



Food service staff member Joan Cardarelli serves meals to the day's first diners in the Kid's Café.

Kid's Café is ready to roll

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Henry County Public Schools has given the concept of "meals on wheels" a fresh, new look. This summer, the division introduced its Kid's Café, an old school bus that has been converted to a mobile cafeteria, bringing hot meals to area children throughout the summer.

Like many, the project was set to begin several years ago but was paused as the COVID-19 pandemic caused a nationwide shutdown, said Director of School Nutrition Marci Lexa, as she stood on a gravel road on Hephill Drive in Bassett Wednesday, awaiting the bus at its first stop of the day.

"When it started to look like things were

going to open up again this summer and we weren't going to be able to give grab and go (meals) anymore, then we started looking around for grants" to finish the project, she said.

During the pandemic, restrictions for the summer feeding program eased, no longer requiring meals to be consumed on-site. That restriction has returned for this summer.

Eventually, the division received funding from the nonprofit Share Our Strength through its No Kid Hungry program.

The bus was painted, air conditioning was installed, and the students at the Career

See *Kid's Cafe*, page 10

Council meeting grows tense over attorney contract discussion

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

An unplanned discussion regarding the contract of Martinsville City Attorney Eric Monday grew tense between city council members on Tuesday after council member Danny Turner broached the topic.

The item was not on the meeting agenda.

During a brief pause between agenda items, Turner said, "I would like to take a minute and ask that council consider review of the city attorney's contract, since we're in a free period of 60 days, to clean it up and make it solely a Martinsville contract."

"Should this be in public comment," asked Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, referring to the period of each meeting during which items not on the agenda are typically brought up by council members.

"Well, no. We can do business anytime we want to," Turner replied.

Mayor Kathy Lawson asked Turner if he was making a formal motion.

Turner responded he would like to make a motion for "a contract for the city attorney that

just includes Martinsville and cleans up the old contract. The old contract has Patrick County in it, and has him as a tax collector. All that has gone by the wayside.

"He has a job as the Assistant City Manager. Of course, that's not part of this contract because we only hire the City Manager and the City Attorney, so our contract with the City Attorney should be exclusive of that."

"I would second that," said council member Tammy Pearson.

A copy of Monday's contract was provided by Turner after the meeting. Dated 2007, the document states that Monday's employment agreement was made between the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and Martinsville City Council (collectively called "Employer") and employs Monday as Patrick's county attorney, as well as Martinsville's city attorney.

The contract specifies that Monday would "divide his working time equally between the County of Patrick and

See *Attorney Contract Discussion*, page 3

Old Glory celebrated on Flag Day



Left, Blue Ridge Regional Library Director Rick Ward raises a new American flag donated to the library by city council member Danny Turner. Turner donated a number of new flags to businesses within the city on Flag Day. Right, Roosky's Bar and Grill, a new uptown restaurant set up to open soon, was among the local businesses who received a new flag from Turner. Roosky's owner Clifton Barrow, a Marine Corps veteran, accepted the flag.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The Star-Spangled Banner. The Stars and Stripes. Old Glory. The United States flag has many nicknames, a storied history, and has become a symbol of the values of the nation. The U.S. celebrated Flag Day on Tuesday, and several area individuals and institutions found ways to honor the flag in the community.

A history of Flag Day

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society

and the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution partnered with the General Joseph Martin and Patrick Henry chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for the annual Flag Day ceremony.

W.C. Fowlkes, a member of the Historical Society Board, recounted the history of the American flag and the origins of Flag Day.

Though there are a number of origin stories, "this is the most likely one as we know today."

In Jun 1977, Congress passed a resolution regarding the design of the flag," he said.

That resolution stated, "that the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white in a blue field, representing the new constellation."

Fowlkes said that a flag of that design was first carried into battle on Sept. 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine. "The American flag was first saluted by foreign naval vessels on Feb. 14, 1778, when the Ranger, bearing the stars and stripes and under the command of Capt. Paul Jones arrived

See *Flag Day*, page 9

Safety in schools discussed in wake of Uvalde shooting

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

During its first meeting after an 18-year-old gunman used a legally-purchased AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle to murder 21 people, including 19 students between the ages of 9 and 11, and injure 17 others in Uvalde, TX, members of the Henry County School Board discussed safety in the local school division.

Terri Flanagan, of the Horsepasture District, said "With all that's gone on in our country the past weeks, we have got to make sure they (the students) understand that if they see something that's unusual, if they hear something, if they get a text, if they know somebody that's struggling, please let them know they can say something to somebody without fear of being recognized.

"We've got to do some of this stuff. This was the most," she said, pausing as she referenced the Uvalde incident. When she spoke again, her voice was choked with emotion, "horrible, horrible thing

See *Safety in Schools*, page 5



Henry County Public Schools Director of Facilities Maintenance Keith Scott discusses safety measures in place across the school division. Scott said the safety team performs building safety audits quarterly, though the state only requires such audits to be conducted every three years.

School administrators, board discuss staffing shortage

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

As the school year draws to a close, Henry County Public

Schools (HCPS) are faced with a number of staffing shortages, but administrators say funding exists to help those who want to pursue a career in education.

Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said Title II funding can be used for professional devel-

See *Staffing Shortage*, page 3



Henry County Public Schools Director of Human Resources Christy Landon told the Henry County School Board that there are a large number of job openings at the secondary level, and the staffing situation "does not look so good."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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)

Martinsville-Henry County YMCA (3 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

The Henry County School Board will hold a special meeting to close out the current fiscal year at 9 a.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville. A closed session meeting will follow.

(FSO) with a 4-mile paddle on Philpott Lake from Ryan's Branch Recreation Area to Calico Rock. To enjoy cool morning temperatures, participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Ryan's Branch launch on Fairy Stone Park Road (GPS 36.850780, -80.100160). Participants are asked to dress in layers of quick-drying fabric, to expect to get wet, to provide their own boat, paddles, life jacket for each boater, lunch and water, and are required to sign a waiver. For more information, contact Wayne Kirkpatrick at wynbtyk@embarqmail.com or at (540) 570-3511.

from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through September 29. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit martinsvilleuptown.com.

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 to schedule your appointment.

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 brrl.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 (276) 647-9585.

Saturday, June 18

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) is hosting its first ever Wildlife Festival! Join the museum for a scientific celebration of creatures big and small, furry and scaly. The festival will include animal taxidermy mounts, specimens from the collection, live animals including an American alligator, animal-themed face painting, wildlife-themed activities and crafts, and special presentations by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and other wildlife experts. For more information including pricing, visit www.vmnh.net.

Mountain Valley Brewing in Axton is hosting Pour for Paws to benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. \$1 for every pint sold goes to the SPCA as well as proceeds from the brewery's giving tap!

The Bassett Hwy 57 Cruise-In will take place in downtown Bassett from 3-7 p.m. See hundreds of classic cars and trucks while enjoying great food and music along the beautiful Smith River. There will be a 50/50 drawing to benefit the Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department. Admission is free. Visit bassettcruisein.com for more information.

Sunday, June 19

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society's Sunday Afternoon Lecture Series will feature "History's Greatest Map Mistakes" with Historical Society board member and cartographer Zack Fleming beginning at 3 p.m. at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum (1 East Main Street, Martinsville.) This talk is free and open to the public.

Monday, June 20

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the

Tuesday, June 21

End the first day of summer, the longest day of the year, and International Yoga Day with sunset yoga on the beautiful brick plaza of the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum (1 East Main Street, Martinsville.) Instructor Sheila Hubbard will guide yogis of all experience levels during this free event. First-timers are especially encouraged to attend. For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/3gy1BNFJi>.

Interested in playing some music? Come on out to bluegrass open jam nights at the Spencer Penn Center (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer)! The sessions are held every first and third Tuesday from 7-10 p.m. in the Alumni Hall/Spencer Room and are free to all musicians, though donations are welcome. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

Wednesday, June 22

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Collinsville Church of Christ (2115 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

New College Institute's (NCI) L.I.F.E. will host a program on dementia from 12-1:30 p.m. at NCI (191 Fayette Street, Martinsville.) What is dementia? How common is it? What are the signs? These are just some of the questions that will be answered by SOVAH Health's Dr. Matthew Arroyo. To register, visit https://share.hsforms.com/1M_qNSGshRpSIQs_gN_2wFQ4gd0j.

Thursday, June 23

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Hillcrest Baptist Church (18075 AL Philpott Highway, Ridgeway)

Friday, June 24

Henry County Parks and Recreation invites you to enjoy the movie "Sing 2" at Jack Dalton Park! Admission is free for all. Drinks, snacks, and candy will be available for purchase. The movie begins at 8:55 p.m.

Monday, June 27

Martinsville City Council will hold a Northside neighborhood meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Clearview Wesleyan Church (925 Barrows Mill Road, Martinsville). Council will tour the area prior to the meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its regular meeting at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville).

Martinsville City Council will hold its regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the City Municipal Building (55 West Church Street, Martinsville).

Friday, July 1

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society hosts Uptown First Friday on the plaza of the historic Henry County Courthouse (1 East Main Street, Martinsville) from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy open mic hosted by Kat and Dennis Calfee, food, and a cash bar. Admission is free!

Saturday, July 2

The Dan River Basin Association will host its monthly First Saturday Outing

Sunday, July 10 through Friday, July 15

Fort Trial Baptist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School. School will be held from 6:15-8 p.m. for children ages 2-5, from 6:15-8:30 p.m. for grades K-12, and adult sessions will begin at 7 p.m. Each night will have a different emphasis. For more information or to register, visit www.forttrialbaptist.com/events.

Friday, July 15

Henry County Parks and Recreation invites you to enjoy the movie "Space Jam: A New Legacy" at Jack Dalton Park! Admission is free for all. Drinks, snacks, and candy will be available for purchase. The movie begins at 8:55 p.m.

ONGOING

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., through November 20, and Wednesdays

Interest gauged for city school board posts

The Martinsville City Council on Tuesday held a public hearing to receive names of residents interested in appointments to the Martinsville City School Board.

There will be two openings, thus one appointment will be for one 3-year term ending June 30, 2025, currently held by Emily Parker; the other is for an unexpired 3-year term ending June 30, 2024, which is vacant after the resignation of Jay Dickens.

Those who put their names up for consideration include

Jim Woods, a former member of city council; Heather Blankenbaker, Michael Williamson, Kathy Carter, Shelby White, and Blake Shumate.

Parker, who was appointed in July 2019, did not ask for reappointment.

Dickens was appointed June 2021 and resigned on April 20, 2022.

City officials will schedule interviews for each of the candidates before appointing new members.



Heather Blankenbaker is one of several candidates to ask for consideration for appointment to the City School Board.

City resident earns Dean's List Honors at Shenandoah University

Fabiola Vazquez Becerra, of Martinsville, is one of 958 students who earned a spot on the Dean's List at Shenandoah University for the Spring 2022 semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Congressional staff to visit county, city

Staff from 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's office will visit Patrick County and Martinsville on June 22.

Staff will be in Martinsville, 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the City of Martinsville City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

From 12:30 – 2 p.m. staff will be in Patrick County, at the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	1	2	3		4	5	6	
	7				8	9	10	
12	13							11
14						15		16
18						19		20
21		22	23		24	25	26	27
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44	45				46		47	48
49			50		51			52
53		54	55			56	57	58
						59	60	
		61				62		
		63						
		64						65

CLUES ACROSS

1. Frowned by burning tobacco

4. Luxury automaker

7. Religious residences

12. Crusaders

14. Puzzled

15. In a curt way

18. Selling tool

19. Solid material

20. Gold

21. Thick piece of something

24. Pouch

27. "Wonder Years" actor

30. Strong and healthy

31. Waste matter

33. Apply lightly

34. Type of squad

35. Secret political faction

37. Mock

39. Immoral act

41. Early Syrian kingdom

42. Neutralizes alkalis

44. Loud, confused noise

47. Sweet potato

48. Yemen's largest city

49. Farm state

50. Bird's beak

52. Measures distance

53. Pacify

56. Spanish noble

61. Lodging supplied for public convenience

63. Womanized

64. Not divisible by two

65. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Used in perfumery

2. Arabic man's name

3. Assess

4. Prickly plants

5. Falsely assess

6. "___ the whistle"

7. Mama

8. Rocker ___ Vicious

9. Toward

10. Prefix meaning within

11. Midway between south and southeast

12. Cause to be embarrassed

13. Pandemonium

16. Fall behind

17. Cantonese

22. Shad

23. A way to make dark

24. Specialized systems consultant

25. Wings

26. Taxi driver

28. Linear units

29. Large Philippine plant

32. Celebration

36. Fugitives are on this

38. Chinese tree

40. Not sour

43. "Bourne" actor Matt

44. Former OSS

45. Runners run this

46. Offered again

51. Sanctuary

54. Food suitable for babies

55. Caused by a reflection of sound

56. Mortar trough

57. Days in mid-month

58. Exhibit the courage to do

59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology

60. Protects from weather

62. Manganese

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Attorney Contract Discussion

from page 1

the City of Martinsville” and “Be the statutorily designated agent ... for the collection of the respective localities’ delinquent real estate and personal property taxes.”

Should Monday be terminated for reasons other than real or suspected malfeasance, or the commission of a crime, he must be paid \$100,000 in severance pay.

“I’ve got no qualms about the buyout, I just want it to include just the City of Martinsville,” Turner said.

Should one of the two localities terminate Monday while the other chooses to retain him, “the terminating locality alone shall be responsible for payment of \$100,000 ..., notwithstanding any other provisions” of the agreement.

Tuesday’s discussion indicated that, while Monday no longer splits his time between Martinsville and Patrick County, the full \$100,000 severance continued to apply.

Bowles and council member Chad Martin both said they would prefer to review a copy of the contract before taking action on Turner’s motion.

“I want to move this to another meeting,” said Bowles.

“Okay. We’ve got another 45 days,” Turner responded.

“Mr. Turner,” said Monday, “that particular passage that says you can fire me without paying me any severance, it doesn’t give you the authority to unilaterally renegotiate my contract. I have to consent to that.”

“We could do that anytime. It doesn’t have to be within that period of time,” said Lawson.

“Well, let’s do it during this period of time since there’s a provision there,” Turner replied.

Monday said, “well, I will consider that, but it does require my consent.”

Martin asked what issue Turner was trying to highlight in the contract.

“You’ve got an employment agreement with Patrick County,” Turner responded. “You’ve also got an agreement where he’s the tax collector. It’s just awkward. We need to hire our city attorney, and this is the paperwork to hire our city attorney going forward.”

Bowles asked to table the motion.

“With all due respect, can’t we fire Eric and (City Manager) Leon (Towarnicki) any time,” she asked with a laugh.

“You can fire me whenever you want,” Monday replied, lightly.

“I guess what the contract is saying is, yes, but there is a large amount you have to pay out of it’s not done within a certain period of time of a certain day,” Pearson said.

When Bowles asked what the amount was, Pearson replied it is \$100,000.

“It’s \$50,000,” said Turner.

“It’s \$100,000,” Monday replied.

“It’s \$100,000,” Pearson said, “because Patrick



City Attorney Eric Monday discusses a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with scooter company Bird. Later, the council engaged in a tense discussion regarding Monday’s employment contract, which ultimately was cut short by Mayor Kathy Lawson, who contended the personnel matters should be discussed in closed session.

County is no longer involved in this.”

“To me this is a personnel matter, and it should be handled as a personnel matter,” said Lawson.

“I could not possibly agree more,” Monday replied.

“We will have closed session at our next meeting, and we will discuss that then,” Lawson said. “It’s a personnel matter. We don’t discuss personnel during open session. We will have this for discussion at our next meeting in closed session.”

Bowles said she did not feel Turner followed proper rules of order when broaching the topic.

“I feel like that was in the middle of a meeting that didn’t have any affiliation to what was on the agenda, and typically we don’t do that. And that’s not to say, Danny, that I don’t want to hear what you have to say. Of course, I do. But I felt like that’s not the typical ebb and flow of things that we do. It doesn’t have anything to do with what’s on the agenda.”

“I’ve talked about this for three years, and it never seems to be the ebb and flow of any perfect time,” Turner said.

Bowles began to reply, but Lawson interjected.

“We’re done with this conversation,” she said tersely. “We’re not having any more conversation. We are going to discuss this in a closed session. This is a personnel matter and we’re not having any more discussion. We’re moving to the next item, which is approval of the consent agenda.”

The council moved on to other agenda items without voting on Turner’s motion, which had been seconded, or Bowles’ request to table the motion.

During comments by members of council, Bowles, looking at Turner, said, “I’d like to say I hope we can follow Robert’s Rules of Order moving forward.”

In other matters, the council:

*Approved the minutes of work sessions on May 3, May 4, and May 18, and the May 10 council meeting.

*Held a public hearing to receive names of residents interested in being considered for an appointment to the school board. (See related story.)

*Authorized the City Treasurer to issue a refund totaling \$13,481.54 for prorated 2020 business license fees to a local business identified in abatement #64891 and #64992 of the Commissioner of the Revenue Bill Adjustment report dated June 8.

*Authorized city staff to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Bird, a commercial scooter operation. Monday said he expected the public-use scooters could be up and running by the July 4 weekend.

*Adopted a resolution changing the membership policy for the Arts & Cultural Committee. Despite no longer being in existence, the Martinsville Uptown & Revitalization Association continued to be listed as one of the constituent groups to be represented on the committee. The defunct organization was replaced with a representative from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

*Adopted a resolution accepting ownership of the former National Guard Armory located on Commonwealth Boulevard and authorized staff to execute transfer documents.

Staffing Shortage

from page 1

opment, “so we’re using that to support anyone out there that has a bachelor’s degree that would like to pursue the field of education. We can support them taking coursework or in their taking of the Praxis exam, any kind of support like that. We can use Title II to help people become teachers.”

While the number of vacancies in the division is “ever-changing,” Strayer said “it’s a lot. Pretty much any area you’re interested in, we have an opening.”

Director of Human Resources Christy Landon told the board that, as of last Thursday, “from a licensed staffing standpoint, we’re doing very well at the elementary level. We have only, I believe, one elementary teacher vacancy, and we have a recommendation to fill that.”

However, “at the secondary level, I’m afraid it does not look so good. Both of the middle schools and both of the high schools have quite a few licensed vacancies to fill, and we have quite a few classified positions to fill throughout the district, whether that be bus drivers, cafeteria workers,

paraprofessionals, (or) PALS (peer-assisted learning strategies) tutors,” Landon said.

While the state retirement system allows retirees to fill critical shortage positions in K-12 education, Landon explained that it is difficult to find people who meet the specific criteria required by the state, including a minimum 12-month break in service.

“That means in any capacity whatsoever from any VRS (Virginia Retirement System)-covered entity. So, they cannot have worked part-time or even volunteered for a VRS-covered entity for 12-months after retiring. Unfortunately, most people who are willing to come back in a critical shortage aspect have already been substituting or doing some other part-time work because, if they want to continue to work in some capacity, they get back into that as quickly as they can.

“Obviously we are in the great resignation right now,” Landon said of the large numbers of people who have left their jobs during and after the height of the pandemic. “The labor shortages that we are facing are not unique to Henry County Public

Schools in any way shape or form. All school divisions are facing it, and all other employers are facing it as well.”

Board member-at-large Cherie Whitlow said “even in transportation, we’re short drivers. You all are probably short of drivers.”

She said the division should prepare parents to expect delays in the coming school year if positions are not filled. “You probably need to be looking at finding a way to get students to school sometimes so there’s no shock factor,” she said.

As of Monday, June 13, the HCPS website listed 67 job openings, some of which have been posted for nearly a year. Martinsville City Public Schools currently lists 45 open positions.

For those who may be interested in working for the division, Landon said, “we can help them get the qualifications that they need. It’s a great place to work.”

Available jobs at HCPS can be found under the Human Resources tab on the Henry County Public Schools’ website, www.henry.k12.va.us.

Couple allegedly shoot each other during argument

An argument left one dead and one hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office.

The incident was reported to the Martinsville-Henry County Emergency 911 Center at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, by a man who stated that he had been shot at 89 Meadow Green Dr., Bassett. The caller alleged his girlfriend had shot him, and he had also shot her, the release stated.

Deputies responding to the scene found a man, identified as Tyson Jermall Hairston, 32, of S&L Court Collinsville. Hairston had suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the neck and torso. He was airlifted to a Roanoke hospital for treatment of life-threatening injuries.

Tambria Taylor, 32, of 89 Meadow Green Dr., Apt. 18, Bassett, also was found inside the apartment. She too suffered multiple gunshot wounds, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Taylor’s remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Western District of Virginia for an autopsy.

The preliminary investigation indicated an argument ensued between the two. During the altercation, both were armed with handguns. Each fired their weapons, hitting each other multiple times, according to the release.

This incident remains under investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at

(276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount.



Crime scene tape and Henry County Sheriff’s officers are pictured at the scene of a Sunday shooting incident which left one dead and another with life-threatening injuries. (Courtesy of BTW21)

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OPINION

A clarification

I learned that a friend of mine in law enforcement took offense at a column I wrote recently. His specific issue was with my assessment of the Uvalde Police Department, in which I described the officers who loitered outside the school for more than an hour while a massacre took place as “gutless cowards.”

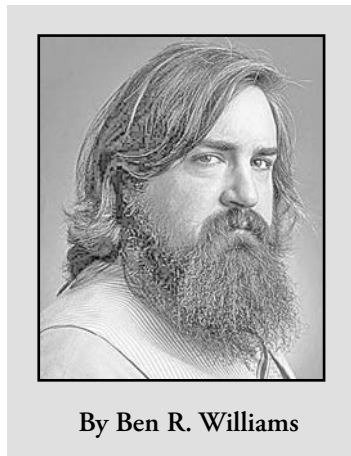
I heard all of this second-hand, but to my understanding, my friend thought I was painting all of law enforcement with that same broad brush. That’s probably on me for not being more specific, so I’d like to clear the record: the feelings I have toward the Uvalde Police Department are limited to those specific officers.

In fact, some readers might be surprised to learn that when I was a full-time journalist, I wrote a ton of stories about the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, the Martinsville Police Department, and the

Martinsville Sheriff’s Office. I think extremely highly of Sheriff Lane Perry, Chief Eddie Cassidy, and Sheriff Steve Draper. I have a great deal of respect for them and their deputies and officers, and I routinely tell people that we’re fortunate in Martinsville and Henry County to have law enforcement officers who are fair and honest in their dealings. That’s certainly not always the case.

I say all of that as someone with a healthy distrust of authority, and as someone who isn’t afraid to criticize law enforcement.

We’re living in a moment where criticism of law enforcement is reaching an all-time high, and I feel much of that criticism is warranted. Nonetheless, I have sympathy for the honest, compassionate men and women in law enforcement who genuinely just want to help people and have hate and invective



By Ben R. Williams

hurled their way.

Perhaps I’m sympathetic to it precisely because I’m a former journalist, one of the only other jobs where random strangers approach you on the street to tell you you’re bad at your job and everything you stand for is corrupt and wrong.

Having said that, I believe there’s one obvious reason why people tend to lump all of law enforcement together, and it’s fairly unique to that career.

If an accounting firm embezzles millions from a client, other accounting

firms don’t refuse to condemn them. If a firefighter turns out to be an arsonist, the firefighting community doesn’t circle the wagons and quietly support him.

And yet when something like the Uvalde massacre happens, we tend to hear silence from other members of law enforcement.

This is a situation in which a police department that receives 40% of the city budget refused to enter an elementary school during an active shooter situation, and THEN tackled, pepper sprayed, and even tasered parents as they attempted to rush in and rescue their children. After initially entering the school, the officers retreated and refused to go back inside for more than an hour, giving the shooter plenty of time to murder 19 children and two teachers.

The actions of the Uvalde PD are shameful, and I have a sinking feeling there’s more information yet to come to light that will make the situation even more condemnable. Why else would the department’s official stories

continue to shift and change with time, and why else would their police chief stop working with investigators?

You might say, “Well Ben, I bet YOU would have been afraid to rush in there and take out that gunman!” And yeah, I’m sure I would have been, which is why I have not pursued a career in law enforcement.

It’s not hard to condemn the Uvalde PD, and people across the board have done just that. One of the few things that Democrats and many Republicans seem to agree on is that Uvalde was a shameful botched response that cost many children their lives.

And yet I’m not hearing much condemnation from other police departments. A little bit would go a long way.

We’re told time and time again that we need to respect law enforcement because they put their lives on the line every day to protect us. If the Uvalde Police Department can’t hold up their end of the bargain, why should the rest of us?

NCI to host free Summer Health Careers Camp

The New College Institute will be hosting a free Health Careers Camp from June 21-24 for students in grades 8 to 10. The camp will be held at NCI at 191 Fayette Street, in Martinsville, and registration is currently open for interested students.

Health Careers Camp will provide a week of activities and hands-on experience for 24 rising high school students interested in exploring

the exciting world of health care. Students in grades 8 - 10 will have an opportunity to explore the various facets of health care at SOVAH Health, by visiting the simulator and Med/Life helicopter; as well as learning about health and safety careers with NASCA Racing at Martinsville Speedway.

The goal of the summer camp is for students to walk away with increased knowledge of multiple health care

opportunities allowing them to make a well-informed decision in pursuing a health career of their choice.

“Recently a report was released that projected a shortage of low-wage health care workers in the next five years and a shortage of doctors by 2033. Our NCI first-ever Health Careers Camp will explore the many different career paths students can pursue in our area, and

hopefully obtain credentials at local institutions that lead to a career in a health care,” said Janet Copenhaver, NCI Technology Instructor.

During the sessions, students will learn about a variety of health careers through hands-on discovery-based activities and exposure to healthcare education. There will also be opportunities to speak with health professionals, and health career infor-

mation will be provided. The camp is free and will run from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., June 21 - 24. Snacks and lunch will be provided for campers.

Space is limited. Interested students are encouraged to register online at <https://share.hsforms.com/1ZIXpGXO4RWuyHld0luo3jw4gd0j>.

For more information, call Erica McDaniel at (276) 403-5605 or email emcdaniel@newcollegeinstitute.org.

Lewis initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Margaret Lewis, a native of Martinsville, was recently initiated into the Sweet Briar College Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 320 new initiates from 15 universities in May 2022.

Students initiated into the

Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each

year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leader-

ship at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea-the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK’s mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collabora-

tion among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK’s leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society’s national headquarters are located in Lexington, Virginia.

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Dillard named the next director of joint 911 center

Tierra Dillard was selected as the next director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center.

Dillard, who has served as deputy director of the center for five years, will be the first African American and the first woman to hold the position.

“I am honored to be chosen as the next director of the 911 center,” Dillard said. “As I enter this new role, I’m excited to continue working alongside our amazing team and I hope to serve not only as a leader but as a role model for those who want to move up in this career field.”

Dillard first began working at the 911 Center as a telecommunicator in 2008. She transitioned to an Administrative Communications Technician in 2010 before taking over as deputy director in 2017.

“Tierra has a great work ethic, both personally and professionally, so choosing her to fill this position was an easy decision,” said Ted Anderson, chairman of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Communications Center Board of Directors. “I know she will make us proud as the new director.”

Along with her work at the 911 center, Dillard also works part-time as a Shelter Care Leader for a group home through the Anchor Commission. A graduate of Bassett High School, she received a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Old Dominion University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration from Liberty University.

Through her work at the 911 Center, Dillard has also amassed a number of certifications. She has certifications through the Virginia Criminal Information Network, the National Incident Management System, and the Association of Public

Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Dillard is also qualified as an instructor for courses through the Department of Criminal Justice Services and APCO.

Dillard will officially take over as director on July 1.



Tierra Dillard

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.

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

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

Safety in Schools from page 1



School board member Terri Flanagan, of the Horsepasture District, became emotional as she urged those present at Thursday's meeting to let students know that they should come forward if they believe someone is in need of adult intervention. "This was the most horrible, horrible thing that has ever happened to our country," she said of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, TX that claimed the lives of 21 people, including 19 children.

that has ever happened in our country and these kids did not deserve this, and people knew. There were people out there that knew that something was wrong."

Multiple news outlets have reported that the gunman hinted at his plans, including posting a photo of two rifles to his social media, which did not escape the notice of students and former students who knew the man. He also video chatted with a teen girl in Germany as he visited a gun store, unpacked a box of ammunition he ordered online, and displayed a duffel bag containing ammunition and a rifle.

In a May news conference, police said the gunman previously asked his sister to purchase a gun for him. Though she refused, he ultimately purchased two rifles himself after his 18th birthday, which was just days before the attack.

"We as parents cannot keep them safe after they go off to school," Flanagan said. "They have to do the best they can do to keep themselves and their friends and their teachers as safe as they can. So, please remember to talk to them, send something out to tell them they need to step up and talk about these things. It's a different world out there today, and we've got to do something to change all of this."

Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer said, "safety is and always has been and continues to be a priority for Henry County Schools. As new laws are coming out about safety procedures and protocols ... I'm happy to say we're ahead of the curve because a lot of those laws, when they came out, we're already doing those, so we can focus on the next step."

Strayer said the school division's safety and crisis plan had multiple layers, all designed to keep schools safe.

"Some of it we share, some we don't, because we want to keep those things private" for security purposes, she explained. However, a "huge part" of the plan developed by the crisis team is relationships. "It's talking to people, it's understanding when people look different, speak differently, we do something about it."

She said that United Way provides an anonymous hotline for students and families to report any concerns, and "we also have our wonderful resource officers that spend time in lunchrooms and car rider duties, in hallways and classrooms" talking to students and building relationships, "and that truly makes a difference when you can confide in a person that's in your building that's there to keep you safe."

Strayer said school safety was a "passion project" for Director of Facilities Maintenance Keith Scott.

Scott told the board that the safety committee, which is made up of administrators from each level of the school buildings, including central office staff, transportation, and school nutrition, as well as a representative from the Henry County Sheriff's Office, meets every other month to discuss issues across HCPS campuses.

"It's not one individual, it's every individual working together," Scott said, adding that Director of Communications Monica Hatchett brings up safety at each principals' meeting. "Obviously, it is at the forefront of our discussions. It keeps us up at night. We have a lot of procedures in place," and safety team members are always bringing up new ideas and new technologies at each meeting.

Even though the state requires a building security audit every three years, he said HCPS performs a quarterly audit at each site, sending information back to principals to point out any issues they uncovered.

"We know that the most prized possession of any parent is their child," Strayer said. "When they drop their child off at our doors, they become

TABLE 3: WHO NOTICED CONCERNING BEHAVIORS

Who Noticed	Number	%
Schoolmate*	11	92
Spouse/domestic partner**	13	87
Teacher/school staff*	9	75
Family member	43	68
Friend	32	51
Co-worker	25	40
Other (e.g. neighbors)	23	37
Law enforcement	16	25
Online individual	6	10
Religious mentor	3	5

* Percentage calculated only with those active shooters who were students at the time of the offense

** Percentage calculated only with those active shooters who were in a relationship at the time of the offense

A table included in a 2018 study by the FBI indicates those who noticed concerning behaviors in 63 active shooters between 2000 and 2013.

our most important concern. I treat that child like they're mine. That's how we all at HCPS feel that we should treat those children to ensure their safety."

A 2018 study published by the FBI, which examined active shooter incidents in the U.S. between 2000 and 2013, found that of the 63 active shooters examined in the study, "on average, each active shooter displayed 4 to 5 concerning behaviors over time that were observable to others around the shooter. The most frequently occurring concerning behaviors were related to the active shooter's mental health, problematic interpersonal reactions, and leakage of violent intent."

According to the study, when such behaviors were observed by others, "the most common response was to communicate directly to the active shooter (83%) or do nothing (54%). In 41% of the cases the concerning behavior was reported to law enforcement."

Students and teachers were most likely to observe these concerning behaviors in people under the age of 18, the study found.

According to data collected by journalists working for the independent news organization Education Week, which covers K-12 education, there have been 27 school shootings in 2022 and 119 since the organization began tracking such incidents in 2018.

Data from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Naval Postgraduate School's K-12 School Shooting database, which collects information on shooting incidents at K-12 schools beginning in 1970 indicated that 43.1 percent of school shooters are students.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved bonuses in the amount of \$1,200 for all eligible full-time and part-time employees for a total estimated fiscal impact of \$1,493,041. An appropriation of \$121,429 from the HCPS Administration/Attendance and Health Budget was recommended to fund the cost of bonuses for eligible School Nutrition staff. It was forwarded to the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

*Recognized a number of students for year-end achievements.

*Approved the consent agenda, which included grant applications for Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; and Title IV, Part A for the 2022-2023 school year and the Title V, Rural-Low Income School

Funding application.

*Approved the 2022-2023 Title I, Part A Improving Basic Program Grant Application.

*Approved revisions to the Student Code of Conduct concerning the student dress code and the use of personal electronic devices.

*Approved the Athletics & Activities Handbook.

*Awarded a contract for sanitation and safety services, including supplying non-toxic cleaning and ware-washing supplies, to PortionPac Chemical Corporation and authorized the division to exercise subsequent renewals in accordance with the terms of the contract. PortionPac is the current vendor and was the only vendor to respond to a request for proposals. The estimated fiscal impact is \$42,732, which will come from the FY22-23 cafeteria operating budget. The value of the contract will exceed \$228,660 if renewed annually for five years.

*Awarded a contract for the purchase of dairy products for school cafeterias to United Dairy, Inc. of Roanoke and authorized the division to exercise subsequent renewals in accordance with the terms of the contract. United Dairy was the only vendor that responded to the request for proposals. The estimated fiscal impact is \$410,000 from the FY23 cafeteria operating budget.

*Awarded a contract for new steer tires to Kirby Greer Enterprises, LLC doing business as Cunningham Tire of Bassett, and a bid for recapped tires to Jimmy's Retreading of Collinsville, and authorized the division to exercise subsequent renewals of each contract in accordance with the terms of the respective contract. The approximate cost of tires for the upcoming 2022/2023 school year is a maximum of \$147,375. According to Dr. David Scott, assistant superintendent for operations and administrative services, HCPS uses approximately 275 new tires on steering axles and 375 reconditioned tires on rear axles each year.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$102,579 to the special grants category for fiscal year 2022 and forwarded the appropriation request to the Henry County Board of Supervisors. HCPS will receive additional funding from the Virginia Department of Education as part of the Students with Intensive Support Needs (SISNA) Grant for the FY22 school year to be carried over to the 2022/2023 year that will exceed the current overall amount budgeted for the special grants category, hence the need for the additional appropriation.

Cabler named to 40 Under 40 in Montgomery County

Carter Bank & Trust Community Banking Officer James Cabler was recently named to the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 40 under 40 list.

The list celebrates and recognizes young talent that lives and works for businesses in the New River Valley that are making a difference in the community.

"It's an incredible honor and I'm humbled to be recognized by the Montgomery County Chamber," Cabler said. "I am grateful to work for a company that empowers its employees to be ambassadors and advocates for the communities we serve."

"James is a mover and shaker for Montgomery County," said Stefany Shaw, vice president and area manager for Carter Bank & Trust. "He has

a true passion for the people and community and is making a difference in Montgomery County.

"This award is well deserved."

The bank, which is headquartered in Martinsville and has branches throughout Virginia and North Carolina, also was named a Best Place to Work in the New River Valley and a Top Tier Financial Services Institution in the New River Valley for 2022.

"We've worked very hard to build a culture that's rewarding for our employees and makes us a desirable place to work, while also offering financial solutions to fit almost every need," Commercial Market Manager Jason Hardy said. "To see that work be recognized by the Chamber serves as great validation that we're doing good things in the New River Valley."

Carter Bank & Trust has six branches including Blacksburg, Christiansburg and throughout the New River Valley, and Radford.

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Three key roles filled in county schools

The Henry County School Board approved the Superintendent Sandy Strayer's recommendation to fill three administrative positions at its June 9 meeting.

Krystle Churchill will be assistant principal at Magna Vista High School. Churchill has served students in Chesterfield County as an ESL teacher and dean of students.

"I am honored to be joining the administrative team at Magna Vista High School. I am thrilled to be back home and serving our Warrior community in this new role. I am looking forward to meeting the faculty, our students, parents, and families."

Charles White will be director of pupil transportation. White has served students in Franklin County as a teacher and bus driver.

"I look forward to the opportunity to work with this group of great individuals to add to the growth of Henry County Public Schools."

Duane Whittaker will be principal at Magna Vista High School. Whittaker, who currently serves as the supervisor of Regional Alternative Program, has served students as an administrator in



Duane Whittaker



Krystle Churchill



Charles White

Henry County and in North Carolina since 1998.

"I am honored to return to Magna Vista to serve the Warrior community as principal. There are a countless number of my family that have an educational foundation that began at Magna Vista High School. That foundation has allowed them to continue to grow educationally within and beyond the borders of our county," he said.

"The students at Magna Vista are only limited by the biggest dreams or goals they set for themselves. I look forward to collaborating with the staff, families, and members of our community

who work so tirelessly to offer our students the encouragement and support they need to be their very best. Together, we will continue to propel each of our learners to greatness. I welcome the opportunity to talk with all stakeholders about their specific child and any concerns they may have." Whittaker added.

The appointments were approved after the board reconvened from closed session.

"I am pleased to have these leaders join our team as we continue to offer our students the encouragement and support they need to be their very best," said Strayer.

Henry County among localities to benefit from initial fiber build

Brightspeed recently announced that it will deliver, by the end of next year, over 60,000 new fiber passings in the first phase of its fiber network build in the state of Virginia. Brightspeed further plans an additional 70,000 fiber passings in subsequent years of its network transformation program, for a total of up to 130,000 fiber-enabled locations in Virginia.

Virginia is among the 20 states that comprise Brightspeed's operating territory, mainly in rural and suburban settings. Brightspeed previously announced plans to invest at least \$2 billion in its fiber optics transformation, which is expected to reach up to 3 million homes and businesses over the next five years, including in many locations where fiber and advanced technology have not historically been deployed. The company will initially be comprised of the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) assets and associated operations of Lumen Technologies (NYSE: LUMN), which are the subject of a pending acquisition by Apollo-managed funds (NYSE: APO). The parties expect to obtain regulatory approvals in the third quarter of this year, and to close the transaction in early fourth quarter.

"We are looking forward to the start of our ambitious network build in Virginia," said Tom Maguire, Chief Operating Officer of Brightspeed. "Households and businesses have a critical need for reliable, high-quality internet to help them accomplish what is most important, whether it is working from home, remote learning, access to healthcare, streaming entertainment, or simply staying connected with others. We are excited to offer

a new choice in internet and the full capabilities of our advanced fiber network to the residents and businesses in our Virginia footprint."

By the end of 2023, Brightspeed will bring faster, more reliable internet and Wi-Fi to over 60,000 residential and commercial locations in portions of the city of Charlottesville, as well as parts of Albemarle, Campbell, Henry, Page, Rockbridge, and Smyth counties.

"Expanding access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet has been a Day One promise for Governor Youngkin," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "Improved broadband infrastructure will play a crucial role in jumpstarting our economy, ensuring opportunity across the Commonwealth, and giving all Virginians the resources they need to thrive."

Brightspeed is leveraging the latest technology innovations as part of its network transformation, including the deployment of XGSPON, a state-of-the-art architecture capable of symmetrical internet speeds exceeding 1Gbps, and the fiber necessary to deliver the ultra-fast connections to homes and businesses. After the close of the transaction between the Apollo funds and Lumen, Brightspeed will begin to sign customers onto its network.

Brightspeed plans to release its other state-specific network build plans in the coming weeks.

For more information about Brightspeed, visit the company's website, www.brightspeed.com.

Waivers for infant formula offered

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering nationwide waivers to increase access to infant formula for families in need as states receive and distribute imported infant formula made available by the Biden-Harris Administration's Operation Fly Formula.

USDA is leveraging new authority

from the recently passed Access to Baby Formula Act to offer this flexibility.

"USDA is committed to providing our WIC families with nutritious foods, and while we continue working with our many partners to bring the infant formula shortages to a speedy conclusion, we're also going to keep looking for ways to help families here and now," said Stacy Dean, USDA's deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition, and consumer services. "We're maximizing flexibility, encouraging action, and providing ongoing support so we can all overcome this obstacle together."

The action builds on existing flexibilities to provide widest access to available infant formula for WIC families. Within days of the recall, USDA offered WIC state agencies waivers to maximize formula options for WIC participants and ensure they could exchange or return any recalled formula. To date, USDA has approved well over 250 state waiver requests.

In addition, Food and Nutrition Service recently encouraged state

agencies to work with their infant formula manufacturers to identify and implement temporary flexibility in their contracts to allow WIC participants to purchase alternate sizes, forms, or brands of infant formula during the ongoing shortage. North Carolina and its formula manufacturer, Nestle Gerber, are the first to have put this into action by agreeing to a contract modification that expands access to formula for WIC participants in the state.

"When formula supply began to tighten, we looked at all avenues to ensure safe and nutritious options for North Carolina babies and families," said North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "We immediately began working with our federal partners and with our contracted WIC manufacturer, Nestle Gerber, to give families in the WIC program the flexibility to choose different sizes, types and brands of formula during the shortage. We negotiated and implemented these changes as quickly as possible to relieve some of the stress that WIC-participating families felt."

Food and Nutrition Service is encouraged by the action taken by North Carolina. "We are grateful for the leadership and teamwork of North Carolina and Nestle Gerber to increase formula access for WIC families in their state," said Dean. The agency recently shared best practices with WIC state agencies to help them establish contract flexibilities that will help WIC participants access the formula they need.

The USDA continues to work closely with HHS and FDA and the

administration to support WIC families through this challenging time and to bring to a swift end to the shortage. Recent USDA actions include:

*Coordinating cross-government to rapidly transport safe specialty formulas into the country for babies with special medical needs through Operation Fly Formula. More shipments, including regular formula, are on the way in the coming days.

*Calling on states to take advantage of all available WIC flexibilities that could help those they serve. Since May 13, when USDA wrote to state health commissioners on this issue, more than 50 new waivers have been requested and approved, with all 50 states now offering at least one flexibility to help WIC families get the formula they need.

*Engaging directly with WIC stakeholders including holding multiple listening sessions to better understand current needs and concerns.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service leverages its 15 nutrition assistance programs to ensure that children, low-income individuals, and families have opportunities for a better future through equitable access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food, while building a more resilient food system. Under the leadership of Secretary Tom Vilsack, FNS is fighting to end food and nutrition insecurity for all through programs such as SNAP, school meals, and WIC. FNS also provides science-based nutrition recommendations through the co-development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To learn more, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Educational Talent Search Advisor, Nursing & Health Sciences Assistant, Janitor, Build-

ing and Grounds Technician, Workforce Grants Specialist, Workforce Grants Advisor, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, Head Tennis Coach, 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.

HELP WANTED

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY SERVICES

Piedmont Community Services, serving Martinsville, Henry, Franklin and Patrick counties, has the following job opening:

Full time position with benefits available for a Residential Manager (Position Number CS-543-15) for group home in Patrick Springs, VA serving adults with intellectual disabilities. Duties include developing & implementing individual service plans, supervising residential staff, providing training for adults with intellectual disabilities in independent living skills, personal hygiene, leisure/recreational skills & community inclusion. Experience working with group home, program management, & staff supervision. Evening & some weekend hours required. Bachelor's degree in human

HELP WANTED

services with at least one year experience working with adults with intellectual disabilities. Must meet QDDP qualifications. Salary commensurate with education & experience as it relates to the position, residence in close proximity to Patrick Springs VA preferred.

A Piedmont Community Services application is REQUIRED & may be obtained online at <http://www.piedmontcsb.org/ApplyOnline.html>

PCS provides excellent benefits & is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.



Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Martinsville Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board will hold a joint public meeting on June 23, 2022, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and held at the New College Institute located at 191 Fayette Street. The meeting is being held for educational and training purposes and will be conducted by representatives from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. This opportunity will provide attendees with information on the roles and responsibilities of a historic review board, standards for historic renovation and design, the City's local historic districts, and National Register District Expansions. Questions can be directed to Hannah Powell at hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us or (276) 403-5156.

Notice Submitted By: Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **June 29, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following case:

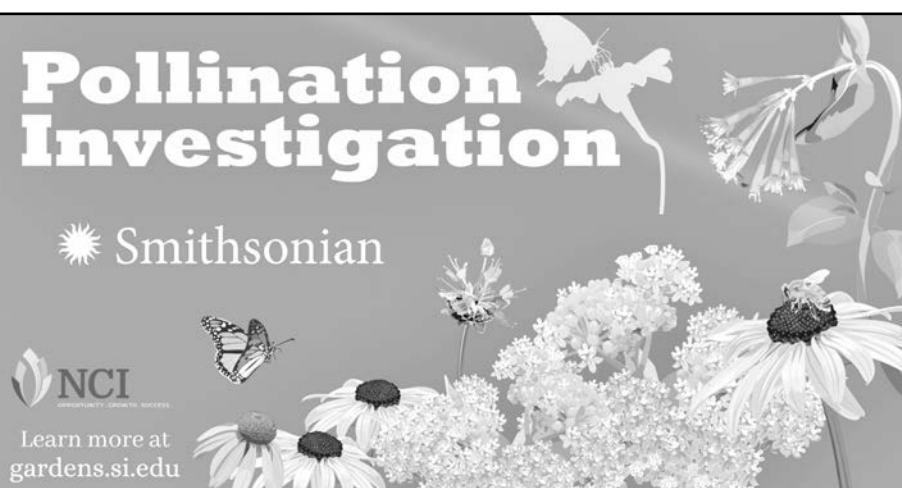
Case S-22-10 Shifting Sands Solar, LLC

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-1801 through 21-1808; and 21-302 and 21-1102 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The properties are located on the east and west side of Old Sand Rd., approximately 0.4-miles south of its intersection with Eggleston Falls Rd., in the Ridgeway District, and zoned as both Agricultural District A-1 and Industrial District I-1. The Tax Map numbers are 62.3/87 and 62.2/73. The proposal is to develop an 18.8MW facility on approximately 268-acres.

The application for this request 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

NCI hosts traveling Smithsonian Poster Exhibit on pollinators



The New College Institute is currently showcasing a Smithsonian Gardens and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit entitled "Pollination Investigation," a poster exhibition that explores the who, what, when, where, why, and how of pollination by interpreting the unique relationship between pollinators and flowers. The exhibit will be on display in the lobby of New College Institute's Baldwin Building from June 1 through August 31.

Nearly 90 percent of flowering plants rely on approximately 200,000 species of animal pollinators for fertilization. "Pollination Investigation" showcases how pollinators are vital for a strong ecosystem as most plants need their help to fertilize flowers and reproduce. The exhibit features seven "pollinator profiles" for bees, beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds, flies, moths, and wind (along with special references to bats and water). Using a field-journal theme, each profile describes the pollinators' favorite flowers based on floral characteristics encouraging exploration into flower shape, color, scent, and more. The set of 14 posters is bilingual (English and Spanish) and designed to educate and inspire people to explore the natural world looking at flowers and insects.

"Pollination Investigation" is distributed at no cost to schools, libraries, museums and community organizations. It was created by Smithsonian Gardens in collaboration with the National Museum of Natural History and made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It is funded in part by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

Wikstrom named Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services

After an intensive, nationwide search, Dr. Christopher Wikstrom was named the Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

"Dr. Wikstrom's extensive experience and expertise in areas of faculty leadership, institutional research/effectiveness, strategic planning, and accreditation combined with his student-centered focus makes him an outstanding choice for this critical position," said Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC President. "I am confident that he is the right person at the right time to help us fulfill our mission of enhancing the economic mobility of our students and their families."

Originally from Blacksburg, VA, Dr. Wikstrom began his educational career as a math teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools before taking a similar position with Patrick County Public Schools in Stuart, VA, where he currently lives. Wikstrom came to P&HCC in 2011 as a math professor before becoming the Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness and Interim Dean of Academic Success and College Transfer. Dr. Wikstrom is a graduate of Virginia Tech where he received

his bachelor's and master's degrees, and Old Dominion University where he earned his Ph.D. in 2018.

"I'm very humbled and excited to step into this new role and serve this incredible community in this capacity," said Wikstrom. "Patrick & Henry is an integral part of the community for which the success of our students is my top priority."

Dr. Wikstrom begins his tenure at P&HCC on July 1.



Dr. Christopher Wikstrom

VMNH's first-ever Wildlife Festival set for Saturday, June 18

A scientific celebration of creatures big and small, furry and scaly, is set to take place at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) on Saturday, June 18, when the museum hosts its first-ever Wildlife Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, which is part of the museum's annual Science Festival series, will offer visitors a chance to view a wide variety of live animals, museum animal taxidermy mounts, and specimens from the museum's scientific collections, as well as the opportunity to experience special presentations by wildlife experts and participate in wildlife-themed activities and crafts.

"If you love animals, or simply want a fun, family-friendly outing, our inaugural Wildlife Festival is the place to be," said VMNH Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix. "Just for the price of general admission, visitors will have access to all of the festival offerings, as well as access to the museum's exhibit galleries."

A highlight of this year's event is the lineup of live animals scheduled to make an appearance at the festival, including:

- Birds of Prey (raptors)
- Monocled Cobra
- Eastern Rat Snake
- Hog-nosed Snake
- Coachwhip Snake
- Louisiana Pine Snake
- Canebroke Rattlesnake
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Western Diamondback Rattlesnake
- Cottonmouth
- Eastern Copperhead
- Burmese Python
- Jaguar Carpet Python
- American Alligator (juvenile)
- Large Snapping Turtle
- Woodland Box Turtle
- Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin Turtle



- Blue-tongued Skink
- Giant Cane Toad
- Black Widow Spider
- Deathstalker Scorpion
- Australian Fattail Scorpion
- Giant Vinegaroon
- African Spurred Tortoise

For the festival, the museum will also bring out a variety of specimens from its animal taxidermy collections that are not normally on public exhibit, including red and gray foxes.

"The museum's Lee and George W. Lester, II How Nature Works gallery and Hahn Hall of Biodiversity offer visitors a wealth of amazing taxidermy displays to view every day, but Wildlife Festival will also provide visitors with a one-day-only opportunity to view specimens that haven't been exhibited in many years," said Hendrix.

Additionally, Wildlife Festival will offer visitors the opportunity to experience special presentations by wildlife experts, including:

"Animal Control...Questions, Concerns, & What to do?"

Presented by Jayme Clark, Martinsville Animal Control Officer, at 11 a.m.

"Bears, Bobcats, and Coyotes...Oh, My!"

Presented by Katie Martin, Deer, Bear, Turkey Biologist

at the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, at 1 p.m.

"Wild Wonders in Your Backyard"

Presented by Darin Handy, All Are God's Creatures Sanctuary, at 3 p.m.

"While an expense is placed on offering visitors a lot of fun and excitement when they attend a VMNH Science Festival, these events are equally purposed to provide visitors with an exceptional learning experience and appreciation for our natural world," said Hendrix. "We're really excited to offer visitors the opportunity to learn from three amazing animal and wildlife experts through our lineup of special presentations."

Wildlife Festival will also feature all of the fun activities visitors have come to expect from a VMNH Science Festival. The event will offer balloon animals, face painting, caricature art, and wildlife-themed crafts and activities led by the museum's education department. Food trucks will also be stationed outside of the museum to provide visitors with lunch and snack options.

"We excel at science here at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, but we also have a knack for fun," said Hendrix. "We're really excited to offer visitors a very special day on June 18."

Admission to the festival is \$10 for adults ages 18-59 and \$5 for children and youth ages 3-17, college students, and seniors 60 and older. Admission is free for children under 3, VMNH Members, members of ASTC Passport participating institutions, and EBT card holders who present their EBT card and official photo ID at the door.

Wildlife Festival is made possible due to the support of The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust.

To learn more about the festival, visit www.vmnh.net/events/wildlife-festival. To learn more about the Virginia Museum of Natural History, visit www.vmnh.net.

OBITUARIES

Larry Ray Bates

Larry Ray Bates, 63, of Martinsville, VA passed away Saturday, June 11, 2022, at his home. He was born July 15, 1958, in Pittsylvania County, VA to Nancy Hazel Parker Bates and the late Hubert Junior Bates.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Debbie Bates; daughter, Britaney Fife; son, Colin Walker (Katie); grandsons, Asher Fife and Graham Walker; sister, Barbara Mays (Ricky); brothers, Kenneth Bates (Lynda) and



Michael Bates (Joy); and lots of special friends.

Larry worked as Maintenance Manager at a recycling facility. He loved his work and he loved to fish.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at Roselawn Burial Park. Minister Lee Ashley officiated.

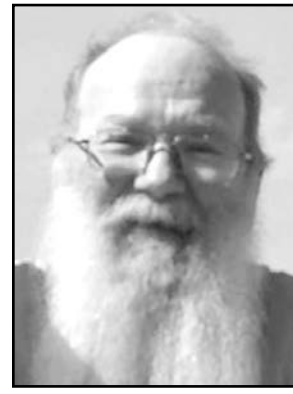
Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Bates family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Thomas Dean Boyd

Thomas Dean Boyd, 68, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at his home. He was born on October 6, 1953, in Martinsville, VA to the late Winford S. Boyd, Sr., and Mabel Sigmon Martin. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brothers, Ray "Tex" Martin, and Greg Boyd; and his stepfather, Ralph Martin.

Dean worked at E.I. DuPont for twenty-five years, Dominion Quikrete and was a delivery driver for Meeks Recycling. He was a lifetime member of the Patrick Henry Saddle Club and Mayo Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Susie T. Boyd; daughters, Tanya B. Stultz (Jeremy), Jessica L. Roop, Courtney B. Fain (Devyn Harter), and Montana D. Meeks (Josh); son-in-law, Steve



Roop; sisters, Lessie Shaughnessy (Terry), Mary Ann Boyd, and Wendy Parnell (Robert); brothers, Richard Martin (Teresa) and Winford Boyd, Jr.; grandchildren, Billi Dean Grindstaff, James E. Roop, Jackson L. Fain, Elsie S. Meeks, Vinnie S. Harter, Easton M. Meeks; step-grandchildren, Jacob R. Stultz, Abigail R. Stultz, and

Tanner E. Stultz. Also surviving are a host of nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

The funeral was held Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, with Pastors Tim Wood and Sam Caldwell officiating. Burial was in Boyd Family Cemetery.

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

George R. Brown

George R. Brown, 85, of Collinsville, Va. passed away peacefully in his sleep Friday, June 10, 2022. He was born February 26, 1937, in Midland, Texas to Grady E. Brown and Zenoba Tekell Powers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his step-father Kenneth D. Powers; brothers, Ronald E. Brown and Doyle E. Brown; granddaughter, Emma Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Meredith Brown; sons, D. Keith Meredith (Sparkle) and David W. Brown (Michelle); grandchildren, Zachery Brown (fiancé Emma), Holly Brown (fiancé Hannah), and Maia Brown; daughter, Lori M. Harris (Wayne); grandchildren Aaron Harris (Adrienne), Chelsea Rakes (Micah); daughter Angela B. Whalen (Eric); grandchildren, Alex Whalen, Quinten Whalen (Kaitlynn) and Stephanie Whalen; great grandchildren, Ryan Taylor and Oliver Harris; brother, C. Mack Brown.



George served active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1959 and in the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1960 to 1965. He retired after 34 years of working as a self-employed CPA. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Collinsville, Gideon's International, Snow Creek Masonic Lodge #90 A.F. & A.M.

George loved his family. He also loved music, reading, dancing and traveling.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Collinsville, officiated by Pastor Larry Cheek.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Collinsville, P.O. Box 36, Collinsville, VA. 24078 or The Gideons International, Henry Co. East Camp, P.O. Box 1243, Martinsville, VA 24114.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Nancy Irene Wilson Maxey

Nancy Irene Wilson Maxey, 82, of Axton, VA passed away Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Sovah Health-Martinsville. She was born August 9, 1939, in Axton, VA to the late Samuel Clay Wilson and Jessie Mae Barker Wilson. In addition to her parents. She was preceded in death by her husband, Garvin Lewis Maxey; grandson, Travis Maxey; and brother, David Clay "P.D." Wilson.

She is survived by her son, Jeff Maxey (Kelly Davis) of Leatherwood; granddaughter, Emily Maxey; sisters, Hazel Overton (Ronnie), Betty Overton (David), Brenda Wilson, Martha Wilson Soots (Wayne), and



Jane Perkins (David), all of Axton, VA; and brother, Jerry Lee Wilson (Debbie) of Eden, NC. She is also survived by her dear friends, Russell and Judy Vaughn.

Mrs. Maxey was a member of Carroll Memorial Methodist Church and worked as a florist at Yeatts Nursery.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Roger Wilson officiating. Burial was at the Mountain View Cemetery in Ridgeway, VA.

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

Silvie "Cotton" Nunley

Silvie "Cotton" Nunley, 84, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away June 7, 2022, at his residence. He was born October 18, 1937, in Brewsterdale, West Virginia, to the late Ezra Linkous Nunley and Nellie Bowman Nunley.

He was a dedicated employee of Stanley Furniture for thirty plus years. He sponsored St. Jude's Children's Hospital, was a member of the NRA, and loved to hunt. In his spare time, you could see him in his chair eating a fudge round.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Hattie Stevenson, and grandson, Richard Lee Boyce, Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Bartfai Nunley; daughters, Mandy Ayers (David), Melody Martin (Todd), Melena Roberson (Jon); son, Shannon Nunley



(Amy); brother, Corbie Nunley; grandchildren, Malachi Mabe, Kelsey Tinsley, Kailea Martin, Breyer Martin, Caden Ayers, Carter (Mowgli) Ayers, Chanae McMasters, Jocelyn Roberson, Samantha Tuggle, Mary Katherine Boyce; great grandchildren, Carson Dickerson, Paisley Witt, Olivia Dickerson, Paityn McMasters, Landen

McMasters, Amy Jo Spencer, Shyann Ring, Ava Spencer, Richard Lee Boyce, III, and Elizabeth Boyce.

The funeral was held on Friday, June 10, 2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. Pastor Melton Roberson officiated and Eulogist, Ray Craiger. Burial was at Roselawn Memorial Park.

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

Mary Louise Stewart Rogers

Mary Louise Stewart Rogers passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. She was born in Henry County on October 13, 1940, to the late Harry L. Stewart and Virgie Ziglar Stewart. Louise was the wife of the late Buddie Ray Rogers and the sister to her late brothers, Harry "Wesley" William, Ernest, James, Howard Leroy and Warren Stewart.

She is survived by one son, Michael Ray Rogers (Christy); grandchildren, Justin Rogers (Carson) and Nicole Rogers; sister, Vinney Foley (Ralph).

Louise graduated from Drewry Mason High School class of 1959 and the Martinsville Beauty College. She worked as a beautician for more than 45 years.

She loved traveling by train, plane, and bus, or anyway that she could. She loved making crafts, quilting, cross stitching and crocheting. Prior to



Buddie and Louise's failing health they loved flat foot dancing.

She was a past member of the Beta Sigma Phi and Friends of the Library. She loved watching Billy Graham, Charles Stanley and Jonathan Farwell.

Prior to her passing, Louise expressed special thanks to Butch Hamlet for being such a wonderful friend to her and Buddie.

All services will be private. Memorials may be made to the Boys Town, 14100 Crawford Street, Boys Town, NE 68010 or to the Martinsville Henry County SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home-Martinsville, VA. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Jean Hylton Stone

Jean Hylton Stone, 86, of Spencer, VA most recently of Collinsville, VA passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at Stanleytown Health and Rehabilitation Center. She was born on April 17, 1936, to the late Mallie Vance Hylton and Lillian Olive Trent Hylton. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sisters, Mallie Lee Ferguson, Hazel Coleman, and Pat Nicely, and her brother, Cecil Denton Hylton.

Ms. Stone was a member of Mayo Christian Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah C. Daniel; son, Wilbur



Douglas Campbell, Jr. (Dori); sister, Betty Farrar (Paul); grandchildren, Linnie Daniel, Sydney Grace Daniel, Jay Tuggle (Samantha), Douglas, Max, and Heidi Campbell; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on Friday, June 10, 2022, at Mayo Christian Church Services. Pastor Curt Ashley officiated.

Burial was at Mayo Christian Church Cemetery.

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

Brenda Lee Eanes Wall

Brenda Lee Eanes Wall, 80, of Collinsville, VA passed away Sunday, June 12, 2022, at her home. She was born February 5, 1942, in Martinsville to the late Garnett Clifford Eanes and Virginia Ruth Stegall Eanes.

She is survived by her husband of fifty-eight years, Henry C. Wall; daughter Melissa Wall (fiancé Cody Bosley) of Ridgeway, VA; son Hank Wall (Jennifer) of Collinsville, VA; son Scott Wall (Chassity) of Martinsville, VA; and sister Linda Eanes Carter (James) of Big Canoe, Ga. She is also survived by granddaughters Aubrey Schofield, Sara Wall, Samantha Wall, Lilly Wall, Katherine Wall and grandson William Wall.

Brenda was a graduate of Mary Washington College, which was the



women's college of University of Virginia, where she majored in Mathematics. She was a beloved teacher in the Henry County School system until she retired in 1995. Brenda loved watching Virginia basketball, going to the beach and spending time with her family. She will be greatly missed.

A visitation was held Thursday, June 16th, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00PM at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. A graveside service was held on Friday, June 17th, 2022 at 11:00AM at Roselawn Burial Park with Minister David Deisher officiating.

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

Flag Day from page 1

in a French port.”
 The first time the flag flew over a foreign territory was in early 1778 at Nassau in the Bahamas, where Americans had captured a British Fort, he said.
 Though there have been many claims to the first official observance of Flag Day, Fowlkes said, “all but one took place more than an entire century after the flag’s adoption in 1777.”
 In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames, led by President Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin, succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all public buildings in Philadelphia. The group also tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day, however, “resolutions by women were not granted much notice,” Fowlkes said, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday.
 “Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but Pennsylvania is still the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday,” Fowlkes said.
 Though President Woodrow Wilson and President Calvin Coolidge both issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as National Flag Day, Congress did not approve the national observance until Aug. 3, 1949. It was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

DAR member Linda Hager provided those in attendance with a brief history of the pledge of allegiance which, she said, was written by Francis Bellamy and first given wide publicity through an official program of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day, printed in 1892. It was also sent out to schools nationwide.
 “School children first recited the pledge of allegiance this way,” she said. “I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
 In 1923, the phrase “my flag” was replaced with “the flag of the United States” because, she said, “some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth” rather than the U.S. flag. A year later, the phrase “of America” was added after “United States.”
 On Flag Day in 1954, Congress added the words “under God” after “one nation” and the pledge as it is known today was completed.

Originally, Hager said, “the pledge was said with the hand in the so-called Bellamy Salute, with the hand resting first outward from the chest, then the arm extending out from the body.” She extended her arm in a demonstration of the salute. “Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the salute rendered by the Nazi military,” and in 1942, Congress established the current practice of placing the right hand over the heart during the pledge.

DAR member Melina Penn led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Beverly Woody led the audience in a recitation of the American Creed.
 “I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people,” she intoned. “Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation among many sovereign states; a perfect union ... established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed.”

At the conclusion of the creed, Deborah Burgess came forward and the crowd raised their voices with her to sing the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” conjuring up images of rockets glowing red and bombs bursting overhead as the stars and stripes of the flag continued to wave “o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Lynn Berry concluded the ceremony with a reading of the poem, “I Am the Flag” by Ruth Apperson Rous.

“Today fifty stars signal from my union, one for each of the fifty sovereign states in the greatest constitutional republic the world has ever known,” Berry read. “My colors symbolize the patriotic ideals and the spiritual qualities of the citizens of my country. My red stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American men and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters. My white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all. My blue is the blue of Heaven, loyalty, and faith.”

As the poem reached its end, Berry read, “Americans, I am the sacred emblem of your country. I symbolize your birthright, your heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow. I am your title deed of freedom, which is yours to enjoy and hold in trust for posterity ... Eternal vigilance is the price of your freedom. As you see me silhouetted against the peaceful skies of my country, remind yourself that I am the flag of your country, that I stand for what you are—no more, no less.”

Chamber of Commerce

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Flag Day celebration, which included a ceremonial flag raising performed by Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassady and Lt. Ben Peters.

“The United States has seen 27 different versions of Old Glory in the many years since 1777 when the original flag with 17 stars and 17 stripes was designed. However, the current flag is the first to have lasted more than 50 years and was designed by a 17-year-old high school student,” said Uptown Entrepreneurial Development Manager Kimberly Keller-Bonacci.

Keller recognized two organizations who “make patriotism a priority,” the Martinsville Exchange Club and WoodmenLife.

“The Martinsville Exchange Club’s members are dedicated to placing American flags throughout Uptown Martinsville during many patriotic holidays such as Flag Day,” Keller-Bonacci said. “This club has members dedicated to honoring our flag, our nation, and our community while also showcasing the beauty of Uptown Martinsville.”

Though the primary operations of WoodmenLife “do not include patriotic holidays, they make patriotism a priority,” she said. “Since their founding in 1890, this organization has provided opportunities to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy and thank those who protect them,” including through a flag donation program to local non-profits, schools, and communities.

Scott Koebel of WoodmenLife said the company began presenting flags in 1947 and has donated over 3.5 million to date.

“I wanted to touch base on that 17-year-old boy” who designed the flag Keller-Bonacci mentioned. “He needed a history project, and he designed a 52-star flag, a 51-star flag, and a 50-star flag and he got a B- on his project.”

Koebel inquired about the low grade and was told that if the design became the next flag, his grade would change to an A.

“He worked with his local congressman in Ohio, and he got it approved,” Koebel said. “They did change his grade. On July 4, 2007, this flag became the oldest standing flag in American history.”

Following the dedication ceremony, members of the community were afforded the opportunity to spin a prize wheel for the chance to win Uptown Bonus Bucks, movie passes, and a number of other prizes including a curio cabinet provided by The Showroom.

Out with the old, in with the new

Martinsville City Council member Danny Turner distributed newly-purchased flags to businesses in need of a new one.

He and Blue Ridge Regional Library Director Rick Ward lowered the tattered, faded flag flying in front of the library’s main Martinsville branch and, careful to not let it touch the ground, attached and raised a new one.

Turner placed his hand over his heart as Ward raised the new flag up into the blue June sky.

Turner also made stops at Berry Elliott Realtors to replace a worn flag, and left one with Marine Corps veteran Clifton Barrow, who is opening up the new restaurant, Roosky’s Bar and Grill, in Uptown in the coming months.

Council member Tammy Pearson joined Turner at the DAR ceremony at the historic courthouse to donate a flag to anyone there who wanted one to fly at their home or business.

Turner said the flags that were replaced would be turned over to the Boy Scouts or AmVets for them to properly retire the faded and torn star spangled banners.



Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassady and Lt. Ben Peters raise the flag during a Flag Day event hosted by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.



Attendees at the Flag Day ceremony co-hosted by the General Joseph Martin and Patrick Henry chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Col. George Waller chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society place their hands over their hearts to recite the pledge of allegiance.



Danny Turner (center) and his fellow council member Tammy Pearson (left) present a new American Flag to Daughters of the American Revolution member Susan Kanode after the Flag Day ceremony.

Foundation honors distinguished alumni

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored twelve P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at the awards dinner on Friday, June 10, at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have taken a minimum of twenty-four credit hours from P&HCC and have demonstrated success within their field of expertise and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.



This year’s award recipients are Jennifer Ashworth, Ann Blankenship, RN, Crystal Booth, Mark Gilbert, Daniel Hennis, Sr., Gary Hollandsworth, Robert Lovell, Melissa Martin, Dr. Melissa Smith, Kristy Walker, Jason Wood and Shonna Woods.

Kid's Cafe from page 1

Academy turned the bus seats into booth seating and installed tabletops. The Kid's Café was ready to roll. Lexa said county students who choose to eat the café meals will recognize much of the food they receive.

"It's a lot of the same products" used in regular school year lunches, she said. "We do like to send out hot meals. The kids prefer hot meals. They're not crazy about deli meals. The only deli meals that we do are what we pack for the sites that are open on Fridays if they don't have the capacity to heat their own meals."

She said two production kitchens—one at Bassett and one at Laurel Park—provide the meals for the various meal sites during the summer. On Wednesday, the bus was traveling to the site from Bassett, where bus driver Jennifer Adams and food service staff Joan Cardarelli picked up the day's meal of roasted turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls, a fruit cup, and milk.

The cost of the food for meals served to children is reimbursed by the USDA, Lexa said. "We turn in meals served, and we only get reimbursed for meals served to students."

That does not mean adults cannot enjoy a meal as well, however. Anyone over 18 may purchase a meal for just \$3.

Lexa said the division began doing mobile food service 5 or 6 years ago, "but the way we did it was one of our people used their personal vehicle, they drove up to a site like this, they opened the back hatch, they took a tarp and put it on the ground, preferably in the shade."

A folding table was set up on the tarp, and children could enjoy a free meal at an official meals site. "We wanted to get them up off the ground and into a cool environment to eat their meal while they would still be on-site," Lexa said.

The Kid's Café stops were chosen because, historically, the locations have high populations of children. However, as the bus has started its first summer tour, Lexa found that populations have changed over the years of the pandemic.

One current stop in Collinsville previously had 90 children living nearby. Now, Lexa said, there are only 27.

The Hephill Drive site has a higher density of young people. As the bus turned the corner and backed into its spot, three children on bikes rode up eagerly with an adult following behind.

They climbed onto the bus, a cool blast of air conditioning inside warding off the oppressive summer heat, and took a table at the back, looking out one of the windows that are adorned with a green and white checked curtain.

Cardarelli walked to the table and chatted with the group for a moment before returning to the front of the bus to load up servings of the day's meal.

Two of the boys, Elijah Goad and Harrison Whorley, had dined in the Café before, but today they brought a friend with them who had not eaten at the mobile site before. Vickie Whorley chatted happy with the youngsters, helping them open their meals that were securely bundled in plastic bags.

Even though the county offers free meals for children during summer school and at a number of sites around the county during the summer months, Lexa believes having a mobile site come to the students is still necessary.

"A lot of these areas (the Café comes to) have single-income families, and one mode of transportation that is used for that single-income job. It's not there during the day, so they can't go anywhere. They also have so much less income that the kids are not going to be sent to a daycare or anywhere where meals are being served. So, these are the kids that fall between the cracks. They're not at one of the schools, they're not at a daycare, they have no way to get anywhere to pick up the meals, and that's why we bring meals to them."

Of course, any restaurant is only as good as its food, and the Kid's Café got a rave review from young Elijah that morning.

"That turkey's good!" he exclaimed. Beneath the curtained bus window in the cool air conditioning, he dove in for another bite.

The Kid's Café runs Mondays through Thursdays during the summer. The current schedule is:
10:50-11:15 a.m. at 130 Hephill Drive, Bassett
11:40 AM-12:15 p.m. at 25 Brookshire Lane, Bassett
12:20-1 p.m. at 3517 Blackberry Park Circle, Bassett
2-2:45 p.m. at Conestoga Court, Collinsville
3-4:20 p.m. at 125 Ridgecrest Ave, Collinsville

All children under the age of 18 may receive a free meal. Meals for anyone over the age of 18 are \$3. All meals must be consumed at the Kid's Café.

For more information about the county's summer meals sites, visit www.henry.k12.va.us.



The Kid's Café, a new initiative by Henry County Public Schools, is an old school bus that has been converted to a mobile dining site in an effort to provide more children with free summer meals. Adults may purchase a meal from the Café for \$3.



Harrison Whorley enjoys his lunch of turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, a roll, fruit cup, and milk in the booth-style seating of the air-conditioned Kid's Café.



Elijah Goad examines his meal on Wednesday morning at the Kid's Café. He later declared, "that turkey's good!"

P&HCC Athletics hires Smith as new Head Tennis Coach

P&HCC Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Inclusion/Athletic Director, Brian Henderson,

has announced the hiring of Jon Smith as the head men's and women's tennis coach starting play in fall 2022.

Smith played high school tennis at Carlisle School, where he earned All-Conference honors during his time with the Chiefs. Smith then went on to continue his tennis career at Averett University where he also earned a bachelor's degree in sports management with a minor in communication studies. While playing for the Cougars, Smith earned All-Academic Team honors and was inducted into the National College Athlete Honor Society.

After Averett, Smith worked with the Southside Area Tennis Association (SATA) aiding in outreach, after school, and high performance juniors programs. Starting in 2017, Smith helped SATA grow from a staff of two dedicated coaches, to six coaches, countless volunteers, and a board for

the non-profit organization. Later, Smith became an assistant tennis professional at Chatmoss Country Club, where he taught private lessons to all ages, directed socials, and ran junior and adult clinics.

"We feel tennis is a sport that is beloved by many in our community," said Henderson. "By adding it to our list of programs, young student-athletes will have a chance to continue playing the sport they love while pursuing a degree and P&HCC. Coach Smith's passion and knowledge for the game has already been shown and we look forward to watching him provide opportunities for our PHamily."

For information or to join the P&H tennis team, contact Henderson at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

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