ART

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speaking of their work ethic.

"They work hard every day," she said. "So when they come in at 3:30 (p.m.), they are getting their supplies ready, first thing. They are starting their work without me having to prompt them. They have the ideas themselves. So, they are at this all on their own, I'm just here to support them. They're the reason that this show is possible because they have been so excited for it."

Noticeable among the art displays was the influence of Japanese-style anime, which has become increasingly popular in recent years.

"I do have quite a few students who are interested in that medium and that aspect of art," Seagle said. "It's something that I have to get myself more familiar with because I've never been an anime artist, but they teach me everyday something new about it, and I just love being able to showcase it for them."

AMS student Skye Hodson-Manriquez is one of the art club members who had her works on display. She experienced the to-be-expected mixed emotions of optimism and trepidation during the art show, hoping that her art would be well-received.

"I'm enjoying it and I'm nervous because I don't know what someone's gonna say about it. But then, I feel like someone's gonna say something good — or something bad — you never know."

Hodson-Manriquez said she prefers acrylic painting and marker drawings. She began experimenting with art as a child, inspired by her artistic sister Autumn.

"When I was maybe seven years old, I was drawing for a bit," she said. "Then I stopped for maybe two years, and then I started back up with art and then I stopped for a month, and then I went back to it and now I'm in art club, and I like it here."

"I just like the colors and how I can use my paint brush and move with it. That's pretty cool," she added.

Hodson-Manriquez appreciates her art teacher's willingness to assist the students. She also enjoys spending time with her fellow art club members.

"What I enjoy about Miss Seagle is she's very kind; she knows what to do if you're in a little bit of trouble," she said. "And everybody else there, they're just really supportive. I enjoy being around a whole bunch of people."

The Appomattox County High School choir, under the direction of Brenda Jarrett, performed during the event.

Seagle hopes the art show at AMS will become an annual event.

AMS students may sign up for the Raiders Expand Art Club at the beginning of the school year or during the school year. The club meets every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Current members of the Raiders Expand Art Club are Sophia Anderson, Thomas Bakker, Jaylon Braxton, Aiden Cyrus, Charlotte Dalton, Sam Hancock, Skye Hodson-Manriquez, Gabby King, Kira Lee, Kukas Lewis, Gabby Marshall, Peach Moore, Bentleigh Ott, Jay Patel, Riley Terrell, Laila Wells and Luke White.

ABUSE

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were county public servants such as Commonwealth's Attorney Les Fleet, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Kia Scott, Sheriff's Office Major Robbie Richardson (who grilled hot dogs), the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department and the Appomattox County Rescue Squad.

DSS gave out pamphlets, blue ribbons, blue wristbands, blue and silver pinwheels, and provided a large display where people could add their blue hand prints to show solidarity with abused children. There was also a bounce house for children to play, and raffle tickets for gift baskets and t-shirts.

Also at the event were representatives handing out information from Lynchburg-based organizations Patrick Henry Family Services, Strategic Therapy Associates, and Bright Beginnings of Central Virginia, the latter of which provided children's books.

DSS Family Services Supervisor Lindsey Hix said this was the first event of its kind, and explained the function of the organization.

"We provide support to members of the community all the way from the start, like CPS, which is Child Protective Services, up to prevention funding, Family First Virginia, foster care services, things like that," she said.

According to Hix, reports of child abuse in the county vary from week to week, and typically increase during the school year when children are more closely observed by authorities.

"I think we have our fair share of reports," Hix said. "There's different times that we have more reports come in than others. It all impacts based off of, a lot of times, children are in school or if they're not in school. But we have a good amount of reports that come in. I know when children are out of school for the summer and stuff like that, we tend to see less reports during the summer. But then when kids come back to school and the mandated reporters are involved and things like that, our numbers pick up. So, it just depends — each month, each week — some weeks we can get anywhere from five reports throughout the week up to, we've had 30 reports in one week."

The Virginia DSS website describes mandated reporters as "certain persons who are identified in the Code of Virginia as having a legal responsibility to report suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation." This could include teachers, police officers, or other qualified professionals.

Anyone is able to report cases of child abuse, Hix affirmed, and DSS will conduct an assessment and provide assistance and recommendations.

"Once we get those reports we'll determine validity, and we have policies and procedures we have to follow based off the severity of the report, and then we have response times that we have to make on those," she said.

Hix encourages anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse or neglect to report the situation.

"We're here to support everybody in the community, and we just encourage people to, if you suspect child abuse, just report it to us so we can look into it," she said.

Several ways reports can be made are:

- Child Abuse Prevention Hotline **(1-800-552-7096)** *Reports may be made anonymously. Interpretative language service is available.
- Appomattox Department of Social Services **(434-352-7125)**
- For emergency situations, dial **9-1-1**

PAGE

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by Joanna Partis. The story was about Harry the frog, who wanted to catch his own dinner but it wasn't nearly as easy as he thought. Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District presented the craft project of making frog headbands, and provided this week's juice and snacks. If you missed this story you can view it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVm60XTfwHA. Our next Story & Craft Time will be on Wednesday, May 3rd, hosted by the Appomattox Farm Bureau, starting at 11 a.m. and noon. They will feature the book "Pig Kahuna" by Jennifer Sattler. There will be crafts and snacks! The library staff loves this book so much that after the Story & Craft Time, this book will be introduced as a selection in our "1,000 Things Before Kindergarten" program. If you have a child up to five years of age that has not yet begun kindergarten, they are eligible to sign up to earn free books!

On Thursday, April 27th, the library hosted their monthly Jamerson Movie Matinee starting at 4 p.m. Everyone's favorite swashbuckling feline returns for a new adventure in an ogre universe. This famous orange tabby goes on a grand quest to find a magical Wishing Star. Our next Jamerson Movie Matinee will be hosted on Thursday, May 25th, starting at 4 p.m.

Don't forget to join the Jamerson Library in a Spring Plant Swap! What is the plant swap? It's when you bring your extra or unwanted houseplants, seeds, bareroots, and cuttings to the library on Thursday, May 11th from 5 to 7 p.m. and exchange them for new friends to take home. You must bring in plants in order to participate in a fair exchange of plants.

There are a few simple rules to follow:

— Plants must be free of diseases and infestations

— No dead plants

— Plants must be transportable (put in some sort of container, pots, cups, baggies with a wet paper towel)

— You must leave plants to take plants. There will be no taking plants without a fair or generous exchange

— Bring your own totes, boxes, or crates for the swap to take selected plants home!

The staff is just about ready for the 2023 Summer Reading Program "All Together Now." You can sign up in person on or after Monday, June 5th, until Monday, July 24th, with the program ending on Friday, July 28th. Patrons from two years of age and older are welcome to join this program. We will put a link to this year's Summer Reading page on our website, and have information flyers with a QR code to the page ready by next week.

In observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, the library will be closed on Monday, May 29th, and will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 30th, at 9:30 a.m. Our book depository located at the back of the building will remain open during this time.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or other library-related topics, please feel free to call us during normal business hours at 434-352-5340.

The library receives a steady supply of new and donated items. We would like to highlight the following titles:

DVDs

- Seven Worlds One Planet
- Backdraft
- Backdraft 2
- The Fifth Element
- Hustle & Flow
- American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- American Girl: Isabelle Dances into the Spotlight
- Strange World

BLU Ray

- Strange World

Be kind to the environment & recycle this newspaper!

HUNT

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before we could cast in. I grab my pole with the silver Phoebe on it. Two minutes to go and people start casting in. I casted to the rock dam and before I knew I had a breeder trout on! I reeled it to the wall and grabbed the net. As I tried to scoop this big trout into the net, I missed it. I tried again and got it into the net just as the lure came out of its mouth. I was so lucky I didn't lose it. I hooked it to my stringer and keep fishing.

Four fishermen waded to the rock dam; so much for fishing there. I retied my line so I could use marshmallows. As fast as I could cast in I caught a trout. It didn't take but a few minutes to make my limit. I leave this place and drop off my 19-inch trout to the taxidermy. Now it was a waiting game to get it back. A week later I fished Pequest River and caught an 18-inch rainbow trout. I took this rainbow to the taxidermy and was going to have them both mounted. I still have the mounts with the Phoebes hooked in their mouths.

I wasn't sure how I was going to pay for one trout, let alone two trout. I remember I started to work some overtime to pay for the mount. I got both trout mounted on one board. Back then it was some good times.

Until next week-H.S.F.H.-L.M.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APPOMATTOX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
PROPOSED BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR 2024
COMMENCING JULY 1, 2023

This budget synopsis is prepared and published for informative planning purposes only. The inclusion of any item does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for that purpose. There is no allocation or designation of Appomattox County funds for any purpose until an appropriation for that purpose has first been made by the Board of Supervisors.

A public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors respecting the proposed 2023/2024 Appomattox County consolidated budget (inclusive of school budget) in the CVCC Board of Supervisors Meeting Room located at 171 Price Lane, Appomattox, Virginia, on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00pm at which time citizens of this County shall have the right to address and state his or her views.

ESTIMATED REVENUES

GENERAL FUND (001)	
Revenue from Local Sources	19,773,834
Revenue from the Commonwealth	3,701,346
Revenues from Federal Govt.	2,920,639
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	**26,395,819**
SCHOOL FUND (10)	
Revenue from Local Sources	6,805,067
Revenue from the Commonwealth	21,181,966
Revenue from the Federal Government	1,359,485
Revenue from Other Sources	125,000
Transfer In (Cafeteria)	900,000
TOTAL SCHOOL FUND	**30,371,518**
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FUND (001)	
Revenue from Local Sources	523,019
Revenue from the Commonwealth	1,261,860
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FUND	**1,784,879**
VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND (015)	
Revenue from Local Sources	301,697
Revenue from the Commonwealth & Federal Gov't	2,011,890
TOTAL VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND	**2,313,587**
PUBLIC UTILITIES FUND (082)	
Revenue from Other Sources	165,000
TOTAL PUBLIC UTILITIES FUND	**165,000**
TOTAL REVENUE ALL FUNDS	**61,030,803**
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS	*7,629,783*
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	**53,401,020**

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

GENERAL FUND	
General Government Administration	2,218,915
Judicial Administration	1,307,065
Public Safety	5,195,289
Public Works	2,117,778
Health & Welfare	168,980
Community College (CVCC)	385
Parks, Recreation, Cultural	536,374
Community Development	355,467
Operating Reserve/CIP/ARPA	3,593,970
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	**15,494,223**
DEBT SERVICE (County)	1,789,480
DEBT SERVICE (School)	1,482,333
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	**3,271,813**
SCHOOL FUND (10)	**30,371,518**
PUBLIC UTILITIES OPERATING FUND (082)	**165,000**
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FUND	**1,784,879**
VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND (015)	**2,313,587**
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	**53,401,020**

Approved Tax Levies for Tax Year 2023

Real Estate & Mobile Homes	.63 per $100 assessed value
Personal Property (Vehicles)	3.00 per $100 assessed value (100% Clean Trade-In NADA Value)
All Other Personal Property	3.35 per $100 assessed value
Machinery & Tools	3.35 per $100 assessed value (17.3% of init cost)
Merchant's Capital Tax	1.00 per $100 assessed value (85% of orig cost)
Vehicle License Tax	35.00 per vehicle

Details on the above can be viewed
at the County Administrator's Office located at:
153A Morton Lane, Suite A, Appomattox, Virginia.
BY AUTHORITY: Susan M. Adams, County Administrator