

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Flock cameras aid investigations, but funding clouds future

By Taylor Boyd
While Henry County officials praise Flock Safety cameras as one of the most effective investigative tools available, the sheriff's office expects to discontinue the system when its grant funding expires. Martinsville also plans to significantly reduce its camera network because of cost, while Patrick County has no plans to install the technology.

Henry County
Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said Flock

cameras have proven invaluable in criminal investigations.
"In fact, we can cite numerous instances right there in Henry County alone where they've been used for benefit. They've identified suspect vehicles in countless crimes," Davis said.
Among those cases, Davis said the cameras helped deputies locate a woman wanted in another state in connection with the killing of her husband.
"We captured her in the Bassett community, and were able to safely take custody of her small

children after she had (allegedly) murdered and dismembered a man. Had it not been for Flock cameras, who knows what would have happened to those children," he said.
Davis said the cameras have also helped locate about three missing people.
The sheriff's office currently operates 10 fixed Flock cameras and four mobile units.
"A great example of those mobile units is we use them at the Martinsville Speedway and other large-scale events where we're able to set
(See Flock p. 11)

Residents pack meeting to oppose data centers



More than 100 residents attended the Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting July 28 to voice opposition to the possibility of data centers in the county.

By Taylor Boyd
Hundreds of residents packed the Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting July 28 to voice opposition to the possibility of data centers in the county, prompting supervisors to delay action on proposed zoning regulations and seek

additional public review before moving forward.
More than 30 residents addressed the board, raising concerns about water consumption, noise, environmental impacts, energy demands and the long-term effects data centers could have on the county.

Many in the audience held signs reading "Protect Our Soil! Not Tech-Giant Spoil," "No Data Centers on God's Country," "Save Our Natural Resources Now," and "No Data Centers, No Flock Cameras, No Tyranny."
An engineer by trade, Dudley

Dawson said the heat generated from the data centers has to be released somewhere.
"It goes into the water, it goes into the air, but it's going to go somewhere. The surrounding farmland, if it goes into the air, which
(See Residents p. 10)



The Virginia Association of Counties presented its Achievement Award for the county's annual Coat Drive for Kids. Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, and Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, accepted the award.

Board considers revisions to county budget following state funding changes

The Henry County Board of Supervisors received proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2027 budget Tuesday evening to address additional local funding requirements resulting from the recently adopted Virginia state budget.
If ultimately approved, the amendments would increase the county's total Fiscal Year 2027 budget from \$231,528,674 to \$234,135,567, an increase of \$2,606,893, reflecting additional state funding for public education and corresponding local matching requirements. The school division budget increased from \$117,973,744 to \$120,580,637.
County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the proposed amendments reflect the difficult balancing act local governments face when state budget decisions create new financial obligations after local budgets have already been adopted.
"When the Commonwealth finalized its budget, Henry County was required to revisit its own budget to comply with new funding requirements," Wagoner said. "Rather than simply adding new costs to taxpayers, we worked to identify operational adjustments, delayed hiring where possible, and strategically used available reserves to meet those obligations while preserving the services our residents expect."
Although the proposed amend-

ments increase spending, much of the additional funding is required by state policy rather than new local initiatives.
The Commonwealth's adopted budget increased compensation for constitutional officers and other state supported positions from the previously anticipated 2 percent salary increase to 3.5 percent, effective August 1. To maintain equitable compensation across the organization, the Board is considering the approval of a 3.5 percent salary increase for all County and Department of Social Services employees, which would replace the previously approved 2 percent adjustment that was scheduled to take effect July 1.
The state budget also provided \$2,152,791 in additional funding to Henry County Public Schools. While the additional state funding benefits local education, it also increases the county's required local contribution by \$615,361 under Virginia's school funding formulas. Included within the state's funding package is a 4 percent salary increase for state funded school positions. Because the increase to the school budget exceeds one percent, the Board also scheduled a public hearing for August 26 at 6 p.m. to consider the required amendments to the school budget.
(See Board p. 11)

VA250 Mobile Museum, symposium coming to Martinsville



More than two dozen people attended the first annual VA250 symposium last year. (Contributed)

By Taylor Boyd
Sunday, Aug. 9, will be a day filled with history as the VA250 Mobile Museum comes to Martinsville for a one-day visit and the Martinsville-Henry County VA250 Committee hosts its second annual symposium.
The mobile museum will be set up outside the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society & Museum from 1 to 6 p.m. The symposium will take place inside the museum from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Both events are free and open to the public.
While last year's inaugural symposium was well attended, committee member and local historian Jarred Marlowe said organizers wanted to expand the event this year.
"We reached out to the VA250 people and talked about getting the

museum here for our second annual 250 symposium," he said. "We visited the museum itself back in February when it was in South Boston, and we knew that it was going to be a big attraction if it were to come to the area."
The mobile museum is housed inside a heavily modified tractor-trailer and features digital exhibits, interactive maps and historical displays.
"There's even a hologram of an early patriot that explains things to you, so it's more than just signage on a wall with pictures," Marlowe said. "There's a lot of interactive things, a lot of digital things that people can put their hands on and actually do."
Marlowe said he was initially skeptical of the concept before visiting the museum himself.
(See VA250 p. 11)

City secures funding for wastewater improvements

By Jessica Dillon
Martinsville City Council approved financing for major wastewater treatment plant improvements during its July 28 meeting, including a \$16.672 million loan through the Virginia Resources Authority's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund.
Council also approved the rezoning of 59 parcels and authorized the Youth Advisory Committee to apply for a grant to support a community project.

The second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-13 appropriates funding for water and wastewater design work. The revolving loan will finance improvements at the city's wastewater treatment plant. According to city officials, more than \$9 million of the loan will be forgiven, and the remaining balance carries an annual interest rate of 0.05%.
Council also approved the second reading of Ordinance
(See City p. 10)

VISIT

HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM

FOR MORE UPDATES

Axton woman loses 145.5 pounds, earns TOPS state honor



Barbara Dickerson before beginning her weight-loss journey with TOPS. (Contributed)

By Jessica Dillon

Barbara Dickerson of Axton has been named the 2025 TOPS Virginia Queen after losing 145.5 pounds through the nonprofit weight-loss support organization TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly).

The honor recognizes the woman in Virginia who reached her goal weight after recording the largest weight loss from her highest weight as a TOPS member, regardless of how long it took to achieve that goal. Dickerson was recognized April 24-25 during the Virginia recognition event at the Natural Bridge Hotel in Natural Bridge.

“I’m 85 years old, and I’m still moving about



Barbara Dickerson was crowned the 2025 TOPS Virginia Queen after losing 145.5 pounds. (Contributed)

pretty well,” Dickerson said. “I love cooking. I love to do that. I’ve been married 66 years, and I have two kids, a boy and a girl. I have five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.”

Dickerson said she attends TOPS meetings every Tuesday and credits the group’s encouragement for helping her stay on track.

“I go to TOPS every Tuesday, and I just love it, and I have a wonderful leader, Bettie Smith,” she said.

Dickerson said diabetes was one of the reasons she joined the organization. She said portion control, eliminating added salt and drinking plenty of water have all contributed to her success.

“It took me a long while, but I slowly used portion size. I stopped using salt a lot. As a matter of fact, I’ve quit using salt,” she said.

“I keep drinking my water and do different things to keep my kidneys straight.”

She said the support she receives from fellow members has been one of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

“Everybody that’s in there is really ... I have

Barbara’s Tips for Success

- Practice portion control.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Stay active by walking.
- Attend weekly TOPS meetings.
- Lean on support from others.

never met a group in my life that’s been so supportive. Everybody’s so nice, and everybody seems to get along with everybody,” she said.

Dickerson described herself as quiet but said she enjoys the friendships she’s made through the group.

“Everyone seems to be so friendly, and I just love it. Mrs. Smith is so nice, I don’t know what we’d do if we had to lose her.”

She added, “Everybody is the same, no better than anyone else. You are all the same in my eyes. She’s such a lovely person. I have never met that many people to be like that. I just enjoy going every week that I can, and it makes me feel better when I leave.”

For exercise, Dickerson said she mainly walks and keeps her legs moving even while sitting.

She encourages anyone interested in losing weight to consider joining TOPS.

“If they want to lose weight, that is the place to go because people will motivate you,” she said. “Eat your portion size, and next time when you come back next week you will lose weight.”

TOPS is a nonprofit weight-loss support organization founded in 1948. Members receive group support, health education and recognition to encourage healthy weight management through lifestyle changes.

TOPS President Rick Danforth praised members who reached their weight-loss goals in 2025.

“All of us in TOPS are immensely proud of our members’ weight-loss achievements,” Danforth said. “Through their TOPS membership, these individuals can honor their life-altering successes, other members, and those who have preceded them.”

For more information about TOPS or to find a local chapter, visit [tops.org](https://www.tops.org) or call (800) 932-8677.

Record funding available for cost-share program

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) program has been allocated \$304 million in cost-share funding for FY 2027, the highest level of investment in the program’s history.

This funding is an \$81 million increase over FY 2026 and marks the fifth straight year of record funding.

This record-setting funding underscores Virginia’s continued commitment to improving water quality, supporting agricultural producers and meeting Chesapeake Bay and local stream restoration goals through voluntary, farmer-led conservation practices.

The VACS program provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and landowners to implement conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil health and enhance long-term farm sustainability.

“Farmers are the original conservationists. They know that soil and water are what sustain us. They recognize their critical role that they play in protecting Virginia’s water quality, not just for the Chesapeake Bay, but also for their

local waterways,” said Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources David Bulova. “This unprecedented funding ensures farmers have the tools and support needed to help all of us succeed in our long-term partnership protecting our waterways.”

The FY 2027 allocation will expand access to a wide range of best management practices, including nutrient management planning, cover crops, livestock exclusion fencing and riparian buffers. Farmers can receive up to \$300,000 in state cost-share reimbursement for over 60 best management practices.

“The VACS program is a cornerstone of the Commonwealth’s conservation efforts, helping farmers implement practices that improve water quality and enhance the long-term sustainability of their operations,” said DCR Director Nikki Rovner. “This record funding underscores our shared commitment to supporting agriculture while safeguarding Virginia’s natural resources. Together with Virginia’s soil and water conservation districts and agricultural producers, we will continue building on the program’s success and delivering meaningful conservation

outcomes statewide.”

DCR works in partnership with Virginia’s 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to administer the funds and provide on-the-ground support to agricultural producers statewide.

“This historic investment will significantly enhance our ability to support farmers in every corner of the Commonwealth,” said Dr. Kendall Tyree, executive director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. “Local districts are on the front lines of conservation in the agricultural sector, and this funding ensures we can continue providing the technical expertise and trusted relationships that make these programs successful.”

Applications for FY 2027 funding will be available through local district offices, with enrollment periods and program details to be announced in the coming weeks.

Farmers interested in applying for funding should contact their local SWCDs. A map of local conservation districts and contact information can be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/swcds>.

DMV’s Mobile ID rolled out in southwest

Following successful regional rollouts across the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has officially expanded Virginia Mobile ID to Southwest Virginia, making it available for use across the state. The expansion kicks off in Abingdon at the 77th Virginia Highlands Festival, where festivalgoers can experience Virginia Mobile ID firsthand, as well as at participating locations across the region.

Designed with convenience and data privacy in mind, Virginia Mobile ID allows users to verify their identity or age in seconds with a quick QR code scan. Using unique encryption, Virginia Mobile ID securely transmits only the required data directly to a verifier device, ensuring the user’s personal information remains protected without having to hand over their phone.

“This is an exciting milestone for Virginia Mobile ID,” said DMV Commissioner Sandra M. Jack. “With Southwest Virginia now joining our growing network of participating businesses and organizations, Virginians can use their Virginia Mobile ID in every region of the Commonwealth. Whether you’re catching a ballgame, traveling through the airport, attending a festival or visiting participating

businesses, Virginia Mobile ID is making everyday interactions more convenient, secure and accessible across Virginia.”

Getting started with Virginia Mobile ID only takes a few minutes, and the process can be completed at home or while on the go. Customers can download the free app on App Store or Google Play, scan their driver’s license or ID card, complete a quick face verification and begin using their mobile ID immediately. Virginia Mobile ID is a digital companion to the physical ID, and residents must always carry their physical ID as a backup, especially when driving.

Attendees at the Virginia Highlands Festival can use Virginia Mobile ID at the beer garden from July 30 through Aug. 1 to securely confirm they are over 21 without sharing unnecessary personal information, such as their name and home address. By introducing the option at the festival this summer, event leadership aims to streamline the process of navigating the event while protecting guest privacy.

“We are thrilled to lead the way in Southwest Virginia with Virginia Mobile ID,” said Deirdre Cole, executive producer of the Virginia Highlands Festival. “Incorporating this technology at our festival grounds gives our

guests a more modern way to verify their age, so they can spend more time enjoying everything that the festival has to offer. It’s a great step forward for both our attendees and the broader business community.”

In addition to the Virginia Highlands Festival, Virginia Mobile ID is currently accepted at numerous participating locations across Southwest Virginia.

Accepting Virginia Mobile ID is fast and simple for local businesses, with no added costs. Business owners can get started today by downloading the free Virginia Mobile ID Verifier app from the App Store or Google Play.

In addition to participating businesses, stadiums and venues across the Commonwealth, Virginia Mobile ID is accepted at TSA checkpoints at 350+ U.S. airports, pilot Virginia ABC stores, all DMV Customer Service Centers and by Virginia State Police. DMV is continuing to broaden acceptance of Virginia Mobile ID statewide with a variety of businesses and organizations.

For more information about downloading and using the Virginia Mobile ID app, benefits, participating locations, security features and frequently asked questions, visit DMV’s website.

Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net

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, August 6, 2026

Henry County School Board Regular School Board Meeting, 9 a.m., followed by closed session, Henry County Administration Building, 3rd Floor Boardroom, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Tuesday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 25

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

Events

Friday, August 7

Dr. Z and the Riff Raff will perform for Sounds on the Square, 6 to 10 p.m., music begins at 7. The music is free; food and drink will be sold. Admission to the museum will be half price.

Saturday, August 8

Happy Birthday, America! Family Day, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Enjoy games, crafts, and snacks at this fun Family Day for all ages. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

Sunday, August 9

A hands-on, interactive, and immersive “museum on wheels,” the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience titled “Out of Many, One” is housed in an expandable tractor trailer that is traveling throughout Virginia and beyond. The mobile museum brings key stories of Virginia’s rich history to schools, museums, local events, fairs, and more, highlighting every region of the state. It will be open in Martinsville, in front of the MHC Heritage Museum, from 1-6 p.m.

Join in the celebration of the semi quincennial anniversary of Virginia and our nation as notable speakers share stories of the start

of our democracy 250 years ago. The program begins inside the restored Henry County Courtroom at 3 p.m., as a special installment of the MHC Historical Society’s Sunday Afternoon Lecture.

Tuesday, August 11

Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA), in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension, is hosting a free educational workshop called “Aging in Place”. The workshop is designed to help individuals form a personal plan to stay at home and in their community for as long as possible. Attendees will receive information and resources to guide them in their planning. The workshop will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at SAAA, 1075 Spruce Street, Martinsville. Pre-registration is required by calling SAAA at (276) 632- 6442.

Saturday, August 15

Expressions Artwork Pickup at Piedmont Arts - Artists with work on display in “Expressions 2026: America 250” should pick up their work between 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Friday, August 21

TGIF Series Legendz Tribute Band, West Piedmont Higher Education Center (formerly NCI), Baldwin Building, Outdoor Plaza, 191 Fayette St., Martinsville. Doors open at 6 p.m.; music begins at 7. Food and drink vendors on site.

Saturday, August 22

Country Breakfast at Rangeley Ruritan Club, 7 to 10 a.m., 134 Calloway Drive, Fieldale. Includes sausage, eggs, hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy. Eat in or take out. Donations accepted. Proceeds go toward community projects.

Smith River Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monogram Smith River Sports Complex, 1000, Irisburg Road, Axton.

Saturday, August 29

‘Fight Like Jackie’ Spaghetti Benefit Dinner, \$15 per meal. All proceeds will support Jackie. Hosted by the Fieldale Fire Department, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Rangely Ruritan, 134 Calloway Dr., Fieldale.

Ongoing

A series of four classes on genealogical research will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Bassett Historical Center on the first four Tuesdays in September (1, 8, 15, 22). There is no charge for the classes. The classes are limited to 12. Call the Bassett Historical Center 276-629-9191 to reserve a spot.

Lynwood Artists meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts.

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, coffee, and juice. Dine in or carry out.

Piedmont Arts Guild meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, except in November and December, at 11:45 a.m. at Piedmont Arts.

Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild daytime group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Piedmont Arts and on the third Friday of each month in January, March, May, July, September, and November, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild evening group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-9 p.m. at Piedmont Arts.

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.

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.

TOPS FIELDALE VA 0626 meets on Tuesdays 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.

Danville man fatally shot in Martinsville

A Danville man was killed and two women were wounded in a shooting early Aug. 1 in Martinsville.

Martinsville police responded to a report of shots fired at 4:16 a.m. in the 400 block of Fayette Street. Officers found D'Sean Jones, 24, of Danville, dead at the scene.

An adult woman was also found at the scene with a gunshot wound. A second woman arrived at SOVAH Health-Martinsville with gunshot wounds around the same time, according to police.

Investigators processed the scene, collected evidence and interviewed witnesses. Fayette Street was closed between High and Peters streets while the investigation was underway.

The shooting remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Lt. Lane Clark at (276) 403-5458 or Martinsville-Henry County Crime Stoppers at (276) 632-7463. Tips to Crime Stoppers may be submitted anonymously and may be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,500.



Read Local

Keep up with your community!

Former law enforcement officer charged with animal cruelty

The Martinsville/Henry County 9-1-1 Center received a call reporting a dog running at large on July 23.

Henry County Sheriff’s deputies responded to the area and located the dog. During their investigation, deputies discovered that the dog’s collar had become excessively tight and was embedded in the animal’s neck, causing injury. Deputies assigned to the Henry County Sheriff’s Office Animal Services Unit immediately transported the dog to a local veterinarian, where it received medical treatment and the embedded collar was safely removed. It was further determined that the dog was underweight.

The investigation determined that the dog belonged to Robert Tatum, who was employed by the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at the time of the incident. In addition to the criminal investigation, an internal administrative investigation was initiated. Tatum subsequently resigned from his employment with the Henry County Sheriff’s Office.

Upon completion of the criminal investigation, Animal Services Deputies presented the findings to the Henry County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office for review. The Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office authorized Animal Services Deputies to charge Tatum with one count of animal cruelty.

The Virginia State Police arrested Tatum on the charge. He was subsequently released on a \$3,500 secured bond pending further court proceedings.

Tatum surrendered the dog, a Husky, to the Henry County Animal Shelter. The dog has since been transported to Angels for Animals located in Ohio, where it remains under veterinary care and will later be available for adoption.

“The welfare of animals in our community is important, and we appreciate the partnership of the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office and the Virginia State Police in this investigation,” Sheriff Wayne Davis said.

Spanberger restores voting rights for more than 66,000

Since taking office in January, Gov. Abigail Spanberger’s administration has restored the right to vote for 66,085 Virginians who were formerly incarcerated.

“The right to vote is foundational to who we are as Americans,” said Spanberger.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Office is working to proactively identify Virginians who lost their right to vote, confirm that these Virginians are eligible, and restore

their rights. The Spanberger Administration is also accepting restoration of rights applications from Virginians through a streamlined, online system that removed unnecessary questions added during the Youngkin Administration.

For more information on the restoration of rights, submit a restoration of rights application, or check civil rights status, visit restore.virginia.gov.

Medicaid Impact Dashboard launched

Gov. Abigail Spanberger on Wednesday marked the 61st anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid by criticizing recent federal health-care legislation and outlining steps Virginia is taking to respond.

According to the governor’s office, changes included in H.R. 1 could affect Medicaid coverage for about 300,000 Virginians and reduce federal Medicaid funding to the state beginning in 2028. The administration also said it has launched online dashboards to monitor the impact of the changes and is working to help eligible residents maintain health coverage.

State officials said Virginia’s 2026-28 budget includes funding to support residents who lose health coverage and to establish a Medicaid reserve fund. Spanberger also announced a series of listening sessions with patients, healthcare providers and community organizations to discuss the law’s effects.

More information about Medicaid coverage changes is available through the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services.

This version avoids repeating the release’s political rhetoric, attributes contested claims, and reads like a standard newspaper brief rather than a rewritten press release.

OPINION

More Legislative Momentum on Health Care



Morgan Griffith

Representative

In July 2025, I received an appointment to be Chairman of the Health Subcommittee for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In the first week following my appointment, I toured various hospitals in Virginia’s Ninth District. My visits included Lee County Community Hospital in Pennington Gap, Clinch Valley Medical Center in Richlands, Carilion Giles Community Hospital in Pearisburg, and Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery in Blacksburg.

My discussions with hospital leadership and staff touched on topics of hospital solvency, health care access challenges and the rural health care landscape.

Additionally, I consult with our Community Health Centers (CHCs). During my first week as Health Subcommittee Chairman, I visited the Connect Health + Wellness location in Martinsville.

I support federal engagement with health care providers and patients to improve health care outcomes in rural America.

This engagement has continued in 2026.

I am in close contact with rural hospitals in Virginia’s Ninth District. These vital health care providers serve the medical needs of our rural communities with care, dignity and professionalism.

One hospital is Twin County Healthcare in Galax. In May, I met with Twin County hospital leadership and local officials. Together,

we are committed to serving the medical needs of our rural communities.

Another hospital with this mission is Clinch Valley Health Medical Center. This summer, I toured its facility. Clinch Valley Health President and CEO Peter Mulkey emphasized that these meetings help us “work together” to “provide top quality care to those that call our region home.”

For more of my summer meetings, I visited Abingdon and toured the Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center. The clinic strives to be a source of care in Southwest Virginia.

Additionally, in Wise County, I had the privilege to visit a weekend-long expo, the Move Mountains Medical Mission.

This expo featured volunteer actions from numerous health care providers, including Radford University’s nursing program, UVA-Wise personnel and the Health Wagon.

There was even a free veterinary clinic!

Further, I will have additional opportunities to meet providers, medical staff and patients. I will continue to promote voices in our region to help advance rural health care solutions.

My Health Subcommittee has taken advantage of some opportunities to advance health care solutions. I was proud to push forward many bills for full House consideration.

These include H.R. 2821, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0.

This bill promotes modern alternative testing methods to minimize animal testing.

The horrors of federal testing on animals hit Capitol Hill when Dr. Anthony Fauci came under fire for his agency, NIAID, and its taxpayer-funded experiments on beagles. This unnecessary dog testing included cutting out vocal cords, infesting them with ticks and placing them in cages with infectious sandflies.

House passage of the FDA Modernization Act 3.0 is a win for animal rights without sacrificing scientific breakthroughs.

Further, the bill improves development of clinical drugs by encourages use of alternative methods, such as computational AI models. As our agencies test scientific advances and potential treatments, new clinical drugs can hit the market for patients.

A second bill to win House support is H.R. 6238, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) IMPROVE Maternal Care Act.

This legislation delivers research funding for maternal care. With more than one million women of childbearing age in Virginia, this kind of funding will help our expectant mothers.

We also passed other bills that support research funding.

In the case of H.R. 3491, the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2025, we provide federal funding for research into down syndrome.

We must continue to work to better understand this condition.

Additionally, the House passed the EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2025.

This bill delivers funding for breast cancer awareness campaigns to promote early detection.

Breast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, a 2026 study found 15% of new cancer cases are breast cancer.

By educating our communities and patients on breast cancer, this legislation will help with diagnosis efforts.

These bills are a pillar of my Health Subcommittee’s efforts to improve health care outcomes across the United States.

We will have to wait for the Senate to pass them as well, but when it comes to maternal care, down syndrome, and breast cancer I cannot imagine the Senate will not concur.

I will continue to make the most of my appointment to the Health Subcommittee to advance policies, create health care opportunities and strengthen options for patients.

Everything That Could Go Wrong ... Did



Holly Kozelsky

Kayaking is fun. Usually.

That’s why MHC Historical Society Staff Aide Davis Scott took a Friday off work to go with his friends kayaking on the Smith River.

He went with Jake Belton, sisters Jolie and Autumn Boyer and a person we’ll just call Lady X so as not to embarrass her for what we tell about her later in the story.

“This first goes wrong when we get to Jolie and Autumn’s house,” where the kayaks are stored, he said. “We’re spraying off the kayaks and the handle of it starts spraying me – not sopping wet, but enough to make me mad, enough to make my glasses wet. Then I slip in the water.”

Then nobody could find the life jackets.

Once life jackets and kayaks were in order, it was time to back up the trailer, which was attached to Autumn’s Jeep, to them – “and no one knows how to back it up.”

Davis stood in back to guide Autumn on which way to go – “the whole process of go forward, back up, pull forward, back up, pull forward. I eventually got tired of doing it so I picked up the trailer



Jake Belton paddles the Smith River during what was intended to be a relaxing kayaking trip that quickly turned into a series of mishaps.



Davis Scott navigates the Smith River during a kayaking trip that included low water, falls, a flat tire and lots of unexpected challenges.

and put it on the hitch.” It was very heavy!

When Davis had been driving to the Boyer house, he noticed that a road work crew was setting up. The kayak crew didn’t get back down in time to beat the road closure, so instead, they had to go the long way around from Hidden Valley down Figsboro Road to King’s Mountain Road and then to the bottom of Philpott Dam.

At the dam they got everything unloaded from the trailer. As Autumn backed up the Jeep, “the trailer jackknifed and all we hear was ‘psst’ – a metal part of the trailer punctured a tire.

“Growing up, my family taught me how to change a tire not once, but twice but multiple times. However, they would not let me change the tire. They were afraid the jack would drop and fall. They say, ‘Let’s call Dad.’”

David Bowyer had to drive the 20 or 25 minutes from the Henry County Administration Building to the Smith River at the bottom of the dam.

The jack fit just fine under the Jeep when the tire was flat, but the jack didn’t raise it up high enough to fit the spare tire on.

“Well it was a struggle” to get to a second jack out of a crowded vehicle, but they did.

When the tire was fixed, they took both vehicles to drop off the Jeep with trailer at the place they’d be getting out of the river.

After they dropped off the Jeep they all rode in Davis’s car back to their kayaks at the getting-in-the-river place. “I’m going back going 13 or 14 miles per hour down that back road and some guy’s standing on the side of the street with his granddaughters, and he says ‘Slow down! Slow down! You need to slow down!’ The speed limit is like 20 or 25 miles per hour, but he has a little makeshift speed limit sign that says 10 miles per hour, but I don’t think it’s approved by VDOT.

“We get up there and we’re the only car there. This is important later on.

“We get in the water and we immediately noticed that the water is like 8 or 9 inches lower than it should be, which is a lot when you go kayaking.

“Then we hear somebody running on the river bank up beside of the river and we notice it’s this guy and he’s like, ‘I told you to slow down!’” Davis said.

Well, this is where Lady X comes into the story. From her kayak, Lady X yells back in a markedly unladylike way: “Shut up, Bro!”

Since Davis’s car was parked all by itself, he got worried over what the angry man might do to it, so he asked Lady X to compose herself and be quiet. However, she yelled again at the man: “Stop staring at us ... Take a picture: It will last longer!”

“Now the whole time we’re kayaking I have to be worried about my car.”

In the lower-than-usual water, troubles, trials and tribulations ensued. The first incident was when Davis’s kayak T-boned Jolie’s, and she fell out and into the river. They got stuck between rocks. They had to get out at times and drag their kayaks through super low areas. Autumn was chased and tormented the whole time by a horsefly.

“Right there at the very end I get stuck in rapids and I have to get out of my boat, walk down, then at one point I trip and fall and I scrape my left leg and then – this water is like 35 or 40 degrees. It is freezing. It is so cold that when you start to touch it your hand goes numb in at least a minute. Your hand starts to tingle and it starts to really hurt.”

Davis fell face-forward into the water, fully immersed: “When you hit that water it takes your breath away.”

He felt something on his foot but didn’t realize the severity of it until Jake said, “Oh my god, Davis, your foot is dripping blood.”

They were almost out. To escape the river they just had to scoot their kayaks through an unusually shallow part at the bottom of Trent Hill. Autumn and Jolie’s kayaks got stuck in there. Davis pulled a muscle in his shoulder trying to get his out.

“It’s important to know that it was raining for half of this,” Davis added, shuddering at the memory. The rain made everyone feel that much colder.

“By this time I have tears coming down my face. This was supposed to be nice and relaxing. Usually when you go kayaking it’s a nice, pleasant experience. You have one or two moments like that,” but not the whole trip like that.

At least when they take Davis’s car at their get-out point, it was just as he had left it.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Published Each Thursday

USPS - 6

PUBLISHER

Michael Showell

EDITOR

Debbie Hall - dhall@theenterprise.net

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Wendi Craig - advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

(276) 340-2445

GIVE US YOUR VIEW

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

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

If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net.

The Henry County Enterprise (USPS-6) is published weekly for \$55 per year in state, \$56 per year out of state, by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Martinsville, VA.



Educators: It’s time apply for AITC grants

Educators often have ideas for fun, creative projects that engage their students, but funding them can sometimes be challenging. That’s where Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom steps in.

Virginia AITC wants to help teachers integrate agricultural projects and learning experiences into their classrooms. Through its educator grant program, the non-profit provides an opportunity for teachers to receive funding that can help them expand children’s understanding about the sources of their food and fiber, and how farming and agriculture impact their daily lives.

AITC will award over \$35,000 for the 2026-27 school year to support creative and innovative educator projects. Teachers and other organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that work with schools and parent-teacher associations can apply for up to \$500 for agriculture-related initiatives.

“Connecting students with agriculture helps them better understand the world around them,” said Lynn Black, Virginia AITC’s director of education. “By supporting creative classroom projects, these grants encourage curiosity and hands-on learning that engages children with agricultural topics while supporting required curriculum.”

The deadline for grant applications is Oct. 13. However, applications received by Aug. 15 are eligible for AITC’s “early bird” notification. This early decision lets educators begin their projects at the beginning of the school year. Instructors who complete the application early will be notified by Sept. 8.

Grant projects may include learning gardens, STEM concepts and/or unique agricultural experiences for students. Previous projects ranged from classroom hydroponic gardens and egg hatching units to composting systems and student-led mini

farmers markets. Some attended local agriculture events and toured farms while others took part in farm-to-table activities—cooking produce that they grew.

Last year, AITC awarded 70 grants, totaling over \$33,000 and reaching 26,000 youth. In Virginia Beach, Salem Elementary School kindergarten teacher Christy Flanagan received an AITC grant for a vermicomposting project. Throughout the year, students collected their food scraps from lunch, added them to the compost bin and observed how red wiggler worms converted the scraps into nutrient-rich castings. While learning about food waste and animal behavior, students also used the worm castings to plant seeds—launching lessons in plant lifecycles and soil health.

“It went full circle and became a great project that touched on a lot of difference science topics,” Flanagan said. “I think when students are involved in what you’re teaching, it just makes learning more powerful.”

Flanagan said that AITC grants can have lasting impacts, noting that an earlier grant helped fund an aeroponics classroom garden she uses with her students every year.

“Learning is much more meaningful when it’s part of the classroom community,” she added. “It’s not just one unit and we move on to a different topic—they’re able to participate for the whole school year.”

To apply for a grant, or to learn more about educational activities available through Virginia AITC, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/teachers/grants.

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. To learn more and support, visit virginia.agclassroom.org.

Public health leaders offer Virginians advice about tick bites



Communities like Charlotte and Bedford counties had some of the highest rates and sheer numbers of alpha-gal syndrome cases, respectively. (Adobe Stock)

By **Zamone Perez**

Virginia News Connection

Warm weather often encourages people to get outside. But experts warn to watch out for ticks and other insects that could cause serious medical issues.

Virginia is one of the top states for tick-borne illnesses, which include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and alpha-gal syndrome. The latter triggers a red meat allergy that can cause nega-

tive bodily reactions hours after meat is consumed, including anaphylaxis.

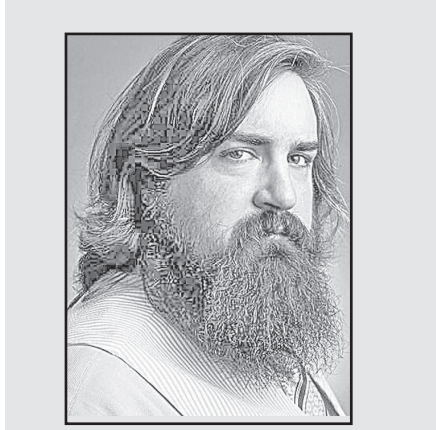
Cases of the disease have surged across the commonwealth in recent years, along with cases of Lyme disease.

Dr. Joydip Roy, Mid-Atlantic market chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare warned that ticks are an effective vessel for many types of diseases.

“Ticks are what’s termed a vec-

OPINION

Schrodinger’s virus



By Ben R. Williams

Ignaz Semmelweis was a doctor and scientist who would ultimately become known as “the savior of mothers.”

In 1846, Semmelweis was hired in the obstetrics clinic at Vienna General Hospital. There were two maternity clinics at the hospital: the first clinic was operated by medical students, while the second was operated by student midwives.

Semmelweis noticed that pregnant women were terrified to go to the first clinic. They believed it was a deathtrap and begged to go to the second clinic instead. They were right to do so; the first clinic had an average maternal mortality rate of about 10%, while the second clinic had a maternal mortality rate of just 4%.

In 1847, one of Semmelweis’ friends and colleagues died after accidentally being stabbed by a scalpel which had previously been used in an autopsy. Semmelweis had an idea: perhaps the student doctors in the first maternity clinic were picking up “cadaverous particles” when they performed autopsies and were transferring these particles to mothers when they delivered their babies. The student midwives in the second clinic seldom interacted with cadavers, thus explaining the lower incidence of maternal mortality.

Semmelweis proposed a bold idea that shocked the Viennese medical community: maybe doctors should wash their hands before delivering babies.

Admittedly, Semmelweis couldn’t exactly explain his theory — this was before Louis Pasteur’s work and the widespread acceptance of germ theory — but his recommendation was obviously valid. Nonetheless, many of his colleagues rejected his theory since it ran against the medical understanding of the time. Some doctors were also offended that they be asked to wash their hands since they were gentlemen of high social status and couldn’t possibly be unclean.

To make a long story short, Semmelweis was rejected by the medical community, was eventually committed to an insane asylum, was savagely beaten by orderlies, and then died of gangrene as a result of his injuries. And now doctors wash their hands.

I couldn’t help but think of Semmelweis when I saw Sen. Rand Paul’s witch hunt of Dr. Anthony Fauci. The main difference is that the Rand Pauls of Semmelweis’ day didn’t know any better. The Rand Pauls of today have to try pretty hard to remain ignorant.

Paid Column Support

tor, and they can carry various diseases due to bacteria, viruses, or protozoas, and they can transmit these to humans and cause disease,” Roy said.

Even during the commonwealth’s mild winters, ticks are year-round pests that can cause severe medical issues.

Jenny Hall, a Radford University associate professor of public health and healthcare leadership and founder of Ticks in Virginia, offered a slew of prevention strategies to combat ticks while enjoying the outdoors.

Hall said using repellant on clothes and gear before going out can help protect against ticks, along with wearing long sleeve clothing that covers legs and arms. Thin, light-colored clothing can

On July 29, Fauci was brought before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security. Paul chaired the hearing, which was clearly and nakedly designed to get Fauci to contradict himself under oath so he could be charged with perjury and Paul could make good on his long-standing promise to jail an 85 year old man who has devoted his life to the health of the American public.

The main argument I was able to piece together from Paul and his fellow brain geniuses is that Fauci lied to the public during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the extent of those lies are revealed in his journals; for example, he initially wrote in his journals that he believed COVID-19 escaped from a research lab in Wuhan, China, then later said that it emerged naturally after jumping from an animal to a human.

If you actually read Fauci’s words, he said that he initially thought the virus escaped from a lab, but after viewing more evidence over time, he began to believe it was more likely that it occurred naturally. I can understand why the Republicans on the committee can’t grasp the concept of changing your mind when presented with new evidence, but it’s actually something scientists do all the time!

“So why did Fauci keep invoking the Fifth Amendment and refuse to speak?”

Easy; because the man was in a kangaroo court and there were no answers he could give that wouldn’t be twisted against him.

“So why did Joe Biden pardon Fauci before he left office?”

Easy; because it was clear that the Republicans would hound the man until his dying day, just like they did at this Senate hearing.

For his part, President Donald Trump has labeled Fauci as a crazy person who denied the virus originated from a lab because he’s always trying to protect China. I bet Trump is really angry at the guy who gave Fauci a presidential commendation for his COVID-19 work back in 2021. His name was President Donald Trump. But hey, back then, Trump didn’t have the Epstein files and a failed war he needed a distraction from.

Since the pandemic started, the Republican messaging on COVID-19 has been nonsensical. It relies on ignoring the fact that the virus afflicted the entire planet and that other countries around the world approached it in the same way Fauci did. It relies on believing that masks and vaccines are ineffective at preventing a respiratory disease despite hard scientific evidence to the contrary. It relies on somehow simultaneously believing that COVID-19 was a deadly Chinese bioweapon designed to bring America to its knees but also no worse than the flu. It requires a person to reject science and logic in favor of blind, irrational belief.

It shouldn’t be surprising that the ruling party hates Fauci. A man who has devoted his life to serving the public has no place in a government that has no interest in helping people, only hurting the ones they think deserve it.

also help a person identify ticks that have potentially latched onto them.

Hall also encouraged tick checks throughout a person’s time outdoors.

“So you often hear to do tick checks after you’ve been outside, and I like to encourage people to do them during. So while you’re outdoors and in areas where ticks may be, you can get them off before they bite and attach to you,” Hall said.

While the CDC estimates that 31 million people a year are bitten by ticks, more than two-thirds of adults report rarely or never checking for the insects after being outdoors.

UnitedHealthcare contributes to our fund for reporting on healthcare.

THANK YOU FOR READING HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 340-2445

SERVICES

Woodwrx
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County- References.
Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net.

HELP WANTED

Part-time Bookkeeper/Office Manager needed for MHC Historical Society. QuickBooks a must; experience and/or education desired. Email kozelsky.mhchs@gmail.com.



REACH VIRGINIA
Commonwealth Media Solutions
AD NETWORK
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
REACH OVER 1 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly
Advertising Solutions starting at \$330
Contact this newspaper today to get started.

AUCTIONS
PUBLIC AUCTION! Huge - No Reserves. William A. Hazel, Inc. Equipment & Trucks. Friday, Aug 14. 10am. Bid Onsite & On-line. Winchester, VA. Motleysindustrial.com. VAAL #16/NCAL #5914

HOME IMPROVEMENT
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring

REACH VIRGINIA
Commonwealth Media Solutions
AD NETWORK
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
REACH OVER 1 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly
Advertising Solutions starting at \$330
Contact this newspaper today to get started.

our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

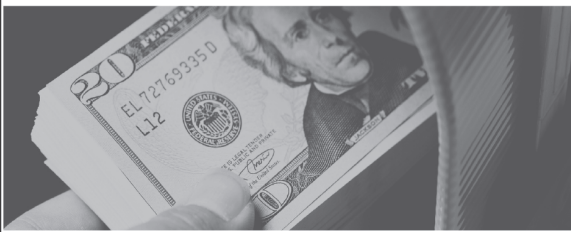
REACH VIRGINIA
Commonwealth Media Solutions
AD NETWORK
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
REACH OVER 1 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly
Advertising Solutions starting at \$330
Contact this newspaper today to get started.

SERVICES
DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$89.00 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS!
No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028

Virginia Treasury Announces a New Record for Unclaimed Property Funds Reunited to Rightful Owners!



Over \$150 million successfully reunited to citizens in FY2026!

Have you lost track of any dormant accounts or checks? To locate and claim your unclaimed funds, visit our free search site today at:



vaMoneySearch.gov
Click and Claim
VIRGINIA TREASURY
Stewardship-Integrity-Excellence



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

HOME MODIFICATIONS
PROJECT NEEDS
LICENSED CONTRACTORS



Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA) is seeking licensed and insured contractors to complete small home modifications Under a federally-funded Home Modification Project that provides Home modifications to those who qualify for the project. Criminal Background check will be conducted at SAAA's expense. Contact Judy Worley at (276) 632-6442 for more information or email Inquiry to info@southernaaa.org.



SOUTHERN AREA AGENCY
ON AGING

BEDDING SALE



BEST PRICES AROUND

We Have What You Are Looking For!!

RIVERSIDE BEDDING

1580 GREENSBORO ROAD | MARTINSVILLE, VA

276.632.1286

Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm • Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

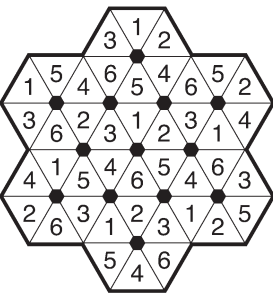
email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

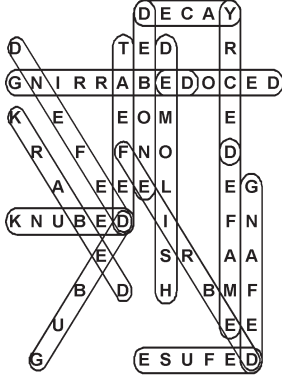
Puzzle Answers!

SNOWFLAKES

solution



"DE" WORDS



SCRAMBLERS

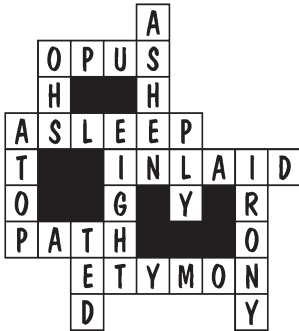
solution

1. Hedge; 2. Sate
3. Scenic; 4. Trail

Today's Word
CHEATING



answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

State warns of misleading health plans

Federal regulators are cracking down on companies that deceptively market medical discount memberships and limited benefit plans as comprehensive health coverage.

The Federal Trade Commission has filed a lawsuit against two companies – Innovative Partners LP (doing business as Innovative Health Plan and Healthcare Plan) and American Collective LP (doing business as ACLP Health Plan) – alleging they misled consumers who bought plans in 2026.

Consumers who bought one of the plans may have to pay almost the full cost of treatment for doctor or hospital visits. More than 900 Virginians were affected, according to the court-appointed receiver in the case.

If you believe you've been affected by deceptive marketing practices, call Virginia's Insurance Marketplace for one-on-one help enrolling in a high-quality health plan. Consumers who can demonstrate they were impacted by deceptive marketing practices may qualify for coverage immediately. Documents such as letters or emails from the companies, proof of 2026 payments to the companies, or a notice from the court-appointed receiver or FTC that they have been impacted by deceptive marketing

practices can be used to verify eligibility to enroll in Marketplace coverage.

The Customer Assistance Center can be reached at 888-687-1501 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All plans sold by Virginia's Insurance Marketplace offer comprehensive health coverage.

The Marketplace is overseen by the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, a division of the State Corporation Commission. It's the only place where Virginians can get help paying for coverage and qualify for savings on their monthly premiums.

"If your family needs reliable health coverage, the Marketplace is the best place to find it," said Keven Patchett, executive director of Virginia's Health Benefit Exchange. "Marketplace plans provide coverage you can count on."

For your protection, if you're buying your own health insurance and are unsure about information provided to you over the phone or are concerned about a website, you can call the Bureau of Insurance at 877-310-6560 or email BureauofInsurance@scv.virginia.gov before you enroll. You can use these resources whenever you have a question about your health coverage that's unrelated to Marketplace coverage.

ENTERPRISE EXCHANGE

In the spirit of partnership, we’re sharing highlights from our sister newsroom at The Enterprise (www.theenterprise.net) to help keep our readers in Henry County and Martinsville informed.



Floodwaters damaged the Rabbit Ridge Road bridge over the Ararat River. This photo was taken from the North Carolina side following flooding that began Aug. 1 and continued into Aug. 2. (Contributed by Mary Dellenback Hill)

Road, bridge repairs underway after weekend flooding

By Taylor Boyd

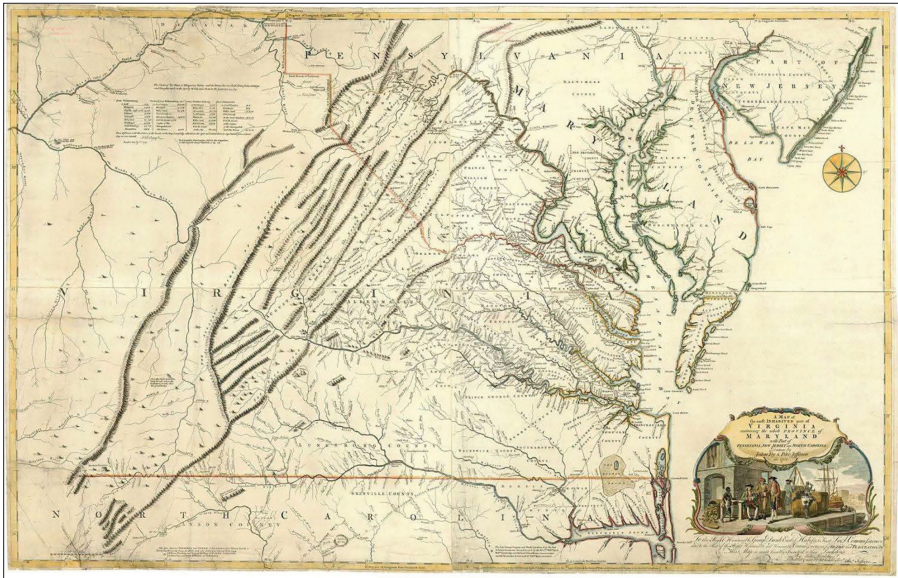
As floodwaters receded Monday, Patrick County officials and the Virginia Department of Transportation assessed damage and worked to restore access to roads and bridges affected by weekend flooding in the Claudville and Ararat areas.

Patrick County Emergency Management Director Scottie Cassell said rivers and creeks had nearly returned to normal levels,

but several roads remained closed because of extensive damage.

“We still have a couple of roads that are still shut down due to severe damage to bridges. VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) is working on that right now. I went out this morning and checked on a couple of situations we left last night, but they are trying to get all the roads opened back up as quick as possible,” he said.

The Flood of 1979



By Tom Perry

Editor’s note: As Patrick County begins another round of cleanup following this weekend’s flooding, longtime local historian Tom Perry reflects on another devastating chapter in the region’s history. While today’s flood is a different event, many of the same communities along the Ararat, Mayo and Dan rivers once again faced rising waters. Perry’s personal memories offer historical perspective on a disaster that remains etched in the memories of many local residents.

Genesis 8:4 “And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.”

This morning I woke up and thought it was 1979. Sadly, I was not 18 years old, but 65. I hope ev-

eryone is safe.

If you grew up along the Ararat River, you read the story of Noah and the ark landing on the “Mountains of Ararat.” On the Jefferson Fry Map of our area, Pilot Mountain, Sauratown, and Hanging Rock were listed as the Mountains of Ararat. So we have two communities in Virginia and North Carolina known as Ararat and a river of the same name that connects them.

Twenty-five years ago in September of 1979, I attended my first college class at Surry Community College in Dobson, North Carolina. Appropriately, it was a history class taught by Conrad C. Holcomb. Little did I know that a few weeks later I would experience history face to face and not very pleasantly.

Disaster Relief Food Ministry opens Stuart office



Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc., its volunteers and local officials celebrated the opening of its new Patrick County office with a ribbon cutting Monday in Stuart.

By Taylor Boyd

Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc. celebrated the opening of its new Stuart office and storage facility with a ribbon cutting Monday, marking the organization’s first permanent location in Patrick County.

Founder Jimmy Willard said the new location will allow the organization to establish a physical presence in the county while creating opportunities to expand its operations.

The office space will allow Willard’s wife and organization director, Carol Willard, to complete accounting and other paperwork closer to her job at EMI. The organization also hopes to eventually use the nearby green building for food storage.

“I won’t be able to store any of my food or any of my boxes until

I get it to where I can get it inspected by Feeding Southwest Virginia, and that’s down the road quite a ways,” Willard said.

To meet Feeding Southwest Virginia’s standards, Willard said food distributed in Bassett and Patrick County must be stored separately.

“It takes a lot of room, so that’s why the warehouse in Bassett is important. But I believe we’ll be able to move Patrick County freezers here and I’ll have the frozen ones on site once we get inspected and all of that. Of course that depends on what we find when we get in there that we have to repair and that type of thing,” he said.

For more information, visit drfmnc.com, Facebook.com/DisasterReliefFoodMinistryInc, or contact Willard at (276) 229-6272 or drmf.inc@gmail.com.

New grill, convenience store opens in Critz

By Taylor Boyd

With back-to-school season around the corner, Glenn’s Grill & Go has opened in Critz, just minutes from Hardin Reynolds Memorial School. Business owner Sherry Glenn hopes will become a one-stop shop for the community, offering made-to-order meals and everyday convenience items.

The business currently serves breakfast sandwiches, biscuits, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and sides including hash browns, onion rings and hush puppies. Glenn plans to expand the store’s offerings this month to include additional convenience items, hand-dipped ice cream, fresh produce and supplies for local farmers, including animal feed.



Sherry Glenn opened Glenn’s Grill & Go in Critz in mid-July.

“This is a farming — to serve the community,” Glenn said.

Eastbound lanes open on U.S. 58

The U.S. 58 Lovers Leap project in Patrick County reached a key milestone with the completion of the new eastbound lanes. This section was opened to traffic on July 30.

These lanes are part of the \$300 million road project widening 7.4 miles of U.S. 58 and addressing

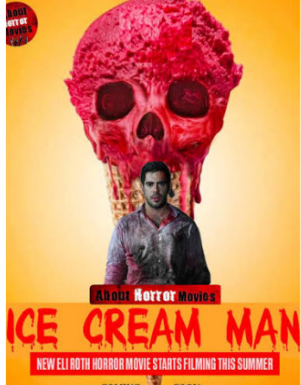
safety challenges presented by the steep grade and winding curves that drivers encounter on Lovers Leap Mountain. This section of the highway currently is restricted to tractor trailers, and the restriction will be removed upon completion of this project.



Photo Courtesy of VDOT

Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net

hollywoodcinema.net



1-3-51-3-5-7-91-4-7-9:151-3-5-7-91-3-5-7-97-9276-656-3456



PUZZLE TIME



FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

ETD
NADILI
HANSE
PTAO
YOMENT
LYP
♥PSUO
HETIG
OSH
♥SEAPLE
RYNIO
AHP T

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.

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Find the differences: 1. Line in sidewalk is moved. 2. Window sill is missing. 3. Rear car window is smaller. 4. House window is larger. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Briefcase is larger.

"DE" WORDS

MAGIC MAZE

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

Debark
Debarring
Debone
Debrief

Debug
Debunk
Decay
Decode

Decry
Defame
Defang
Defeat

Defend
Defuse
Demolish

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Arctic footwear item
9 Triaging concern
15 "Rope —" (Ali ring tactic)
20 Study of forces acting on mechanisms
21 Twinkled
22 Adversary
23 Brief seconds
24 Diane plays her role flawlessly?
26 See
61-Across
28 Dandy dudes
28 On guard
29 Foxx amuses his audience?
34 Flock babies
37 Droop
39 Phone button abbr.
40 Special span
41 Granola
43 Flood
44 Muscles called "guns"
47 Paul acts in a serious film?
50 Military pupils
52 One of a pair of sense organs
53 Expiators

54 Elmer greatly anticipates catching Bugs Bunny?
57 Favored ones
60 "Hence ..."
61 With
26-Across, maker of Tater Tots
62 Philadelphia's La —
University
63 WWII battle city in France
64 Adaptable truck, in brief
65 Christ, in Cremona
67 Oldham fashions clothes?
70 Cheer shouts
74 Court org.
76 "Look at Me" novelist
Jennifer
77 Bunk
79 Gunk
80 "ATM" rapper
83 Small warbler
84 Wynonna puts out her first album?
86 Orchestrate
88 Miracle —
90 Brown ermines
91 Roger describes a news event?

96 "C'mon, quit it!"
98 "It's all clear" source, informally
100 TV "Science Guy" Bill
102 Put in a juicer
103 One of a pair of sense organs
104 Cultural spirit
105 Billy steps off his ship?
109 Plow inventor
John
111 Swiss mounts
112 "— had it!"
113 Jason
bounces the basketball?
117 Kitchen tools
122 Architect
Jones
123 — d' (head-waiter)
124 Cubic — (fake diamond)
125 De Mille the dancer
126 Less than retail
127 How this puzzle's nine longest answers are viewed?

DOWN
1 Do the slopes

2 Writer Anaïs
3 Carry- — (flight totes)
4 Sweaty, say
5 Strallaced
6 Indian tongue
7 Scale's span
8 Road curve
9 Certain
opening for a bolt
10 Elated bliss
11 Gives help
12 German link
13 Rx request
14 Suffix with lime or Gator
15 Seed casings
16 Belly flop, say
17 Unusually big
18 People eating meals, e.g.
19 High trains
25 Maze-running rodent
27 Mrs., in Berlin
29 Burglarize
30 Gourmet
31 Tenths of centuries
32 "Judge —" (Stallone film)
33 Slip up
34 Piece of mail: Abbr.
35 Court org.
36 Mothers, informally
38 Undercoat for an oil painting
42 Skilled sorts
43 Evening eats
45 People who are hoofing it
46 Rock layers
48 — Moines
49 Perfectly
51 Song for one
54 Hazy stuff
55 Not as young
56 Pigeon perch, maybe
58 Yale for whom Yale is named
59 "I swear —!"
63 Capitol fig.
64 No longer bothered by
66 Remove the cargo from
68 Hazard
69 Motions "yes"
71 "Equus" actress
Jenny
72 Time in a Jacuzzi, e.g.
73 "Rescue us!"
75 Road curve
78 "The Lady" star
Michelle
80 Farr or Foxx
81 Fighting for change
82 Called for a pizza, say
83 Like Cardiff natives
84 Write hastily
85 City in Iraq
87 Go — (no idler)
89 Climbing roses
92 "Am — blame?"
93 Refusals
94 Cuts off
95 Pink Floyd's Barrett
97 Evening hrs.
101 Add while proofing
104 Paul who published many math papers
106 Surprise win
107 Tennis legend
Chris
108 Park seat
110 Threshold
111 Counter-tenor
113 Rio carmaker
114 "— bad boy!"
115 Slugging club
116 Razor brand
117 Israeli weapon
118 College org. of sisters
119 Suffix with opal
120 Tell fibs
121 Mourful

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- First cousins may marry in Utah, but only after age 65.
- The first Star Trek series was originally marketed as "Wagon Train to the Stars," after the popular 1957 western TV series "Wagon Train."
- To cut down on high pollution levels, car owners in San Jose, Costa Rica, are prohibited from driving into the city one day out of the week. That day corresponds to the last number on their car's license plate.
- Chickens can see color better than humans.
- Simply thinking about sex can trigger sneezing in some people. Scientists think this may be due to crossed nerve signals in the automatic nervous system.
- Los Angeles has more museums than any other city in the world.
- The sun is actually white. It appears yellow from Earth because our atmosphere tints it that hue.
- Cats don't have a sweet tooth. A genetic mutation prevents our feline friends from tasting sweetness, making them indifferent to sugary foods.
- After pornography, ancestry websites are the most commonly visited on the internet.
- In 1955, Vietnamese Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem printed his ballots on red paper, which the Vietnamese consider a very lucky color, and the ballots for his opponent on green paper, which is considered just the opposite. (He won, but not because of color.)
- Being in love and being high on cocaine activate the same portions of the brain.
- When psychologist Timothy Leary entered prison in 1971, he knew how to answer the psychology tests given to inmates because he'd helped design some of the questions. He then manipulated the answers to get a gardening job, which he used to escape.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has its own police force.

Thought for the Day: "You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind." — Joyce Meyer

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

SCRAMBLERS

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

Avoid
EGHED

Quench
EATS

Lovely
SCINCE

Follow
ALIRT

TODAY'S WORD

"Bad news, Dad — my grades are pretty awful, but at least that shows that I'm not _____."

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

CONFIDENCE IN YOUR SHOT-MAKING ABILITY IS OFTEN THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN MATCH-PLAY, WHEN YOUR ADVERSARY IS AN IMMEDIATE PRESENCE RATHER THAN A VAGUE ABSTRACTION.

YOU'LL FIND CONFIDENCE MOSTLY ON THE PRACTICE TEE, BUT ALSO FROM YOUR PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCES. THE LESS OF THE LATTER YOU CAN CLAIM, THE MORE OF THE FORMER YOU NEED — AND DON'T FORGET TIME ON THE PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN ALSO!

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

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

What we have:

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

LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

COUNTY OF HENRY, VA

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FY 27 BUDGET

Notice is hereby given pursuant to 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Administration building for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed amendment to the Henry County FY 2026-2027 Budget as necessary to appropriate \$2,606,893 from State and Local funds. The appropriation exceeds 1% of the total County budget for FY 2026-2027. The additional appropriation is proposed to increase school funding. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL26001166-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

HENRY CIRCUIT COURT

3160 Kings Mountain Rd, 3rd FL, Martinsville, VA 24112

Evelia Coral Perez Perez v. Ponciano Flores Martinez

Mexico City, Mexico

The object of this suit is to:

OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

It is ORDERED that PONCIANO FLORES MARTINEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before SEPTEMBER 20, 2026.

JULY 22, 2026

Katharine Salgado
JUDGE CLERK

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL25000011-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

MARTINSVILLE CIRCUIT COURT

55 W Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Henry-Martinsville Dept of Social Services v. Heather Davis

The object of this suit is to:

TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF HEATHER DAVIS

It is ORDERED that HEATHER DAVIS appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

06/29/2026

Stephane Upene
JUDGE CLERK

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. JJ018435-05-00

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316

HENRY COUNTY J & DR - JUVENILE

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* OMANS, BELLA AMBER

The object of this suit is to:

CONSENT TO ADOPT 63.2-1230 & 63.2-1202

It is ORDERED that the defendant STEVEN OMANS appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 09/17/2026 at 9:00 AM.

07/16/2026

Dep. K. J. JUDGE
CLERK

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 **August 12, 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 **August 25, 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-26-16 Giving Tree Lumber, LLC

The property is located at 315 Carver Rd, in the Horsepasture District. The property is shown on Tax Map 50.5/87B, 148, 148A, 149B, 150, 153. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 76.121-acres from Commercial District B-1, Suburban Residential District S-R, Agricultural District A-1 and Limited Industrial District I-2 to Industrial District I-1. The rezoning will bring the existing use into compliance, allow for potential improvements on the existing site and allow for the potential expansion on undeveloped property.

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

LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES - HENRY COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY CONDEMNATION OF EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to § 15.2-1903 Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Henry County Administration Building to receive comments on the following two condemnation for easement acquisitions.

Villa Heights Sanitary Sewer Project: Proposed condemnation of interests in certain real property for the acquisition of permanent utility easements, temporary construction easements, rights-of-way, and related property interests necessary for the construction, installation, operation, repair, replacement, and maintenance of a new sanitary sewer line and related appurtenances as part of the Villa Heights Sanitary Sewer Project as shown on Project #1308-S on file at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, suite 208 of the PSA Engineering and Mapping Department. The project IS anticipated to be funded in part through the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Horsepasture - Price Road Water Line Project: Proposed condemnation of interests in certain real property for the acquisition of permanent utility easements, temporary construction easements, rights-of-way and related property interests necessary for the construction, installation, operation, repair, replacement, and maintenance of a new public water line and related appurtenances as art of the Horsepasture Price Road Water Line Project as shown on Project # 1403-W on file at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, suite 208 of the PSA Engineering and Mapping Department. The project is anticipated to be funded in part through the Virginia Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. At the meeting the PSA Board will consider the adoption of a resolution deeming the acquisition of the easements to be necessary for the project and authorizing the staff and legal council to proceed with condemnations for those easements which could not be acquired by negotiation.

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AUGUST 19, 2026 - 4:00 PM - 55 W. CHURCH STREET, MARTINSVILLE, VA, 24112

MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - 55 W. CHURCH STREET, MARTINSVILLE, VA, 24112

(SHOULD COUNCIL CHAMBERS BE UNAVAILABLE, CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - 1 ELLSWORTH STREET, MARTINSVILLE, VA, 24112 - FIND ALL UPDATES ONLINE: <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/>)

Notice is hereby given that the City of Martinsville Planning Commission and the City of Martinsville City Council will conduct a public hearing at their respective dates and times on the following item. All interested parties are encouraged to present their views at these series of public hearings to be held separately.

The Commission and the City Council will receive and consider public input regarding the draft Comprehensive Plan. The state-mandated Comprehensive Plan is the City's key policy document for land use, development, housing, infrastructure, transportation, and related economic and social issues. A complete draft of the plan may be examined at the City of Martinsville Community Development Office at 55 W. Church Street, Room 217, Martinsville, VA, 24112 and is also available online at: <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/567/Martinsville-Momentum-2026-Comprehensive>.

This Comprehensive Plan Amendment repeals and replaces the adopted 2021 Comprehensive Plan in its entirety. Content, maps, goals, objectives, and strategies for all chapters have been revised and/or replaced in entirety to address key issues and priorities identified through public outreach and to comply with the Code of Virginia. The revised plan consists of the following chapters: 1) Establishing Momentum, describing the Comprehensive Plan purpose and process; 2) Building Momentum, describing the strategic framework that translates Martinsville's vision into actionable priorities and implementation strategies. 3) Natural & Historic Resources, describing policy framework for preserving Martinsville's natural, historic, and cultural assets while advancing sustainability, resiliency, and heritage-based community development; 4) Community Health & Safety, describing policies and strategies to promote public health, enhance community safety, and improve residents' overall quality of life through coordinated services, resilient infrastructure, and equitable access to essential resources; 5) Community Facilities & Infrastructure, describing strategies for ensuring reliable, resilient, and well-maintained community facilities and infrastructure that support current residents and future growth; 6) Economic & Workforce Development, describing policy framework for promoting sustainable economic development, supporting workforce growth, and expanding opportunities for businesses and residents; 7) Housing & Neighborhoods, describing strategies to expand housing opportunities, and promote safe, attractive, and sustainable neighborhoods throughout Martinsville; 8) Mobility & Transportation, describing policies and strategies to improve Martinsville's transportation network by enhancing connectivity, accessibility, safety, and mobility for all users; 9) Future Land Use, describing a community-centered vision for how the City will evolve over time by enhancing quality of life, improving access to essential services, and preserving the character and natural-beauty that makes Martinsville unique; and 10) Maintaining Momentum, describing the implementation framework for translating the Comprehensive Plan into action through coordinated responsibilities, prioritized initiatives, and ongoing performance monitoring.

Both the Planning Commission Meeting and the City Council meeting will be held in Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112, in a public facility believed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person with questions on the accessibility of the facility should contact the Community Development office at 55 W. Church Street, Room 217, Martinsville, Virginia or by email at hpowell@martinsvilleva.gov.

If you cannot make it to the public hearing but would still like to submit a public comment, you can submit them electronically by emailing them to: hpowell@martinsvilleva.gov.

Community Chronicles

By Jarred Marlowe

Henry County has produced its share of notable figures, but few lived as boldly or as dangerously as Howard “Buck” Kester. Born in Henry County in 1904, Kester spent his life walking straight into the worst situations the Jim Crow South had to offer and walking back out again — sometimes barely.

He grew up just outside of Martinsville before moving as a teen to Beckley, West Virginia, in a household that reflected the tensions of the era. His father, born a Quaker, had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan before eventually becoming a respected Presbyterian churchman. His mother was the daughter of a plantation overseer. Kester absorbed the conservative religious convictions of that upbringing and then, through his own experiences, turned most of them inside out.

His transformation began in earnest during a summer pastorate in the coal mining town of Thurmond, West Virginia, where he watched miners suffer under the unrestrained policies of mine ownership while church leadership looked the other way. Kester sided with the miners. His superiors in the church did not approve, and he never held another Presbyterian appointment. He went on to Princeton Theological Seminary but left within a year, convinced the institution cared more about dogma than the actual human beings Christianity was supposed to serve. He landed at Vanderbilt University, where his efforts to organize interracial fellowship meetings cost him his job and very nearly his financial footing — just three weeks after his marriage to Alice Harris of Decatur, Georgia.

None of it slowed him down. By the early 1930s Kester had joined the Socialist Party, run for Congress on the Socialist ticket, and become one of the most well-connected activists in the South. He worked with striking miners, helped organize the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and published a book in 1936 called *Revolt Among the Sharecroppers* that brought national attention to the plight of rural poor across the region.

His most harrowing work came as an investigator for the NAACP. In 1934, he traveled to Marianna, Florida, to investigate the lynching of Claude Neal, interviewing terrified members of the Black community and members of the mob itself, who passed around photos and souvenirs from what they had done. When word got out that he was asking questions, he had to flee. “My nerves were frayed,” he wrote. “I was warned to get out before it was too late.” His friend and mentor George Washington Carver had advised him, before he went, to carry a cyanide capsule in case he was captured. The



Howard Kester, pictured with Martin Luther King, Jr. at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1957 (Photo sourced from Nashville Public Library)

NAACP published his report anonymously to protect his life.

A later biographer later wrote that it would be difficult to name any white Southerner of the era with more contacts across racial lines than Kester, or a clearer understanding of what segregation cost everyone it touched. His friend, the preacher Will Campbell, called him a tragic figure in a way; not because he was defeated, but because the world was not ready for him. “He never won a battle,” Campbell said. One could also argue that the battles he did fight and won were never seen in his lifetime.

Kester spent his later years in education and campus ministry, eventually retiring to Black Mountain, North Carolina, where he died in July 1977. He is buried at Mountain View Memorial Park there.

Henry County is a community that takes its history seriously. “Buck” Kester is part of that history; a man who left Martinsville and spent the rest of his life doing work that most people did not have the nerve to even think about.

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.

THANK YOU FOR READING HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Like us on
facebook

Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net

Residents

(cont. from page 1)



Residents displayed signs opposing data centers during the Board of Supervisors meeting.



Adam Murphy urged supervisors to support a moratorium on data centers until stronger regulations are in place.

the new systems do, it can increase the air temperatures up to five degrees. So if it's a 90 degree day in summer, it's going to go to 95 degrees on the farm, and it's going to affect the crops, the animals, and the irrigation," he said.

Dawson also expressed concerns about continuous noise, light pollution and electronic waste generated by the facilities.

He said setting a decibel limit that the data centers have to remain under is one thing for a parking lot, but this would be 24 hours a day, seven days a week while people are trying to sleep or "have a church picnic outside."

"The thing that often doesn't get addressed is light pollution. These facilities have a tremendous amount of light, and it's going to be a glow on the horizon. Your sunsets are going to be marred by this, the quality of light is going to be affected," he said.

Dawson said the cleanup from data centers is another big concern, particularly during construction when a lot of debris would head to local landfills.

"Secondly, they're predicting the electron-



Richard Cox, who represents the Smith River District on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, attended the meeting.

ics of these facilities are going to need to be replaced every three years. Every three years is going to be a warehouse, a huge warehouse, full of electronic trash going into your land-fill," he said.

Dawson said another concern is what happens after the project is done.

"In parallel with solar farms, the new ones now are required to have a bond in place to restore the land after they're done with their use as a solar farm because the economics are such that the developers just walk away from it. So I would consider as you look at this to require a restoration bond before permits and an application for this," he said.

Regarding energy use, Dawson said the current trend is for clean energy, or nuclear energy, or co-location, or putting the energy source right next to the data centers on the same property.

Terrilyn Twigg said she is concerned about the lithium-ion batteries commonly used at data centers and the fire risk.

"Now imagine 50 of them in a building and our teeny, tiny fire departments trying

to handle that. The chance of them actually catching fire, I've read in some places...but it's between 30 and 60 percent that they can go up at any given moment for any given reason," she said.

Twigg said such fires can burn for hours and pose risks to air, soil and water quality. "We shouldn't be putting ourselves at risk like that," she said.

Adam Murphy, one of three candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, in Virginia's 9th Congressional District, drove more than an hour — from Cave Spring, to attend the meeting.

Murphy, whose background is in software engineering, said that while it's good to want to put guidelines in place, society as a whole needs to adopt a moratorium on data centers until stronger standards are in place.

"So that these data centers don't come to places like Southwest Virginia and look to take advantage. They know a lot of our communities need help, they need the funding, and they come to places like this promising \$10 million a year to be able to help our communities," he said.

Murphy said the reality is that the best case scenario with Artificial Intelligence (AI) is that it works, and works so well that it takes all of the jobs away from residents.

"Or, it works poorly and it's a bubble, and we have an empty building that takes up a huge amount of resources," he said.

Murphy said cited an example as Wytheville, which recently announced a second data center that would be a gigawatt facility.

"It has a thousand gigawatts it would take to run that facility. That is four percent of the power of the entire state of Virginia in one building," he said.

When a data center comes to town, Murphy said electricity rates and costs will increase.

"It's a guarantee. We have to have a set up here in the United States where the federal government protects its people by making sure that if these developments want to come to town they have to pay for 100 percent of their costs. They have to make sure there's environmental standards such as sound, water, and power, that they have to use renewable backup generation, not just diesel generators," Murphy said.

He noted that Virginia currently has 700 data centers, the most in the world.

"That's more than China. If we really need a data center, which I do not believe data centers are a matter of national security, it does not need to be in Southwest Virginia," he said to the applause of the crowd.

Naomi Hodge-Muse compared the role of supervisors to the county's law enforcement to protect the residents.

"You are the law enforcement for our air, for our prosperity, you are the centuries," she told the board. "You have been given your marching orders. Everybody in here has told you we don't want it."

Hodge-Muse recommended the board hire an attorney that specializes in zoning to craft a zoning ordinance that will make companies not want to bring data centers to Henry County.

"All of us have spoken. Both black and white, Republican and Democrat, we don't want them. Let them go somewhere else. Now take your checkbook, find you the right lawyer and write it up, write it up, and let it be done," Hodge-Muse said.

Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District, did not attend the meeting.

The full meeting can be viewed at YouTube.com/HenryCounty,Virginia.

City

(cont. from page 1)



Martinsville City Council approved financing for wastewater treatment plant improvements during its July 28 meeting.

No. 2026-16, rezoning 59 parcels generally located along Liberty and York streets.

City Manager Rob Fincher also briefed council on plans to fill the city's operational project manager position.

"It's not a new position that I'm seeking, but it's more for the matter of transparency of pre-

senting it to you all. This is a position that was created by Glen Adams when he was interim city manager. (He) took it before council, and it was voted on and approved back then," Fincher said.

Fincher said filling the position would not increase the city's overall budget.

"I want to make certain that everyone knows that if I move money from one budget to, especially into the city manager's budget, you all need to be made aware of it," he said.

Council also authorized the Youth Advisory Committee to apply for a Project Hope grant to help fund Community Care Baskets.

Flock

(cont. from page 1)

them up and capture the license plates and data,” Davis said. “For example, an event the size of the (race at) Martinsville Speedway, which is broadcast on the world-wide stage, is known to be a potential terrorist target. So the information that we’re able to get from the Flock cameras can notify us of any potential targets to that large-scale sporting environment.”

Davis said the sheriff’s office follows state guidelines governing the system’s use.

“In fact, that policy falls 100 percent in compliance with state guidelines. Everything that’s done on those Flock cameras is logged into a system where we can conduct a complete audit trail to look for any misuse,” he said.

The cameras were obtained through a grant at no cost to county taxpayers. When that funding expires in August 2028, Davis said the county does not expect to continue the program.

“At the expiration of the grant period, there is no plan to renew the contract with Flock. If we decided to renew the contract with Flock it would be at the expense of the Henry County taxpayers, and it’s cost prohibitive. I would not ask the county for any additional money to fund that,” he said.

Davis said public opinion is not driving that decision.

“I’m not considering the public pressure because at the end of the day as the chief law enforcement officer I have to make a decision that balances public safety with privacy rights. But ultimately it’s my responsibility to keep the community safe,” he said.

He added that the department has not researched potential replacement technologies.

ly by the end of the year as grant funding runs out.

“After Dec. 31, we’re going to be down to somewhere around 12 to 16, maybe fewer,” Rhoads said.

The city cannot afford to maintain the current system without outside funding, he said.

“When we put these things in, it was a couple hundred thousand dollars to get all of this stuff in, and that was all grant funded. Those grants have gone away, so we’ve negotiated and stretched it out as far as we can go.”

Rhoads said the city’s current budget includes about \$10,000 for the cameras.

“That’s going to bring us down to about three cameras. We’re going to try and fund some additional cameras through grant funding, and that’s through the HEAT grant we’ve got some additional funds for,” he said.

After discontinuing its gunshot detection system last year, Rhoads believes Flock cameras could eventually disappear in the city as well.

“That’s a shame because they’re a great tool. They’re an absolutely fantastic tool for law enforcement, and they’re very well controlled with the restrictions that the legislature’s put on us for the use of these things. I don’t see how they could possibly be abused,” he said.

Rhoads said state regulations strictly limit access to the system.

For example, Rhoads said the police department held a media day earlier this year. He wanted to bring media into an office and show how searches and work with the Flock system.

“But we can’t even do that. I can’t even search my own tag on here as a demonstration. It’s so tightly controlled because each search has to be assigned to a case number, an active case based on at least reasonable suspicion. So it’s hard to even demonstrate how to use this thing with the controls that it’s under,” he said.

len off of it, but the back tag’s still on there,” he said.

The department frequently uses the system to investigate property crimes such as shoplifting.

“If we get a shoplifting, say at the Family Dollar or the Dollar General down on Clearview Drive, and the clerk doesn’t get a tag but they can get us a description of the vehicle, once we do the report, we assign a case number to that. We can do a search for a vehicle of that description at that time in that area, and it’ll give us a picture of the cars matching that description and a picture of the tags, so we can follow up and see which one of those might have been our suspect’s vehicle,” Rhoads said.

The city’s transparency portal is available at martinsville-va.gov.

Martinsville

Martinsville Police Chief Chad Rhoads said the city currently has 41 Flock cameras, but that number is expected to decline dramatical-

Board

(cont. from page 1)

Rather than relying solely on additional recurring revenues, county staff recommended a number of operational changes to help absorb the increased costs imposed by the state’s budget.

The recommendations include using \$225,000 previously reserved during the budget development process and delaying several planned personnel additions, including the new Fiscal Technician position until January 1, 2027, the Sheriff’s Office Administrative Assistant until January 1, 2027, and the Community Standards Officer until September 1, 2026.

Additional savings would come from restructuring planned staffing within the Information Technology Department by reclassifying an existing network position to assume expanded cybersecurity responsibilities, changing the proposed new position to a desktop support role, and delaying its hiring until January 2027.

County staff also recommended modifying staffing plans within Public Safety by changing two of the four proposed new operational positions from paramedic level to EMT level. Remaining costs would be absorbed through anticipated vacancy savings, primarily within the Department of Social Services and the Emergency Communications Center.

In addition, county staff recommended allocating \$532,239 from the school’s local carry-over from FY 2025 to satisfy the FY 2027 local requirement created by the state budget. Those funds will also provide \$123,878 in discretionary local funding for Henry County Public Schools.

In other matters, the board:

- *Approved several amendments to the County’s zoning ordinance except for the provision regarding data centers. The Board directed staff to bring forward a future proposal that

VA250

(cont. from page 1)

“But with everything set up it was very impressive, and I highly encourage people to come out and see all that it has inside,” he said.

The museum begins with the years leading up to the American Revolution and “sets the scene,” before focusing on Virginia’s role in the conflict.

“One of the things that it focuses on is the contributions of people from Virginia to the freedom of our nation,” Marlowe said.

The exhibits then continue chronologically through American history to the present day.

“When you get to the end it’s kind of a ‘what does this mean, what are the impacts for it today,’ and kind of leaves you with the lasting impacts of it,” he said.

The symposium will feature two speakers: Thomas Sobol, a park ranger at Guilford Court-

would include additional public hearings, additional review by the Board of Supervisors, and other safeguards in addition to a special use permit should a data center be proposed in Henry County.

- *Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 25.64-acres in the Horsepasture District from Agricultural District A-1 to Industrial District I-1. The applicant plans to construct a new terminal building that will enable the potential expansion of airport services. This process will also require a special use permit.
- *Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 0.2-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Office and Professional District B-3. The rezoning brings the existing use into compliance and will allow greater flexibility for other potential uses.
- *Conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning of approximately 5.7-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to keep livestock on the property.
- *Approved an additional appropriation of \$75,000 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to prepare a preliminary engineering report for the Bassett Community Center and develop a plan for potential reuse of the property.
- *Approved an additional appropriation of \$89,066 from state asset forfeiture funds to purchase ballistic vests for the Sheriff’s Office. The Board also awarded a contract to Angel Armor, LLC for this purpose.
- *Awarded a contract in the amount of \$390,280 to Haley Ford to purchase replacement vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office.
- *Awarded a contract in the amount of \$75,758 to Print Elect to purchase 17 secure voting sup-

ply cabinets for the Registrar’s Office.

- *Awarded a contract in the amount of \$107,348 to MainMicro Technologies Corporation for the renewal of Microsoft Office 365 licensing.
- *Awarded a contract in the amount of \$208,318 to GCSEAC, Inc., to update the 911 Center’s radio console equipment.
- *Approved an additional appropriation of \$838,000 from the one percent sales tax fund to replace electrical switchgear systems at Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School and Laurel Park Middle School.
- *Approved an additional appropriation of \$75,026 received from a School Security Officer Grant through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to fund an additional school security officer position at the division’s high schools. The grant requires a match of \$23,533 which will come from the division’s existing budget
- *Approved the items of consent.
- *Heard an update on the delinquent tax collection efforts.
- *Received the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Achievement Award for the annual Coat Drive for Kids. The annual drive was created and is spearheaded by Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District.
- *Rescinded the previously adopted two percent salary increase effective July 1 for full-time employees and adopted a 3.5 percent salary increase effective August 1.
- *Scheduled a public hearing for the August 26 meeting to receive public input on the 2026-2027 budget. The board is having to change its 2026-2027 budget as the General Assembly adopted its state budget on June 29.
- *Approved using \$5,000 of district impacts funds for events in the Iriswood District.

house National Military Park in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Bill Guerrant, president of the Pittsylvania Historical Society and author.

Sobol will discuss his research on the Patriots who fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, the closest Revolutionary War battle to the Martinsville-Henry County area.

The battle also included Henry County Patriots, Marlowe said.

Guerrant recently published a historical novel focused on life in the region during the American Revolution, particularly the years 1780-1781.

“We’re definitely honored to have both of them come and share with us their knowledge of the American Revolution,” Marlowe said.

Marlowe said he hopes visitors leave with a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made dur-

ing the nation’s founding.

“Because even though we just celebrated the 250th birthday of America on July 4, the American Revolution didn’t end on July 4, 1776,” he said. “The war continued until 1781 and British troops didn’t leave until a few years after that.”

Marlowe said the events will highlight both the soldiers who fought and the civilians who lived through the Revolutionary War era.

“I think people who come out either to the museum or the symposium will walk away with a deeper appreciation of what local people, both soldiers and people on the home front, went through during that time period and what freedom cost them,” he said.

For more information about the mobile museum, visit VA250.org.



Resilience and Hope Coalition plans fall events

By Jessica Dillon

The Resilience and Hope (RaH) Coalition, a community partnership focused on mental health awareness, suicide prevention and building a culture of support across Henry, Patrick and Franklin counties, and the City of Martinsville, recently received a \$500 donation from Autos By Nelson during the final Martinsville Mustangs game of the season. The coalition is also planning additional events across the region, including its “Stay in the Game” program on Sept. 11.

Last holiday season, the organization launched its “Messages of Hope” initiative. Community members from across the region recorded video messages that were shared each day during the holidays to encourage others and inspire hope.

“We’re so grateful to Nelson Automotive Group for believing in the work of the Resilience and Hope Coalition. Their generosity helps us continue providing free mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and wellness initiatives to our community. It’s encouraging to have local businesses investing in the well-being of our neighbors, and we’re proud to partner with them to spread hope and remind people they’re never alone,” said coordinator Kristi Norton.

Through partnerships with schools, businesses, community organizations, health care providers and local leaders, the coalition works to reduce the stigma surrounding mental



Autos By Nelson presents a \$500 donation to the Resilience and Hope Coalition during the final Martinsville Mustangs game of the season.

health, increase access to resources and equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to support themselves and others.

Its efforts include mental health education and training, suicide prevention initiatives, community awareness campaigns, wellness events and programs designed to remind people that hope is always possible and every person matters.

The coalition also staffs information tables at community events to distribute mental health resources.

During May, the organization distributed

tabletop displays featuring the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline to local businesses, which placed them throughout their establishments to raise public awareness.

The coalition, which operates under Piedmont Community Health Services, shares information about upcoming events on Facebook. While its “Stay in the Game” program is geared toward youth, the organization provides resources for people of all ages.

RaH encourages anyone who is struggling to contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988.

P&HCC Productions presents *DreamWorks’ Trolls Jr.*



P&HCC Productions, in partnership with the Charity League of Martinsville-Henry County, invites audiences to follow the adventures of optimistic, singing Trolls and pessimistic Bergens. When a strict emissary and a vengeful Chef threaten disaster in Bergenland, Poppy and her fellow Trolls must completely rework their theatrical performance to save themselves in DreamWorks’ Trolls Jr.

“Watching 57 young performers bring DreamWorks’ Trolls Jr. to life has been nothing short of magical. This production is bursting with joy, heart, and incredible talent, and I couldn’t be prouder of what these students have accomplished. We’re deeply grateful to our presenting partner, the Martinsville-Henry County Charity League, and to our sponsors—Sarver Properties Real Estate, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, Brightspeed, Martinsville Family Medicine, and Stifel—for investing in our students and making opportunities like this possible. We can’t wait to welcome audiences to the Walker Theatre to laugh, sing along, and celebrate the amazing things that happen when a community comes together to support the arts and its young people,” said Artistic Director, Devin Pendleton.

Performances will be held at the P&HCC Walker Fine Arts Theatre on August 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. & August 8 and 9 at 2 p.m.

The cast includes Triston Armstrong, Josiah Ashby, Oscar Ashby, Allie Broadaway, Macayden Bruce, Sofia Campbell, Mac Christian, Dallyn Clark, Austin Cole, Joah Cosby, Willow Davis, Adelina Favero, Isadora Favero, Lucy Favero, Lillian Foley, Maddie George, Hazel Gillingham, Jaxon Gravely, Riley Greer, Andrew Heath, Jackson Heath, Reid Joyce, Lilly Koebel, Madeline Longbrake, Anaya Mali, Mayra Mali, Jaxon Martin, Journie Millner, Paisley Murray, Marco Nopala, Ashlyn Oakes, Aspen Palmer, Taelyn Panos, Ava Parnell, Avery Parnell, Azariah Parnell, Cheyton Parnell, Emily Parnell, Lincoln Patterson, Rylie Patterson, Kendall Pruitt, Avalyn Ramirez, Phoenix Roberts, Amelia Ruiz, Zoey Scott, Arianna Shelton, Sanvi Suthar, Shivani Suthar, Shreya Suthar, Heaven Tolley, Bella Townsend, Lylahbell Turner, Samuel Vernon, Maddy Walker, Zaniyah Waller.

Tickets are available online at <https://phcpatriotplayers.square.site>. Additional information can be found on the Patrick & Henry Community College Players Facebook page at

[@phccproductions](https://phccproductions).

Thanks to the generosity of the Helping Youth Thrive (HYT) Collaborative, 200 FREE tickets are available for area youth to see DreamWorks’ Trolls Jr., presented by P&HCC Productions in partnership with the Charity League of Martinsville-Henry County, at Patrick & Henry Community College.

Featuring 57 local students in grades K–12, this colorful, music-filled adventure is packed with laughter, heart, and fun for the whole family!

Tickets are available first come, first served, with 50 sponsored youth tickets reserved for each performance.

Performances will be held in the Walker Fine Arts Theatre at Patrick & Henry Community College, located at 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. Performances are Friday, August 7 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, August 8 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m.

Use the SignUp.com link below to reserve your child’s ticket. The name entered on the form is the name that will be used at the Box Office.

Sponsored tickets are available for any Martinsville and Henry County students in grades K–12. <https://signup.com/go/MnNSLus>

Please Note:

- Children under 16 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. P&HCC and P&HCC Productions do not provide supervision or childcare during performances.
- Adult tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. We encourage purchasing adult tickets when reserving your child’s sponsored ticket.
- If you’re unable to attend, please cancel your reservation so another child can enjoy the show.

A special thank you to the HYT Collaborative for helping make live theatre accessible to local youth! Their mission is to identify and address the challenges youth face through collaboration, fostering resilience and empowering young people to not just survive, but thrive.

Support local agriculture during National Farmers Market Week



National Farmers Market Week, observed Aug. 2-8, is an opportunity to support local agriculture by visiting a farmers market and recognizing the many benefits they provide. Beyond offering a wide variety of products, farmers markets play an important role in stimulating local economies, strengthening communities, increasing access to fresh food, and preserving farmland and rural livelihoods.

“Farmers markets give customers direct access to the fresh-

est possible produce, meat and dairy, often harvested within hours of reaching the market, while giving farmers a venue to sell directly to their neighbors and keep every dollar spent,” said Jessica McClelland, communications manager for Virginia Fresh Match, a network of farmers markets that provide food assistance to customers in tandem with SNAP benefits.

In recent years, Virginia has experienced steady growth in both the number of farmers mar-

kets and the vendors who participate in them. Consumer interest remains strong as more people seek to understand where their food comes from and how it is produced.

According to the Virginia Farmers Market Association, there are 356 farmers markets across Virginia. Food sold at farmers markets travels an average of just 32 miles, compared to approximately 1,500 miles for food commonly found in grocery stores.

Programs such as Virginia Fresh Match further expand access to healthy food by doubling SNAP benefits spent on fruits and vegetables. These initiatives help customers stretch their food budgets while enabling markets to reach a broader customer base.

Locally raised meat, eggs and

dairy products have been especially popular with shoppers this year, McClelland said. Summer favorites such as sweet corn, watermelon, sourdough bread and kimchi also have been in high demand.

For producers seeking additional support, organizations such as the VFMA offer resources and training programs through Farmers Market University and the Virginia Certified Farmers Market System.

“Celebrating National Farmers Market Week is a way to thank the farmers, vendors and market managers who make these connections possible while encouraging more Virginians to visit a market in their community and experience it firsthand,” McClelland said.

Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:

www.norrismemorialservices.com

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

ADVERTISE WITH US