

## HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, November 20, 2021

(USPS-6)

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## Commissioner takes up reversion with city officials

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

The first of Martinsville City Council's community conversations about reversion



PHOTO BY DANNY TURNER

**City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday opened the city's first Community Conversation about reversion by detailing various aspects of the reversion process, including the reasons the city chose to pursue reversion. He also took time to address various myths and misinformation about reversion during the more than 90-minute meeting.**

became heated Wednesday.

Commissioner of Revenue Ruth Easley questioned city officials about what she said was a lack of information being conveyed to her and other constitutional officers about a path forward with consolidation of services.

Easley was the only speaker during the meeting, the first in a series of four, which the city is holding to allow residents to ask questions and discuss concerns about reversion.

Easley was one of only two members of the public to attend the meeting, which also was broadcast live on MGTV-21.

Council members Danny Turner, Tammy Pearson, Chad Martin, Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, Mayor Kathy Lawson, City Manager Leon Towarnicki, City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday, Deputy Chief of Police Robert Fincher, and several members of the media also attended.

Monday spent a little more than an hour detailing the reversion timeline and process. He also restated the

See **Reversion**, page 5



COURTESY OF NATIONWIDE HOMES

**One of the homes in the new, affordable Five Points neighborhood is lifted onto its foundation by crane. The project, once finished, will consist of 12 ranch-style cottages and 15 two-story townhouses.**

## First homes placed in new Five Points neighborhood

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

The first three cottage-style homes recently were put in place in the new Five Points neighborhood project, which broke ground on Nov. 18 last year.

A total of 27 units, a mix of 12 cottages and 15 townhouses, are slated for construction on both sides of West Church Street, near the intersection of Fayette

Street and Memorial Boulevard South in Martinsville. The new homes are within walking distance of the Uptown area.

The project is a partnership between the City of Martinsville, Nationwide Homes, Silverpoint Homes, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, United Way of Martinsville-Henry County, the USDA- Rural Development, Virginia Housing, and the

Harvest Foundation.

The ranch-style cottage homes will be 995 square feet, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a porch, a separate dining area, a walk-in closet, and a hall closet. There are 2 styles of two-story townhouses slated for construction. The first is 1,106 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms, a foyer, walk-in

See **Five Points**, page 8

## Sheppard, Millner received awards at ceremony

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, about 100 people gathered in the auditorium of the HJDB Event Center in Bassett to honor and celebrate local veterans at the 73rd annual Veterans Day Service.

Marine Corps veteran Walter Sheppard was awarded Veteran of the Year and Army veteran Curtis Millner, Sr. was selected as the 2021 Outstanding Military Veteran.

Attendees were greeted by Bassett High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students, who also presented the colors and lead the pledge of allegiance to open the ceremony.

W.C. Fowlkes, speak-

See **Veterans**, page 5



**Marine Corps veteran Walter Sheppard was selected Martinsville and Henry County's Veteran of the Year.**



**Army veteran Curtis Millner, Sr., (second from left) received Martinsville and Henry County's Outstanding Veteran award, presented by Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson (far left), Henry County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairman Debra Buchanan, and Reed Creek Supervisor Tommy Slaughter.**

## Hodge's "Hometown Hustle" spotlights successes and struggles of small businesses

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

"Hometown Hustle," a new web-reality series focusing on the entrepreneurial spirit of local small business owners, is set to premier Thanksgiving weekend courtesy of Natalie Hodge and Rudy's Girl Media.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 26, the first two 10-minute episodes will premiere on the Rudy's Girl Media YouTube channel.

Hodge said there are a total of six episodes in the pilot season, with two new episodes becoming available each week for three weeks. Each episode tells the

story of a local business owner in Martinsville or Henry County.

Business owners highlighted in this pilot season are DeShanta Hairston of Books and Crannies, Herb Atwell of Mountain Valley Brewing, Jailyn Draper of Social Butterfly Media Management, Abraham Gonzalez of Ape's Frozen Yogurt, Teresa Martin of Teresa's School of Baton and Dance, and Wayne Draper of The TAD Space and Right Now Remediation, Restoration, & Repair.

Hodge said the lineup was specifically selected to showcase the diversity of both owners and businesses in the community and to highlight

businesses that were at different stages in their development, from the very new to the well-established.

The series is hosted by Hodge. Devin Pendleton produced the show, along with attorney Michael McPheeters, who served as executive producer. It was shot and edited by K.J. Harkness and Jason Cahill of VLNZ. "Hometown Hustle" was created in partnership with the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce's Partnership for Economic Growth (PEG) and MHC Pay it Forward. The Harvest Foundation contributed funds for marketing.

"Hometown Hustle"

has its roots in Hodge's childhood.

A graduate of Laurel Park High School, Hodge said, "I grew up with a father who ran a convenience store that his parents founded in the late 1940s in Leatherwood."

A young Hodge served as the unofficial assistant manager, pumping gas, stocking shelves, doing anything and everything that needed to be done to contribute to the running of the family business.

"I learned about business from (my father.) I never had the desire to open a convenience store, but I knew that I would be a business owner. It just had to be,"

Hodge said.

For years, Hodge searched for the right fit, but it wasn't until she started working in the entertainment industry that the stars began to align. After living and working in various places around the U.S. including New York, Detroit, and Los Angeles, Hodge eventually returned home and founded Rudy's Girl Media. The company, Hodge's first solely independent venture since her return, takes its name from the names of her parents and is a tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit her family instilled in her.

In building that business, "I started to have the journey of someone

here being in business in Martinsville and Henry County, which is different than someone being in business in New York or L.A.," Hodge said,

See **Hustle**, page 8

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UPDATES



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Saturday, Nov. 20

Piedmont Arts hosts Painting with Karen Conner from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Instructor Karen Conner will lead students in creating a unique painting. The theme for this painting is "cardinal on a lamppost." The class is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advance registration is required. To register, visit PiedmontArts.org or call (276) 632-3221.

Refuge Temple Ministries will host a community Thanksgiving dinner from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at The Sportsman Club, 47 Fayette Street, Martinsville.

The annual Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade gets underway at 5 p.m. in Uptown Martinsville. The theme for 2021's parade is "Let it Snow." Bring your family and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with this favorite festive tradition.

## Monday, Nov. 22

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Collinsville Church of Christ (2114 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville) from 1-6:30 p.m. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

## Tuesday, Nov. 23

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its regular meeting at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

## Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kingdom Point Church will be giving away food boxes beginning at 6 p.m. at Kingdom Point (352 Lee Ford Camp Road, Ridgeway.)

## Friday, Nov. 26

The Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext.) will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is currently a critical shortage of blood. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

## Saturday, Nov. 27

Small Business Saturday – support small businesses. Use your free \$10 voucher (available at the MHC Visitor Center) at participating local restaurants. Get out and shop your favorite, locally owned businesses to help support our homegrown business community.

## Friday, Dec. 3

C-PEG and Martinsville UpTown are hosting First Fridays from 4-8 p.m. at the Uptown Martinsville Farmer's Market. Join in as many of your favorite Oktoberfest and Farmer's Market vendors sell products of arts, crafts, food, and more.

Uptown Martinsville will kick off the holiday season with the Uptown Martinsville Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m. on the city's municipal building lawn. Bring your friends and family to celebrate the season on this festive occasion.

## Thursday, Dec. 2

Piedmont Arts kicks off the holiday season with the annual lighting of the Art Garden Christmas Tree. The lighting will begin at 5 p.m.

in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden.

## Saturday, Dec. 4

Join the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA for annual Pictures with Santa from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. No appointment is needed. Photographs will be taken by Dawson Photography and the cost is \$10 per pose. Families, children, and pets are all welcome.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Stanleytown Elementary School (74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

## Sunday, Dec. 5

Roanoke Symphony's Holiday Pops by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. David Stewart Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops with all the magical elements you have come to expect—high energy, familiar carols, and lots of holiday warmth. Tickets available at Piedmont Arts and piedmontarts.org. \$15 general admission, \$25 reserved, \$5 K-12 students.

## Tuesday, Dec. 7

Martinsville City Council will hold a community conversation about reversion. The topic of this week's meeting is schools. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in city council chambers. Each meeting is limited to twelve participants per session. Anyone who wishes to participate must pre-register by emailing their name and address to town@ci.martinsville.va.us, calling (276) 403-5182, faxing (276) 403-5280, or mailing the City of Martinsville, attn: Karen Roberts, P.O. Drawer 1112, Martinsville, VA, 24114. Registration is required by noon the day before each session. Spots will be filled on a first-

come, first-served basis and priority will be given to city residents. The meetings will also be televised on MGTV-21 and linked on the city's website and social media.

## Thursday, Dec. 9

Patrick & Henry Community College will present a Lunch & Learn via Zoom entitled "Setting Achievable Goals" Pre-registration is required. To learn more or to register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Piedmont Arts hosts Wee Create! for tots ages 2-5 and their trusted adult(s). Spend time making simple crafts with seasonal and exhibit themes. Young artists will use printmaking to create holiday cards. Sessions are from 10:30-11 a.m. and 3:30-4 p.m. Advanced registration is required. Call (276) 632-3221 or email bjohnson@piedmontarts.org to reserve your spot.

## ONGOING

Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Parsons Buchanan and the Salvation Army are hosting the 26th annual Coat Drive for Kids. Donations of new or gently used coats may be made at Hollywood Cinema, the Salvation Army, or at One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road. Call Debra at (276) 358-1463. The deadline for donations is November 30.

Piedmont Arts is hosting two exhibits, "Print/Imprint: Asheville Printmakers" and "Carl Chiarenza," on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Both exhibits are on display through January 8.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County

YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brll.lib.va.us.

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

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact Medicaid application assistance for eligible Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Including Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, Pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care -19 to 64 years old. Questions can be answered, and applications completed by phone. In-person application assistance is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays at The Community Storehouse.

Call or text Ann Walker 276-732-0509 to see if you qualify.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleuptown.com.

## Bassett club supports food pantry



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently donated \$300 to the Henry County Food Pantry. Shown are Bassett Kiwanis Club President Tim Stone (left) presenting a check to Sharon Mills (right), of the Henry County Food Pantry.

## Amazon to establish hub for Virginia operations

Gov. Ralph Northam announced Amazon will launch a new cross-dock fulfillment center in Stafford County. Amazon will establish a 630,000 square-foot facility on the Northern Virginia Gateway site to serve as one of the company's East Coast hubs. The new facility will be responsible for the beginning of a supply chain in which products from third-party vendors are sorted, repacked, and distributed to other Amazon distribution centers.

Virginia successfully competed with Maryland and North Carolina for the project. The facility is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022 and will add 500 new jobs to Amazon's existing workforce of more than 27,000 full- and part-time employees in the Commonwealth.

"Virginia's work-

ers are making it possible for Amazon to continue growing in the Commonwealth," said Northam. "This new fulfillment center will create 500 well-paying jobs in Stafford County. We are proud that the Commonwealth is a thriving hub for Amazon's supply chain and the home to the most impressive workforce in the nation."

Amazon first launched its Virginia fulfillment operations in 2006 in Sterling. The company has grown its operations network to include more than 20 fulfillment and sortation centers, and delivery stations in the Commonwealth. Amazon selected Arlington for its second corporate headquarters in 2018, resulting in the creation of more than 25,000 jobs.

Amazon announced a robotics fulfillment

center in Suffolk and a processing center (cross-dock) in Chesapeake in March 2020. In April 2021, the company announced another state-of-the-art robotics fulfillment center at Richmond Raceway in Henrico County. Amazon also launched a new delivery center in Stafford County in October 2021.

"Virginia's strategic location, extensive infrastructure networks, and world-class port provide Amazon continued opportunities for growth in the Commonwealth, and we welcome this new cross-dock fulfillment center in Stafford County," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "The facility will create 500 new jobs and play an important role in the company's East Coast supply chain, further cementing Virginia's role as a leading transportation and logistics hub."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS: 1. German philosopher; 6. A type of stock trading (abbr.); 9. Cincinnati ballplayers; 13. Deerlike water buffaloes; 14. Island; 15. Jewish calendar month; 16. Round Dutch cheese; 17. Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot; 18. A restaurant needs one; 19. Decent behaviors; 21. Groans; 22. Works hard; 23. Upset; 24. A sound made in speech; 25. One point east of due south; 28. Boxing's GOAT; 29. Whittles; 31. Tailless amphibian; 33. Surrounded; 36. Doesn't stay still; 38. Copycat; 39. Four-door car; 41. Morally correct behavior; 44. Something that is owed; 45. Pasta needs it; 46. Ant-Man's last name; 48. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!; 49. Small period of time (abbr.); 51. Woman (French); 52. On or around; 54. Fencing swords; 56. Fonts; 60. A command in the name of the court; 61. Sprays with an irritant; 62. Georgetown athlete; 63. Dry or withered; 64. Sign of injury; 65. Tracts of land (abbr.); 66. 365 days; 67. Physique; 68. Icelandic poems; CLUES DOWN: 1. Bodily substance; 2. Internal; 3. Provoke or annoy; 4. Type of lounge chair; 5. Losses; 6. Makes less severe; 7. Identifies a thing close at hand; 8. Group of blood disorders (abbr.); 9. Rebuilt; 10. Ancient Greek City; 11. American investigative journalist; 12. Partially melted snow; 14. Take shape; 17. Mexican beverage; 20. Patti Hearst's captors; 21. Jacobs and Summers are two; 23. Disfigure; 25. Scientists' tool (abbr.); 26. Ill-mannered person; 27. Overhang; 29. Famed rat catcher; 30. Passover feast and ceremony; 32. Equal to 10 meters; 34. Central processing unit; 35. Chinese native religion; 37. Unfermented juices; 40. "To the \_\_\_ degree"; 42. Frozen water; 43. Medieval circuit courts; 47. 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.); 49. Gossipy; 50. Shopping is one type; 52. Palmlike plant; 53. Partner to "oohed"; 55. Welsh name meaning "snow"; 56. Popular Mexican dish; 57. It helps power devices; 58. Reddish-brown weedcat; 59. Impertinence; 61. Legal financial term (abbr.); 65. Atomic #52

# Fire crews battled blaze, heavy smoke at Laminate Technologies

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

Ridgeway and Horsepasture volunteer fire departments responded to a Nov. 11 blaze at Laminate Technologies

on Industrial Park Drive in Ridgeway.

A.J. Goins, chief of the Ridgeway department, said the call came in around 8:35 p.m., and “the only thing we know for sure is that we had a laminating

machine catch on fire.”

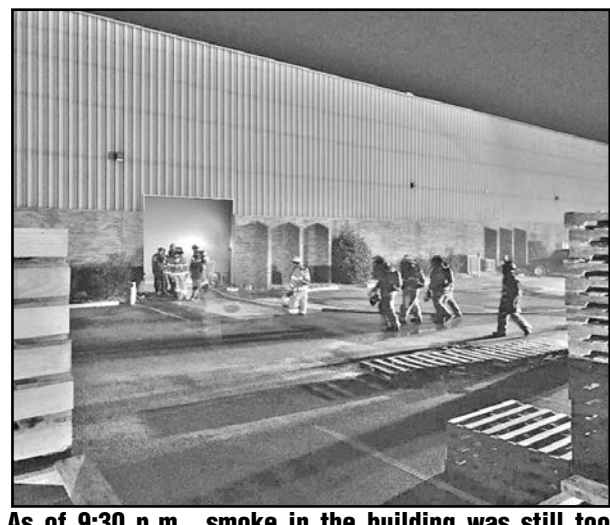
A small group of employees gathered outside of the building, and by 9:30 p.m., Goins said that although the fire was out, the smoke was too heavy for first responders to see the extent of

the damage.

Fire crews then worked to ventilate the building, which still appeared thick with smoke as the plant’s alarms continued to sound.

Neither Goins nor the

Laminate Technologies plant manager responded to requests for further information. Officials from the Henry County Fire Marshall’s office said that the fire was not significant enough for their department to be called in.



Crews from the Ridgeway and Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Departments responded to a fire that broke out at Laminate Technologies in Ridgeway.

As of 9:30 p.m., smoke in the building was still too heavy for first responders to determine the extent of the damage. Crews worked to ventilate the building.

# City schools’ robotics teams rack up awards, advance to championship

On Saturday November 6, robotics teams from Albert Harris and Patrick Henry elementary schools, and Martinsville Middle School participated in the Martinsville Regional Qualifying Tournament, virtually, at the middle school.

The teams competed in a two-part tournament. The first part was judging their Robot Design, Innovation Project, and Core Values. The teams virtually presented to a panel of judges the week leading up to the robot game. The students had three two-and-a-half minute matches to complete as many missions as possible for the CARGO CONNECT challenge. This year the challenge was for the robot to deliver cargo to different forms of transportation or target locations around the field.

The following MCPS teams earned awards:  
PHES’ ToGo Bots – Champion’s Award (Division 1)  
AHES’ KidzBot – Core Values Award (Division 1)  
PHES’ Great Anty Bots – Robot Design

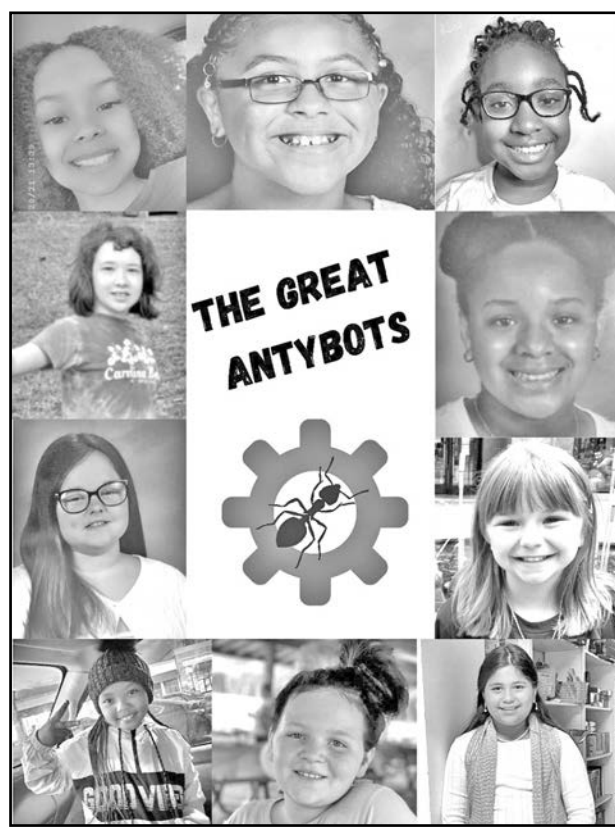


ToGo Bots

Award (Division 1)  
PHES’ Royal Bots – Judges Award  
PHES’ Great Anty Bots – Robot Performance Award  
1st place (Division 1)  
MMS’ Absolute Zero – Core Values Award (Division 2)  
Other participating MCPS teams were PHES’ Deliverators, AHES’ Smart Kids, and MMS’

Magical Unicodes. Great Anty Bots and ToGo Bots will be advancing to the VA-DC FIRST LEGO League Championship that will be held at James Madison University in December. “As a team member on the Great Anty Bots I have learned a lot,” said Great Anty Bots team member Arianna Ybarra. “It’s not about winning;

it is all about learning and having fun. This year I learned how to make PowerPoints for judging and it is fine to make mistakes but don’t make the same ones repeatedly.” “This is the second year I have been part of the robotics team,” said Great Anty Bots team member Zoey Hannans. “I really love it because



Great Anty Bots

we learn new things, we play games, and my team members are nice, kind, and funny.” “As an all-girls team it was amazing to see the girls’ confidence grow in building and coding the robot,” said Great Anty Bots Coach Liz Lynch. “It is another language that they learn and the problem solving, collaboration, and teamwork

that they showed was remarkable. I hope they continue to apply their FLL knowledge, and I firmly believe these girls will build a better future for us all.” “All the teams did a fantastic job and showed their enthusiasm for robotics and teamwork,” said the school division’s STEM and Math Coordinator Jill Collins.

# More than 100 complete P&HCC workforce programs

Between the Fall of 2020 and Fall 2021, 150 students from more than 12 different programs celebrated the completion of short-term workforce training. Due to the COVID-19 situation the ceremony recently was held virtually over Facebook Live. These short-term workforce programs are designed to prepare graduates for employment by providing them with industry-recognized credentials.

**Certified Billing and Coding Specialist**  
Spring 2021: Djuana Buchanan, Joi Dandridge, Schenita Dillard, Twyla Dillard, Tiffany Foley, Elizabeth Earhart, Lisa Eggleston, Kayla Galyean, Layla Hanks, Tuesday Hairston, Kyle Harris, Catharine Hayes, Ebony Hunt, KimbryL Martin, Sandra Martin, Debra Morgan, Brenda Peters, Rachel Phillips, Courtney Prillaman, Debra Ross, Tracey Thomas, India

Valentine-Robinson, Sheraye Roy, Amanda Schoonmaker, Tyeshia Thomas, Bridget Williams, Lea Wingfield, Brenda Woods, Lateka Wooten, and Holly Zimmerman.

**Certified Medical Assistant**  
Fall 2020: Albana Bela, Sara Belle, Sharon Belle, Jolonda Gravely, LaTrena Harris, Donna Jackson, Aaron Johnson, Angela Jones, Tara Jones-Carter, Di’Nesha Martin, Carla Morales-Coronilla, Carrie Painter, Misty Thompson, Sara Turner, Frances Williams, Rosa Wood, Kari Lawson.  
Spring 2021: Tyanna Artis, Alexis Brim, Colleen Callahan, Jasmyn Carter, Catina Clemons, Kaylah Dillard, Brea Draper, Mekeia Giles, Alexis Hodge-Pilson, Ashley Hodges, Britney Manns, Anasia Martin, Noel Roberson, Chambry Scales, Donna Smith, Valery

Smith, Cheryl Stephens, Tammi Tatum, Ashley Vazquez, DiNesha Walton.

**Certified Nurse Aide**  
Spring 2020: Amanda Barker Cobbs, Kimberly Brandon, Susan Penn, and Amina Hairston.

**Commercial Driver’s License**  
Spring 2021: John Hairston.

**Festo Industry 4.0**  
Summer 2020: Phillip Cardwell, Joseph Fain, Justin Ingram, Michael Johnson, Timothy Shoup Jr, Thaddeus Smith IV, Jesus Yopez.

**Heavy Equipment Operator**  
Spring 2021: Howard Brown, Jacob Heironimus, Kevin Martin, Stephen Powell, Jacob Richardson, Noah Shoaf, Mark Spangler, ShaQuan Williams, and Wesley Hamm.  
NCCER Core

Fall 2020: Dylan Light, Anthony Manns, David Medrano, Stephen Powell.

Spring 2021: Howard Brown, Michael Cochran, Christopher Ellison, Joshua Fitzgerald, Wesley Hamm, Jacob Heironimus, Sarah Hodges Chevis Martin, Kevin Martin, Jacob Richardson, Noah Shoaf, Mark Spangler, and ShaQuan Williams.

Online  
Amber Foster, Whitney Jarrett, Matilda Pitzer, Anna Richardson, Valerie Croteau, Maksim Antipin, Rhonda Penn, and Susan Lytle.

**Pharmacy Tech**  
Spring 2021: Casey Wilson, James Turner, Takeshia Hairston, Robin Argueta, Kalitha Davis, Natalya Draper, Shaquira Flood, Rontiah Hairston, Laci Kelly, Alicia Martinez, Isaac Reynolds, Glenisha Smith, Pamela Watkins, Olivia Wells, and Amber Wimbish.

**Phlebotomy Technician**  
Fall 2020: Jada Baker, Jasmine Elmore, Lakendal Gravely, Ophelia Griggs, Raven Hairston, Shemeka Jennings, Shikeie Price, Kiona Ross, Ieshell Stokes, Ashante Williamson, and Wanda Jones.

Spring 2021: Ja’Vay Armstrong, Kelse Brooks, Alyssa Compton, Gabrielle Dean, Anya Fitzgerald, Alexandria Hagwood, Namarion Gravely, Chelsea Griffin, Tilphanie Joyce,

Judith Mason, Kimberly Mason, and Shekinah Spencer.

**Plumbing Level 1**  
James Anthony, Christopher Ellison, Joshua Fitzgerald, DeRodney Flood, and Dylan Light.

**Welding**  
Casey East, Jason Elgin, Jamie Foley, Raymond Hinds, Johnathon Hudson, and Jonathan McHone.

# Charges dropped in alleged shooting incident

Charges against a Martinsville man charged in connection with a shooting incident were dropped after a information allegedly changed, according to the Martinsville Police Department.

Several charges had been issued for Donte Cheron Freeman, 39, of Preston Scales Drive, Martinsville, in connection with an alleged Nov. 7 incident on Dunlap Street.

Officers responding to the scene found Johnny Omar Spencer, Jr., 39, of Martinsville, suffering from a

gunshot wound. Spencer was transported to SOVAH Martinsville and later transferred to Carilion Roanoke Memorial where he was treated for his injuries.

“It is extremely disappointing and harmful to the criminal justice system as a whole when victims and/or witnesses are insistent on the events of an incident and the physical evidence corroborates those statements, only to have” those involved “change their position and become uncooperative,”

city authorities said in a release.

“I believe that our investigators did an excellent job at preparing a case in which probable cause was clearly established and verified by an independent magistrate,” the release stated.

However, because statements allegedly were recanted, “there is little we can do for the case to proceed without new or additional evidence. Our investigators will continue to look for additional information in the case, if it exists,” city authorities wrote.

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# OPINION

## Easy answers

**QUESTION 1:** What caused World War II?

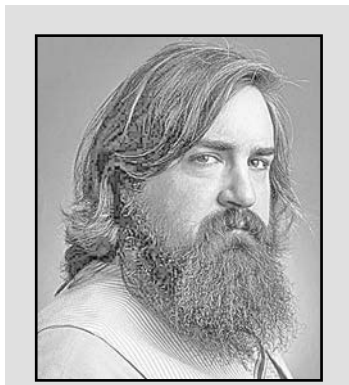
**Argument:** The Treaty of Versailles brought “The Great War” to a close, but at a massive cost to Germany. Germany had to pay enormous reparations to the Allies, which left the German economy in shambles and its government in chaos. Economic devastation often proves a fertile breeding ground for fascism, and a failed artist named Adolf Hitler followed the lead of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and led a successful populist campaign to ascend to power in Germany. Once named dictator, Hitler allied with Mussolini and eventually a rapidly-growing Japan and began aggressively invading other countries. Some of these countries, such as Britain and France, were already weary from the Great War and decided to keep the peace through appeasement — essentially, meeting Hitler’s demands. However, appeasement only caused the power-mad dictator to grow bolder while also offering him time to build his army. Some

have even made the argument that World War I and World War II are not separate events but rather one long, continuous war, as the second could be argued to merely be an extension of the first. Ultimately, the main take-away is that a populace forced to live in poverty and hardship is receptive to the honeyed words of a dictator.

**Counter-argument:** Germans are evil.

**QUESTION 2:** How does an automobile’s internal combustion engine work?

**Argument:** Internal combustion engines are comprised of fixed cylinders and moving pistons. At the most basic level, a combination of air and fuel is drawn into a combustion chamber and ignited, which pushes the piston. The piston is connected to a crankshaft, and the continual movement of the piston(s) rotates the crankshaft. Through an elaborate series of gears in the vehicle’s powertrain, the rotation of the crankshaft is translated to the vehicle’s wheels.



By Ben R. Williams

**Counter-argument:** Magic.

**QUESTION 3:** Why don’t we elect Presidents by popular vote?

**Argument:** Rather than simply choosing the President who wins the most votes, we instead have a system called the Electoral College. Each state in the union has a set number of electoral votes equal to the number of people the state has in Congress, and all of those votes are given to the winner of the plurality of votes in that state. The founders were concerned about giving too much power to the people, so the Electoral College was created

to serve as a sort of checkpoint. There are different opinions on whether the Electoral College should still be in place today, although no matter which side of the aisle you fall on, it’s hard to argue that it’s a bit strange when Presidents win the popular vote but not the election.

**Counter-argument:** Don’t question the Founding Fathers.

**QUESTION 4:** Why are so many restaurants short-staffed?

**Argument:** After decades of wage stagnation, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the employment landscape. Members of the “Baby Boomer” generation retired, many taking early retirement, allowing members of subsequent generations to leave service industry jobs and fill in the gaps they left behind. Others began working from home during the pandemic or were forced from their service industry jobs due to pandemic-related closures, and over the subsequent months, they found different jobs at higher wages and felt no need to return to the service industry. Still others were forced out of the workforce due to a shortage of childcare options and have since found ways to make

ends meet on a single parent’s salary. And of course, 762,000 Americans have died of COVID at present and an untold number — likely more than a million — were rendered disabled due to long COVID; in either case, they cannot return to the workforce.

**Counter-argument:** No one wants to work anymore.

**QUESTION 5:** Why is gas so expensive?

**Argument:** During the pandemic, the demand for gasoline plummeted due to lockdowns. In April 2020, a barrel of crude oil briefly traded for below \$0, prompting many oil wells to temporarily shut down, since there was no sense in spending thousands upon thousands of dollars to produce a product that you couldn’t even give away. Now that effective vaccines are available and the COVID pandemic is beginning to subside, the demand for gasoline has increased dramatically, yet many wells are still offline. As crude oil production gradually increases and demand is met, the prices will reflect the increased supply.

**Counter-argument:** Let’s go Brandon.

## The Trouble With the Infrastructure Bill

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

Infrastructure is a topic with which most people are familiar. It’s something that impacts them; they regularly travel on a road which could use fixing or see a need for a new road to make their travels easier.

The need for action is apparent, but the specifics of that action are less so. This fact will be important to remember as President Biden and congressional Democrats tout recently passed infrastructure legislation.

The \$1.2 trillion bill is not all that it appears to be. In fact, it is both less and more than meets the eye.

How can that be? Let’s take a look at the details of the bill, as well as the expressed statements of high-ranking Democrats.

It is less than meets the eye because much of the

spending is not new, and most won’t be spent anytime soon. Out of the existing spending, Virginia will receive the same as the last fiscal year.

In fact, less than half of the bill’s spending — \$625 billion — is new; the rest reauthorizes existing spending.

Of this new spending, only \$110 billion goes toward roads, bridges, and similar projects generally considered to be infrastructure, divided among the 50 states. Virginia’s share would be apportioned by Richmond. Accordingly, Virginia’s Ninth Congressional District would be unlikely to enjoy a substantial share of that new funding.

Even if we broaden our look to other components of the bill, we find little that will benefit our part of the country.

Take broadband. Considering its centrality

to modern society in areas from the economy to education to entertainment, broadband deserves a place in an infrastructure bill. Yet this particular infrastructure bill fails to sufficiently target its broadband efforts in communities that are truly unserved.

Outdated maps pose a challenge to ensuring that the communities that most need help with broadband receive it, but the bill does not require federal agencies administering the funds to use the most recent maps. Urban areas that enjoy sufficient service to do classwork online or watch Netflix will be allowed to draw from the funding as well as unserved rural areas.

As someone who has supported federal efforts to improve broadband in the Ninth District, I am skeptical that this bill will be as transformative as advertised in rural areas. This is true

when you consider how many dollars are involved and the fact that many already-served urban areas will be able to access the funds as well.

The infrastructure bill spends more borrowed money but fails to reform policies that diminish the impact of that spending. The Trump Administration had put forward improved regulations that would speed approvals and cut down on red tape for public projects, but the Biden Administration has reversed those reforms, and the infrastructure bill does nothing to help in this regard. Without reforms, it will take years to get anything built or accomplished.

This \$1.2 trillion bill, as high as its price tag is, misses an opportunity to really fix the infrastructure problems in our country.

But how is it also more than meets the eye? Because

passage of the infrastructure bill helped pave the way for the larger, so-called “Build Back Better” reconciliation bill packed with Democrat priorities like the Green New Deal.

This \$1.2 trillion in spending could unlock trillions more in a bill promoting an agenda that would diminish our economy and disrupt our way of life.

From the beginning, the Biden Administration has linked physical infrastructure with “social infrastructure,” and congressional Democrats have followed its lead.

President Biden said in June of the infrastructure and reconciliation bill, “If only one comes to me, I’m not signing it. It’s in tandem.”

“There ain’t gonna be no bipartisan [infrastructure] bill unless we’re going to have a reconciliation bill,” agreed Speaker Pelosi.

The reconciliation bill’s price tag was recently estimated by the Penn Wharton Budget Model

to be nearly \$4 trillion. Included in the bill are proposals that would make energy more expensive, raise taxes, including on the family farm, limit the possibility of innovative cures and treatments, and reduce incentives to work.

Not to mention, part of it is unconstitutional.

I am disappointed in the unfulfilled potential of the infrastructure bill. I could not support a bill that was touted as a landmark yet would have so little impact on the people I serve.

But even with that, passage of the reconciliation bill would be truly catastrophic for the country. Voting for \$1.2 trillion meant advancing the \$4 trillion big government reconciliation bill. I could not do that.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or to reach my office via email, visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

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# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

### Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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#### Give us your view:

The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

## Martinsville man inducted into honor society

Myron Smith, of Martinsville, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Smith was initiated at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Smith is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each

year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. The society currently has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

## Holiday Pops Concert returns Dec. 5

Celebrate the holidays with Piedmont Arts as the museum presents Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular—the most highly anticipated event of the holiday season—on Sunday, December 5, at Martinsville High School Auditorium. The concert will be a matinee performance beginning at 3 pm.

There’s no better way to lift your spirits than with the music of the season delivered in full sound and spectacle by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. This year, David Stewart Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops with all the magical elements you have come to expect—high energy, familiar carols, and lots of holiday warmth.

In the spirit of the holidays, Altrusa will collect non-perishable food items for Grace Network in the lobby during the symphony’s performance.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$25 for reserved seats and \$5 for students in grades K–12. Tickets are on sale now at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Music Director & Conductor David Stewart Wiley.

Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

A Note About COVID-19: Piedmont Arts expects this special gathering to take place in-person and will advise guests of any recommended or required health and safety protocols just before the event. If conditions related to COVID-19 change as the

event nears, the museum will be in touch with updates. In adherence with Virginia Department of Health and Martinsville City Public Schools guidelines, masks are required at this performance.

The performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the

Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Piedmont Arts is a non-profit art museum located at 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.



# OBITUARIES

## Bruce Roger Haynes

Bruce Roger Haynes, 62, of Fieldale, VA passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. He was born on May 23, 1959, to the late Ruby Crotts Haynes and Bryant Rodger Haynes.

Mr. Haynes was a mechanic, he liked to go camping and enjoyed going to car shows, where he showed two of his antique cars.

He is survived by his fiancé, Linda Newcomb of Fieldale, VA; sisters, Wendy Watkins, Rhonda Wood, and



Loretta Jean Haynes all of Fieldale, VA; brother, Bradley "Ronnie" Haynes of Martinsville, VA and six nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Old Center Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor David Deisher officiating.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Haynes family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

## Rebecca Frances B. Ashburn

Rebecca Frances B. Ashburn, 86, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born on March 29, 1935, in Patrick Springs, VA to the late Sandy Reed Bingman and Sallie Cummings Bingman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Elbert C. Ashburn; sisters, Virginia B. Dickson, and Mary Evelyn Bingman; brother-in-law, Donnell D. Dickson, II; nephew, Donnell D. Dickson, III; brothers, James Cummings Bingman, Sandy "Moir" Bingman, William Allen "Bill" Bingman, Thomas Calvin



Bingman, and David Arthur Bingman.

Surviving is her sister, Dorothy B. Nelson of Patrick Springs, VA; two sister-in-laws, Virginia S. Bingman of Critz, VA and Imogene M. Bingman of Patrick Springs, VA. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, with the Rev. David Westmoreland officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Ashburn family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

## Wilma Marie Rice Hundley

Wilma Marie Rice Hundley, 78, of Woolwine, VA passed away on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at her residence. She was born on September 19, 1943, in Australia to the late James Pearl Rice and Gladys Marie Hannah Rice Phillips. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Walter Hundley.

Surviving are her children, Felicia Cockram (Ransome) of Woolwine, VA,



Kenny West (Angela) of Ohio, Phyllis Scott of Patrick Springs, VA, and Gary West (Ginger) of Stuart, VA; two sisters, two brothers, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held privately by the family.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Hundley family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

## Lewis Lott Barnes Sr.

Lewis Lott Barnes Sr., 89, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2021. He was born on January 13, 1932, to the late Russ Barnes and Mary Groome Barnes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Ruth Stanley, Petey Shaw, and Virginia Berry, and brothers, Harry Barnes and Henry Barnes.



Clark Barnes; daughter, Eleanor Barnes Ward of Houston, TX; son, Lewis Barnes, Jr. of St. Augustine, FL; step-daughters, Danielle Evans of Stuart, VA, Lindsey Dunne of New Castle, VA, and Leslie Martin of Ashville, NC; and grandchildren, Chase Barnes, Kristina Ward, and Anna Dunne.

The funeral was Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Pastor Robert Kallam officiating. Entombment will be at the Roselawn Abbey following the service.

Norris Funeral Services & Crematory in Martinsville, VA is serving the Barnes family. Online condolences can be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

## Louise Marie Kendrick Hankins

Louise "Sweetie Pie" Marie Kendrick Hankins, 85, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Thursday, November 11, 2021. She was born on September 17, 1936, to the late William Thomas Kendrick and Mary Stella Maze Kendrick. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Hutcherson Hankins; sisters, Nannie Reynolds, Marie Inez Oakes, and Maebyrd Kendrick Bernard; and brothers, William Oliver Kendrick, Noel Kendrick, and Jimmy Kendrick.



Services will be private.

Norris Funeral Services & Crematory in Martinsville, VA is serving the Hankins family. Online condolences can be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Mrs. Hankins was a homemaker and

## Frances Martin Cooper

Frances Martin Cooper, 102, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2021. She was born on November 14, 1919, to George W. Martin and Betty Mae Stone Martin in Bassett, VA. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Russell L. Martin, and two sisters, Laveta M. Young and Charlotte M. Peters Buland; her husband, Jamie E. Cooper, who passed away on September 8, 2007. They were married sixty-nine years and three months.



C. Owen, Stephany C. Simpson (Henry Simpson); four grandchildren, Jamie A. Frick, David K. Owen, Christopher Todd Owen, and Christie S. Robertson; five great-grandchildren, Taylor Frick White, Austin C. Owen, Christopher Todd Owen, II, Cooper L. Owen, and Colby H. Owen; great-great-grandchildren, Avery S. Owen, and Olive A. White.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services with Elder Mark Terry officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Cooper family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

She was a member of Reed Creek Primitive Baptist Church since 1955. She loved nature and saw beauty in all of God's creation.

Surviving are two daughters, Judith

Jerry Wayne Taylor, 81, of Axton, VA passed away on Friday, November 12, 2021. He was born on February 1, 1940, to the late Edward Wade Taylor and Ethel I. Braddock Taylor. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, L.F. Braddock and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Taylor, and his wife, Donna Dalton Taylor.



of Lithia Springs, GA; brother, William Lewis Taylor of Ridgeway, VA; grandchildren, Kathryn Elizabeth Braxton, Brian Christopher Gilley, Taylor Nicole Phillips, and Morgan Denae Phillips; and great-grandchildren, Thomas Caiden Braxton and Paisley Jo Gilley.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at Mercy Crossing, with Pastor Tim Nuckles officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services & Crematory in Martinsville, VA is serving the Taylor family. Online condolences can be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Mr. Taylor worked in customer service and was a member of the Church at Mercy Crossing.

He is survived by his daughters, Kimberly T. Gilley of Axton, VA and Donna Kaye Phillips (Greg) of Danville, VA; sister, Betty T. Robertson

## Lynda Mae Hardy Dove

Lynda Mae Hardy Dove, 81, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at her residence. She was born on February 16, 1940, to the late Arnette Hardy and Pauline Bradford Hardy. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sisters, Hilda Hylton, Frances Muse, and Barbara Collier.



Dove; children, Scotty Dove (Wendy), Cindi Dove and Brad Dove; brother, Jerry Hardy; grandchildren, Eric Dove, Kelby Dove, and Coleman Dove; great-grandchildren, Carson Dove, Kaylee Mae Dove, and Landon Bulanda. Also surviving are a host of nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021. Pastor David Deisher officiated. Burial was at Dove Family Cemetery.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Dove family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Mrs. Dove graduated from Martinsville High School. Lynda was a wonderful person who never met a stranger. One of her favorite jobs was being the administrative assistant for the Henry County Board of supervisors.

Surviving is her husband, Johnny

## Don Wayne Stoneman

Don Wayne Stoneman, 73, of Ridgeway, VA passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the VA Medical Center. He was born on December 6, 1947, in Dayton, Ohio to the late Robert Stoneman and Zora King Stoneman. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, Derik Stoneman.



and the AMVETS Post 35 Collinsville. He was owner of Dons Best Sauce.

He is survived by his wife of thirty-four years, Donna Gilley Stoneman of the home; daughter, Suzanne Stoneman (Julie) of Roanoke, VA; step-daughter, Tonya Davidson of Danville, VA; grandchildren, John Stoneman of Roanoke, VA, Christopher Davidson of Danville, VA and Brendan Chase Davidson of Danville, VA. Also surviving is his brother, Danny Stoneman (Chris) of Bassett, VA; sisters, Vickie Wasoski (Nicke) of Bassett, VA, Judy (Oakie) Nelson of Patrick Springs, VA, Debbie Roberts (late Jeffrey Roberts) of Richmond and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held November 18, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services with Pastor Lee Ashley officiating.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Stoneman family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Mr. Stoneman served in the United States Navy Squadron VA145. He served two tours in Vietnam, the first tour was the U.S.S. Intrepid and the second tour was the U.S.S. Enterprise. He was on the U.S.S. Enterprise CV(A)N-CVN 65 during the BIG "E" fire as an aircraft mechanic.

Mr. Stoneman was past president of the Henry County Fireman's Association, Southwest Virginia Fireman's Association, Instructor Firefighter 1, 2 and 3 and Hazardous Material for Southwest Virginia Fireman's Association, and Chief of Collinsville Fire Department. He was a fire Marshall at Bassett Walker, Inc., lifetime member of Elks Lodge 1752

## Ethel Walton Mahan

Ethel Walton Mahan, 64, of Martinsville, Virginia transitioned on November 15, 2021, at SOVAH Martinsville. She was born August 25, 1957, in Martinsville to the late James Otis and Nina Brim Walton.



Mahan and Felita Hughes; son, Gerald Gallant, Jr.; sister, Mary Suber; brothers, James Brim (Sandra) and James O. Walton, Jr. (Pamela); brother-in-law, Dennis Mahan (Annie); aunts, Ethel Johnson, and Justine Kellam; uncles, Harvey Brim and Earl Martin; grandchildren, D'Andra Hayden, Dedic Hayden, D'Carlos Latrelle Counter, Jaquan Gallant and Taraji Gallant.

A graveside service will be held Friday, November 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Carver Memorial Gardens.

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

Ethel was a domestic engineer and a graduate of Martinsville High School, Class of 1975. She had a passion for cooking and loved to entertain family and friends. She was known as fun loving, very lively and entertaining on social occasions and mixed well with people.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton Alex Mahan.

She is survived by daughters, Germaine

# Congressional staff announce November hours

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in various locations during November. On Nov. 29, staff will visit both Patrick and Henry counties. Staff will be in Henry County from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bassett Public Library, 3969 Fairystone Parkway, Bassett. In Patrick County, staff will visit from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart. Contact the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

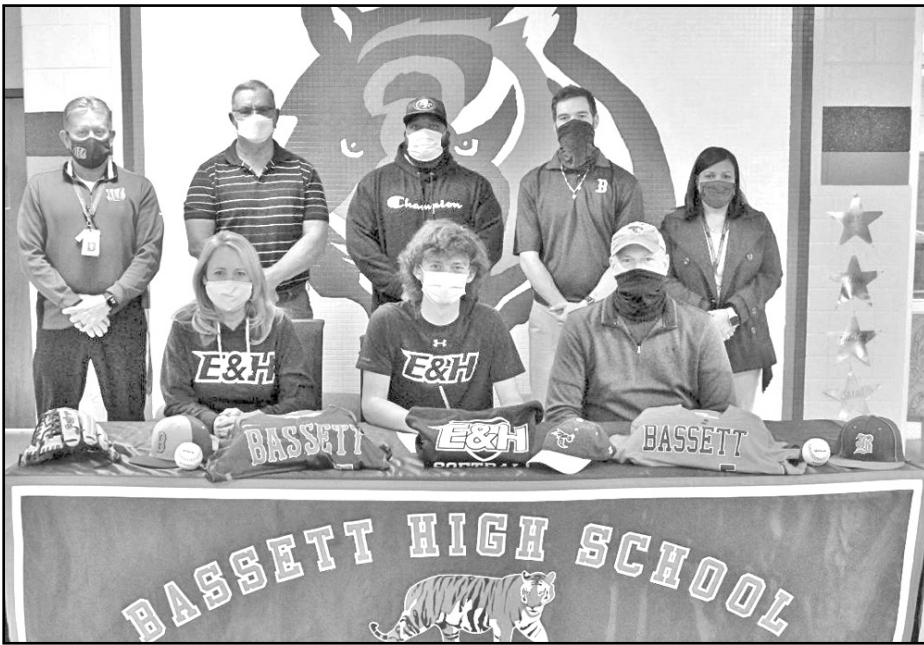
# Barnes to continue baseball career at Lynchburg



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bassett High School senior Trever Barnes committed this week to continue his baseball career at the University of Lynchburg. Seated, (left to right): Grayson Barnes, father; Trever Barnes; Tracy Barnes, mother; Kaden Barnes, brother. Standing, (left to right): BHS AD Jay Gilbert, coach Terry Carter, coach Matt Tuggle and BHS principal Tiffany Gravely.

# Varner to continue baseball career at Emory & Henry College



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bassett High School senior Cade Varner committed this week to continue his baseball career at Emory & Henry College in Emory. Pictured seated, (left to right): LaDonna Varner, mother; Cade Varner; Adam Varner, father. Standing, (left to right): BHS AD Jay Gilbert, coach Johnny Miller, coach Terry Carter, coach Matt Tuggle, BHS principal Tiffany Gravely.

# Whitlow to play for Averett University



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bassett High School senior Hunter Whitlow committed this week to continue his baseball career at Averett University in Danville. Pictured seated, (left to right) are Brian Whitlow, father; Hunter Whitlow; Laura Whitlow, mother; Emily Whitlow, sister. Standing, (left to right): BHS AD Jay Gilbert, coach Terry Carter, coach Matt Tuggle, BHS principal Tiffany Gravely.

# CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

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

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**CLARK BROTHERS COMPANY INC., STUART, VA**  
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Located at 138 S. Main Street, Stuart, VA. Call (276)694-7158 or email lclark@clarkbrotherscompany.com.

### P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Career Services Coordinator, Educational Talent Search Advisor,

### HELP WANTED

Law Enforcement Officer, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in English, Legal Assisting, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing, and Welding. 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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# CLASSIFIEDS



## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - COUNTY OF HENRY, VA

Volunteer Settlement Agreement  
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on a Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the County of Henry and the City of Martinsville (hereafter, the "Agreement"). The public hearing will be conducted in the Summerlin Boardroom of the Henry County Administration building, located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA, on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter. The "Agreement", authorized by §15.2-3400 of the Virginia Code, provides for Martinsville's reversion to town status within Henry County, addresses the allocation of governmental services following that change in governmental structure, identifies the transfer of certain real and personal property, delineates the sharing of certain revenues, provides for a temporary moratorium of annexation rights, and addresses other matters. The full text of the "Agreement" is available at [www.henrycountyva.gov/reversion](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/reversion) or in person in the County Administrator's Office, located on the 4th floor of the Administration building. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

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In addition to Henry County Enterprise, which covers Martinsville and Henry County, our other Virginia publications include: The Enterprise (which covers Patrick County/Stuart – including Meadows of Dan and other communities near the Blue Ridge Parkway); Salem Times Register; Fincastle Herald; New Castle Record; News Messenger; News Journal; Vinton Messenger. Our publications in West Virginia are: Pocahontas Times; Parsons Advocate; Calhoun Chronicle; Clay County Free Press; Shinnston News; Harrison County Journal, and our flagship paper, Mountain Messenger.

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County.

Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.

# Revenue collections increased 15.6 percent last month

General fund revenues grew 15.6 percent in October, driven by an impressive growth in payroll withholding and sales tax collections, according to Gov. Ralph Northam. “We are excited to see increased revenue collections once again,” said Northam. “This continued growth is a reflection of the Commonwealth’s responsible fiscal management—our smart investments continue to pay off for Virginians.”

Collections of payroll withholding taxes grew 9.8 percent in October. Collections of sales and use taxes, reflecting September sales, rose 12.2 percent in October. Collections of wills, suits, deeds, and contracts were \$55.8 million in October, compared with \$59.9 million in October of last year, a 6.8 percent decrease and the first decrease in 14 months. “Despite strong headwinds during the first quarter of fiscal year 2022 due to the Delta

variant, supply chain issues and inflationary pressures, October’s positive revenue growth continues to demonstrate Virginia’s economy is on a solid path toward recovery,” said Secretary of Finance Joe Flores. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections grew 11.8 percent, ahead of the annual forecast of an 8.0 percent decrease. Collections of payroll withholding taxes—62 percent of General Fund revenues—increased 9.7 percent,

ahead of the annual forecast of 1.7 percent growth. Sales tax collections—17 percent of General Fund revenues—increased 15.4 percent through October, ahead of the annual forecast calling for a 4.2 percent decline. The Joint Advisory Board of Economists met on October 13 to assess recent economic developments and the economic outlook for the current and next biennium. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates will meet on November 22 to evaluate both the Joint Advisory Board of Economists’ economic recommendations and revenue collections through October. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates members’ recommendations will be incorporated into the general fund revenue forecast to be released on December 16 when the Governor meets with the General Assembly money committees.

## Five Points from page 1

closet, pantry, and hall closet. The second is 1,216 square feet with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, a separate dining area, pantry, hall closet, and extended front porch. Martinsville-Henry County Housing and Revitalization coordinator Jeff Sadler said the city originally hoped to sell the cottages for \$125-130,000 but, due to the rising cost of supplies, these first houses are priced at \$139,750. “They were invoiced higher,” he said, “but we were able to move some funds around from various grants to get that under \$140,000. We won’t know for sure what the cost of the next set is because it all depends on the cost of materials, which are, to some extent, coming back down. We’re hoping that we can at least be in that same (\$140,000) range.”

Five homes are being placed in this first round of construction. The homes were pre-built offsite, and the first ones were put in place last week. Final details, including siding, gutters, utility hookups, and interior work, are being completed on-site. The project began with a housing study which, Sadler said, showed a strong demand for newer housing, particularly at lower price points. The study indicated “half of the houses in the Martinsville and Henry County area are at least 50-years-old, and almost two-thirds of them are at least 40-years-old, so the housing stock has become outdated. “A lot of these houses,” he added, “were built with a 40- or 50-year lifespan. They were workforce

housing, not expected to last 100 years.” This project, he said, puts new housing stock in place that is specifically targeted to the area’s workforce. “One of the things we’re hearing from employers is they’re having trouble attracting and keeping employees, and one of the reasons is there isn’t much appropriate housing, so people end up finding a place to live in Greensboro or Danville or Roanoke. Eventually, they get tired of the drive and find a job there, so we’re trying to replenish the housing stock so there are good options for people here,” Sadler said. City Manager Leon Towarnicki said the houses are geared toward someone making around \$20 an hour. He estimated that taxes and utilities for the entire neighborhood, once completed, will result in annual revenues of \$120,000 for the city. Sadler said that there

are some income restrictions imposed on potential homebuyers in the new neighborhood to ensure the homes are available for lower income homebuyers to purchase. Partnerships between the city and entities that include the USDA-Rural Development and United Way, are intended to help make the homes affordable and to help buyers find a payment plan that works for them. “If you were to buy these houses, purchase the land and get them all set, these would be \$175,000 each. But because the city’s donating the land, some administrative costs, Harvest is donating administrative costs and serving as fiscal agent for the project,” costs are relatively low, he said. The USDA-Rural Development has “some mortgage programs that allow for a 33- or 38-year amortization, so instead of being a 30-year mortgage, stretching it out a couple more years make

it a little more affordable on a monthly basis,” Sadler said, adding that the programs also include low down payments and reduced interest rates. When combined with Virginia Housing programs which, Sadler said, qualify borrowers for USDA loans, “you could get into one of these houses for basically a payment on a nice car.” He added that Virginia Housing gave a \$500,000 grant to the project, a good portion of which went toward prepping the area for the placement of the houses. Sadler said the United Way has a savings match program for people with lower incomes called Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA). “They do some financial literacy classes, but it’s an 8 to 1 match,” so if someone enrolled in the program saves \$500 over six months, “they can get matched with \$4,000, which comes

out to about 3 percent of the price of one of these homes,” Sadler said, and noted that most first-time homebuyers have a 3 percent down payment requirement, “so you can save your down payment pretty easily if you follow the rules of the program.” Towarnicki told city officials that there has been a “considerable amount of interest” from potential homebuyers since construction began. Selling the homes is a key part of moving the construction process forward. “The more homes we get purchased, the more we can build,” Sadler said. The plan is to build in phases, constructing roughly five houses at a time. Once most of the first set are sold, that money will be funneled into construction of the next set and so on until, eventually, a new neighborhood of affordable, modern housing is complete.

## Hustle from page 1

and as she began to network with other business owners, she fell in love with the stories and the beginnings of their businesses. Hodge said that some people got laid off from their jobs and

turned their hobby into a business. Others, like Hodge, grew up around a family business, realized that being an owner themselves was a natural next step. Some, she said, are serial entrepreneurs who have owned

multiple businesses and finally found something that was “it.” “I love those stories,” she said. None of the success stories Hodge saw showcased in film and television focused on people

from a little town in Southwest Virginia. “I felt like that story specifically needed to be told, and I felt like this was the place to do it,” she said, and added that she came home to a community ready to come together and help make independent projects come to life.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
“Hometown Hustle” is a production of Rudy’s Girl Media, founded by Martinsville native Natalie Hodge.

While working on “Sell,” a short film that was one of her company’s earliest projects, she said she was stunned by the support she received. “It took off,” she said, “The ways that people chipped in for this project” that premiered on Thanksgiving weekend in 2019, were different from what she experienced working in places like New York.

“We had sold out shows for the whole weekend,” Hodge recalled. “It felt so good to be in a space where people were extremely grateful to have this little production happen here.”

She found even more support during the filming of her next project, “Stolen Crowns,” which was created during the pandemic.

Not only were people willing to lend their time, their spaces, or even their cars, but Hodge recruited talented people from the area to contribute to the films.

“There are people here who don’t know how good they are,” she said. “I’ve worked with people here on the technical side who are better than some of the people I’ve worked with in the larger markets. It’s just the people here don’t know that what they’ve learned through YouTube videos and doing it on their own is competitive” in the industry.

Hodge said she wanted a fun, lighthearted energy for this project, and she hopes to inspire others.

“I wanted people to get not only the story of the business owner, but to understand how they could be a business owner,” she said,

and added that she hopes the stories told in “Hometown Hustle” are relatable to viewers who also may have a spark of an idea for owning their own business but may not believe they can make it a reality.

“We’ve all had that internal conversation, ‘I don’t have the skill set to be able to pull this off,’” she said. But “there are so many resources here,” which Hodge has used. “I have knocked on those doors. I know there is a genuine desire on the part of our community to help small business owners, but we have to do our part too.”

Hodge selected business owners from different stages in their careers and business building. She wanted to make sure those she filmed were comfortable sharing both the highs and lows, the struggles and successes of creating a small business.

Ultimately, Hodge said she hopes the series will be picked up by a larger platform. The pilot season will showcase the concept, and she hopes to film subsequent seasons with a larger budget. “Hometown Hustle” will mark the third year

in a row that Rudy’s Girl Media releases a locally made project on Thanksgiving.

“I remember growing up here and having left, so many people came home Thanksgiving weekend. Everybody came back from school, everyone was here, there was a lot of activity. It was a good vibe, and everyone’s always looking for something to do Thanksgiving weekend and we built on that these past couple years,” Hodge said.

She initially thought the series would be released in summer, but delays pushed it back.

“There was a certain point when I realized there was a delay because it needed to be released Thanksgiving weekend,” she said, and added she decided that no matter what other projects she might be working on elsewhere, locals can expect a new Rudy’s Girl release each year around Thanksgiving.

“I really want to have that hometown production with local people for Thanksgiving weekend,” she said.

To learn more about “Hometown Hustle,” visit [www.rudysgirl.com/hometownhustle](http://www.rudysgirl.com/hometownhustle).



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