

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, March 12, 2022

(USPS-6)

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City Council member Tammy Pearson (far left) explains the community-inclusive method she would like the city to utilize in determining how its ARPA funding should be used after Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles (middle) made a motion to hold a public hearing on the funds at council's next meeting. Mayor Kathy Lawson (far right) later proposed reinstating council's neighborhood meetings beginning in April.

Council sets plans to solicit public input on ARPA funding

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville City Council voted on Tuesday night to hold a public input session at its next meeting on how the city should expend its federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The city also will create an online survey, a webpage with information on how the funds can be used, and a dedicated email address to solicit further input.

The moves came after a Feb. 22 meeting during which council member Tammy Pearson expressed a desire for a more inclusive process in deciding how the funds should be directed and the projects to prioritize.

At that meeting, Pearson said she talked to other localities and learned that many engaged their communities in the decision-making process. Pearson

later detailed her findings in an email to council members. In her email, Pearson suggested that the city should first educate the public on the issue.

On Tuesday, Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles made a motion to hold the public input session, and requested that the session begin with a brief explanation about how the funds could be used.

Bowles' motion passed 4-1, with Pearson as the sole dissenting vote.

When asked by Bowles why she voted against the motion when the need for such a hearing was specifically noted in her email, Pearson said she believed "in going more out into the community versus always having them come here."

"Can't we add more?" Bowles asked. "The public hearing would be good too, right?"

See **ARPA Funding**, page 5

County schools to ease mask restrictions on buses

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Henry County Public School students, faculty, and staff now get to choose whether or not they wear a mask both in the schools and on school buses.

The change comes as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced updated mask guidelines last week.

According to CDC data, Henry County is listed as low risk area for COVID-19 transmission, Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said at the county school board's March 3 meeting.

The CDC website indicates that those living in areas of low risk do not have to wear masks indoors, but should continue to get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Those in areas of medium risk who are at high risk for severe illness should discuss masking indoors and other precautions with their healthcare provider, while those in areas designated as a high risk should wear masks indoors in public places.

The website notes that people with symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask, regardless of the designated risk level of their community.

Strayer said the next step for school administrators is to review social distancing guidelines. She said that both high schools moved back to lunch in the cafeterias that week, and that middle schools should be moving back into their cafeterias this week.

The move will, she said, provide more of the social time that students need.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard a proclamation from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) recognizing March 2022 as Equity in Education Month.

*Recognized March 2022 as Music In Our Schools Month.

*Recognized March 6-12, 2022 as School Social

See **Mask Restrictions**, page 8

"Tiger King" case has local tie

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) Foundation needed help gaining insight into the death of a lion, and they found it in Martinsville at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH).

When concluded, research and testimony by Dr. Kal Ivanov and Dr. Joe Keiper, both of the museum, helped resolve a case brought by PETA against Jeff Lowe, best known for his appearance in the Netflix documentary series, "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness."

Lowe, a former business partner of series star Joseph Maldonado-Passage (better known as "Joe Exotic"), had four lions—Amelia, Leo, Nala, and Kahari—in his care at the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Zoo in Wynnewood, OK. Lowe took over ownership of the zoo from Maldonado-Passage in 2018.

Asher Smith, director of litigation for the PETA Foundation, said that less than 2 days before he was scheduled to help oversee the transfer of the four lions, he was contacted by Lowe's attorney and told that one of the lions, Kahari, had died.

Smith said Lowe filed a notice in an Indiana federal court stating that the lion had died more than two weeks before, having apparently been poisoned after a nighttime break-in at his facility.

See **Tiger King**, page 8



Virginia Museum of Natural History Director Dr. Joe Keiper (left) and Associate Curator of Recent Invertebrates Dr. Kal Ivanov look at some adult blow flies from the museum's collection. Their knowledge of blow fly larvae helped the two entomologists provide evidence in a recent case against Jeff Lowe, best known for his role in the Netflix docuseries "Tiger King."

City asks governor to veto reversion referendum bills

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

In a last effort to combat legislation that would require a referendum on reversion in Martinsville Stephen Piepgrass requested Gov. Glenn Youngkin veto the proposals.

The companion bills that recently passed the Virginia General Assembly, were introduced by Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville, and State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta. The measures require voter approval before the city is granted town status.

Stanley has said his bill would not stop reversion, but rather put the issue "to the people, because it's their right to determine their fate and their form of government, not have it determined for them."

The bills call for a referendum only in the case of Martinsville's reversion, and do not extend that requirement to any other Virginia cities that may wish to revert in the future.

Marshall's bill passed in the Senate 29-11 on Feb. 23, with an amendment to add a sunset provision (already included in Stanley's bill) stating that "the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2026."

Stanley's bill passed the House in



Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville, moves that the House pass Senate Bill 85, the companion to his own bill calling for a voter referendum in Martinsville on the question of reversion. Both bills have passed in the General Assembly and are headed to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's desk for his signature.

an 88-9 vote on March 3.

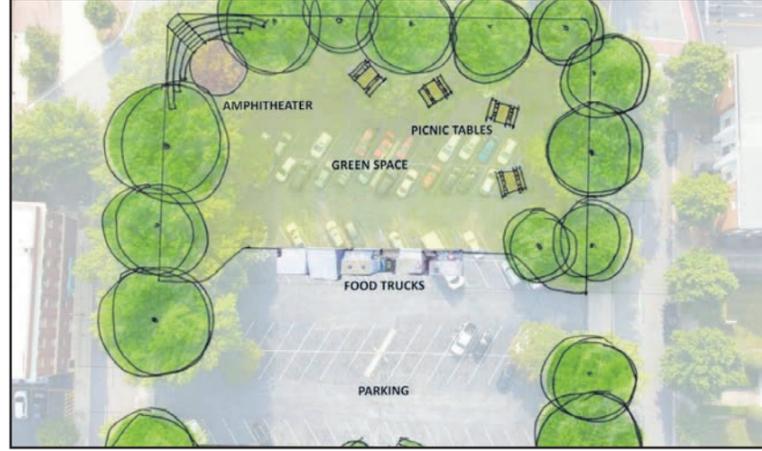
In a letter to Youngkin dated March 3, Piepgrass, of Troutman Pepper, the firm representing the city in its reversion proceedings, said the "real purpose of this legislation is to interfere with well-established judicial reversion processes" and called it "a last-

ditch attempt to derail a reversion that the city, the county, and the Commission on Local Government have all agreed is in the best interests of both localities.

He requested the governor

See **Reversion**, page 4

A new vision for uptown



The creation of a grassy park on half of uptown's Bridge Street parking lot (seen here in a drawing and artistic rendering) was one of many recommendations suggested by Chuck D'Apris and his team. The group recently completed a community-driven visioning survey to help inform the current revitalization effort in Martinsville's uptown.

See **New Vision**, page 3



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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 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, as well as a live auction, silent auction, and raffle tickets. For more information or to purchase tickets visit spamhc.org or call (276) 252-9014.

Wednesday, March 16- Thursday, March 19

The Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting a deco mesh wreath-making class celebrating pollinators, bees and butterflies. All supplies will be provided. The class will take place at the Collinsville branch on March 16, the Patrick County branch on March 17, the Bassett branch on March 18, and the main Martinsville branch on March 19. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Call your local branch to reserve your spot.

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 a donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, March 18

March Madness in uptown Martinsville. Palumbo's Hoagie House will be selling food in the Bridge Street parking lot beginning at 11 a.m., local entertainers will perform in the Wall Street alley from 4-6 p.m., Mountain Valley Brewing will be set up in the courthouse square beginning at 4 p.m., and Pirates of the Piedmont will perform on the square beginning at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Uptown Partnership and Move to Martinsville.

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 a donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767. Call or text Doug Rubel at (540) 352-9157 with questions or concerns.

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 your 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 is \$100. Call (276) 656-5461 or visit ph.augusoft.net.

Saturday, March 19

The Spencer-Penn Centre 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 the Centre at (276) 957-5757. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Monday, March 21

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Budget & Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee will meet jointly at 11:30 a.m. in Room 124 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committees will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the Board will not receive public comment.

Tuesday, March 22

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) hosts Chix with Stix from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Knitters are invited to work together in the museum's classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. Free for members, \$5 for non-members (pay at the door.)

Piedmont Arts is holding a pollinator barn quilt class from 6-9 p.m. for ages 12 and up to celebrate Bee Month in April. Participants will create a 12x12 inch pollinator barn quilt which they will have the option of including in a display at Piedmont Arts during the month of April. All supplies provided. BYOB and snacks. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members and can be purchased at piedmontarts.org.

Thursday, March 24-26

VMFA on the Road will be at Piedmont Arts. 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 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 is hosting Painting with Genie beginning at 1 p.m. All supplies are provided. Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling the Centre at (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 the Centre at (276) 957-5757.

Tuesday, March 29

The Bassett Historical Center 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.

Thursday, April 7

Piedmont Arts hosts the Earl White String Band, a mainstay of the old-time, folk, and dance community for more than 45 years and one of the few Black Americans preserving and playing Appalachian old-time string band music. General admission tickets are \$20 and are available at Piedmont Arts and online at piedmontarts.org.

Wednesday, April 13

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is sponsoring its annual "Be a Part of History" blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call/text John Phillips at (276) 806-5022.

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.

Call (276) 638-7297 for an appointment.

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.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you out for a trek along the trail. Meet as a group and walk along a different trail each week. 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 for more information. 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 brl.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at its headquarters, 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. Call the Center for Community Learning at (276) 647-9585.

Area students named to Dean's List

Several area students attending Radford University were named to the Dean's List for Fall 2021.

Students will be placed on the Dean's List if they meet four specific criteria. They must have 12 semester hours of coursework graded A-F; earn GPA's of at least 3.4 for all courses not graded on a pass-fail basis; obtain no grade lower than "C"; and no incomplete grades.

The following, along with programs of study if applicable, were among those included on the list:

- Liliana Dailey, Ridgeway, major;
- Jasmine Hayzlett, of Martinsville,

nursing major;

- Whitley Manns, of Spencer, nursing major;

- Krista Martin, of Collinsville, major;

- Alivia Pinnix, of Martinsville, major;

- Heidi Pinnix, of Martinsville, major;

- Noelya Santiago, of Collinsville, major.

Appearing on the Dean's List is the most prestigious academic recognition Radford University students can receive for their performance during a semester.

C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
R	10		11	12			13	14	
P	15			16				17	
O		18		19		20	21		
U			22				23		
S		24	25				26	27	28
Z	29			30	31	32	33		34
S	35				36				37
W	38		39	40	41		42	43	44
Z		45					46	47	
O			48				49		
L		50	51		52	53		54	55
R	56				57			58	59
E	60			62				63	
D	64				65				66

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. European Common Market
 4. Poetic go quickly
 7. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
 10. Pigeon pea
 12. Sao __, city in Brazil
 14. Longest division of geological time
 15. __ Alto, California city
 16. Small terrestrial viper
 17. Coming after all others
 18. Penetrate with a sharp fork
 20. Still-hunt
 22. Chinese frying pan
 23. Cave-dwelling salamander
 24. Any thick messy substance
 26. About the moon
 29. AKA Tao
 30. Jet cabin requirement
 35. Prince Hirobumi, 1841-1909
 36. An easy return in a high arc
 37. Italian commune
 38. L. Comfort's illuminator
 44. Foot digit
 45. Minute tunicate genus
 46. Green regions of desert
 48. Direct a weapon
 49. __ de Janeiro
 50. Equestrian animals
 53. Access Tomei
 56. Head of the RCC
 57. Twines
 59. Scientific workplace
 61. Minerals
 62. Hypothetical original substances
 63. Hit with the open hand
 64. Political action committee
 65. Winged goddess of the dawn
 66. W. states time zone
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Electronic data processing
 2. Man or boy (Br.)
 3. W. African nation
 4. Fault's incline from vertical
 5. Method of birth control
 6. City founded by Xenophanes
 7. Legumes
 8. Beckham's spice girl
 9. Explosive
 11. 1936 Nobel winner Otto
 12. Greenbay teammate
 13. Brass that looks like gold
 14. School graduates
 19. Lively, merry play
 21. Make indistinct
 24. Egyptian mythological figure associated with floods
 25. Washing sponge
 27. Old name for nitrogen
 28. Impounds for lack of payment
 29. Radiotelegraphic signal
 31. MN 55731
 32. Sun in spanish
 33. Helps little firms
 34. Cease living
 39. Flames up
 40. Egyptian sacred bull
 41. To wit
 42. Mire
 43. Bring two objects together
 47. Filths
 50. Israeli dance
 51. Oil cartel
 52. A particular instance of selling
 53. Microelectromechanical system
 54. Var. of 45 across
 55. Goat & camel hair fabrics
 56. Soda
 58. A firm's operational head
 60. Seaport (abbr.)

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

New Vision

from page 1



A rendering of an entrepreneurship village in uptown—small buildings that new business owners could rent at low cost to test their business idea. Chuck D'Aprix and his team recommended branding Martinsville's uptown as a center for entrepreneurship.

Callie Hietala

Staff writer

Martinsville's Uptown Partnership (UP) unveiled the results of the recently-completed community-driven visioning project last week, which included sweeping recommendations for revitalization. The new vision emphasizes inclusiveness and entrepreneurship as the path forward for a successful revitalization effort.

Project director Chuck D'Aprix, of Downtown Economics, and team members from Community Engagement & Charrette Associates and the FORM Coalition shared the results of the survey and uptown visioning project with a group of around 30 stakeholders via Zoom last Thursday.

The project, which began in August 2021 with funding from the Harvest Foundation, sought to solicit community input on uptown's future to form the basis of the new vision in what D'Aprix called a bottom-up approach—listening to community members about their vision for uptown, their priorities in its revitalization, and their past experiences in the district.

Collecting the data

D'Aprix said input was gathered through a number of outreach efforts, including drop boxes, door hangers and online surveys, conversations with groups and individuals, and even a dedicated phone line for people to discuss their uptown experiences and the changes they would like to see.

Team members sat down with focus groups comprised of faith groups and leaders, members of the Fayette Area Historic Initiative (FAHI) and the Minority Business Consortium, and nonprofit and youth leaders throughout the Martinsville area.

D'Aprix said he traveled to areas like Danville to collect outside perceptions of Martinsville and its uptown, and even sat outside of Walmart, Applebee's, and CVS to engage as many as possible in the visioning process.

"What we heard in a nutshell was a need for social connection and places to gather," he said. The team discovered there is a desire for more shopping and dining options, a need for housing and amenities, and for spaces to host culturally diverse and inclusive events.

He said respondents indicated a desire to celebrate a more diverse narrative of Martinsville's history, including that of the Fayette Street community and the Martinsville Seven, and to incorporate more Latinx, youth, and other diverse voices in plans for uptown's future.

The team used the input gathered from the community as the basis for its recommendations.

A hub of entrepreneurship

"The most important thing and the one that has generated the most discussion, is branding uptown as a center of entrepreneurship," D'Aprix said, adding this is the only brand his team was recommending.

He said that throughout his career, "there are very few communities that I have seen that are as well-positioned to become a center of entrepreneurship as Uptown Martinsville."

That branding, he said, means "every decision made by Uptown Partnership should be tethered to the concept of entrepreneurship," allowing it to attract new entrepreneurs as well as offering support for existing businesses.

D'Aprix acknowledged there is a high failure rate for new businesses generally but, "if you build the right support mechanisms, and I think you're on your way (to doing that), then you can lower that failure rate substantially."

While he suggested a number of business opportunities that would do well uptown—a microbrewery, pizza shop, distillery, a boutique hotel—D'Aprix noted "we often can't guess what the next good idea is going to be." He said that the best path forward is to become an entrepreneur-friendly locality and let people bring their own ideas to the area.

"You're going to see people with interesting ideas come forward, and the idea is to capture them and connect them to incentives, to financing, to training. That is what will work," he said. "Will there be failures? Sure. But with the right program in place, you're going to have successes."

He said there are a number of proposals geared toward supporting small businesses and startups, including pop-up shops (UP has already hosted several), a single-site retail incubator in which multiple businesses would share space and expenses to begin a business, and even the creation of an entrepreneurship village—small buildings that can be rented for a small fee for businesses to begin selling their products.

Redesigned streetscapes, green space, historic preservation

"Invest in beauty and delight," said Jodi Dubyoski, of the FORM Coalition, as she discussed the team's recommended redesign of the uptown. She presented mockups of improved streetscapes and discussed a green space masterplan, all of which is geared toward unifying uptown both visually and practically as well as making it more attractive for visitors, businesses, and potential new residents.

Converting Main and Church streets to two-way roads was, Dubyoski said, noted in every previous report. In addition, she suggested closing Walnut Street

to cars, making it a pedestrian thoroughfare, and adding an uptown bikeway that would connect with the Dick & Willie Passage.

Dubyoski discussed a number of suggestions from the group's green space master plan, including the addition of a small grassy area to the Farmers' Market which, D'Aprix later said is currently unwelcoming and underutilized.

"That could be a gateway into uptown if designed properly," he said.

Other suggested improvements included a pocket park on Moss Street, a large civic park between Church, Market, Ellsworth, Cleveland to provide gathering space for larger events and festivals, and converting half of the Bridge Street parking lot to a park with a small amphitheater to take advantage of the largest trees in uptown which currently provide shade for parked cars.

Dubyoski proposed a number of changes to the Fayette Street area, most notably the addition of a 2-story commercial building at the corner of Market and Fayette, an important intersection that links Fayette with the rest of uptown. She said the building could hold retail space on the ground floor with office space above and a rooftop space, and could even be a location for one of the entrepreneur-friendly structures suggested by D'Aprix.

She also noted the need for façade improvements along Fayette, and suggested upgrades to the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI.)

Elsewhere in the presentation, D'Aprix discussed the need to find additional funding for FAHI. "The story being told there is very, very important," he said.

In addition to the recommended new parks, bike-ways, and streetscapes, the group encouraged the city and UP to preserve uptown's history. D'Aprix said that Martinsville has not, in the past, prioritized historic preservation. Doing so would support economic development and tourism, as well as encourage reinvestment in the district and ensure environmental sustainability.

He noted that many of uptown's buildings could be preserved and restored, and said the team provided several recommendations about educating building owners about historic preservation.

A racial divide

Veronica Fleming, another member of the visioning team, said during conversations with various groups, race emerged as a critical issue dividing the community and affecting the economic vitality of uptown.

"Clearly there's been this historical division that is not a secret to anyone," she said. "Any recommendations that we made are very intentional about being inclusive of all diverse voices."

She said she heard feedback about the decline of the Fayette Street corridor, with some pointing to New College Institute (NCI) as a physical divider between the historically Black area and the rest of the uptown district.

"As a result, clearly the African American community does not support uptown businesses in large numbers, and that needs to change," she said, and added that the revitalization process was an opportunity to include that area in any uptown improvements.

(Note: During initial conversations about a site, NCI's current location was selected to help bridge the gap between the two areas, serve as an economic driver for both and ensure higher education was within reach for all.)

Organization and leadership

The team's recommendations extended beyond proj-



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The team suggested closing Walnut Street to traffic and creating a pedestrian thoroughfare, which could help make uptown more attractive for visitors, entrepreneurs, and could make the area more viable as a residential space.

ects that could move Martinsville's uptown forward—D'Aprix and his team also made suggestions for new hires and community volunteers to help keep the revitalization alive and, more importantly, incorporate diverse voices in the process.

"It's vitally important to create an ongoing, multi-layered, racially and culturally diverse community engagement process that is long-term," Fleming said. "This process will not happen just by the good will of the community. It must be intentionally staffed and staffed over the long-term of this process."

To that end, Fleming said the group recommends hiring at least two additional staff, one at the Harvest Foundation and the other at UP. Both positions would be geared toward community engagement and help to activate the communities that have thus far largely been left out of discussions about revitalization.

Fleming recommended the creation of an intentionally diverse steering committee, organized by UP, to oversee and implement all the strategies identified through the visioning process, to prioritize projects, and to set milestones that represent progress to the community.

Fleming said the committee should be 47 percent Black, 47 percent white, with the remaining 6 percent to include other ethnic groups reflecting the community.

She suggested 7 to 13 committee members, which should include representatives from Harvest, the city (and/or Henry County, depending on the outcome of the reversion process), the Chamber of Commerce, a minimum of three faith leaders -each representing a different race, school administrators, nonprofit leaders, representatives from NCI, Patrick & Henry Community College, and Longwood University. In creating the committee, Fleming urged UP look beyond racial diversity and think too in terms of youth and gender makeup.

She noted that presentation of the study was only the beginning of the work, and that more work will be required if the new vision for uptown is to be truly inclusive.

"We just began this process," she said. "There are so many more voices that need to be at the table, and I want to honor the fact that we need to do much more work in engaging the Latino community, residents, and businesses in this process as well as the youth force."

At the end of the presentation, which lasted well over an hour, UP Executive Director Kathy Deacon thanked the group for its efforts. "We look forward to engaging with our community deeply and broadly as we look to prioritize some of the recommendations you have made," she said.

Deacon said the complete study, which gives in-depth detail about the results of the visioning survey and more complete version of the recommendations by D'Aprix and his team, will be made available on UP's website in the coming weeks.

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OPINION

Perspective

A couple of weeks ago, I made a new Facebook friend. We'll call him Petr.

Petr posted in one of the many pinball-related Facebook groups I belong to. He shared some photos of his 1988 Swords of Fury pinball machine, a somewhat uncommon game. Petr explained that he was in the process of restoring this Swords of Fury; it wasn't quite ready for show-time, but it was close, and he wanted to share the photos with the group while he still could.

Petr lives in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

"Right now," he wrote, "an air raid alarm is howling and we are waiting with horror for another bombardment. For the fourth night we have had explosions, tanks are firing around 10 kilometers from me ... we sleep in clothes and are ready to run away from home at any moment."

He explained that he didn't know if he would ever have the chance to finish restoring his Swords of Fury, so he said that he would instead show the group the progress he had made so far, "as if there was no war and it's just a normal day."

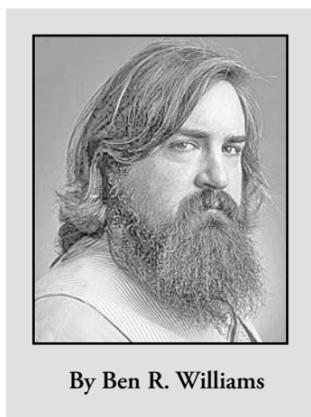
I sent Petr a friend request and told him I was thinking about him and his family, and

we began chatting. He sent me videos of missiles dropping in Ukraine, conventional explosives so powerful that they blasted mushroom clouds into the sky. He sent me videos taken in the streets of Kyiv; it looked almost like high-definition footage of war-torn European cities during World War II.

I asked Petr if he was going to flee Ukraine; he couldn't, he said. His wife had surgery shortly before Vladimir Putin began his invasion of the country and she was still too weak to travel. It was a moot point anyway; Ukraine is under martial law, and most men aged 18-60 are required to stay in the country to help defend it.

I try not to bug Petr too much — he's received an outpouring of support from many folks in the pinball community, and I'm sure he's got more important things to do right now than sit around chatting with all of us. But I do check in from time to time, and there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about him. I feel a certain kinship.

When war or tragedy happens in a place you've never visited, it's sometimes hard to internalize it. When I read that a hurricane has devas-



By Ben R. Williams

tated an island nation I've never been to, I feel sympathy for the people affected, but it all seems somewhat abstract. I don't have a friend there to worry about, or a favorite local spot I can visualize.

But it's different with Petr; not only do we share a common interest, we just so happen to share the exact same game. I also own a Swords of Fury.

It's possible that at some point on opposite sides of the globe, Petr and I have been playing that pinball machine at the same time, or — more likely — turning a screwdriver on it simultaneously.

Maybe it sounds corny, but that foothold helps bring it home for me. Had things gone differently, Petr might be in Patrick County, Virginia, and I might be in Kyiv. It's all in the luck of the draw.

I tell you all of this so I can say the following: I also think of Petr when I'm at the gas pump.

Now, I'm not one of those folks who's going to tell you that if you're worried about the price of gas, you're an inhuman monster incapable of empathy. I get it. I have to do a whole lot of driving in a given week, and when gas reaches four bucks per gallon (and probably higher by the time you read this), it makes life difficult. We're already dealing with horrible inflation and nobody's paycheck is going as far as it used to.

Furthermore, if you live in southwest Virginia, the odds of you living within walking distance of your place of employment are highly unlikely, and the odds of you having easy access to public transportation are pretty poor as well. We're told in driver's ed that driving is a privilege, not a right, but in most of this country, it's also an expectation. Until electric vehicles become a little more practical and a lot more affordable, we're all going to have to struggle through with combustion engines.

We import about 20 percent of our refined gasoline from Russia, but Putin's aggression against Ukraine has triggered Western sanctions that have crippled Russia's

shipping industry and finances. There's a good chance that very soon, Congress will move to stop importing Russian fuel entirely. Until a workaround is achieved, gas prices will likely remain high or continue to rise.

High gas prices do put the financial hurt on people; there's no denying it. At the same time, I can't help but think of Petr when I'm at the gas pump. I may be paying more for gas, but when I get home in the evening, I don't have to worry about going to sleep in my street clothes so I can spring out of bed if the bombs get too close. I don't have to worry about scrounging for food because the stores have been reduced to rubble. I don't have to share photos of my projects in an unfinished state because I don't know what tomorrow holds.

But if you don't know a Petr and this whole thing still seems abstract, I have another proposal. When you pay extra at the pump, just remember that you're helping ensure that Vladimir Putin is having another terrible day of watching his future grow dim and his legacy diminish as he becomes increasingly weak and paranoid, like a frightened animal with a leg caught in a snare trap.

It makes me feel better, anyway.

Weekly Update

Del. Les R. Adams
16th House District

The 2022 regular session of the Virginia General Assembly is nearing its completion here in Richmond in this the final week of the legislative calendar. With the standing committee work now complete, members of the House of Delegates are taking final votes on Senate bills, as well as House bills that have returned with Senate amendments. As part of this process, conference committees are being assigned to resolve questions on legislation that has passed both chambers but differ in particular respects.

For instance, when a bill that has passed in the House of Delegates is later altered by the Senate with amendments the House rejects, that bill will normally be assigned to a conference of select Delegates and Senators, assuming the Senate insists on its amendments. One such bill that is currently in that posture is agricultural legislation I have championed to incentivize the planting of hardwood trees in the Commonwealth.

This issue was brought to my attention last year when I attended a meeting of the Henry County Farm Bureau. During a discussion of needed policy initiatives, a prominent member of the

group explained that when forest land is harvested, it is very common that the land is replanted with pine, of which there is an abundance, but rarely with hardwood species, such as oak, hickory, walnut and dogwoods. This is because a landowner is able to realize his return on an investment of pine within two decades, while the task of regenerating hardwoods, by contrast, is far more complicated and can require multiple generations of care. Because of this, Virginia hardwoods are in decline and suffer from a lack of regeneration, a situation described by experts in the field as "dire."

In addition to the aesthetic quality hardwood trees give us, they are important to Virginia's economy as a valuable timber resource needed for many products, includ-

ing furniture and paper. But healthy hardwood forests are also vital to wildlife and our natural environment, providing food and shelter to animals and protecting watersheds. In recognition of this multifaceted need, most lawmakers in both the House and Senate from each party agree that legislation is required to incentivize the conservation of this important resource.

This incentive is provided by my House Bill 1319. With it I propose a nonrefundable income tax credit for expenses incurred by a taxpayer for the implementation of beneficial hardwood management practices employed in conjunction with the newly adopted Hardwood Management Initiative administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The tax credit, as defined in the bill, is limited

in duration and capped in the aggregate, ensuring the low cost of the program.

The differences between the version I introduced and passed in the House of Delegates and the amended bill returned by the Senate relate to the finer details of the proposal, including the number of years the credit would be available and whether any related budget provisions are necessary. In these final days of negotiations, I am confident that an agreement will be reached. If so, I will be pleased to have again promoted the agricultural and forestry needs of this important Southside Virginia industry.

To contact me, mail P.O. Box K, Chatham, Virginia 24531; or call (434) 432-1600 in Chatham and (804) 698-1016 in Richmond.

Reversion

from page 1

veto the legislation because the bills "would unjustifiably alter the statutorily prescribed reversion process for the City of Martinsville, alone."

Additionally, Piepgrass wrote, "there is simply no precedent for imposing this sort of voter referendum at the end of the reversion process. Indeed, doing so would interfere with ongoing judicial proceedings, in violation of well-established separation-of-powers principles in this Commonwealth."

"The decision to revert was not made lightly," he wrote. "Since 2019, the city and the county have been engaged in a lengthy process of litigation, study, negotiation, and review by the Commission on Local Government."

He wrote that the reversion process included "numerous public meetings and opportunities for public comment; the negotiation of two extensive agreements; oral presentations by both parties supporting reversion; and a robust report and recommendation by the Commission on Local Government finding that reversion is in the best interests of the City, the County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia."

The letter said the city recently filed a petition in court to formally proceed to reversion, which Piepgrass wrote was the last step in the process.

"Now," he wrote, "the legislation that may soon reach your desk seeks to impose additional requirements and costs on the city's reversion. This effort at a legislative end-run around the reversion process is bad public policy and is against the public interest."

In an email, City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Eric Monday wrote that the city plans to continue proceeding with reversion and that the bills'

passage does not necessarily mean city voters will see the question on their ballot this November.

"All matters related to reversion are ultimately up to the Special Court, so it would be premature for us to say one way or the other whether, or when, the referendum will be required. We will defer to the court's determination on that," he wrote.

He noted that the bills create a situation where, even if the special court ruling on Martinsville's reversion finds that reversion is warranted, it could not grant the city town status without approval by voters.

If there is a referendum, however, Monday wrote that "the city will definitely be conducting a campaign to explain to the voters why reversion is best for the future of Martinsville's citizens. The alternative is higher taxes and lower levels of customer service."

In that campaign, Monday said the city "will also be tackling the large amount of misinformation and lies that are out there as well. For example—it is, simply put—a lie to say that Martinsville High School is going to close, that the city is pushing its debt off on to the county, and that Martinsville tax rates will go up if we revert. No decision on ANY school closure has been made. By state law, Martinsville must keep ALL of its debt. Martinsville tax rates are set by city council, no one else, and will go DOWN after reversion. Police, fire, all utilities, and all city services will remain in place and unchanged after reversion-- and in fact, their levels of service are expected to grow. There will also be additional funds freed up to address economic development, blight, and community improvement that we do not have the resources to handle if we do not revert."

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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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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

ARPA Funding from page 1

Pearson agreed, but said she would like to see a more inclusive process than what was proposed.

Bowles said she discussed another measure mentioned by Pearson - the possibility of creating online surveys to further receive input - with City Manager Leon Towarnicki and City Attorney Eric Monday. Monday said that he hoped to replace the current COVID-19 masthead on the city's website with an ARPA-specific one that would include a direct link to information detailing how the funding could be used and another link to a survey.

In another effort to reach out to the community, Mayor Kathy Lawson said that beginning in April, she would like to reinstate council's neighborhood meetings, to be held in different areas of the city over the next several months. The meetings were put on hold due to the pandemic. More specifics on the meetings, including dates, will be decided at a later date.

Lawson also discussed the issue of public involvement in creating the initial list of proposed ARPA-funded projects presented by Towarnicki at the previous meeting. Over the past several months, she said that Towarnicki received hundreds of comments from the public, which ultimately helped him create the list.

She said, and Bowles agreed, that both staff and council members regularly hear comments from the public through a variety of outlets. "I don't think there's a day that ever goes by that I don't receive a comment of some sort from a constituent ... we get contacted almost on a daily basis."

While Lawson acknowledged that some items on the proposed list need more vetting and more input, others "have been underway for a considerable period of time, and there are some we need to move forward with."

To that end, she made a motion, seconded by Bowles, that council give favorable consideration to upgrades and renovations to Hooker Field (an estimated \$1,850,000 according to the

information presented by Towarnicki in February), the Southside Ballpark and restrooms (\$400,000), other citywide park upgrades (\$500,000), replacing the antiquated MGTV system (a funding estimate was not included in the initial list) and make a \$50,000 contribution to Piedmont Arts' capital campaign.

Lawson noted that both Hooker Field and the Southside Park upgrades would benefit the city both by contributing to the quality of life for residents and generating tax revenue when the facilities host tournaments and other events.

She said MGTV was included in her motion because the outdated system "died last week." While it was restored to the point that it was still possible to broadcast and record the night's meeting, the ability for the system to scroll through the public information typically found on the channel had not been restored.

Bowles, as well as council members Chad Martin and Danny Turner, expressed their willingness to approve the motion because, with the exception of MGTV and the contribution to Piedmont Arts, the projects included were ones they had heard about from residents during their respective tenures on council.

"This is what people have been saying for years," Martin said.

Pearson said that she did not feel prepared to vote immediately on any items on the list during the meeting until a more thorough vetting process was conducted.

Lawson's motion passed 4-1, with Pearson as the sole no vote.

In other matters, the council:

*Approved the minutes from its Feb. 22 council meeting.

*Heard from Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy, who recognized Linda Lawrey as the 2021 Martinsville Police Department Citizen of the Year for her dedication to helping both law enforcement and shelter animals.

*Read a proclamation recognizing Martinsville High School student



Mayor Kathy Lawson (far left) presents Martinsville High School student Vex Miller (middle) with a proclamation recognizing her victory at the Eastman Performance Films Black History Oratorical Contest. Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley (right) told council this is the second consecutive year a Martinsville High student won the contest.

Vex Miller for her recent victory in the Eastman Performance Films Black History Oratorical Contest. Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said this marked the second consecutive year a Martinsville High student has won the contest.

*Postponed the reading of a proclamation recognizing Martinsville High School football coach Bobby Martin on his recognition as WSL TV's "1st and 10 Coach of the Year" due to Martin's absence from the meeting.

*Approved the conveyance of a narrow strip of right of way across the front of the former McCollum-Ferrell Building (16-18 East Church St.) to Burch Building LLC, which recently acquired the building for redevelopment.

*Postponed a public hearing regarding adding individual properties to the rental inspection program.

*Adopted on second reading an

ordinance repealing the city's disguise and mask restrictions.

*Adopted on second reading an ordinance amending the allowable height of uncut grass from 18 to 10-inches.

*Postponed hearing an update from Uptown Partnership (UP).

*Heard from Aaron Rawls during business from the floor. Rawls told council that he had "very serious concerns" about a media report he read about funding for Uptown Partnership and the vision plan that was recently presented. However, as UP's presentation was postponed, he said he would withhold the majority of his comments until he could look at a complete report, rather than relying solely upon one news outlet's representation. However, he noted that he has "a lot of connections with uptown and that news was not well-received from what I discerned."

Lawrey recognized as Citizen of the Year

Linda Lawrey's generosity for people and animals was honored when she was named the Citizen of the Year for 2021 by the Martinsville Police Department.

Martinsville City Police Chief Eddie Cassidy made the announcement at Tuesday's meeting of Martinsville City Council. He noted that for many years, the police department has recognized city residents that have exemplified outstanding service, patriotism, and kindness to the city as a whole.

Lawrey "has gone out of her way on numerous occasions to not only keep our officers safe but also to help our animals that go through our animal shelter," the chief said.

"During the early days and through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, (Lawrey) went to great lengths to donate masks, gloves, face shields, and sanitizers for our officers. Even as store shelves were empty and distributors indicated they were out of stock, Linda would somehow find a way to acquire boxes of personal protective equipment to make certain that our officers had a regular supply," Cassidy said.

Lawrey's generosity extended to the animals at the Martinsville City Animal Shelter, Cassidy said. She came up with the idea of creating an Amazon wish list to allow community members to help with the shelter's needs.

Animal Control Officer Jamie Clark noticed that Lawrey was donating nearly everything on the list. "She also started a pet food donation box at our local pet store," he said, which has been "an incredible help" in feeding the animals kept at the shelter.

"Her generosity in caring for the safety of our officers, as well as her kindness and love for animals in our animal shelter, is why we recognize her as the 2021 Martinsville Police Department Citizen of the Year."

"I appreciate (the award) and thank everyone for their service," Lawrey said, noting the last few years have been tough on everyone due to the pandemic, including police, fire, and EMS crews. "And it's been tough on the animals," she added.



Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy (right) recognized Linda Lawrey as the 2021 Martinsville Police Department Citizen of the Year. Cassidy commended Lawrey for her passion to help both law enforcement officials by providing personal protective equipment during the pandemic and animals in the city's shelter.

Cookies for a Cause

Martinsville City Council members Danny Turner and Tammy Pearson have partnered to raise funds to help a nonprofit agency working to address the ongoing humanitarian effort created by the conflict in Ukraine.

The two worked with Rising Sun Breads to develop a heart-shaped sugar cookie decorated with the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag. Turner said they purchased a number of the sweet treats, which will be on sale at Pearson's restaurants—Sportlanes in Collinsville and Shindig and Wild Magnolia in Martinsville—as well as Rising Sun Breads and Market Square convenience store.

Cookies can be purchased for \$5 each and all proceeds will be donated to Doctors Without

Borders.

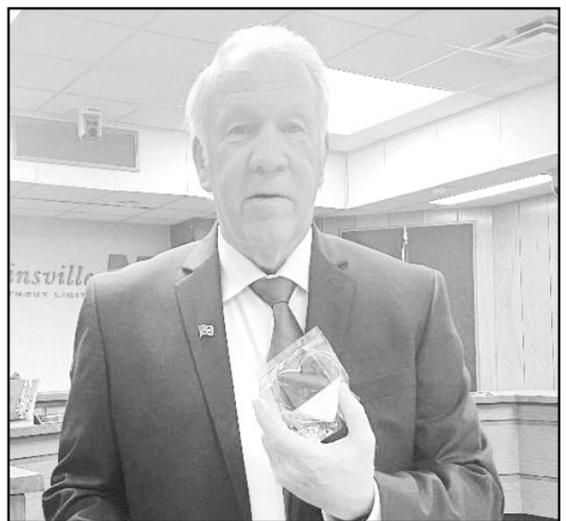
"I'm proud to say that a Martinsville High School Graduate is over there as we speak bringing people from Ukraine back into Poland," Turner said of George C. Metz, who works with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)—or Doctors Without Borders.

Metz spent time in Ukraine as part of his work with that organization and has a number of friends and colleagues still in the country. He flew to Germany last week to help transport volunteers into the conflict zone and drive refugees to safety.

Pearson, who thanked Turner for approaching her with the idea, said, "It's a wonderful idea. Anything we can do to support Ukraine is so important."



The cookies, created by Rising Sun Breads and decorated with the colors of the Ukrainian flag, are available for purchase at Sportlanes, Shindig, Wild Magnolia, Rising Sun Breads, and Market Square.



Council Member Danny Turner sold a number of cookies to attendees at Tuesday night's city council meeting.

Investigation of fatal crash continues

The Virginia State Police are investigating a motorcycle crash, which resulted in a fatality. The crash occurred on Wednesday, March 2, at 7:10 p.m. on Virginia 1112 at its intersection with Virginia 667 in Henry County.

A 2006 Harley Davidson was traveling west on Virginia 1112, when the motorcycle ran off the right side of the roadway, striking a guidewire for a utility pole, causing the riders to be thrown from the motorcycle.

Dillard Ray Scott Fleming, 36, of Max Meadows, Va., operated the motorcycle. Fleming was wearing his helmet and was flown by helicopter to Roanoke Memorial Hospital for injuries received in the crash.

The passenger of the motorcycle, Melinda Dawn Kingsley, 42, Richmond Va. Kingsley was wearing a helmet and died at the scene.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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OBITUARIES

John Mitchell Gayle

John Mitchell Gayle, Sr., 84, of Collinsville, Virginia passed away Monday, March 7, 2022, at his residence. He was born June 16, 1937, in Winston – Salem, North Carolina to the late John Ryland Gayle and Bertie Lee Moody Gayle.

John proudly served in the United States Air Force and was active in the Vietnam Era. He was employed by Dupont as an electrician for 33 years, a graduate of Martinsville High School and of the Baptist faith.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Barrow Gayle; son, Murray Wayne Gayle; sister, Patricia Ann Gayle Davis; and brother, James Thomas Gayle. He is survived by his daughter,



Kimberly Gayle Ray; son, John Mitchell Gayle, Jr. and his wife (Donna Gayle); grandchildren, Charlie Brandon Ray, John Mitchell Gayle III, Courtney Lynn Ray, Ryland Hunter Gayle; great-grandchildren, Jeffery Austin Ray, Alayna Gayle Williams, Anthony Jackson Ray, Kyland Mitchell Gayle, and Haven Lynn Gayle.

A graveside service will be held Friday, March 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Roselawn Burial Park, with Pastor Bennie Dodson officiating.

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

Kathleen J. Hall

Kathleen J. Hall, 79, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Saturday, March 5, 2022. She was born October 21, 1942, in North Carolina to Jack Jennings and Rachel Joyce Jennings. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Linda Hensley. Kathleen is survived by her brother, Clinton Jennings, and his wife Carol, several nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and nephews.

She graduated from Martinsville High School and Draughon's Business College in Winston Salem, N.C. After graduation, she began working in the office at DuPont. She later became head of the payroll department. She was a member of Mercy Crossing Church. Prior to attending Mercy Crossing, she was a long-



time church secretary at Martinsville Church of God. Kathleen loved spending time with her family and friends. She was known for being a very trustworthy friend.

The was held March 10, 2022, at McKee-Stone Funeral Home, officiated by Minister Jimmy Wood. Interment was in Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be mailed to The Arthritis Foundation 1355 Peachtree Street, N.E. Suite 600, Atlanta Ga.30309 or made online at www.arthritis.org.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA.

To express condolences online, please visit <http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com>.

Bernice Adel Stultz Pickerel

Bernice Adel Stultz Pickerel, 81, of Colfax, North Carolina passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at her residence. She was born December 07, 1940, in Bassett, Virginia to the late Jesse Booker Stultz and Violet Foster Stultz.

Bernice was an owner and operator of Pickerel Enterprises and retired in 2005. She worked for Martinsville City Schools as a bus driver from 1970-1975 and she was employed as a cook at Happy Hours Day Care Center. In her years at Clearview Wesleyan Church, she volunteered at the Blue Ridge Nursing Home, including holding Sunday School classes featuring "Sally Bigmouth." She created a Sunday School teacher position for special needs adults called the 'Happy Gems' for 10 years. She volunteered as a summer youth camp counselor in the 1960-1970s. Bernice was honored as Wesleyan Woman of the year 1989-1990. Another of Bernice's passions was to organize activities for the monthly Clearview Wesleyan Church Best Years of Fellowship (BYFers), including trips as far away as Hershey, Pennsylvania. She



loved to volunteer in the community to take seniors to doctor's appointments in the 1990s. She loved to travel with her husband to all the 50 states and 14 countries. Most recently she attended Crosspointe Church in Cary, North Carolina.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Kevin Pickerel.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Lawrence Alvin Pickerel; daughter, Crystal Ellison; sisters, Peggy Scott, Cindy Grogan, Brenda Edwards; brother, Mark Stultz (Mary); and nieces and nephews.

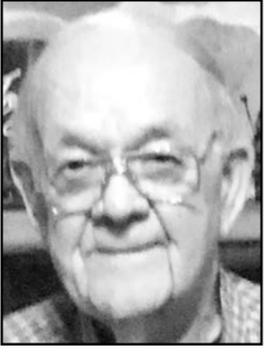
Services will be held Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel at 11 a.m. with Pastor Stephen Claybrook, from Crosspointe Church in Cary, North Carolina officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

James Bernard "J.B." Spencer

James Bernard "J.B." Spencer, 84, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022. He was born on May 1, 1937, to the late Luther A. Spencer and Ethel Irene Nelson Spencer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Donald Lee "Buzz" Willard; brother, Cecil A. Spencer, Sr.; and sisters, Peggy Ruth Spencer, Virginia S. Hinch, and Beatrice S. Cobler.

He is survived by his son, James P. "Jay" Spencer; daughters, Lynne S. Morrison (Wally), Tessa S. Patterson (J.P.), and Teresa W. Terry (David); sister, Joan S. Burgess; seven grandchildren, Phillip Spencer, Justin Morrison,



Michael Gordon, Ashley Hayzlett, Jordyn Willard, T.J. Willard, and Cole Willard. Also surviving are one great-granddaughter; numerous nieces and nephews; and his best friend, Rocky.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Rev. Don Reynolds officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service, with burial at Pleasant Grove Christian Church Cemetery.

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

Raymond Vincent Klecz

Raymond Vincent Klecz, 73, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on March 8, 2022, in Martinsville, Virginia. He was born on July 17, 1948, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Raymond Vincent and Doris Elizabeth Gorman Klecz. Raymond proudly served in the Army and Army Reserve. He was working as a Carpenter, his favorite past-times include coin collecting, puzzles, NASCAR, (a Jeff Gordon fan), shooting guns with great-grandchildren, and going to Pigeon Forge Tennessee.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Elizabeth Pataske, and granddaughter,

Julianna Crawley. Raymond is survived by his, daughter, Gina Crawley (Charles); son, Raymond Klecz (Melissa); sister, Barbara Klecz, Sharon Copson, Jo Beck, brother, Ronnie Klecz; grandchildren, Katlynn Saunders (Gearld), Kevin Klecz (Amanda), Christian Klecz, Lisa Stiltner (Kirby), Raymond Klecz (Emily), Nicholas Klecz; and great-great-grandchildren, Madison, Kevin Jr., Kayla, Alexis, Emily, Elizabeth, Thomas, Raymond, Michael, Jocelyn, Aubriana, Brielle. The service will be held at a later date. Wright Funeral Service and Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Texas Nerine Crews Young

Texas Nerine Crews Young, 80, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on Saturday, February 26, 2022. She was born on June 4, 1941, in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Roy Elmer Crews, Sr. and Mattie Robertson Crews. She was also preceded by her sister, Sissy; and brother, Junior; and son, Mark. Texas loved her family and her work at Citrus Elementary School in Vero Beach,



Florida. She is survived by her mother Mattie Crews, and daughter, Kim. A visitation will be from 2:00pm - 3:00pm on Sunday, March 13, 2022, with a funeral at 3 p.m. at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. Pastor Peyton Gilbert will officiate. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Young family.

Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Melissa Dawn Kingsley

Melinda Dawn Kingsley, 42, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away March 2, 2022. She was born in El Paso, Texas to John Lee Kingsley and Anna Erwin Young on September 26, 1980. She was a graduate of Central High School in Wise, Virginia. She is survived by in addition to her parents;

daughters, Alexis Rosetta Kingsley and Katlyn Jane Kingsley; sisters, Makeshia Barahona and Sharon Cornett; and brother, John David Kingsley. Services will be private. Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Sandra Palmer Henderson

Sandra Palmer Henderson, 82, passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at SOVAH Health of Martinsville. She was a loving person who cared deeply for her family and friends. She was employed as a secretary/bookkeeper for many years. She was also co-owner of Henderson Bottled Gas Company, Martinsville, and Flounder Bay Seafood Restaurant, South Boston.

She was born May 30, 1939, in Sanford, Florida, to the late Mark Palmer and Myrtle Nelson Palmer. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Jack Palmer

Sandra is survived by her husband,

Gerald E. Henderson; daughter, Lisa Henderson; sons, David Henderson (Crystal) and Eddie Henderson (Stephanie); and granddaughter, Ashley Roberts (Nick).

According to her wishes, a private service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Grove Christian Church, 5232 Preston Road, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, where she was a member.

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

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Agriculture and Farm Efficiency grant available

Southern and central Virginia producers may be eligible for the Virginia Precision Agriculture and Farm Efficiency Grant Program funded Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. For this program, \$505,000 was approved to encourage producers to incorporate new practices and enhance their farm's operations. These practices will improve environmental management through the adoption of precision technologies such as:

- Produce handling
- Hay storage facilities
- Produce equipment
- Livestock handling equipment

The grant offers producers in 20 counties the opportunity to apply for a reimbursement of up to \$5,000 per producer. This project includes the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Greenville, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, and

Sussex. Producers must spend a minimum of \$3,000 to be eligible for a 33 percent reimbursement. The maximum amount awarded is \$5,000 (approximately a \$15,000 project).

To receive an application, producers must attend the informational meeting held at the Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Blackstone, 2375 Darville's Road, Blackstone, Virginia 23824. The meeting will be accessible in person or via zoom Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6 p.m. Agents in each county will hold additional educational meetings in April to explain the program and administer applications.

Funding is limited and will be provided to producers on a first-come-first-serve basis with special consideration given to producers who have never received a Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Grant before. For more information on this program, contact your local extension agent at (276) 634-4650, or the Campbell County Extension Office at (434) 332-9538.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

HELP WANTED

WOODWRX, INC.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County- References Bob Morehouse
Phone: 276-930-1703
Cell: 561-881-8292
E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net
Website: Woodwrx.net

HOUSE PAINTING
House Painting, interior, exterior, also log cabins, and deck staining.
Call George Scott (540) 250-1409.

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.

HELP WANTED

Full-time Home Health Aid needed for a precious young lady with down syndrome. Du-

ties include- diapering, bathing, tube feeding (will train), daily outings, and simple therapy work. Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. \$11.81 per hour. On the job training provided. Call (276) 627-0042.

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

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services, College Success & Great Expectations Coach, Administrative

Assistant and Data Specialist, Building and Grounds Technician, Workforce Grants Specialist, Workforce Grants Advisor, Law Enforcement Officer, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in Communication Studies (Speech)- Patrick County and Main Campus Sites, 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.

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring Multiple Seasonal Positions!
Beach Maintenance Ranger
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Housekeeping Ranger
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www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs
DCR is EOE
(276) 930-2424
Apply online or at the park office:
967 Fairystone Lake Drive
Stuart, VA 24171

Classified Advertising Delivers

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 Greysen Street
818 Starling Avenue
The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
Leon Towarnicki, City Manager

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

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

Local authorities aided in federal investigation

Authorities in Henry and Patrick counties were among the local law enforcement agencies to participate in a federal investigation that culminated with the sentencing of a Romanian national on Monday.

Marius Catalui, who traveled to the United States and participated in an ATM skimming conspiracy, was sentenced Monday to 30 months in prison, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Catalui, 47, pleaded guilty in June 2021 to one count of access device fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft.

According to court documents, between December 2018 and May 2019, Catalui and others worked together to obtain personal identifying information, including debit and credit card numbers and PINs from bank customers without lawful authority and used that data to make unauthorized cash withdrawals from the victims for their personal gain.

The group utilized device-making equipment, commonly referred to as "skimming devices," to facilitate this scheme by installing them into card readers on ATMs at federally-insured banks throughout the Western District of Virginia. In conjunction with small hidden cameras that they placed on the ATMs, Catalui's group stole customers' PINs and account numbers, re-encoded the information onto blank plastic cards, and then used those cards to withdraw over \$300,000 before being apprehended.

In addition to over two years of prison time, Catalui was also ordered to pay \$351,642 in restitution to the impacted banks.

U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh made the announcement.

In addition to the local agencies, others involved included those sheriff's offices in Botetourt and Campbell counties, as well as police departments in Roanoke County, Farmville, Blacksburg and Lynchburg. The United States Secret Service also helped investigate the case.

SNAP households will receive emergency allotments in March

Virginia's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will again release emergency allotments of benefits to eligible households this month. Benefits will be automatically loaded to recipients' Electronic Benefits Transfer cards on Wednesday, March 16.

The enhanced SNAP benefit is made available through a public health emergency declaration that requires government agencies to request an extension of emergency allotment issuances on a month-to-month basis. Accordingly, the status of future emergency allotment benefits will be determined by this monthly approval process.

SNAP participants with questions related to their benefits are encouraged to contact their local department of social services or visit CommonHelp at commonhelp.virginia.gov to access account information. For additional information regarding SNAP, how to apply, and other assistance programs, visit dss.virginia.gov/benefit/.

For streamlined access to other critical and actionable resources from 2-1-1 Virginia, CommonHelp, and other state and federal agencies, visit COVID.Virginia.gov/app to download the COVID-19 Virginia Resources mobile app.

The emergency allotments raise existing SNAP households' monthly benefit amount to the maximum allowable based on household size as follows for 48 States and D.C.:

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	\$250
2	\$459
3	\$658
4	\$835
5	\$992
6	\$1,190
7	\$1,316
8	\$1,504
Each additional person	\$188

Founder's Day celebration to focus on textile heritage

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will celebrate the local textile heritage at Founders Day on Sunday, March 20, 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Will Pannill will serve as the distinguished speaker. He is the grandson of William Letcher Pannill, considered a pioneer of Martinsville's textile industry by opening the Pannill Knitting Company in 1925. It was the first mill in the South to knit cotton textiles rather than spin yarn or weave cloth. Former employees of the various textile companies are especially invited to attend to be recognized. Attendees are also encouraged to wear or bring company products and other mementos.

John Phillips, president of the Historical Society, said, "Our status as the 'Sweatshirt Capital of the World' was not determined or defined by city or county lines. If not for one afternoon, let us gather as one community for Founders Day to celebrate our textile heritage. The slogan, 'The fabric of our lives,' certainly could be our community's mantra."

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

Tiger King from page 1



Two of Kahari's siblings frolic in the sanctuary they now call home. PETA's Director of Litigation, Asher Smith, said they are currently thriving. (Contributed photo.)



Dr. Keiper examines blow fly larvae under a microscope. Larvae like these were noted on the body of Kahari, a lion found dead while in the care of Lowe at the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Zoo in Wynnewood, OK. The museum, which was owned by Lowe at the time, was previously owned by "Tiger King" star Joe Exotic.

According to a U.S. District Court document filed in the Southern District of Indiana, Lowe stated that a park employee and Lowe's wife both observed all four lions "to be playful and of good health" on August 30, 2020.

That night, it stated, Lowe's "property was broken into, including kicking in the door to the animal nursery on the property." The next morning, Kahari was found dead.

"Upon further investigation of the lion's cage, a dart was found within the housing of the cage. It is suspected whoever kicked in the door to the animal nursery also shot or otherwise caused a dart to inject poison into the lion," the document stated.

A pathology report, completed by Oklahoma State University's College of Veterinary Medicine the afternoon after the alleged poisoning, was included in Lowe's filing, according to Smith, who said the report, dated Aug. 31, 2020, found no signs of poison or, "because Kahari's body was so thoroughly decomposed," any other signs of death.

"The only data we had," Smith said, "was a reference in the pathology report to the presence of small blow fly larvae up to 10 millimeters long." Lawyers are a bunch of humanities students, so it didn't occur to us that it was important. But one of our animal welfare experts told us it was strange, since these bugs were too large for Lowe's timeline to make sense, and that we needed to find a 'bug guy' to talk about a field we'd never heard of called forensic entomology."

Smith turned to Google. Given PETA's Virginia-based headquarters, one of the first search results was VMNH, "which yielded two experts, Dr. Kal Ivanov and Dr. Joe Keiper, with exactly the experience and knowledge we needed," he said.

Smith initially reached out to Ivanov, the museum's associate curator of recent invertebrates, for help with the case. Ivanov said he had good knowledge of entomology but limited forensic experience, and reached out to Keiper, who had a more extensive forensic entomology background, having previously consulted on cases for the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office, the Akron Police Department, and the F.B.I.

Looking at the information they were initially presented, "we decided we could certainly help," Ivanov said.

Ivanov said Smith provided several documents containing information about the case, including Lowe's testimony about the event and the necropsy report.

"They asked us, based upon the insect evidence, 'can you lay a timeline over the crime scene and see if their story matches the physical evidence?'" Keiper said. "And we said yes."

Keiper said several elements of that report seemed to contradict Lowe's account of events, including the level of decomposition, which seemed too advanced for such a short period of time.

Though neither is an expert in animal physiology, "we've looked at decomposing animals of all sorts including humans, including large animals, and we know when you start to get organs liquefying, it should be a matter of a couple or three days, not that they last saw the animal (alive) yesterday afternoon. There's not enough time elapsed."

Additionally, the size of the blow fly larvae found on the lion gave the entomologists a clue about the blow flies' stage of development, which in turn helped them estimate when the lion died.

Ivanov and Keiper said they made some "very conservative estimates" about how long it could take the maggots to reach the 5-10 millimeter stage noted in the necropsy report. They concluded that "not nearly enough time elapsed" to support the claim that the lion was alive on Aug. 30, and discovered dead the next morning.

Keiper and Ivanov examined hourly data from a weather station near the zoo to build an accumulated degree hour (ADH) model. "Blow flies grow at a rate that's well-known and very consistent," he said. Given hourly weather data and the size of the blow fly larvae, "we can tell you the approximate time of death of an animal or human based on the size and stage of development of the blow fly maggots."

Keiper and Ivanov explained that, once an animal dies, blow flies move in during the day (they do not lay eggs at night), and lay eggs within hours or even minutes following death.

"This was very straightforward," Keiper said. "You've got an animal that's outside with no building to prevent bugs from gaining access to the body, we've got a weather station nearby that can provide us reliable information about the local climate, and we have a DVM (doctor of veterinary medicine). We trust that she knows what 5 to 10 millimeters looks like."

The size of the larvae allowed them to determine, at a minimum, how far along the larvae were in their life stages. Applying their ADH model to the growth

of the maggots based on the local climate, Ivanov and Keiper determined that Kahari likely died at least the morning of the alleged break-in, more likely the day before or even earlier, meaning that the claims that Kahari was alive and even playful the evening of Aug. 30 were highly unlikely to be true.

Ultimately, Keiper presented their findings to an Oklahoma judge via Zoom in early February. Lowe did not appear at the trial to challenge any of the evidence presented against him. U.S. District Judge Stephen Friot ruled in PETA's favor.

"For reasons including the size of insects found on Kahari's body during her necropsy," Friot wrote in his findings of fact, "Kahari did not die at the approximate date and time Lowe reported."

"Although Lowe claimed a break-in occurred at his facility and that Kahari was poisoned during the break in, the evidence establishes that Kahari was not poisoned during such a break-in, or at all," the document stated.

Elsewhere in his findings, Friot describes the conditions Kahari and her siblings endured under Lowe's care.

The four lions were denied "adequate nutrition," and fed a diet of Kitten Milk Replacer—used for domestic cats—for the first four months they were in Lowe's care, according to the report. Once the lions transitioned to eating meat, they were fed "rancid, nutrient-deficient meat, which was their only food source."

This failure to provide adequate nutrition to the lions "was a cause of painful, injurious bone deformities, injuries to the lions' growth and immune systems, and other preventable injuries," the document stated.

One of the conditions suffered by the lions was "fly-strike," described in the document as "a self-perpetuating condition in which flies, seeking blood and tissue, bite and penetrate the skin of an animal, and lay eggs, which hatch maggots which start eating the animal's flesh."

Lowe, the court found, failed to take readily-available measures to prevent fly-strike and even exacerbated the problem by "leaving carcasses of recently deceased big cats in the open air near the four lions and having no fly traps."

The injuries suffered by the lions were treated by a sole veterinarian with "no training or experience in the care of exotic animals, including the lions," the document said. "The lions were provided inappropriate medications, and medications at inappropriate dosages."

Additionally, the lions were not provided with adequate enclosures or enrichment, and were placed in "small, virtually barren enclosures which lacked sufficient environmental features, shelters, or enhancements."

Lowe was found liable under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the "appalling cruelty" of the four lions, according to court documents and Smith, who said "Joe and Kal's help was critical" in the case.

"The premise of captive animal litigation under the Endangered Species Act is that each of these animals matter as individuals—under the law, their individual needs, welfare, and lives demand respect. We owed it to Kahari, even after ensuring her siblings' transfer to a properly accredited sanctuary, to legally establish that" the "mistreatment killed her, and that this was illegal," Smith said.

"Joe and Kal helped us do exactly that, winning us a decision that found, for reasons including the size of the insects found on Kahari, she did not die at the date and time Lowe reported and that the evidence establishes Kahari was not poisoned," he said. "Their contribution to our victory goes even deeper, though. Their professionalism and expertise were invaluable in helping show the judge that our entire case was credible, and had to be taken seriously."

"A finding of liability under the Endangered Species Act will follow Lowe for the rest of his life," Smith said. "In a narrow sense, the order ties up a loose end by establishing Lowe has no more rights to these specific lions. A finding of liability also prevents Lowe from engaging in some business activities with respect to other animals, including lions."

"The Endangered Species Act is also what's known as a fee-shifting law—PETA won more than \$700,000 in fees against Lowe's co-defendants in Indiana, and in the coming weeks PETA will submit its fee request to the Oklahoma federal court," Smith said.

As to the other lions that were removed, Smith said he still receives regular updates, and understands that they are "currently thriving in their new homes at properly accredited sanctuaries in Arkansas and Colorado."

One of Kahari's siblings, "who was emaciated and couldn't walk when she arrived at the sanctuary, just received a good to excellent prognosis at her last vet checkup," he said.

Mask Restrictions from page 1

- Work Week.
- *Recognized March 7-11, 2022 as National School Breakfast Week.
- *Recognized the division's common form assessment team for mathematics, which was one of 2 teams statewide to win a team award from the Virginia Association for School Curriculum and Development (VASCD).
- *Approved the consent agenda.
- *Approved the purchase of Apple devices and accessories for students and staff

in an effort to continue the 1:1 iPad initiative. Purchase of iPads, cases, and mobile device management software (MDM) for 1st, 5th, and 9th grade students is estimated at \$750,000 which could come from pending availability of year-end fund from the 2022 fiscal year (FY), ESSER II grant funds, or the technology or instruction budgets for FY 2023. The purchase of iPad pencils for teachers, estimated at \$58,000, would come from the FY22 instruction budget, while the purchase of additional accessories (up to \$100,000) could come from year-end FY22 funds, ESSR II grant funds, the FY23 technology budget, or the tech fee budget.

*Approved up to \$150,000 from the FY2022 instructional budget for the purchase of interactive boards for classrooms.

*Approved the continued health insurance coverage with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

*Approved a \$300,000 Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance (ViSSTA) program grant provided by the Virginia Department of Health for expenses related to testing and other issues related to COVID-19. The appropriation will be forwarded to the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

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Henry County Schools' common form assessment team for mathematics was recently recognized by the Virginia Association for School Curriculum and Development (VASCD) with a team award. The group was one of only 2 teams statewide to receive the award. (Contributed photo.)