

THURSDAY, March 5, 2026

(USPS-6)

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Shell Building completed at Patriot Centre

By Taylor Boyd

A new 100,440-square-foot shell building was recently completed at Tract 2 of the Patrick Centre Industrial Park.

Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), said the facility is designed for modern manufacturing or up-scale warehousing operations.

"It's just now been completed, so we expect interest in it to pick up," he said.

Heath believes one of the better aspects of the building is that it can be expanded to 400,000 square feet.

"There seems to be a trend in the marketplace now for larger existing or shell buildings, so we think that will help increase the amount of interest and traffic on the building," he said.

The facility is on a 20-acre lot and has 32.5 feet clear ceiling heights
(See Shell Building p. 5)



A new 100,440-square-foot shell building was recently completed at Tract 2 of the Patriot Centre Industrial Park. (Photos from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation)



Charles Williams was presented with the 2025 Jack Dalton Community Service Award by the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Williams selected recipient of Jack Dalton award

By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Board of Supervisors presented the 2025 Jack Dalton Community Service Award to Charles Williams at its February 24 meeting.

The annual award honors a Henry County resident whose volunteerism and civic involvement reflect the spirit of longtime public servant Jack Dalton.

Williams is a U.S. Army veteran who served from 1969 to 1972, including service in Vietnam, and has remained deeply involved in supporting fellow veterans as a Life Member of VFW Post 1115 and a

member of American Legion Post 42. For decades, he has also supported local emergency services, including the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad, Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department, and the Fieldale Heritage Group. He previously served as a driver for the Horsepasture Rescue Squad and currently serves on its board, in addition to past leadership on the Henry County Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

A member of the Horsepasture Ruritan Club for more than 30
(See Williams p. 5)

Teague zeroes in on city budget during brief return to council

By Taylor Boyd

A few days after his first Martinsville City Council meeting, Michael "Gene" Teague said his immediate focus is on the city's budget and capital improvements during his three-month term.

Teague was appointed by Judge G. Carter Greer on Feb. 23 to fill in for Mayor LC Jones while Jones is suspended pending a June 5 jury trial. A former council member with decades of experience, Teague has returned to city hall to lend his perspective and guidance during the current budget cycle.

"That's really my focus—how do I help from a budgetary standpoint, and then if there are any issues that happen during that period, to make sure that I am a fifth vote," Teague said.

He said returning to the council after years away gave him perspective on current



Michael "Gene" Teague said the budget and capital improvements are his priorities during his three-month council term.

operations and priorities. Teague emphasized the importance of a line-item budget to make expenditures transparent and ensure alignment with revenue.

"I think during the previous administration, they had gotten away from the line-item budget and moved some categories around and made it very difficult for peo-

ple to understand at a low level where the expenditures are. Honestly, I want to make sure that we got that line-item budget so everybody understands what we're spending, why we're spending it, and that it's definitely aligned with the revenue," he said.

Teague also wants to restore the meals tax fund—originally
(See Teague p. 7)

Fincher expands on comments following February council meeting

By Taylor Boyd

Martinsville Interim City Manager Rob Fincher took time following the Feb. 24 City Council meeting to clarify comments he made and address rumors circulating about city finances, lawsuits and document management.

"They're rumors that keep popping up, and we'll see them on social media or we'll hear them in other ways like in person. People will say, 'Well what about this missing money,' and I'll say, 'What are you talking about,'" he said.

Missing Funds

One persistent rumor involved \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

"None of that ended up being missing. It was that we had to change the way things were being appropriated for the federal reporting to get it all within the timeline."
(See Fincher p. 7)



Interim City Manager Rob Fincher addressed rumors during a Feb. 26 sit-down interview.

Healthy Hearts initiative brings fitness, nutrition to residents

By Jessica Dillon

LaDonna Hairston, owner of Performance 276 and a board member of the Salvation Army and the Minority Business Consortium, is advocating for healthier lifestyles through the Healthy Hearts Learning Collaborative, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded initiative focused on community health education.

Hairston said her goal is to reach residents — particularly minority communities — who may not have grown up with access to health education or examples of healthy habits.

"Especially the minority individuals in the area, especially those who may not have seen their parents exercising and practicing healthy habits," Hairston said. "So, they are able to create a legacy for their children."

She said she envisioned a gym that welcomes families and helps parents introduce healthy behaviors early.

"Planting that seed, and then they would water it, and it would grow within their family," she said.

To help achieve that goal, Performance



LaDonna Hairston, owner of Performance 276, is helping to spearhead community health education. (Contributed)

276 offers free fitness classes for different age groups on select days and hosts cooking classes through a partnership with Pilgrim Baptist Church. Hairston said regular movement — not necessarily a gym membership — is key to better health.

"Just exercise," she said. "People think that they have to go to a gym. It's not necessary — just movement. It can be dancing, just doing 30 minutes a day. It doesn't have to all be at one time."
Hairston said even

(See Healthy p. 7)

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Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series by the MHC Historical Society



Debbie Lewis



Jarred Marlowe



Will Gravely



Hunter Haskins

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society presents a free history program on the third Sunday of each month. The hour-long programs are held at 3 p.m. at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

To recommend a speaker or topic, email mh-historicalociety@gmail.com or call 276-403-5361.

Upcoming programs and their speakers will be:

Historic Gardens, with Debbie Lewis of the Garden Club of Virginia, 3 p.m. March 15

Not only buildings but also the grounds and landscape bring us back to the past. Join the MHC Historical Society on March 15 as Debbie Lewis, a former Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) president, talks about historic gardens.

The MHC Heritage Museum is the site of one of the GCV's 41 historic landscape restoration sites. The grounds, of the former Henry County Courthouse, were transformed into a tree-lined plaza perfect for outdoor events and as a gathering spot which follows the tradition of Martinsville's Public Square. In all, the GCV has completed 129 restorations at 52 different public spaces in the Commonwealth. These are the landscapes you know and love — Monticello, Montpelier, Poplar Forest, Executive Mansion Capitol Square, Mount Vernon, major universities and more. Funds for the restorations come from Historic Garden Week, which in Martinsville will be observed on April 22.

Everyone who attends this program will receive free perennial plants and/or bulbs for their own gardens because, of course, gardeners love to share and spread the beauty!

Laying the Past to Rest: A History of Funeral Traditions, with Jarred Marlowe, 3 p.m. April 19.

Jarred Marlowe takes us on a fascinating journey through how we care for the dead, from ancient mummification and early Ameri-

can burial customs to the rise of embalming, hearses, cremation, and the modern funeral home. He also talks about and how funeral traditions in Martinsville and Henry County evolved over the last century.

Marlowe is a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, a member of the Col. George Waller Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, a consultant for the Blue & Gray Education Society, and the chairman of the local Virginia 250 Anniversary Committee. He writes the "Community Chronicles" column for the Henry County Enterprise and, with Andy Doss, runs the YouTube video channel "Doss-Marlowe: History in Sight."

The Right Place, The Right Time - The Story of Ridgeway Clocks, division of Gravely Furniture Co., Inc., by Will Gravely, 3 p.m. May 17

The history of Ridgeway Clocks started exactly 100 years ago when Mr. R.P. Gravely and other local businessmen subscribed to \$100,000 in stock to start a company to make furniture in the building in uptown Martinsville that at the time was that of B.F. and R.P. Gravely, being used for the manufacture of pins and brackets, etc., for telegraph and telephone companies. Gravely Furniture Company made household furniture until the early 1960's when they started manufacturing grandfather clocks. The Martinsville Speedway has been giving a Ridgeway Clock grandfather clock as its race prize since 1964. In 1985, the Gravely Furniture Company was sold to Pulaski Furniture Corporation. In November 2004, Pulaski sold Ridgeway Clock to Howard Miller Clock Company in Zeeland, Michigan. Howard Miller announced they would shut down in 2025.

A Few Lines to Margaret: A Local Account of the First World War by Hunter Haskins, 3 p.m. June 21

Experience the emotional depth of America's involvement in World War I through a series of 45 letters from a local soldier to his wife.



Garrett Channell

These frontline love letters reveal the humor, dedication, tragedy, and love of the Lost Generation. Come join Hunter Haskins, a board member of the MHC Historical Society, as he brings the story of the Paschals back to life.

Haskins is the Assistant Director of the Salem Museum & Historical Society in Salem. He is a 2021 graduate of Roanoke College with majors in history and political science and a concentration in public/applied history. He has been a blacksmith with Ferrum College's Blue Ridge Institute, a Carlisle School teacher and a volunteer for the Bassett Historical Center.

William Byrd: Laying Down the Line, by Garrett Channell, July 19

Garrett Channell, Executive Director of the Salem Museum, with a look at the life of William Byrd (1674-1744), a planter, surveyor, and member of the Royal Governor's Council. The native Virginian got his education and then practiced law in England, then returned to his American homeland to make his impact. In the 1720s he served as the London agent of the House of Burgesses. He helped establish the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina, a task which placed him in modern day MHC. His diaries and manuscripts live on today in textbooks of American literature, showing both at once the values of British colonial gentry and the emerging American identity.

Thank you for reading

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United Way surpasses fundraising goal

The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville announced that it has surpassed its 2025-2026 Campaign Season fundraising goal of \$480,000. The campaign season began September 12, 2025, when over 100 registered volunteers completed more than 500 hours of service throughout Henry County and Martinsville during UWHCM's signature Day of Action.

The Campaign Season officially ended on Friday, February 27, 2026. Campaign funds raised will be directed to over 25 nonprofit agencies throughout Henry County and Martinsville whose programming focuses on advancing area health, youth opportunities, financial security, and basic human needs assistance. Funds are either distributed directly to a donor-specified agency or cause, or voted on by a team of community volunteers known as the Community Investment Review Panel (CIRP).

The CIRP will meet throughout the month of March to review funding Request for Proposals (RFPs) which were submitted in January of this year. Funding recommendations by the panel will be finalized by United Way of Henry County and Martinsville Board of Direc-

tors. Grant applicants will be notified of any awarded funds by April of this year, with distributions beginning May 2026-April 2027. A full listing of the grant recipients will be shared online after funding decisions are finalized.

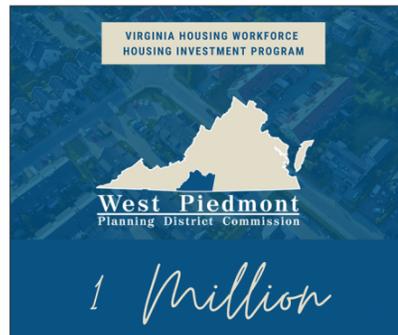
United Way of Henry County and Martinsville would like to thank the more than 2,500 donors throughout the area who helped support the 2025-2026 fundraising season. This community-wide effort spans across local businesses, agencies, and individual households alike. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser for the 2026-2027 season, please contact Rebecca at 276-638-3946, x110, or rebecca@unitedwayofhcm.org to get started.

Since 1937, United Way of Henry County and Martinsville has served to strengthen local resiliency by advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security so that all persons thrive. The 28th annual Day of Action is scheduled on Friday, September 18. More details will follow. To help support the 2026-2027 Campaign, donate online at www.UnitedWayofHCM.org, or mail a pledge to P.O. Box 951, Martinsville, VA 24114.

West Piedmont to build 100+ workforce homes

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission learned back in December that it was awarded \$1,000,000 in funding through the Virginia Workforce Housing Investment Program. A total of 14 communities will receive funding through the Workforce Housing Investment Program. More than \$15 million in loans, loan subsidies, and grants will support 14 developments in close proximity to new or expanding businesses, available to people making between 80%-120% of the Area Median Income (AMI), or up to 150% in rural areas.

"This important investment will support our ongoing efforts to expand middle-income housing op-



portunities throughout our region," said WPPDC Deputy Director Sean Campbell. "With these new resources, we are excited to help meet the needs of local families, strengthen (See West Piedmont p. 3)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

Thursday, March 5

Henry County School Board Regular School Board Meeting - 5:30p.m. Followed by Closed Session, Axton Elementary School, 1500 Axton School Road, Axton.

Tuesday, March 10

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

Events

Tuesday, March 10

Lego Explorer League, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Martinsville Main Library, 310 Church St. E, Martinsville.

Saturday, March 14

Piedmont Arts' Dancing For The Arts, Martinsville High School, 3 p.m., 351 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville. High-energy dance competition, teams of local celebrities and community leaders compete for a cause — supporting the arts! Your votes support your favorite teams and the arts in Martinsville-Henry County. Admission tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission, and \$10 for students in grades K-12. To vote or purchase tickets, visit PiedmontArts.org.

Sunday, March 15

Historic Gardens Restoration with Debbie Lewis, member of Garden Study Club and former president of the Garden Club of Virginia, 3 p.m., at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St., Martinsville.

Wednesday, March 18

Martinsville High School Jazz Band will perform at Preschool in the Galleries at Piedmont Arts. Performances at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Reservations are required to attend a performance. To make a reservation for your preschool class or student, email Programs Coordinator Jennifer Gravely at jgravely@piedmontarts.org.

Friday, March 20

Pour Decisions Snowman Wine-glass Edition – winter themed craft, 1 p.m., Martinsville Main Library, 310 Church St. E, Martinsville.

Saturday, March 21

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will host 'Starlington,' a Regency-era themed fundraiser inspired by Bridgerton, 6 p.m., with themed drinks, food, live entertainment, costume contests and photo opportunities. Guests are encouraged to dress in formal or Regency-style attire. Tickets are \$50 and available through the museum's website.

Three Pasta Dinner, \$15 includes three pastas, salad, dessert and drink, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., eat-in or take-out. Proceeds benefit community projects. Rangely Ruritan Club, 134 Calloway Dr., Fieldale.

Summer Activities Fair, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., New College Institute, 191 Fayette St., Martinsville.

Tuesday, March 24

The Southern Gentlemen will perform at the Bassett Historical Center between the hours of 10 a.m. - noon. This program, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room.

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

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,

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

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, but donations will be used by the club to pay for electricity etc.

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

Bingocize at Spencer-Penn Cen-

tre. Play Bingo and prevent falls with simple exercises. This free class is offered Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Martinsville Performing Arts Academy presents Frozen Jr.

By Jessica Dillon

Martinsville City Public Schools' Performing Arts Academy's production of Disney's Frozen Jr. will take the stage this weekend at Martinsville High School.

The production, presented by the Martinsville Performing Arts Academy, will be performed March 6-8. Students say they are excited to bring the popular story to life for the community.

Kamori Dillard, a senior at Martinsville High School, plays Elsa after auditioning for the role. The production marks her final high school play. She plans to attend North Carolina A&T State University and major in laboratory animal science with a minor in dance.

"My favorite part of the movie, specifically, would probably have to be Olaf just every time he steps foot on the screen. I just love his personality, just everything about him," said Dillard. "My favorite part about Elsa is how, in the beginning, she doesn't really want to let go, but then, as time goes on, she finds herself. She realizes that it's actually okay to let go, and that it's okay to be yourself and not worry about what others think about you."

Dillard said playing Elsa resonates with her, especially after taking on leadership roles in recent productions.

"This is my final show. While it is a sad moment, I feel so accomplished over what I've done over these years. My happiness, it kind of overrules my sadness a little bit. Like, just everything I wanted

in theater has come to fruition, and I'm just so excited to do it one more time."

"This is just an amazing show. I really hope the public enjoys it," she added.

Sixteen-year-old Kira Johnson plays Anna. Although she auditioned for middle Anna, she was cast as the older version of the character.

Her favorite moment from the movie is a comedic scene.

"In both the movie and the play, when Weselton bowed down, his ball spot shows."

Johnson said her favorite musical number is "Love Is an Open Door."

"Definitely, love is an open door. I think that's one of my favorite scenes," she said.

She added that she enjoys Anna's personality.

"I just like how she's very energetic and she's happy that she thinks she found love. It's just full of excitement."

Senior Caesar Draper plays Olaf, the cheerful snowman. Draper said he has received several college offers but has not yet decided where he will attend. He plans to major in professional theatre.

"I've seen frozen multiple times, the 1st and 2nd and I just love the movie. I love the message that the movie gives. I feel like in the plays, we're telling this story, so you can actually put more feeling in it because you're telling the story to the audience," he said.

Draper said one of his favorite aspects of performing is the com-

munity that develops among cast members.

"I can say my favorite part is the community and, like, how we all are different, different ages, different genders, different races, and we can all come together despite our insecurities or our things that we think are different about us that other people don't like. We can put it together to create something beautiful, which is a show that the audience loves."

Olaf is portrayed using a puppet, and Draper will wear a white outfit to match the character while delivering his lines.

He encouraged other students to pursue performing arts if they are interested.

"For any kid that has like the thought of doing musicals, dancing, or anything in their life that they feel is different and they feel like everybody else would judge

them for what they choose to do with their life. I say go for it. It's your life. You only live once. And with me, I went for an opportunity with performing in my first musical, The Lion King Jr. Now, I'm here today. I have sung in multiple places. I've danced multiple places. I have performed most of places I've even got grown more connections throughout my career of performing. And it all started here in Martinsville. So if you have the opportunity, I say you take it and seize the moment."

Performances of Disney's Frozen Jr. will be held March 6-8 at Martinsville High School. Shows begin at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$20 for VIP seating, which includes early seating and two selections from the concession stand.

West Piedmont

(cont. from page 2)

our workforce, and foster vibrant, sustainable communities across the West Piedmont area."

The project will create over 100 new homes on a 43-acre site located in the Westlake area of Franklin County. This development aims to expand local housing options and support the county's growing workforce and economic development goals.

"My partner, Court Rosen, and I are committed to being part of the solution to the housing crisis in Franklin, Henry, and Pittsylvania counties, as well as in the cities of Martinsville and Danville," said Alexander Boone, owner of ABoone Development, who is a partner in this project. "Many people have worked hard to enhance the fast-growing Southside economy. It's time for us to support this growth with workforce housing."

According to Virginia Housing, in recent years, it has become increasingly difficult for Virginia's workforce to afford housing that's close to where they work. The housing developments associated with this announcement will create 550 workforce housing units and generate over \$200 million in private investment. The funding provided in this round will create more housing for Virginia's middle-income households.

"These projects showcase the strategic local and regional partnerships that are creating more affordable housing for middle-income families," said Virginia Housing CEO Tammy Neale. "Virginia Housing's investment reinforces the Commonwealth's leadership in housing innovation and supports the growth of new industries and jobs across our great state."

OPINION

Searching for Cures



Morgan Griffith

Representative

February 28 is recognized as Rare Disease Day.

Accordingly, numerous advocacy groups gather in DC to lobby lawmakers about rare disease research, treatments and potential cures.

Such rare diseases that generate advocacy interest include Lou Gehrig's Disease (also known as ALS), Huntington's Disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Individuals who are affected by these rare diseases often have no places to turn to treat their debilitating illness.

Given this reality, family members and loved ones are left feeling frustrated, saddened and hopeless.

Even before I became Health Subcommittee Chairman, I heard these heartbreaking stories.

A swimming friend of mine in the Roanoke Valley, Rob Lawson, died from his battle with ALS in 2022.

One of my mentors, former Virginia House of Delegates Republican Raymond R. Robrecht (Ray) of Salem died from ALS on Christmas Eve in 1994.

I grew up with one family that had Huntington's Disease, and subsequently I have learned of a local lawyer who is valiantly battling it as well.

Huntington's Disease is a genetic disorder where half of the family is expected to carry the debilitating gene.

Unfortunately, these diseases claim the lives of colleagues, family members and friends.

On February 19, Americans received the sad news that actor Eric Dane died from his battle with ALS.

Dane was best known for his role as Dr. Mark Sloan (also

known as McSteamy) in Grey's Anatomy.

In April 2025, Dane announced his ALS diagnosis. He had struggled with symptoms for months prior to his diagnosis.

When Dane came to Capitol Hill in September, he brought additional attention to rare disease research.

Accordingly, I met with him to hear his story and how Congress can help. For his visit, Dane was confined to a wheelchair.

I appreciated meeting with him to discuss the importance of advancing policies that support patients who struggle with neurodegenerative diseases.

Dane knew additional research would not save him, but he hoped it could save others.

In the 117th Congress, I co-sponsored the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act. This bill authorized additional federal funds for groups to research and develop drugs to help treat ALS. It passed, but more needs to be done.

On Huntington's, in a 2024 Health Subcommittee legislative hearing, I discussed the possibility of using Adeno-associated Virus (AAV) gene-based therapies for inherited diseases.

AAV therapies use engineered, non-pathogenic viruses that are not known to result in human diseases. These viruses deliver genetic material directly into patient cells to treat genetic diseases.

Dr. Flotte of UMass Chan Medical School testified at the hearing. He confirmed to me that such gene-based therapies are potentially helpful for the purposes of RNA interference, but it would be necessary that these therapies silence the gene carrying Huntington's.

As Health Subcommittee Chairman, I am working to advance legislation that tackles Huntington's Disease, ALS and other rare diseases.

On the same day that I met with Dane, I participated in an Energy and Commerce markup

When Forever Fades Into Memory



Holly Kozelsky

How does an eternity become a memory?

A mere month ago, we were frozen in time.

Literally.

Ice covered our yards, walkways, driveways, cars and roads. Most of us were stuck in our houses for one or even two weeks.

For some, it was a pleasant break from daily routine. For others, though, it was a tortuous time of biting cold.

Some houses just can't get warm when the temperatures fall below normal. That's even though their resulting heat bill would soar above the cost of their mortgage payment or rent, would surpass one or two week's pay.

Their inhabitants feel the sharp stab of cold all morning, day, night long, and with the iced-over roads, there is no escape.

If the power is out — which this time, thankfully, miraculously, it was not, for most people — the cold suffocates you like a heavy weight, impossible to get out from under. It will never end.

Until.

Like a snap of the fingers, here we are, the sun gently caressing our cheeks as we look with delight

over the blooming daffodils, muscari, crocus.

Was that never-ending cold just a figment of our imaginations?

That trickery of time has plagued us all our lives.

Safely embraced in the bosom of our grandmother, we cuddled after lunch, suspended in time as that one marker of our routine was over, and the hours and minutes until the next marker of routine, supper, was an eternity away.

High on the excitement of the game or the music, we played and played or danced and danced as if reveling in the physical body were the only thing life was about, until, surprisingly, the game or the dance was over.

We laid in a lover's arms, the world around us stopped, nonexistent, because this feeling of love and passion was the only thing there existed.

We rocked the baby, then held the toddler; and now we hope they remember us with a visit or at least answer our call.

Always, the "forever" becomes the memory.

We remember with disbelief the torment of the biting cold wind which, in these gentle days of flowers and sunshine, does not seem to have been possible.

The leaves green, the petals unfurl, and the birds chatter and fly. And because by now we have learned how fleeting it is, we soak in every minute with delight and wonder.

hearing. Of the bills we considered and reported, I voted to advance H.R. 1262, the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act.

This bill reauthorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program.

This program helps incentivize the development of treatments for rare pediatric diseases.

Additionally, the FDA is empowered to require pediatric cancer trials for new combinations of drug therapies.

After Committee action, the Give Kids a Chance Act was included as a part of the health extenders signed into law on February 3rd.

In early February, I was proud to support the bill and deliver the Give Kids a Chance Act to President Trump!

Later in February, the FDA issued new draft guidance to facilitate the development of individualized therapies for ultra-rare diseases!

This framework has the potential to help bring first of their kind treatments to patients with rare diseases like ALS and Huntington's Disease.

I am hopeful that this renewed push at the federal level will help in our quest to find successful treatments.

As we acknowledge Rare Disease Day, let us remember those who courageously fought against rare diseases, including Dane, Rob, Ray and countless others.

These individuals will continue to inspire policymakers, agencies and researchers as we continue the quest to find cures for rare diseases.

Richmond Report

The 2026 General Assembly session is already heading into its final two weeks. This past week, the House completed its version of the 2026–2028 biennial budget, and we are now in the closing stretch of our 60-day race.

This Session's Focus: One Word - Affordability

I heard from you across the 48th District when you said: our powers bills are too high, our car tax is too high, groceries cost too much, and basic everyday living is too high.

Budget Amendments By Republicans:

- Lower Your Electric Bill
- Rolled back costly mandates and penal-

ties that are passed directly on to consumers.

- X Voted Down
- Cut Your Car Tax
- Expanded relief on the first \$5,000 of vehicle value to deliver real savings for working families.
- X Voted Down
- Eliminate the Grocery Tax
- Removed the remaining tax on groceries entirely.
- X Voted Down

Every single one of these proposals was rejected by the majority party. I will keep fighting for policies that lower costs and put families first. Government should cost less, not more. "Affordability" is a word that gets used a lot in Richmond but judging by the votes, not everyone agrees on what it means.

The legal battle over the proposed constitutional amendment continues. The amendment would significantly alter congressional representation, giving Fairfax County at least four seats in Congress and it is now tied up in court just days before voting is set to begin.



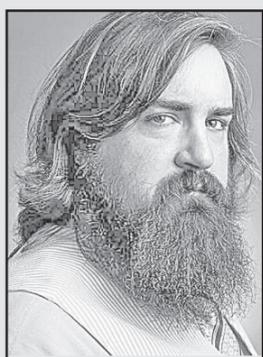
Del. Eric Phillips

The Supreme Court of Virginia is expected to act soon, while additional lawsuits continue to be filed across the Commonwealth.

The situation remains unsettled. Updates to follow.

Our door is always open to share your views on matters coming before the Virginia General Assembly, so please do not hesitate to let us know. You can reach us at our Richmond office (804) 698-1048, district office (434) 326-5878, and email at delephillips@house.virginia.gov and you can also follow along on Facebook.

The shock of my life



By Ben R. Williams

my phone, when I saw a headline I thought I would never see:

"U.S., Israel launch joint attack on Iran."

Ladies and gentlemen, so deep was my shock that my monocle flew off my eye and embedded itself in the wall across from me. My derby hat launched itself straight into the air. My bowtie, once stationary, began spinning like a propeller. Two things were clear: the unimaginable had happened, and also, I would have to cancel my job interview to be Batman's new butler.

It was absolutely unbelievable. Donald Trump, the President of the United States of America, was attacking IRAN! Iran, of all places!

If there is one thing Donald Trump is known for, it's his honesty. It's why even his de-

tractors call him "Honest Don." So when Trump was on the campaign trail and said that he was going to be the "Peace President" and end wars, I of course took him at his word. After all, this was the same man who, about 15 years ago, Tweeted repeatedly that then-President Barack Obama was going to start a war with Iran to save face because he was a poor negotiator.

Trump — the winner of the FIFA Peace Prize, need I remind you — has consistently made it clear that only idiots like Obama or Kamala Harris would start a war with Iran, and that doing so was an open admission of incompetence.

And now, you mean to tell me that Donald John Trump, paragon of virtue and shining beacon of infallible integrity, has

(See Shock p. 5)

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Williams

(cont. from page 1)



Williams' family and friends were on hand to help celebrate.



Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes was recognized by the board for her tenure and upcoming retirement.



The board also held a joint work session with the Henry County School Board.



Williams addressed the board shortly after he was presented the award.

there was a need, whether that be supporting our emergency services or strengthening our civic organizations. His lifetime of service has made a real and lasting difference in our community," Adams said.

The Jack Dalton Community Service Award is presented annually to recognize individuals whose personal volunteer efforts and active involvement help promote the quality of life in Henry County. Dalton served on the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years and was serving as chairman at the time of his death in 2000.

After receiving his award, Williams thanked those who nominated him for the award.

"I knew Jack Dalton and he was a fine gentleman. To even be associated with his name is quite an honor for me," he said, adding that those attending the ceremony are often the first to volunteer their time, even if they don't have it.

"You don't have to ask them twice. If there's something to be done, they do it. We just got a great community, and it's all about the people in this community, so I'm just praying that we have more people step up, volunteer, and help out all they can," he said, noting the local volunteer fire departments and rescue squads need all the help they can get.

Williams also said those who have supported him through the years should have received the award.

"They're the ones who really drive me to help out. I do appreciate this, it's quite an honor, and I thank each and every one of you," he said.

In other matters, the board: *Approved a resolution recognizing Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes for her more than four decades of tenure and retirement.

*Was introduced to Robin Keeler, who will take over Price-Hughes' position upon her retirement.

*Heard from David Craig about the littering issue in the county.

*Heard a presentation by All Vets President Patrick Rogers about the organization and its accomplishments over the last year.

*Heard an update on broadband installation from RiverStreet Networks Director of Business Development and Government Affairs, Rob Taylor.

*Approved using \$500 from the District Impact Fund for a soccer camp to be held at the Smith River Sports Complex on April 7.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$141,630 from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to fund the implementation of a Kinship Navigator Position in the Henry Martinsville Department

of Social Services.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$211,000 received from the Economic Development Corporation and Nathan Trotter for the extension of water and sewer lines to Lot #4 of the Patriot Centre. The board also awarded a \$354,500 contract to Steve Martin's Trenching, with the remainder of the funds provided by the Industrial Development Authority.

*Conducted a joint work session with the Henry County School Board regarding its fiscal year 2026-2027 budget.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 10.36 acres of the Ridgeway District from Suburban Residential District (S-R) to Agricultural District (A-1). The applicant wishes to use the property as a hobby farm and additional storage.

*Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 117.9 acres of the Ridgeway District from Agricultural District (A-1) to Industrial District (I-1).

*Approved the items of consent.

*Heard the monthly report on delinquent tax collection efforts.

*Heard an update on general highway matters.

Shell Building

(cont. from page 1)



The shell building's designed for modern manufacturing or upscale warehousing operations.

and includes multiple loading docks, drive-in access, and room for potential expansion.

As it's located at the Patriot Center, it has access to water, sewer, natural gas, electric, reliable fiber internet, and its own fire station.

The shell building is also located in an Opportunity Zone and New Markets Tax Credit Zone.

While he doesn't know how long it will sit vacant, Health said there's been some serious interest in it from potential investors.

"Hopefully sooner than later," it'll be sold, "but we've had buildings that sold before the construction was finished, and we've had buildings that sat for four or five years. You just don't know," he said.

Health said there are no plans to build another shell building until this one is sold.

"We're excited to have it. It's a good marketing tool, and the Patriot Centre is a great industrial park. We're confident that it will pay off in the future," he said.

Shock

(cont. from page 4)

done THE VERY THING that he accused others of doing? Unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable.

And before you even inquire about my flabber, let me assure you, it remains thoroughly gasted.

To make matters worse, Trump entered this war without Congressional approval! That's not the rule-following President I know. Even his detractors call him "Donny By-The-Books." Whether it's the Constitution, Rules of Engagement, or Age of Consent laws, Trump always dots the i's and crosses the t's. This simply doesn't make any sense.

I think what hurts the most is that Trump has violated his oath to the American people. His supporters have been unfailingly loyal to him, and Trump has always, always returned that loyalty. It's why even his detractors call him "Donny Trueheart." Trump would never sell someone down the river or throw them under the bus the very moment it's convenient, not even for a million dollars. He's a man of principle. To think that he would promise his most ardent supporters that he would keep

their children from being sent overseas to fight and then break that promise ... well, you think you know a guy.

The biggest surprise of all is that a Republican President would even consider entering the United States into another war. It's never happened before.

Well, except for George W. Bush getting us involved in the Iraq War in 2003. And George H.W. Bush getting us involved in the Gulf War in 1990. But other than every major international conflict that has occurred within my lifetime, it's never happened before.

I find myself unmoored. No one, and I mean no one, could have predicted that any of this would happen. There's simply no precedent, absolutely no series of patterns that could have been used to predict this shocking development.

To make matters even worse, as I write this, the sun appears to be descending toward the horizon and the sky is growing black, which I can only assume means that the Earth is about to be plunged into perpetual darkness until the end of time.

Column Sponsored by: Dr. Mensink

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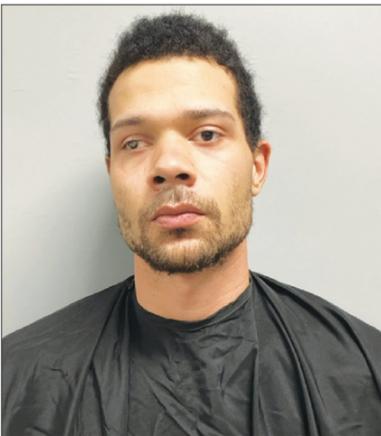
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Robbery suspect



Tyson Me'shad Bryant Stockton

The Henry County Sheriff's Office on January 13 released information about an armed robbery that occurred on Sunday, January 11, around 10:40 p.m. at the 5 Point Tobacco store, located at 1620 Virginia Avenue in Martinsville.

During that incident, an unidentified man allegedly entered the business, produced a knife, and demanded money from the clerk before leaving with an undisclosed amount of cash.

On February 25, as a result of

continued investigative efforts by the Henry County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, investigators identified and arrested Tyson Me'shad Bryant Stockton, 28, in connection with incident. This is the same individual identified in a Henry County Sheriff's Office media release issued two days ago in reference to an abduction and rape investigation. The suspect now faces an additional charge of robbery in connection with the January 11 incident, in addition to the previously announced abduction and rape charges.

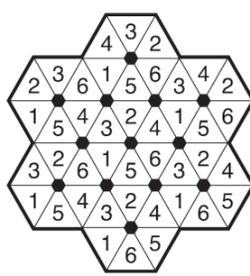
Stockton remains in custody with no bond at the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office appreciates the assistance provided by the public and encourages anyone with additional information related to this case or other criminal activity to contact the Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or Martinsville-Henry County Crime Stoppers at 276-632-7463. Tips may also be submitted anonymously by texting HCSO followed by the information to 847411.

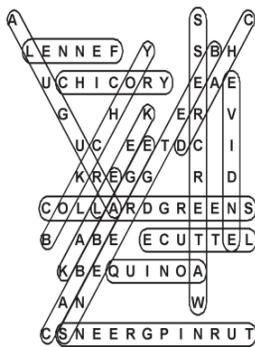
Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution



LEAFY GREENS



SCRAMBLERS

- solution
1. Curse; 2. Chord
3. Teach; 4. Stench

Today's Word
DESSERT



Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

A	N	E	M	I	A	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	A	I	O	L	I	S	
S	A	N	E	L	I	V	A	L	I	D	I	D	F	L	U	E	N	T	
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Fincher

(cont. from page 1)

ARPA came out with guidelines and had dates and times set," Fincher said.

He said some reports were incomplete before he took over as interim city manager.

"So the CFO, the Chief Financial Officer, and myself, when I became acting interim, we started making phone calls to state and federal representatives saying, 'Listen, we've run into this. How do we correct this,'" he said.

Fincher said U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, and Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, helped ensure timelines were met and the funds were reported correctly.

"We didn't lose any of the money," he said. "If we hadn't gotten that changed, then we would have had to pay money back to the federal government, but that was all avoided."

Fincher emphasized that city finances are closely monitored and that any lump-sum revenues are immediately invested.

"If we were capable of missing \$5 million, then that means we would have had a whole lot of extra money laying around that could have gone missing. Most of our stuff is pretty tight — that as the money comes in, it goes out. We don't have it in a bank account, in other words," he said.

Lawsuits

Fincher addressed rumors about large lawsuits against the city or payouts to past employees.

"We don't have anything active like that that we're facing. Now, could someone down the road do it? Yeah, of course. People attempt to sue us all the time. It happens. But right now, we're not facing these huge types of things," he said.

He also noted that past payouts were not substantial and occurred more than two or three years ago.

Missing Documents

Fincher said he also wanted to clarify comments about missing documents.

"I was not (referring to) the" former city manager "or the mayor issue. This is its own separate thing. I didn't explain it well because a lot of the public didn't even realize there was this question about missing documents," he said.

Martinsville contracts with a cybersecurity firm to examine all city documents and ensure compliance with preservation orders "because we're under what they call a 'preservation order,' because of what's been going on.

"We were under a situation where

even if an employee hits delete on their email, it has to be maintained on the server and it's still there. That was put in place before" the former city manager left, "so we had to make certain that was still intact and nothing was missing since then, since I started eight months ago," he said.

The cybersecurity firm confirmed no documents were missing during Fincher's eight-month tenure as interim city manager.

"That's what I was addressing... just to reiterate, it has nothing to do with the" former city manager issue "or the mayor issue," he said, adding those are separate issues.

Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson

Fincher also clarified comments regarding Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson.

"I mentioned that I had done an investigation at the request of one of

the city council members, specifically the vice-mayor... she said, 'I'd like the city manager to investigate me and this,'" he said.

The investigation, involving emails and employee interviews, found allegations that Lawson improperly directed city staff were false.

"What the vice-mayor and all members of council do... is they're kind of a go-between a lot of the times with the public," Fincher said. Council members now are asked to use the city's online program to report constituent issues, reducing any perception of direct involvement with city operations.

"That way it doesn't raise any suspicion in the future of them saying that a city council member was having a direct involvement with the actions of the executive branch," he said.

Teague

(cont. from page 1)

passed in the early 1990s to fund capital improvements—as a separate line item. He said previous council decisions moved the fund into the general budget, limiting its use for dedicated capital projects.

"For the first time in a long time, there was surplus money in the meals tax fund that could pay for capital improvements. So, when you move it to the general fund, what you're saying is that it's a regular revenue stream, so all the debt service becomes an expense, and all the revenue becomes a regular revenue stream that supports the operations. Councils change, and people can do what they want, but what you're really saying is that money is no longer dedicated to capital improvements, it's used for city operations," he said.

Teague said maintaining a dedicated capital improvement revenue stream honors the original intent of the tax and benefits residents.

He also noted dramatic increases in travel expenses in previous budgets and said he wants to keep such spending in check.

"I want to rein that in big time. Rob (City Manager Rob Fincher) has already done some of that and eliminated that travel, but I want to make sure that we have that from a budgetary standpoint," he said, adding this is why a line-item budget is important.

With only six council meetings remaining in his term, Teague said he cannot take on major projects beyond budget matters but hopes to collaborate with other council members to address city needs.

"It's just not enough time, but at the same time, I want to try to work with everyone to solve the issues that we have. We need to get to the business of serving our citizens and providing the best services that we can. That and budgetary responsibilities are the big



Teague described his first meeting back as encouraging, noting the passion of his colleagues for the city.

roles of a council member," he said.

Reflecting on his first council meeting, Teague said he was encouraged by the engagement and passion of his colleagues.

"Council is engaged, they all care and are passionate about the city, and it's comforting to come in and see the love for the city. Everybody wants the city to grow and move forward. We disagree about how that should occur, but nobody's going to run for office and put themselves through this if they're not in it to improve the lives of our citizens," he said.

Teague began his first tenure on the city council in 1994 to finish out Steve Draper's unexpired term when he ran for and was appointed as Sheriff. He then ran for reelection in 1009 and 2000.

Teague did not seek reelection in 2004.

In 2008, Mark Anderson, who had been elected in 2006, moved from the area for a job. Teague was appointed to finish that inexperienced term and sought reelection in 2010 and 2014.

He chose not to seek reelection in 2018.

Healthy

(cont. from page 1)



The fitness court in Martinsville promotes a healthy lifestyle, along with other community based initiatives intended to create and maintain healthy lifestyle changes. (Contributed photos)

short intervals add up, with 30 minutes a day equaling 150 minutes of exercise per week.

"When you say 150 minutes, people think it's a whole lot," she said.

Addressing heart disease requires consistent effort, she said.

"What we try to focus on is heart health awareness, and we do it through lifestyle changes," Hairston said.

Performance 276 also participates in a blood pressure self-monitoring program that teaches participants how to track and manage their blood pressure.

"It's about how to advocate for

themselves and reduce their blood pressure," Hairston said.

The program meets twice a month for four months, helping participants build consistency and accountability.

Hairston said barriers to nutrition in the area often stem from limited education and food deserts, noting that mental health also plays a role in overall wellness.

"It affects your physical health," she said.

She also helped write the grant for a community garden serving Fieldale departments, identify-

ing priority areas based on census data.

"The priority areas from the census — Fieldale, Fayette and Carver — are food deserts," Hairston said. "Those areas have the highest heart disease rate in Martinsville and Henry County."

Beyond fitness and nutrition, Hairston is involved in a variety of community efforts, including local toy drives and outreach through the Day Center.

"What we are really focused on is the toy drive and participating in that every year, and then healthy hearts," she said. "For me, it's also the Salvation Army and helping with the Day Center."

Performance 276 also offers free community workouts during the holidays, allowing families to exercise together.

"They can work out with their family for free," Hairston said. "That's adaptable for any age."

Free community workouts are held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at John Redd Apartments, with plans to move to the Fieldale Center. Free senior classes are offered Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Hairston and her team have also participated in homeless drives, donated fitness equipment for the city's Get Fit Challenge, and led demonstrations for the Baldwin Park Fitness Pad. Additional partnerships include work with the MHC Cancer Foundation and mental health agencies.

"Positive coping skills and improving independence," Hairston said.

Performance 276 also coordinates toy drives with Heads of State and the Boys & Girls Club, ensures translators are available for the Latino community, offers free teen workouts at schools and supports food drives.

"We've had churches and other ministries reach out for health and wellness education," Hairston said.

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PUZZLE TIME



FEAR KNOT

By: rj Johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

OJY
TANIRU
HERTI
♥OYRG
NANEMP
AUT
DOUJ
NYROA
♥GRA
NOYEMP
MYJPU
♥UTNR

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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Page is added to newspaper. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Arm is shorter. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Curtin is added to sleeve. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

MAGIC MAZE • LEAFY GREENS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: POPEYE'S FAVORITE FOOD

Arugula	Chard	Fennel	Quinoa
Beet greens	Chicory	Kale	Turnip greens
Bok choy	Collard greens	Leek	Watercress
Cabbage	Endive	Lettuce	

Super Crossword

FUN 'N' GAMES

ACROSS	49 Text-scanning device: Abbr.	89 Paddy food	131 Atlantic City hotel/casino	38 Protest at which people lie down	81 Refrigerator brand
7 Neighbor of Florida	50 French for "the king"	91 — Park (Edison's home)	DOWN	40 "Uncle" of old TV	82 Reluctant to be filmed
14 Garlicy sauces	51 Head up	92 Machinery wheel	1 Request	44 Whole lot	83 Glass edge
20 In a rational manner	53 1890s veep	93 Unwell	2 Capital of Kenya	45 U.S. spy gp.	85 Latin "I love"
21 Unexpired driver's license, e.g.	55 Back of an overseas ship?	97 Package shipped to singer Dolly?	3 Buries	46 "Uncle" of the U.S.	87 Comparable (with)
22 Well-spoken	59 Entrepreneur	102 From the top	4 Doles (out)	48 Singer	90 Robin's wear
23 Whole bunch of baby felines?	59 Entrepreneur Bezos who cooks sheep delicacies?	104 En — (in full court)	5 Specks in la mer	52 "Of the day," on menus	94 "Son of," in Arabic
25 Regions, weatherwise	63 Tan-colored	106 Free TV spot, in brief	6 "Anthem" author Rand	54 VIPs at raves	95 Al who drew Lil' Abner
26 Some reddish deer	64 "Ich bin — Berliner"	107 "I taut I — a pudgy tat!"	7 Benefit	55 DOJ agency worker	96 Patella
27 Sex educator	66 Actors Momoa and Slatam	108 Med. group	8 Med. test	56 Tolkien fiend	98 Natural gifts
28 Jokerster Jay	67 Frigid	109 Serenity in a rabbit colony?	9 Balm additive	57 Crooner	99 England-to-France connector
30 Viscous stuff	68 Ladies who use Speed Stick?	112 Woody's den	10 Playbill info	58 Often-dinged car feature	100 Envoy's residence
31 DVD — (data holders)	72 — Newton	114 U-boats, e.g.	11 Befuddle	60 — o'-shanter	101 — Angeles
32 Make angry	75 Shared a living space	115 Feel unwell	12 Some track runners	61 Mao — -tung	103 Authors
33 Dogs that hunt egrets?	77 Water, in Lille	116 Andean land	13 Lymphoid throat mass	62 Ending for ball or bass	105 David of "NYPD Blue"
37 Fade away	78 2008 documentary about the national debt and branding	117 French essayist	14 Ravens' gp.	65 DE-to-VT dir.	110 Justice Kagan
38 B.A., e.g.	80 Cover girl from a city in central Georgia?	117 French essayist Simone	15 "Send me!"	68 Dad's mate	111 Niche sects
39 Corp. exec in charge of ads and branding	84 Fire breather's parachute descent?	122 Answer from poet Countee?	16 "Yes, yes!" in France	69 Angry genre	113 Buenos —
41 Locale	88 Flabbergast	126 Greek goddess of wisdom	17 Food flatfish	70 Flanders of "The Simpsons"	114 Capital of South Korea
42 "Oh, gotcha"		127 Phoenician goddess of fertility	18 Suffix with Benedict	71 Fishing boots	117 Existed
43 Snacks that help physicists build atomic bombs?		128 "Could be"	19 Roads: Abbr.	72 Animal's coat	118 Meg Mallon's gp.
47 Campus digs		129 Deny	24 Bun worn at the back of the neck	73 The same: Prefix	119 Wok, e.g.
		130 Own	29 Savvy about	74 Hiatus	120 Greek vowel
			31 Fight arbiter	75 Cartoonist	121 Light beam
			32 Co. shuffling	76 Wallet bills	123 Notes before tis
			33 Expectation	78 Spouse's father, e.g.	124 Sis, e.g.
			34 That girl	79 Bad smell	125 Swirly letter
			35 Unstimulating java	80 Kind of parrot	
			36 Letter stroke		

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Eastern Russia serves breakfast when western Russia serves dinner.
- If you are born blind due to lesions in the brain (congenital cortical blindness), rather than lesions in the eye (congenital peripheral blindness), you apparently can't become schizophrenic.
- Words have a lifespan of anywhere between 1,000 and 20,000 years.
- While inducting Bob Dylan into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Bruce Springsteen noted that he first heard Dylan's song "Like a Rolling Stone" in the car with his mother, who liked the music but after a minute looked at her son and said, "That boy can't sing."
- The Oscar statue must always appear in an upright, vertical position and cannot be dressed, altered, rotated, stretched or embellished in any way.
- Oak trees are more prone to being struck by lightning than any other tree.
- A wildlife photographer documented an unlikely duo in northern Finland: a young female gray wolf and a male brown bear that met every night for 10 days. They weren't observed fighting, but roaming, playing and even eating from the same plate.
- Broccoli contains more protein per calorie than steak.
- On July 26, 2025, Thaddeus Daniel Pierce was born from an embryo that had been frozen since May 1994.
- North Dakota has the most golf courses per capita out of any state in America.
- After the beloved TV series "I Love Lucy" ended, Desi Arnaz offered Vivian Vance (Ethel) and William Frawley (Fred) their own spin-off called "The Mertzes," but Vance declined, primarily because she didn't want to work one-on-one with Frawley. The pair's onscreen chemistry notably didn't mirror their offscreen relationship.
- Lint can be used as a highly efficient fire starter.

Thought for the Day: "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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SCRAMBLERS



"I'm not used to eating lunch like this — what's for _____?"

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

Bane
RESCU _____

Melody
DOHRC _____

Coach
ETCHA _____

Smell
THENCS _____

TODAY'S WORD _____

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

MOST "TOPPED" SHOTS ARE CAUSED BY SWINGING DOWN SO STEEPLY THAT THE CLUBHEAD NEVER GETS LOW ENOUGH TO CONTACT THE BACK OF THE BALL.

IMPROVING THE OVERALL SWING MECHANICS IS THE ONLY SURE CURE.

BETTER GOLFERS' "TOPS" ARE USUALLY THE RESULT OF THE LEGS AND BODY GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD AT IMPACT, RELATIVE TO THE HANDS AND CLUBHEAD. SIMPLY SWINGING LESS AGGRESSIVELY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE LOWER BODY, USUALLY FIXES THE PROBLEM.

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What we offer:

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

What we have:

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

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

For more information, call the office at (276) 340-2445

Council convenes following mayor's suspension



Nancy McMillan was honored for her work with the MHC Warming Center and its clients. She also was presented with a 'Mother Goose' to acknowledge her efforts.



By Jessica Dillon

Martinsville City Council met Feb. 24 for the first time since Mayor LC Jones was suspended, with Gene Teague sworn in hours earlier to serve in an interim capacity.

The meeting included public hearings, first readings of ordinances and proclamations recognizing Nancy McMillan and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) in celebration of Black History Month.

Noting that he is serving temporarily, Teague said he declined compensation, and proposed it be paid to Jones.

Council member Rayshaun Gravely also spoke regarding Jones' suspension.

"I urge everyone to wait and hear the facts in the case," Gravely said, adding that he believes due process will determine the outcome.

In other matters, the council:

*Held a public hearing on Ordinance 2026-4, codifying previously approved amend-



Representatives of the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) African American Museum & Cultural Center, accept a proclamation recognizing Black History Month.

ments to the city's zoning ordinance.

*Held a public hearing on Appropriations Ordinance 2026-3.

*Conducted a first reading of Ordinance 2026-2 regarding a right-of-way abandon-

ment.

* Honored Nancy McMillan for her work with the MHC Warming Center.

* Presented a proclamation to FAHI recognizing Black History Month.

Axton man charged in connection with investigation



Brad Lamont Flood

Deputies with the Henry County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division on March 1 responded to the area of 319 Robin Road in the Axton community after receiving a report that a dog had been shot.

Deputies arrived within minutes and made contact with the complainant, who advised that her pet Chihuahua had been struck

by gunfire. She reported hearing two gunshots from a neighboring residence while she was inside her home. When she went outside to determine what had happened, she discovered that her dog had been shot. Deputies observed multiple blood trails and an apparent gunshot wound to the groin/testicular area of the dog. The companion animal was immediately transported to an emergency veterinary clinic for treatment of the injuries sustained.

The complainant identified her neighbor as Brad Flood. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Flood had left the area before law enforcement's arrival. Deputies later contacted Flood by telephone, and he returned to his home to speak with deputies on scene.

Flood allegedly stated that his neighbor's dog was in his backyard along with several other

dogs, barking and refusing to leave. He alleged he went inside his residence, retrieved a firearm, and returned outside, where he observed the dogs still in his yard, continuing to bark and moving farther onto his property.

Flood allegedly admitted that he fired one shot in their direction in an attempt to scare them away but stated that he did not believe he struck any of the animals.

A 9mm handgun was recovered at the scene and was found to be missing two rounds from the magazine, consistent with the complainant's account of two shots being fired. Based on physical evidence, witness statements, and the significant gunshot wound sustained by the dog, Brad Lamont Flood, 48, was charged with maiming of a companion animal, and animal cruelty.

He was held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on a

\$1,000 secured bond.

Sheriff Wayne Davis emphasized that community safety is his highest priority - and that commitment includes the protection of companion animals. In Virginia, a person may not shoot a companion animal merely because it is on their property. There are specific legal standards governing the use of force against animals, and those standards must be followed.

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

HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL ELECTION
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

THIS IS A STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR:
A Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census?
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/election-law/referenda/>

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

POLLS OPEN on ELECTION DAY 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
AN APPROPRIATE ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS
Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before voting!
vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

Where Do I Vote?

Wednesday April 14, 2026: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election. Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Henry County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE (EARLY) VOTING
Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office
located at the Henry County Administration Building 3300 Kings Mountain Road Martinsville, Virginia 24112
Monday – Friday March 6 -April 18, 2026: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturdays April 11 & 18, 2026: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 18, 2026: Last day to vote an In-Person (early) Absentee Ballot at the Henry County Registrar's Office

MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING
Request an Absentee ballot application: vote@henrycountyva.gov
Absentee ballots ARE counted!

Friday, April 10, 2026: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Election Day: ALL DROPPED OFF Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office by 7:00 p.m. (Virginia/Eastern Standard Time) to be counted.

***If mailing your ballot close to Election Day: In accordance with the updated U.S. Postal Service guidance, voters are strongly advised to present their return ballot envelope at the Post Office counter and request an Official Postmark, as mailbox drop-offs may not receive a same-day postmark.**

BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS
Monday – Friday, March 6-April 17, 2026: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, April 11 & 18, 2026: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Henry County Elections & Voter Registration Office
Henry County Administration Building 3300 Kings Mountain Road #103 Martinsville, Virginia 24112
On Election Day ONLY: All polling places and the Henry County Elections Office

Dawn Stultz-Vaughn, Director of Elections & General Registrar
3300 KINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD #103 MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112
TELEPHONE: 276-634-4698 FAX: 276-632-8278

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

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CJ 26-10
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
HENRY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Adalynn Fisher
Henry - Martinsville DSS v. Unknown father of Adalynn Fisher
The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the residual parental rights of the unknown father of Adalynn Fisher, a minor child born to Sierra McChesney on March 16, 2016. Said termination pursuant to VA Code Sec. 16.1-283.
It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before **May 21, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.**
2/3/2026
Kathrine Selgado
CLERK JUDGE

LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing
Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing on March 24, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:
1) **REQUEST for REZONE** - The City of Martinsville is requesting to rezone approximately thirty-nine (39) parcels located along Chatham Heights Road and Bob Gregory Street from C-C, Commercial Corridor District, and R-N, Neighborhood Residential District, to R-T, Residential Transitional District to correct existing non-conforming uses and to implement best zoning practices. The rezoning of parcels requires review by the Martinsville Planning Commission and review and approval of Martinsville City Council.
Questions or comments regarding this matter can be directed to Hannah Powell at hpowell@martinsvilleva.gov.
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

LEGAL

**COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **March 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the applications to the Board of Supervisors.
The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.
The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.
Case R-26-03 Timothy Clifford Stone
The property is located on the east side of Crestridge Rd, approximately 800' south of Pinewood Ln, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map 26.7(11)/C,D,81. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of lot 81 and the front portion of lots C and D, from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to further combine the parcels to construct a house and accessory buildings.
The application for this request 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

Bulldog Beat

Issue XVII

Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to State!

Martinsville Middle School Odyssey of the Mind teams are advancing to the state championships!

Emery Taylor, 6th grade, issued the following report about her Odyssey of the Mind trip.

The week of February 17 through the 21 was so much fun for the Odyssey of the Mind team members. On Friday, February 20, team members got to leave school early and get on a bus that was Newport News, VA bound. After four hours and thirty minutes, we finally made it!

The next morning was the day we had been working so hard for—competition day. After six long hours, it was finally time for the awards, where we would find out if we would advance to state. Then, after what felt like forever waiting, we found out that both MMS teams are going to state!

This weekend was full of Odyssey of the Mind, pin trading, problem solving, and lots of awards. It is a weekend I will never forget!

Adelaide Brent, 6th grade, issued the following report about what she has been doing this week.

In 6th grade U.S. History, we have been practicing the 50 states and our spelling words on European explorers. We read chapter one of our Exploring the Americas comic book.

On Tuesday, we practiced the 50 states again and created a poster on “Would you survive being on a boat in the 1500s?” We had to write down what we would bring with us.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Hendricks came and talked to us about an invention we would make in 30 years.

On Thursday, we practiced the 50 states and learned about the conquistadors and the three

G’s—God, Gold, and Glory—the reasons they explored. We also read another chapter in our Exploring the Americas comic book.

On Friday, we watched George Washington explain why 76 is better than 67, took a spelling test, and then played a bingo game about famous explorers.

Nevaeh Daniels, 6th grade, reported on what she has been doing in English and science.

In English, we have been reading the novel Ghost and learning about Black History. In science, we completed a project about a space timeline and are learning more about the planets.

On Thursday, we worked on a novel project for Ghost, and on Friday, we did a presentation and completed the Word of the Week.

Semaiya Craighead, 6th grade, reported that in English they finished the book Ghost by Jason Reynolds and are now writing prompts about how the plot was affected by the character’s trauma.

In math, they finished the circles unit and are now working on the area and perimeter of rectangles and triangles. Semaiya shared, “If you didn’t know, the area is the space inside of something, and the perimeter is the distance around the edges.”

In history, they have been learning about the Columbian Exchange and how Christopher Columbus discovered the Taino people and San Salvador.

Miriam Carter, 6th grade, reported that in Ms. Clemons’ class they begin with a bell ringer. After that, they rotate to different table groups to work.

They have been working on circumference, area, and diameter. They watched a video about the area and perimeter and took notes

in their notebooks.

They also finished work from previous days and reviewed it together. On Thursday, they worked with flash cards and questions. Everyone had a lot of fun.

Mercy Moore, 6th grade, reported that:

On Monday, band students watched the movie Frozen. Let it go!!

On Tuesday, students learned how to do CPR during Career Investigations class.

On Wednesday, in English, she worked on her Ghost writing assignment.

On Thursday, Mr. Givens gave them new music to practice.

Jade Holland-Dallas, 7th grade, also reported that band students watched Frozen and in the Make It Your Business course, they have been working on quizzes and making up missing work.

Trinity Hairston, 7th grade, reported that in math they have started working on probability and how to identify it. They have been working on word problems and reviewing their notes. On Friday, they had a test on probability.

Alanna Gerlach and Katie Wall, 7th grade, reported that they have been working on a Black History Month project.

Selena Stultz, an 8th grade student, reported that she is also working on a Black History project. She chose to create a poster about Lisa Leslie.

At Martinsville Middle School, every day brings new opportunities to learn, lead, and succeed. We are proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff.

Thank you to our Bulldog Beat reporters for keeping our school community informed and connected. We can’t wait to share more great news with you soon!

Eight teams to compete in Dancing for the Arts on March 14

By Jessica Dillon

Dancing for the Arts will take place March 14 at the Martinsville High School auditorium to raise money for Piedmont Arts.

Eight teams will compete for votes while entertaining the audience throughout the afternoon. Each team consists of two partners who chose to dance together and are coached by a professional dance instructor.



Katie Adkins and Brandon Johnson

Katie Adkins is the region lead at the DBQ Project. A four-time All-American cheerleader, she said she is excited to participate in Dancing for the Arts to raise money for the “wonderful education opportunities” Piedmont Arts provides in the community. She hopes students, friends and family will cheer her on and promises to keep her victory dance humble.

Brandon Johnson is a health and physical education teacher and head football coach at Bassett High School. Though he has no formal dance experience, he said he is excited to participate to “do something different and have a ton of fun.” He hopes his family, friends and football players will support him.

The pair is coached by Victoria Howard and will perform the waltz.



Shan'Tyia Hairston and Maurice Breedlove

Shan'Tyia Hairston is a program director for Piedmont United Family Services and a member of the praise dance team at Bethel Way Church of Christ. She said she was surprised when asked to participate but is excited to have fun and give back to the community.

Maurice Breedlove has been dancing for fun since 1979. He said he plans to compete “to the high-

est level” as his family and friends cheer him on. He wants the competition to bring their A game because he’s “in to win.”

Hairston and Breedlove are the first daughter-and-father team to compete in Dancing for the Arts. They are coached by Janeka Hairston and will perform the cha-cha.



Tiffanie Hairston and Brian Hairston

Tiffanie Hairston is the chief deputy treasurer at the Henry County Treasurer’s Office. A Zumba instructor, she said she is thrilled to participate because it is “such a great cause.” She looks forward to dancing with her husband, Brian.

Brian Hairston is the senior extension agent for Virginia Tech and Virginia State universities. When asked to participate, he said, “I am here to support my wife.”

They are coached by Stacey Davis and will perform the tango.



Sarah Hodges and Kasey Lucas

Sarah Hodges is the director of tourism and talent development at the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. She took dance classes as a child and enjoys dancing to live music. Though initially hesitant to be on stage, she said she decided to participate to have fun, tone up and support Piedmont Arts.

Kasey Lucas is a live music venue owner and founder of the DJWHAT Music Initiative. He said he has some dance experience and has always wanted to participate in Dancing for the Arts. He hopes to win but primarily wants to “give my all for a good cause.”

They are coached by Catherine Rodenbough and will perform the quickstep.



Elizabeth Huerta and Alfredo Huerta

Elizabeth Huerta is an early intervention program manager at Piedmont Community Services and an aerial coach with Valkyrie Acrobatics. Though she has no formal dance experience, she participated in gymnastics as a child and has performed aerial arts since 2022. She said it was an honor to be asked to participate and hopes to raise funds and awareness for the arts. She also looks forward to dancing with her husband.

The pair recently won first place in the aerial ropes act at the Aerial Olympics.

Alfredo Huerta is a police officer with the Martinsville Police Department and the cross country and girls soccer coach at Martinsville High School. Though he has no formal dance experience, he enjoys competing in races and hopes the running community will support them.

They are coached by Catherine Rodenbough and will perform the salsa.



Margie Price-Savedge and Christopher Janey

Margie Price-Savedge is the wellness director at King’s Grant. She said she has no formal dance experience but plans to have fun and hopes family, friends and the King’s Grant community will support her and Piedmont Arts.

Christopher Janey jokingly describes himself as a “spreadsheet wrangler and cat herder.” He has dance experience from group fitness classes and social dancing. When asked to participate, his first thought was, “Will Heidi call back if I hang up?” He said he looks forward to learning something new and raising “a lot of money and awareness” for Piedmont Arts.

They are coached by Jane Leizer and will perform the swing.



Shatera Robertson and Louis Norton

Shatera Robertson is a registered nurse and owner of Unique Styles & Designs.

Louis Norton works for Valley-Pro Services and performs with the band Pirates of the Piedmont.

They are coached by Stacey Davis and will perform the foxtrot.



Melissa White and Al Herndon

Melissa White is the front desk coordinator at Stateline Aesthetics. She said she has never taken a dance lesson but danced at clubs in the 1980s. She looks forward to having fun and raising money for Piedmont Arts.

Al Herndon is the social media manager for Sarver Properties and floor manager at 3rd Bay Café. Though he has no formal dance experience, he said he was initially “very nervous and hesitant” but chose to participate to raise “as much money as we can” for Piedmont Arts. He hopes customers, coworkers and family will support him.

They are coached by Jane Leizer and will perform the rumba.

Votes cost \$1 each and may be cast online at piedmontarts.org.

The show begins at 3 p.m. March 14 at Martinsville High School. Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating, \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students in grades K-12. Online ticket sales end at 5 p.m. Friday, March 13. Tickets will be available at the auditorium box office beginning at 1 p.m. on the day of the event.

Piedmont Arts will be closed March 14 in preparation for the event.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Bassett High School Band of Distinction Receives International Recognition



The Bassett High School Band of Distinction has been awarded the 2025 Sudler Shield Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation for its world-class level of excellence.

The Sudler Shield is an international award recognizing high school, youth, and international marching bands. It is awarded by the Sousa Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to the promotion of international understanding through the medium of band music.

The award was created to establish and support international standards of excellence in musical performance, marching execution, choreography, and show design for marching bands. It also identifies, recognizes, and honors outstanding bands, such as the BHS Band of Distinction.

"I am so excited for all the Band students who have been a part of making this happen," BHS Principal Michael Minter said. "It is an

honor to serve as the Bassett High School Principal and witness firsthand the hard work that each student, staff member, and parent puts in every day to make our band one of the best in the world. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and Mr. Harris for always showcasing just how special it is to be a Bengal."

Only 20 U.S. States are represented in the award recipients, and BHS is only the second Virginia band to be recognized. The award itself is not something any band can just apply for; it is nomination-based.

Once nominated, BHS Band Director Trey Harris assembled a submission that included videos, a band biography and resume, fact sheets, and more for the selection committee. The award doesn't just recognize the current band, but the BHS Band's body of work over a period of several years.

"The Bassett High School Band of Distinction is deeply honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award," Harris said. "This recognition is especially meaningful because it represents a long-standing heritage of students, parents, and staff members who have consistently strived for excellence at the local, state, and national levels."

"This award is not the result of a single year's efforts, but rather the culmination of many years of dedication, hard work, and success. We are thrilled for both our past and current students to be recognized on a national stage," Harris added. "We are incredibly proud to represent Bassett High School and Henry County each time we step onto the field. Our students are taught that it is not where you come from that defines you, but how hard you are willing to work together to achieve a common goal. As we often say: 'Make results, not excuses.'"

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Winner's will be published in
The Enterprise on April 29, 2026
Henry County Enterprise on April 30, 2026

Sounds on the Square music series begins in May



The Andy Burnette Trio (pictured here in a 2024 concert at the museum) will open the MHC Historical Society's Sounds on the Square music series with a show from 7-10 p.m. Friday, May 1.

This year the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society brings back its signature free music concert series, Sounds on the Square, at the MHC Heritage Museum, 1 E. Main St. The concerts will be held from 7-10 p.m. on the first Friday of each month from May through September. Food and drink will be sold. During the event, admission

to the museum will be half price (\$5 adults, \$2.50 children/seniors).

The schedule will be:

- May 1, Andy Burnette Trio
- June 5, To Be Announced
- July 3, Special 150th Independence Event, with an earlier starting time
- Aug. 7, Griffin Haley
- Sept. 4, To Be Announced

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SAR President Speaks to DAR Chapter on Revolutionary History



Doss demonstrates how a bayonet attaches to a musket.

Andy Doss, President of the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, recently presented a program to the "Virginia's Old Carolina Road Chapter" of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the region's ties to Revolutionary War history.

Doss discussed how militias in the area were organized, supplied, and mobilized during the American Revolution. He explained the structure of local militia leadership and how frontier communities supported the war effort through coordinated service, communication with state officials, and provision of men and materials.

A significant portion of the presentation focused on Franklin County's role in the upcoming 250th commemoration of American independence.

Although Franklin County had not yet been formed during much of the Revolutionary period, Doss noted that many of its earliest leaders were previously active in the Revolutionary efforts of Henry County and Pittsylvania County. He emphasized that while county boundaries changed, the individuals who served and led in the cause of independence remained central to the region's history.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a civic organization dedicated to preserving the history and genealogy of those who supported the American Revolution.

Requests for a presenter from the Colonel George Waller Chapter may be directed to Andy Doss at andydoss@vt.edu.

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