



George Metz, a Henry County native, spent time in Ukraine as part of his work with Doctors Without Borders. Though he is now based in the U.S., Metz is heading to Germany to help transport refugees fleeing from Ukraine as Russian troops invade. (Contributed photo.)

Henry County native to provide refugee transport in Ukraine

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

George Metz, a Henry County native, bought a plane ticket for Germany where he will head Thursday. Upon arrival, Metz will spend time driving back and forth between Germany and Ukraine, transporting volunteers to the conflict zone and helping refugees to safety.

Metz, who works with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)—or Doctors Without Borders—spent time in the country, which is now under attack by Russian forces, and managed a team of about 20 as part of his work with MSF.

Metz is now based in the Washington, D.C.

area and was visiting his father's farm in Henry County when news first broke of the Russian invasion.

When asked about his time in Ukraine, Metz remembers the women who left their purses unattended in a Kyiv café.

While working at a table there, he said he witnessed two young women both get up to go to the restroom, leaving their purses and phones behind at their table, completely unattended. "They were gone for 4 or 5 minutes," he recalled.

That simple gesture struck him so strongly that he photographed it. The moment symbol-

See **Refugee**, page 8



Kimberly Lowe is challenging incumbent Morgan Griffith for a spot on the Republican ticket in the upcoming 9th District congressional race. Lowe said Griffith lacks understanding of the problems facing people in the district and vision on how to address those problems.

Lowe challenges Griffith for spot on Republican ticket

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Family is at the forefront of Kimberly Lowe's congressional campaign. The candidate said she hopes to address a number of issues—addiction, education, job loss, and family separation—all in the hope of creating more stable, more successful family units.

In January, Lowe, a Republican, announced she would seek to represent Virginia's 9th Congressional District, challenging incumbent Morgan Griffith (R-Salem) for a spot on

the Republican ticket in the general election.

Despite recent redistricting putting Griffith's residence outside of the 9th District, the long-time congressman has announced he will seek reelection. Griffith has represented the district, which includes Martinsville, Patrick County, and parts of Henry County, since 2011 after defeating incumbent Rick Boucher (D-Abingdon) in the 2012 election.

Primary elections are scheduled for June 21, 2022.

See **Lowe**, page 8

Historic Stanleytown mansion is "Host" to horror film shoot

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Stoneleigh Estate, a historic 1920s mansion in Stanleytown, became a movie set early this week when a crew of about 20 gathered on the historic property to complete principal photography for the short horror film "Host."

The film is the latest effort from Postmortem Films, a production studio based in Wake Forest, N.C., and the second film shot entirely in the Martinsville-Henry County area. The first was 2021's "Night Shift," which was shot at Sportlanes in Martinsville. Another production, "Ivy" (2020) was partially shot in Martinsville.

"Host" is the studio's 7th film.

Pat Baker, writer and director for "Host" and co-founder of Postmortem Films, said the film is about a young couple on vacation while looking to mend their marriage. "They're struggling with young adulthood and trying to find themselves out," he said. "This film is a deeper look into what a 2022 young adult couple would look like."

Of course, working in the hor-



Crew members on the production of the short horror film "Host," including director and writer Pat Baker (right, foreground) and assistant director D-Jay Postley (right, back), film a scene in the powder room of the historic Stoneleigh mansion in Stanleytown.

ror genre means that there will be some unexpected turns along the way.

"It's very real and raw and shows some very serious exchanges of dialogue," Baker said. "It also gives us a look into what a couple of a similar age would look like about 100 years earlier in 1923."

Baker said the production found Stoneleigh through a connection with one of the "Night Shift" producers, who was friends with estate manager

Cindy Edgerton. He said the team pitched Edgerton the idea and she was "very, very willing to work within our budget" to help make the film happen.

Isaac March, an executive producer, production manager, and location coordinator for the film, said typically, a production of this size should cost around \$40-\$50,000, "but we're going to get it done for \$3,000" over the course of just a few days of film-

See **Host**, page 5

Uptown banners installed on Fayette Street

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Members of the Martinsville-Henry County community gathered in Fayette Square to celebrate unity on the final day of Black History Month.

In a Feb. 28 ceremony, new uptown banners were unveiled along both sides of Fayette Street in a gesture that may seem insignificant but carries great symbolic meaning.

"Today's ceremony to celebrate the raising of Uptown banners on Fayette Street, our historically Black business district, provides us with an incredible opportunity to honor the contributions of

African Americans to Uptown and the local economy while creating space for future growth, success, and collaboration," said Natalie Hodge, immediate past president of Uptown Partnership's board of directors.

She addressed a crowd that included city council members, members of Martinsville City Public Schools, representatives from the Harvest Foundation, Carter Bank and Trust, and faith leaders in the community. Her backdrop was a mural of the June German Ball.

Uptown Partnership Executive Director Kathy Deacon said the banners, installed by city employees with funding from the Harvest

Foundation, serve as a visual representation of unifying Fayette Street into the uptown footprint.

The historical marker installed on Fayette proclaims the importance of the street to Martinsville's Black community.

"Since the 19th century, Fayette Street has been a gateway to the business, social, and cultural life of African Americans here," it states.

But for a long time, despite its proximity to the rest of Martinsville's uptown, Fayette was largely ignored in the development of Uptown.

Faye Holland, who opened Holland Accounting & Tax Service

See **Banners**, page 2



Uptown banners now line Fayette Street, a symbol of the effort to unify the historically Black business district with the rest of the city's uptown business community. The banners were placed through a partnership with Uptown Partnership, the City of Martinsville, and the Harvest Foundation.



Natalie Hodge, immediate past president of Uptown Partnership's board of directors, told the crowd gathered in Fayette Square that Monday's event, as well as the banners, celebrated the contributions of African Americans to uptown and created space for future success, growth, and collaboration.

Blooms may hold promise of early spring



These early blooming trees are a sure sign that spring can't be far off. They are on the Uptown Connection trail off Franklin Street in Martinsville.

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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, March 5

Piedmont Arts presents its annual, fabulous fundraiser Dancing for the Arts beginning at 4 p.m. in the Martinsville High School Auditorium. The contest features 8 teams competing to win the most votes, the highest score from the judges, and a set of hand-crafted trophies. The cost is \$10 for general admission and \$25 for reserved seating. Purchase tickets at piedmontarts.org.

Monday, March 7

The Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health, is hosting a free vaccine clinic from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Henry County Food Pantry, 3321 Fairystone Parkway, Bassett. To register, call Karen Millner at (276) 759-3131.

Wednesday, March 9

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) is offering its monthly Doodle Bugs! program, an opportunity for children ages 3-5 to experience science first-hand. The theme for March's Doodle Bugs! is roll with the wind. The hour-long workshop includes imaginative stories, fun activities, and games and crafts that spark creativity and curiosity. This is the perfect opportunity for parents and grandparents to learn and have fun with their children. Pre-registration is required one week prior to the program and the cost is \$7 per child. Masks are required for all indoor activities. For more information or to register, contact VMNH at discover.vmnh.virginia.gov or call (276) 634-4187. You can also register online at www.vmnh.net.

Thursday, March 10

Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, is celebrating Art at Happy Hour. Enjoy happy hour with complimentary drinks and light snacks provided by the Piedmont Arts Guild while you go on a casual, self-guided tour of current exhibits. RSVP by March 9 to (276) 632-3221 or online at piedmontarts.org.

Henry County Parks & Recreation will put out a St. Patrick's Day geocache at one of the local county trails. Download a geocaching app to see if you can find it. Coordinates will be posted to the Henry County Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

Friday, March 11

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Centre, with tunes from the Jus Cauz Bluegrass Band in the centre's Alumni Hall, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer.

Gate opens at 5 p.m. and the band goes on at 6:15. Admission is a \$5 donation. Social distancing will be required, and masks when distancing is not possible. Concessions will be sold.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, March 12

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA is hosting the WOOFSTOCK Fur Ball at Chatmoss Country Club (550 Mt. Olivet Road, Martinsville) beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$95 per person and include food, live music by Seven Til Sunrise, and an open bar. The event also includes a live auction, silent auction, and raffle tickets. For more information or to purchase tickets visit spamhc.org or call (276) 252-9014.

Thursday, March 17

The Henry County School Board will hold a special meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge, 300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville, from 12-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, March 18

The Spencer Penn Centre is hosting Bingo. Doors open at 5 p.m., games begin at 6 p.m. \$20/20 games. \$1 game for members only at intermission.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at Hillcrest Baptist Church (18075 AL Philpott Hwy, Ridgeway) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, March 18-20

P&HCC is offering a motorcycle basic rider course. This 3-day course is for those who want to learn to ride a motorcycle properly and safely. Motorcycles and helmets are provided for use during the course. Sessions meet Friday from 6-9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost of the class is \$100. Call (276) 656-5461 or visit ph.augusoft.net.

Saturday, March 19

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, is hosting a grapevine wreath class from 1-3 p.m. The cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Students should wear gloves and bring a flathead screwdriver to class. Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling (276) 957-5757. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Thursday, March 24-26

VMFA on the Road will be at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. The program is a traveling art museum from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond that brings art to remote corners of Virginia by way of the Museum's Statewide Partners program. Visitors will be able to tour "A View from Home: Landscapes of Virginia."

Friday, March 25

Join Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, for an opening reception in honor of the museum's newest exhibits beginning at 5:30 p.m. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. The reception is free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 26

The Martinsville-Henry SPCA, the Martinsville City Police Department, and PetSense are partnering to host a microchip clinic from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at PetSense, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. W, Martinsville. The cost of a microchip and registration is \$10. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers for the safety of the animal.

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, is hosting Painting with Genie beginning at 1 p.m. All supplies are provided. Pre-registration is required by calling (276) 957-5757. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Sunday, March 27

The Spencer-Penn Centre will host a barn quilt class from 12-4 p.m. All supplies are provided and pricing is based on size, ranging from \$75 to \$85. The registration deadline is Friday, March 18. For more details or to register, call (276) 957-5757.

Tuesday, March 29

The Basset Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, will feature music from the local country and gospel group the Southern Gentlemen, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. Masks will be required.

ONGOING

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics every Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. February's clinics will be dedicated to families with public assistance only, but will open to everyone beginning in March. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment.

The Warming Center of Martinsville and Henry County, located at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 725 Beechnut Lane, is open to provide a warm place to sleep, a warm meal, and personal supplies at no cost to those in need. Anyone who needs transportation to the center can be picked up at 6:45 p.m. at the Martinsville library and 6:25 p.m. at the Collinsville library. Weekly schedules are posted at the Martinsville library, YMCA, and on the MHC Warming Center Facebook page every Saturday. For more informa-

tion, call (276) 207-9660. Anyone who wishes to volunteer at the Warming Center or make a donation can find more information on Facebook or at www.foresthillspc.com/mhc-warming-shelter.html.

Patrick & Henry Community College is organizing a virtual Leadership Learning Community! If you have leadership questions, P&HCC can connect you with answers through this virtual community. Participants have the opportunity to collaborate and brainstorm current, real-time challenges and successes with fellow leaders while learning from each other or gaining insights from professionals skilled in areas of concern. Sessions will be held from 4-5 p.m. every other Wednesday through June 22. Prices range from \$225 for 12 sessions all the way to \$25 for individual sessions. For more information or to register, visit ph.augusoft.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Piedmont Arts hosts three exhibits: "Our Living Past: Platinum Portraits of Southern Music Makers," "Dear B.J.: Postcards from the Pandemic," and "Tara Compton." All exhibits run through March 12. Museum admission is free.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you out for a trek along the trail. Explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 to find out where the week's trek is happening. Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

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 your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning at (276) 647-9585.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Bay Area Transit Auth. (abbr.)
 - 5. Pull apart by force
 - 9. Ancient Egyptian King
 - 12. Missing soldiers
 - 13. Capital of Japan
 - 14. Diamond month (abbr.)
 - 15. Spheres
 - 16. Surpassing good
 - 17. British thermal unit
 - 18. Philippine island & seaport
 - 19. Legally argued
 - 20. Belonging to singer Fitzgerald
 - 22. Bowler hats
 - 24. Has a strong odor
 - 25. Doyens
 - 26. London Gallery
 - 27. Rural delivery
 - 28. Rods
 - 31. Stonehenge plain
 - 33. Withdraw from membership
 - 34. Execute or perform
 - 35. Central or Yellowstone
 - 36. Municipality in Norway
 - 39. Bay of NW Rep. of Ireland
 - 40. Skin designs
 - 42. Son of Jephunneh
 - 43. Baseball's Ruth
 - 44. Clare Booth __, Am. writer
 - 46. Black tropical American cuckoo
 - 47. Filled with fear or apprehension
 - 49. 6th Jewish month
 - 50. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
 - 51. Make by pouring into a cast
 - 52. Colombian city
 - 53. Heat unit
 - 54. Carpenter, red and army
 - 55. Adam and Eve's garden
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Big man on campus
 - 2. Made public by radio or television
 - 3. Labelled
 - 4. Inform positively
 - 5. Drinks habitually
 - 6. Supplemented with difficulty
 - 7. SW Scottish river & port
 - 8. American poet 1874-1963
 - 9. Pads
 - 10. Ingestion or intake
 - 11. Tie up a bird before cooking
 - 13. Bulrushes of the genus Scirpus
 - 16. Turned rod on a spinning wheel
 - 21. Having or covered with leaves
 - 23. The 44th U.S. President
 - 28. Midway between S and SE
 - 29. Tuberculosis (abbr.)
 - 30. Inspected accounting procedures
 - 31. A twilled woolen fabric
 - 32. Potato state
 - 33. The work of a sailor
 - 35. Involving 2 dimensions
 - 36. Fanatical or overzealous
 - 37. Consolation
 - 38. Wild sheep of northern Africa
 - 39. Erect leafless flower-bearing stalk
 - 40. Afrikaans
 - 41. Weighing device
 - 43. Very dry champagne
 - 45. Emerald Isle
 - 48. A resident of Benin

Banners

from page 1

at 106 Fayette Street in 1992, said the transformation of the street has been amazing to watch. Across the street from her business, which was just an empty field when she opened her doors, sits New College Institute's Baldwin Building, named for Dr. Dana Baldwin, an icon of the Fayette community.

"We've always had to struggle for inclusiveness on Fayette Street," Holland said. Even small things, like streetlights and Christmas wreaths, came to Fayette Street later than other areas of the uptown.

Now, those in positions of power are approaching the Fayette community and seeking to include them, Holland said, and "we really appreciate it. We appreciate the inclusiveness."

City Manager Leon Towarnicki recalled that when he began working with the city, Uptown improvement projects focused on the area from Church Street to Clay Street and Main Street to Moss. "Fayette Street was not included initially in those improvements," he said. Rather, it was added later due primarily to the continued growth of business in the Fayette corridor and in recognition of the importance of that corridor to Uptown as a whole.

"Fayette is now certainly an integral part and a viable component of Uptown Martinsville," he said, adding that future development, including an apartment project scheduled to begin later this year, will "further solidify and cement the importance of the Fayette Street corridor in Uptown Martinsville."

"Fayette is now certainly an integral part and a viable component of Uptown Martinsville," Towarnicki said.

Mayor Kathy Lawson recalled that her first job as a teenager was at a confectionary just up the street from Fayette Square. Working there, she said she was able to meet some "truly amazing people" including the late Rev. R.T. Anderson, who "touched the lives of so many throughout our community."

She recalled a number of businesses that used to line the street, some of which are still standing but many of which have long since disappeared.

"It is up to us today to unify our community and our history," she said, calling on those gathered to create a program to "learn and to share" Martinsville's history, including that of Fayette Street.

The Rev. Charles Whitfield, of First Baptist Church East Martinsville, spoke on behalf of the faith-based community and also the new minority business consortium "that empowers African American businesses in Martinsville and Henry County."

He said he was appreciative the dedication ceremony "has become another unifying agent that helps to celebrate the talents of our forefathers."

"Unifiers are not weaklings," Whitfield said. "Unifiers are game-changers. Unifiers are history-makers, and there's a rich African American history and a rich African American heritage" in Martinsville and Henry County and, in particular, on Fayette Street.

Authorities in Martinsville seek information after a body was found on Smith Lake Road

The Martinsville Police Department is seeking information after a body was found on Sunday, Feb. 27.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., city authorities received a call reporting that a body

was seen lying in a ditch on Smith Lake Road.

The caller was walking on Smith Lake Road when the body was observed. Officers found a body near the Village Street inter-

section.

A preliminary autopsy report shows no signs of wounds or trauma.

However, all deaths are treated and investigated as a homicide until proven

otherwise.

As the investigation continues, anyone with information is asked to call Martinsville Police Sgt. Richard Ratcliffe at (276) 403-5331, or Crime Stoppers at 276-632-7463.

Baptist to part ways with nonprofit he helped create

Rooster Walk Inc. co-founder and Chief Operating Officer William Baptist has decided to leave the nonprofit company. He informed members of the board of directors of his decision earlier this month.

Baptist founded Rooster Walk alongside Executive Director Johnny Buck in 2009. Baptist and Buck created Rooster Walk in memory of childhood friends and Martinsville natives Edwin “the Rooster” Penn and Walker Shank, both of whom passed away while in their mid-20s.

“On behalf of everyone with Rooster Walk, we’d like to thank William for the 12-plus years he devoted to the company and its mission,” said Rusty Lacy, Rooster Walk Inc.’s board president. “William was and always will be a co-founder of Rooster Walk. Without him, the company and the festival wouldn’t exist as we know them today. His countless hours of work, plus his vision and imagination will leave an

indelible mark. We wish him nothing but the best as he moves on to new pursuits.”

Rooster Walk Inc.’s mission is to promote music, art and education in its home of Martinsville-Henry County. The nonprofit donates a portion of revenue from its events to local and regional charities, most notably the Penn-Shank Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund for Martinsville High School students, and the Rooster Walk Music Instrument Program for band programs in MHC’s public schools. To date, Rooster Walk Inc. has raised more than \$250,000 for these, and other, local and regional causes.

“William and I started Rooster Walk to honor our late friends, Edwin and Walker, in 2009. We had perhaps 400 patrons attend the first festival, and since that time, Rooster Walk has truly grown into something far bigger and broader than we ever could have imagined,” said Buck. “William’s intelligence and passion were



PHOTO BY MILO FARINEAU

William Baptist, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Rooster Walk Inc., plans to leave the nonprofit company to pursue other endeavors.

always mainstays in the work he did, and huge factors in Rooster Walk’s growth and development over the years. We will miss him, but I know that he will be successful in whatever endeavors he pursues going forward, and I wish him well.”

A job search is underway to fill the roles Baptist held within Rooster Walk Inc.

The company’s keynote event, the twelfth annual Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, will take place May 26-29, in Martinsville. In addition to four days of live

music, the family-friendly RW12 will offer a wide variety of kids’ activities, craft beer, food, arts and numerous opportunities to enjoy Virginia’s great outdoors with kayak tours, bike rides, yoga, a disc golf course and beautiful on-site camping.

Bassett finalizes the sale of Zenith assets to J.B. Hunt Transport

Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (NASDAQ: BSET) on March 1 announced that it has completed the sale of substantially all of the assets of Zenith Freight Lines, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bassett,

to a wholly-owned subsidiary of J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. (NASDAQ: JBHT), one of the largest supply chain solutions providers in North America. As previously announced, the sale price is approximately \$87

million subject to a customary post-closing working capital true-up. Bassett and J.B. Hunt have also entered into a long-term agreement whereby J.B. Hunt commits to providing Bassett with the exceptional service Zenith has

performed for Bassett for almost 50 years.

“We are excited to have the transaction completed and are ready to move forward with reaping the strategic benefits of partnering with J.B. Hunt to provide

our middle-mile transportation and warehousing needs,” said Rob Spilman, Chairman and CEO. “We will provide additional information about our capital allocation strategy following our Board of Directors meeting next week.”

Registration underway for annual fair pageant

Registration is now open for the 2nd Annual Miss Henry County Fair Pageant, which will be held June 11 at the Henry County Recreation Center.

Jones & DeShon Orthodontists is the pageant sponsor. Jones & DeShon Orthodontists is the

largest Invisalign provider in Virginia, and were voted the #1 Orthodontists in South West Virginia.

The pageant will feature divisions for multiple ages from babies to adults.

The “Miss” division winner,

which is for ages 17 – 22, will compete in the Miss Virginia Association of Fairs State Pageant in Williamsburg, Va., in January 2023.

“We look forward to an awesome pageant this year and a fun experience for all of the contes-

tants,” said Roger Adams, director of Parks and Recreation for Henry County and director of the Henry County Fair. “Our first Miss Henry County Fair Pageant fair pageant winner, MaKayla Sprouse, won 2nd runner up at the state pageant this year and we

will be crowning a new fair queen this year.”

Anyone seeking more information about the fair or pageant can contact the Henry County Parks and Recreation Office at (276) 634-4640, or visit the fair website at www.henrycountyvafair.com.

Applicants sought for Governor’s Fellows Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Governor’s Fellows Program.

The Governor’s Fellows Program is a prestigious opportunity for rising seniors and recent graduates to get a firsthand look at the executive branch in action. Since 1982, fellows have worked alongside the Governor’s Cabinet and staff, learning about state government and assisting in essential work for the Commonwealth.

“We are excited to welcome the next generation of leaders to kick off their careers with our administration,” said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. “The Governor’s Fellows Program is a unique opportunity for young Virginians and students to experience public service first-hand and gain essential work skills for their future.”

“Through meaning-

ful interactions with the Governor’s senior level staff, lunches with Cabinet members, trips around the Commonwealth, and projects both inside and outside my assigned Secretariat, I became fully immersed in Virginia government at the highest level,” said Tommy Lukish, a 2012 Governor’s Fellow. “In every way, those experiences amplified my appreciation for public service and helped my personal and professional growth.”

During their time in service to the Commonwealth, Governor’s fellows have the opportunity to learn from special guest speakers who are leaders in state government and beyond. Fellows also experience state government on the road, visiting state government agencies and historic sites that have shaped our past and are improving our future.

Qualified applicants must be rising college seniors, graduating seniors, or graduate students. All Virginia college and university students are eligible to apply. Virginia residents who attend out-of-state colleges and universities are also eligible. Both public and private college and university students are encouraged to apply.

The selection of fellows is based solely on merit. The Fellows Program does

not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status.

The deadline to apply for the Governor’s Fellows Program is Monday, March 28. Interviews will begin on March 30. Applicants will be advised on decisions beginning on April 18. The program runs from Monday, May 30 to Friday, July 29.

To apply, visit

the Governor’s Fellows Program website and send the required recommendation letters to the Governor’s Fellows

Program, Post Office Box 2454, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Email any questions to govfellows@governor.virginia.gov.

See more news at
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OPINION

On Vladimir Putin

When Russian President Vladimir Putin began his increasingly ill-conceived invasion of Ukraine last week, the first person I thought of was Nadia Kriger-Sells.

Nadia is a teacher, a U.S. Army veteran, and a Ukrainian expatriate; her family moved to the U.S. in 1990 as the former Soviet Union fell apart. She has a bachelor's degree in international studies with a focus on U.S./Russian/Ukrainian relations and a master's degree in national security studies and intelligence gathering.

Needless to say, if you want to get some insight into Russian/Ukrainian politics, Nadia's the person to ask.

I interviewed her back in 2014, almost exactly eight years ago. I was a full-time reporter then and I needed to talk to someone about Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

Nadia certainly filled me in. I interviewed her three times as the conflict unfolded, and looking back at those articles now, she displayed a much better batting average than Nostradamus. She predicted that Putin would eventually launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and she also predicted that it would end badly for him.

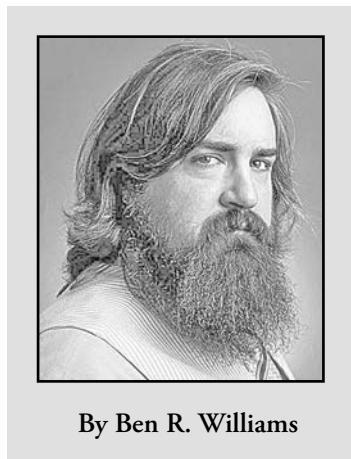
But the main thing I remember from those interviews with Nadia was not her trenchant political insight.

It was the righteous anger. Nadia despised (and despises) Vladimir Putin. She viewed him as a KGB thug who ascended to Russia's highest political ranks with only one single-minded goal: to use an iron fist to drag Eastern Europe kicking and screaming back into the Soviet Union.

I've met a few folks who hail from Eastern Europe, and let me tell you one thing they've all had in common: they hate Putin with every fiber of their beings. However evil you think he is, they say, he's even worse. However cruel you think he is, he's crueler still.

But in the 20-some years since Boris Yeltsin staggered off into the sunset and left Putin in charge of Russia's future, Putin's been a bit of an abstract figure to us Americans. If you don't keep a close eye on the news, you might not notice that his critics have a bad habit of dying horribly and mysteriously. You might not know about the billionaire Russian oligarchs who share their wealth with Putin out of fear of meeting similar fates. You might not know about Putin's Russian troll farms that exist only to spread dissent on social media in an effort to divide voters in the West (most folks are more likely to have seen the propaganda spread by those troll farms than news stories about them).

For decades, Putin has managed to quietly wield enormous



By Ben R. Williams

power and, in more recent years, sow incredible division in the U.S., all while soaring just below the radar of most Americans.

Now, however, the tide is beginning to turn, and Putin has no one to blame but himself. Up until the last couple of weeks, no one would describe Putin as reckless. He's always been shrewd, conniving, and crafty; as Randy Newman put it in his brilliant 2016 song "Putin," "He ain't nothing like a regular fella." But like so many propagandist dictators before him, Putin finally made what may well be his fatal mistake:

He got high on his own supply. The only possible explanation for the slow-motion train wreck currently unfolding in Ukraine is that Putin began to believe his own propaganda. He seemed to genuinely believe the Ukrainians would simply roll over and let him take their land. He seemed to believe that his military was an unstop-

pable force and not a bunch of untrained, conscripted teenagers handed half-functional Soviet-era vehicles. What other explanation could there be? It's hard to get good military intelligence when everyone who answers to you is afraid to give you bad news, lest they end up "committing suicide" by shooting themselves in the back thirty times.

But Ukraine has not simply rolled over; instead, its leaders and average citizens have put up an awe-inspiring fight, making the Russians fight tooth and nail for every inch. What's more, the Ukrainians have shared their plight on social media and succeeded in using Putin's favorite weapon against him. They have shown the world their inner strength, and revealed Putin as an enemy as cruel as he is weak.

The irony of the situation is that one of Putin's greatest fears has been more Eastern European countries joining the European Union; now it seems that his Ukraine folly has only served to drive those countries straight into it. Meanwhile, Russia is getting sanctioned, rejected, and isolated at every turn, and the value of the ruble is dropping so fast that Beanie Babies are a better investment.

As I write this on the evening of Monday, February 28th, it's hard to predict what comes next. Putin has put himself in the situation of a chronic gambler with ten grand to his name who owes a violent loan shark a million and

has no choice but to earn it all back at the casino. Even if he gets down to a single \$20, he has no choice but to keep rolling the dice and hoping for a seven. No matter which direction he loses, somebody's coming to collect.

It's possible that in the coming weeks — or maybe even by the time you read this — Putin will hammer out some sort of agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that will allow him to withdraw his troops without embarrassing himself too badly. Alternately, this could end with beleaguered Russian protesters dragging Putin out of his palace and showing him the same kindness that the Libyan rebels showed Muammar Gaddafi back in 2011. I wouldn't shed any tears over that particular outcome.

No matter what happens, Putin's terrible crowning achievement will likely be the division he's sown on our own soil, as best exemplified by the past decade or so of American politics.

You see, there are exactly two kinds of people who support Putin: people who have fallen for his propaganda, and people who think they can gain something from him.

If you want an example of the former, look on social media at the folks who defend Putin. If you want an example of the latter, look to the politicians who praise him.

But then again, I suppose you can learn a lot about a guy over the course of a "perfect phone call."

Weekly Update

Del. Les R. Adams
16th House District

In my column from last week, I described my efforts to help provide religious liberty protections to associations of Christians and other people of faith who hold traditional views on marriage and family. Such protections are needed following the state's adoption of Democrat legislation passed last term under the guise of "fighting discrimination." My bill would have prevented those new laws from being construed to inhibit any action by faith-based groups that would "promote the religious principles for which [they were] established or maintained."

Unfortunately, shortly after the time that writing was published, a Senate committee killed any chance for the bill to become law this year. In a straight party line vote, the Democrats united to support a motion to "pass by" the legislation, thereby defeating a Senate Republican motion to report it to the Senate floor. I was disappointed that, unlike in the House of Delegates, not one Democrat was willing to break with their party in the committee.

During my presentation of the legislation, I was asked by one of the committee members whether the bill was basically a proposal to allow people of faith "to dis-

criminate." In my response I explained that although opponents of the proposal seek to frame the issue that way, it is misleading to do so. The question presented, I said, is whether the General Assembly would affirm in law the right of churches, religiously affiliated schools, and others to remain true to their mission without interference from the state. In the end, the argument did not win the bipartisan support necessary to prevail, but I intend to continue this fight in the next regular session.

Other bills I championed in the House of Delegates in response to recent Democrat overreach, however, remain alive. Specifically, these are proposals to limit executive branch abuses displayed by the Northam administration. These are House Bill 752, respecting investigations

of the Office of the Inspector General, and House Bill 158, limiting the duration of gubernatorial orders issued pursuant to the Emergency Services and Disaster Law.

I introduced House Bill 752 due to the shocking revelation, uncovered last year by secret recordings, of the brazen pressure placed by Governor Northam's Chief of Staff, Secretary of Public Safety, and other administration officials on the Inspector General and his investigators following a review of the preliminary report that identified abuses by the state Parole Board. In the wake of that reporting, I was somewhat surprised to discover that no direct prohibition on such conduct currently exists in code. With House Bill 752 I seek to correct this omission by explicitly prohibiting interference or

undue influence by executive officials on lawful investigations of the Inspector General that are, after all, meant to be independent.

Likewise, as a Chief Co-Patron of House Bill 158, I continue my efforts, as I have since the first opportunity to do so after Governor Northam's abuse of Executive Orders during the pandemic, to restrict the timeframe these orders may be in effect without General Assembly approval. It is my understanding that, unlike his predecessor, Governor Youngkin will endorse these measures and help prevent similar abuses in the future.

To contact me, write 16th House District, P.O. Box K, Chatham, Virginia 24531; call (434) 432-1600 in Chatham or (804) 698-1016 in Richmond.

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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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine and Revelation

I'm a Christian, I'm a millennial, and I believe the Bible has relevance for today's life. However, one thing I don't do, and I cringe when others do, is try to pinpoint the Book of Revelation every time some catastrophe or national skirmish takes place. When Coronavirus first began, I heard people calling the vaccine "the mark of the beast," and they vowed not to take it - Months later they took it.

Revelation 6 mentions a white horse. Did you know that people in the 1800s said that Revelation 6 was talking about Robert E. Lee and his white horse, Traveller? Well, if the Book of Revelation had its fulfillment in Robert E. Lee, then why are we still looking for white or red horses? Is the red horse Russia or China? No, I don't think Revelation is talking about any of our modern nations.

The first verse of the Book of Revelation says "things which must shortly come to pass," the third verse of the first chapter says, "for the time is at hand," and the Book

of Revelation closes with this statement in Revelation 22:10: "for the time is at hand." How can we make "shortly" and "at hand" mean two-thousand years later? That's nonsense.

Someone says, "Well, that's Revelation, but there's still Matthew 24 that talks about 'wars and rumors of wars.'" Yes, Jesus discussed wars and rumors of wars, but I ask, "How many wars have occurred in the last two-thousand years?" Jesus agreed with John's Revelation when He said in Matthew 24:35 that the events He had just discussed would happen in that generation: "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Here's my beef: I wish that people would start obeying Romans 14:1 and keep their "doubtful disputations" to themselves. Because people don't do their own study of the Biblical text, but rather blindly follow their pastor and his party propaganda, they get abused by the likes of Pat Robertson (no relation to me), Jack Van Impe, Arnold Murray, etc.

Back in 1988, Edgar Whisenant wrote a book entitled "88 Reasons The Rapture Is In 1988." Well, he missed that one, but then Harold Camping came in to save the day with his book, "1994." He missed that one too. When will folks learn their lesson about date setting? They probably won't.

It's unbelievable to me as ungodly as America is right now we still believe that when the "wars and rumors of wars" start cranking up we always view ourselves as the righteous nation set to deliver every other nation. What did the world do before 1776? World power exchanges hands, some would say, in a cyclical fashion. It's the nature of governments: they rise, they fall.

I don't write this to belittle anyone; I don't write this to press my view. I'm simply writing to say, "read your Bible, think for yourself." Behave yourself in the meantime rather than getting swept up in "end times."

*Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville*

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Henry County Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Henry County Enterprise.

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Home-school sports bill puts ball in local school boards' court

Reid Murphy
Capital News Service

The state Senate could consider a bill to allow school boards to decide if home-schooled students in Virginia can join public school sports teams.

Del. Marie March, R-Floyd, introduced House Bill 511, which advanced on a narrow 50-49 vote. Two Republicans voted against the measure and one Democrat did not vote. The legislation is also known as the "Tebow bill" for former NFL star Tim Tebow, who was home-schooled in Florida but played public school football.

March said the bill would not be a statewide mandate, but instead allow local school boards to establish a policy that would permit home-schooled students to participate in their programs.

The bill would allow fees to be charged to students to cover participation costs, as well as the costs of additional insurance, uniforms, equipment and facility upkeep and maintenance.

"This could be a way for the public schools to recoup some of the money and make some money to fund their programs," March said. "I really am hoping if it could pass, one of my local schools in Floyd County could do the pilot program to figure out what works best, and then we can get other schools to tag along."

Thirty-five other states passed similar legislation, according to the Texas Home School Coalition. Virginia approved a similar measure in 2017, which was vetoed by former Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin supports the bill during a time where the state has seen a spike in homeschool education, March said. However, it is expected to face challenges in a Senate that has a slight Democratic edge, according to March, who hopes senators will see an upside for schools to gain extra funding while giving home-schooled students a chance to participate.

There are no recreational sports leagues in March's district, she said. There are youth athletics leagues listed in Floyd County, though not for high school age students.

"We don't have another way for kids to play sports and home-school kids don't get any opportunity," March said. "That's why it was so important to me to try and get this bill passed in my first session and help communities come together."

Shane Riddle, director of government relations and research for the Virginia Education Association, said that someone playing public school sports should already be established in the public school community and have a familiarity with students on the same team.

"If the student is not in the community, it may be because the parents don't agree with the environment of the local schools or the public school system," Riddle said. "But then they want the right for their child to play sports there, so that's kind of confusing in regard to the reason they pulled them out in the first place."

The VEA opposes the bill, but Riddle said that it would be more open to changing its position if the bill were amended.

Virginia High School League, the principal administrative organization of high school athletics in the state, currently requires student athletes to be full-time students in regular attendance. VEA wants home-schooled students to participate in half a day of school, Riddle said. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, he said.

The VEA would be open to changing its position if the bill was written to accommodate that idea, Riddle said. But Riddle said he doesn't believe the patrons would want to do it. He also pointed to West Virginia's home-school law. West Virginia's amended law requires home-schooled students to take at least one online public school course.

With members who support and oppose the bill, the Home Educators Association of Virginia remains neutral, according to Yvonne Bunn, the organization's director of support and government affairs.

"There are other sports resources, sports teams and sports leagues that play with mostly private schools, that are available for parents," Bunn said. "We encourage parents to look into that before doing anything else."

Home-school student athletes who wish to participate in public school sports must be under the age of 19 by Aug. 1 of the current academic year, must not receive compensation for their sport, and must comply with the disciplinary rules and school conduct guidelines applicable to all public high school athletes, including physical exams, according to the bill.

The bill was discussed Thursday in the Senate public education subcommittee, but the panel has not voted on the measure.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

City student earns first place in Eastman's Oratorical Essay Contest

A Martinsville High School student earned first place Wednesday in an oratorical contest held by Eastman Performance Films.

Vex Miller, a ninth-grade student at Martinsville High School (MHS), earned first place with her speech on Arthur Ashe, a professional tennis player who won three grand slam singles titles.

Miller competed in the Southside Speaks Black History Oratorical Contest against four finalists from Carlisle School, Bassett High School, Magna Vista High School, and Patrick County High School. This marked her second year in a row winning the contest.

The focus of the contest, held virtually, was to highlight African Americans from the Commonwealth of Virginia who have made significant contributions to history and to provide high schoolers with the opportunity to share their writing, public speaking, and leadership skills.

"Each year, Eastman offers all local high school students a fantastic opportunity to develop their speaking and writing skills while learning about influ-



Eastman Performance Films' Oratorical Essay Contest were Alexander Doyle (PCHS), Bailey Stanley (BHS), Emily Williams (MVHS), Anika Banerjee (Carlisle), and Vex Miller (MHS). Miller was selected as the winner for the second year in a row.

ential African Americans from Virginia," said English teacher Ryan Brent. "Vex was chosen to represent Martinsville High School this year and I am very proud of all the hard work she put in to earn first place in this competition! I am excited to see what great work is to come from her, as she is winning this as a freshman. I also look forward to being involved with this competition in the

future, as this is a wonderful way for all our students to gain real world experience, be involved in our community, and celebrate Black History Month."

Anika Banerjee, a senior at Carlisle School, spoke about civil rights activist Barbara Johns.

Alexander Doyle, a junior at Patrick County High School, spoke about mathematician Gladys West, who helped math-

ematically model the shape of the earth and the satellite geodesy models used in the global positioning system.

Bailey Stanley, a freshman at Bassett High School, spoke about Mildred and Richard Loving, a married couple who were the plaintiffs in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case Loving v. Virginia in 1967.

Emily Williams, a senior at Magna Vista

High School, spoke about Oliver Hill, Sr., a civil rights attorney whose racial work ended the separate but equal doctrine.

"I am very proud of the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teaching staff," said city Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley. "This is the second consecutive year that MCPS students won this award. Writing and speaking skills are essen-

tial for student growth and academic excellence. These are lifelong learner traits and tools."

"We're extremely proud of Ms. Miller's first-place win," said MHS Principal Aji Dixon. "She is an extremely articulate and talented young lady with a great deal of potential, and we certainly appreciate Eastman for providing this opportunity to students in our community."

Host

from page 1

That is due in large part to the crew working for free and providing their own gear and equipment, as well as Edgerton's generosity in making the estate available at a deeply discounted rate.

"I'm just so impressed with entrepreneurship," Edgerton said. "I like to help people out with new projects and new businesses."

Additionally, she said, the estate is a "really special place" that deserved to be highlighted.

Edgerton said the mansion was built by Thomas Stanley, the founder of Stanley Furniture, who later became governor. During that time, his wife had a famous landscape architect come do the gardens both at the governor's mansion and at Stoneleigh. Eventually, she said, the estate passed into the care of Ferrum College and then into private ownership.

Baker called the location a game-changer. "I've been saying this whole shoot that this house is a character," he said. "It's timeless, it's ageless."

D-Jay Postley, assistant director of "Host" and co-founder of the production studio, said the team found inspiration in the historic manor.

the house that we just discovered while we were filming," he said. Sometimes, finding a new location within the sprawling home would inspire Baker to change a scene.

"Shooting here has been wonderful," said Jillian Bricker, one of the film's production assistants and the third co-founder of Postmortem.

She said she and Baker began making films in her father's basement when they were just 15 and 16 years old. Postley joined the team five years ago.

That, Baker said, is when they began to realize "we've got something special here. If we can educate ourselves, surround ourselves with good people who think like us and are as ambitious as us," then they would find success.

And so Postmortem Films was officially born. Baker said that he wants to bring the horror genre back to films centered on iconic characters like Freddy Krueger of "Nightmare on Elm Street" or Jason Voorhees from "Friday the 13th."

Baker and Bricker agree that their team is what sets Postmortem apart from other studios. "Our desire to always improve, our desire to always one-up what we just did, and our desire to get better individu-

ally" makes the studio stand out, Baker said.

"I think we're supportive of each other too," Bricker added. "I've never witnessed a set that's so open and understanding and non-judgmental."

That level of familial support was evident as the crew did multiple takes of one shot in which one of the film's actresses walks into an open doorway, turns, and enters a room. Great care was taken over small details as the team prepared to shoot and re-shoot just a few moments of film and, through it all, everyone was joking and laughing between takes, but immediately professional and focused on their individual tasks once the call came for quiet on set.

Time and again the actress turned in the doorway and walked toward the camera, with praise and compliments from Baker each time after he called, "cut."

"You look so disturbed, and I love it," he told her happily between takes.

Building a sense of family extends beyond the people involved in Postmortem's productions. Baker said the locations the team chooses are part of their community as well, and all agree that Martinsville and Henry County feel

like a second home.

"It's amazing that we have the opportunity to showcase such a cute little town in our movie," Bricker said, adding that she has enjoyed simply walking into a convenience store and meeting employees who were not only interested in the project, but genuinely excited about it.

During the first day of filming, the crew was in the driveway for a scene and, as people drove by they waved and some even stopped, eager to chat and learn what was going on. Many left those conversations eager to see the film, Postley said.

"For me," Baker said, "it represents everybody knowing everybody. It's family. Everyone wants to be friendly."

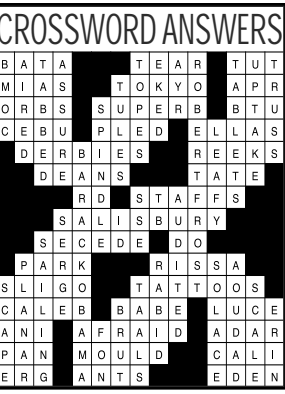
Baker envisions a long relationship between the studio and Martinsville-Henry County.

"Loyalty is really important to me," he said. "Giving back to the community that gave to you. I don't ever want to go to L.A., I don't ever want to go to the west coast, because there's so much untapped potential here. I want to build a film community here that rivals what the west coast has, and it starts with the people here. It starts with places like Martinsville."

"Martinsville, for me, is a place that I want to invest my time and energy and my production company into because they've given so much to us," he said. "Whatever we can bring, whether it be tourism, whether it be

other films, it's all good news for Martinsville. Community is priority."

"Host" is expected to be available to view on YouTube in May. Baker said he also plans to enter the film into festivals. To view previous Postmortem productions, including those shot in Martinsville and Henry County, visit the Postmortem Films page on YouTube.



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OBITUARIES

Daryle Wayne Martin

Daryle Wayne Martin, 60, of Collinsville, VA passed away Monday, March 1, 2022, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born on August 19, 1961, in Martinsville, VA to the late William Ernest Martin and Evelyn Martin Roseberry. He also was preceded in death by his brothers, Buford Martin, Clyde Martin, and Daniel Martin.



Trail; and several very special nieces and nephews. Daryle had a very special relationship with Garrette, Abigail, Maya, Sophia, Dianne, Joy, and Chris.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Pastor Freddy Bonds officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 1 to 2 p.m. Burial will be at Martin Family Cemetery in Bassett, VA.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Martin family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Brenna Bowers Harris

Brenna Bowers Harris, 73, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. She was born on March 8, 1948, to the late Johnny Randolph Bowers and Helen Williams Bowers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jerald Lance Harris; and brother, Larry Bowers.



Bowers, Gary Bowers, Phil Bowers, Jerry Bowers, and Howard Bowers; and grandchildren, Lance Besen of Orlando, FL and James Besen of Fletcher, NC.

A funeral was held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Reverend Douglas Ramsey officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, Virginia is serving the Harris family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Annie Marie Aliff

Annie Marie Aliff, 77, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at Martinsville Health and Rehab. She was born September 13, 1944, in Wythe County, Virginia to the late James Edward Aliff and Laura Emily Dalton Aliff. She enjoyed playing with dolls, fixing their hair, and sewing.



She is survived by her sisters, Laura Ruth Aliff and Lillian Aliff Farmer; and brother James Vernon Aliff.

A graveside service was held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at Oakwood Cemetery. Kelly Ratcliff officiated.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Bertha Ellen Wimbush Manns

Bertha Ellen Wimbush Manns, 93, of Bassett, passed away, Friday, February 25, 2022, at her home. She was born in Henry County on March 29, 1928, to the late James Wimbush and the late Amanda Williams Wimbush. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Mae Manns; Sisters, Lucy Thomas, Ruby Ross, Sally Beth Wimbush and a brother, Percy Wimbush.



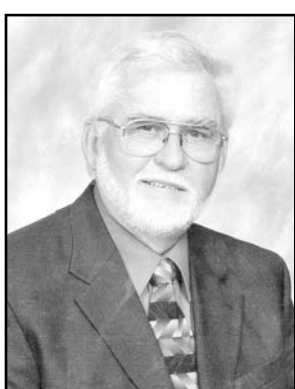
(Velma), Buddy Manns (Francine) and Kitty Lou Estes (J.R.); several grandchildren and great grandchildren; one brother, Andrew Wimbush; one sister, Lessie Manns; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral was held on Thursday, March 3, 2022, in the Bassett Funeral Service Chapel, with Rev. Taylor Tolliver. Burial was in the Carver Memorial Gardens.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Manns family.

Curtis Randolph Stone

Curtis Randolph Stone, 79, of Bassett, passed away, Thursday, February 24, 2022, at his home. He was born in Henry County on October 8, 1942, to the late Frank Curtis Stone and the late Elner Koger Joyce.



He was a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church. He was a charter member of the Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department and retired from Omega Construction as a superintendent.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mamie Bowles Stone; daughter, Ginger Moore (Timothy); son, Derek Randolph Stone (Laura); sister, Lona Graham (Ronnie); grandchildren, Tanner Moore (Hope), Travis Moore, Hannah Collins and Olivia Collins; several special nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in the Bowles Family cemetery located on Halsey Farm Lane, Patrick Springs. Pastor Rick Anderson officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bowles Family Cemetery % Mary Lou Stone, 184 Holloway Drive, Bassett, VA 24055.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Stone family.

Elsie Cassell Morrison

Elsie Cassell Morrison, 91, of Martinsville, went to be with "Her Jesus" on Friday, February 25, 2022, at Sovah Health-Martinsville. She was born in Patrick County on October 7, 1930, to the late William Mack Cassell and the late Susan Underwood Cassell. She was also preceded in death by a grandson, Zachary Craddock; sisters, Myrtle Graham, Melva Dillon, Verna Ratliff, Nettie Sanders; brothers, Edison Cassell, Madison Cassell, Clarence Cassell and Austin Cassell.



She was a member of Mountain View Baptist Church where she previously taught the adult Sunday school class. She retired from DuPont after 35 years. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Daniel Morrison; son, Danny Ray Morrison (Vickie); daughters, Deborah Puckett, Carolyn Belcher (Randy Sr.), Susan Ferguson, Sharon Cox (C.J.); grand children, Glen Jr., Jeremy, Daniel Jr., Jessica, Randy Jr., Melissa, Heather, R.J., Timmy, Brayden; sixteen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The funeral was held on March 1, 2022, at Mountain View Baptist Church. The Rev. Jason Alverson and Pastor Dean White officiated. Burial was in the Roselawn Burial Park.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Morrison family.

Lois Boothe Dalton

Lois Boothe Dalton, 94, of Collinsville, VA passed away Monday, February 28, 2022. She was born February 24, 1928, in Franklin County, Virginia to the late Harry Leonard Boothe and Sarah Ida Peters Boothe. Also preceding her in death was her husband, Jack Emerson Dalton; children, Otis Lee Chaney, Jr., Stanley Boothe Chaney, and Linda Chaney Cassell; grandchildren, Laura Dean Chaney and Carrie Ann Cassell; and sister, Elva Boothe Bowling.



Mrs. Dalton was a member of First Baptist Church of Collinsville and retired from DuPont. She is survived by her daughter-in-law,

Elvie Bryant (Richard); son-in-law, Paul Cassell (Gloria); sister, Eunice Ingram (Oliver); five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and eleven great-great-grandchildren. The funeral was held on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Collinsville. The Rev., Dr. Larry Cheek officiated. Entombment was at Roselawn Abbey.

Memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church of Collinsville, 3339 Virginia Ave., Collinsville, VA 24078.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, Virginia is serving the Dalton family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

VEC backlog decreases by nearly 89 percent

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced a nearly 89 percent decrease in the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) backlog. This is the first step in the governor's day one game plan commitment to fix the VEC and put government to work for Virginians.

On day one, Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater, Chief Transformation Officer Eric Moeller, and VEC Commissioner Carrie Roth, launched Youngkin's transformation initiatives at the VEC.

The VEC's Executive Team and agency staff focused on eliminating remaining backlogs and improving service and communications at the agency.

The backlog of employment separation reports had been reduced from 246,273 to 27,728,

or by nearly 89 percent, as of January 15. Unpaid pending claims were reduced from 24,887 to 15,846 in the same time frame.

"Virginians deserve an unemployment insurance system that is responsive, efficient and customer focused," said Youngkin. "On day one, my administration launched the VEC transformation effort with an initial focus on reducing the backlog and we are starting to see encouraging initial results. We have a lot more work to do, but I want Virginians to know we are serious about making the VEC, along with all other state agencies, work for them."

"There is a tremendous amount of work to be done to refocus on our customers, the individuals and employ-

ers, and get them the resources they need. As an initial step, our team is hyper-focused on tackling the remaining backlogs, doubling down on training and building a world-class employment services agency. This focus is already starting to pay off," said Virginia Employment Commissioner Carrie Roth.

"Eliminating backlogs is job number one," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "We will spare no resource to get this work completed for Virginians who deserve an answer about their unemployment claim. I am proud of our team and their resolve to see this through."

"Reducing backlogs is the critical first step as we fix VEC processes to help struggling Virginians that have been affected during the pandemic," said Chief Transformation Officer Eric Moeller. "We have started the process of transforming the Commission and begun delivering results for the Commonwealth."

Individuals or employers with questions about unemployment claims are encouraged to visit the VEC website at www.vec.virginia.gov, email VEC at customerservice@vec.virginia.gov or call 866-832-2363 between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing Pursuant to 24.2-304.1 and 24.2-306 Code of Virginia, as amended, on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the Henry County Administration Building at 3300 Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.

According to the 2020 Census data, the population in the County's six Magisterial Districts has shifted/changed so that they no longer have an acceptable deviation from what would be equal population represented in each District. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on the proposed amendment to Henry County Code Section 2-102, Establishment of Election Districts and Precincts Reapportionment. The proposed redistricting plan balances the represented population between the Magisterial Districts to within 5% of the median.

A copy of the full text of the proposed Ordinance may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning and Inspection in the County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP
Henry County
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

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Call, (276)694-3208 or pick up applications at 209 Progress Dr., M-F 7-5 or email resume to: human.resources@tenoaks-flooring.com.

Quantum Consulting and Accounting Resources, LLC

Quantum Consulting and Accounting Resources, LLC is a public accounting firm in Stuart, VA. We are looking for an experienced, self-motivated bookkeeper to grow with our firm. This position will perform typical bookkeeping tasks, as well as a wide range of special accounting projects. The ability to learn new tasks and to work independently is a must. The bookkeeper reports to the Senior Manager. Interested applicants should email their resume to susanheath@qcarllc.com.

Requirements include a Bachelor/Associates degree with major in Accounting, five years bookkeeping/accounting experience, and Quickbooks experience.

Responsibilities will include recording financial transactions, compiling financial reports, veri-

HELP WANTED

fyng accounting data, notifying senior staff of any accounting errors, and special projects, as deemed necessary.

P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services, Administrative Assistant and Data Specialist, Law Enforcement Officer, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in English, Mechatronics, 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.

Ferrum

Coordinator of Residence Life & Educational- Ferrum College

Ferrum College has an opening for the Coordinator of Residence Life & Educational Programming position. The Coordinator is a live-in professional staff member who is responsible for a residential area that hous-

HELP WANTED

es approximately 300-400 students. This Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of campus-wide educational initiatives for the Office of Student Life & Engagement, including planning and executing educational and prevention programs on campus. The Coordinator will supervise around 10-15 undergraduate student staff members. Applicants should be mature, outgoing, enthusiastic, and professional, organized, and expect to be an active participant in campus life.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: community development, retention, RA recruitment & training, education, advising, supervision of student staff, conflict mediation and resolution, policy enforcement, coordinating campus wide program initiatives, managing Panther Pantry and Career Closet, serving as a hearing officer for student accountability cases, on call duties, and crisis intervention and response.

Preferred qualifications include a master's degree or prior graduate and/or professional student affairs experience (2-3 years). Qualified candidates should possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, previous student affairs experience, and a desire to work with college students. This is a 12-month position.

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

Visit 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. Review of applicants will begin immediately. The search will continue until the position is filled. Background check required.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WANTED

Riding mowers running or not, parts, equipment especially older lawn and garden mowers - Cub Cadet, Wheelhorse, John Deere, Sears, etc.

Picking up, paying cash and will travel.

Call 276-340-5871 anytime leave message and number.

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Martinsville, Virginia, at its regular session to be conducted on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at the City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building (second floor), 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, shall conduct the following public hearings at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as practicable:
Pursuant to Code of Virginia Chapter 9, Article 1, section 15.2-900 et seq., for consideration of declaring the following properties to be a public nuisance and ordering the abatement thereof:
n/a
Pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 36-105.1:1 and City Code Chapter 6, Article III, Section 6-24(a), for consideration of making the following properties subject to the City rental inspection program:
706 Spruce Street
203 Greyson Street
818 Starling Avenue
The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
Leon Towarnicki, City Manager

TAKE NOTICE that the City of Martinsville, Virginia, at its regular session to be conducted on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, at the City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building (second floor), 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, shall conduct the following public hearing:
Pursuant to Code of Virginia 15.2-1800, a public hearing to consider the disposition of real property, specifically, the transfer by quitclaim to Buch Building, LLC, of a strip of land across the facade of the former McCollum-Ferrell/Burch Building located at 16-18 East Church Street. A more detailed description of the property may be obtained at the office of the City Manager. The Public is encouraged to attend and comment.

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 **March 23, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases.

Case S-22-02 Manish Patel
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of an arcade for "skill games" inside an existing building. The property is located at 2484 Virginia Ave in the Collinsville District and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 29.7(67) B/12A.

Case S-22-03 Teresa King
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of an arcade for "skill games" inside an existing building. The property is located at 1918-1920 Virginia Ave in the Holiday Shopping Center, Collinsville District, and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 41.1 (32)/2, 3A-3C, ABC.

Case S-22-04 Teresa King
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of an arcade for "skill games" inside an existing building. The property is located at 6313 Virginia Ave in the Reed Creek District, and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 16.8(9)/18-30.

Case S-22-05 Star News Corp.
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-215 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of off-site general advertising signs. The properties are located at 17521 A L Philpott Hwy, 35 Preston Rd, both in the Horsepasture District, and 2475 Appalachian Dr, in the Collinsville District. All of these properties are zoned Commercial District B-1, and shown on Tax Maps 50.7/70; 50.7/37A; and 41.4(37)B/7B,8A,9A,10A.

Case S-22-06 Axton Solar, LLC
A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-1801 through 21-1808; 21-302 and 21-902 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the proposed expansion of a previously approved (but not constructed) Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The first request was approved on February 24, 2021 on parcels totaling approximately 1,203-acres. On November 24, 2021, the Board of Zoning Appeals denied this request to expand the available acreage by 484 acres for a number of reasons. The applicant is now requesting to add approximately 440-acres of additional approved acreage. The properties are generally located on the west side of Mountain Valley Road, just north of Jones Ridge Road. On the north and south side of Robertson Ridge Road. Off the east side of Mountain Valley Road, near the address 636 Mountain Valley Rd. On the south west side of Daniel Road. Also, east of the end of Wilhaven Lane and Collins Road. The proposal is still to develop a 200MW facility in the Iriswood District. The additional Tax Map numbers are 45.7/9X,11,15,16; 46.7/11,13,16A,16E,17,17I, 17C,17E,28; 45.6/88; 45.9/99; and 46.4/15. The properties are zoned Agricultural District A-1 and Commercial District B-1. 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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VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
COUNTY OF HENRY, VIRGINIA)
Defendant.)
SERVE: George A.H. Lyle, Esq.)
Henry County Attorney)
County Administrative Building)
3300 Kings Mountain Road)
Martinsville, Virginia 24112)
SERVE: Jimmie L. Adams)
Chairman, Board of Supervisors)
County Administrative Building)
3300 Kings Mountain Road)
Martinsville, Virginia 24112)

NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, pursuant to § 15.2-4101(B) of the Virginia Code, that, on February 7, 2022, or as soon thereafter as may be feasible, the City of Martinsville will file a petition in the Circuit Court for the City of Martinsville for an order granting it town status within the County of Henry. Attached to this notice and incorporated herein by reference is a certified copy of the ordinance of the Martinsville City Council, passed by a recorded majority vote of all the members, and authorizing the filing of the above-referenced petition.

Dated: February 4, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
By: /s/ Stephen C. Peipgrass
John S. West (VSB No. 34771)
Robert S. Claiborne, Jr. (VSB No. 86332)
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP
1001 Haxall Point, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Telephone: 804.697.1200
Facsimile: 804.697.1339
john.west@troutman.com
stephen.peipgrass@troutman.com
robert.claiborne@troutman.com
Counsel for the City of Martinsville

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen Roberts, Clerk of the City Council of the City of Martinsville, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance passed by a recorded majority vote of all members of the City Council at a meeting convened on the 27th day of February, 2022. The membership of the City Council at that time consisted of five members, including the Mayor, and the Ordinance was passed by the City Council by a recorded vote of four ayes and one nay.

This, the 4th day of February, 2022.

/s/ Karen Roberts

Karen Roberts, Clerk of the City Council

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA ORDINANCE No. 2022-U-1

AN ORDINANCE TO PETITION THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE FOR AN ORDER GRANTING TOWN STATUS

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2019, the City Council voted in favor of the City of Martinsville's (the "City" or "Martinsville") reversion from an independent city to a town located within and constituting part of the County of Henry (the "County" or "Henry County"), following discussion and study regarding the feasibility of the same;

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2020, the City, by counsel and pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2907(A), filed with the Commission on Local Government (the "Commission") a notice of its intent to petition for an order granting it town status, seeking to establish a traditional town-county relationship with Henry County, including the same rights, powers, and responsibilities as are granted to existing towns consistent with Virginia law, and this notice is incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2908, the city-to-town reversion proceeding was deemed to have been instituted upon City's filing of the notice with the Commission;

WHEREAS, the City notified all local governments located within or contiguous to, or sharing functions, revenue, or tax sources with, the City of its intent to petition for an order granting it town status, seeking to establish a traditional town-county relationship with Henry County, including the same rights, powers, and responsibilities as are granted to existing towns consistent with Virginia law;

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, Henry County, by counsel, filed its response to Martinsville's notice of intent to petition for an order granting it town status;

WHEREAS, the City and the County entered into negotiations to seek a voluntary settlement of the city-to-town reversion proceeding;

WHEREAS, the City and the County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 29, 2021, in contemplation of a comprehensive settlement agreement providing for the City's reversion to town status and addressing the allocation of governmental services following that change in governmental structure, the transfer of certain properties, the sharing of certain revenues, a temporary moratorium of annexation rights, and other matters;

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2021, at a joint public meeting, the respective governing bodies of the City and the County approved the Memorandum of Understanding;

WHEREAS, the City and the County reached a Voluntary Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement"), pursuant to Title 15.2, Chapter 34 (§ 15.2-3400, et seq.) and Chapter 41 (§ 15.2-4100, et seq.) of the Virginia Code and consistent with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding;

WHEREAS, the reversion of Martinsville from an independent city to a town pursuant to the terms of the Agreement would have established a traditional town-county relationship between Martinsville and Henry County, with the same rights, powers, and responsibilities as other towns and counties, except as provided by special law or modified in the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the City and the County concluded that the City's reversion to a town located within and constituting part of Henry County in accordance with the terms of the Agreement meets the requirements of Virginia Code § 15.2-4106;

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2021, the respective governing bodies of the City and the County approved the Agreement by resolution, directing that the Agreement be referred for review by the Commission and stating their intention, after the Commission's review, to adopt the Agreement and thereafter to petition the appropriate Circuit Court to affirm and validate the Agreement and give it full force and effect;

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2021, the City and the County, by counsel, filed a joint notice with the Commission, requesting that the Commission review the Agreement, find that the City's reversion to town status pursuant to the Agreement is in the best interests of the Commonwealth, and recommend that the Agreement be affirmed and given full force and effect by a special, three-judge court;

WHEREAS, the Commission heard evidence and argument presented by the City and the County and conducted a hearing in September 2021 as required by law and issued its findings and recommendations in a report dated October 2021 (the "Report"), and this Report is incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, the Commission's Report dated October 2021 found the City's reversion to town status to be in the best interests of the City, the County, and the Commonwealth and recommended approval by a three-judge, special court;

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2021, the City Council passed an ordinance approving and adopting the Agreement by recorded affirmative vote of a majority of its members, after having advertised its intention to approve the Agreement at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper having a general circulation in its jurisdiction, containing a descriptive summary of the Agreement, and holding a public hearing on the Agreement prior to the adoption of the ordinance;

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2021, despite its many prior representations and commitments, the Henry County Board of Supervisors voted against an ordinance approving and adopting the Agreement by recorded vote of a majority of its members, for reasons other than the best interests of the City, the County, and the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, Chapter 41 of Title 15.2 of the Virginia Code (§ 15.2-4100, et seq.) requires the City, subsequent to the Commission's review, to pass an ordinance by a recorded majority vote of all the members of the City Council, to petition the Circuit Court for the City of Martinsville, alleging that the City meets the criteria set out in Virginia Code § 15.2-4106 for an order granting town status to the City;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-4107, the three-judge, special court may, in its discretion, direct any appropriate state agency, in addition to the Commission, to gather and present evidence, including statistical data and exhibits, for the court, to be subject to the usual rules of evidence;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-4106, the three-judge, special court shall enter an order granting town status if, after hearing the evidence, the court finds that criteria set out therein are met;

WHEREAS, based on the latest United States decennial census, the City has a current population of less than 50,000 people;

WHEREAS, Henry County is the adjoining county and will be made a party defendant to the proceedings;

WHEREAS, the proposed change from city to town status will not substantially impair the ability of the County to meet the service needs of its population;

WHEREAS, the proposed change from city to town status will not result in a substantially inequitable sharing of the resources and liabilities of the Town of Martinsville and the County;

WHEREAS, the proposed change from city to town status is, in the balance of equities, in the best interests of the City, the County, the Commonwealth, and the people of the City and the County;

WHEREAS, the proposed change from city to town status is in the best interests of the Commonwealth in promoting strong and viable units of government; and

WHEREAS, the change from city to town status should be under terms and conditions that ensure an orderly transition from city to town status; adjust financial inequities; balance the equities between the parties; and ensure protection of the best interests of the City, the County, the Commonwealth, and the people of the City and the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia,

- The City Council, by this Ordinance, hereby declares that the City desires to revert to the status of a town within and constituting part of Henry County, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 41 of Title 15.2 of the Virginia Code (§ 15.2-4100, et seq.).
- The City Council, by this Ordinance, hereby declares that the City desires the change from city to town status to be under terms and conditions appropriate to ensure an orderly transition from city to town status; adjust financial inequities; balance the equities between the parties; and ensure protection of the best interests of the City, the County, the Commonwealth, and the people of the City and the County.
- The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager and the City's legal counsel to petition the Circuit Court for the City of Martinsville for an order, pursuant to Chapter 41 of Title 15.2 of the Virginia Code (§ 15.2-4100, et seq.), establishing Martinsville as a town within and constituting part of Henry County, and Henry County shall be made a party defendant to the proceeding.
- The City Manager and the City's legal counsel are hereby authorized to take all other actions, and to employ such special consultants as may be needed, to accomplish the objectives set forth in this Ordinance.
- This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on the date of its adoption.

Adopted this 7th day of January, 2022.

Attest:

/s/ Karen Roberts

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Lowe

from page 1

Lowe said she grew up in Roanoke, has one sister in Bland County and another in Wythe County.

"It's hard to take the mountains out of me. I love Southwest Virginia," she said.

Lowe was speaking from Del Rio, TX, where she said she was touring to learn more about illegal immigration and cartel activities along the Texas/Mexico border.

According to a press release announcing her candidacy, Lowe earned an associate degree in science from Virginia Western Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree from Radford University, and a master's from Hollins University. She also completed post-master's coursework towards a doctorate at the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University in the Netherlands and the American International School of Law.

The release stated that her professional career included working as an archaeologist and anthropologist, a farmer, policy advisor, college professor, and a school teacher.

Lowe said she taught grades 6-12 in Roanoke City Schools, which began to open her eyes to some of the issues in the education system that she believes need to be addressed on the federal level.

"In my opinion, the school system was failing the kids," she said, noting that things may have changed in the city's school division in the 20 years since she worked there. "I was told that my expectations were too high, that I needed to show them more movies. I was forced to change their grades. Twenty years ago, they were altering their SOL scores for federal funding."

"I realized then that I couldn't fix education as a teacher," she said, adding that education needs a complete overhaul. Specifically, she said, more time needs to be spent teaching critical reading and writing skills and programs that prepare students for modern jobs.

"I don't think that we should be pulling people in from other countries to do American jobs when we have kids here that we could train in these technological jobs," she said.

In addition to education, Lowe identified several pillars of her campaign, including bringing jobs to the area, working to solve the opioid epidemic, and helping to improve family stability.

"All that goes hand in hand," she said, describing the three as a circle. "Solving all of those would strengthen Southwest Virginia."

Her campaign developed its focus, in large part, from stories people have shared with Lowe about their own struggles with addiction, job loss, and subsequent separation from their children.

"People contact me around the nation," she said, "I'm the person they come to, and Southwest Virginia, West Virginia are where I get the most calls. It's

extremely bad."

Lowe said she became a touchstone for people struggling with these issues after her husband left her and their 3 children in 2017, and they began divorce proceedings through the courts.

There, she found, "there's no due process, and whoever has the most money can basically torture you for years in court."

Also, it was around that time when she learned "they are literally trafficking children through our courts. I found a trafficking ring between Southside Virginia and Alaska," which, she said she believes targeted her own children.

She said a decade ago, 22 million families in America had been affected by child trafficking. Currently, she said, 1 child per minute goes into the state's custody and "we don't necessarily know where they go. We do know that 88 percent of children recovered by the U.S. Marshals Service all came out of foster care."

"I had surveillance in front of my house for a year and a half," she said, with unmarked cars bearing tags registered to people who were deceased. Her children's photos, she said, went missing from her court file. She said someone wrote an article on her story, which is when people began to reach out both to share their own stories and to "warn me more about what's really happening in the courts, which honestly saved my kids."

"Somewhere along the way," she recalled, "I started to realize there was a problem with CPS (Child Protective Services) and then I learned from my own experience that no one would help me."

With so many people reaching out, and because the issues she was addressing were so specialized, she said she became an expert on federal law and now helps guide people through court proceedings and through dealings with CPS.

"I have people ready to go on my staff, ready to come in with me so we can solve the family court issues because it's costing us a lot of money and it's destroying our families," she said. "That's money that can go back into our community when a family has a crisis."

"We should not punish our families when they have a crisis," she said. "We need to help families, and I think Southwest Virginia's a great example of that."

Families in crisis are part of what brought Lowe to the Texas/Mexico border in the first place. Those struggling with addiction issues often face a number of difficulties, she said.

"When people are addicted, they end up committing crime because of it, and because of that they can't get a job, so it's a horrible circle." Oftentimes, she said, that circle of struggle leads to separation of families. "The child removal rate is very high," particularly in Southwest Virginia, she said.

"Even when parents get clean," she said, "they don't get their kids back and it's creating so much trauma."

Lowe said she was visiting the border in part because "massive amounts of drugs are coming in the ports. It's costing a lot of money and it's affecting Southwest Virginia, so I'm here to try to figure out what's happening, how is it coming in. We haven't been effective at stopping people from using drugs, but there has been some effectiveness in slowing down the movement."

Lowe said that, if elected, she hopes to get a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, which would put her in a position to help make decisions on what's happening along the border, and could ultimately lead to helping stymie the influx of illegal substances. "I have experts working with me to make me an expert on what's happening in southern border countries," she said.

Also, Lowe said she has identified treatment centers in the western U.S. where people can go for addiction treatment and recovery that allow them to bring their children with them, preventing separation between child and parent.

Job creation, too, would help to address the issue of family stability, Lowe said. She has identified several ideas for bringing new jobs to the district, including working with a company that creates greenhouses which, she said, would bring in a large number of permanent jobs, create a continual source of local income, and become a source of fresh food which, she said, is needed in the area.

She said she would like to see some of that food make its way into school cafeterias, referencing a number of pilot programs focusing on bringing farm-to-table food to school divisions.

Lowe identified the modular housing industry as another potential source not only of jobs, but of affordable housing to families and individuals in the district.

She said she is also a proponent of creating federal incentives to buy local coal, and creating a transition program to address income gaps for families who have given their lives to the coal industry and are now "in a position where they don't know what to do. Someone needs to swoop in and help them out."

Of her opponent, Lowe said Griffith lacks understanding of the real issues in the district or how to address them.

"I hear he's a nice guy, but he's been a career politician for 27 years and people are dying in his district. I think he means well, but he doesn't have the vision or understanding on how to address it and he has not addressed the family situation at all. It's just time for him to go."

Ultimately, Lowe said her campaign "is not about me, it's about saving the people of Southwest Virginia. I have real ideas and vision on how to do that."

Refugee

from page 1



George Metz said some of his friends are sheltering in basements, subways, and other underground locations. (Contributed photo)

izes for Metz the spirit of the people of Kyiv, a people and a city that is currently under attack.

"They didn't even think twice, because people living there have this pride and this honor and it shows through in everything they do," Metz said.

He still has friends and colleagues in several cities in Ukraine who, he said, have been sending him regular updates as the hostilities continue.

On Friday, Feb. 25, the day after Russia's assault on the country began, Metz said the border crossing near the Ukrainian city of Lviv was backed up 14 kilometers.

"Many of my friends can't even get out of Kyiv," he wrote in a message, "because of the situation with the trains and Blabla Car (the car sharing service most widely used in Ukraine)."

"They are staying in basements, bomb shelters, and subways. The next train to Lviv that has tickets (available) is 2 days from now and it looks like Kyiv will be overtaken by then," he wrote.

As of early March 2, five days since Metz sent that message, the capital city remained under Ukrainian control.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, Metz wrote that one of his friends made their way to the Turkish embassy and was awaiting a way out of the country. Another "forced their way onto a train heading south as buying a ticket was impossible and the trains are full of people getting out of Kyiv."

Each train car, made to hold 4 people, had 10 in it, he said.

"They have arrested Russian saboteurs in Vinnytsia and Kyiv" who were "communicating information back to Russia and creating problems," the message continued.

Metz wrote that he "spoke with our NYC (New York City) office, trying to reach out to Brussels to ensure that 2 of our MSF National staff members have the legal documents to possess 2 cars that are at the Poland border," having arrived there "after driving hundreds of miles to evacuate our international staff from a tuberculosis project in Zhytomyr. They must now drive back on those same roads which may or may not have Russian tanks/troops waiting for them," he wrote. He later said that part of the team opted to stay in Ukraine.

On March 1, Metz wrote that everyone who is sending him information from inside the country remained safe, and that the drivers of the two cars had returned safely to Zhytomyr.

"MSF is figuring out the best strategy on how to use existing facilities in Donesk, Kyiv and Zhytomyr to set up field hospitals and provide services during this new conflict," he said, and later clarified that, if the organization does set up a hospital or organize a crew to enter the conflict zone, "it will be to treat both Ukrainians and

Russians because it's the right thing to do."

The MSF, he said, is committed to neutrality. "A patient is a patient, a human being is a human being. We treat everyone, and that commitment is what allows us to get into places no one else wants to go or can go."

In a phone call Tuesday night, Metz said he had purchased a plane ticket to Germany and would be leaving Thursday morning to drive back and forth between Germany and Ukraine, bringing volunteers into Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees back to Germany.

He said some people are giving him envelopes of cash to deliver to friends and family in the country.

"I just talked to someone within the last two hours living in the south-east, and the troops just arrived in her village yesterday," he said. She had delayed leaving the country, indecisive because of concerns about her elderly father. Now, he said, she will likely not be able to leave at all.

"None of the local banks are working," he said, and those that are still open have run out of money because people are withdrawing it as quickly as possible, not knowing when, or if, they will have another opportunity.

In Ukraine, money is largely useless because "they don't have the ability to buy anything." Supply lines have been completely shut down, he said. Beyond that, there is a fear of leaving the basements, subways, and shelters people are in for fear of what they will find outside. Even then, "when you get to the store, will the store be open? If the store's open, did someone just bring them new products?"

"It's very strange," Metz mused. "A lot of times, we think about bombing" occurring in underdeveloped countries. The places his friends live, however, and the cities he knows from his time in Ukraine, "these places are just as modern as any other city in Eastern Europe. Kyiv is an incredible city. It's one of my favorite cities in the world and it's so strange to think about it being bombed like this and ripped apart."

"The food is so good," he recalled, and a wide variety of various cuisines is readily available. The quality of education in Kyiv was second-to-none, he said, and students enjoyed a focus on the arts and music, which he described as a big part of life in the capital city.

Now, that same, vibrant city, the city where once two young women felt safe enough to leave their purses and phones unattended, is possibly one of the least safe places in the world.

"It was such a beautiful place and a beautiful people, and I feel so lucky, so fortunate" to have been there," he said.

Metz said those who want to help with the ongoing conflict can make a donation to MSF and direct it specifically to efforts in Ukraine, at www.msf.org/donate.

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