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# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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# County seeks stronger data center rules




Several of the residents attending the July 28 Henry County Board of Supervisors expressed concerns about data centers, and some opposed them entirely.

**By Taylor Boyd**

Following strong opposition from residents at its July 28 meeting, the Henry County Board of Supervisors is working to strengthen its proposed data center ordinance before taking action.

More than 30 residents spoke against data centers during the meeting, prompting the board to pull the data center provisions from the proposed ordinance and give supervisors and county officials more time to review them.

The ordinance proposed by the planning commission would establish requirements for data centers locating in Henry County, including restrictions on the use of county water, noise standards and requirements that they be located only in industrially zoned areas.

The board did not approve any ordinances relating to data centers at the July 28 meeting.

Chairman Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District, said the county is trying to find common ground among the concerns raised by residents.

"Probably not going to end up with absolutely every single piece of what was said, but I think most folks want an idea as to how any proposal would be held accountable all the way up to if they were to decommission a facility. You know, who takes care of that, so to speak, and that's similar to what you see in some of the things with solar farms and other types of operations. No one wants to be left with someone else's leftovers that stay

(See County p. 3)

# School board hears budget funding concerns

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Henry County School Board heard a comparison of its approved FY27 budget with the funding approved by the Henry County Board of Supervisors during its Aug. 6 meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administrative Services Dr. Ben Boone said the school board approved a $120,663,759 budget that included increases from the previously approved General Assembly budget of $2,074,654 and $615,361 in local funding.

The budget went before the Board of Supervisors for approval at its July 28 meeting.

"The local share amount of $615,361 requested would not be fully funded with the presented amounts of the county administrator. What was presented to the board of supervisors by the county administrator was $532,239 of FY25 carry forward funds to be used to fund the increase in local shares," Boone said.

Boone said the amount approved by the supervisors was $83,122 less than what the school division requested.

In the spring, Boone said the board of supervisors approved providing the school division $207,000 over the required local share, bringing the local share to $24,968,216.

"The amounts presented at the July 28 meeting to the board of supervisors again would be $83,122 less than the total amount over local share than what would be provided and what was approved by the board of supervisors in April. At the same time, using carry forward dollars to fund the increase in local share," Boone said.

At the July 28 meeting, Boone said it was recommended that the board of supervisors redirect FY25 carry-forward funds to meet the local requirements.

"I do want to point out that our interpretation of the carry forward funds from FY25 is different than how county administrative staff interprets the makeup of these funds. These funds that are carried over are funds that consist of revenues that are received from the state for school expenditures," he said.

For FY25, Boone said $20,146,276 was provided to the school system to match the local share.

"This is after you subtract debt services and additional appropriations made in January that year to match state funds for preschool programs. With the final calculation tool that was provided by the Virginia Department of Education on June 5, 2025, the local share requirement was $19,941,969," he said.

When the original FY25 budget was passed, Boone said the county provided only the required local

(See School p. 5)

# *ZiTEL to take over West broadband project*

**By Taylor Boyd**

Internet service provider ZiTEL will now complete the West broadband project covering Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties, replacing RiverStreet Networks, according to a release from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC).

The WPPDC and the three counties requested that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) amend the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant contract in late July. The contract was officially changed in early August.

RiverStreet initially received the VATI 2022 and 2023 funds, as well as Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funding, for the project.

In April 2024, RiverStreet Director of Business Development and Government Affairs Rob Taylor said the company would pass 8,376 locations in Patrick County, with approximately 621 miles of fiber to be installed.

According to the release, RiverStreet was unable to complete the project because it could not secure the remaining necessary funding.

WPPDC Executive Director Michael Armbrester said the organization has full confidence in ZiTEL's ability to move the West broadband project forward and deliver high-quality internet access to communities.

"We sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding shown by our local partners and residents as we resolve the challenges with this project. With ZiTEL, we are poised to fulfill our mission of expanding broadband access across the region," Armbrester stated in the release.

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said he is excited the broadband project is moving forward again because residents were becoming increasingly concerned.

"It looks like a lot of the local supervisors across the state actually along with their representatives who are already working with RiverStreet to make a transition. It's kind of like RiverStreet has sort of laid down its arms, and they were working to rebid and be replaced by other providers. It seems like these guys have a track record of

(See ZiTEL p. 6)

# Bikers For Babies revs up for 15th charity ride

**By Jessica Dillon**

Bikers For Babies MHC will return Aug. 22 for its 15th annual charity ride, raising money for the Pregnancy Care Center in Martinsville.

The annual event raises thousands of dollars to support the center and provide assistance to expectant and new mothers. This year's ride will have a new starting location at the Pregnancy Care Center, 314 Fairy St. Extension, Martinsville.

"I have heard from groups in Roanoke that are coming. We have also made contact with a group out of Danville that is coming, and we have a group out of Walnut Cove (North Carolina) that is coming," Rusmisel said.

The route will remain the same, with the ride ending at the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department, where a free lunch will be served. Riders will be served grilled chicken from Floyd and pork barbecue from Little Pork Shop in Eden, North Carolina.

"Instead of starting in Uptown Martinsville, we can start at the Pregnancy Center. Now our participants will see what they are supporting," Rusmisel said.

"Our event only benefits the local Pregnancy Care Center. Each Care Net center facility operates independently from the others," Rusmisel said.

The event raised $10,000 last year, which Rusmisel said was its largest total to date.

"That was our greatest year, yet we are hoping to eclipse it this year," he said.

Rusmisel said the event is intended to support young women facing unplanned pregnancies.

"Teen pregnancy happens more often than it should in America, so the resources for that young woman who has found herself in a crisis are limited," he said.

Rusmisel said the Pregnancy Care Center seeks to provide women with resources and support as they wrestle with questions.

"Do I keep this child or do I abort this child? Well, we are going to help her keep this child because the other option is not a feasible option," he said.

The center offers pregnancy tests and sonogram screenings and received a second sonogram machine this year.

Executive Director Paula Wood is a nurse practitioner, and the center's services are offered at no cost to clients, according to Rusmisel.

"These are volunteers. There are only a few people on the payroll," Rusmisel said.

(See Bikers p. 10)



Cousins Alana, left, and Nyla hosted the first GlamTweens Give Back event at Patrick Henry Elementary School. (Contributed)

# *GlamTweens brings school supplies, support to Martinsville*

**By Jessica Dillon**

Nyla and Alana brought their GlamTweens Give Back event to Patrick Henry Elementary School during the school's Open House, providing students and teachers with school supplies and other items.

The girls gave away free backpacks, emergency hygiene kits and other school supplies to students, as well as classroom supplies such as glue sticks, chalk and Post-it Notes to teachers.

"The really remarkable part is that they purchased all of these items with their own money, organized the entire event themselves, communicated directly with the school principal, and even contacted Kona Ice to arrange for them to set up outside the school. And here's my favorite part: neither of them has ever attended Patrick Henry Elementary or Martinsville City Schools," said Callie Heitala,

(See Glam p. 2)

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# Transportation program helps older adults stay independent

For nearly 50 years, Henry County Senior Services has helped older adults remain independent by providing transportation to essential medical appointments, grocery shopping, and nutrition programs for residents who no longer have reliable transportation.

The program, which has served the community since 1978, is available to qualifying Henry County residents age 60 and older who do not have dependable transportation to reach important destinations. Whether because of financial circumstances, limited mobility, or the absence of nearby family members, many older adults rely on the service to access healthcare and other necessities.

In addition to transportation for medical appointments throughout Henry County and the City of Martinsville, the program offers transportation to grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, post offices, and nutrition sites, where participants can enjoy a meal and opportunities for social interaction.

"Many older adults in our community no longer have family nearby or the ability to drive themselves where they need to go," said Ashley Mundy, Director of Henry County Senior Services. "This program helps them get to essential appointments and services without the added financial burden of paying for private transportation. It allows people to maintain their independence and continue living active, healthy lives."

Transportation is provided Monday through Thursday, with medical appointments generally scheduled between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Participants are asked to schedule appointments at least seven business days in advance whenever possible. Drivers provide door-to-door service, picking participants up from their homes or other qualifying residences and returning them safely after their appointments.

This service is at no cost to eligible participants due to funding from the Older Americans Act, however, this service is donation based. All donations are highly encouraged. All donations are used to offset fuel and vehicle maintenance expenses.

Registering for the program is simple. Interested residents must complete the enrollment process over the phone by answering a few basic eligibility questions. No in-person visit or paperwork is required.

Henry County Senior Services is currently accepting new participants and encourages eligible older adults, as well as family members, caregivers, neighbors, churches, healthcare providers, and community organizations, to help spread the word to anyone who may benefit from the service.

To learn more or begin the registration process, contact Henry County Senior Services at (276) 634-4644.

# Glam

**(cont. from page 1)**

Martinsville schools communications and community outreach coordinator.

"We're really excited to do something like this, and it took a lot of time," Nyla said.

Alana said she had accumulated a large number of school supplies and wanted to find a way to donate them.

"I had like so many school supplies, and I didn't know what to do with them, so I decided to donate them, and so I looked it up, so schools in Martinsville," she said.

Alana said Martinsville was selected "because we know that this school doesn't have lots of money and we want to donate to them."

The girls began planning the event in April.

They also operate their own business, GlamTweens, where they make bracelets.

Hietala said the girls intentionally chose Martinsville because they have family connections to the area. Alana her mother graduated from Magna Vista, while Nyla said she has family in the area.

The girls said that while the communities where they live have more resources, they believed Martinsville students and teachers might not have the same access to supplies.

"They simply wanted to give back to a community where they knew there were people who could benefit," Hietala said.

The girls also created a teacher shop where educators could pick up classroom supplies.

"We know that the school doesn't have a lot of money and we wanted to donate to them," Alana said.

The girls also provided emergency hygiene kits for fifth-grade girls.

"Every 25 people, we are giving out a special backpack, a really nice one," Nyla said.

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# Portion of road to close for emergency pipe replacement

A section of Virginia 623 (Deer Haven Drive) in Henry County closed on Monday, August 10 for an emergency pipe replacement. The pipe was damaged during recent heavy rainfall.

The closure is located on Deer Haven Drive approximately 0.25 mile north of its western entrance off Virginia 57 (Chatham Road). Through traffic will need to follow the signed detour by entering Deer Haven Drive at its eastern entrance off Chatham Road.

Residents will have access to their homes on either side of the closure. Drivers should pay attention to message boards in the area.

Work is expected to be completed by 5 p.m. Friday, August 21, weather permitting.

For the latest road conditions in Virginia, use VDOT's 511 free mobile app, visit 511 Virginia and follow the VDOT Salem District on Facebook or X.

# *Self-serve kayak rental pilot program launched at state parks*




Fairy Stone State Park Kiosk




Smith Mountain Lake State Park Kiosk

Virginia State Parks has launched a new self-serve kayak rental program, expanding access to on-the-water recreation and offering visitors greater convenience and flexibility.

In partnership with Whenever Watersports, automated kayak rental kiosks have been installed at 10 state parks across the Commonwealth: Bear Creek Lake, Belle Isle, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, First Landing, Hungry Mother, Lake Anna, Pocahontas and Smith Mountain Lake. All kiosks are currently operational, except for the Smith Mountain Lake location, which is scheduled to open on Sept. 8.

Rental options vary by park, but kiosks may provide single kayaks, tandem kayaks or stand-up paddle boards. Rentals also include paddles and life jackets. Each kiosk provides a simple scan-and-go process that works during regular park hours.

"This pilot program gives our visitors more opportunities to enjoy Virginia's waterways on their own schedule," said Dave Collett, acting assistant director of park operations. "By partnering with Whenever Watersports, we're able to offer an easy, self-guided rental experience that can extend the paddling season and make spending time on the water more accessible for everyone."

The collaboration with Whenever Watersports enables the park system to offer kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals earlier in the spring and later into the fall, beyond the limits of traditional, staff-dependent concession operations. The kiosks are designed to operate with minimal infrastructure, making them a flexible option for future expansion if the pilot proves successful.

To rent a kayak or stand-up paddle board, visitors will need to download the Whenever Watersports app via the Apple Store or Google Play. They can find rental instructions posted at each kiosk, along with safety reminders and a QR code linking to additional information. The pilot program will be evaluated at the end of the season to assess usage, visitor feedback and growth opportunities.

For more information about Virginia State Parks and the new kayak rental kiosks, visit https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/kiosk-kayak-rentals.

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**

**Tuesday, August 25**
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 55 West Church St., Martinsville.

Henry County Board of Supervisors meet at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Room, Henry County Administration Building, 3300 King's Mountain Road, Martinsville.

**Tuesday, September 8**
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 55 West Church St., Martinsville.

**Events**

**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.

Join the MHC Lancers Alumni Network for a Lunch Bunch program that will be held monthly sarting in August. The group meets at a favorite, local eatery to connect, share stories and reminisce on members time at Longwood. Hugo's Restaurant & Sports Bar, 25 Bridge St. N, Martinsville, is selected this month. Attendees can order their own food and pay at the restaurant. RSVP on Facebook.

**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.

American Legion Homer Dillard Post 78 will host a fish fry from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its post home, 139 Creekside Drive, Martinsville. Fish sandwiches are $10, homemade desserts are $2, and water and soft drinks are $1. The event will be drive-thru with limited dining-in available. Call 276-340-5169 or 276-673-7663 to place pickup orders.

**Friday, August 28**
Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Piedmont Arts. The opening reception is in honor of new exhibits, "COLLECTive Concerns: Collage and Assemblage" and "Chris Gregson: Novus Ordo Seclorum." Complimentary refreshments will be served. Music by Joanie McPeak. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 26, to 276-632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org. These exhibits are sponsored by Katie and Jack Adkins, Lucy Coleman, Olivia and Pres Garrett, Gale and Will Gravely, Melody Margrave, Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust, Lynwood Artists, and What's Your Sign.

**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.

**Through Monday, Aug. 31**
Henry County Commissioner of Revenue Tiffany R. Hairston and her office are participating in the 2026 Commissioners and Cans Food Drive. Every donation goes to the Patrick & Henry Community College Patriot Pantry. Canned meats, vegetables and other non perishable food items are requested. Drop off at the commissioner's office, Room 108, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville. Call the office, 276-634-4610, for more information.

**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.

## Free Genealogy Classes to be held in Bassett

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. There is no charge for the classes. When you sign up for the first class, you will automatically be signed up for the other three classes. The classes are limited to twelve people, so call the Bassett Historical Center at 276-629-9191 to reserve your spot today.

# *County*

**(cont. from page 1)**

in a locality," he said.

While the board and county administration assess residents' suggestions and how they could be incorporated into the ordinance, Adams said he could not identify one specific criterion that needs to be added.

"I couldn't do it at this time," he said. In terms of zoning, "I think you could possibly isolate a specific area as to where anything could be held. In other words, we've got different areas, there could be something that strictly it had to meet criteria. But to name that, I think I would rather hear from the planning side of it as to what by law would be acceptable."

In addition to assessing the ordinance from a legal standpoint, Adams said the county needs to examine what other localities are doing.

"Our whole thing from day one, even from what we had as part of what would have been part of the zoning ordinance amendments, that was better than nothing because it allowed a first look at things and identifying certain criteria. Nothing at all in that zoning ordinance is stating approval" for a potential project.

"It was more of protection," Adams said.

Vice Chairman Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District, said he was comfortable with what was initially presented to the board.

"I think they're looking at more of the noise and water consumption and energy is a big piece of it. We want to make sure that it's there because obviously after the meeting, we know what the community wants, and that's no data centers at all," he said.

Pruitt said residents need to remember the board was considering ordinances, not approving data centers.

"As of today we have nothing. So if one (data center) wanted to come today, there's no ordinances that say they can't. We have to get those guardrails in place to be able to determine" what standards they have to meet. "I think we have to start with a base and then make sure that's in place now before we get data centers coming to Henry County," he said.

Pruitt said the water usage and energy consumption sections of the proposed ordinance need to be strengthened.

"Do we have those resources available to them - that's the biggest thing. And obviously not putting them on top of a residence. We don't want them near our neighbors, we want them in an industrial park with other noise and things like that where they need to be, if they're going to come at all," Pruitt said.

Pruitt also noted that Virginia lawmakers formally requested Gov. Abigail Spanberger issue an executive order to stop all data centers.

"Now it could be in the state's hands for a stop on them," he said.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, said she believes the proposed ordinance needs to address buffer zones between data centers and neighboring properties.

"I think water quality is an issue, and the amount of water that they use. I do think we need to protect more of our farmland and I think we need to protect our waterways. I just need more information to make a sound judgement on it," she said.

Buchanan said she has not seen anything the Planning Commission has worked with yet or talked with County Attorney George Lyle. She said she hopes Lyle will advise the board before it receives a board packet.

"We do need something in place for sure. I definitely believe that we need something in place, because if not then we leave ourselves wide open and vulnerable," she said.

While she may not be in favor of data centers, Buchanan said the world is moving forward with and revolving around artificial intelligence.

"I was reading about Loudoun County, where I guess they call it 'data center alley.' They were talking about the big load on their grid and how people's electricity had flickered, and so it's proving that these data centers do have an effect on the surrounding areas. It's not just that they're isolated, and even though there might be a buffer around a data center and neighbors, it still doesn't address the water and the electricity," Buchanan said.

As supervisors and county staff continue researching data centers, Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, said the ultimate goal is to put protections in place for Henry County and its residents.

"And then just to make sure that if a data center was to ever request to come to Henry County, that we have some things in place that holds them accountable," he said.

Dillard said the county did not have siting agreements in place when solar farms first began locating in the county.

"But we put more and more siting agreements in place, that they had to have a decommissioning plan in place, make sure they have setbacks, controlling the noise, things of that nature. So we want to make sure that same thing doesn't happen with data centers. They come in, the first few get in get, get by us, they have issues, then we get better control. Of course then we want to make sure we're protecting the environment," Dillard said.

Dillard said the board and county administration need to revisit the initial proposed ordinance and examine what other localities are doing before putting together a revised proposal.

"I can't specifically say what needs to be in there at this moment, but the main thing is that we just need to make sure that if a data center was to ever locate in Henry County, that our lands are protected, our environment is protected, and that data centers are held accountable for being responsible neighbors.

"You can't build a big building and then in 25 to 30 years just leave, and the building's just sitting there and we're left to clean it up. You can't use up our water source, you can't come here and cause our electric bills to drastically increase. We want to make sure that they've held accountable for that, and then that data centers are using the most up to date technology," he said.

Pam Cobler, of the Reed Creek District, said she believes every part of the proposed ordinance needs to be strengthened.

"The utilities, making sure that none of the costs for the electric bills falls onto the residential rate payers. We've covering the noise, and the water study would give us a lot more information and Planning and Zoning suggested that," she said.

Cobler said the proposed ordinance also included provisions that would require companies to provide their own electricity and pay their own electric bills, as well as environmental protections and measures to protect farmland and Henry County's rural character.

"That was big for me too, and that was one reason that as a group, I made the motion," which allows the board to discuss the issue. "We talked about it, is because as a rural community we are balancing between growing economically and still protecting our

**(See County p. 9)**

# OPINION

## What is an ombudsman?



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

The end of our schools' summer break means children return to school in Virginia's Ninth District.

A new school year represents new opportunity for students to develop friendships, connect with fellow classmates, recount family summer vacations and more. For some, it means changing to a new school.

Connections in school are important for a child's development. As the son of a schoolteacher, I like to stimulate classroom conversations by visiting schools and talking with students.

For my school visits this year, I went to Council High School in Buchanan County, Cornerstone Christian Academy in Washington County, Floyd County High School and Patrick County High School.

This May, I had the privilege to address the graduates of Thomas Walker High School in Lee County.

These settings are opportunities for me to engage our student populations and educate them on the duties of lawmakers.

As a Congressman, I share my experiences as a policymaker and as an ombudsman.

I clarify that my role as a policymaker focuses on matters of drafting legislation, committee debate discussing proposals, amendment recommendations and the final votes on bills.

But what is an ombudsman?

An ombudsman is one who interfaces with the federal government on behalf of others.

I act as an ombudsman for you on many occasions.

Thus, my office communicates with scores of federal agencies to address agency issues that constituents ask us about.

These issues vary by agency. But among the matters that demand our attention include passport requests and renewals, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) disputes and social security assistance.

In 2025, my office opened more than 1,175 constituent cases. Through this casework, we worked with more than 40 federal agencies.

There are multiple ways for us to open a case for you. An easy route is for you to give one of my district offices a phone call and speak with a representative in my office. Please refer to the end of this e-newsletter to access those phone numbers.

However, I recognize that you may prefer an in-person alternative.

Every month, my staff travels to all corners of Virginia's Ninth District, which happens to span more than 10,000 square miles.

You can view when my staff next visits your locality by checking on my website at https://morgangriffith.house.gov/ or my Facebook page at Congressman Morgan Griffith.

These pages help people stay engaged on issues impacting my work in Congress and on behalf of the Ninth District.

My leadership on issues includes federal funding for Ninth District communities.

One program that I champion at the federal level is the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program. As the leading Virginia advocate, AMLER projects identify idle mine land property and explore potential improvements and site redevelopment.

In late 2025, I attended an AMLER check presentation to support a nearly $2 million project in Buchanan County. This project will create the Southern Gap Office Park Building, a commercial office space within Buchanan County's Regional Office Park. I left DC at 8:30 pm to make it to Grundy the next day because I considered the announcement so important.

AMLER delivers millions of federal dollars to our regions every year. With new projects set to be announced later this year, I will continue to fight for additional AMLER opportunities that benefit Virginia's Ninth District.

A second federal program targets brownfields, which are properties or sites whose redevelopment are complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program delivers various federal grants to clean up these polluted sites.

When I served as Environment Subcommittee Chairman earlier in the 119th Congress, I held a hearing to spotlight the EPA Brownfields Program. As part of this, I invited Duane Miller of Scott County, who serves as Executive Director of the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, to testify.

Since then, the EPA Brownfields Program continues to deliver funds for local projects in our communities.

This June, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, Giles County and the City of Martinsville received EPA Brownfields grants.

I believe in serving the constituents of Virginia's Ninth District. Accordingly, my office remains ready to help you access the support, resources and opportunities you need from federal agencies.

Whether I am in the classroom or in a DC committee room, I will continue to remind people that you can always count on my voice and my office as a resource.

Further, if your local high school wants me to speak to students, please have them contact our office.

## *The last year of youth in this house*



**Holly Kozelsky**

Just yesterday, it seems, my child, the dog and I were running around frolicking together in the back yard.

Now, much to my surprise, the dog has grey hair all along her muzzle and eyes. Both she and I walk slowly and with a limp. That former little girl is suddenly a senior driving herself to and from school.

When the dog was young, jumping through hoops as one of our games, Sprinkles was a kitten. She'd get to where she was going by walking and leaping on furniture, tops of doors and curtain rods than on the floor, as if the floor were lava into which no paws must sink. Her antics gave my little girl fits of giggles.

Now, Sprinkles spends most of the days in the coat closet, presumably napping. We must remember to always leave the door ajar. She sleeps in the living room at night. The only action we get out of her is in the mornings, when she demands canned cat food. We put off feeding her just to have some interaction with her - a lot of meows, some following around and occasional taps on our ankles.

A few years ago, when I was sitting in a veterinarian's office, I read one of the posters on the wall. It compared animals' ages. It was not that stereotyped "A dog year is 7 human years." Instead, the chart divided animal years by life stages, comparing them to us, and describing how they'd feel.

Much to my shock, I learned that my dog was as "old" as I was. She, too, had sore joints, and got tired earlier than before, and had less energy overall. Well, of course, sure I've seen my dog's slow-down, but it was another thing altogether to really take in that she was now like me.

Now our dog and cat are official senior citizens.

Many years ago, I stopped taking in puppies as pets. I only adopted young, but full grown dogs. They were easier. Once our current dog is no longer with us and it's choosing time again, I feel like I'd be at the pace of a middle-aged dog but would definitely give an old dog a home.

The parrot is 27 years old. Parrots can live up to 50 years or more. Dogs and cats come and go with their short life spans, but a parrot is a permanent part of life.

The little girl who once played rambunctiously with her pets now is a poised young woman. She pets them and cuddles them instead of tumbles with them, which is the pace they need now anyway.

The teenager is the only sign of youth now in a house that is aging. Worn spots are now showing throw the finish on the hardwood floors. The color of the paint is fading. The ceramic stove top now has nicks and dull spots, and the countertop has a stain or two that won't come out.

One more year, and then the teenager will spread her wings and fly. This is the last year of youth in this house. Then the house will fill more and more with broken things, and grey hairs, and longer naps, and earlier and earlier bedtimes -- house, pets and person aging.

Things around home will get quieter and quieter, slower and slower.

It's the child's time. She will spread her wings and fly.

Then, when she is settled in her first or second home, she'll adopt a kitten or puppy, or perhaps one of each.

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PUBLISHER

Michael Showell

EDITOR

Debbie Hall - dhall@theenterprise.net

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Wendi Craig - advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

(276) 340-2445

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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.

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## Hard Work and Generating Passive Income

**By Dr. Glenn Mollette**

Creating passive income is lingo that you probably have heard or thought about more than once. Generating an ongoing flow of cash that keeps coming is welcome by most of us. Seminars are often held by different entities explaining their technique for how to build a steady stream of income. All of us need money so it's usually a topic of interest.

Years ago, a friend influenced me to sign up for Amway. He was doing great things and lived well. I signed up. That lasted maybe a month or two. I didn't make any money from it but I admit I gave up quickly. Later, I was influenced by another friend to sign up for a telephone pyramid scheme. Supposedly, people were making money. After about two months, I lost interest. On another occasion, I signed up to sell vitamins. On this occasion someone was reporting about how it helped people with multiple sclerosis. My wife was very sick from the disease and I was willing to buy or try anything that would help her. The vitamins did not help her and I gave up on the vitamin business.

The old adage that if it's too good to be true then it probably is, is accurate most of the time. Occasionally someone wins the lottery and occasionally someone is struck by lightning.

When I was 18 years old, I was working for a little country church. My only deacon whose name was Harold Rice said, "Glenn, we are going to enroll you in the annuity program operated by the Annuity Board of our Southern Baptist Convention." Today, it's called Guidestone. "We are going to put six dollars a month into your account," he said. That contribution probably occurred approximately 12 times. I moved on to college. About 13 or 14 years ago I remembered that and called to see if an account like that even existed. The account did and it had grown to $30,000. I was shocked. A year or so later I took the fund out and invested it into an index fund which at that time was Ameritrade and now Schwab. The account has grown to $90,000. Yes, I am talking about over 50 years of growth. The dividends were reinvested every year. The dividends from that little fund today are an ongoing passive income.

The best way for you to develop passive income is to work a job and put some money into an Individual Retirement Account every year. I like a Roth IRA best because once you have paid tax on it and invest it into the Roth then it will generate income that you never have to pay tax on again.

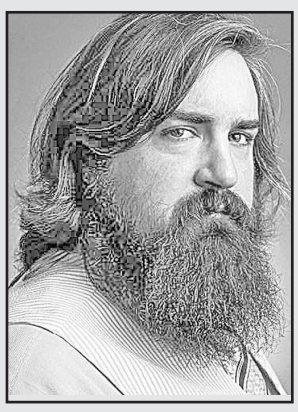
At age 25, if you will start putting $5,000 in a Roth IRA every year until you are 60 your fund could easily total ABOUT $1.2 million. At the young age of 60 that account could easily produce $12,000 or more of income for you. This is really passive income. Then, you can keep working or play golf every day.

Nothing is free and easy but you don't have to make a huge sum of money to put $5,000 a year into a Roth IRA. You may have to skip eating out some or pass on a few vacations. You might have to drive an old car longer and avoid credit card purchases. Any sacrifice you make will be worth it later in life.

*Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 15 books. He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, and is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. His column is published in over 600 media outlets nationally.*

# OPINION

# The axe handle outcome



By Ben R. Williams

There were two stories I saw in the news last week that lodged themselves in my brain.

The first, "A new billionaire class is supercharging superyachts," was published by Business Insider.

According to the article, the stock market and the AI industry are creating more and more billionaires, and they all want yachts. But not some regular old poor person yacht; they want superyachts, classified as measuring more than 30 meters in length.

"There was this trajectory where you grew into large yacht ownership through a succession of smaller yachts, and now we see people leapfrogging that," said Anders Kurten, CEO of Fraser Yachts. "It's not uncommon today that somebody who's in their 40s buying their first yacht goes directly to a 50 or 60 meter yacht."

Way to state the obvious, Anders. Every time I check out the dented and irregular shelf at the grocery store, all I can think is, "When I buy a yacht, I'll skip one of those 30-meter sucker yachts and go straight to a respectable 50-meter model."

According to the Business Insider piece, the most expensive superyacht sold this year was the Breakthrough, which sold for $793 million dollars, or roughly the GDP of American Samoa. It measures 119 meters in length, is available to charter for just $4 million per week, and features a tennis court, a helipad, and an infinity pool, among other amenities.

The global ultrawealthy population is expected to increase by 31 percent over the next few years, according to the article, which means an estimated 166,160 people who could soon be in the market for a superyacht.

"They tend to like to affiliate with each other," Kurten said, referring to the billionaire class. "That certainly creates a little bit of positive pressure for our industry."

In other yacht-related news, last week, a 21-foot skiff ran out of gas off the coast of Alaska and radioed for help. Thankfully, the crew was rescued by a passing cruise ship.

They were not rescued by the Launchpad, Facebook billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's $300 million superyacht, which happened to be much closer than the cruise ship but ignored the skiff's calls for help. I guess rescuing the lives of the comparatively poor really kills the vibe when you're trying to polish off a bottle of Macallan 1926 in your infinity pool while watching the aurora borealis.

Maybe this is a Pollyanna-ish thing to say, but I don't know how anyone could enjoy a superyacht. I know I wouldn't be able to. I would constantly be thinking about starving children, or homeless veterans, or elderly people barely scraping by on Social Security, and my lobster thermidor would turn to ashes in my mouth.

The level of income inequality in our country is reaching a tipping point. The billionaire class is desperately trying to convince Americans to focus on culture war nonsense — immigrants, trans people, and so forth — to distract us from the fact that we're in the middle of a class war and we're losing. They want us to fight amongst ourselves while they buy superyachts and build gilded doomsday bunkers with money they've picked from our pockets.

You know all the money that American consumers paid to corporations because of the "liberation day" tariffs? You know how the government is refunding $100 billion of that money to these massive corporations that aren't going to pass one red cent of it back to their consumers? That's our money, and a substantial portion of it is going to be spent on superyachts with helipads and tennis courts. In return, we get rising gas prices and inflation at the grocery store.

Throughout the history of our nation, there's been a push-pull between the rich and powerful and the labor force. The rich and powerful want to have the cheapest labor they can possibly get. On the other hand, the labor force wants to have an existence that isn't a cruel, unyielding nightmare.

Sure, you can have employees that work for a pittance and are treated like a disposable commodity. The downside is, occasionally those employees will rise up and drag you from your home and beat you to death with axe handles in the street while your family watches in horror.

Generations of elites have learned that the best way to avoid the axe handle outcome is to pay employees a living wage, allow them to unionize, and generally offer them a life that's decent enough that murdering their employer is less desirable than hanging out at home and watching TV. It's a proven system.

When I read news stories about booming sales of superyachts to billionaires next to stories of everyday Americans struggling against impossible odds, it's hard not to think that the billionaire class has forgotten the lessons of previous generations. It's a lesson they should take to heart. After all, history does have a way of repeating itself.

## *Paid Column Support*

# Complete Care & Wellness brings new health option to Martinsville

**By Jessica Dillon**

Complete Care & Wellness celebrated its ribbon-cutting Aug. 5 in Martinsville, marking the opening of a new clinic focused on wellness and affordable care.

The clinic is owned by Dr. Edythe Boitnott, who has practiced in Virginia as a clinical provider since 2003. She said she opened her own clinic to "focus on true wellness" and address root causes "rather than simply managing symptoms."

Boitnott said her services focus on hormone balance, improved energy, weight loss and overall vitality. She said she has helped patients identify and treat vitamin, nutritional and hormonal deficiencies while promoting sustainable daily habits.

"I'm just here to help the community with hormone therapy and weight loss," Boitnott said. She has been part of the community since 1993.

Boitnott said her goal is to provide patients with an affordable place to receive care.

"I'm here to help the community. I'm just really excited to be here, and (for) the next chapter of my life. Thank you so much for everything everybody's done for me."

The business was a recipient of a $3,500 grant, partially funded through the Tobacco Region, from the Start-up MHC Program, part of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Partnership for Economic Growth.

Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce President and Executive Director Brenell Thomas said she was excited to see another health care facility open.



Complete Care & Wellness celebrated its ribbon-cutting Aug. 5 in Martinsville.

"This one is all about healthcare. And you know, we can't have enough healthcare options in Martinsville, Henry County, and that's not to be a discredit to the ones that we have. But, you know, we have such different needs. And I think when you talk to Edith, you'll find out that her niche is about holistic care. So she's doing a little bit of everything from a wellness standpoint, and she's worth giving a try. Take a look at her website to see all of the various options that she has, as far as her complete care and health," Thomas said.

Complete Care & Wellness is located at 904 Brookdale St. in Martinsville.

Appointments can be scheduled at www.ccwinfo.org or by calling 276-226-0171.

# *School*

**(cont. from page 1)**

share.

"It was zero dollars over local share at that time," he said.

After subtracting the difference from FY25, Boone said $24,307 could be considered local funds out of the total $532,239 in carry-forward school funds.

"This leaves $327,932 that would be state funds at the very least in my opinion that should have been redistributed back to the schools in FY26," he said.

Boone said the school division requested that FY25 carry-forward funds be reappropriated to the FY26 budget in March for the installation of generators at Drewry Mason, Axton and Mt. Olivet elementary schools.

"I just want to point out the importance of the generators. The other night, power went out at Bassett High School" when freshman orientation was going on. "The generators kicked in, and we were still good to go with freshman orientation," he said.

Boone said the board of supervisors voted against appropriating the $532,239 from the school division's FY25 unexpended funds for the installation of the generators in a 3-2-1 vote.

The board of supervisors will hold a public hearing Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. to consider amending the budget.

Board member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, asked whether the Board of Supervisors would allow public comment at the hearing.




The Henry County School Board heard Dr. Ben Boone explain differences between the school division's approved budget and funding approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"Absolutely," Boone replied.

"They will entertain speakers, but they have not requested of us to share further," Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis said.

"That's typical," Chairman Teddy Martin, of the Reed Creek District, said.

Gravely said school board members could attend and speak at the public hearing later this month.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Heard legislative updates from Government and Legislative Relations Liaison Jason Kessler.

*Approved an additional appropriation of $235,425 to the FY27 school nutrition budget for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Heard committee reports.

*Approved the personnel report and addendum as presented.

*Approved the religious exemptions.

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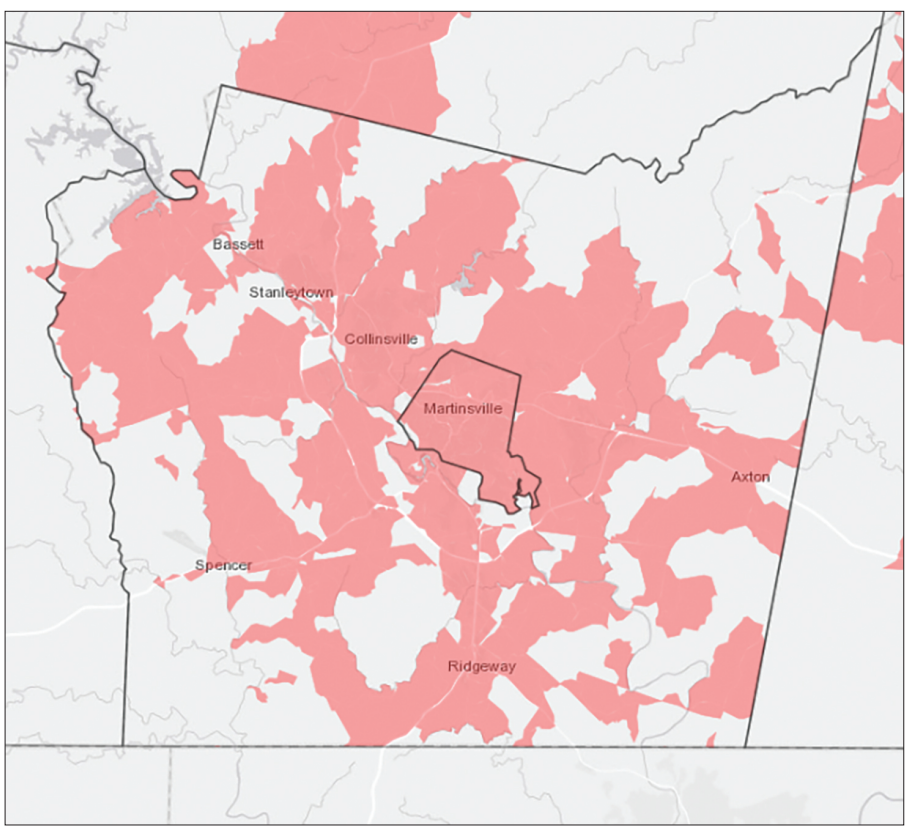
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# ZiTEL

(cont. from page 1)




Map of Broadband Coverage in Henry County. Shading reflects a baseline download/upload speed of 100/20 Mbps, using any connection technology (fiber, cable, fixed wireless, or satellite), available to at least 80% of a targeted geographic area. (Source: Commonwealth Connection)

recent success because there's been a number of these buildouts across the state, it's just RiverStreet is the one who unfortunately ultimately failed," Williams said.

Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the county knows many residents have been frustrated by the project's delays.

"We share that frustration. Our responsibility is to the people of Henry County, and when it became clear this project needed a new path forward, we worked with our partners to make that happen. It's good news for the project, and we're excited about getting a vendor that can move us forward for our residents," he said.

Wagoner said he has confidence in ZiTEL's ability to complete the project and deliver on the promise of countywide broadband.

"We're grateful to all of our partners for their continued commitment and patience throughout this process. Projects of this scale require tremendous collaboration, and organizations like the Harvest Foundation and HCPS (Henry County Public Schools) have remained focused on the same goal we have from the beginning. We appreciate their partnership and look forward to working together with ZiTEL to bring this project to a successful completion," Wagoner said.

Moving forward, Wagoner said ZiTEL has a timeline the county expects it can meet without jeopardizing the project's federal funding.

Patrick County Administrator Michael McGuinness said he received an email July 30 regarding the project's transfer.

In an email to DHCD and WPPDC, McGuinness said he appreciates the efforts being made and is optimistic about the change.

"We do hope that parameters are set in place, a matrix, or a timeline if you will, so we as a county could start to see progress," he stated in the email.

McGuinness, who was not serving as county administrator when the project began, said he believes the project lacked sufficient structure from the beginning.

"There was absolutely no type of matrix. You just don't give someone a blank check and tell them we want broadband. A statement of work, a scope of work, there needed to be parameters set in place and how do we know going forward that parameters are set in place," he said.

During a meeting with ZiTEL before the change was announced, McGuinness said the company indicated it plans to provide monthly invoices detailing its work and the amount of fiber installed.

"They'll break that down for us and then they'll be able to say, I think the figure was $22,000 a mile of fiber, so they should be able to say, 'hey, we put in five miles of fiber this month. Okay, there's $110,000, cut them a check, pay them. But you just don't give someone a big pile of money. You just don't give them money and tell them to put in broadband. I mean look at RiverStreet, they failed miserably," McGuinness said.

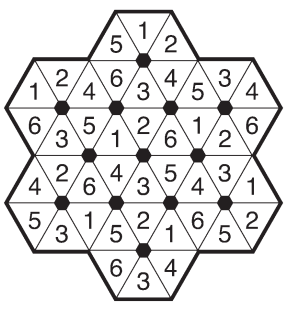
McGuinness said he is excited for ZiTEL to take over the project.

"I have a lot more faith in them from day one when I became County Administrator than with RiverStreet. ZiTEL says the right things, we believe in them, they're connected to Patrick County a little bit, so they were excited to serve our county and our citizens," he said.

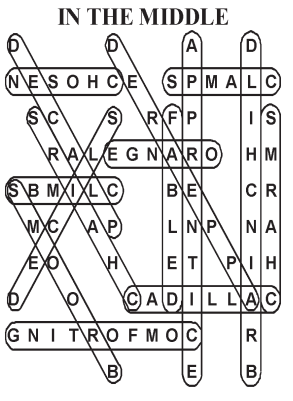
The West broadband project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027, with 14,161 fiber internet connections planned.

# Puzzle Answers!

**SNOWFLAKES**
solution

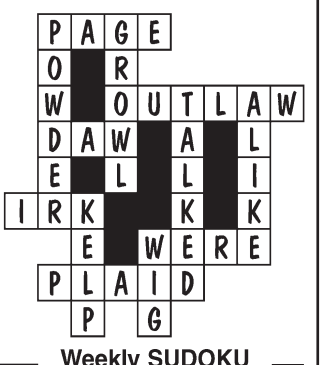


**A FOUR-LETTER WORD IN THE MIDDLE**



**SCRAMBLERS**
*Solution*
1. Intern; 2. Rustic
3. Sludge; 4. Mayhem
*Today's Word*
**GRATUITY**

**FEAR KNOT**
**answer**



**Super Crossword**
***Answers***

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**Weekly SUDOKU**
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**THANK YOU FOR READING**

# 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.**

## Flooding makes travel difficult in Ararat, Kibler Valley

Recovery efforts are underway in the Ararat and Kibler Valley communities as local officials seek donations for volunteers and appeal for people with heavy equipment to help reach several families who remain isolated after recent flooding.

Many of the bridges on side roads in Ararat are impassable, making it difficult for residents to travel.

"If you know the backroads, you can get out, but you have to go out of the way for most," said local resident Tom Perry.

Officials are asking contractors, excavating companies, logging crews, farmers with tractors, UTV owners and others with equipment that can be used to safely access damaged areas to call Angie Nelson at (336) 705-3185.



Floodwaters damaged the Rabbit Ridge Road bridge over the Ararat River earlier this month.

The Ararat Ruritan Club has been designated as an official drop-off site for donations to support volunteers, emergency responders and community members involved in cleanup efforts.

Needed items include nonperishable food, ready-to-eat meals, snack foods, bottled water, sports drinks and electrolyte drink mixes. The club is accepting walk-in donations daily.

## Volunteers give Penny House a much-needed facelift

**By Taylor Boyd**

Almost 30 years after opening its doors, the Penny House in Patrick Springs is getting a facelift, thanks to volunteers working to give the home a fresh coat of paint and make other needed repairs.

"We've been trying to do this for over a year. It has brightened this place up tremendously and given it a nice new facelift," Lord's Acre Committee President Jane Cardwell said.

The Penny House was established in 1996 by the Lord's Acre Committee, a group of more than a dozen churches, to provide temporary housing for people who lose their homes and belongings to natural disasters such as fires and floods.

Since its opening, more than 100 families have stayed at the Penny House.




Volunteers worked to spruce up the Penny House, which has provided temporary housing for people who have lost their homes in natural disasters for nearly 30 years.

People can stay "until their insurance kicks in, they find somewhere they can go, or they can get back into their home. Most of the time it's anywhere from four to seven people in this house," Cardwell said.

Because the Penny House is used so often, Cardwell said a second house is needed.

"It's been people in it ever since it started. Actually, it would be nice if we had a second Penny House because there were a lot of times we could actually use a second Penny House, but everybody wants a lot of money for their home. Hopefully in the future with more churches joining" we might be able to purchase another one, she said.

Larry and Margaret Vernon are in charge of the Penny House, checking residents in and making sure they have everything they need. Cardwell said Jimmy Willard, founder of Disaster Relief Food Ministry Inc., also helps supply food boxes to residents.

## Music, memories and mountain traditions highlight Folk Fair

The Meadows of Dan Community Association is inviting everyone to come out for the 22nd Annual Folk Fair — a day filled with music, food, local vendors, old-fashioned traditions and plenty of things to see and do.

On the way in, stop by the Welcome Tent to check out this year's Folk Fair shirts, featuring the event's new little hillbilly mascot.

The day will get started with local group the Greenview Graybacks, headed by Nathan Helms, followed by another local favorite, the Country Boys.

After the music, things will slow down a bit for "Colorful Characters Remembered," a time to listen to — or share — stories about some of the colorful people who have made Meadows of Dan what it is.

Organizers are especially looking forward to hearing stories about local people who have passed away, whether they were longtime friends, neighbors or simply characters who left a lasting impression.

For questions or vendor inquiries, call Trinity Goad at 540-230-7943.



The Royall family made peach butter and other goodies at last year's festival. Demonstrations are scheduled for this year, with the freshly made goodies available for sale later in the afternoon. (File photo)

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## Tri-Area school clinic opens as PCHS students return

**By Taylor Boyd**

Students at Patrick County High School have a new health care option with Tri-Area Community Health's school-based clinic. Opening of the clinic coincided with the Tuesday, Aug. 11 new school year.

Initially, the clinic will offer students virtual appointments.

Director of School-Based Services Pam Hylton said virtual appointments will be available until nurses and medical providers are trained and in place at the PCHS clinic.

"They would just be able to start using it through the school nurse's office at each school. We have provided each school, including the high school, with a TytoCare device, which is a digital instrument that the school nurse can use for students whose parents have given consent for them to use our Tri-Area services. It's like a regular doctor's appointment, but they use those tools to obtain blood pressure, pulse, they can get the heartbeat, ears, nose, throat exam," she said.

Hylton said the TytoCare device also has a camera that can look inside and take pictures, if needed, of the ears, nose, throat and skin.

While she does not have a definitive date, Hylton estimates in-person services will begin sometime this fall.




Tri-Area Community Health donated boxes of tissues to Patrick County Public Schools. From left are Angie Tallman, LPC; Patrick County School Board Clerk Sara Leigh Collins; and Tri-Area Director of School-Based Services Pam Hylton.

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

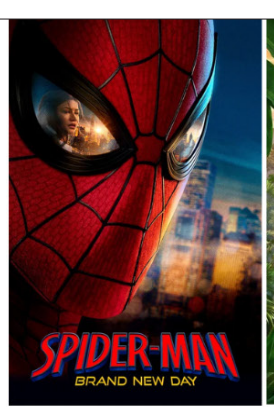
hollywoodcinema.net




1-3-5




1-3-5-7-9




1-4-7-9:15




1-3-5-7-9




1-3-5-7-9




1-3-5-7-9

$5 tickets near Walmart

ICE CREAM MAN 7-9PM

276-656-3456

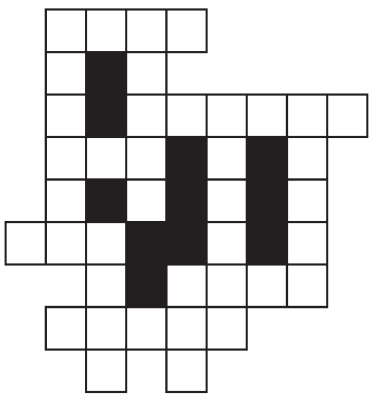
# PUZZLE TIME

## FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

GIW
WEPORD
AILEK
PEKL
WULOAT
♥ ADW
♥ AEGP
DALPI
♥ RKI
KADLET
ROLGW
♥ ERWE

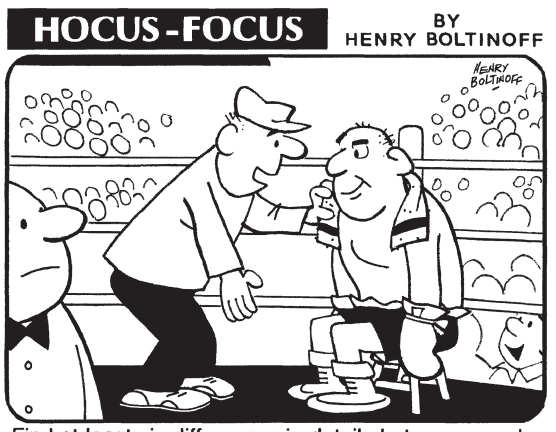


Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked ( ♥ ) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ **RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's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

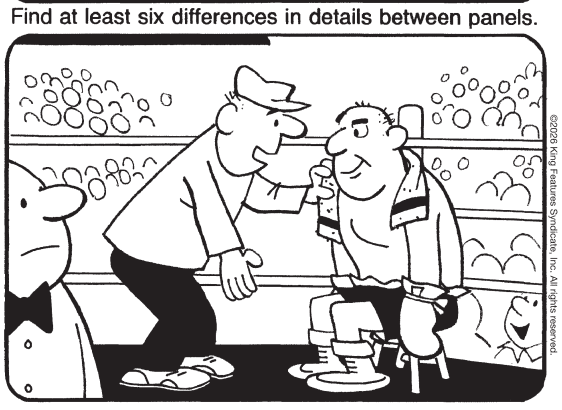
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Towel is longer. 2. Tie is larger. 3. Rung on stool is missing. 4. Ear is different. 5. Rope is missing. 6. Man is moved.

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## MAGIC MAZE

A FOUR-LETTER WORD IN THE MIDDLE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: PROTECTION FOR THE HANDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appeared | Cadillac | Clamps | Orange |
| Apprentice | Chairs | Climbs | Placed |
| Brainchild | Charms | Comforting | Sliced |
| Brooms | Chosen | Fabled | |

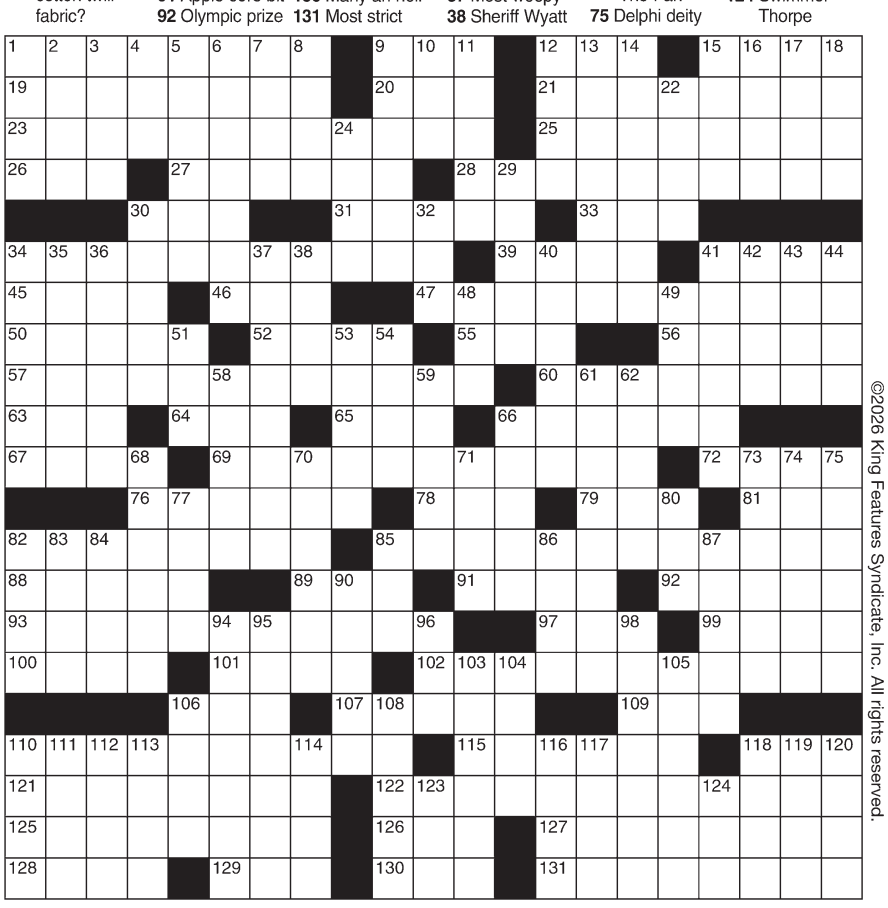
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## Super Crossword

"OH, GO ON!"

**ACROSS**
1 Classic candy with a white, gooey center
9 "Don't — step further!"
12 Subj. for U.S. citizens-to-be
15 What food is in a food fight
19 First-aid plant
20 Cyber-address
21 More lethal
23 Musical ensemble that likes taunting its audiences?
25 Brainstorming question
26 IRS form info
27 War horses
28 Identify the star of "The Godfather"?
30 Taint
31 Peripheral
33 Pistol, in slang
34 Speed of corporate employees?
39 Alexis I, e.g.
41 Move a little
45 Think ahead
46 Whale locale
47 Two-ply cotton twill fabric?
50 Outfielder Judge
52 French for "weapon"
55 — -la-la
56 Sacred vows
57 Horse with color patches on one-fourth of its body?
60 Great delight
63 German conjunction
64 — polloi
65 Ike's inits.
66 Yasser of Palestine
67 Popular crafts website
69 Publicity video made by 12th graders?
72 "Chiquitita" pop group
76 Pupils' places
78 Galloped
79 Daiquiri liquor
81 Lil Durk or Lil Jon's music
82 Brief, tight shorts
85 Marx brother with extreme views?
88 Mammal with striped legs
89 — Paulo
91 Apple core bit
92 Olympic prize
93 Beatles drummer participating in a bout?
97 Tell tall tales
99 Big shopping center
100 "— From Muskogee"
101 "Puffball" director Nicolas
102 Stringed instrument played by people in jail?
106 Water, in Vichy
107 — salts (bath supply)
109 Pewter metal
110 Moola earned by singer Jones?
115 Adds to a film, as music
118 Response to "Are you?"
121 Boa of South America
122 Small dance club?
125 Some chewy candies
126 RV hookup org.
127 Countertenor
128 Linear, briefly
129 Colorant
130 Many an heir
131 Most strict

**DOWN**
1 Antislip items
2 Bar brews
3 Bank offering
4 The, in Caen
5 Egg capsule
6 Middles, in London
7 Compulsion
8 Speed
9 Gets clogged with icky stuff
10 Celestial ball
11 Without help
12 Certain Dutch cheese
13 Dakar's land
14 Uncover
15 "Paper Lion" star Alan
16 Outward appearance
17 Honey wine
18 Roughly
22 Inside dope
24 Former Laker Lamar
29 Pianist Schnabel
30 Small-time
32 Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Mr. —"
34 Not reflecting light
35 Display boldly
36 Units of capacitance
37 Most weepy
38 Sheriff Wyatt
40 Fast-food pizza chain
41 California mountain
42 A Jackson 5 brother
43 With a sharp image, briefly
44 Pinkish-red
48 Prefix with laryngology
49 Club in a Barry Manilow hit, for short
51 — degree
53 Longish skirts
54 Prefix with skeleton or spore
58 Lab slide dye
59 On — firma
61 Hobby with call letters
62 Into a state of conflict
66 Golfer Palmer, informally
68 Rebel like Abbie Hoffman or Jerry Rubin
70 Moniker of a loch monster
71 Paw parts
73 Of a wedding woman
74 Lauren of "The Fan"
75 Delphi deity
77 Parade ruiner
80 Roman 1,900
82 Drifting sort
83 "Enough, I get it!"
84 Cabbie's car
85 Hitter Maris, for short
86 Toon pics
87 Macho sorts
90 Make furious
94 Fine- — wood
95 In the form of a circle
96 Photo —
98 Authorize
103 Dennis of hoops fame
104 "It's my turn"
105 Remnant of a burned coal
106 Kingdom given to Esau
108 Some skin scars
110 Mexican treat
111 — even keel
112 Filly's mother
113 Jack fish
114 Simplify
116 Comic thuds
117 "Shoo!"
118 Oahu, e.g.
119 Deeds
120 Irrelevant
123 Tic-tac-toe victory
124 Swimmer Thorpe



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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆**

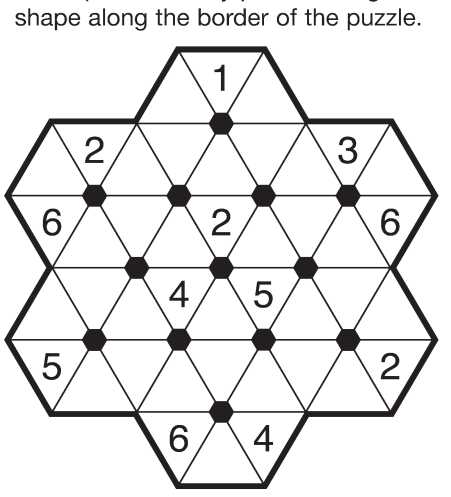
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• The Statue of Liberty's thumbnail is more than a foot long.

• During an attempt to use electrocution to kill the turkey meant for his Christmas dinner party, Benjamin Franklin accidentally shocked himself so badly that all of the blood temporarily drained out of one of his hands.

• Fred and Wilma Flintstone were the first married couple to be portrayed as sharing a bed on television.

• The Rainbow Group, a government-funded organization in Amsterdam, hires alcoholics to clean litter from city streets and includes beer as part of their payment.

• NASA defines an astronaut as someone who has flown 50 miles above sea level.

• A rare condition known as "exploding head syndrome" can cause people to hear loud bangs, crashes or explosive noises while drifting to sleep. Researchers believe the phenomenon is generally harmless, if alarming.

• The sun and moon appear to be the same size because the moon is 400 times smaller but also 400 times closer.

• Some scorpions rub their legs together to "sing" like crickets. However, while crickets aim to attract mates, scorpions make the sound to warn away predators or rivals.

• The longest recorded pickleball rally, held on Oct. 10, 2021, consisted of 16,046 shots and was launched by players Angelo and Ettore Rossetti to help increase awareness of children under age 5 who die of preventable causes.

• Some of the earliest universities in the world were Sumerian scribal schools, which were created soon after 3,500 B.C. and called eduba, which possibly meant "house of tablets."

• The first known reference to the word baseball was in a 1744 publication "A Little Pretty Pocket-Book," by children's publisher John Newberry.

***

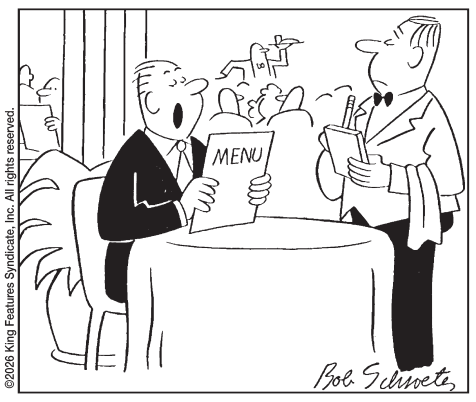
**Thought for the Day:** "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — *Winston Churchill*

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## 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!**

Student **RENTIN**
Rural **SIRCUT**
Slime **GLUDES**
Anarchy **HAMMEY**




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**"I'll have the chef's special and no need to hurry — unless you want a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _!"**

**TODAY'S WORD**


# Advertise With Us!

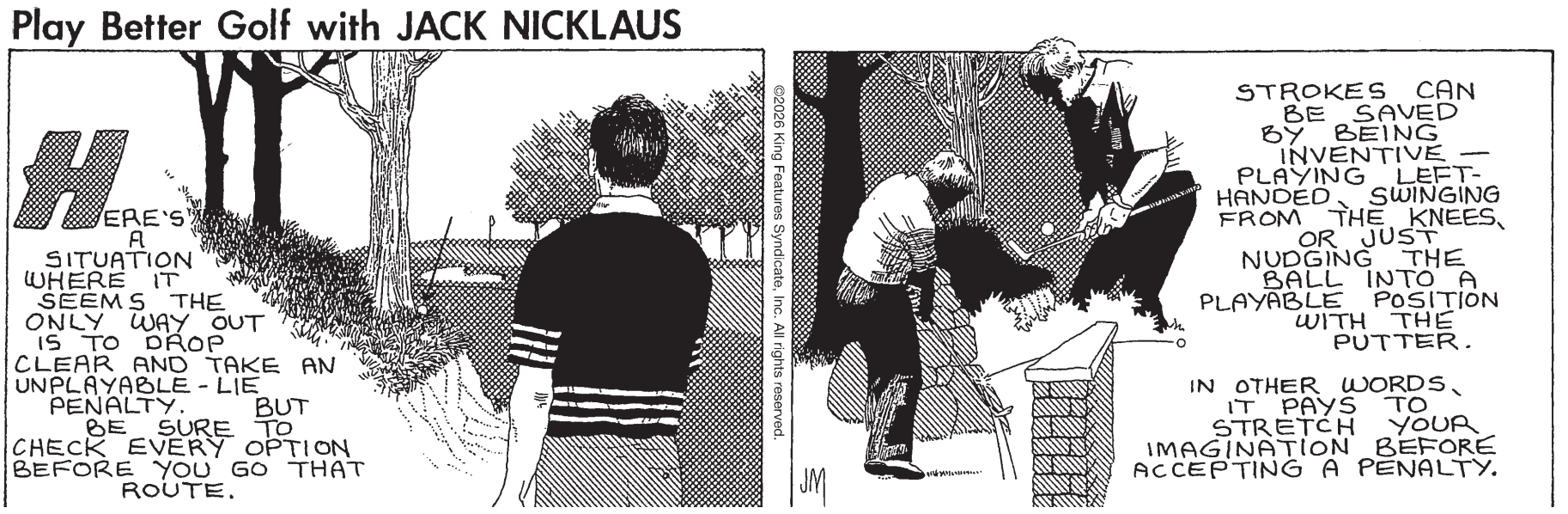
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# LEGAL

**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
Katherine Salgado
[ ] JUDGE [X] CLERK

# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. 26000977-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Road, 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112
Michael Timothy Riley, Jr. v. Brittany Dale Burnette Riley
Address Unknown
The object of this suit is to:
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
It is ORDERED that Brittany Dale Burnette Riley appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before October 2, 2026.
AUGUST 3, 2026
Katherine Salgado
[X] CLERK [ ] JUDGE

# LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Martinsville City Council will hold a public hearing on **August 25, 2026**, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Martinsville City Municipal Building, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112. The purpose of the public hearing shall be to hear public comment regarding the following ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-18**
**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on **August 25, 2026** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and
WHEREAS, these adjustments are necessary to properly account for revenues received and to appropriate funds for approved capital infrastructure improvements;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA, that the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

Appalachian Region Commission Grant ..... $700,000
Contribution from Fund Balance (Grant Match) ... $300,000
TOTAL REVENUES ..... $1,000,000

The above revenues are hereby appropriated for the following expenditure. This expenditure is fully supported by the identified grant revenues.

MiNet Fiber Expansion ..... $1,000,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....$1,000,000

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption, August 25, 2026.
Recorded Roll Call Votes:
**Aye** **Nay**
**Abstain** **Absent**

**ATTEST:**
_____
Mayor
_____
Deputy City 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. CLERK JUDGE

# LEGAL

**COUNTY OF HENRY**
**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **August 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases.

**Case S-26-09 Ryan Smith**
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 80 RV sites, with the first phase of development to be 40 sites. The property is located at 895 Sugar Tree Dr., in the Iriswood District, is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 56.2/44A.

**Case S-26-10 Randy Campbell**
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow a single-family residence to be converted into a duplex dwelling. The property is located at 468 Fellowship Dr. in the Horsepasture District, is zoned as Suburban Residential District S-R, and is shown on Tax Map 50.3(34)5/24.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

# LEGAL

**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. CL26000910-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Road, 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112
Rosa Aurora Jimenez Aguilar v. Luis Miguel Gomez Vega
86 Meadow Lane,
Collinsville, VA 24078
The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII
It is ORDERED that Luis Miguel Gomez Vega appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before October 9, 2026.
AUGUST 10, 2026
Katherine Salgado
[X] CLERK [ ] JUDGE

# LEGAL

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.
Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov).
Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.
Questions can be directed to the Martinsville
Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.
Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

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

## *County*

(cont. from page 3)

rural character, so we really need to talk about that a little bit more," she said.

Cobler said she was not ready to make a motion to approve the proposed ordinance at the July 28 meeting after hearing from constituents.

"For me, I did not feel like I had enough information to make a motion or a vote if it was going to go that way. So we made a different type of motion to just pull the data center stuff out of there so we could digest, absorb, consider everything that was talked about and discussed at the meeting.

"I had already decided that I was not ready, and the other members sort of knew that I was not ready, and that I was going to possibly present a motion to table the data center information to just give us more time and more information and to hear more from the constituents," Cobler said.

While removing the data center provisions leaves the county without specific protections against potential data centers, Cobler said she does not believe one will locate in the county within the next two months.

"I mean realistically, that's not going to happen in two months. I was just asking for more time and more information and to hear more from the constituents," she said.

Noting that the board is still being educated about data centers, Chris Lawless, of the Collinsville District, said the proposed ordinance was preliminary and intended to ensure the county had something in place.

"Apparently the public wanted stricter guidelines, and that's one of the things that we're hoping to see in the future. I know myself, I do chiller units, which circulate water without using fresh water," he said.

Lawless said he would like data centers to be required to not use county water and to have their own power sources so they do not use Henry County's electric grid and potentially increase residents' power bills.

"I know some people's just going to say, 'you should just ban them all together,' but to me if you reach all of the criteria that the public's asking for and you're not pulling on our resources, I don't see why not," he said.

Lawless said there are no data centers currently on the horizon.

Regarding the July 28 meeting, Lawless said he believes the board should have approved the proposed data center ordinance to ensure the county had some protections in place.

"Then, we would have went ahead and added to it so we have some type of protection, because as of right now, we have absolutely zero protection against the data centers. A company could come in, buy the shell building over at the Patriot Centre, say they're going to use it for a warehouse, and turn it into a data center, and there's nothing we can do right now because we have absolutely zero provisions in place," Lawless said.

Lawless said he thinks a lot of people "were either misled or uneducated about what we were trying to do at that meeting.

"I was trying to explain it to people, but people just got in an uproar and was already mad and telling me 'well, you're brainwashed, they done sold you out,' and it's like no they ain't. We were trying to put some rules in place," he said.

# Late frost leaves Virginia peach crop uneven, but local flavor still shines




Virginia peach shoppers may need to be flexible this summer, as a series of spring freezes left many orchards with light crops—or none at all. But in parts of Central Virginia, including Nelson County, surviving trees are still producing the kind of sun-warmed peaches that make the season worth seeking out.

The uneven crop follows an exceptionally cold spring that struck fruit trees during vulnerable stages of bloom. Virginia Cooperative Extension specialists reported widespread damages after freeze events in April, with some northern and western orchards experiencing severe losses. For perennial fruit, "springtime is your one chance to set fruit," Extension agent Mark Sutphin noted in a Virginia Farm Bureau report.

At Saunders Brothers Inc. in Nelson County, Marshall Saunders said the farm was fortunate to have a strong crop, thanks in part to orchard sites that allowed cold air to drain away from the trees.

"Customers are ecstatic to find in-season peaches, locally grown," Saunders said. "But we've certainly worn the other hat! We took damage on apples last year. And in 2023 we had a great crop of peaches destroyed in a June 28 hailstorm. So, Mother Nature is still in charge. She reminds us every day."

He added that Saunders Brothers, which has grown peaches since 1940, is harvesting yellow and white peaches, nectarines and other stone fruit through the summer.

Consumers are advised to check with local farms before visiting, buy Virginia-Grown peaches where they are available, and keep supporting farm markets even when favorite fruits are scarce. Grace Stern, state coordinator for the Extension Master Gardener Program, said local purchases help growers weather difficult years.

"The best way to ensure that peaches are available in Virginia in future years is for folks to buy their produce at farm market retail before going to the grocery store," Stern said, noting that more direct support helps growers buffer losses.

Choosing another in-season item keeps dollars with Virginia farms, especially those working through frost-shortened harvests. Farm stands may have nectarines, plums, pluots, berries, tomatoes, sweet corn, melons and other summer produce ready now.

Meanwhile, Virginia's fruit industry is honoring the influence of Henry Montague Chiles, an Albemarle County orchardist who died July 18 at 90. Chiles helped expand Crown Orchard Co. and develop Carter Mountain Orchard and Chiles Peach Orchard. He once was honored during his career as Young Farmer of the Year by Albemarle County Farm Bureau. Chiles' legacy in Virginia's orchard landscape is carried forward by the family's fourth- and fifth-generations, who continue inviting consumers to taste the season close to home.

# Fieldale Pool makes a splash with first dive-in movie

**By Jessica Dillon**

Fieldale Pool hosted its first "dive-in" movie night Aug. 7, giving swimmers the chance to enjoy Disney's "The Little Mermaid" while floating in the pool.

The pool opened earlier and closed later than usual for the event, and children attending received popcorn and drinks to enjoy during the movie.

"We were just trying to think of some interesting things, and started looking around at what other swimming pools do around the United States, and we saw potential for something called a dive-in. And we thought it would be a great idea to try this in Fidel since it's never been done before," said Sherry Quinley, one of the pool's managers.

"I had a group that came in for another event that we did recently for our 70th birthday celebration, and the first thing they asked us is, can we do a movie? Please, please, do "The Little Mermaid." Just because it would be nice, the music is very nice, and we have a great sound system tonight, and they said, "Let's just do "The Little Mermaid." It would be a classic that anybody could enjoy."

Quinley said organizing the event required extensive planning.

"You have to have the appropriate screen. You have to get the appropriate license. We utilized Swank Motion Picture licensing, the equipment itself, the sound systems. We ended up, at this point, renting the sound systems. It costs $1,000 to be able to do this."

Quinley said having a sponsor is essential because of the cost. The first sponsor was Autos By Nelson.

"Without them, we couldn't do this, and we'd like to make this a regular thing as we move forward, but we need to get people used to what we're doing."

Quinley said the pool hopes to make the movie nights a regular event.

"We would like to have movie nights, for example, maybe once a week, every Friday night, and have the community submit requests for the movies they'd like to see, and have literally, a movie under the stars night, so that people can come and swim."



Fieldale Pool hosted its first dive-in movie night Aug. 7, showing Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

Quinley said that in the event of rain, the movie night could be moved inside the old Fieldale Elementary School auditorium.

She said the Fieldale Pool hopes to hold three more movie nights this season and is open to an adult version of the event in the future.

"We're hoping that it will just be a wonderful experience, and we can continue this throughout. Make this a seasonal thing every summer, just do movies."

"For this season, as we're testing it out. And we're hoping to do is this. If tonight is a success, which it looks like it has been, I think that we could plan a couple more for the season. We close September 7th. And, of course, it's always contingent on weather, and you always cross your fingers hoping it's not going to rain."

Quinley said the Fieldale Pool is looking for community feedback on the event to gauge public interest.

## *Bikers*

**(cont. from page 1)**



Bikers For Babies MHC will hold its 15th annual charity ride Aug. 22, with proceeds benefiting the Pregnancy Care Center in Martinsville. The ride begins at 10 a.m. at the center, with kickstands up at noon.

He said the center works to ensure women receive the care they need.

"They will not turn a woman away who needs help," he said.

Rusmisel also discussed abortion rates and public policy.

"I've talked to a lot of people who claim to be pro-choice. They will never acknowledge the birth of the child as a choice," Rusmisel said, adding that he wants the center to provide another option for women facing difficult circumstances.

"We have to give an option to the young lady that doesn't have a lot of options. I can't change the law, but if I can make a place that gives that other option, I will do everything I can to make it happen, all my treasure, all my time," Rusmisel said.

The center also helps mothers who are considering adoption.

Door prizes and giveaways are planned as part of the event, including offerings from Blu Tattoo, New Moon Tattoo, Queen Ann's Revenge, Winston Avenue Social Club and Ancient Art.

Artwork from Rust & Chrome in Stoneville, North Carolina, will also be auctioned.

The ride will begin at the Pregnancy Care Center at 10 a.m. Aug. 22, with kickstands up at noon. Lunch is included with registration and will be served after the ride.

Registration is available for a donation of the participant's choice at the event or online.

For more information or to register, visit mhcbikersforbabies.com/registration.

# Watercraft insurance policies cover whatever floats your boat

For Virginia families who've spent generations on the water, lake life is more than a hobby—it's a lifestyle.

Mecklenburg County resident Alan Lenhart's family has recreated on Buggs Island Lake for a lifetime, creating countless memories and experiences over the decades.

"Boating has always been more than just a hobby for us," he said. "It's a tradition."

Mecklenburg County Farm Bureau insurance agent Trina Burns has worked with the family to craft policies that pinpoint exactly which coverages and discounts apply to Lenhart's recreational traditions on the water.

His father, Charles Lenhart, comes from a generation of competitive skiers.

"They once submitted a video of themselves performing a pyramid ski routine to Cypress Gardens (a Florida ski show destination) in hopes of winning a boat in a contest," Lenhart recalled. "That competitive spirit has carried on, and to this day our family still competes to see who can ski, tube or kneeboard the best!"

Over 250,000 motorboats, including 30,000 personal watercraft, are registered through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Mecklenburg County is a premier "lake country" destination. It's home to Buggs Island Lake, the state's largest lake located in the Kerr Reservoir, adjacent to the popular Lake Gaston.

"When it came time for me to purchase a new boat, I contacted Trina Burns to add coverage," Lenhart said.

She looked into securing a better interest rate, he continued. "And they were able to save me a significant amount by refinancing my brand-new boat."

Farm Bureau covers most personal-use boats, including pontoons, motorboats, fishing boats and personal watercraft, as well as the trailers, motors and equipment to transport them.

"In other words," Burns said. "You'll be covered both on the water and on your way to it!"

Your county Farm Bureau insurance agent can design watercraft policies that include coverages such as liability, medical expense benefit, newly acquired property, personal property, replacement property, towing and emergency services, uninsured/underinsured boater, and wreck salvage and removal coverage. Additional options include coverage for first aid, and use of another vessel.



Find a local Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. agent and discuss coverage options. Learn more about VFBMIC's boat insurance.

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