

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 12, 2021

(USPS-6)

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## More than 400 attend annual carnival

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

Hundreds of guests flocked to the Infinity Acres Ranch in Ridgeway for the 6th annual Spring Carnival on June 5. The sight of a line of eager faces waiting to get tickets was welcomed by co-owners of the ranch, Laura and Rick Steere, who were forced to cancel the carnival last year due to the pandemic. “This is our 6th annual carnival, and we did it as a way for the community to have a way to come learn about who we are and what we do,” Laura Steere said. “This has been growing every year, along with the ranch and the services that we offer. It’s a

fantastic way for the people to come and have a nice family day together.” With the pandemic allowing an extra year to prepare, the event looked a tad different than in years before. “We’ve got a lot more babies than we’ve ever had before. We have a whole new recreation pad for children’s activities. We’ve got the camel and the Critter Train, which is the first time for the carnival,” Laura Steere said. “The biggest thing this year is, we have improved our accessibility for people in wheelchairs, strollers or walkers, so it’s much easier to get around.” Sponsors like Dr. David Jones, of Jones and DeShon Orthodon-

tics, helped the ranch afford to build cement pathways to help navigate the terrain. “We are happy just to help a little,” Jones said. Contributions from donors like Jones also helped to construct a new aviary on the ranch. “One of the largest differences this year is our aviary,” Rick Steere said. “We have a lot of fun birds, and you can go inside to feed them. They will land on your head or your arm. It’s not a normal process to have birds land on you, so that is neat for people to experience.” With all of the new amenities, Laura Steere said the ranch

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Infinity Acres Ranch held its 6th Annual Spring Carnival on June 5 which featured animal encounters, games, and a ride on the Critter Train.

## Doors opening for potential semiconductor manufacturing in Southwest and Southside

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

With China currently outpacing the U.S. in semiconductor manufacturing, the pressing need for the U.S. to catch up has led to two proposed bills by Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandria, which could place Southwest and Southside Virginia smack dab in the middle of the race for semiconductor supremacy. “I would love to see new chip manufacturing facilities, they call them FABs, I would love to see one in southwest Virginia,” Warner said. As small as semiconductors are, they have a gigantic impact on the way modern society functions. For the unfamiliar, semi-



**U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandria, is championing two bills that he hopes will bring new manufacturing facilities to Southwest and Southside Virginia.**

conductors are essentially microchips, which help power electronic devices

See **Doors**, page 3

## Williams ousts Poindexter; McAuliffe, Ayala and Herring to lead Democratic ticket

### Staff Reports

Representatives from the two major political parties for the November ballot were selected in the dual June 8 primary. In the only Republican primary for the area, Wren Williams, a Stuart attorney, bested incumbent Del. Charles Poindexter, R-Glade Hill, to win the GOP’s nomination for Virginia’s 9th House of Delegates seat. “I’m humbled and honored to be the Republican nominee for Virginia’s 9th House of Delegates district,” Williams said. “Voters sent a loud message to Richmond and special insiders that they are fed up with business as usual from career politicians. This isn’t the end. This is the start of change for Southside and Southwest Virginia.” Williams won all seven precincts in Henry County, garnering 526 votes to the 186 cast for Poindexter, according to unofficial results from the State Board of Elections. In the Bassett #2 precinct, Williams received 23 votes compared to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Wren Williams addressed the more than 150 gathered at his victory party Tuesday night at Stanburn Winery. His wife, Britt Schneider Williams, also is pictured.**

13 votes for Poindexter. Williams had 79 votes in the Gunville precinct, while Poindexter notched 43 votes. The vote tally for Williams in Scott’s Tanyard was 150, which more than triple the 47 votes cast for Poindexter. In the Horsepasture #1 precinct, Williams received 102 votes com-

pared to 24 cast for Poindexter. The Spencer precinct netted 89 votes for Williams and 32 votes for Poindexter. Williams bested Poindexter in the Bassett #1 precinct, with 40 to 15 votes. The absentee ballot also went to

See **Williams**, page 3

## Second candidate enters race for Collinsville District



**Elizabeth Durden will be on the November ballot in the race for the Collinsville seat on the Henry County School Board.**

**Taylor Boyd**  
*Staff writer*

A second candidate has entered the race for the Collinsville District seat on the Henry County School Board in the November election. Elizabeth Durden is seeking the post, along with Ray Reynolds. Durden said her decision to run is the culmination of several things, including the pandemic’s impact on children’s mental health, “the absence of children being involved in school at

all, hearing about how many kids are failing or how many kids haven’t shown up for a year.” A couple months ago, Durden said she had a situation with her daughters. “It concerned both of them, so I called each of their schools. The people that I spoke with went above and beyond to resolve the issue that I had for my children, and it just left me really uncomfortable because I asked ‘well, what about all the other kids?’ and they were like ‘we can help your kids,’” she

said she was told. Durden said she didn’t feel like that was enough. “I have a concern for all the children, and just over this last year seeing the issues that are arising, and all these things coming up and coming through, it just led me to believe that this would be the best avenue to share parents’ concerns,” she said. The board has the ability to address several issues, she said, of getting parents involved and active in their child’s education. “I don’t think it’s for a lack of information being put out, it’s just not clear on what we’re given,” she said. Because no parental feedback is offered, Durden said she thinks there’s a lot of things happening in the schools that might not necessarily be needed. “They’re talking about getting rid of Advanced Diplomas, and I was watching the Bassett (High School) graduation and they said 111 kids got Advanced Diplomas this year,” Durden said. Recently, she added that board members discussed the lack of student interest in summer

See **Durden**, page 8



## Local college board has ‘no choice’ in renaming PHCC

**Brandon Martin**  
*Staff writer*

The Patrick Henry Community College Board has laid the groundwork to find a new name for the college following the State Board of Community College’s rejection of the local board’s decision to either keep the name the same or to rename it as Patrick-Henry Community College. Last month, the State Board of Community Colleges rejected PHCC’s recommendation to retain its name. It also rejected the idea to add a hyphen into the college’s name. However, the state board, which has the sole authority to change or retain a name of a college, provided PHCC an opportunity to propose a new name.

To that end, an anonymous survey will include two fields that will allow the community to suggest a name and provide a reason for why that new name should be chosen. At a recent meeting of the local college board, Dr. Angeline Godwin, president of PHCC, said the proposed names should “capture the mission and vision” of the college, and comply with the new policy by the state board regarding the name. Additionally, “there is no appetite from anyone for a new name to be a name of a person.” Godwin also suggested that any new names coincide with popular branding associations already in place with the college. These would include the compass logo, the colloquial shorthand of “PH,” and the theme of “patri-

ots,” Godwin said. She noted that the state board has not proposed any funding for the name change, which would impact current merchandise, signs and advertisements. “We’ve got no funding stream for this,” she said. “So, we need to go back and look at the finan-

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Visit  
<http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com>  
for updates





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Friday, June 11

The Spencer-Penn Centre will host a music night with The Country Boys, beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the back lot. Gates open at 5 p.m. Admission is a \$5 donation. Guests are encouraged to bring their own seat. Social distancing will be required, with masks when that is not possible. Some concessions will be sold.

## Saturday, June 12

The Spencer-Penn Centre is hosting the Summerwind Fair, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., with vendors, a cruise-in, food trucks, a book sale and a cornhole tournament. Admission is free, but a \$10 entry fee is required for the cornhole tournament. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The tournament kicks off at 11 a.m. Top three team receive prizes, with \$200 for first place. The Centre also is hosting a canvas painting class with Genie Elgin from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The class is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. All supplies provided. Class size is limited,

so those interested. Register by calling (276)957-5757.

## Monday, June 14

The Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum on 1 E. Main Street in Martinsville. The drive, held as a celebration of Flag Day, will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Johnathan Phillips at (276) 806-5022.

## Friday, June 18

Blackberry Baptist Church is holding a blood drive in conjunction with the Red Cross from noon until 6 p.m.

## Saturday, June 19

The Fieldale Recreation Center is sponsoring a fundraiser concert at the outdoor stage of the center from 6-10 p.m. “FATZ” will be performing. Admission is \$5. Guests are asked to bring their own chairs. No coolers will be allowed. Concessions and beer will be available. The event will follow COVID-19 guidelines. For more information, call Jane Eggleston at (276) 358-1143.

Blackberry Baptist Church will host a “Children’s Jubilee” from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. A hot dog lunch will be provided, along with entertainment such as bouncy houses and other games.

## Thursday, June 24

Joe Bryant, supervisor of the Collinsville District, will host a Town Hall meeting in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building at 7 p.m. Attendees will be able to meet and ask questions of local officials about concerns facing their neighborhoods. Speakers include Deputy County Administrator Dale Wagoner, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry, County Attorney George Lyle, and VDOT Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes.

Hughes.

## ONGOING

West Piedmont Planning District Commission is seeking public input on three surveys for upcoming projects. All of the surveys and opportunities can be accessed on [www.wppdc.org](http://www.wppdc.org) and the planning projects are: Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update (survey and interactive story map for residents); Regional Pandemic Recovery & Economic Resiliency Plan (survey for business and industries); Piney Forest Road Corridor Study by Danville MPO (residents who travel down Piney Forest Road in the City of Danville). For more information, contact Michael Armbrister at (276) 638-3987 or email [marmbrister@wppdc.org](mailto:marmbrister@wppdc.org).

The Patrick Henry Community College Board will be holding specially called meetings via Zoom throughout the month of June regarding the renaming of the college. The meetings can be accessed at the following links on the corresponding dates: June 15 (<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/82043903790>); June 21 (<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/84439663752>)

The Spencer-Penn Centre will be hosting a yoga class on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., in June, with instructor Sheila Hubbard. The class is \$8 per session or \$40 for a series of six classes. Students are asked to bring their own yoga mat and props if possible.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness is celebrating Men’s Health Month and reminding men that one great step toward good health is regular health exams and routine preventive care. If you are putting these off due to lack of insurance, the coalition offers “no contact” application assistance for Virginia’s free or low-cost MEDICAID plans for Virginians under 65, who meet income requirements. Applications can be completed by phone. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to see if you qualify. Coverage may be available for entire family.

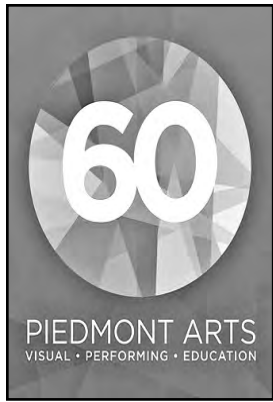
# Luncheon explores history of Piedmont Arts

Piedmont Arts will continue its 60th anniversary celebration with a catered luncheon on Tuesday, June 22 at noon at the museum.

The event will feature speakers on the history and progress of Piedmont Arts, including former Executive Director Toy Cobbe and Julie Ascough Work, granddaughter of Michael “Big Mike” and Purnell Schottland, whose heirs donated their former home to Piedmont Arts.

Single seats and table reservations are available. Single seats are \$30. A table of six is \$180. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

To learn more about events planned in celebration of Piedmont Arts’ 60th Anniversary, visit [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).



## Hospital system extends visiting hours

Sovah Health has extended visiting hours. The updated schedule of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. recently was implemented on both campuses – Danville and Martinsville.

Patients are still limited to one well visitor per block during visitation hours. Only one visitor will be allowed during each time block. For example, a patient may have one visitor in the morning and a different visitor in the evening, however, visitors will not be allowed to switch out during each time block. All visitors must be 18 years of age or older, will be screened upon entry and are required to provide their own mask and wear a visitor security pass sticker while in the facility. Visitors who do not pass the screening at entry will be asked to reschedule their visit until they are symptom-free.

Visitors are still not allowed for high-risk patients. These patients include those being cared for in the behavioral health unit, patients who are in isolation, immunocompromised, or are under observation or test positive for COVID-19. Some exceptions may apply for those receiving end-of-life care or are deemed a clinical necessity.

“Our hospital’s top priority is safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our patients, providers, employees and community,” said Alan Larson, Market President, Sovah Health and CEO, Sovah Health – Danville.

“We continue to monitor closely the prevalence of the virus in our community as we adapt our operations to safely care for and support our patients. We have been pleased to welcome our patients’ loved ones back to the hospital and happy we’re able to allow additional visitation time.”

Sovah Health continues to screen everyone who enters the facility for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, per CDC guidelines. For additional updates on how the hospital is working to maintain a safe and supportive environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [SovahHealth.com](http://SovahHealth.com).

## No Choice

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cial analysis on a name change again.”

The renaming discussion began nearly a year ago when the state board called for all of Virginia’s community colleges to review their names for appropriateness. After a lengthy and thorough review process, PHCC recommended to the state board that it should retain its name.

As part of that financial analysis, Godwin asked that it be broken down into one section that includes the previously mentioned branding associations and another that does not consider those factors.

Godwin encouraged the board to continue bringing up the subject of funding to the state board.

“I think we need to continue to have those conversations,” she said. “I wouldn’t just stop talking about it. I’m not going to quit talking about you getting some money for this. I do think we should keep asking the state board to look for resources.”

The final list submitted to the state board will consist of 3-5 names, Godwin said.

Regardless of the names submitted, Godwin noted that the state board has the sole authority on the naming of community colleges in Virginia.

“Our only goal at this point is to influence the state board’s decision on what a new name might be,” she said.

The state board instated a policy during its May 2021 meeting that delineated how the appropriateness of a college names would be determined. The new policy stated that institutions’ names “should reflect the values of inclusive and accessible education articulated in the VCCS mission statement, with special emphasis on diversity, equity, and opportunity, and be relevant to the students it seeks to serve and to the geography of its service region.”

When summarizing the background, Godwin noted three circles -- the circle of concern, the circle of influence and the circle of control.

She said the state board is in the circle of control and she left the decision to the local board as to if it wanted to be part of the circle of influence by suggesting names or to be part of the circle of concern where the board would let the state board make the decision without local input.

“The question before this board is do you want to participate in the renaming of this college, yes or no,” Godwin said.

“I still totally support our first decision. That is what we named it, and it’s in the minutes,” said Gary Collins, a member of the local board.

“I totally disagree with the state of Virginia,” he said, and added that he does not like the position the local board was put in by the state board.

After submitting a resolution passed by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors to not change the name of the college, board member Wren Williams said, “We know that this name has sort of been attributed to Patrick Henry at this point, who was an American hero and one of the founders of this great nation. I like the name Patrick Henry Community College and I’ve always enjoyed that name, especially with the ties to the communities Patrick and Henry counties.”

Williams said he is saddened that “we are seeing individuals try and create this division that is just not felt in the region.”

Overall, Williams said he objects to “participating in what I think is a very patronizing exercise, and I feel like we should stand against this cancel culture and make the decision that no, we are not going to participate in what you are asking us to do.”

“I agree with Mr. Williams on some points, but if we don’t change it, then we have no choice, and they are going to stick us with a name that we may not want at all,” Collins said. “I’m in favor of doing it (participating), not because I like it, but I think we need to because who knows what they are going to stick us with when we would at least have the right to a choice that we could recommend.”

A majority of the local board members approved a motion made by board member John McGraw to participate in the renaming process, with Williams and Robert Haley casting dissenting votes.

The survey will close on June 14. The local board then will make a final decision on a slate of recommended names and submit that list to the state board on June 21.

Acceptable names will be ranked by preference of the local board, and each individual name must receive a majority vote to be included.

The state board “may take” one of the recommendations suggested by the local college board “and they may not, but at least we could make a recommendation,” Collins said. “The community has got to know that we have no choice in this.”

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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55		56						57					
58								59					

CLUES ACROSS

1. Most courageous  
8. Insurance giant  
13. Small trace left behind  
14. In a way, signals  
15. The same letter or sound at the beginning  
19. The Great Lakes State  
20. Engage in a contest  
21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)  
22. Manpower  
23. Undivided  
24. Strong, magnetic metal  
25. People of Tanzania  
26. Sorts  
30. Cop car accessory  
31. Trade  
32. Sullen and ill-tempered

33. Distinctive practices  
34. Motor vehicles  
35. Electrodes  
38. Polish river  
39. Human feet  
40. Make very hot  
44. Toppin and Kenobi are two  
45. Blackbird  
46. One point west of due south  
47. Large beer  
48. Third stomachs  
49. Rare Korean family name  
50. Hectoliter  
51. Aquatic invertebrate  
55. Where we live  
57. Poked holes in  
58. Partner to ways  
59. \_\_ Ann

CLUES DOWN

1. Expressions of approval  
2. Replace the interior of  
3. Not awake  
4. Roman numeral 7  
5. Sun up in New York  
6. Institute legal proceedings against  
7. Bugs homeowners don't want  
8. Maltese-Italian composer  
9. Very long period of time  
10. Touchdown  
11. Agents of downfall  
12. Complacently or inanely foolish  
16. Argentina capital Buenos  
17. County in New Mexico  
18. An electrically charged atom  
22. New Zealand conifer  
25. Type of brandy

27. Comments to the audience  
28. Tears down  
29. Gifts for the poor  
30. More painful  
32. Good friend  
34. Lying in the same plane  
35. Line in a polygon  
36. Clouds of gas and dust  
37. Norse god  
38. Health care pro  
40. Close tightly  
41. One's holdings  
42. Became less intense  
43. Wilco frontman  
45. Woman (French)  
48. Expresses delight  
51. TV channel (abbr.)  
52. Beverage  
53. Unit of work or energy  
54. Cleaning accessory  
56. Dorm worker

# City approves bond amendments for Beaver Creek Dam project

## Staff Reports

The Martinsville City Council unanimously approved amendments to water and sewer revenue bonds which pertain to the financing of a repair project for the Beaver Creek Reservoir Dam.

Originally, the council had approved the issuance of bonds up to \$2.5 million, but the damages to the dam have since been evaluated at a higher cost.

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said the financing agreement between the city and the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) was structured around a maximum principal amount of about \$2.2 million, which was based on bids the city received for the project. This left an additional financing capacity of \$291,250.

As the project neared comple-

tion, it was discovered that additional repairs would increase the cost to approximately \$2.7 million.

Towarnicki said that VRA indicated the additional financing of \$291,250 could be used to cover the difference. He added that the balance for the repair costs would be \$194,000.

There are two potential funding sources for the incurred costs, according to Towarnicki.

The city could potentially use funds received from the American Rescue Plan, which are designated for water and sewer infrastructure. If the guidelines of the bill prohibit the use of funds for the project, Towarnicki said the city would pick up the cost in its water department budget.

Council approved the amendments on an emergency basis, which allowed the changes to be done with only one reading.

“The reason for that is due to the timing of the project and the need for the money, because the work is actually underway now,” Towarnicki said.

He added that the substantial completion date for the project is July 6, with final completion in August.

In other matters, the council:

- \*Approved the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget on second reading.
- \*Heard an update from Uptown Partnership from the organization’s new executive director, Kathy Deacon, and the previous interim director, Jeff Sadler.

The non-profit has numerous goals for the close-out of 2021. Sadler said the first is to create a “unified and informed vision” for Uptown that will support the partnership’s transformation strategies centered around orga-

nization, design, promotion and economic vitality.

“The Harvest Foundation has generously provided funding” and a consultant will be hired “to help the community to create the vision,” Sadler said. “It’s about a three-month process. The idea is that at the very end, there will be a visual representation of what Uptown could look like.”

Secondly, the group wants to develop partnerships with private and nonprofit organizations. Another key demographic that the partnership will work with is the youth.

The third goal of Uptown Partnership will be to engage the community. This goal will encompass three benchmarks -- to recruit and support five businesses in the Uptown area which align with the transformation strategies; begin four

updates or rehabbing projects on buildings and start five design projects.

\*Received names for consideration of appointment to the city school board. The seats up for consideration this year are currently held by Board Members Yvonne Givens and Dominique Hylton. Four names were read during the meeting: Givens, Jay Dickens, Michael Williamson and LC Jones. Eric Monday, city attorney and assistant city manager, noted that those selected will serve until reversion has gone into effect, which will subsequently eliminate the need for a separate city school board.

\*Set a June 22 public hearing on proposed amendments to the city’s Comprehensive Plan. The amendments pertain to the Transportation and Land Use plans.

## Williams

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Williams, who received 43 votes compared to 12 for Poindexter.

According to unofficial results from the State Board of Elections website, Williams also carried Patrick County.

“We weren’t surprised. We knew we put in the work on the ground, and we took the time to get to know voters and their concerns,” Williams said, adding he is focused on providing better service to the district.

“This couldn’t have been accomplished without the help of so many dedicated volunteers, friends, family and my great staff,” Williams said by phone from his victory party at Stanburn Winery.

Poindexter, a 14-year veteran lawmaker, carried Franklin County by 15 to 20 percent as of 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to unofficial results on the website.

Williams said that did not surprise him, “but

obviously there were a lot of individuals” who voted against Poindexter.

Williams thanked Poindexter “for the service he has provided,” and noted that Poindexter has been loyal and held fast to the party’s values. “It’s just time for a change.”

Poindexter could not be reached for comment.

The Democratic nominee for governor will be former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who received more than 300,000 votes in the

statewide race. This accounted for approximately 62 percent of the total vote share.

Hala Ayala, who tallied more than 176,000 votes and almost 37.5 percent of the vote, won the local contest for lieutenant governor.

Incumbent Attorney General Mark Herring fended off challenger Jay Jones with more than 268,000 votes and 56.6 percent of the vote.

McAuliffe was the fa-

vorite candidate locally, winning 71.3 percent of the vote in Henry County and 66.2 percent in Martinsville. Overall, McAuliffe received 1,118 votes in the county and 459 votes in the city. The former governor gained the most votes from absentee ballots and had the highest turnout at the Mt. Olivet precinct, with 129 votes.

While Ayala won the statewide race, she wasn’t the top vote-getter locally.

Sam Rasoul received the most votes in both the county and the city. Rasoul took 40.97 percent of the vote in the county and 42.26 percent in the city.

Herring, who was the winner statewide, also didn’t carry the vote locally.

Jones won Henry County with 963 votes to Herring’s 593. Jones also won the share of votes in the city, with 438 compared to 242 cast for Herring.

## Doors

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used for communications, computing, healthcare, military systems, transportation, clean energy, and a variety of other applications.

When discussing his proposals, Warner noted that that Southside and the New River Valley could be ideal homes for new semiconductor manufacturers.

His first bill which could help make this a reality is the United States Innovation and Competition Act. If approved, his proposal would dramatically increase the level of funding authorized to go to the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

In addition, appropriated funds of \$52 billion would go directly towards semiconductors.

As the lead Democrat on the issue, Warner said he is pushing for the funds to be emergency appropriated.

“Semiconductors and microelectronics are the heart and soul of every device that we operate, from our cell phones to our televisions to our cars to our aircraft and planes,” he said. “They literally go into everything.”

Over the course of two decades, Warner said the United States has gone from producing 37 percent of the world’s semiconductors to 12 percent.

“We’ve seen China literally flip the numbers and go from low single digits to mid-30s in terms of world production,” he added. “We see at this moment in time, literally not a single new semiconductor factory” otherwise known as foundries or fabrication facilities (FABs) “being built in America.”

Warner said that Vir-

ginia had two foundries at one time, but only the facility in Manassas is still operational.

“Our CHIPs bill, the \$52 billion, will commit \$39 billion to help build 8-10 of these new foundries in America over the next 5-7 years,” Warner said. “It will also commit an additional \$12-13 billion in research dollars that will go towards increased design.”

According to Warner, the U.S. still has an advantage over China in the machining equipment and packaging necessary for the production of semiconductors.

“They are all areas where America has a lead but unless we invest, we won’t be able to maintain that lead,” he said. “While \$52 billion in emergency appropriations is a lot of money, to put that in comparison to our competitors, if you look at China itself, China has committed \$150 billion.”

South Korea also is making large investments in the semiconductor industry, committing \$350 billion.

Warner said that Taiwan currently produces 63 percent of all of the semiconductors in the world. Given their lead in the industry and growing tensions with neighboring China, Warner said the U.S. is trying to have some established Taiwanese companies build factories in the states.

“I hope Virginia will be one of the states to compete for these new facilities,” Warner said. “This is critically important for our national security, our competitiveness and my hope is we will broadly pass this legislation next week.”

There are numerous

factors that make Virginia an ideal spot for a new foundry, he added.

“You need good labor. We’ve got it. You need a pro-business environment. We’ve got it. You need access to water and in many areas of southwest Virginia, even with some of the abandoned mining, there is good access to water,” Warner said. “We’ve already shown that we can build FABs in Virginia. I think Virginia and Southwest Virginia, particularly with the ability to leverage off of Virginia Tech, is a great opportunity.”

With \$12-13 billion going towards research and development, Warner said universities like Virginia Tech and the surrounding areas could take advantage of the federal funds.

There is one big problem with constructing a new foundry.

“These FABs cost roughly \$12-15 billion to build,” Warner said, noting that the federal investment when broken down across the 8-10 facilities would only amount to about a third of the costs.

Warner said the gap in funding would be left to private investors, but the federal government could also help in this aspect if his second bill is also passed—the Rural Jobs Act.

“That takes a very suc-

cessful program of New Market Tax Credits but sets aside \$1 billion of those New Market Tax Credits for communities that are less than 50,000 in population,” Warner said. “That would benefit wide swaths of Virginia. The New Market program has been very successful.”

In the past, Warner said the program has experienced a large number of applications which typically ended up offering tax credits to suburban and urban communities.

“By setting aside \$1 billion of these tax credits for rural communities, that will disproportionately help Southwest, Southside, the Valley and the Eastern Shore,” Warner said. “My feeling is that we can ensure that as the economy reopens post-COVID that the job growth will not just take place in the (Interstate) 95-64 corridor, but other parts of Virginia will be included.”

Martinsville and Henry County have previously had success in using the New Market Tax Credit program to generate economic development in the area.

Monogram Food Solutions, LLC, has benefited from the program twice. First, Monogram Snacks Martinsville, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Monogram Food Solutions, LLC, received a

New Markets Tax Credit allocation of \$8 million from Rural Development Partners as part of a financing package for a major expansion project at its Martinsville production plant in 2015, according to Rural Development Partners. The overall expansion cost \$61.7 million, added 56,000 square feet and renovated space in the original production plant.

Monogram also benefited from the program again in 2017 for the design, construction and installation of state-of-the-art clean energy generation technology into an anaerobic digestion facility. The company was the 2017 American Biogas Council Biogas Industry Award Winner for Project of the Year. With an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent at the time, the project created five new full-time permanent jobs with above average wages and retained over 471 additional jobs at the facility. More than 50 percent of the new jobs were filled by low-income persons or residents of the surrounding low-income community.

Henry County, in partnership with the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, also secured funding in 2017 through the New Market Tax Credits to

construct the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT) in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.

The New Markets transaction included a \$5 million grant from the Harvest Foundation and funding from the Tobacco Commission and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. The funds were used to help leverage an additional \$2.7 million for construction.

“Without both the Harvest Foundation Grant and the ability to leverage available funds through the use of the NMTC program, CCBC would have remained only a business center promising to support new companies once they complete site selection,” said Mark Heath, director of the EDC, at the time. “CCAT demonstrates our commitment to those companies and to developing our workforce to meet their specific needs.”

With past success in the New Market Tax Credit program and renewed interest by Warner in creating rural jobs and competing in microchip manufacturing, MHC could be passed the baton as the U.S. prepares to take the lead from China in the 21st Century semiconductor race.

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OPINION

# The Martian Investigation

My fellow senators,

It has been five months since the Martian invasion. Five months since those little green men landed their flying saucers in Union Square. Five months since they burst through the doors of Congress, the very seat of our democracy, their tentacles flailing hither and thither, their ray guns firing indiscriminately into crowds of on-lookers.

I was there that day, friends. And that’s why you should listen to me when I say the following:

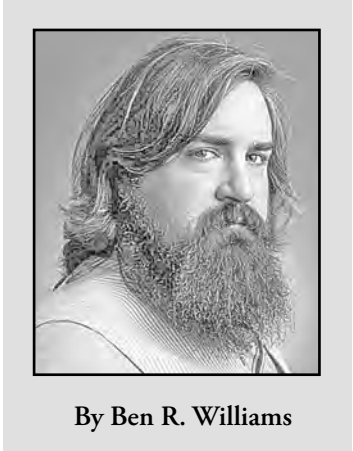
Isn’t it time to move on?

Now look, I’m not saying I support the Martians. However, I’m also not saying that their intentions were “evil” or “about conquering humanity.” It’s entirely possible that the Martians were simply tourists, friendly sight-seers who visited our planet to see our great American democracy first-hand. And maybe for a Martian, a friendly howdy-do looks to our eyes like a Capitol police officer getting vaporized by a laser blast. We can’t possibly know their intentions.

Besides, the Martians are gone now! They went back to Mars, never to return, probably. How long are we going to keep talking about this?

And really, the Martian “attack” wasn’t all that bad. The so-called “media” made it sound as though I spent the entire incident crouched in a broom closet, my suit soaked through with terror sweat, just crying like a fat little baby. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was a utility closet.

I’m also tired of the accusations that some of my fellow senators may have aided the



By Ben R. Williams

Martians in their invasion of the Capitol. These are good, honorable men, like Sen. Chris Rafael of Texas, or Sen. Jordan Jimson of Ohio, or Sen. Gleep-Glorp of Parts Unknown. They would never aid the Martians. And even if they did, I’m sure they had a good reason for it.

In fact, I sometimes think us

humans could learn something from the Martians. At heart, isn’t democracy about standing up for what you believe in? Isn’t it about exercising your rights? Isn’t it about kicking down the doors of Congress, wandering around, firing ray guns at innocent people, stealing things, and going to the bathroom in a hallway?

That’s what the Constitution says, as far as I know.

It’s for these reasons that I ask you to vote against the investigation into the Martians. This investigation is nothing more than the usual naked political maneuvering by the opposition, and that’s why I’m nakedly asking members of my political party to maneuver away from it. Our opponents apparently want to let the Martians live in their heads rent-free. If anyone wants to live in

my head, they’d better donate to one of my several Super PACs.

No, it’s time to move on, time to forget about the Martians. We shouldn’t investigate the Martian leader. We shouldn’t investigate the Martian soldiers. In fact, we should stop teaching our impressionable students about Mars altogether. Don’t we have enough planets?

And so, my fellow Senators I urge you to vote “no” on this sham Martian investigation. If history has taught us anything, it is that if you’re confronted with a problem, the best way to solve it is to ignore it, forget it, and avoid any understanding of how it happened in the first place.

On an unrelated note, you should also vote against this new climate change bill.

# Investigating the Origins of COVID-19

**Morgan Griffith**  
*9th District U.S. Rep.*

The origins of the COVID-19 pandemic remain shrouded in mystery, but uncovering what we can is essential to preventing future pandemics.

Two theories now dominate speculation about the development of the coronavirus in the Chinese city of Wuhan in 2019. The first is that it passed from an animal to humans naturally, possibly through a creature sold in one of the city’s wet markets. The other is that the coronavirus escaped due to a laboratory leak from the nearby Wuhan Institute of Virology. Work conducted at the Wuhan laboratory included studies on coronaviruses in bats, the likely culprit for COVID-19.

Tracing the origins of COVID-19 has been made more difficult by the Chinese Commu-

nist Party, a regime that traffics in deception and dishonesty as a matter of routine. From the outset, China’s Communist oligarchy covered up the true danger of COVID-19 as well as its extent. The rest of the world paid the price for their fecklessness.

A recent World Health Organization (WHO) investigation into COVID-19’s origins was strictly limited by the Chinese government, which also received its report in advance. Its conclusions were discounted by the Biden Administration due to China’s heavy influence on the investigation, and even the WHO’s Director General, who himself has strong links with China, said further study was needed.

But uncovering the truth need not depend on a newfound commitment to transparency and accountability in Beijing. Our country’s diplomatic,

security, and public health agencies have information about the origins of COVID-19. None of them may have the full picture, and some of them may lack the capacity to analyze the data they have on their own.

Putting together the various bits and chunks of information possessed by the executive branch can give us a better glimpse of the whole picture, just as a puzzle’s image can be grasped even if a few pieces are missing. If you put together a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle of the White House and are missing fifteen pieces, you will still recognize the White House.

Extracting the information held by the executive branch is the object of the COVID-19 origins investigation launched by House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans.

Our investigation be-

gan on March 18, 2021 with a letter to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) signed by the Committee’s Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Health Brett Guthrie (R-KY), and myself, the Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. We called on the NIH to conduct an independent, scientific investigation and requested information and documents the agency has on the work done at the Wuhan lab.

From 2014 to 2019, NIH delivered federal grant money to a scientific nonprofit named EcoHealth Alliance. EcoHealth in turn sent \$598,000 of those grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study coronaviruses in bats. We need to know more details about this work, so Leaders Rod-

gers, Guthrie, and I made that request in a letter to EcoHealth.

After the Sinclair Broadcast Group reported that the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory had studied COVID-19’s origins and found the lab leak theory plausible in a classified report, we asked for a classified briefing on the report.

We have also requested information and classified briefings from the Departments of State and Homeland Security on any relevant material they have.

Scientific voices have called for a full inquiry into the origins of COVID-19, including examining the possibility of a lab leak. Dr. Robert Redfield, who was Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the beginning of the pandemic, expressed his belief that a lab leak was responsible.

At a recent Subcommittee on Oversight and

Investigations hearing, the Chair, Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), said she planned to hold a hearing on the topic of the coronavirus’ origins.

A hearing would be an important step forward. If a laboratory accident was behind the coronavirus, we need to know. It is important for accountability, but also for developing better practices to make sure this never happens again.

To learn more about the Energy and Commerce Committee Republican investigation, visit <https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/the-covid-19-origins-investigation/>.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671 or via email at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](mailto:www.morgangriffith.house.gov).

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101

## Dentist joins Community Dental Clinic

Dr. Aimn Abbasi, a dentist with 10 years’ experience, has joined the Community Dental Clinic in Martinsville.

Dr. Abbasi comes from Lynchburg, where she was the clinic director at Aspen Dental. Previously, she was a dentist at Health First Family Care Center in Fall River, MA. She completed her residency at Boston University and received Post-Graduate Certification from Marquette University after her initial dentistry training in her native Pakistan.

“Dr. Abbasi is well-trained with a solid base of experience in community dentistry,” said Dr. Mark Crabtree, president of the Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation, which operates the Clinic on Fayette Street.

“I am delighted to practice dentistry in Martinsville and to become a resident of the community,” said Dr. Abbasi. “Having a quality dental clinic that serves the underserved is a major asset for Martinsville and Henry County. The opportunity to practice dentistry in this environment and to supervise dental students is tremendous.”

Dr. Abbasi and her par-

ents have moved to Martinsville.

“We already feel at home, with a friendly community supporting us,” she said.

Dr. Abbasi replaces Dr. Jim Hartigan, who has retired after 41 years in dentistry.

“Dr. Hartigan is a professional of the highest integrity,” said Dr. Crabtree. “I am most grateful for his service.”

The clinic opened in 2005 to provide dental care to low-income adults and children, based on a sliding fee scale. The average fee is approximately \$25. The clinic has provided more than \$12.5 million in services since opening 15 years ago. The clinic handles approximately 5,000 patient visits annually. Local dentists in the community also volunteer at the clinic.

Fourth year students from the VCU School of Dentistry will treat patients under Dr. Abbasi’s supervision. “The students gain practical experience in Martinsville and an understanding of the importance of meeting the needs of underserved members of a community,” said Dr. Crabtree.

The Dental Founda-

Dr. Abbasi

tion also supports students studying dental hygiene, dental assisting and the Community Dental Health Coordinator (in conjunction with Patrick Henry Community College) to provide a variety of occupational training in Martinsville.

The Harvest Foundation is the lead financial partner of the Dental

Health Foundation. Without the financial support of the Harvest Foundation, the Dental Clinic would not exist. Donations from businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals complete the fundraising program that keeps open the clinic.

For more information, visit [www.piedmontdental.org](http://www.piedmontdental.org).

Submit your letters to the editor  
to [newsreporter@theenterprise.net](mailto:newsreporter@theenterprise.net)





# Producers with crop insurance to receive premium benefit for cover crops

Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), helps farmers maintain their cover crop systems, despite the financial challenges posed by the pandemic.

The PCCP is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, a bundle of programs to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. PCCP provides premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. The premium support is \$5 per acre, but no more than the full premium owed.

All cover crops reportable to FSA are eligible and include cereals and other grasses, legumes, brassicas and other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time.

To receive the benefit for this program, producers must file a Report of Acreage form (FSA-578) for cover crops with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) by June 15, 2021, which is distinct from the normal acreage reporting date. The normal acreage reporting deadline with FSA has not changed, but to receive the premium benefit, producers must file by June 15. The cover crop fields reported on the Report of Acreage form must match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. To file the form, producers must contact and make an appointment with their local USDA Service Center.

Certain policies are not eligible because they have underlying coverage, which would already receive the benefit or are not designed to be reported in a manner consistent with the Report of Acreage form (FSA-578). PCCP is not available for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, Enhanced Coverage Option, Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index, and Supplemental Coverage Option. Stacked Income Protection (STAX) and Margin Protection (MP) policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy. STAX and MP endorsements to underlying policies are not eligible for PCCP.

PCCP does not change acreage reporting dates, reporting requirements, or any other terms of the crop insurance policy.

Meanwhile, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made the determination not to update its conservation practice standard for cover crops. NRCS originally proposed restricting mechanical harvest of cover crops, but after reviewing input from agricultural producers and groups, NRCS recognizes this could present challenges for producers who use this important conservation practice. The latest version of the conservation practice standard can be found in the Field Office Technical Guide under Section IV, Conservation Practices and Supporting Documents, by State.

More Information

A Notice of Funding Availability was posted on the Federal Register. Additional information on PCCP, including frequently asked questions, can be found at [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops).

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through AIPs to deliver services, including processing policies, claims and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email). More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

# Group works to build a childcare system and offer access to high-quality, affordable care

Building a strong childcare system in Martinsville-Henry County affects more than just the lives of parents and their children — it's a Workforce Foundation for the Community.

When every parent has access to quality and affordable childcare, employers have a larger hiring pool to grow their businesses. Quality childcare increases the number of children who start school ready to learn, which decreases the school system's burden and improves educational attainment. It's part of the bigger picture that allows the economy to grow and prosper.

In 2019, the Martinsville-Henry County area experienced the lowest unemployment rate it had seen in 20 years, but according to Sheryl Agee, senior operating officer at The Harvest Foundation, that brought with it some new challenges.

"For several years, Harvest worked with partners in MHC on economic development resulting in new jobs and industry to the area," said Agee. "But as workforce demands increased, we began to see another gap — a shortage of affordable quality childcare, especially for moderate and low-income families, which hindered their economic mobility. We convened community organizations, businesses and experts in the field to talk about possible solutions and strategies to build a system that could support everyone."

Four areas of focus were identified that include: costs of childcare; centralized information for parents and parental engagement; early childhood workforce, and; additional childcare capacity in convenient geographic locations.

A roadmap was developed to tackle barriers within the system, and the group identified funding sources to start the work, securing federal funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in late 2020 to begin implementing their Workforce Foundations project.

**Local barriers to care**

The key to accessible childcare in Martinsville-Henry County is the availability, quality, affordability, and proximity of local care for working parents. Obstacles to childcare are especially difficult for low-income parents, those with infants, and parents who have children with special needs.

Philip Wenkstern, executive director of United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, said they are working to tackle local barriers to care that include a lack of available infant slots, lack of special needs care, and a lack of facilities that offer after-hours care and weekend care.

According to the Department of Social Services facilities database, only one of Martinsville-Henry County's 16 registered childcare providers offers after-hours care. If parents get jobs that are in the service industry or don't have traditional 9-5 working hours, Wenkstern said, that's a barrier they likely won't be able to address.

"They won't be able to enter the workforce to help our local economy, they won't pay taxes, contribute to the local school systems and local government, so it's a chain of cause and effects that impact the entire community," he said.

**Immediate success**

One goal of the ARC Workforce Foundations project is looking at increased capacity and increased quality.

Melanie McLarty, director of Smart Beginnings Martinsville-Henry, said the project will not only strengthen the existing system, but grow a new network of childcare businesses.

"The plan provides an opportunity for us to take a deeper dive within existing programs, offering expertise and training," she said. "It also opens the doors to those who are interested in starting new businesses in our community. It's a win-win for everyone -- especially our childcare providers and our families."

The grant is providing support for small childcare centers, meaning a lower initial investment, and will primarily look at home providers. Wenkstern said they're hoping to establish these centers in areas of the community that don't have access to childcare right now.

Workforce Foundations will lessen immediate burdens on providers by reducing the risk on someone who is trying to open a childcare center with forgivable microloans. Many existing childcare centers are reluctant to try and expand their services because the centers operate on such narrow margins.

The ARC project, Workforce Foundations, also offers scholarships for students at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) who want to work in the early childhood sector.

"Providers typically will need those credentials or certifications to have a successful business," Wenkstern said. "The Virginia Quality Rating and Improvement System assesses the quality of local childcare centers and part of what goes into that rating are the credentials of staff at the center."

Scholarships totaling nearly \$10,000 have been distributed to more than 20 students at PHCC in the early childhood education program. Wenkstern said another round of scholarships will be distributed this summer.

"It doesn't matter how many expansions of existing programs we have within the system or how many new providers we add if you can't get qualified staff to work in our community," McLarty said.

Eight childcare providers have applied for expanded services grants through the project so far. Wenkstern said they're connecting them to resources such as Michael Scales at the Longwood Small Business Development Center to provide additional training because they're focusing on long-term sustainability.

"We don't want to provide the money for expansion and when it's exhausted, the class goes away," Wenkstern said. "Michael Scales and his background in business development will help providers put a plan together so any expansions are able to be sustained after the grant."

One of the applicants is adding a special needs classroom, Wenkstern said. Others are looking at expanded hours -- staying open until 7 p.m. or being open on a Saturday. No applications have been submitted for infant care, but Wenkstern said he hopes to see that moving forward. These expansions should be in place by mid-summer, he said. The next step is working toward new childcare center openings.

**Future of childcare**

"With the onset of COVID-19 pandemic," Wenkstern said, "we saw how important our childcare system is with the closing of schools and some childcare providers. Thankfully we weren't as impacted locally in Martinsville-Henry County, but a lot of other areas were. The economy is really dependent on those systems working well."

Wenkstern said it all comes down to providing a quality, safe environment that's accessible and one that meets the needs of parents and children in the community.

McLarty said her dream is for all parents to have access to affordable and quality childcare no matter their income level, ability to pay or geographic location. She also said the hiring of a childcare business development coordinator makes all the difference in moving the local system forward.

"The ability to now have a full-time staff person dedicated to childcare business development is a real asset to Smart Beginnings and our community," McLarty said. "They are a consistent, community liaison for the childcare community, and we needed someone completely dedicated to that work. We've made a lot of progress to have just started. And there's a lot of work to be done."

It all starts with improving our educational attainment that builds a strong foundation for our community, said Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation.

"We are committed to this work as we value education and believe that quality childcare is not only a foundational need for our workforce, but an early building block for our children's education," she said. "Education is the key that can unlock a brighter future for everyone, so we have to get this right."



A large group of community stakeholders convened in October 2019 to tackle barriers to childcare in Martinsville-Henry County.

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OBITUARY

Conrad Lewis Peters

Conrad Lewis Peters of North Chesterfield, Virginia, passed away on June 7, 2021. He was born on May 19, 1972, the son of Randolph and Mabel Peters of Ridgeway, Virginia. He was currently employed by the Cardno Company in Richmond as an Environmental Scientist.

Lewis was a gentle person who had an enormous memory for facts about almost any subject. In addition to his job, he enjoyed doing computer projects, watching sports, playing video games, cooking and Broadway plays. To most of his friends, he was “Conrad.” He is a member of Broad Street Christian Church.

He joined Cub Scouts as soon as he was old enough and progressed to be a member of Boy Scout Troop 264. He participated in numerous Troop camping, hiking, and canoeing trips including trips to Philmont and to the National Jamboree. He earned the Eagle Scout Award in 1990.

He attended Drewry Mason High School and was in the second class to graduate from Magna Vista High School. He played trumpet in the school’s marching band and in 1989 was awarded the John Philip Sousa award given by the Martinsville Exchange Club. As a freshman at VPI, he was a member of the Marching Virginians.



He entered Ferrum College and graduated Suma Cum Laude with a degree in environmental science. While a student at Ferrum, he had an opportunity to further his studies at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. At graduation from Ferrum College, he was presented a plaque for superior academic achievement in Environmental Science. In the following years, he was diagnosed with a terminal kidney illness and was fortunate to receive a transplant. After recuperation, he was hired by the Cardno Company and has worked there for the past 4 ½ years.

Lewis is survived by his parents, a sister, Diane Busch (Matthew); a niece, Celeste Busch, and nephew, Anton Busch, all of Durham, North Carolina, as well as many other close relatives.

A visitation will be held at Wright Funeral Service Chapel on Saturday, June 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. and at the family home at 600 Ken Lane in Ridgeway at other times. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Pipe Organ Fund at Broad Street Christian Church, 106 Broad Street, Martinsville, Virginia 24112.

Wright Funeral Service and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

# Free summer meals are available

Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane reminded Virginia families that free nutritious meals are available this summer through two summer meals programs.

The Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option operate at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks and houses of worship. Last summer, meals were served under the two programs at approximately 1,000 locations in the commonwealth.

“Nearly 600,000 Virginia students rely on nutritious free or reduced-priced school meals to support their developing minds and bodies during the school year,” Lane said. “I am grateful for all our summer meals sponsors and partners who keep our students and their families connected to wholesome and nutritious meals during the summer months so they are ready to learn when the new school year begins in August and September.”

Children ages 18 and under may receive nutritious meals at participating locations with no proof of identity required. Children receiving Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits are also eligible to access nutritious summer meals at Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sites.

Families may use the online USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder to find nearby summer meals program locations. Parents and others may also text “food” or “comida” to 877-877 to receive a list of nearby feeding centers.

The summer meals programs, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, allow organizations to combine feeding programs with other activities in communities where at least 50 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Due to pandemic-related federal waivers, schools and other sponsors in all Virginia communities are eligible to participate in both summer meals programs through summer 2021.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and em-

ployees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may

contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing for the City of Martinsville Planning Commission will be held on June 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and Martinsville City Council on June 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., respectively, in the Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA, 24112.

The purpose of the public hearings is to amend sections of the Martinsville Comprehensive Plan pertaining to the Future Land Use Plan and Transportation Plan. Section 15.2-2236 “Periodic Review and Readoption” of the Code of Virginia requires a review of the Comprehensive Plan within five (5) years of the date of adoption. Amendments are proposed to the Future Land Use section and Transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan as part of the required review process. Draft versions of the Future Land Use Plan and Transportation Plan can be accessed on the city website at <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/businesses/community-development>. The public is invited to attend and participate in both of these public hearings. If you are unable to attend the hearings, questions or comments can be directed to Hannah Powell at [hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us](mailto:hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us) or (276) 403-5156.

Notice Submitted By:  
Hannah L. Powell  
Community Development Specialist

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 **June 23, 2021, at 1 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-14-01(B) Rooster Walk, Inc.**  
A request to amend the conditions of an existing Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance. The property is approximately 151 acres, located at 675 Hobson Road in the Iriswood District, is zoned as Agricultural District A-I, and is shown on Tax Map 55.1/14A, 23. The original Special Use Permit was approved in January of 2014 to allow for the use of this property for the annual Rooster Walk Music and Arts Festival. In 2017, the total number of days for these events was amended by the BZA to a maximum of (9) days. The applicant now wishes to amend this condition to allow up to (20) days of concert events in one calendar year.

**Case S-21-13 Jameka Foreman-Adams**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Class B Home Occupation. The specific business will be to operate a hair styling business out of the home. The property is located at 1655 Carver Road in the Horsepasture District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 50.2/103B.

**Case S-21-14 Tatanya Johnson**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Class B Home Occupation. The specific business will be to operate a hair styling business. The property is located at 246 Bowles Road in the Collinsville District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 28.6(63)/51.

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

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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Compensation includes a competitive salary plus benefits, an on-campus one-bedroom furnished apartment, and a meal plan.

Visit [www.ferrum.edu](http://www.ferrum.edu) for more information about Ferrum College.

For consideration, please submit your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three (3) references to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088 or email to [resumes@ferrum.edu](mailto:resumes@ferrum.edu).

HELP WANTED

Ferrum College

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the full-time position of Admissions Counselor to become part of a successful recruitment team. Regional travel and extensive follow-up with student applicants through multi-communication channel approach is required. This position reports to the Associate Dean of Admissions and Dean of Admissions.

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To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter of interest and resume with names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references to: [resumes@ferrum.edu](mailto:resumes@ferrum.edu) or Human Resources Department, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Background check required.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PHCC

Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Early Childhood Education Faculty, Nurse Aide/Practical Nursing Faculty, Patrick County Enrollment and Student Success Specialist, Disability/Transfer Advisor, Educational Talent Search Advisor, Fast Forward Coach, Re-Employing Virginians (REV) Coach, Career Services Specialist, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in English, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing Adjunct Instructor, Patrick County Developmental Math, Psychology, and Speech/Communication Studies. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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# Slate of local candidates finalized

## Staff Reports

A slate of 11 local candidates will appear on the ballot this November.

All beat the June 8 deadline to submit the required paperwork, according to records in the Henry County Registrar's office.

Four of the candidates are incumbents seeking reelection -- Jim Adams, of the Blackberry

District, and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, are seeking re-election to their respective posts on Henry County Board of Supervisors.

Thomas Auker, of the Blackberry District, and Benjamin Gravelly, of the Iriswood District, are seeking re-election to the Henry County School Board.

Adams, Auker and Gravelly

are unopposed in their reelection bids.

The remaining candidates are newcomers to the political scene.

Iriswood District voters will select from a slate of four supervisor candidates -- Eric Bowling, Garrett Dillard, Eric Phillips and Billy "Dean" White.

Voters in Collinsville will decide in head-to-head competi-

tions for both boards.

Bryant is being challenged by Andrew Palmer for the supervisor seat, and Ray Reynolds and Elizabeth Durden are both hopefuls for the single school board seat.

Continued local election coverage will be available in upcoming editions of Henry County Enterprise and online at <https://henrycountyenterprise.com/>.



Jim Adams



Joe Bryant



Andrew Palmer



Eric Phillips



Garrett Dillard



Billy "Dean" White



Eric Bowling



Thomas Auker



Benjamin Gravelly



Ray Reynolds



Elizabeth Durden

# Crashes claim 14 lives during holiday weekend

The 2021 Memorial Day weekend not only saw an increase in overall traffic volumes on Virginia's highways, but also an increase in traffic deaths.

Preliminary reports indicate 14 people lost their lives during the four-day, holiday statistical counting period. During the same statistical counting period in 2020, traffic crashes on Virginia highways resulted in eight deaths.

Of the 14 killed this year on Virginia highways, two were riding on motorcycles and eight were not wearing a seat belt. The statistical counting period

began at 12:01 a.m. Friday (May 28) and ended at midnight Monday (May 31).

The fatal crashes occurred in the cities of Richmond and Virginia Beach, and the counties of Botetourt, Bedford, Northampton, Cumberland, Chesterfield, Prince George, Tazewell, Amherst, Fairfax and Albemarle. The two fatal motorcycle crashes occurred in the city of Virginia Beach and Tazewell County.

"I understand that most Virginians have been driving less in the past year. They may be feeling a bit green in the driver

seat and their patience may be a bit short," said Col. Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "But the rules of the road haven't changed and safety on the roadways should be of paramount concern to everyone."

"This holiday weekend, as well as the entire year so far, have seen far too many people lose their lives on Virginia's highways. Speeding, reckless driving and distractions are leading to tragedy. Every one of these actions is a choice, a choice that has left too many families in mourning. In ad-

dition, eight people made the choice not to buckle up, a simple action that could have saved their lives and kept a family whole. Virginia State Police urge all Virginia drivers to step up and make safe decisions when they get into their vehicles. You have the opportunity to break this devastating streak," he said.

This year, the Memorial Day Operation C.A.R.E. Initiative fell within the annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign. During the entire statistical counting period for "Click It or Ticket" and the Memorial Day week-

end which ran from 12:01 a.m. May 24 through midnight May 31, Virginia Troopers cited 5,553 speeders and 1,818 reckless drivers and arrested 79 impaired drivers. In addition, 740 individuals were cited for seat belt violations and 281 felony arrests were made. Virginia State Police also assisted 2,302 disabled motorists.

Funds generated from summonses issued by Virginia State Police go directly to court fees and the state's Literary Fund, which benefits public school construction, technology funding and teacher retirement.

## Durden

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school.

"They can't get parents involved to sign them up. I think just a lot of outreach is needed," Durden said. "I am just a concerned parent that wants to give a voice in that capacity to our community and to our parents and support our teachers. I am definitely not naïve to think that I'm going to go in there and be able to change the world."

Durden said her top priority is getting more parents involved with their kid's schools and education.

"It's enlightening them to whatever this equity thing is we just signed, and this critical race things that's coming down. A lot of things that come down from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) are worded in ways that sound good,

but when you actually get into the meat of what it's really about, I think parents would be really concerned," she said.

Durden said the most important thing for a person on the school board right now is being a parent who wants the best for her kids and the other children.

The school division's virtual academy, which was started during the

COVID-19 pandemic, also is a concern, she said of the program that would allow students in the 6th grade and up to remain virtual for the foreseeable future.

"Any children could just stay virtual until they graduate," Durden said. "I had spoken to a couple teachers on how that was going to happen, and they didn't know anything about it. They found out through

the website."

Durden said she believes the issues stem from a lack of communication.

"Are we listening to the teachers that are trying to be virtual and trying to be in-school, and are we listening to the parents on how hard the virtual Zoom stuff and going in-school a couple of days a week? I think we're in totally uncharted territory, and we need more input from people that are living it day-to-day," she said.

The division's budget needs more clarity, she said.

"I don't necessarily think there's anything wrong with the budget, or how things are being allocated, but I think it needs to be more transparent into how things are getting done and where they are getting done," Durden said.

A concern that has been brought up to her is that some of the bigger projects that require a bid do not consider local companies, she said.

"It's just basically a bottom dollar type thing. I'm a big proponent of, especially in the last year-and-a-half, we need to support local, we need to support small businesses. It's not always about bottom dollar, sometimes it's about quality, or supporting our community over whatever the cheapest is," she said.

Durden moved to the area with her family in 2014 from Alaska to be closer to family. A former Army veteran, she holds a B.A. in Business Administration and Accounting and a M.A. in Management.

Durden formerly worked in the school division's finance department.



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