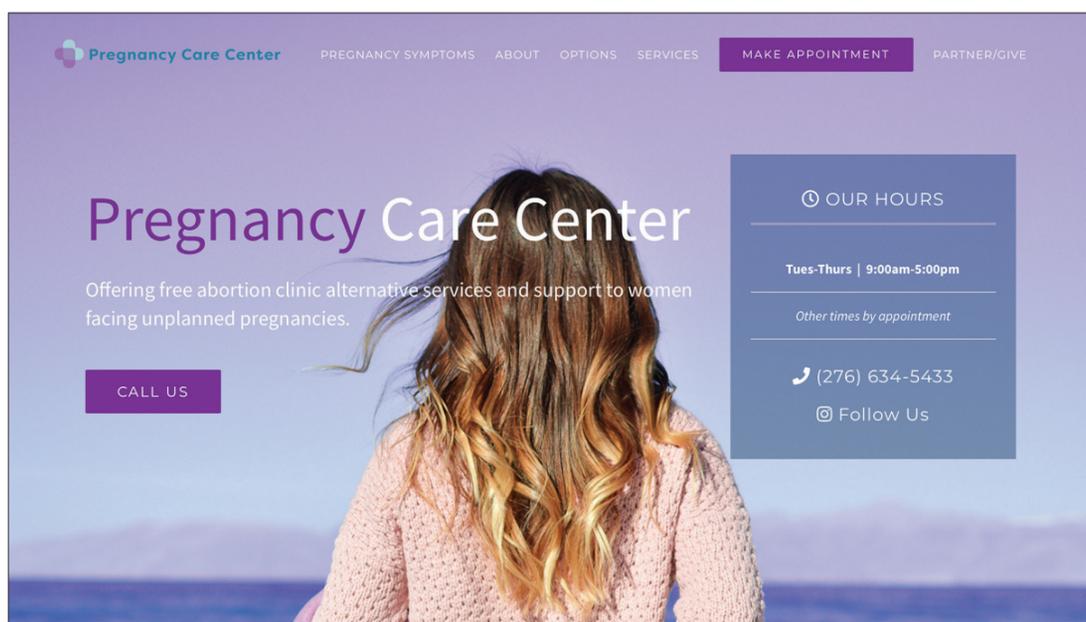
"I want my kids in the huddle," said Browning. While ensuring the players are hydrated, they also help out by making eye contact with the players. "Is there someone glazy? Are they zoned out because they missed catching something or are they zoned out because they've got a head injury? I want us to be an active part of the timeout in hydration, so we can snap them out mentally and make sure that they're okay physically."

Pregnancy Care Center opens temporary space in Stuart

The Pregnancy Care Center, a nonprofit medical clinic based in Martinsville, opened its temporary space at the Caring Hearts Free Clinic in Stuart on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Executive Director Paula Wood said the center will be at the Free Clinic every Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

"Just to kind of gauge the interest for Patrick County, then hopefully if we have enough interest we're going to try and get another site. We had an offer more



than a year ago that, so we may still be looking," she said. Wood said the organization decided to try having a location in Patrick County as about 10% of its total clientele is from the area. The Free Clinic

is "letting us use their facility, at least that afternoon, but they also offered anytime that they're not there to let us use it so we could expand if we need to," she said.

Those wishing to donate should go to the organization's website and click the Partner/Give tab at the top right corner of the page.

To schedule an appointment, call (276) 634-5433.

For more information, go to pregcc.com or facebook.com/PregnancyCareCenter.

STEP agency's infant, toddler quality rank within state's top 10 percent

STEP Inc.'s Stuart Early Head Start and Headstart Center was recognized as one of the 216 statewide sites that demonstrated top performance in infant and toddler classrooms according to Virginia's Quality Birth to Five Honor Roll for Infant and Toddler Quality.

This recognition places the Stuart site of STEP (Solutions That Empower People) within the top 10 percent state-



The local STEP office is pictured.

wide.

Director Tanya Huff said the recognition acknowledges that Step's classrooms are dedicated to interacting with children in a positive way.

"Essentially it reinforces that we do offer a quality program to continue to be in Patrick County. We're extremely proud of the teaching staff and thankful that we're providing this awesome service to our families," she said.

To read more about these and other stories, check out *The Enterprise* online at <http://www.theenterprise.net>.

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PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

LEL
OUTPOR
CWASH
♥ACLO
♥GONSIL
♥OWT
WRGE
♥NECOA
♥WLA
AMPLIR
OMGBU
GLOO

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. Leg is moved. 2. Door is larger. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Mailbox is taller. 5. House in distance is not as wide. 6. Pages are added to newspaper.

MAGIC MAZE • UNDER THE HOOD

PKIFCZWURPMJHEC
ZXPUSQNLJGECZXV
TALTERNATORRPNY
HLUJHOEECRAYWRS
VOGTRPITEANSEER
LKSISGELLDDTCNE
BZXEWUAKCITSPID
SRRPSYNOUAFMLGA
JIIGSUALBTPRENE
WDBAYXFWUOTSIEH
QREDNILYCRETSAM

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

- Air filter
- Alternator
- Battery
- Dipstick
- Engine
- Fan
- Fluids
- Fuses
- Headers
- Hoses
- Master cylinder
- Oil cap
- Radiator
- Relays
- Wires

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Super Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Stood for
- 6 Mountain peak topper
- 13 Place to keep cargo
- 20 Proprietor
- 21 Seat of Nassau County, New York
- 22 Holiday marches
- 23 1970 Best Actress nominee for "The Great White Hope"
- 25 Enigmas
- 26 Walk — (tiny roles)
- 27 Rank above maj.
- 28 — acid (vinegar component)
- 30 Ruhr article
- 31 Desperately, informally
- 35 Country singer with the hit "Blue Ain't Your Color"
- 37 "Livin' La Vida Loca" singer
- 41 No, in Nuremberg
- 42 Ending for peek or bug
- 43 Making a comeback
- 46 Super angry
- 51 Month, in Mexico
- 52 Strong — ox
- 54 She won gold in the 200-meter dash at the 2012 Olympics
- 57 French term for unrefined works, as by untrained painters
- 59 Furry wrap
- 60 "It could be"
- 61 Make a phone call to
- 62 Film directors Joel and Ethan
- 63 Hour div.
- 64 He played Jesse Pinkman on "Breaking Bad"
- 66 "Rocket Man" singer
- 72 Poem type
- 73 Light bulb power units
- 76 Tot's injury
- 77 Adopt
- 82 Stuck in mud
- 83 Tolkien's hole-dwellers
- 84 He played Lieutenant Starbuck on "Battlestar Galactica"
- 86 Snips
- 87 — film
- 88 British china
- 89 Oran native
- 91 "Be —!" ("C'mon, help me out!")
- 92 "Rebecca" actress
- 95 Civil rights activist with the comedy album "In Living Black and White"
- 98 Best Supporting Actress winner for "The Fighter"
- 104 Woman of the future?
- 105 Resting atop
- 106 Threat ender
- 108 "Boo —!"
- 109 Phased-out character on "The Simpsons"
- 112 Pre-book documents
- 114 "Who's Sorry Now?" singer
- 119 Cyclone's kin
- 120 Totally unknown by
- 121 Get together with alumni
- 122 Increase the slope of
- 123 Elk relative
- 124 10 featured last names in this puzzle are also the names of these
- 31 "Citizen Kane" studio
- 32 Cereal husk
- 33 Fla.'s ocean
- 34 Grow wider
- 36 Join
- 37 Marriott rival
- 38 Portugal's peninsula
- 39 Sharer of top billing
- 40 Floss fiber
- 44 Woeful things
- 45 Dec. 31
- 47 Yank's foe
- 48 Bristol beer
- 49 — a pity!
- 50 Outer: Prefix
- 52 Make — for it
- 53 "What if ..."
- 55 Fail to put in
- 56 Futuristic tiny machine
- 58 Slo — fuse
- 59 Note after fa
- 62 Billiards stick
- 63 FC Dallas' sports org.
- 65 Yemeni port
- 66 Takeoff abbr.
- 67 Wealthy Brits
- 68 Occupation
- 69 San Luis —
- 70 Stolen ride
- 71 In a meddling way
- 73 Actress Kristen
- 74 Bowed
- 75 Shape-fitting game
- 77 Mag workers
- 78 Imbibe slowly
- 79 Virtuoso
- 80 Assented to
- 81 App-ordered rides
- 82 Cato's 1,550
- 83 Desirous of
- 85 Aerie bird
- 86 Torte or baba
- 90 Drink cooler
- 91 Dept. of Justice chiefs
- 93 Tristan's love
- 94 Actress Greer
- 96 Posterior
- 97 Musical note equivalent to F
- 98 Necessities
- 99 Orlando theme park
- 100 Pacing of "M"
- 101 Combined
- 102 Actor Dana
- 103 — Mio!
- 107 City WNW of Tulsa
- 109 "Can I borrow — of sugar?"
- 110 Cone-bearing tree
- 111 Wields
- 113 Racing circuit
- 115 Actor Beatty
- 116 Suffix with hero
- 117 French for "summer"
- 118 — noir film

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The home team must provide the referee with 36 footballs for each National Football League game.
- Only three countries in the world are entirely surrounded by one other country.
- Research has shown that individual breathing patterns, including the timing, volume and rhythm of chest movements, can be used to identify people with up to 97% accuracy.
- The world's rarest hair and eye color combo is red and blue, respectively.
- Scientists trained rats to drive cars (custom-made from plastic cereal containers and small wires), and while the rodents' original motivation was Froot Loops, they surprisingly appeared to love going for joy rides as well.
- People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed.
- Hydrothermal vents created by fissures on the sea floor in areas of significant tectonic plate activity can pump out fluids at temperatures hot enough to melt lead.
- The human brain runs on less power than a 60-watt light bulb.
- Bagels were once given to women as gifts after childbirth. Some pregnant women even wore bagels on necklaces as protection, or ensured that bagels would be present in the room where they would deliver.
- There is cellphone service at the summit of Mount Everest.
- Pixar technical director Galyn Susman, while on maternity leave, was notified that 90% of the movie "Toy Story 2" had accidentally been deleted, and the studio's on-site backup had failed. Fortunately, she had copies of the film on her laptop, which was wrapped in blankets and carefully carried back to the studio.
- In Iceland, there are 13 mischievous "Yule Lads" rather than one Santa, who leave either gifts or rotten potatoes in children's shoes.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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: ♦♦♦♦

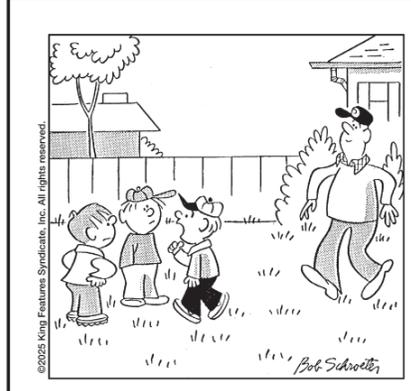
- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

JOES LOOKING AT PUTTS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE HOLE PROVIDE A CLEARER IMPRESSION OF THE LINE? WHEN THE BREAKS ARE SLIGHT, IT CAN ACTUALLY CONFUSE THE ISSUE.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE GENERALLY THE BEST. BEYOND THAT, REMEMBER THAT MOST PUTTS BREAK IN THE DIRECTION OF OVERALL SLOPES - WHICH IS WHY YOU SHOULD SIZE UP THE LIE OF THE LAND AS YOU WALK ONTO THE GREENS.



"My father is going to showing some of the games he played as a boy — so no _____"

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!

Arrange

GATES _____

Toil

GUDDER _____

Happy

HIBELT _____

Danger

NEECAM _____

TODAY'S WORD _____

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Bulldog Beat

Issue IX

Selena Stultz, 8th-grade homeroom reporter, interviewed Martinsville Middle School's very own teacher and veteran, **Mr. Tanner Sweitzer**.

- **Branch of Military Service:** United States Army
- **Years of Service:** 12 years
- **What inspired you to join the military?** To pay for college.
- **What role did you serve in the Army?** Field artillery.
- **Where were you stationed while serving?** Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.
- **What was one daily routine that students today might find surprising?** Waking up every morning at 5:00 a.m. for formation.
- **What was the most challenging part of military life?** Getting little to no sleep.
- **What accomplishments from your service are you most proud of?** Being promoted to Sergeant.
- **What is a memory from your service that you will never forget?** Flying in a Blackhawk helicopter.
- **What does Veterans Day mean to you personally?** It's a time to recognize all the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country.
- **Why is it important for students to learn the history and meaning behind Veterans Day?** So they understand the reason they have the freedoms they enjoy today.
- **How did your military service shape you as a teacher?** It taught me pa-

tience.

- **Are there lessons you learned in the military that you use in your classroom?** Yes—many of them, especially about structure and discipline.
- **What advice would you give students about the future?** If college doesn't feel like the right path after high school, the military is a good option.
- **What do you hope future generations understand about the sacrifice of veterans?** Without our veterans, we wouldn't have the freedoms we enjoy. Soldiers fought so we can live in peace.

Letters to Our Veterans

Semaiya Craighead, 6th-grade homeroom reporter, shared this heartfelt message:

Dear Veteran,

Because of you, I live in a free country. Your service means everything to our nation—whether you served last year, two decades ago, or even when John F. Kennedy was president. You risked your life so I could have a safe and free one. I have several family members who served, so Veterans Day isn't just a holiday—it's personal to me. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Semaiya

Daleyza Vasquez, 6th-grade student, expressed her gratitude in the following letter:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for being so strong, keeping our country safe, and leaving your family behind so that we can live without fear. You are amazing for enduring things that could be traumatic and still pushing forward. You are a true hero—someone who sacrifices so much for people you don't even know. Your dedication

inspires me to be strong.

Sincerely,

Daleyza

Adorian Hodge, 6th-grade student, wrote:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service and bravery in protecting our country. Because of you, I want to serve in the military one day—just like my brother. Your example inspires me to be kind and courageous. You are a hero, and I am so thankful for you!

Sincerely,

Adorian

Sariyah Carter, 6th-grade student, shared her appreciation:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service and for fighting for our freedom. I have always looked up to people like you. When I was eight, I wanted to join the Army, but now basketball is my passion. Still, I am grateful for everything you've done so we can live freely in this country.

Sincerely,

Sariyah

Viktoria Kriger-Sells, 6th-grade student, offered her thanks:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service. Because of your bravery, we are able to live freely today. My mother and father are both veterans, so I know how much courage it takes to serve. I truly admire all of you.

Happy Veterans Day!

Viktoria

Martinsville Middle School students are deeply grateful to our veterans.

We will continue next week with more messages of appreciation for America's heroes.

Renz selected Officer of the Quarter



Martinsville City Sheriff's Deputy Gary Renz (left) is pictured with Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper

Martinsville City Sheriff's Deputy Gary Renz was selected Officer of the Quarter after being nominated by his fellow co-workers. His peers highlighted his strong work ethic, positive attitude, and dedication to the department. He is known for consistent-



Renz is congratulated by several co-workers and program sponsors, including Michael Jarrett of Jarrett Marketing.

ly going above and beyond, stepping in to help without hesitation, and showing a selfless commitment to the well-being of others. Renz is the kind of officer who leads by example, and we are proud to honor him for his outstanding service.

The local businesses and organizations generously supported and contributed to the recognition program include Food Lion, Chop Stix, Livy's Ice Cream Shop, Jarrett Marketing, Hollywood Cinema, and McDonald's.



McCray Named Director of Human Resources

Henry County Public Schools announced that Dawn McCray was appointed as the division's new Director of Human Resources. McCray brings more than 30 years of experience in management, human resources, compliance, and organizational leadership across a variety of industries.

A service-oriented leader, McCray is known for her collaborative approach and her ability to use data and relationships to drive forward-thinking solutions. She has extensive experience in developing teams, managing complex personnel systems, and fostering positive workplace cultures that support both employee success and organizational goals. McCray has served on the Franklin County School Board and currently serves on the Blue Ridge Literacy Board, where she continues to demonstrate her commitment to education and community engagement. She

Christmas Parade set in M-HC

Star News TV again will present the 2025 Martinsville & Henry County Christmas Parade, ushering in the holiday season with festive flair and community spirit. The event is sponsored by Crown Brand-Building Packaging of Ridgeway, whose support helps keep this beloved local tradition shining bright.

This year's theme, "Holiday Movie Christmas," celebrates the magic of classic holiday films with dazzling floats, creative costumes, and performances inspired by favorite cinematic moments. The celebration begins Saturday, November 22, with a pre-show at 4:30 p.m. at Martin Plaza, featuring live entertainment, seasonal music, and plenty of holiday cheer. The parade will step off through downtown Martinsville at 5 p.m., lighting up the streets with joy and color.

Organizers invite families and friends to arrive early, bundle up, and enjoy an evening

filled with lights, laughter, and timeless holiday tradition — a perfect kickoff to the most wonderful time of the year. Call 276-656-3900.

is excited to bring that same passion for service and excellence to Henry County Public Schools.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. McCray to Henry County Public Schools," said Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis, Superintendent. "Her deep experience in human resources and organizational leadership, combined with her understanding of public education, make her an ideal fit for our division. I am confident she will provide strong guidance and support for our employees as we continue building a workplace rooted in trust, collaboration, and professional growth."

As Director of Human Resources, McCray will oversee all aspects of personnel management, recruitment and retention, employee relations, and compliance for Henry County Public Schools. Her work will play a key role in advancing the division's mission to attract, develop, and retain high-quality staff who are dedicated to student success.

McCray will officially assume her duties as Director of Human Resources later this month.

Council

(cont. from page 1)

“We didn’t have this conversation, we didn’t sit up here, make a special meeting and say, hey, let’s figure out if we’re gonna donate \$5,000,” Jones said.

Rawls said the council faces backlash when asked for funding without prior notice.

“We get extremely upset when people with no notice come and ask for money, and we get put on the spot after being made to be villains if we say no,” Rawls said. “I don’t wanna at all anymore. I don’t wanna get just errant requests for money at a podium. Can we get it? Can I come in through an annual cycle?”

Rawls said he understands that some organizations are still learning the process but emphasized that requests should be presented during the city’s annual funding cycle.

“If the organization can’t make enough of a presentation to present it for the annual cycle, it may not have the undergirding and preparation to get taxpayer funds,” he said.

Jones said he believes awareness of the process is increasing.

Meal Kits

(cont. from page 1)

able to implement it.

Because many people and organizations distribute turkeys this time of year, Hairston decided to focus on the sides that go with a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

“Then, my mom had a good idea to put canned ham or canned turkey in it as well,” she said.

Each bag will include stuffing, cornbread mix, a gravy packet, instant potatoes, a vegetable, and a 16-ounce can of either cooked ham or roasted turkey.

“It should be enough to feed a family of four. You just come through” the line at the event, “it’s just one bag per car — and there’s no qualifications for it or anything. Get in line and get the bag while supplies last,” Hairston said.

She estimates that a little over 400 bags will

“I don’t think everybody has the information. I think now that we do have many people heard about it, we’re having more people reach out and want to get funded,” Jones said.

The mayor also said he supports cutting back outside agency funding in the future.

“To me, it’s not us giving money, and I agree with council members—we need to cut back, even if we cut back to zero,” Jones said. “We need to only fund those agencies that strategically fit with our agenda and what we plan to do as a city moving forward—not this year, but 25 years in the future—and how we can partner for the best of our citizens.”

Despite the failed motion, Mei, Jones and Rawls each agreed to personally donate \$500 to the NAACP, in addition to purchasing tickets for the gala.

“I will give you \$500 so we can just move on,” Rawls said. “So, I will match what Julian puts up, and that’s above and beyond what I’ve already purchased. We will make sure they get something.”

Rawls said he will no longer support funding requests made directly at meetings.

“From here forward, anytime we get requests or money from a podium, I’m a no,” he said. “I don’t care what it is; I don’t care if it is to bring Patrick Swayze back to life. I’m a no.”

Jones said the city has a long-standing issue with outside funding.

“We have traditionally, year over year, funded the same people without asking a question,” he said. “People didn’t know about this whole process of outside agency funding. So now, in the last two years, we put it out there, and people out the woodwork have come. And realistically, most of the people we’ve shot down. We funded a couple of them, but they’ve all had great initiatives. How many of them actually align with the strategic plan of the city?”

The NAACP also sought a grant from the Harvest Foundation but was denied because the foundation sponsors projects, not initiatives.

Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson did not attend the meeting.

Buchanan’s Coat Drive marks 30 years of keeping kids warm

By Jessica Dillon

Henry County Supervisor Debra Buchanan has spent nearly three decades helping children stay warm through her annual “Coat Drive for Kids.”

Buchanan launched the program in 1996, followed by “Shoes for the Sole” in 2000. Together, the two initiatives provide coats and shoes to children — and, in some cases, adults — in need across the county.

Now celebrating its 30th year, the coat drive has distributed more than 10,000 coats since its start.

“We’ve been very fortunate over the years to have had a good response from the public, as well as businesses,” Buchanan said. “They’ve been willing to collect coats for me and participate in different ways.”

Buchanan began the drive on her own, driving around the area to pick up used coats, cleaning them herself, and even storing them in her home.

be given out during the event.

“I didn’t think we would get that many, especially the first year, but it’s been great. We’ve had a lot of donations and people wanting to volunteer and just be part of it, so that’s just been really great to see the support that we’ve gotten from our community,” she said.

Each meal kit bag will also include a paper listing everyone who donated to recognize those who helped with the project.

Hairston and other volunteers will pack the meal bags on Friday, Nov. 21, at Mt. Hermon Church of the Brethren in Bassett.

As long as there’s community interest, Hairston said she plans to hold the event annually.

While she hasn’t officially started seeking donations for next year’s event, donations are ac-

cepted year-round.

Checks made out to the Commissioner’s Community Outreach Initiative can be sent to P.O. Box 1192, Bassett, VA 24055. Donations can also be made via Cash App to “Commissioner Outreach.”

Hairston said this is her office’s last outreach initiative project for 2025.

“The notices and stuff will be out in January, so we’ll be back out throughout the community passing along information and pamphlets like we always do, especially about the general reassessment, because everyone will get their notices at the first of January,” she said.

For more information, visit [Facebook.com/TiffanyReneeHairstonHenryCountyCommissioneroftheRevenue](https://www.facebook.com/TiffanyReneeHairstonHenryCountyCommissioneroftheRevenue).



Custer named to P&HCC College Board

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board welcomes its newest member, Buzz Custer.

Custer is a practicing clinical pharmacist at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He currently serves as the First Lieutenant and is on the Board of Directors at Ridgeway Rescue Squad and supports and trains emergency medical providers as a certified Emergency Medical Technician, American Heart Association instructor, and an Education coordinator with the Virginia Office of EMS.

Custer is a graduate of Bassett High School, Radford University, and Wingate University. He was appointed by Henry County to fulfill an unexpired term that ends in 2026.

- Mark Eric Hanneman to Billy Ray Harrison, 30.000 and 5.248 acres, no district given.
- L. Shane Hawkins to James A. Kaminecki, 5.516 acres, Blackberry District.
- Amber Ison to Marilyn Toyce Clark, unit, Collinsville District.
- Cheryl R. Jacques; AKA to Done Deal Home Buyers LLC, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Sarah Janet Jamison; FKA to Tynnishua O’Shayne Fowler, 0.398 acres, Reed Creek District.
- JGE Properties, LLC to C & C Housing, LLC, 1.391 acres, Iriswood District.
- Tammy Lynn Roach Jones; Devis to Dragonfly Ventures, LLC, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Theresa K. King to Tonya L. Foster, 1.21 acres, Collinsville District.
- Donna Kaye Leahey to Matthew Richard Eggleston, 1.634 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Jessica Lucas to Wimmer Home Investments LLC, lots, Blackberry District.
- Maddy Holdings LLC to Javier Leon Tezoquiua, lots, Horsepasture District.
- Manning Investments LLC to Brenda Kee-see, lot, Horsepasture District.
- James D. Martin to Morgan A. Meade, 1.87 acres, Reed Creek District.
- John Martin, Jr., to Martha A. Williams, lot, Blackberry District.
- Tamiko Martin to Paul L. Weather, Sr., lot, Horsepasture District.
- Amy I. Mason to Jacob E. Frith, parcel, Iriswood District.
- Mblanch Enterprises LLC to Ralph E. Seidle, Jr., lot, Reed Creek District.
- Mblanch Enterprises LLC to Shawqi Nor-

(See Property p. 11)

October property transfers filed in Henry County

Property transactions recorded in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office in October included the following:

- Makunda Abdul to Mos Easley Trading Company, LLC, 1.815 acres, Iriswood District.
- Robert B. Amos to Claudia Erna Lorenz, 1.0 and 3.06 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Anderson, Desimone & Green, PC to DMCH Properties LLC, 110.808, 117.163 and 5.612 acres, Iriswood District.
- James Alan Bailey to Wyoming Tarpley, lot.
- Anthony P. Beal to Joseph Scaffidi, 1.62529 acres, Horsepasture District.
- William C. Benton to Done Deal Home Buyers LLC, lots, Horsepasture District.
- Blue Ocean Mortgage Inc to Edward Hairston, 1.468 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Blue Ridge Property Buyers LLC to Emily Gunter, lots, Collinsville District.
- Jimmy Edward Boitnott to Jeffrey James Owen, 3.770 acres, Iriswood District.
- Helen F. Boyd to Marissa D. Keene, 5.5 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Sherry M. Brainard to Jeffrey M. Winikur, lot, Ridgeway District.
- Christopher E. Brown to Rashieda Katrice Wynn, 0.659 and 1.913 acres, Ridgeway District.
- David Cameron to Stacey Triplett, lot, Collinsville District.
- Jose W. Castro to Noe J. Argueta Rodriguez, lot, Collinsville District.
- Leon A. Clark to Daytona Properties, LLC, 0.70 acres, Ridgeway District.
- CMH Homes, Inc to Jose Emanuel Robles Avila, 1.164 acres, Iriswood District.
- Dean Cook to Chiera Tysheika Sarabia, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Brandi Nicole Craft to Dusty Norwood Craft, lot, Horsepasture District.
- Miguel M. Cuenca to Devin Pendry, 0.396 acres, Reed Creek District.
- CVA Homes LLC to Bernida Hairston, lot,

Iriswood District.

- Mary Richards Dodson, exec to Vinicius Dunker Ferreira, lots, Horsepasture District.
- Tracey L. Dodson to Daniel Shelton, 0.724 acres, Blackberry District.
- Dolanreid PLLC; ST to Virginia Housing Development A, lot, Collinsville District.
- Done Deal Home Buyers, LLC to Elizabeth Hamilton, lot, Martinsville District.
- Done Deal Home Buyers, LLC to Holden Dale Durham, 1.643 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Eagle Rock Properties, LLC to Jimmy Clinton Hawks, 0.253 and 0.286 acres, Blackberry District.
- Ford Construction Inc to Harold Franklin Cassell, 0.496 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Frith Construction Company to Ubrikkian Industries LLC, 0.899 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Shannon Todd Frymire to Darrin R. Roach, 0.742 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Sandra Lawrence Funderburk to William T. Dalton, lot, Iriswood District.
- Philip G. Gardner to Darrin R. Roach, tracts, Reed Creek District.
- Ma Consuelo Gonzalez Montes to Jeremy Wilson, 0.735 acres, Blackberry District.
- Britta Nichole Grabbe; AKA to Nicholas Wayne Kopp, 0.18 and 1.03 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Edward Walter Gravely to Dale F. Lee, 1.399 acres, Blackberry District.
- Robert Floyd Gravely to Ridgeway Appalachian LLC, lot, Martinsville District.
- Jason Tyler Grodensky to Brian A. Chitwood, 0.751 acres, Iriswood District.
- Miyoshie W. Hairston to Lynne Tinker, house, Reed Creek District.
- Shanrika A. Hairston to Jose Luis Reyes Solis, parcel, Blackberry District.
- Anthony Steven Hall to James D. Barbour, lot, Iriswood District.

Piedmont Arts kicks off the holidays with community events in December



Piedmont Arts will kick off the holiday season with the annual lighting of the Art Garden Christmas tree from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden.

Piedmont Arts will kick off the holidays with community events, including the Art Garden Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 4, the Holiday Pops Spectacular on Dec. 7 and a food drive from Dec. 2-13.

Art Garden Christmas Tree Lighting

The Art Garden Christmas Tree Lighting will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden. Guests can enjoy holiday music, a visit from Santa, themed crafts and a snack of cookies and hot chocolate. This event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by Brightspeed and Carter Bank.

Much like the sculptures in the Art Garden, the Christmas tree is a work of art. It is created each year by Ian Hogg using more than 3,000 lights. The tree will be lit at sunset on Dec. 4 and brighten the Art Garden through New Year's Day. The tree is sponsored by Press Glass and Chip Wyatt of State Farm.

Holiday Pops Spectacular

Piedmont Arts will host its annual production of the Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, at Martinsville High School Auditorium.

There's no better way to lift your spirits than with the music of the season delivered in full sound and spectacle by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Maestro David Stewart



Guest soloist LaTetra Lewis will join Piedmont Arts' annual production of the Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, at Martinsville High School Auditorium.



Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops with all the magical elements guests have come to expect — high energy, familiar carols and lots of holiday warmth.

Guest soloist LaTetra Lewis will join the symphony for a heartwarming celebration of cherished holiday classics. Lewis is a mezzo-soprano hailed for her rich voice and magnetic stage presence. She studied opera at the renowned Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk. She has performed roles including Orfeo in Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice," Madame Flora in Menotti's "The Medium" and the Third Lady in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte." She has been a member of the Virginia Opera chorus since 2008 and has performed in the recent productions "La Traviata" and "Madama Butterfly."

Randy Brooks, the writer of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," will also join the symphony for a special performance of his hit song.

Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students in grades K-12. Tickets can be purchased at PiedmontArts.org and online at PiedmontArts.org.

This event is sponsored by Brightspeed. It is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

WIC Passport Program

Piedmont Arts is a proud participant in the WIC Passport Program, which offers free or discounted tickets, classes and other experiences to WIC recipients across Virginia. Passport holders receive free general admission tickets to the Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular. To redeem this discount, show your WIC card at the welcome desk when entering the museum or at the box office on the night of the event. For more information about the Passport Program, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Food Drive for Grace Network Food Pantry

In the spirit of the holiday season, Piedmont Arts is collecting donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products for the Grace Network food pantry.

Donations may be dropped off at Piedmont Arts from Dec. 2-13 during regular business hours. Piedmont Arts is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Altrusa International of Martinsville-Henry County will collect donations in the lobby of Martinsville High School Auditorium during the Holiday Pops Spectacular from 3-5 p.m. on Dec. 7.

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

Rehder

(cont. from page 1)



John A. Rehder

the ceremony.

The event's guest speaker, retired Army Col. Bob Dunwoody, delivered the keynote address, focusing on the importance of mental health and the strides made in helping veterans.

"Federal and local initiatives are also making strides in addressing veteran homelessness, offering hope and stability to those who have given so much," Dunwoody said.



John R. Redd, a World War II Army veteran, was also recognized during the ceremony.

"We must listen and learn. Many veterans carry stories, insights, and burdens from their service that are not always visible," he said. "Taking the time to sit down with them — and with their families — can mean the world. It reminds them that they are not alone and that their experiences matter."

"There are too many suicides that occur be-



Charles Howlett was named Veteran of the Year 2025.

cause someone hasn't paid attention," he said. "If a veteran would be the one to save the one from a suicide, then that's what it would be about."

Other awards were presented to John R. Redd, a World War II Army veteran and to Charles Howlett, who was named Veteran of the Year.

The ceremony is held annually to shine a light on veterans and honor their service and sacrifice.

Property

(cont. from page 10)

- man Al-Maayn, 1.56 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Randall K. McAlexander to Linda Andrade, lot, Iriswood District.
- James M. McGuire, Jr., to Milton H. Kendall, 1.09 acres, Iriswood District.
- David Les Mills to Steven Cotton, 30.174 acres, no district given.
- Donald L. Mills to Shirley W. Krantz, 1.315 acres, Blackberry District.
- Stanley R. Palmer to Taylor Agee Silvers, 4.47 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Timothy Patnaude to Affordable Christian Housing, lots, no district given.
- Patrick County Rentals LLC to Brian Jake Simpkins 0.870 acres, Blackberry District.
- Damon William Pearson to Ronald H. Flowers, Jr., lot, Ridgeway District.
- Nancy J. Philpott; AKA to Robert V. Hawk, parcels, Blackberry District.
- Kathleen H. Pigg to Melvin Douglas Gillespie, 13 acres, Horsepasture District.

- Gary A. Pilson to Tammy Russell, lots, Blackberry District.
- John K. Prillaman to Blue Ocean Mortgage Inc, 1.468 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Richard P. Raione to Mark David Romanowski, lot, Reed Creek District.
- Robertson Equipment Rentals LLC to Mayday Services Inc, lot, Reed Creek District.
- Leonard E. Robinson to Michael Wyatt, 1.147 acres, Iriswood District.
- Michael L. Smith to Rachel Kallam, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Rita Smith to Diego Mata Duarte, 0.258 acres, Collinsville District.
- Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC to S U & P Property Management Inc, lot, no district given.
- Wyoming Tarpley III to Michael C. Jarrett, lot, Reed Creek District.
- Ethylene Tatum to Ann Dee Jackson, lot, no district given.

- Bobby C. Taylor to Susanna Faye Loudermilk, 0.942 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Antonio Raoul Tolliver to Colby Sarver, lot, Iriswood District.
- Virginia Annual Conf. United Me to Michael W. Neale, lot, no district given.
- David Wagoner; heir at law to Roy Glen Brown, Sr., .219 acres, Blackberry District.
- Lois Ann Wagoner to H.A. Consulting LLC, 1.48 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Tabatha Lee Wallace to Mark T. Lester, .0540 acres, Iriswood District.
- Deborah C. Walters to Robert W. Sirt, Jr., lot, Ridgeway District.
- Fritz Robert Weiss to Meleny Calzadilla, 3.928 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Ricky L. White to Lee A. Halteman, 26.043 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Shirley Ann Witt to Cody Shane Meeks, lots, Reed Creek District.
- Joann R. Wood to Sue M. Wyatt, 0320 acres, no district given.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Spencer-Penn Center celebrates 20th anniversary with gala, prepares for Christmas Extravaganza



Spencer-Penn Center hosted its 20th anniversary gala on Nov. 8.

By Jessica Dillon

Spencer-Penn Center celebrated 20 years of nonprofit service with its first-ever gala on Nov. 8. Guests dressed in 1920s attire and enjoyed food and music in the 1927 Lester Banquet Hall.

“Oh, my goodness, it was such an amazing experience for me. You know, it was our first gala, and celebrating 20 years of service is pretty huge,” said Executive Director Susan Sabin.

Sabin said the idea for the gala grew out of a desire to gauge community support. “We started dreaming of this 20s gala to celebrate 20 years in our 1927 wing of the facility,” she said.

“We really were very intentional about every decision we made—from

the vendors we used to the decor, the people we reached out to, trying to get them as table sponsors,” Sabin said. “We really, really wanted this to be a celebration of the last 20 years, supporting vendors who had poured into us previously, people who were partners for us. And in doing so, I think we created a really unique and wonderful event that everybody had an amazing time at.”

Sabin said attendees enjoyed the night’s festivities. “I looked around the room several times and everybody was smiling and laughing, whether they were just sitting and watching people dance or socializing in the corner bidding on silent auction items,” she said. “We even had a moment where a group of people got up on the

stage and led the YMCA.”

The center is now preparing for its Christmas Extravaganza, scheduled for Dec. 5 and 6. “This year it will be a two-day event instead of one. It was just so huge, and everybody said, ‘Gosh, I couldn’t come that Friday night. I wish you had it on Saturday,’” Sabin said.

The event will feature food trucks both nights, a tree-lighting ceremony on Friday thanks to Triangle Electric, and free photos with Santa on both days.

“This is something that was really on my heart to do because you see a lot of places where you can get pictures with Santa, but you have to pay \$10 for a picture. We didn’t want that to be the case,” Sabin said. “We wanted

everyone, no matter their situation, to be able to come, sit in Santa’s lap, tell him what you want for Christmas, and get some pictures.” On Saturday morning, the center will host Storytime with Santa, and crafts will be available all day.

The center is still seeking volunteers to put up trees for the event. Voting will be done by placing donated food items under each tree, and the tree with the most votes will win. Sabin also encouraged donations on Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Dec. 6, to help keep the center’s programs running.

In 2025, Lawless Welding became a platinum sponsor for Spencer-Penn, receiving a year of free marketing valued at several thousand dollars.

Frozen chicken, beef croquette products recalled

Brazilian Taste, a Lexington, S.C. establishment, is recalling approximately 4,120 pounds of chicken and beef croquettes due to misbranding and an undeclared allergen, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. The product contains sesame, a known allergen, which is not declared on the product label.

The chicken croquettes were produced from March 4, 2025, to August 19, 2025. The beef croquettes were produced on June 2, 2025. The following products are subject to recall:

*17.63-oz. plastic bag packages containing 5 “SAINT COXINHA XL CHICKEN CROQUETTES” with “best by” dates ranging “11/04/2025”

to “04/19/2026” printed on the back of the packaging.

*15.8-oz. plastic bag packages containing 15 “SAINT COXINHA CHICKEN CROQUETTES” with “best by” dates ranging “11/04/2025” to “04/19/2026” printed on the back of the packaging.

*13.7-oz. plastic bag packages containing 13 “SAINT COXINHA GROUND BEEF CROQUETTE RISOLE DE CARNE” with “best by” date “02/02/2026” printed on the back of the packaging.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number “P-45640” or “Est. 45640” inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations in several states and

nationwide through online sales.

The problem was discovered when the Food and Drug Administration notified FSIS that bread crumb ingredients shared between FDA-regulated and FSIS-regulated products produced at the facility contained sesame that may not have been declared on the labels of the FSIS-regulated products.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers’ freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to con-

sume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Consumers with questions about the recall may contact Ms. Barbara Bueno, Manager, Brazilian Taste at 404-538-5366 or contact@saintcoxinha.com.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHHotline@usda.gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

Open enrollment begins for Virginia health insurance marketplace

Virginians can now shop for high-quality health insurance as Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace officially starts the plan year 2026 Open Enrollment Period. From November 1, 2025, through January 30, 2026, residents statewide can shop for plans that offer robust benefits and dependable insurance coverage for themselves and their families.

Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace — the Commonwealth’s official state-based health benefit exchange — is the only place where Virginians can apply for financial assistance to help lower their monthly health insurance costs. During last year’s Open Enrollment Period, over 69,000 new consum-

ers enrolled in health insurance plans, and over 86% of all enrollees qualified for financial assistance. The Marketplace has helped more than 573,700 Virginia residents enroll in high-quality health insurance plans since launching in 2023.

“Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace was designed by Virginians, for Virginians, and we’re excited to help more residents find high-quality health insurance during this year’s Open Enrollment Period,” said Keven Patchett, director of Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace. “We also understand that navigating health coverage can be daunting; that’s why we have numerous resources available to con-

sumers and more than 4,300 certified assisters and agents across the Commonwealth ready to guide Virginians through open enrollment to find the best plan to fit their unique needs.”

Every health plan offered on the Marketplace covers 10 essential health benefits, including emergency services, maternity and newborn care, prescription drugs, mental health care, hospitalization and preventative screenings.

The Open Enrollment Period has been extended by two weeks this year. It will run from November 1, 2025, through January 30, 2026, giving Virginia residents a full three months to review and select a plan. This is the only time of the year for residents to enroll in a plan or to switch plans. After January 30, only Virginians experiencing a qualifying life event (such as getting married or divorced, having a baby, or losing health insurance) may be eligible to enroll.

Key Dates:

- Enroll by December 31, 2025, to have health coverage effective January 1, 2026.
- Enroll by January 30, 2026, to have health coverage effective February 1, 2026.

Virginians may see changes to their health insurance premiums, out-of-pocket costs, or provider networks in

2026 compared with 2025, reflecting broader statewide and national health care trends. Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace has enhanced its support and resources to help consumers make informed decisions and get health insurance that meets their needs.

To avoid gaps in coverage and ensure the best value, Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace encourages all consumers to carefully review their plan options, update their information, explore available financial assistance, and use the resources and support offered by the Marketplace.

To get started, visit Marketplace.Virginia.gov to browse and compare health insurance plans. For additional help — online or in person — access the following resources:

- The Marketplace Help Center connects Virginians with someone who can provide assistance in person or over the phone. Free translation services are available.
- The savings calculator helps residents see if they might qualify for free or low-cost health insurance.
- The FAQ page answers some of the most common questions about the Marketplace.

Virginia’s Insurance Marketplace is operated by the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, a division of the State Corporation Commission.

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