HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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More than 250 coats donated during annual Coat Drive for Kids

By Taylor Boyd

More than 250 coats and hoodies collected during the annual Coat Drive for Kids were presented to the Henry County Board of Supervisors during its Nov. 25 meeting. The donations came from Appalachian Power (AEP) and the Campbell Family Foundation.

The drive started 30 years ago by Supervisor Debra Buchanan of the Horsepasture District and has grown over the decades through the generosity of businesses, churches and individuals.

"This is only possible because of the generosity of the businesses here, churches, and



Debra Buchanan (left), along with other representatives of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Appalachian Power, the Campbell Family Foundation, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, and Wal-Mart celebrated the 30th annual Coat Drive for Kids, distributing more than 250 coats to local children.

individuals that actually made this happen," Buchanan said. "The children don't always understand why they're cold or why they don't have a coat, they just know they're cold. That smile on a child's face when receiving a coat makes all the difference."

During the shopping trip for the coats at Wal-Mart, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce Director Brenell Thomas said the donations were supplemented an additional \$200. "These coats will help keep our kids safe and warm. As we know toward the end of the week, these will come

Martinsville Christmas celebration blends history and holiday cheer

Contributed

Thanks to an anonymous donor, this year's uptown Martinsville Christmas celebration revives some of the spirit and tradition of Christmases past.

This Friday's North Pole Jingle, from 5-7 p.m., is Uptown's opening event to kick off the Christmas season. It includes Holidays at the Market, special late hours, and offers from local merchants and – most dramatically – the lighting of a massive Christmas tree.

The 22-foot Christmas tree was paid for by an anonymous donor and ordered by Myiah Terry, Management Analyst for the City of Martinsville. It was scheduled to arrive on a transfertrailer truck on Tuesday at the city warehouse. On Wednesday, city workers would deliver the tree, requiring the use of more than one city truck, to the courtyard of the MHC Heritage Museum in the former Henry County Courthouse at 1 E. Main St.

The museum's courtyard was deemed to be the only uptown place large enough to set up the tree, MHC Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brenell Thomas told MHC Historical Society Executive Director Holly Kozelsky on Monday.

(See Martinsville p. 9)



Eric Payne, who was the guest speaker at the dinner, encouraged support for the club. "I am standing here as a recipient of love, guidance and mentorship that someone

From 385 pounds to marathon finish: Taylor's journey to health

By Jessica Dillon

Michael Taylor, a local runner, has shown that focusing on health and athletics can start at any age. Beyond improving his own fitness, Taylor is an advocate for preserving local trails, which he uses vear-round.

Taylor's journey to better health began in college, when he weighed 385 pounds. "I had been going to school for 18 years and did not want to waste the education I had gained by not living a healthy life. If I wanted to live my life to the fullest, then my mind and body had to work together towards a common goal," he said.

He approached his weight loss carefully to avoid injury. "Just getting to a weight that was healthy enough to run for exercise was a hurdle. It took years of a strict diet to get my weight low enough that I would not injure my joints from running." At the time, he hadn't considered becoming a runner.

He recently completed the Allianz Richmond Marathon with a time of 4:45:09, just under his goal of five hours. Taylor spent over a year training for the race while balancing a full-time job and personal commitments.



Michael Taylor completed the Allianz Richmond Marathon.

"I did not ever think I would be able to run a marathon. It was not even on my radar until about a year ago," he said. He began running in (See Taylor p. 3)



The talents of Da Capo students shine in the collaborative concert at Magna Vista High School.

Da Capo's innovative music program comes to life on stage

By Jessica Dillon

Da Capo Virginia recently presented a concert featuring area students at Magna Vista High School on Nov. 25. The performance included contributions from the school choir, cheerleading team, and art department. Students used movement and props to create a magical experience for the audience.

Executive Director Tracee Prillaman helps

guide students through music. "We adapt a lot of what we do so that we can best meet the needs of our students. We know that our boys and girls require outside-of-the-box methods to

reach them and help them reach their fullest potential," she said. Students in the Vivo classes learn in one-hour

lessons that run over a 10-week course. "What (See Da Capo p. 5)

else paid into my life," he said. (Photo by rbs news now) Payne urges support for Boys & Girls Club, calls it "raising the future of a region"

By Jessica Dillon The Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge held its annual dinner on Nov. 20, raising funds for the organization, including an \$10,000 anonymous donation that night. The club provides a safe place for children after school and helps them grow into lead-

The guest speaker at the event, Eric W. Payne, executive director of the Martinsville Economic Development Authority, highlighted both the club's successes and ongoing needs.

"Those of you who have been close to this organization already know, just a short while ago, we weren't sure this club organization would be where it is today. The future wasn't clear. In fact, it was murky and uncertain. Resources were strained. The chances for failure, even collapse, were real and ever-present," he said.

leadership "But stepped up. The community came together. The board was revital-

ed. And this organiza-

tion not only survived

and stabilized, it has also thrived," Payne

said. The club now serves more than 500 young each people across seven sites in the area. Ninety-seven percent of members are on track to graduate high school, higher than the statewide average. Ninety percent passed their core subjects this year, including students who had struggled before joining the club. About percent come 75.5single-parent households, where the (See Payne p. 5)



Community-produced film wraps local theatrical run

By Jessica Dillon

The locally produced film 39 Ghosts will have its final screening at Hollywood Cinema on Dec. 10 and 11. One of the movie's directors, Myron Smith, said he is especially excited for the premiere, which will also raise resources for the local food bank. The screenings celebrate the film's long-awaited DVD release.

39 Ghosts is a ghost story. "A family inherits a haunted house inhabited by angry spirits. Will one of them become the 39th ghost?" reads the main description. The film stars the Rorrer family — Mal, Melanie, Katherine, Mason, and Lillian along with Aleta Whitten, Robbie Hendrix, Michael Patterson, Alison Eastwood, and the Ghostbusters of North Carolina.

The film first premiered at Spencer-Penn Center in 2021 and was later screened in Lynchburg that same year. Smith recalled, "When we booked it, it was when things were starting to calm down from, you know, COVID and everything. But then it had, uh, started, you know, the restrictions started increasing again like right after that."

After COVID restrictions eased, the movie returned to the public. "It played at Hollywood Cinema in 2022. And we did a similar event where it was also 10 cans of food or \$10," Smith said.

Smith said he has been working toward a DVD release since 2022. "It's been about a three-year journey. I was hoping to get distribution through a company that was distributing Youngblood Evil Intentions." That project was another film Smith participated in, but the distribution company eventually ceased operations.

The DVD release was made possible through a Kickstarter campaign and community support. "We launched a Kickstarter campaign to do self-distribution. And so the DVD is made possible by basically crowdfunding and people of the community and outside the community supporting the effort," he said.

Smith said proceeds from the event will benefit both the local food bank and future film projects. "We'll be donating the food to, you know, [the] local food bank." Even those who do not wish to watch the film in theaters can attend to purchase a DVD.

Smith has already started planning his next project. "I definitely have a new project on the horizon." He and his brother have been making movies for 14 years, gaining experience along the way. DVDs of 39 Ghosts will be sold

for \$19.99 and include a two-sided poster and special features. The remaining stock will be sold at future events attended by Smith.



Poster for the local film 39 Ghosts.

Artist Donald Towns discusses his career at Disney at Nov. 20 talk



exhibit "Depicting the Moment" is on display at the museum through Jan. 10. Around 25 guests attended a free talk by art-Town said the colors in the film changed with



Donald Towns speaks about his career in animation on Nov. 20 at Piedmont Arts. His Donald Towns working on a storyboard for the Disney film, "The Little Mermaid," circa 1989. Photo courtesy of the artist.

ist Donald Towns on Nov. 20 at Piedmont Arts. Towns discussed his long career in the anima-

tion business, including his time doing background animation for Disney, where he was involved in the making of such iconic films as "The Great Mouse Detective," "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin." When asked which project he was most proud

of, Towns replied, "I think I'm most proud of 'The Great Mouse Detective.' I had a lot of fun painting the backgrounds for that." Towns served as the manager of the back-

ground department and an art director on "The Little Mermaid." He explained how scenes are built in traditional animation films and shared an image of himself working on a storyboard for the film, featuring around 20 images.

"This is just one sequence in the film," he said. "We used these cells to set the color for the film. If I remember correctly, 'The Little Mermaid' had about 10 sequences.

the mood of the characters. "It starts out blue, then changes to orange

when things heat up with the Crustacean Band. Then it goes to gray because [the character] is After a change in leadership at Disney, Towns

decided to join his friend and former Disney director, Richard Rich, at his new animation studio called RichCrest Animation. There, he worked on projects such as "The Swan Princess" and a series of animated Bible stories. Now that Towns has retired from animation,

he has devoted himself to fine art painting. His work is currently on display at Piedmont Arts in the exhibit "Depicting the Moment." "His career in animation really shows in his

current work," said Director of Exhibitions and Marketing Bernadette Moore. "Each painting is like a scene from a film. They have a true magical quality." Towns' work has been well-received by the

community since he and his wife, Karen, moved to the area from Tehachapi, California. The couple now resides in Stuart, where Towns is involved in Bull Mountain Arts. Locally, he is a member of Lynwood Artists. His painting "Fount of Life" won Best in Show in "Expressions 2025," the annual open-entry exhibit presented by Lynwood Artists and Piedmont Arts.

"Any Best in Show winner who is a member of Piedmont Arts is eligible for an exhibit in the Box Mezzanine Gallery," said Moore. "We are so glad that Donald entered his work. It led to this amazing exhibit that we are so pleased to share with the community."

"Depicting the Moment" will be on view at Piedmont Arts through Jan. 10. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. To learn more about Towns and his work, visit

his website at donaldtownsart.com. For more information on Piedmont Arts ex-

hibits and events, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Coats

(cont. from page 1) very much in handy," she said.

Sarah Fain of the Campbell

Family Foundation said it is a privilege for the foundation to contribute. AEP External Affairs Manager Rob Mann echoed her sentiment. "We've got a longstanding, good relationship and we just want to

keep that going and be partners in your community. We're just glad that we could participate this year," Mann said. Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District and a Henry County

Schools employee, said many students look forward to the annual drive. "I think it's great when the community comes together and

we do something of this nature to help folk out. We think about people who are less fortunate, but sometimes it's just an opportunity for a parent who receives a coat to have \$30-\$40 that they could use for gas, food, or whatever the case may be," Dillard

Buchanan said the drive has grown far beyond the small effort she started decades ago in her living room.

"When I first started it, I didn't believe it would grow to this ex-

tent," she said. A Wal-Mart

representative

meeting. In other matters during the

also spoke about the drive at the

Nov. 25 meeting, the board: *Discussed potentially amending its 2026 legislative agenda

to remove support for Patrick & Henry Community College taking over the New College Institute and converting it into the Patrick & Henry Workforce Economic Development Building. Dillard noted NCI's Board of Directors voted against exploring the idea at its November meeting. "I kind of feel at some point we

need to revisit that and consider whether we want to remove that off of our legislative agenda so that we're not sending something to Richmond that NCI's not ac-

tually supporting themself," he *Heard from Barry Barker, representing the county's pickleball community, about convert-

ing the Collinsville Jaycee Park tennis court into a covered pickleball court. *Approved an additional \$5,400

for the Circuit Court Clerk's Office to cover salary expenses for a part-time position. *Approved \$54,100 from the

general fund for updates to the

911 Center call-handling equip-



installation.

tions America for purchase and *Approved loan agreements with the West Piedmont Plan-

ning District Commission and \$412,587 in combined loan and grant funds for the Villa Heights Housing Project.

*Approved carryover of \$68,043,828.31 from fiscal year

2025 to 2026 for items committed but not delivered by June 30. *Approved rezoning of 0.655 acres in the Blackberry District

from Suburban Residential (S-R)

to Mixed Residential (M-R), and

tial (R-R). *Reappointed Vivian Hairston to the Public Service Authority

Board of Directors for a four-year term expiring Jan. 5, 2030. *Reappointed Jim Adams and

Pam Cobler to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission Board for four-year terms

*Approved consent items, received the monthly delinquent tax report, and heard updates on general highway matters from VDOT Assistant Resident Engineer David Kiser.

ending Dec. 31, 2029.

OMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Tuesday, December 9

The Henry County Industrial Development Authority will meet at 4 p.m., in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Events:

Friday, December 6

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.

Martinsville Handbell Ensemble Christmas Concert "Holly, Jolly Christmas," 4 p.m., joined by Still Water, the select ensemble of Smith River Singers, plus organ and piano First United Methodist Church, 146 East Main Street, Martinsville, Free Admission (offering collected.)

Saturday, December 6

Breakfast With Santa, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., Bassett Volunteer Fire Department, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett.

Bassett Parade 2 p.m., Bassett.

Ridgeway parade, 5:30 p.m., Town of Ridgeway.

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.

Sunday, December 7

Piedmont Arts' annual production of the Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular, 3 p.m. at Martinsville High School Auditorium. Altrusa will collect nonperishable food items for Grace

Network in the lobby during the symphony's performance. Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students in grades K-12. Tickets available at PiedmontArts.org.

Tuesday, December 9

Foster Gallery Reception, free reception for students and their families, 4-6 p.m., Piedmont Arts. Martinsville, Magna Vista and Bassett high schools and Carlisle Upper School students will have work on display in the Foster Gallery through Jan. 10.

Saturday, December 13

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

Monday, December 15

Smith River Singers Christmas Concert "Merry & Bright," 7 p.m., featuring the select ensemble Still Water, plus strings and percussion orchestra, Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville. Free admission (offering collected.)

Friday, December 19

OSPT's Christmas Extravaganza, 5:30 -10:30 p.m., Spencer Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road. Christmas movies and cartoons as well as refreshments. This is an event for all ages. Bring the family, enjoy the festivities and also get your pictures taken with Santa and The Grinch and possibly Max. Wear your Ugly Sweater or comfy PJs, or come as you are. Participate in Christmas gift games by bringing

a wrapped gift for a child (boy or

girl) or adult (man or woman) to

place in the gift exchange. Par-

ticipants will draw a number and

pick a gift (only bring a gift if you're interested in playing the gift exchange game). Also, the ball gift game will be held in the ballroom. Everyone takes turns unwrapping a huge ball with hidden gifts inside. Bring a new unopened gift for a child or elderly person. Donations will be collected for the children's hospital in Roanoke and the nursing facility in Stanleytown, with delivery before Christmas.

Ongoing

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

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

The Martinsville-Henry Coun-

ty 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

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

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

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

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

Taylor

(cont. from page 1)

2024, initially aiming to complete I had a 'what's next?' feeling, which a 5K in under 40 minutes, which I still do not have an answer to. took two months of training.

"I couldn't even run a mile without stopping in the beginning. Then I made progress to set a goal of a 30-minute 5K, which took about three more months to accomplish. At this point, I was signing up for some local Miles in Martinsville races and gaining some running confidence," he said.

Taylor enjoys the YMCA's local Miles in Martinsville races, which helped him build up to marathon distances. "Miles in Martinsville has a variety of race distances, from one mile to 21.4 miles, and I wanted to try all the distances. Going to a full marathon was the next step if I wanted to continue to see how far I could push my body.'

Training for a marathon is demanding, he said. "Marathon training is a gigantic time commitment. Most training programs are around four months long. My peak training week included 42 miles of running, strength training workouts, and bicycling.'

At his peak, he spent 8.5 hours per week running—nearly double the time of his usual 4.5 hoursplus two hours of strength training. Taylor credits his success to his supportive family.

"Immediately after finishing, I was just happy to stop running since I had been going for over four hours. I felt incredibly supported by my family as they were in Richmond with me. Several days later,

Taylor hopes to inspire others to enjoy running, despite its negative reputation from school days. 'We were told to go run a mile or do pacers, and in sports we were made to run as punishment," he said, adding that not learning to properly run makes the activity less enjoyable.

"We were conditioned to hate running because we were not taught the correct techniques to make it enjoyable. There are many variables in running – whether your heel or midfoot, or forefoot strikes the ground first, if your foot lands in front of your body versus underneath, cadence, heart rate, breathing technique, posture, shoes, pace, nutrition, and strength training. Finding what works for your body takes experimentation, and it is the key to making running a lifelong activity," he said.

"Goals will take longer than one season to accomplish, so you must learn to accept all types of weather. There's a certain beauty in heading out onto the Dick & Willie Trail and watching the plants and wildlife shift with the seasons. Extreme weather conditions are a part of nature, and help me stav grounded in the fact that we are all part of the ecosystem together."

Taylor plans to continue running Miles in Martinsville races and hopes others will embrace the sport for both health and enjoyment.

Community Chronicles

By Jarred Marlowe

In the early morning hours of April 8, 1865, a detachment of the Union 10th Michigan Cavalry launched a surprise attack on the Confederate 6th Tennessee Cavalry near Jones Creek in Martinsville. The fighting lasted barely an hour before the Confederates retreated toward Danville, leaving Union troops in control of the town. When the gunfire faded six soldiers lay dead, casualties of what would become one of the final military actions of the Civil War in Virginia.

As was customary for the army left holding the field, the Union force took responsibility for tending to the wounded and the fallen. Field hospitals were quickly set up throughout Martinsville, including several private homes and possibly the courthouse area. The Episcopal Church cemetery (located near today's Farmers Market and Gym 24), then the only burial ground within the town limits received the bodies of the six men: five Union and one Confederate. Oakwood Cemetery would not be created until 1883, making the church cemetery the logical resting place for these fallen soldiers. Also, directly across the street stood the home of Dr. James Moss Smith (presentday City Hall location), used by Union troops as both a field hospital and temporary headquarters during their brief occupation. What became of most of those

soldiers' graves remains a lingering mystery. The lone Confederate killed was later reburied at Oakwood Cemetery. One Union officer, Lt. Thomas G. Kenyon, was moved to the Danville National Cemetery after it opened in 1867. But the final resting places of the remaining four Union soldiers have never been determined. Clues are scarce. In the 1960s,

attorney Reid Young purchased the old church cemetery property and built an office on the site. The remains once buried there were moved to either Oakwood Cemetery or Roselawn Burial Park. Newspaper accounts from the time make no mention of any Civil War burials. It is possible the Union soldiers were moved to Oakwood and placed in unmarked graves, given that they had once served

in an opposing army. The Union

soldiers may have also been relo-



The headstone for Lt. Thomas G. Kenyon, killed in Martinsville, at the Danville National Cemetery (Photo taken by Jarred Marlowe).

cated in the same manner that Lt. Kenyon's remains were moved, but unlike his marked grave, they may now rest among the 148 stones marked Unknown at the Danville National Cemetery.

Though the fate of these young men is uncertain, their sacrifice should not be forgotten. The skirmish in Martinsville was small compared with the great battles of the Civil War, yet for these six soldiers it was the most important moment of their lives, the one that prevented them from returning home. It marks the only time the war directly reached Henry County. So the next time you pass

through the intersection of Liberty St. and Clearview Dr./Stultz Rd., pause to remember the ground beneath you. It is, in many ways, sacred.

Soldiers Killed in Action in Martinsville, April 8, 1865 -Lt. Thomas G. Kenyon, age 26,

Lansing, Michigan

-Sgt. John Benton, age 28, Detroit, Michigan

-Pvt. Joseph Cune/Kune, age 37, Grand Rapids, Michigan

-Pv.t Ira E. Harvey, age 23, Grand Rapids, Michigan

-Pvt. George Wood, age 32, Grand Rapids, Michigan

 -Unknown Confederate soldier, details unknown

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

Free genealogy classes set A series of four classes on geneaes. The classes are limited to 12 logical research will be held from people, and the class has already

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Historical Center on the first four

Tuesdays in February (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th). There is no charge for these classes. When you sign up for the first class, you will automatically be

signed up for the other three class-

begun to fill up. Please call the Bassett Historical Center now at 276-629-9191 to reserve your spot!

If you enrolled in the classes, please call the center if there is inclement weather. The class for that day may need to be rescheduled.

OPINION

Medicaid Expansion: Promises Made, Promises Not Kept

In multiple newsletters this year, I outlined important policies Republicans advanced in the reconciliation bill from this summer.

I also outlined inconsistencies with Democratic Party objections to the reconciliation bill.

Their talking points suggest the bill impacts the traditional Medicaid population, including pregnant women, seniors, children and individuals with disabilities. This is NOT true!

The reconciliation bill does make certain reforms to reimbursement to the States because of how Virginia and other States have handled Medicaid Expansion.

Medicaid Expansion was first created as a part of Obamacare.

The federal program incentivized States to adopt the expanded program.

If a State expanded Medicaid, the federal government committed to covering 90% of the costs associated with providing health care coverage to the Medicaid Expansion popula-

The plan as written by the Obama Administration and passed by a Democratic-controlled Congress required Medicaid Expansion States to pay the remaining 10% of the costs.

Virginia chose to accept the terms of the Obama Medicaid Expansion in 2018.

When this happened, Virginia agreed to the 90-10 cost-sharing arrangement.

But Virginia found a clever loophole to avoid paying its full 10% share. Virginia followed a

circuitous process to avoid paying its 10%. It did so by putting a new tax on hospitals, a provider tax.

This so-called provider, or "sick," tax is then billed to the federal government as part of the hospital's costs for health care.

When the federal government reimburses the state for federal health care programs, it includes reimbursements for the "sick" tax.

Virginia then uses



Morgan Griffith

Representative

this federal money to reimburse the hospitals with what is known as a state-directed payment. Virginia then counts the state-directed payment towards its 10% share.

Accordingly, Virginia is able to avoid using its own money and shirks its responsibility to fully pay its agreed upon 10% share of Medicaid Expansion. Thus, as hospitals pay

the state provider "sick" tax of up to 6%, the federal government sends Virginia a match based off the amount the State received from this tax. This was not exactly

the bargain agreed upon by Virginia with the federal government! But Virginia is not

alone in using this scheme to acquire more funds from the federal government through provider taxes. California is also a

State that uses the provider "sick" tax to get additional federal dol-Because of the state

provider tax loophole, and a related loophole they have exploited called the "managed care organization" tax loophole, California gets additional Medicaid reimbursement from the federal government! That then gives Cali-

fornia the money to extend health care coverage in their State to illegal aliens. Essentially, these

loopholes have allowed most States to avoid their obligations, and in the case of California, subsidize health care for illegal aliens!

Many States neglect their responsibilities of paying their share in Medicaid Expansion's 90-10 federal-state split.

Under the deal, States had to share the costs of the Medicaid Expansion program. This was to assure they would have skin in the game as an incentive to control spiraling costs. But, with the provid-

er "sick" tax circuitous scheme, they intentionally have little or no skin in the game. Notwithstanding the

talking points, what we did in our reconciliation bill on this was merely close a portion of this "sick" tax loophole to curb abuse by many States. We began a gradual

phasedown of the reimbursement on state provider "sick" tax rates that States can receive.

This phasedown drops the 6% reimbursement to States that tax hospitals to 3.5% over a fiveyear period, meaning by 0.5% each year so only a roughly 40% reduction of the reimbursement of the "sick" tax. This way, we are re-

quiring the States to live up to a portion of their 10% share of Medicaid Expansion costs. The federal govern-

ment continues to pay its 90% share. That was the deal. And the federal government will continue to reimburse roughly 60% of the provider "sick" tax scheme.

It is only fair for the States to begin moving towards meeting their 10% Medicaid Expansion cost commitment. This will give them skin in the game. While paying the tab

is never easy, the Medicaid Expansion States need to understand they made a deal. They need to keep the deal. The Medicaid Expan-

sion States that use the provider "sick" tax and state-directed payments need to stop blaming the federal government when the federal government is simply asking the States to keep part of their commitment to Medicaid Expansion.

Christmas chaos is its own kind of memory

"Silent night, holy night" - "Peace on earth, good will to men" "on a cold winter's night that was so deep

Naw, it wasn't the peace of Christmas we created by our ambitious plan to get it all done in one weekend. It was utter chaos.

If our Christmas house had music playing in it right now, it would be the really fast part of "Christmas Wrapping" by The Waitresses or "Carol of the Bells" by the heavy metal group Orion's Reign.

The Christmas season in a well ordered, decorated, prepared home is Christmas magic indeed. Magic, because it only seems to happen by wave of a wand. You can work and work and work yourself into exhaustion and still not get everything Christmassy done.

Every year, I don't

get done everything I

want to, but I still man-

age to fulfill about 80% of the Christmas traditions. It's a different 80% each year, so when you add up a few years in a row, we get it all in. There's all the special homemade foods – the Christmas crafts (decorated cookies, cloves stuck in oranges in decorative patterns, etc.) - trimming the tree, setting out all the decorations and hanging all the garland and lights (both inside and out urgh!) - writing and sending out Christmas cards - and, of course, the one thing you can't get away with not getting around it, wrapping and, sometimes, mailing presents.

Whew, that's quite some to-do list. On top of that, there

are all the Christmas parties and receptions and gatherings and celebrations and ceremonies and concerts we must go to. Looking at it that

way, it's only fair that week between Christmas and New Year's is relatively quiet. We all need the rest. Now that my daugh-

ter is a teenager, I knew we'd have to be completely regimented in how and when we did



Holly Kozelsky

things. There are too many after-school activities, not to mention fun invitations from friends, with which the home life must compete for attention. She agreed with the

plan to get it all done on the first weekend after Thanksgiving. We bought our

Christmas trees late Wednesday. Purists, we did not bring them into the house on Thursday: We left them in their stands, standing sentry on either side of the front door to wait. Friday night after

work, we bought boxes down from storage. We put out some decorations and packed our regular decorations back into the Christmas boxes to keep our surfaces tidy and on theme. By bedtime Friday, strings of lights and pieces of tinsel, wrapping paper and ribbon were scattered about.

Saturday, we thinned out a tree, leaving our porch scattered with branches we swore we'd make into wreaths. We tested out strings of Christmas lights to see which worked and which didn't and went through the tedium of finding the bad bulbs. We decorated that tree, accidentally broke three ornaments, laughed at the cats' delight at all the crinkly paper and flash and shine. More tinsel and pine cones and gift tags had spread themselves somehow throughout the downstairs rooms. We chopped cranberries and nuts and juiced oranges and cooked the traditional Christmas bread. Boy does that make a mess of the kitchen. My back ached and my feet hurt and I was tired. Sunday, we set out

more decorations and did final Christmas shopping complete with a ladies lunch, and then we decorated the other tree. The ornaments we don't like enough to use this year but aren't yet ready to throw away are on this table. The lights that don't work but we think we can fix are on that table. Somehow, tinsel is all up and down the hall. We removed the dining room table centerpiece and tablecloth and set out the gifts and some wrapping supplies. We lost and found the scissors and tape three times. We figured it was prudent to make the fruitcake and get it in the oven before starting to wrap, since it takes a long time to bake.

After we and counters were dusted in flour, and the cutting board sticky and bowls dirty, we slipped the fruitcakes into the oven. By then it was 7 p.m. and the cakes would take 3 ½ hours to bake at a low temperature.

We went into the dining room and picked up wrapping paper. Then we set it back down.

We looked around the room in dismay. The energy that had so bolstered us up was completely gone.

Defeated, we turned off the light and left the

It was all I could do to stay awake until 10:30 p.m. to get the cakes out of the oven.

We got a lot done, but it wasn't yet ready to be enjoyed because the house was in an explosion of a mess. It was not going to be fun coming home on Monday evening after school and work, to all that mess.

Looking back at all we had accomplished that weekend - not everything we planned, but a decent amount I had to give myself credit for another great accomplishment.

The brandy only went into the fruitcake, and none into me, no matter how much it could be said I deserved it.

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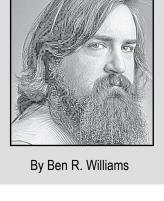
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when family and friends come together to break bread with one another, a day when differences are put aside, and a day when the President ragetweets a slur at a Governor at almost midnight. Yes, at 11:27 P.M. on our nation's day of fellowship, Presi-

Ah, Thanksgiving! It's a day

dent Donald Trump posted his Thanksgiving message for all Americans on Truth Social: "A very Happy Thanksgiving salutation to all of our Great

American Citizens and Patriots who have been so nice in allowing our Country to be divided, disrupted, carved up,

murdered, beaten, mugged,

and laughed at, along with

certain other foolish countries throughout the World, for being "Politically Correct," and just plain STUPID, when it comes to Immigration," Trump said in a single sentence that contains two separate zip codes. He then went on to ramble incoherently about Somali migrants before launching an incomprehensible attack on Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar. Trump wrote: "The seriously retarded Gov-

ernor of Minnesota, Tim Walz, does nothing, either through fear, incompetence, or both, while the worst 'Congressman/woman' in our Country, Ilhan Omar, always wrapped in her swaddling hijab, and who probably came into the U.S.A. illegally in that you are not allowed to marry your brother, does nothing but hatefully complain about our Country, its Constitution, and how 'badly' she is treated, when her place of origin is a decadent, backward, and crime ridden nation, which is essentially

not even a country for lack of

Government, Military, Police,

I realize that the text I just

schools, etc..."

weirdo collecting half-smoked cigarettes from the ashtray outside of a Waffle House, but I assure you, this was actually our President's Thanksgiving message. I'll add that I didn't censor the word "retarded" because if reading it makes you upset, it should. In the immediate aftermath of Trump's post, Indiana Re-

shared reads like something

mumbled by a drugged-up

publican Senator Michael Bohacek broke with his party by condemning Trump's language and announcing that he would not be voting on redistricting in Indiana. "I have been an unapologetic advocate for people with intel-

lectual disabilities since the birth of my second daughter,' Bohacek said in a statement. "Those of you that don't know me or my family might not know that my daughter has Down Syndrome. This is not the first time our president has used these insulting and derogatory references and his choices of words have consequences. I will be voting NO on redistricting, perhaps he can use the next 10 months to

(See Touching p. 5)

Touching -

(cont. from page 4)

convince voters that his policies and behavior deserve a congressional majority."

I'm of two minds about Bohacek's statement. Obviously, it's horrible for the President to casually drop ableist slurs, and I salute Bohacek for taking a stand. He's right: choices of words should have consequences.

But on the other hand, a large portion of Trump's message (which I did not quote at length) was railing about Somali immigrants in Minnesota, referring to them as roving gangs seeking prey. That's also pretty horrible and dehumanizing.

Meanwhile, Tim Walz got off pretty light compared to Ilhan Omar. Trump mocked her religious headwear, falsely claimed she entered the country illegally, and repeated the baseless conspiracy theory that she married

her own brother.

Maybe we shouldn't be quite so focused on that one cruel word in Trump's message. Maybe we should instead acknowledge that every word of it was cruel, deranged, and so wildly un-Presidential that in a just world it would be immediately disqualifying.

I'm always annoyed at politicians who don't seem to acknowledge that something is dangerous or problematic until they know someone who is personally affected. It happens constantly. How many times have you heard some variant of the following:

"I didn't realize the challenges women face until I had a daughter."

"I didn't know how bad COVID was until I caught it."

"I didn't realize how expensive medical care

was until I suffered a serious injury."

"I didn't accept gay people until my child came out to me."

"I didn't know how hard it was to scrape by on welfare until I lost my job."

I'm not saying that I'm not in favor of people having eye-opening experiences that change their perspective. I just think that if someone doesn't realize you shouldn't attack a group of people until they personally know a member of that group, it speaks to a certain lack of imagination, and perhaps a lack of empathy.

Having said that, I do support Bohacek for taking a stand, and I hope others do the same. I guess we'll find out soon; Christmas is coming, and I'm sure Trump is already working on his Yuletide message of unity.

Column Sponsored by: Dr. Mensink

Da Capo

(cont. from page 1)



Music and arts unite all abilities, organizers said.



Many students participated in Da Capo's innovative music program.



The concert at Magna Vista showcased Da Capo's inclusive approach.

might work for a neurotypical student most times will not work for someone who is neurodivergent. So, at Da Capo, you use every way imaginable to be able to impact the student," Prillaman said.

The concert was made up of seven and a half classrooms. "In that whether it be listening, moving, or

ing music and the arts in a wide variety of ways so that after the hour, each student will have had some sort of significant impact," she said.

Prillaman said students might be reached in different ways,

wide variety of ways so that every student is touched by it." Each lesson targets several different learning styles. "The preparation, as you can

imagine, is immense for a collaborative event like that because there are so many parts and pieces that go into creating an experience like that," Prillaman said. The concert was a collaboration between performers of all ability levels.

While the group generally has a live band, this performance featured a pianist and a student who is a novice cellist. "We always change things, but the collaboration among all of the people and the players is critical," she said.

We are collaborative in nature and in spirit. And we encourage and empower our students to do that same thing in their lives. Because music making and arts are

not just about one person. To really maximize the impact, you maximize your ability to build relationships with people and connect people and organizations," Prillaman said.

She said attending a concert has a massive impact on seeing the organization's mission come to life. "There is nothing like it, super exciting stuff," she said.

"Music is an equalizer, and it levels the playing field among people of all abilities, styles, varieties, shapes, sizes, colors, backgrounds, political affiliations — it doesn't matter. Music levels the playing field. And that is the beautiful thing: music is an expression of a person. Through music and through art, people are able to express who they are without ever having to use words to do it," she

Payne =

(cont. from page 1)





club is more than a service — it is a lifeline. Members completed over 3,300 hours of community service and have served more than 65,000 meals and snacks.

Payne stressed the club's role in the community. "I want to be very clear: The Boys & Girls Club isn't just part of the local nonprofit landscape. It is an integral part of the economic development strategy of this region. We cannot talk about workforce pipelines, talent development, new employers, business expansion, business retention or economic revitalization without talking about the development of young people who will fill those jobs, build those companies, and lead this community."



"This is an incubator for the future, a place where children learn not only who they are but who they can become. These clubs are instilling hope and confidence in our kids," he said. "This is not a daycare, and this is not a holding space. This is a launching pad that prepares our kids not just to participate in the future, but lead it." Payne encouraged attendees to

donate, reminding them of the difference they can make in a child's life. "A kid whose world might be loud or unstable or unfair. A kid who might feel invisible or underestimated. A kid who might not believe they can be anything more than what they see around them. A kid, like me, who has had to resort to syrup sandwiches, ketchup sandwiches, sugar sandwiches, or even water on dry cereal to satiate your growling stomach. Those meals taught me hunger, yes, but they also taught me resilience, dis-

cipline, and determination.

"Someone in this room tonight

can help rewrite that child's story," Payne said. "I know that because it happened to me. Individuals at the Pedersen-McCormick Club in Chicago, Illinois, and at the Thrasher Club in Little Rock, Arkansas, did it for me. They helped to rewrite my life's story and alter my trajectory. I am standing here as a recipient of love, guidance, and mentorship that someone else paid into my life," he said. "So tonight, I want to ask you

one final question: What would it look like if we stopped fearing the future and started funding it? What would it look like if our actions matched our hopes and the dreams of our kids? What if we be-"I mean, I truly believe that the

kids sitting in our clubs, eating our meals, finishing their homework, discovering their talents, recovering from trauma, and practicing their leadership are not a charity case but a strategic priority and a moral imperative," Payne said.

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Smith River Singers to present holiday concert Dec. 15

The Smith River Singers will present "Merry & Bright: The Gift of Presence, the Pure Joy of Music" at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A L Philpott Hwy. in Martinsville. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

The concert, featuring the select ensemble Still Water, will be performed under the direction of Dr. Pamela Randall with accompaniment by pianist Beth Chapman, along with strings and percussion. Admission is free, and an offering will be

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Bassett Community Center receives grant for facility remediation

By Taylor Boyd

The Bassett Community Center was awarded a \$145,000 subgrant to support continued environmental remediation by removing asbestos and lead-based materials throughout the remainder of the Blackberry Road facility The grant was through the Piedmont Triad

Regional Development Corporation (PTRDC) through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF). All remediation will be conducted under En-

vironmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversight and in accordance with environmental and safety regulations. Remediation work is expected to continue

into 2026.

Originally opened in 1958, the center closed in 2019 after changing hands and when operation costs became too great. It's currently owned by Bassett Community Center, Inc., a non-profit organization. According to a Nov. 19 press release from the

center, the grant builds on the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Brownfields Assistant Fund grant for initial abatement work that was received earlier this "Together these investments mark a major

step in protecting community health and restoring the center toward reopening," the release states. The center also recently completed a \$35,0000

market and feasibility study that was funded

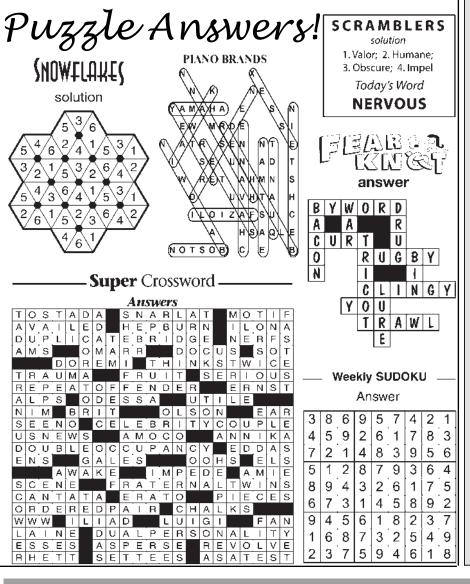
by the VDEQ technical assistance grant.

"The study was undertaken to evaluate the viability of reopening the facility and guide the next phase of redevelopment and programming," the release states.

Bassett Community Center Board of Trustees President Rebekah Morgan said the grant allows the organization to complete the critical cleanup work that began earlier this year.

'We're deeply grateful to PTRDC, the EPA, VDEQ, and our regional partners for their continued support and partnership. Their commitment is helping us create a safer and stronger community," Morgan said.

For more information about the center, email bassettcommunitycneter@gmail.com or visit Facebook.com/BassettCommunityCenter.



Sports Schedule The following are the dates and times of local

high school teams and their games for the week of December 8-13:

		Decem
12/8	6pm	Girls Basketball
	7pm	Girls Basketball
	7pm	Girls Basketball
	7pm	Boys Basketball
	7pm	Boys Basketball
12/9	4pm	Girls Basketball
	5pm	Swim & Dive
	5pm	Swim & Dive
	6pm	Wrestling
	7pm	Girls Basketball
12/10	5pm	Wrestling
	$5:30 \mathrm{pm}$	Boys Basketball
	7pm	Girls Basketball
	7pm	Boys Basketball
	7pm	Boys Basketball
12/11	6:30pm	Boys Basketball
	7pm	Girls Basketball
	7pm	Boys Basketball
12/13	9am	Wrestling
	0.20am	Wrogtling

9:30am Wrestling

Girls Basketball 5pm Boys Basketball 5pm

Patrick County at Bassett Rockingham County at Magna Vista Bassett at Patrick County

Reidsville at Martinsville

Magna Vista at Rockingham County Carlisle at Revolution Academy

Bassett at Hargrave Military Magna Vista at Hargrave Military

Academy Bassett - Match at Bassett

Carroll County at Magna Vista Magna Vista - Match at

Mecklenburg County Millennium at Carlisle Bassett at Franklin County Franklin County at Bassett McMichael at Magna Vista

Eastern Mennonite at Carlisle Magna Vista at Martinsville Martinsville at Magna Vista Bassett at Tunstall Magna Vista – Match at Alleghany

Bassett at Martinsville Bassett at Martinsville

(Martinsville MS)

County

Crossing the Lines

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

Fire shutters coming to DMV to meet state rules



Building Inspector Jason Brown and DMV Select Manager Diana Belcher said the project will improve the DMV's workspace and the building's safety.

Fire shutters will be installed at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Select inside the Patrick County Administration Building in early 2026 to comply with Virginia Fire Marshal's Office regulations.

During a walkthrough with a fire marshal earlier this year, Building Inspector Jason Brown said the shutters were among the key items that needed attention.

"We were able to deal with the others; it was some housekeeping items, but (fire shutters) was one of the items that he did point out that we did need to address," he said.

While failure to fix the issue won't result in an immediate fine, Brown said a notice to comply would be issued and could escalate from there.

'That's one thing that the county never wants to find itself in is on the opposite side of the State Fire Marshal's Office," Brown said. "We don't want to be there, so we'll do everything we can to get into compliance with them, and this is actually a very doable and fairly easy fix. It will also benefit the employees of the DMV,

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved \$27,000 for the project in November.

Virginia State Police warn of spoofed calls demanding payment

The Virginia State Police are warning the public about spoofed phone calls that appear to come from law enforcement agencies and claim that recipients will be arrested if they do not pay a specified amount of money.

The agency said it has received reports that its own number — 276-375-9500 — is being used to make fraudulent calls demanding payment and threatening arrest.

The state police emphasized that they do not collect money in any form for the court system

or for fines. The VSP offered the following tips if you re-

ceive such a call:

1. Hang up and independently look up the agency's number in a phone book or online before calling back. Scammers will try to keep you on the phone to prevent this. 2. Do not be intimidated by threats that the

longer you wait to pay, the more you will owe. They are not coming to arrest you.

- 3. Do not provide account numbers or purchase gift cards or prepaid cards as instructed. Courts and police do not conduct business this
- 4. Stay calm. Scammers rely on panic to pressure you into paying before you have time to think.

Wesley Tatum's family to lead annual Christmas Parade



The 53rd annual Patrick County Christmas Parade will usher in the holiday season at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Hosted by One Family Productions and the Town of Stuart, the parade will feature the family of Wesley Tatum as grand marshals under this year's theme, "Magic of the Season," said Chris Prutting, executive director of One Family Productions.

The 53rd annual Patrick County Christmas Parade will usher in the holiday season at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Hosted by One Family Productions and the Town of Stuart, the parade will feature the family of Wesley Tatum as grand marshals under this year's theme, "Magic of the Season," said Chris Prutting, executive director of One Family Productions.

"Wesley always, for years, put together that wonderful Christmas display that was free for the whole community to come out and watch. We really felt like that was the embodiment of the 'Magic of the Season,' because that was definitely magical for a lot of families in and around Patrick County," Prutting said.

Tatum, who died in August, was known for Tatum's Christmas light displays, musically synced shows on Avers Orchard Road that were available for all to view.

"You would park basically in their front yard, and he would have a radio station he would tune in, and they would play a few songs that were synced to their lights so it would always be this big light display. He would start real early, getting all these lights together. Then, unfortunately, when he started developing his illness, it just wasn't able to happen," Prutting said.

Past light displays can be viewed on YouTube.

Prutting said those wishing to be in the parade can sign up until the day of the event. The cost is \$25.

Lineup for participants begins at noon on Wood Brothers Drive in Stuart, with all entrants in position by 1:15 p.m.

"We give out a couple of awards, like for best in parade, spirit of the season, and stuff like that, every year. So that way around 1:15 p.m., judges

will go around and do that before the parade kicks off at 2 p.m.," he said.

The parade will travel down Blue Ridge Street, turn onto Stuart's Main Street, and continue into the downtown area before ending on Commerce Street.

Prutting estimates more than 50 participants are currently registered. "Usually, we average anywhere from 150 to 200 when it's all said and done," he said.

The parade will also be broadcast live on WHEO, with Prutting and Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and Stuart Town Council member Rebecca Adcock serving as emcees.

In the event of rain, the parade will be postponed to the following day with the same start time. Prutting said the final decision will be made no later than the morning of Saturday, Dec. 6.

'Hunger doesn't have boundaries,' say Patrick Springs food ministers

"Hunger doesn't have boundaries. It doesn't matter where you're from; if you're hungry, we've got food," said Larry Martin, co-overseer of the Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church Food Ministry.

"Really, nobody in Patrick County or the surrounding area should be going hungry," he added.

The ministry, which began in the late 2000s as a bread program, moved into its current building next to the church in 2011.

"When we moved out here, we started picking up and slowly adding to our food that we give away. What we have today is a thriving food ministry because we've been richly blessed. We do not distinguish from one county to the next or one state from the next," said Teresa Martin, Larry's wife and co-overseer of the food ministry.

The ministry distributes food on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:30-5 p.m. It receives donations from Feeding America Southwest Virginia, God's Pit Crew,¬ a Danville-based nonprofit, along with local businesses. It also partners with the Patrick County Food Bank.

The Martins said the number of people using the ministry has risen sharply in recent months. Teresa Martin said 2,278 people were served in October, up from 1,956 in September — "now that is the whole household, like mother, father, kids," and 379 more than in August.

She attributes the increase to the temporary halting of SNAP benefits in October and higher grocery costs. "The average family of four really struggles between buying their groceries, their gas, and everything else they have to



The Food Ministry offers a variety of fresh produce and other perishable goods.

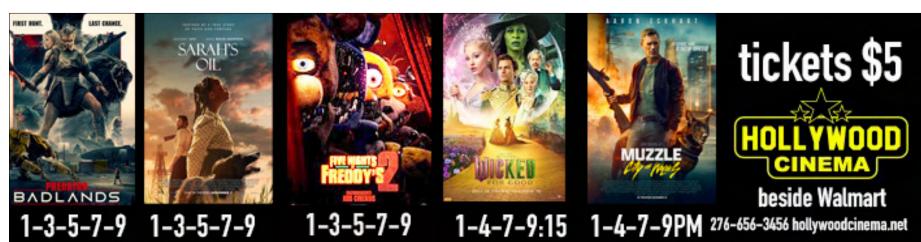
pay for. It's really sad," she said.

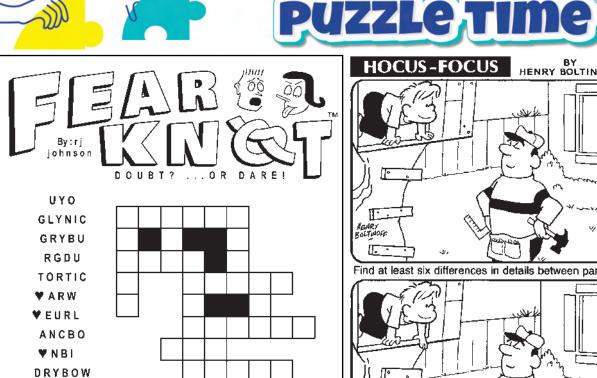
Because of the still increased need, the ministry is also holding a food drive through Dec. 7 for monetary donations, nonperishable items, and paper products. Items can be left outside the church, or checks can be mailed to Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church Food Ministry, P.O. Box 55, 260 Spring Road, Patrick Springs, Va.

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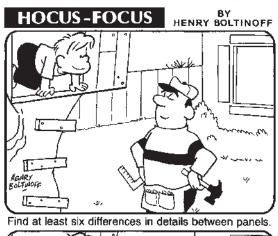
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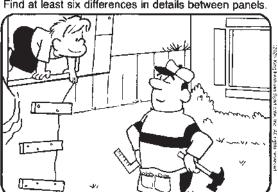




Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (🖤) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down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

and black-





6. Hand is moved. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider, 5. Cap is different. ediw se iou si esnoueeu i z degaoi si aemmen i i isebuelenini





MAGIC MAZE

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WUSNILOIZAFSURC

EDNOTSOBBCAEYXB

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unfisted clue hint: STEINWAY &

POMLOJAIGHSAQLE

Baldwin Bechstein Bluthner

Chavanne Dresden Eastman

Estev Fazioli Hausmann

Quandt Sauter Yamaha

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Super Crossword ONE AND THE SAME

ACROSS 1 Enchilada alternative

WATLR

TCRU

- 8 Threaten like a mad dog 15 Recurring design 20 Proved to be beneficial to 21 Audrey of
- "Sabrina" 22 "Magiç Bites" author Andrews 23 (Span) [Span] 25 Some spongy
- 26 Morning times, in brief 27 Astrologer Sydney
- 28 Films based on reportage. for short 30 Heavy drinker 31 Musical scale 33 (Cogitates)
- [Cogitates] 36 Severe shock 39 Pear or lime 41 Somber 42 (Criminal) [Criminal]
- 46 Surrealist

37

20

59

100

105

118

- painter Max 48 Ukraine city benefit
- 47 Swiss peaks 49 Having some

- 82 Not asleep 84 Obstruct 87 Parisian gal pal 88 Setting
- 91 (Brotherly) [Brotherly] 95 Bach choral composition 98 Poets' Muse 99 Pie portions 100 [Dictated] [Dictated]
- London, say boards 105 Follower of 54 Old-time TV announcer "http://" 106 Greek epic 56 Spike of corn about Troy 107 Mario's video 59 "I - reason 61 [Star] [Star] 108 Real devotee 67 Reportage 111 Jazz singer on American Cleo 113 [Character]
- events 69 Gas station brand 70 Golf great Sörenstam 71 [Residence] [Residence] 76 Old Icelandic

logic game 53 Lad from

Johnny

- 122 Foyer sofas poetry books 77 Coast Guard 123 For the purpose of officer: Abbr. 78 Strong winds diagnosing 79 — and aahs 81 Raised trains DOWN
 - 1 "And there it is!" 2 Egg. formally 3 Drains energy from 4 Up to, in ads
 - 5 Longtime foe of Frazier 6 Interior designer, e.g. 7 There Is Nothin' Like -

- 52 Pick-up-sticks 102 Accessories 8 County for due sticks officers 9 State east of Wyo. 10 Mo. before May 11 Slugging stat 12 Avoider of

 - [Character] 15 Singer of lyric 118 Snaky curves poetry 16 Chileán cheer 119 Attack the 17 Process of integrity of 120 Go in circles being twisted 18 Not blurry, as 121 Butler played by Gable an image
 - 19 Most rapid 24 Scottish cap 29 Purpose 31 Club fees 32 German for "grandma" 33 Sushi fish

high-tech

13 Element #18

14 High, tight

sweater

collars, briefly

- 35 Metallic string 36 Ooze through 37 Trusts in 38 Option lists for e-device downloads
- 64 Conk
- 34 Concealed
- screen 43 Like poems of praise 44 Lavish party

45 Oxidation **Jormation** 50 Mattel product

85 Came upon

speechless

88 Giver of an

angry look 89 Place to take

90 How sausage

connected

a situation

links are

92 Adjust to

again

94 "- ToK"

96 Phone no.

97 Nike rival

101 Intermission

103 That fellow's

107 - majesty

109 Off-road

112 Insect

117 Large

trapper

115 Start for teen

116 Film director

number

DuVernay

or adolescent

108 Manicure tool

Greek market

(high treason)

trucks, briefly 110 No, in Russia

104 Ancient

93 Bush press

secretary

Fleischer

(Kesha hit)

a dirty vehicle

86 Obtains

87 Leaves

- 51 Old Cuzco native 53 Play tenpins 54 Bicolor whale 55 Roarer in Oz 56 Uncontrolled outbreak 57 Having a pH over 7
- 58 Appraise again 60 Bird's beak 62 Wedding veil material 63 Very big birds
- 65 Low bills 66 Linking word in German 68 Former rival of Nintendo 72 Sturdy wood
- 73 Symbol on a musical staff 74 Either director of "Fargo" 75 Jedi master 80 They're
- called to get assistance 82 Pot payment 83 Most fatiqued -Tass

50

102 103 104

120

SCRAMBLERS

By Lucie Winborne

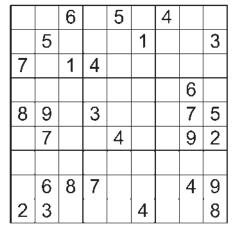
- · America's first dentist, John Baker, trained Paul Revere to be a dentist.
- · A German word for nightmare is "alptraum," or "elf dream." In German folklore, elves were dangerous figures who could control dreams and create nightmares.
- · Canadians eat more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.
- No matter how badly fingerprints are damaged, they will still grow back in their original pattern.
- · Eggnog originated from the medieval hot, milky ale-like drink known as a posset.
- The band name Imagine Dragons is an anagram. Lead singer Dan Reynolds described it as a "phrase that meant something to all of us," but the group has yet to confirm what that is.
- Though dragonflies have six legs, they cannot walk.
- · Ancient pagan cultures such as the Celts believed that benevolent, helpful spirits lived in trees. Knocking on tree trunks roused a spirit for protection, which led to the saying "knock on
- · Sea otters have the thickest fur of any mammal, at 1 million hairs per square inch.
- The Muppet vampire Count von Count, from "Sesame Street," was based on actual vampire myth. One way to supposedly deter the bloodsucking creatures is to throw seeds outside a door. Vampires are compelled to count the seeds, delaying them until morning.
- In 1951, Sir Hugh Beaver, the managing director of Guinness Brewery, got into a spat with someone over the world's fastest game bird. When the pair couldn't locate an answer in a book, Beaver had the idea of writing one that would solve pub arguments.

• The sun weighs 2,000 million million million million tons.

Thought for the Day: "The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." — Albert Einstein

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Weekly **SUDOKU**



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.

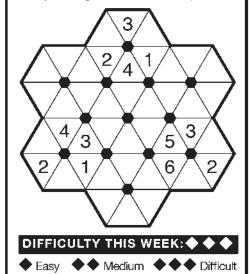
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

 Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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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.



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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

62 63 64

101

119

106

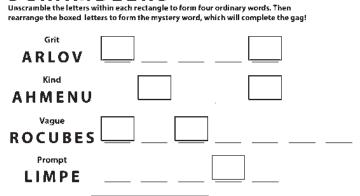


Features Syndicate. Inc. All r ghts reser

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"The vet says he's a very



TODAY'S WORD

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This week, we continued sharing expressions

of gratitude and learning what our school com-

munity is most thankful for this Thanksgiving

season. Although our school week was only two

short days, our 7th-grade SCA homeroom re-

porters Katie Wall, Shaurya Mahajan, Jade Holland-Dallas, and KaZairah Adkins,

along with 6th-grade reporters Adelaide

Brent, Semaiya Craighead, Emery Taylor,

and Miriam Carter, took time to interview

teachers and students about what thankfulness

What are you most thankful for this Thanks-

• Gabriel Soto-Mata: "My friends, family,

• Christian Newsome: "Sabrina Carpenter,

•Holden Hylton: "Sleep, food, my house,

•Mr. Carter: "God, family, and my students."

• Kyndall Gravely: "Our school lunches,

family, friends, and TV. Ability to work, all

• Rosa Hernandes: "Being with family, food,

•Yetzael Ramos-Tellez: "Food, family, and

four arms and legs, ten fingers, and toes." •Ms. Draper: "Sanity and peace of mind."

•Aiden Boaz: "My family and my dog."

• Estrella: "My family and friends."

Olivia Rodrigo, music, friends, and family."

Below are the responses they collected:

girlfriend, and teachers."

friends, and bananas."

•Miriah: "My Mama."

Bulldog Beat

• **JyCere Moorman:** "My dog and the sky." •Ms. Williamson: "God, life, and strength."

• Zion Powell: "My girlfriend Michelle." • DeMauri Clark: "My glorious Mother."

•Ms. Pendry: "My loving family."

•Ms. Fletcher: "My grandchildren."

• JaShaun Richardson: "Food."

volleyball."

•Brian Aldridge: "My family." • Jasmin Nolasco: "Friends, Mom, Dad, and

• Riley Moore: "For my family, and all of the people who cooked the food, and being able to be with my family."

•Mercy Moore: "Family, friends, siblings, and most of all, food."

•Ms. Norman: "Family, children, and having the ability to give to others."

• Raina Womack: "Jesus, my family, friends, home, food, school, and my hair."

• Makayla: "My family." •Aubree Carter: "God, my family, friends,

food, shelter, social life, education, and my teachers."

•Ms. Espinoza: "My family."

•Safaari Manns: "Spiderman the hero."

•Samuel: "My family."

• Coach Hutchens: "My family."

•Ms. Villasenor: "Life, strength, and health." •Semaiya Craighead: "God, life, family, and

food." • Kavany Flores: "That my sister is safe in college.'

•Ms. Millner: "My relationship with God."

•Adelaide Brent: "Food, family, pie, and friends."

·Souliana Walker: "Friends and family."

• Sophia Odberg: "Friends and food." •Mr. Dillard: "My family and my health."

•Brazen Bradner: "My family, food, ham, and mashed potatoes."

• Mrs. Woody: "Jesus, being born in America, and being able to come to Martinsville Middle School every day to teach amazing students."

• Katie Wall: "God, family, friends, food, volleyball, Mom, and Dad."

• Kenneth Lucas: "Family, Aubree, food, and Mrs. Woody.

•Ms. Hoffman: "Family, friends, students, pets, good books, music, and being a teacher

at Martinsville Middle School." • Mrs. Talley: "Life, family, and friends."

•Ms. Clemons: "Spending time with family and friends."

•Brooklyn DeShazo: "Spending time with my family. • Jackson Branch: "Getting to eat good food

and see my family."

• Jessie: "Food and Thanksgiving break!"

•Mr. Lynn: "Getting to be with my family." •Ms. Anderson: "Family, friends, and food."

Next week, we will return to our regular schedule of weekly learning reports and sports updates. We are thankful for all of our reporters, interview participants, and readers who make the Bulldog Beat such a positive part of our school community!

Martinsville

and seeing distant relatives."

(cont. from page 1)

soccer."

means to them.



Kozelsky said that the historical society was



George Harrison (from left, by the tree), Jingle Fulcher, S.T. Fulcher, and Evelyn Stultz hand out gifts to local children in front of the Pythian Christmas Tree.

pleased to be able to offer the spot for the tree. It seemed like a continuation of a courthouse Christmas tree tradition dating back to 1916. Also, having the impressive Christmas tree lit

during the North Pole Jingle echoes the uptown Christmas celebrations, which were attended by thousands of residents each year during the 1900s. It was the Elks who started the tradition of

a town Christmas tree on the front lawn of the courthouse, and giving out gifts at that tree on Christmas Day. The Elks' first tree was in 1916, with gifts to 175 children, and by 1921, the Elks' last year with it, they provided gifts for 1,000 Then the Christmas tree and gift tradition

was taken over by the Knights of Pythias, whose headquarters were in the Pythian Building just across Jones Street from the courthouse. The tree was usually erected on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve and remained standing until mid or late January. S.T. Fulcher said that in the program's hev-

day, Abe Globman, the department store owner, offered to the Pythians all the toys that had not sold by Christmas Eve. His son and son-in-law, "Leon Globman and Dan Greene also were big contributors," Fulcher said. Madison Aliff of Martinsville Produce offered all the nuts, fruits, and candy left over on Christmas Eve as well. Fulcher recalled Charlie Pinkard, Albert Stultz, Johnny Mize, Roger Love, Sue Love, and Jame Mize picking up all the donations. At 2 or 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, Pythians

and their wives and other volunteers distributed gifts, fruits, nuts, and candies to between 1,000 and 1,500 children at their decorated tree. Usually, that was on the lawn of the Henry County Courthouse (now the MHC Heritage Museum); the courthouse block was known as "Public Square" and was the center of community life. When the weather was bad, it would be held in other locations, such as at the Banner Ware-As the business atmosphere changed from lo-

cally owned stores to many large chain stores, there were fewer and fewer donations of toys. By 1983, the tree's final year, \$2,000 was

raised annually for the Peter S. Ford Memorial Christmas Tree Fund. During the mid-1900s, the local shopping sea-

son was kicked off in dramatic fashion when

crowds of thousands came to Public Square (the courtyard of the courthouse) to see Santa Claus, amidst great fanfare. Santa's visit to Public Square in 1949 brought the estimated largest crowd ever assembled

there, between 8,000 and 10,000 people. Santa Claus arrived on an airplane that circled Martinsville three or four times. That was the official opening of Martinsville's Christmas season; Mayor Nick Prillaman turned on the city's Christmas street lights, and the merchants unveiled their Christmas window displays for the

first time as the plane circled. Then it landed

at Lester airport (where Liberty Fair shopping center is now). The Martinsville High School Band played "Here Comes Santa Claus" as he got off the plane. A fire truck carried Santa to Public Square in a slow-moving parade in which the band kept playing. At Public Square, Santa climbed the fire truck's ladder, which was then raised so that everyone could see him wave. Most stores set Christmas shopping hours as open until 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, and also Friday, Dec. 23, and on Christmas Eve, merchants would remain open for as long as they pleased. Stores normally closed at 5:30 p.m., but in the week before Christmas, they would stay open until 6 p.m.

The next year, Santa Claus flew to Chicago, Washington, and Danville before arriving in Martinsville. An estimated 6,000 to 7,000 people joined the Christmas festivities downtown, and the Fayette Street parking lot was jam-packed with children seeing Santa Claus. He was picked up in Martinsville by a city fire truck, which took him to the waiting crowds. He was lifted 30 feet into the air to wave at the children, and several children were hoisted above the truck to speak with him. Mayor J. Robert Walker welcomed Santa to the city. The Martinsville High School band played, and Paul Zimmerman and his orchestra also performed. All Christmas lights downtown were turned on at 6 p.m.

Santa continued flying into Martinsville regularly for the big Christmas season kickoffs. In 1960, for example, Santa Claus telegraphed his plans to Martinsville Retail Merchants Association President Jimmy Paris. He told Paris that he would board a plane in Nome, Alaska, and fly to Martinsville, where he would ride on a float in the parade. The last line of the Western Union telegraph was, "Tell all the children to make their mamas and papas bring them to see me. This should be the biggest Christmas Ever = Santa Claus =". This year, Santa Claus will make a calm en-

trance to the North Pole Jingle's Holidays at the Market. That will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday at the farmers' market. Local vendors will have handmade and specialty items for sale. There will be games, crafts, and face-painting. The MHC Heritage Museum on Public Square

From 1916 until 1982, an enormous, decorated Christmas tree in front of the Henry County courthouse was the scene of community gift-giving. The tradition of a decorated tree there continued even after the gift program stopped. This year will be the time in many years that a huge, decorated tree will be back in that location, this time, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

will be open until 7 p.m.

Many local businesses will be open late, with several offering activities and refreshments. They include: Almost Anything Flea Market & Thrift, free candy canes; BluTattoo Studio, coloring sheets and cookies; Fido's Finds, Christmas cookies; Glitzy Mermaidz, a kids' activity; Phoenix Karate, a 4-minute demonstration and kids' activity; Southern Seasons, free flamingo brooch for the first 50 customers; and many with specialty activities and crafts from \$2 to \$5, and others with free gift wrapping of purchases.

Keep warmth in and cold out: Take steps to get homes winter-ready The East Coast's first cold snap of the season a homeowner's largest asset," said Kim Price,

brought freeze warnings across Virginia and served as a timely reminder for homeowners to prepare for the coming winter. It may still be fall, but more cold weather is on

its way. According to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, the most common winter-related property destruction includes roof damage or collapse from snow, ice or sleet, and water damage from burst frozen pipes or ice

"Extreme temperatures can wreak havoc on

farm and field underwriting manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "From a claims perspective, we see this in the form of frozen pipes and damage to roofs from the ele-When prepping a house for winter, prevent

frozen or burst pipes in attics, basements, crawl spaces and other minimally heated areas by wrapping them in pipe insulation. Keep cold air outside, and increase energy efficiency by

(See Warmth p. 11)



Notice of Public Hearing The City of Martinsville Planning Commission will hold a public

hearing on December 17, 2025, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:
1) REQUEST for ALLEYWAY ABANDONMENT - Applica-

tion of Cody Williams, requesting the city's abandonment of an approximate sixteen (16) foot alleyway that is adjacent to property located at 209 Cleveland Avenue (Tax Map #: 43(02)B/A). The abandonment of streets, alleyways, or rights-of-way are a request that require review of the Martinsville Planning Commission and review and approval of Martinsville City Council. Questions or comments regarding this matter can be directed to Han-

nah Powell at hpowell@martinsvilleva.gov Notice Submitted By:

Hannah L. Powell, CZA

Community Development Specialist

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 **December 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings. 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 1-2. 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Pursuant to Virginia ode §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Martins-

ville City Council will hold a public hearing on December 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Martinsville City Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. The purpose of the public hearing shall be to hear public comment regarding the following ordinance: ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY **BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is necessary to amend certain revenue and expenditure items to properly account for additional funding and operational needs;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL

OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA: The City of Martinsville's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget be, and here-

by is, amended as follows: • The Fiscal Year 2025-26 E-911 expenditure budget shall be

increased in the amount of Seventeen Thousand, Three Hundred, and Twelve Dollars (\$17,312.00) from the City General Fund. Funds are hereby appropriated in accordance with the above-described This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Date of Adoption: Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Nay <u>Aye</u>

Abstain <u>Absent</u>

ATTEST: Deputy City Clerk

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed ordinance. Those seeking further information are invited to contact the City Manager's office. 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, Telephone: 276-403-5000

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

CASE NO.: CA25-12

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA GABRIELA ELIZABETH MARTINEZ

CLAROS A MINOR CHILD, BORN

APRIL 11, 2016, (BIRTH CERTIFICATE LOCAL NO. #201600002090

REGISTERED IN NORTH CAROLINA):

JOSE CRUZ LOVO TELLES AND DILMA MARTINEZ CLAROS.

JOINT PETITIONERS. The object of the above-styled suit is to consider a Petition for Step-Parent Adoption of Gabriela Elizabeth

Martinez Claros by the Petitioners, Jose Cruz Lovo Telles and Dilma Martinez Claros. It appearing by Affidavit filed according to law that unknown father of the child sought to be adopted, cannot be identified and therefore cannot be found for the purpose of servicing him with notice of the petition, which is the subject of this suit. It is therefore ORDERED that the said unknown father appear on or before January 9, 2026, at 10:00

a.m. in the Circuit Court of Henry County, 3160 Kings Mountain Road, Third Floor, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, and at a hearing wherein the Court will consider the above petition and do what is necessary to protect his interests; and It is further ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the

Henry County Enterprise, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Martinsville and Henry County; that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the courthouse wherein this court is held, Enter this 24th day of November, 2025

Henry County Circuit Court

Requested By:

Roxanne S. Reeves (VSB No. 88566) GARDNER, BARROW & SHARPE, P.C. 4th Floor Fidelity Bank Building 231 East Church Street Martinsville, Virginia 24112 Telephone: (276) 638-2455 Fax: (276) 638-2458 Email: roxanne@ggbslawfirm.com Counsel for Petitioners

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing on December 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Martinsville City Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. The purpose of the public hearing shall be to hear public comment regarding the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2025-18

ORDINANCE AMENDING REFUSE FEES

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City's Refuse Collection Fee.

WHEREAS, increased operating costs incurred by First Piedmont Corporation, including but not limited to fuel, labor, equipment, and disposal expenses, have resulted in higher service delivery costs to the City; and WHEREAS, the proposed adjustment to the Refuse Collection Fee is necessary to maintain continued, reli-

able solid waste collection services and to ensure the fiscal integrity of the City's sanitation operations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, that Section 18-24 (a) Collection charges and Section 18-24 (b) Landfill charges of the Code of the City of Martinsville, be, and hereby are, amended to read as follows: Sec. 18-24. Fee schedule.

(a) Collection charges:

Businesses not currently using dumpsters (for two (2) pickups per week), per month. - \$40.40 This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed ordinance. Those seek-

ing further information are invited to contact the City Manager's office. 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, Telephone: 276-403-5000

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY IN RE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A

WILL AND INTER VIVOS TRUST OF GEARY LEE SMITH, DECEASED EVERBLESS FOUNDATION, A VIRGINIA CORPORATION, ET AL. PLAINTIFFS,

RICHARD K HALL, ET ALS.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION CASE NO.: CL25-1643

DEFENDANTS. This day came the Plaintiffs, EverBless Foundation, a Virginia Corporation et al., upon Plaintiffs' request

for an Order of Publication pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §8.01-316; and upon the presentation of this Order UPON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF it appearing to the Court that:

1. Plaintiffs have filed a Complaint to Establish a Will and Inter Vivos Trust of Geary Lee Smith, deceased (hereinafter the Decedent), in this Court. 2. Plaintiffs seek an Order of Publication to effect service of process for a) those Defendants whom

Plaintiffs possess a last-known address, but despite such, personal service could not be obtained, b) those Defendants for whom Plaintiffs have no known address and cannot attempt personal service, c) unknown heirs of deceased named beneficiaries, c) unknown trustees of a cemetery trust and unknown officers or trustees of a volunteer fire department and e) Defendants John Doe and Jane Doe who represent unknown intestate heirs of the Decedent, all of whom are parties in interest and who are "parties unknown", pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §8.01-316 (A) (2).

I. DEFENDANTS WITH KNOWN ADDRESSES FOR WHOM SERVICE OF PROCESS COULD

NOT BE OBTAINED

3. Defendants identified below are interested parties in this action for whom Plaintiffs obtained a last known address but, such notwithstanding, personal service of process could <u>not</u> be effected on such Defendants:

CARA YOWELL - LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

2074 STONES DAIRY RD. BASSETT, VA 24055 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

KAREN KISER SMITH 1108 KNOLLWOOD PL MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112 DONALD WAYNE INGRAM -LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

525 FRANKLIN HEIGHTS RD. BASSETT, VA 24055 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: DONNIE INGRAM 525 FRANKLIN HEIGHTS RD

BASSETT, VA 24055 ELIZABETH H. EDWARDS -LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 2316 TRENT HILL DR

BASSETT, VA 24055 **BOBBY SMITH** LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 609 DILLON FORK RD BASSETT, VA 24055

DAVID A. SMITH LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 19291 VIRGIL GOODE HWY ROCKY MOUNT, VA 24151

LORRIE CLARK A/K/A LORI ANN DODSON -LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 364 SMITH ROAD BASSETT, VA 24055

4. Such Defendants need to be served by Order of Publication. II. DEFENDANTS WITH NO ADDRESSES

5. Defendants identified below are interested parties in this action for whom Plaintiffs could not obtain an address despite due diligence:

CLARICE SMITH DEHART JEFF SMITH A/K/A JEFFREY THOMAS SMITH

DAVID GOODMAN

ETHAN EDWARDS LARRY DOUGLAS SMITH LIZ LUTKWITTE

Such Defendants need to be served by Order of Publication.

III. UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF $\emph{DECEASED}$ NAMED BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE JUNE 12, 2013, WILL 7. Unknown Defendants identified below are interested parties to this action because they are the heirs of

deceased named beneficiaries under the June 12, 2013, will: HEIRS OF BETTY SUE LAPLANT, DECEASED

HEIRS OF GLORIA GOODMAN, DECEASED HEIRS OF JAMES C. SMITH, DECEASED HEIRS OF ANN SMITH, DECEASED

HEIRS OF GLORIA GOODMAN, DECEASED HEIRS OF LAWRENCE ELDEAN MOORE, DECEASED

8. Plaintiffs were unable to identify such interested parties and obtain an address for such parties despite due diligence. 9. Such Defendants need to be served by Order of Publication.

IV. UNKNOWN TRUSTEES OF THE BLACKBERRY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY FUND AND UNKNOWN OFFICERS OR TRUSTEES OF SANVILLE VOLUNTARY FIRE

10. The Blackberry Baptist Church Cemetery Fund and The Sanville Voluntary Fire Department are interested parties.

11. Plaintiffs have not been able to identify the trustees of the Blackberry Baptist Church Cemetery Fund or the officers or trustees of the Sanville Voluntary Fire Department.

12. Such Defendants need to be served by Order of Publication.

V. UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO ARE THE INTESTATE HEIRS OF THE DECEDENT 13. If this Court determines that the Decedent died intestate, his real and personal property would pass to

those persons set forth in Va. Code Ann. §64.2-200 (Virginia's law of intestate succession). 14. Plaintiffs have no knowledge of the identity of the Decedent's intestate heirs and have named Defendants John Doe and Jane Doe to represent such persons.

15. John Doe and Jane Doe are interested parties to this proceeding.

16. Such Defendants need to be served by Order of Publication. UPON FURTHER CONSIDERATION WHEREOF it appearing to the Court that:

1. Plaintiff's counsel has submitted an affidavit detailing efforts made to identify interested parties to this

litigation including named beneficiaries, heirs of deceased named beneficiaries, and heirs of the Decedent, and their respective addresses. 2. Plaintiffs have requested that service be effected on all of the above-referenced Defendants, known and

unknown, by publication in accordance with Virginia Code Ann. §8.01-316.

3. Pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §8.01-316, when a party or parties to a legal action cannot be identified or

cannot be located after due diligence, the Court may order service by publication. 4. Plaintiffs have demonstrated compliance with the statutory requirements, including the submission of

an affidavit detailing the efforts made to identify and locate such Defendants . It is therefore ORDERED that service of process by publication shall be made upon the Defendants identified above in this Order, including John Doe and Jane Doe, who represent the unknown parties in

this proceeding; and It is further ORDERED that such publication shall be made in the Henry County Enterprise, a newspaper

of general circulation in Henry County, Virginia, to be published once a week for four consecutive weeks; and It is further ORDERED that such publication shall include the language set forth in an Addendum to this Order entitled "TEXT OF PUBLICATION" which is attached to and incorporated into this Order, to

include the name of this Court, the abbreviated case style of this case, the case number of this case, a brief statement of the object of the suit, a notice to the named Defendants for whom personal service of process

could not be effected and all Defendants who could not be identified; that they may appear and defend their interests at a hearing before this Court on February 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., and It is further ORDERED that Plaintiffs shall file proof of publication with the Court upon completion of

to facilitate the publication. The Clerk of this Court is further directed to send an executed copy of this Order to counsel for Plaintiffs. Entered on December 01, 2025.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to ensure compliance with this Order and to take all necessary steps

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the publication process.

Updated property reassessments to be mailed in January

The Henry County Commissioner of Revenue's Office will begin mailing out the 2026 real estate reassessment notices to property owners beginning on January 5. The notices reflect updated property values established through the county's general reassessment, which was conducted over the past two years in accordance with state law.

Commissioner of the Revenue Tiffany Hairston said the reassessment ensures property values are fair and accurate across the county. The last general reassessment took place in 2019, and property values have changed significantly since then.

"Reassessment is not a tax increase. It is a fairness measure," Hairston said. "Our goal is to make sure every property is assessed based on its current market value so that taxes are distributed equitably. We know people have questions when values change, and our office is ready to answer them and help property owners understand how the process works."

Across Henry County, the total assessed value of all real estate rose from \$3.8 billion in 2019 to \$5.45 billion in 2026, an overall increase of about 44 percent. Residential properties increased by roughly 66 percent, while commercial properties increased by about 42 percent.

Hairston emphasized that reassessment values are determined using certified appraisal methods, verified sales data, and property infor-

mation such as building permits and condition reports. Adjustments were made for factors like depreciation and other indicators that showed a measurable effect on value.

By law, reassessments are not intended to generate revenue. The process brings property values in line with fair market conditions, while the Henry County Board of Supervisors will set the tax rate in the spring of 2026 as part of the 2026–2027 budget. The current rate is \$0.555 per \$100 of assessed value, and the board has expressed its intent to lower that rate to help offset the impact of changing values.

Board Chair Jim Adams said the board understands that residents may be concerned when they see higher values, but the reassessment does not automatically mean a higher tax bill.

"The board is committed to reducing the rate during the upcoming budget process," he said. "Our focus is on maintaining fairness and fiscal responsibility while continuing to provide the services our residents depend on."

Every property owner has the right to review and appeal their reassessment if they believe their value is inaccurate. Appeal hearings with the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office will take place in February, followed by Board of Equalization hearings in April. Property owners may present documentation such as appraisals, photographs, or comparable sales to support their appeal.



The Commissioner of the Revenue's office.

We want residents to know they have a voice in this process," Hairston said. "If someone believes their property is not valued correctly, we encourage them to file an appeal. The reassessment process is designed to be open, fair, and transparent."

Notices will include instructions on how to review your assessment and how to file an appeal if necessary. Additional information, including frequently asked questions, will be available on the County website at www.henrycountyva. gov/reassessment or by contacting the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at (276) 634-4610 or cor@henrycountyva.gov.

Medical professionals urged to take jobs in rural Virginia



More than 40% of Virginia neighborhoods lack adequate access to primary care physicians. (Adobe Stock)

By Zamone Perez Virginia News Connection

Rural health care advocates are using Rural Health Day, marked on Nov. 20, to highlight challenges facing rural hospitals and medical centers in Virginia.

Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University found more than 40 percent of neighborhoods in the state lack adequate access to primary care physicians, primarily in rural areas.

Beth O'Connor, executive director of the Virginia Rural Health Association, said issues like the costs of attending medical

school mean future doctors often look for higher paying jobs in urban areas, making it more challenging to bring people from urban areas to rural

"Sometimes you can get a kid from an urban area to go to a rural area," O'Connor observed. "But it's much easier to get a student from Grundy to go back to Grundy, than it is to try to recruit a kid from Alexandria to go to Grundy."

O'Connor added concerns about broadband access and commute times can push people toward urban medical settings, rather than rural ones.

Rural hospitals also face a potential funding crisis in the face of Medicaid cuts. One analysis from University of North Carolina researchers found at least six Commonwealth hospitals would be pushed to operating on deficits, increasing risks of closures. O'Connor added that rural hospitals often operate on very thin margins, as more people in rural areas tend to be uninsured than those in urban areas.

"If a grocery store or an apartment complex or a clothing store, if 15 percent of their customers didn't pay the bill, they wouldn't stay open for very long,' O'Connor said. "Rural hospitals, because of government regulations, are required to see everyone, whether they can pay or not."

The Trump administration has defended cuts to Medicaid, saying it targets waste, fraud, and abuse. The administration imposed work requirements on recipients.



DRBA plans Hanging Rock Hike on Dec. 6

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will continue its First Saturday Outing on December 6 with a classic North Carolina hike to one of the Piedmont's most iconic views! The "Hanging Rock" is a massive quartzite cliff that juts out dramatically into the landscape, where we'll enjoy sweeping panoramic views of the Sauratown Mountains and the surrounding coun-

Participants are scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. just outside the Hanging Rock Visitor's Center located at 1005 Visitor Center Drive in Westfield.

This is an out-and-back hike on a mixture of gravel, dirt, and rock steps. Expect a moderate workout on the ascent and watch your footing on the way down. If you haven't hiked it in a couple of years, you'll notice the last portion is ½ mile longer and considerably less strenuous than before. The length of the hike is approximately 3.6 miles, round trip, with an elevation gain of over 600 ft. This hike is not ADA ac-

Toward the end, those who want a longer hike may wish to split off toward Wolf Rock, Cooks Wall or Moore's Knob. If you do so, please inform the trip leader of your intention.

Participants should supply water and snacks, wear hiking boots and layers of water-shedding artificial fabric or wool and be prepared for rain, wind or other adverse weather. To participate with the DRBA group on this outing, all participants must sign a waiver.

To prepare for the hike, check out DR-BA's Be Safe Outdoors tips at https:// www.danriver.org/besafeoutdoors.

For more information, contact the outing coordinator Tom Taylor at (336) 402-6100.

If for any reason the event needs to be cancelled, visit www.danriver.org or our Facebook page by Friday, December 5, for additional information. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

Celebrity impostor scams prevalent

Social media can make it feel like we're closer than ever to our favorite celebrities. But if a musician, actor, or athlete you admire suddenly sends you a private message, don't get starstruck—get skeptical. It's almost certainly a scam. That personal attention isn't

coming from the celebrity. It's from a criminal impersonating them or someone close to them. These scammers build trust through private messages, tailoring their approach based on your responses, sometimes turning it into a romance scam or a charity scam. The story may change, but the goal is always the same – to steal money and personal information. Advances in artificial intelligence

(AI) are making these scams even harder to spot. Criminals can now mimic voices, alter photos and craft polished messages without

the spelling or grammar mistakes that once were red flags. Some even create fake ads or livestreams featuring celebrities who appear to endorse products or causes. Enjoy following celebrities online,

just remember that engaging with their posts can make you more visible to scammers. If an unexpected message sparks high emotion (like excitement) and involves urgency, let that be your signal to disengage because it's likely a scam. Report fake celebrity accounts

or impostors directly to the social media platform. If you're the victim of a scam, report it to law enforcement and insist on a record in case of possible future restitution. Report scams to local law en-

forcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

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Warmth (cont. from page 9)

gaps and adding weather stripping around doors and windows. "If you're traveling, maintain

caulking and sealing any cracks or

reasonable temperatures to keep pipes from freezing and have someone checking on your home," Price said. "For extended stays, turn off your main water supply and drain remaining water from pipes." Stay cozy by servicing and main-

taining home heating systems, and schedule a tuneup or any preventive maintenance. If using a fireplace or woodstove, have the chimney inspected and cleaned, and check smoke detectors. 'When using a supplemental

heating unit like a space heater, keep it on flat surfaces and 3 feet

not in use." your roof for loose and broken shingles, repair leaks and inspect

away from flammables, don't use extension cords, and plug it directly into the wall outlet," she cautioned. "Always turn it off when As for the home's exterior, check

seals around edges, vent stacks,

skylights and chimneys. Remove

debris and clean gutters, down-

spouts and drains. Downspouts

should divert water at least 3 to 4 feet from the foundation. Snow and ice can weigh down

trees, so keep limbs trimmed, away from the house and remove any dead or dying trees. Insulate outdoor faucets, turn off valves, drain and store hoses, and shut off sprinklers. Keeping you and your family

safe is paramount too. Be proactive by having an emergency communication plan in the event of a severe winter storm or power outage. Keep an emergency kit with water, nonperishable food, blankets, flashlights, first aid kit and backup heating source, Price advised. Tune into local weather forecasts

to stay updated on severe weather alerts, and know where to seek warm shelter, if needed. Finally, know what your insur-

ance policies cover, and document belongings and valuables in the event of a loss. Scheduling a call with your insurance agent can ensure your coverage is current and your property remains protected.

Visit ibhs.org for a complete win-

ter checklist.





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