

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, July 30, 2022

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Sheriff's deputies to receive compression raises

The Henry County Board of Supervisors allocated approximately \$121,000 to its Sheriff's Office on Tuesday to provide additional salary raises for deputies.

Each deputy with at least three years of continuous service will receive an increase of \$100 per year of service, up to a maximum of \$3,000. The raises are intended to alleviate salary compression caused by increases to the minimum pay for deputies.

Brandon Martin, the county's public information officer, said the raises are intended to

reward deputies with experience and tenure. He explained that currently, the starting salary for a deputy in Henry County is \$43,160, which was similar to the salaries of those who have been with the office and/or are experienced.

While some of the funding for the salary increases will come from the Commonwealth's Compensation Board, there are a number of positions at the Sheriff's Office that are locally-funded. For those positions, the county contributed \$50,044 to match the state portion.

An estimated 97 deputies will be eligible for the salary increases, with an average \$1,000 pay increase per eligible deputy.

In May, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry, officers, investigators and residents implored the board to raise pay and create a step program that would provide pay increases and in turn help with retention efforts.

Without a step system, a \$2 pay increase approved in Oct. 2021 meant that an employee with the office for two years earned only about \$250 more

per year than the initial starting pay, the sheriff said at the time.

In other matters, the board: *Approved an additional appropriation for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$25,520 received from State Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase rifle optics on patrol rifles. The replacement optics will improve visibility due to newer technology and provide safer and more accurate equipment for the deputies. *Approved an additional appropriation for the Sheriff's Office in the amount

of \$10,743 received from the U.S. Department of Justice 2020 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. The funds will be used for deputy overtime to cover staff shortages, special operations, and off site security of inmates during medical procedures.

*Approved an additional appropriation for the Department of Public Safety in the amount of \$56,352.56 received from the Virginia Department of Health's Return to Locality Fund. The

See Deputy Raises, page 4



Henry County Public Safety Director Matt Tatum discussed an alternative method for the distribution formula for funds to EMS agencies.

Proposed funding formula questioned by board

Sharon West-Duel
Contributing writer

Matt Tatum, director of Public Safety, asked the Henry County Board of Supervisors to appropriate \$56,352.56 received from the Virginia Department of Health's Return to Locality Fund at the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

Though the board unanimously approved his request to appropriate the funds, some members questioned Tatum's request to consider changing the distribution formula of

the funds to the volunteer rescue squads.

County Administrator Dale Wagoner noted that the board was being asked only to appropriate the funds, not to distribute them.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, asked Tatum if he had discussed the change in distribution at the Emergency Services Advisory Council (ESAC) meeting.

Tatum stated that due to timing, he had been unable to first discuss it at that meeting.

"We always try to allocate these funds as

See Funding Formula, page 6

County approves additional funds for the library

Sharon West-Duel
Contributing writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$39,472 in funding from its contingency fund for the Blue Ridge Regional Library System at its Tuesday meeting, heeding a plea from Rick Ward, director.

The supervisors had expressed an interest in providing additional funds after the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget. County staff suggested waiting until the new fiscal year began before such funding.

See Library Funds, page 4



Rick Ward detailed his request for additional funds to the Henry County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

City to take up solar, other issues at future meeting

Sharon West-Duel
Contributing writer

A solar energy project at a former golf course topped discussions during a Martinsville City Council meeting Tuesday. The project also was discussed at the July 12 meeting, when questions arose about the cost increase.

On Tuesday, Garrett Cole, Power Consultant for GDS & Associates, offered specific details about the project, as well as addressing delays and why the costs have risen. Information also was distributed about changes to the Purchase Plan Agreement (PPA) with Sun Tribe as the developer and Sol Systems as the investor.

Another factor discussed was

how the cost went from \$45/MWh (Megawatt hour) to \$60/MWh (Megawatt hour) to complete the project.

In opening remarks, Cole asserted that now is a "good time to be reaffirming what we're looking at regarding our energy resources. We've spent a lot of time over the years looking at how to hedge our portfolio of energy supply against high prices and we're in one of those markets right now."

The solar energy project was to be completed by June of 2022, but the amended date on the PPA is now June 2024.

According to Cole, supply chain issues and Covid are the main reasons the project has been delayed. Costs associated with completing the project have risen

due to the cost of materials, Cole said, and maintained the project has benefit for the city, referring specifically to savings from the "Behind the Meter" project and battery storage project.

Council member Danny Turner said he had "asked to see the contract and was told he couldn't see it till three days before it was signed. I got the contract now - seller confirms existence of Covid 19 and continues to believe they can deliver."

Turner said that other solar projects are being built at the same time, and that the sellers are in violation of the contract. He asked if it was possible to "shop around" to try to find a better

See Solar, page 2

VMNH Dino Fest draws record crowd



The Hall of Ancient Life at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) hosted some additional displays last Friday and Saturday, as cast dinosaur skeletons were installed ahead of VMNH's annual Dino Festival. This year's fest drew a record crowd for the museum, with more than 4,600 visitors over the two-day event.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The 2022 Virginia Museum of Natural History's (VMNH) Dino Festival attracted a record-breaking crowd through the doors of the state's natural history museum during the two-day event.

As the second and final day of the festival began drawing to a close on Saturday, VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber said that an initial count totaled 4,604 visitors to the museum over the weekend.

"This is, by far, a record attendance," he said, and noted that the museum's previous record for any of its festivals was 3,500 for

2019's Dino Fest, the last dinosaur event held before the pandemic.

Museum Director Dr. Joe Keiper said that while the number of attendees was not wholly unanticipated, staff were "cautiously optimistic" going into the event, "because, while we've ramped up our operation, we've seen a trend in increasing attendance."

"It's difficult to predict, but it seems as we moved further and further away from 2020 (the year COVID-19 struck)," Keiper said. "People want good, quality opportunities to have fun, to learn, to see unique things, and to interact with interesting people."

He said the people

component played a big role in the draw of Dino and other museum festivals. "Putting staff on the floor is one of the great assets of our festivals and

See Dino Fest, page 5

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Aug. 4

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will host a continuing education for HVAC technician course from 6-9 p.m. Journeyman, master plumbers, electricians, HVAC mechanics, and gas fitters are required by the Virginia Board of Contractors to take a pre-determined number of continuing education hours specific to their trade. This course covers code changes, general requirements, impacts on the job, and special equipment included in the codes. The cost for the course is \$125. Pre-registration is required. To register or learn more, call (276) 656-0260 or visit ph.augusoft.net.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) will host a Bob Ross Painting Class from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse. Learn Bob Ross' famous painting technique! The cost is \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. This class is intended for students ages 14 and up. Advanced registration is required. For more information call (276) 632-3221 or visit PiedmontArts.org.

The Henry County School Board will hold its regular meeting beginning at 9 a.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration building (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.)

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, August 5

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Hosts Uptown First Friday at the historic Henry County Courthouse from 6-9 p.m. Bring an instrument to play at open mic hosted by Kat and Dennis Calfee or just come enjoy an evening of music in Uptown. Food will be available to purchase and there will be a cash bar. The event is free and open to all.

Saturday, August 6

Please join the Providence United Methodist Church family on at 5 pm to celebrate the faithful work of paying for our new educational wing. The loan was obtained in April 2006 and now has been paid in full. The celebration will start in the new reception hall and then move to the picnic shelter, with special guests, food, music, and most importantly, the burning of the note.

Blackberry Baptist Church's Back to School Bash, with bouncy houses, games, and food from 4-6 p.m. The church will distribute school supplies to each child.

Wednesday, August 10

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule your

Solar

from page 1

donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, August 12

Join Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits, "Private Domain," "Continuity: Color + Texture," "Seasons," and "Colors of the Appalachian Trail and Works by Pat Coleman." This event is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Blackberry Baptist Church (3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, August 13

The Dan River Basin Association will host its annual Smith River Clean Up. For more information, visit www.danriver.org or follow Dan River Basin Association on Facebook.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) hosts a Purrrfect Art Family day from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden. Have a bark-tastic time with Piedmont Arts and the SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County enjoying critter-themed storytelling with Gael Buck, face painting, bubble art, crafts, Zumbini music and movement workshop, and a performance by Pirates of the Piedmont. Support our furry friends by bringing a donation for the SPCA to this free family event.

Tuesday, August 16

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at The Community Fellowship (2674 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville) from 12:30-5:30 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, August 18

Uptown Partnership presents Third Thursdays in Uptown in collaboration with the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The events will be held in the Franklin Street/Depot Street parking lot in Martinsville. Food trucks will be on-site with entertainment from DJ What and beer sales from Mountain Valley Brewing from 5-9 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, August 19

Henry County Parks and recreation hosts Movies in the Park at Jack Dalton Park (3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville). Friday night's movie is Boss Baby: Family Business. Music and games begin at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 8:55. Drinks, candy, and snacks are available for purchase!

Don't miss the 2022 TGIF Concert Series in Uptown Martinsville! Located in the Bridge Street parking lot at 65 West Main Street, the Rotary Clubs of Martinsville and Henry County present an evening of music with The Pizzaz Band. The show begins at 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 21

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) will host a Sock Hop from 2-5 p.m. with the ever-popular DJ What! spinning all genres of music. Admission is \$5.

Tuesday, August 23

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Wednesday, August 24

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at New College Institute (191 Fayette Street, Martinsville) from 1-6 p.m. To schedule your donation appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Sunday, August 27

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) will host a basic canning class from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

Friday, September 9

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) will host its popular music night with band Gap Civil. Doors open at 5 p.m. and music begins at 6:15. Admission is a \$5 donation. Concessions will be sold.

Piedmont Arts (215 Starling Avenue, Martinsville) hosts Savory September: The Art of Tailgating. Bring your crew and all your wacky tailgating traditions for a night of friendly rivalries, great food, and ice-cold refreshments. Food and custom cocktails by local chefs. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at PiedmontArts.org.

Saturday, September 10

The Southside Survivor Response Center will celebrate its second annual Community Without Limits at Jack Dalton Park in Collinsville from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Attendees at this free event will enjoy free lunch, giveaways, a DJ, games, face painting, a dance contest, and more! For more information, call (276) 734-0040.

The Spencer-Penn Centre (475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer) will host an advanced canning class, Soups and Such, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register,

call (276) 957-5757.

ONGOING

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20 and Wednesdays 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. Beginning in April, the clinics will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, rather than weekly.

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brll.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at their 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. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

deal. Cole explained that Sun Tribe would be purchasing the property to complete the project, and emphasized the importance of closing this land deal, which must be done in October.

Reiterating his concerns about the contract, Turner said, "we've got an obligation to re-shop it around. We got the land. We got the infrastructure. We're holding the cards and the other group's not."

"No, we don't have the land," Mayor Kathy Lawson said, and added that the land opportunity is not between the city of Martinsville and Corteva, it's between Corteva and the solar company.

Cole said the updated PPA now covers concerns mentioned at the last council meeting, and noted that if the PPA is terminated, the city has the option to decide what to do with the land.

Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles said that no one who voted (on the council) had not had the opportunity to see the contract.

Lawson agreed. "We all had the same opportunity," she said.

Council member Chad Martin said the contract "has been spot checked to see if there's other pricing that might be better. It has been shopped around. We don't hold the cards. We don't own the land."

City Manager Leon Towarnicki added that 26 different companies submitted bids on the project, and that Sun Tribe

was selected at the end of that extensive process. Lawson moved to put the matter on hold, and include it on the next agenda.

In other matters, the council:

*Heard a review from Towarnicki about the City Neighborhood Meeting and tour Monday. He noted property conditions observed by the council, as well as issues discussed by the community members attending the meeting. Various concerns were raised by residents, such as kudzu covering areas in a neighborhood, speeding motorists, truck traffic, and parking enforcement.

*Turner made a motion to order City Attorney Eric Monday to enforce ordinances to cleanup properties. Council member Tammy Pearson seconded. Lawson said the council did not have enough information. The council reached a consensus to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

*Heard about a design by the Virginia Department of Transportation referred to as "Smart Scale" that involved constructing a decorative wall as well as other features to enhance the appeal of the city.

Comments from the

floor included a moving plea from Keith Owens, director of Peer Recovery Center, about the need for a homeless shelter in Martinsville. Owens expressed concerns that the homeless population in Martinsville will experience "a 25 percent increase" as a result of the moratorium that ended on July 1. Lawson directed him to meet with Towarnicki to address these needs.

To illustrate the significance of the homeless problem in the city, Martin noted that someone recently said, "Do you realize we have a shelter for animals, but we don't have a shelter for people?"

*Ariel Johnson, director of the Warming Center, also raised concern about the homeless population of Martinsville and discussed "harm reduction" as it relates to those suffering from opioid addiction. Harm reduction refers to policies that attempt to reduce the problems that can be encountered by drug users without eliminating drug use altogether.

*Michael Sanguedolce, a Martinsville resident, expressed the need for a traffic study on Starling Avenue. Towarnicki noted the possibility of an alternate truck route.

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Droop
 4. Rested in a chair
 7. Thai (var.)
 10. Draw out wool
 12. Coatis genus
 14. Taxis
 15. Beige
 16. Supplementing with difficulty
 17. Capital of Norway
 18. A personal written history
 21. Cologne
 22. Australian flightless bird
 23. Lowest freeman; early Eng.
 25. 18th C. mathematician Leonard
 28. Cabinet Dept. for homes
 29. Languages of Sulu islands
 33. More scarce
 35. Before
 36. Swiss river
 37. Actress & director Lupino

38. Edges
41. Thousand Leaves prefecture
44. Soldier hero of Spain
45. Gains through work
47. To the front
49. I (German)
50. Price label
51. Barack's 1st lady
58. Drench with liquid
59. Child (scot.)
60. "Aba ___ Honeymoon"
62. Disappearing shade trees
63. Cricket frog genus
64. Unbroken worker
65. A priest's liturgical vestment
66. Previously The Common Market
67. Upper left keyboard key

- CLUES DOWN
1. Point midway between S and SE
 2. Genus of birds
 3. Personal spiritual leader
 4. Japanese rice beverage
 5. Eared owl genus
 6. Wood oil finish
 7. Hyphen
 8. Competently
 9. Equal, prefix
 11. Broad-winged soaring hawk
 12. A collection of star systems
 13. Be in accord
 14. Links subject & predicate (linguistics)
 19. Paddles
 20. Asian river between China and Russia
 23. Physicists Marie or Pierre
 24. Excessive fluid accumulation

26. ___ Dunlap, pageant titleholder
27. Made again
28. Norse goddess of death
30. A waterproof raincoat
31. Express pleasure
32. ___ Lanka
34. Radioactivity unit
39. Clay blocks for building
40. Linear unit
42. Conductor tools
43. Whale ship captain
46. Queen who tested Solomon
48. Good Gosh!
51. A gangster's girlfriend
52. Unstressed-stressed
53. Draw through holes
54. Old Italian monetary units
55. Musician Clapton
56. Ceremonial staff of authority
57. Fabrics of camels or goats
58. A very large body of water
61. Basics

Blue Ridge Duck Race set for Aug. 20

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge (BGCBR) is hosting the 8th annual Blue Ridge Duck Race on August 20 at the Smith River Fest.

The duck adoption goal has been increased from the previous 10,000 to 15,000 ducks because of the outstanding community support for BGCBR. Ducks can be adopted at select public events and online at <https://www.duckrace.com/blueridge>. A single duck can be adopted for \$5, a Quack Pack for \$25 (6 ducks), or a Flock for \$100 (25 ducks).

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge enrolls 150 students in summer camp and nearly 300 students during the school year at sites in Martinsville City Public Schools and Henry County Public

Schools. These students benefit from the funds raised through the Blue Ridge Duck Race by providing access to programming, lower membership costs, and academic experiences.

The Blue Ridge Duck Race is sponsored by Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, Bassett Furniture, Blue Ridge Aquaculture, Eastman, New College Institute, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, and Planet Fitness.

"Every school should have a club due to the safety net it provides to the well-being of a child. A school with the support of a club has a much better chance of helping their students reach their potential." Jeremy Hoff CEO Hooker Furnishings, Board President BGCBR.



(Left to right), Anala Spencer, Malayah Brown, Korianna Sowder, Ayden Harris, Roman Patterson, Carson Little. In front, Ashley Boothe.

ARC funds approved for road improvements

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently awarded Henry County \$1.2 million for Reservoir Road improvements project.

The funds will be used to help improve 3,550 linear-feet of Reservoir Road and update gravel roadways to meet Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, according to releases from U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine, and Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith.

The project will support the creation of 400 new jobs, help leverage approximately \$188 million in private investments, and improve access to the Commonwealth Crossing

Business Centre, a development for advanced manufacturing.

In addition to the ARC funds for this project, Henry County will provide \$445,000, bringing the total to \$1,645,000, the senators noted.

"We're pleased that more infrastructure dollars are headed to Henry County," said Warner, D-Alexandria and Kaine, D-Richmond. "This project is another key investment in creating jobs, connecting people to local industry, and making our roads safer and stronger for decades to come."

Brandon Martin, the county's Public Relations and Community Liaison, said the funds will be instrumental in

bringing more industries and increased revenues.

Griffith, R-Salem, said "improving Reservoir Road is important to the success of Commonwealth Crossing. ARC's award of \$1.2 million for road improvements is a critical investment in the site and will enhance the potential for economic development."

"Commonwealth Crossing Business Center is our newest industrial park in the area and a lot of our attention has been focused on getting high quality industries into that area," said Martin. He explained that currently this center has to be accessed by going down into North Carolina and then back

up to Virginia. Additionally, this road will provide an alternate route of access in case of an emergency.

One of the purposes of the grant is to make Reservoir Road a primary road that is maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. This road is currently a secondary gravel road, so the grant will go towards paving the road, creating storm sewer and drainage ditches, guardrails, traffic control and other construction, as necessary.

Martin added that residents living in the area also will benefit from the use of this road, as well as the job opportunities that new industry will bring to

the area.

Martin said an additional \$440,000 in funds is still needed before the project can begin and the county will seek the additional funding from other sources.

ARC is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments that innovates and invests to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in 423 counties across the Appalachian region. Since 1965, ARC has invested \$4.5 billion in approximately 28,000 economic development projects across Appalachia, attracting over \$10 billion in matching project funds.

NCI sponsors "Girls Who Game" Day Camp Field Trip

New College Institute (NCI), along with Dottie Rose Foundation, Carolina Women+ In Tech, and William & Mary, is sponsoring a one day field trip for high school age females on August 9.

This event is designed for high schoolers from the greater Martinsville

area who like to game and may be interested in learning about a career in the gaming industry. Students will have a full day experience to gain real-world exposure, access to resources, and mentorships to career paths in the gaming and tech industries. Attendees will have the opportunity

to meet and have conversations with industry experts and will be able to play and code inside of one of the top gaming platforms.

"We are working to address the dearth of career opportunities for women wanting to work in technology. The Girls Who Game trip, the

access to professionals in the field of gaming, and the exposure to today's gaming technology are all part of our experiential learning approach at NCI," said Dr. Ken Russell, NCI's Chief Information Officer.

Students will travel by bus from NCI to Wake Tech Community College

in the Research Triangle Park area (near Durham) to meet and interact with professionals and educators in the gaming/tech industry. There is no fee to attend.

Permission from a parent/guardian to travel and attend the field trip for the day is required.

Transportation and

lunch are provided by New College Institute.

"We'll have activities planned for before and after the event on August 9th," said Russell. "Technology jobs in gaming are growing – not just for programmers, but for analysts, administrators, producers, and writers too."

Smith River Fest presented by Sovah Health returns in August

Henry County's annual outdoor recreation showcase, Smith River Fest, will be back and more exciting than ever on Saturday, August 20 at the Crown Holdings Festival Grounds at the Monogram Foods Sports Complex.

For many, the annual outdoors festival is not only a summer tradition, but also a highlight. The Smith River Fest aims to be a celebration of all things outdoors that make Martinsville – Henry County an outdoor recreation hotspot. MHC boasts the beautiful Smith River and gorgeous Philpott Lake as well as the Smith River Blueway and the Philpott Blueway. On any given day, there are ample opportunities to get outdoors, get active, and enjoy nature. Smith River Fest is a day to learn more about many of these amenities while having a fun opportunity to experience them. This year's Smith River Fest is presented by Sovah Health – Martinsville.

Both admission and parking are free for this event.

In past years, thousands of guests from more than 10 different states and 52 Virginia communities have participated in the fest, and organizers expect those numbers to continue to grow. Highlighted events for the 13th annual event include the Helgramite Hustle 5K Mud Run pre-

sented by Martinsville Eyecare Center, the 4.8-mile long River Race, the Paddling Demo Pool presented by the US Army Recruitment Center, live music by local band Andy & Jake.

Activity areas will be spread throughout the festival allowing guests to try out various forms of recreation, including:

- The Paddling Demo Pool, presented by the US Army Recruitment Center, will offer inexperienced boaters the opportunity to feel what it is like to get on a kayak, while having the security of a shallow pool beneath them, instead of the intimidation of the depth of a river. This will allow many first-timers to get a feel for the basic of paddling and maneuvering through water. (Free)

- The Casting Pool, presented by Light Christian Counseling, will allow guests to learn casting techniques for trout fishing. Volunteers from Smith River Trout Unlimited, Casting for Recovery, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will facilitate lessons. (Free)

- The Kids Cycle Station, presented by the Center for Pediatric Therapies, will allow youth ages 12 and under to challenge themselves to a biking obstacle course while learning about bike safety. Volunteers from the Henry County Bike Club and Martinsville Police Department

will facilitate the rides. (Free)

- The Mobile Bike Barn, presented by the Martinsville YMCA, will allow guests to borrow a bike to ride around the festival. (Free)

- The Kids Zone, presented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, will include multiple bounce houses and up-close encounters from the animals of Infinity Acres Petting Ranch. (Free)

- The Climbing Wall, presented by King Kidz, is always a popular attraction. (Free)

- The Hammock Village, presented by Harman Eye Center, will provide a fun way to relax during the festival. (Free)

River Tubing, presented by Henry County Parks & Recreation, offers you the ability to check out a tube and life jacket and enjoy an approximately 30-minute ride on the cool and beautiful Smith River. (Free)

Fly Tying Demos, presented by Smith River Trout Unlimited, will showcase the fishermen practicing their craft throughout the day. (Free)

Yoga by the River, presented by Audra Elliott with Yoga Pop Danville, will start promptly at 10:00 AM. Participants are asked to bring their own yoga mat. (Free)

The Water Gun Battle Station, presented by Henry County Parks & Recreation,

will offer kids, and kids at heart, the opportunity to have a ball and cool off.

The Boat Race is open to kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddle boards (SUPs). Enter as a team or individual, racing or recreation.

The Helgramite Hustle Mud Run, presented by Martinsville Eyecare Center, is a muddy 5K featuring a series of mud pits and obstacles to climb over, crawl through, and slide under.

For paddlers' convenience there will be free river shuttles all day long offered by Henry County Parks and Recreation. Two shuttle buses will stop at the Marrowbone Creek and Mitchell Bridge river accesses, and the other two shuttle buses will stop at the South Martinsville and Frith Road river accesses. A detailed map of shuttle routes can be seen at SmithRiverFest.com. Everyone who enjoys the river during Smith River Fest is encouraged to paddle responsibly and must wear a life jacket.

There will also be a variety of entertainment options throughout the day at the Crown Amphitheatre, including:

Live Music, presented by Blue Ridge Bank & Press Glass, will feature DJ WHAT! in the morning, and Live Music by Andy & Jake in the afternoon. (Free)

A Magic Show presented by Joseph Young,

(Free)

The Beer Garden, presented by Martinsville YMCA will feature a selection of beers from Lawrence Distributing.

The Blue Ridge Duck Race will feature approximately 15,000 ducks racing their way down the Smith River.

Plus, there will be a variety of vendors and food trucks set up to round out your day.

The event, founded in 2008, is designed to promote recreational opportunities along the Smith River and in the

surrounding region.

Smith River Fest is collaborative effort between Henry County Parks & Recreation, Martinsville-Henry County EDC's Tourism Division, Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex, Dan River Basin Association, and the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA Vendor applications, race registrations and additional festival information can be found at SmithRiverFest.com or by calling (276) 634-4640.



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OPINION

The return of the Hooverville

As the Great Depression ravaged America during the 1930s, new kinds of communities began to spring up all over the country. They were known as “Hoovervilles.”

Derisively named after President Herbert Hoover, who was in office when the Depression hit, Hoovervilles were shanty towns. The shacks were often constructed from scrap wood and metal, usually featuring a small stove, a cot, and a few cooking implements. Men, women, and children lived in Hoovervilles, and the populations were remarkably diverse for the time. Some even had their own unofficial governments.

One thing united the citizens of Hoovervilles: economic devastation. The Depression caused the number of homeless people in the U.S. to skyrocket and there just wasn't enough infrastructure to help them. Hoovervilles popped up in cities across America, often around free soup kitchens, populated with people who had nowhere left to go.

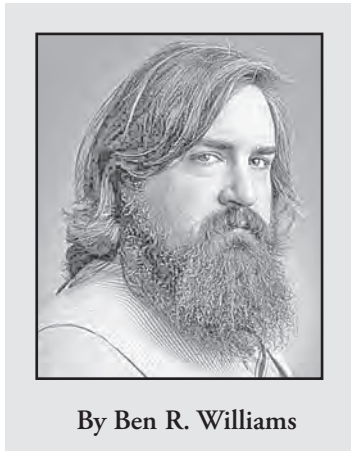
There were a few famous Hoovervilles. St. Louis had the biggest Hooverville in America, which even featured its own churches and its own mayor. Seattle had a number of massive Hoovervilles. The Bonus Army, a group of World War I veterans seeking their service benefits, formed a Hooverville in Washington, D.C. in 1932 (it was ultimately demolished by the Army, led by none other than Gen. Douglas MacArthur).

When I picture events from the Great Depression, a sepia tone tends to settle over the images. It's something from the past, something unimaginable today.

However, if you want to see a Hooverville in living color, I have some news.

They're back.

I recently saw a video from Olympia, Washington that's making the rounds on the internet. The video, recorded in early January, was filmed from a vehicle driving down a street. Both sides of the street were lined with vehicles, mostly older RVs, trucks with camper shells,



By Ben R. Williams

and a few minivans and sedans. Tarps were stretched over top of many of the RVs, presumably to stop leaks, and trash littered the ground.

Tent cities are nothing new. I've seen them in a few places. There used to be a fairly large one in Roanoke that I would often drive past, about forty or fifty tents pitched off the side of a major highway.

Make no mistake, the way we treat the homeless in this country is terrible, and tent cities are tragic. Many of the residents suffer from mental illness or drug addiction, and they deserve help, not to live in a battered tent in a culvert. But what the video from

Olympia showed was something different. These were not people cast out into the streets because they suffer from mental illness or drug addiction. People in those situations generally don't own RVs or cars.

Now, the Hoovervilles of the 2020s are populated with the former middle class, and they're yet another confirmation that this country is in the midst of a severe housing crisis.

If you're a renter or you're in the market for a house, you sure don't need me to tell you this. It's harder than ever to find affordable housing right now, and if you're lucky enough to find a home within your price range, someone's probably going to snatch it out from under you by offering the seller more than their asking price and forgoing an inspection. And more than likely, that “someone” is an investor or a corporation that's going to buy everything it can in the area, gentrify the properties to within an inch of their lives, and then squeeze out all the neighbors who can no longer afford their own property taxes.

As always, it's easy to make money if you've got money. But if you can't afford to be

a landlord, and you can't afford to be a homeowner, then you're going to have to go with the most expensive option: being a renter. You get to enjoy all the negatives of homeownership while your landlord enjoys all the benefits, but at least you aren't living in an RV on the side of the highway.

At least, not yet.

Unless something changes, I'm afraid we're going to see more and more modern Hoovervilles popping up across America. A White House press release earlier this week announced plans to close the housing gap within the next five years, which included a number of useful measures, including preventing institutional investors from purchasing real estate owned (REO) properties so that actual humans can have the chance to buy them instead.

That's a step in the right direction, but maybe it's time we took a step back and addressed the elephant in the room:

What beneficial service does a landlord actually provide to society?

I propose that this question replace “What is the meaning of life?” as the default mystery for the ages.

Several local students named to Dean's List

Emory & Henry College congratulates students named to Spring 2022 Dean's list. To be named to the Dean's list students must be a full time student and receive a 3.6 GPA for the semester.

Collinsville.	Madeline Bishop, of Collinsville.
Hannah Mitchell, of Ridgeway.	Tizianna Palumbo, of Martinsville.
Blake Wilson, of Axton.	

Wong receives master's degree

Jennifer Li Wong, of Martinsville, recently received a Master of Medical Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md., during its 160th commencement ceremonies.

FSU President Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk conferred nearly 700 undergraduate and graduate degrees at this May commencement.

Situated in the mountains of Allegany County, Frostburg State University is one of the 12 institutions of the University System of Maryland. FSU is a comprehensive, residential regional university and serves as an educational and cultural center for Western Maryland. For more information, visit frostburg.edu.

Bassett Historical Center to offer series of classes in October

A series of four free genealogy classes will be offered and held at the Bassett Historical Center each Tuesday in October, from 10 a.m. until noon. The dates are October 4, October 11, October 18, and October 25. Each class builds on the class before and will incorporate using resources and materials found at the center as well as

navigating genealogical websites and much more. There will be something for all levels of “genealogists” and family researchers.

The series of classes will

be conducted by the center's own Cindy Headen.

This series of four classes will be limited to 12 people. Call and reserve your spot today at (276) 629-9191.

Library Funds

from page 1

Before Ward's presentation, County Administrator Dale Wagoner reminded the board that the library requested \$774,968. The county's budget proposed level funding of \$735,541, a difference of \$39,427.

“As you know,” Wagoner said, “Martinsville City and Patrick County also share in the cost of operating the library system. Should you recommend additional funding for the library, the staff recommends the increase come from the board's contingency fund.”

“It is my understanding that the city (of Martinsville) funded 50 percent of their share of the increase, and said they'd increase 100 percent if Henry County and Patrick County would contribute 100 percent. Unfortunately, I don't think Patrick County has funded its share of the increase,” Wagoner said.

“We had asked them, since there's one library in Patrick and one in Martinsville and three in Henry County, for \$13,142 to give a 5 percent raise to the staff,” Ward said.

“Imagine my surprise when I asked (Patrick County) for \$13,142 and got word that they were going to cut us 11 percent, which is almost \$31,000,” he said, adding that cut would have been devastating. To help prevent it, Ward said he “rallied the troops, got our patrons to back us up, calling and emailing them to give us the \$31,000 back – so we felt like that was a success there.”

“What I'm asking for today, if you're generous enough to give us this increase, if you give us the full increase, I'll go to Martinsville and I'll talk to them and see if they will get us the rest of the increase – then I'll go to Patrick and say, ‘look at what Henry County and Martinsville

are doing for the library.’”

Ward noted that all three localities had given their own staff raises this year, as well as most staff last year, but the library had not been able to do this for their employees for a long time. Noting the costs of gas, groceries, and overall inflation is tough, he said “we're just asking to give our staff a 5 percent raise and I'm hoping we can start here.”

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, asked whether the library was eligible for any ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Ward explained those funds could not be used for salaries, or construction, which “tied our hands.” He detailed how he had wanted to retrofit the bathrooms for touch free, due to Covid, noting that the ARPA funds were spent on things like plexiglass shields, PPE (personal protective equipment) and Chromebooks for patrons to checkout.

“You're not asking for this on an ongoing basis – you're asking this as a supplement for this year,” Buchanan asked.

Ward responded that if it is used for salaries, he would hope to sustain it going forward. “I'd hate to give someone a raise and then take it away from them.”

Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, asked about proposals if “Patrick County doesn't come around.”

Ward said the results of a \$31,000 cut would be possible closures or the bookmobile not going out into the community as much as it currently does.

He also said the number of users is increasing now that the pandemic is over, and added the week marked the final days of the summer reading and summer feeding program. Children aged 18 and younger are provided a meal at the library four days a

week.

Slaughter raised concern about Henry County's funds would be used to pay for raises to Patrick County staff.

Ward responded those funds would remain in Henry County. He also detailed measures he'd undertaken to save the library money, such as centralizing cataloging, collection development, and acquisitions.

Slaughter asked for confirmation that Henry County staff would receive raises, but not Patrick and Ward responded, “I can handle trying to come up with \$13,000” (better) “than I can \$67,000, which is what all of it together would be.”

He added he likely would cut the book budget or fuel costs, and noted that prices have increased for the library just as they have elsewhere.

In other matters, the board:

*Awarded a \$276,056 contract to Vest's Sales & Service, Inc. in Check, VA to buy a Dodge Ram 4-wheel drive ambulance to replace an ambulance that has been in service for 11 years.

*Awarded a contract to Excel Truck's Group of Roanoke, VA for a 2024 Mack LR front loader garbage truck to replace an old truck that has been experiencing repeated equipment failures. Funds are designated for this item from the Capital Replacement Fund.

*Awarded a contract of \$123,958 to Trane Technologies for a control system for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The control system will improve efficiency and provide the ability to monitor and control the HVAC systems for the Administration Building and other county buildings. The funds will be taken from the Capital Improvement Program.

Deputy Raises

from page 1

funds will be used for emergency medical services (EMS) training, supplies and equipment.

*Awarded a \$276,056 contract to Vest's Sales and Service, Inc., to buy a 2023 Dodge Ram 5500 4x4 Osage Ambulance for the Department of Public Safety.

*Awarded a

\$358,020.73 contract to Excel Truck Group for a 2024 Mack LR front loader garbage Truck for the Refuse Department.

*Awarded a \$123,958 contract to Trane Technologies to purchase a control system for the Heating, Ventilation and Air

Conditioning system

that will improve energy efficiency and add the ability to monitor and control the HVAC systems for the Administration Building, Sheriff's Office, Courthouse, Social Services and the Adult Detention Center.

*Held a public hearing and approved a

request by Mark and Deborah Minter to rezone about 13.48-acres in the Iriswood District from Rural Residential (R-R) to Agricultural (A-1). The applicant wishes to construct accessory buildings that exceed the square footage limitations.

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Dino Fest

from page 1



A young festival-goer approaches to volunteers in dinosaur costumes, who posed for pictures with museum visitors.



In addition to ancient dinosaurs, visitors also got to meet living lizards in a live animal display at VMNH Dino Fest.



Some final visitors explore the skeletons in the Hall of Ancient Life as 2022's record-breaking Dino Fest draws to a close.



Behind a cast of a Triceratops skull, young Dino Fest visitors dig for wooden fossils in a sandbox.



Dr. Adam Pritchard, VMNH assistant curator of paleontology, showcases a cast of a sauropod, or long-necked dinosaur, skull to Dino Fest visitors. Sauropods were the largest land animals that have ever lived.



VMNH Education Manager Christy Deatherage helps a young Dino Fest visitor with a dinosaur-themed craft.

it seems, potentially, that people were hungry for that."

The thousands in attendance enjoyed activities including face painting, balloon animals, a photo booth, and the chance to interact with living monitor lizards, as well as exploring the museum's galleries. The main attraction, of course, were the many cast skeletons and actual bones of the ancient creatures that walked the earth millions of years ago, as well as the museum's team of scientists and educators stationed around the museum to discuss the details of everything from fossilized bugs to long-necked giants to the plates of the stegosaurus to an ancient battle between a T-rex and a triceratops.

Dr. Adam Pritchard, assistant curator of paleontology, manned a station that taught visitors about the varying size of dinosaurs, the largest of which, he said, were called sauropods, better known as the long-necked dinosaurs.

Laid out on the floor by Pritchard were the hip, thigh, shank, and foot of one such dino to help demonstrate the huge size of the animals "and hopefully capture a little bit of the scale of this kind of dinosaur and how it compares and outclasses the largest living animals," Pritchard said.

Early dinosaurs, however, "were nowhere near the size and scale of the things we see much later in time, like the sauropods," Pritchard said. A life-size model of another, much smaller, dinosaur, called an eoraptor, which lived long before sauropods, was on display in the room to illustrate the

stark difference. The entire eoraptor model dwindled in size when compared to the sauropod leg bones to its left.

"We're trying to capture the idea that dinosaurs started out quite small and only later developed the incredible size that we typically associate with them," Pritchard said.

He explained that dinosaurs first appeared in the Triassic period among other, larger, reptile groups. Those other groups went extinct at the end of the Triassic "and that's pretty much when dinosaurs start to increase in body size, but they did so to a degree that's absolutely unprecedented." Sauropods, for example, "by a very large factor are the largest land animals that have ever lived. The largest sauropods are at least the weight of five modern elephants. Even an animal that isn't one of the 'big' dinosaurs, like triceratops, is still the size of an elephant."

Why the ancient animals grew so large, however, remains a mystery. "It's a standing mystery of paleontology," Pritchard said.

Many visitors who explored the downstairs area of the museum were drawn into one classroom by a sign which read, "view one of the most important fossils ever discovered!"

Inside the darkened classroom was a single, large case. Within were two horns of a Triceratops. Within, visitors learned that the fossils, which are in the VMNH collection, are the only known evidence of a Tyrannosaurs rex fighting a live Triceratops.

Keiper explained to one group of visitors that it was previously

believed that T. rex was only a scavenger, not a hunter. The horns of the Triceratops feature bite marks that, due to the spacing, could only have been made by a T. rex, indicating that the meat-eater tried to kill what it hoped would be its next meal, disproving the theory that it only scavenged animals that were already dead.

X-rays of the fossil show much denser bone in the places the Triceratops horn was bitten, which is a sign of healing and indicates that the Triceratops survived its battle with the T. rex.

In another area of the museum, Dr. Kal Ivanov, assistant curator of invertebrate zoology, and Dr. Jackson Means, myriapodologist, shared with visitors the fossils of invertebrates—insects, clams, trilobites, and other, much smaller, creatures that people may not necessarily think about when they imagine the ancient world but which, in some cases, lived long before the dinosaurs ever walked the earth.

"Most (of these invertebrates) aren't around anymore except for this horseshoe crab," Means said, indicating one of the specimens on display. "The group is about 480 million years old (dinosaurs emerged a mere 225 million years ago), and you can still find them today."

Some of the insect

fossils included in the display were ancient flies and beetles which had been preserved in amber—tree sap that encases the insect and then hardens. Though the amber fossils were found near the Baltic Sea, others, found in shale deposits, were discovered much closer to home.

Ivanov said there is a local quarry, right on the Virginia/North Carolina border and just north of Eden, NC, where such shale fossils could be found. The Solite Fossil Site was the site of an ancient lake," Ivanov said, "that's why it's really abundant in aquatic invertebrates and it's one of the best-preserved insect fossil beds from that time in the world, and it's just 30 minutes down the road from the museum. We have the largest number of specimens from that period (of time) in the museum," he said.

Means said that fossilized insects and invertebrates, while perhaps not as popular as dinosaurs, are still important to understanding, not only the past, but the present.

"A lot of fossilized insects are going to be

representative of extant orders," he said, "so groups of insects that are still alive today, you can look at evolutionary history and how those things have changed over time. They also can be representative of groups we don't have today, and that can be really exciting, when you see something that has lineage that has disappeared—when something is not quite a beetle, not quite a fly, something like that. There are a lot of mysteries, millions and millions of years, tons of species, we have no idea what they are, so there's a lot of potential for brand new groups. But there's also information about our currently existing creatures."

Fossils can also help researchers learn how various structures possibly evolved, Ivanov added. Structures such as wings. "Modern insects have them, but how did they arise? What structures were they? How did they first learn to fly? Why did they (begin to fly?) That can only be explained in the fossil record."

"There are insects, for example, which used to have three pairs of wings instead of just the two that we have

today," said Means. "We wouldn't have known that if we didn't have fossils. That's pretty wild. For some reason, they lost that first pair of wings. We don't necessarily know why."

Across the two days of the festival, visitors young and old wandered the galleries and hallways of the VMNH, gazing in awe at real and replicated skeletons of ancient creatures large and small, real-world evidence that dinosaurs, though long dead, clearly continue to fascinate.

Pritchard, who has made his career studying the ancient creatures, attributes the power of dinosaurs to live on in our imaginations to a number of factors.

"I think it is size," he said, "these animals are on a scale that we can imagine and understand but is still so much greater than what we deal with today. It draws attention. What draws me in is the incredible range of shape and roles in the ecosystem—giant predators, giant plant-eaters, armor, horns, all these different features that we see in different groups of dinosaurs that make them diverse and fascinating and alien to the modern world."

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Ventura joins Sovah Ravenel Cancer Center

Ana Ventura, MD has joined Sovah Ravenel Cancer Center and will be providing specialty care for oncology patients.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Ventura to our team of providers at Sovah Ravenel Cancer Center," said Spencer Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of Sovah Health - Martinsville. "Her expertise in oncology and hematology will help expand our team's ability to deliver high quality cancer care to our community."

Dr. Ventura received her Doctor of Medicine from Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic), completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (New York, NY), and completed her fellowship in Hematology/Medical Oncology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University (Brooklyn, NY). During her residency, she received the Lambert Noel Humanism in Medicine Award, which is given to the resident who stands out for displaying the qualities of morality, dignity, and ethical care.

At Sovah Ravenel Cancer Center, Dr. Ventura will specialize in cancer screening, care, and surveillance, genetic testing and personalized medicine in cancer care, diagnosis and management of blood disorders,

cancer treatment, including chemotherapy and immunotherapy, cancer-related symptom management, and treatment of benign and malignant blood disorders.

Dr. Ventura is accepting new patients, and appointments may be made by calling (276) 666-7827. The oncology center is located at 320 Hospital Dr. in Martinsville, VA.



Dr. Ana Ventura

Funding Formula from page 1

soon as they come available and they just came available last month," said Tatum. "We had not had the ESAC meeting at that time."

Tatum explained that the change in distribution had been requested by one of the volunteer captains of the Rescue Squad Association.

"I asked the captain at the time if he had discussed it with other captains," said Tatum. "He had originally discussed it with two of the other captains and the other captains were in favor of it because they realized it was fair based on responses."

Tatum said when funds are limited, "somebody's going to take a reduction" to give the funds to someone else. Tatum said he would be "glad to take it to the ESAC" at the meeting in August.

The current disbursement formula equally distributes the funds between the five volunteer rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety. Tatum requested that the distribution formula be changed according to the number of calls responded to in the last 12 months by an agency. It will allow at least a \$2,500 minimum allocation.

"I noticed that when the email went out on July 19th it would not have given captains enough time to talk with the board members or members of the squad to see what their thoughts were about it," Buchanan said and noted the 7-day time frame required to be put on the board's agenda.

"It bothers me too that Horsepasture, we are totally volunteer, and it's a struggle sometimes in order to gain new members," said Buchanan, adding that "the reduction to the Horsepasture agency would be about \$4,871.84. So, when you're struggling, trying to do fundraising and answering calls too, then you get a reduction like this, it looks like we're not supporting volunteers. "It looks like it's benefitting more

the paid staff" than helping the volunteers, she said.

"I realize this is taking away from some of the volunteers and I do realize the Department of Public Safety would gain from it as well," Tatum said, adding that the Department of Public Safety is answering nearly 60 percent of the calls, "that's what they're totally covering. They're assisting on another 15 to 20 percent of those calls." He explained the department credits the volunteer agencies even when staff assists them.

Buchanan asked Tatum if the number of calls responded to by a volunteer agency with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety is included in the monthly total for the agency.

He said the volunteer agency always gets credit for the call.

"We try to make the numbers show as much credit for the volunteers as we possibly can," said Tatum.

Buchanan reiterated that she could not support the proposed distribution formula.

The alternative formula, Tatum said, was the fairest way he could devise at the time. "The other captains agreed to it even when they knew they were going to take a loss." He added that the captains knew that if their response rate increased, they would receive more funds.

Other board members also voiced concerns.

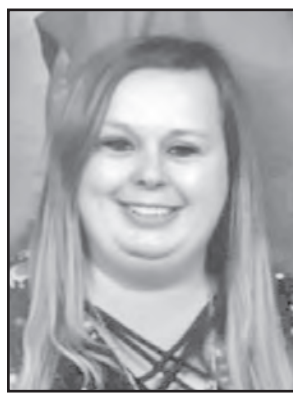
Joe Bryant, vice chairman and of the Collinsville District, noted that most of the squads are struggling to keep costs down.

"It's your fund to distribute how you see fit and I'm more than happy to work with you in any way to distribute the funds to make sure it's used for emergency medical services as intended," Tatum said, adding that he'd been asked to offer an alternative formula, and is willing to make adjustments, as necessary.

OBITUARIES

Melissa Ann Key

Melissa Ann Key, 41, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born on January 16, 1981, in Martinsville, VA to Carolene Lawson and Donald Key. She is preceded in death by her sons, Camerin Pruitt, and Logan Pruitt.



She attended Mercy Crossing Church.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her daughter, Taylor Pruitt (Steven); son, Braydon Pruitt; sister, Jennifer Lewis (Greg); granddaughter,

Paisley Evans; grandson, Gavin Evans and two nieces and one nephew.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, with Don Reynolds officiating. Burial will be at Lawson Family Cemetery.

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

Brenda Chaney Moore

Brenda Chaney Moore, 57, of Bassett, VA passed away Monday, July 25, 2022 at her home. She was born February 11, 1965 in Martinsville, VA to the late Clarence David Chaney and JoAnn Felts Chaney. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Neal Moore.



Brenda worked as a spinner for Nilit and was a member of the Eagles Club #3739.

She is survived by her sisters, Wilma Cline (Tim) and Kathy Chaney (Randy); nieces, Tonya Fowler (J.R.) and Jessica Bowers (James); nephew, Damian Chaney; great-nieces and nephews, Madison Osborne, Gavin Osborne,

Salem Fowler, Adreiana Bowers, Jasmine Bowers, and David Bowers; best friend, Donna Redd; and godchildren, Vashawn Gray and Lacario Gray.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with a visitation one hour prior to the service from 2 to 3 p.m. The family will receive friends other times at the home of Kathy Chaney, 1380 Orchard Drive, Bassett, VA 24055.

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

Ann Georgia Curry King

Ann Georgia Curry King, 64, of Browns Summit, North Carolina passed away Monday, July 25, 2022, at her home. She was born August 5, 1957, in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Clyde Jackson Curry and Sarah Auton Curry Hickox. She had been a CNA for Martinsville Health and Rehab for over 34 years. She was a member of The Potters House of Greensboro, North Carolina. Ann loved eating at restaurants, especially Mayflower and Tides End. She especially loved her grandchildren.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Bernard Jerome King; and brother,

Robert Curry.

She is survived by sons, Christopher Curry and David Curry; daughter, Paulickia Hairston (P. J.); sister, Katherine Frances Curry; brothers, Jackie Curry and Larry Curry; grandchildren, Tyler Carter, Chloe Curry, Ra'lean Reid, Christopher Jamie Curry, Kendall Curry, Kylie Thurston and Kaiden Curry; and special niece, Shannon Curry.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

James "Jimmy" Robert Lawrence

James "Jimmy" Robert Lawrence, 78, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022. He was born December 9, 1943 in Henry County to the late Edgar Jennings and Frances Eanes Lawrence. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Frances Joyce Lawrence in 2014; his sister, Roslyn Roberson and his niece, Anna Maria Ogle.



Jimmy is survived by his sister, Nancy Draper; niece, Kimberly Woolf and nephew, M. Kregg Roberson.

Jimmy attended Martinsville Schools. He retired from American Furniture

with more than 35 years of service. In his younger days, Jimmy used to ride and help break horses at Martin Stables Jimmy also raced "Big Red" at Leatherwood Race Track. He was an avid NASCAR fan and especially liked Tony Stewart.

A graveside service was held on Friday, July 29, 2022 at Ridge View Memorial Gardens in Eden, N.C. and was officiated by Pastor Tommy Albertson.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, VA is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Virginia Maxcine Ross Jones

Virginia Maxcine Ross Jones, 86, of Collinsville, Virginia passed away Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

A funeral was held on Monday, July 25, 2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. Burial was at Carver Memorial Gardens.

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



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

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Mid Atlantic Textile Company

Mid Atlantic Textile Company is seeking reliable full-time/part-time employees to work first shift. They are in need of a washroom attendant, folders, and a route driver (valid

HELP WANTED

driver's license required). Interested people should call David at 276-694-2421 or visit the plant at 636 Mayo Court, Stuart (across the road from Ten Oaks Dobyns plant).

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Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week.

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Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to get the word out and get them to your yard sale.

ATTENTION

Attention PCHS Class of 1977

45th class reunion, Saturday, Sept 17th 2022, 6p.m.-11:30p.m.

Live music, BBQ dinner, BYOB w/bar set up
Patrick County location TBA.

\$25 per person, casual dress

Email Cathy Turner at ctburton58@gmail.com if you plan to attend and how many will be attending with you, no later than Aug 1st.

Make check payable to Cathy Turner Burton, \$25 per person

Mail to 334 E. Church St, B7, Martinsville, VA, 24112 no later than August 17th.



The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.



COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **August 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-22-12 Joseph Clark

The property is located at 177 Wheeler Ave in the Collinsville District. The Tax Map number is 29.7/74. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.79-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to convert the existing building into a medical office.

Case R-22-13 Randy L. and Tina L. Williams

The property is located across from 2521 Reed Creek Dr in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.6/181N. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.22-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-I. The applicant wishes to construct accessory storage buildings on this property for personal use.

Case R-22-14 Katy J. and Gaylon R. Winesette

The property is located immediately south of 2090 Axton Rd in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 55.9/160D. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to construct a garage on the property to conduct a small engine repair business and potentially expand to do auto repair.

Case R-22-15 Glenna T. Young

The property is located on the north east side of Deerfield Ln, approximately 0.1 mile north of Stones Dairy Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map numbers are 25.9(9)/40A,40C. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots, one consisting of approximately 4-acres, and the other consisting of approximately 0.63-acres. The lots are proposed to be rezoned from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to market the property for sale for the potential placement of manufactured homes.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Uptown Partnership receives VTC Grant for Tourism Marketing

Uptown Partnership has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) for a marketing campaign to promote tourism in Martinsville-Henry County. The project, called SEARCH(S)—Sharing the Excitement of Arts, Recreation, Culture, History and Sports in Martinsville and Henry County, will be implemented in partnership with the local government offices in Martinsville and Henry County. “We are extremely excited to receive the VTC grant in partnership with the City of Martinsville and Henry County,” said Kathy Deacon, Executive Director of Uptown Partnership. “From the Virginia Museum of Natural History to Piedmont Arts to Philpott Lake to the Martinsville Speedway,

Martinsville and Henry County has an array of valuable assets. With the help of this grant, we will get to share the importance of these assets with our neighbors and this sharing will allow us to generate more tourism opportunities for our community.”

The two partnering localities will work together to produce a video series named “MHC Cribs” which will constitute the in-kind matching funds for the grant. The series will highlight various attractions in the area to be promoted throughout communities in regional markets such as Danville, Roanoke, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and points in between.

“The ‘MHC Cribs’ series gives the City of Martinsville and Henry County an opportu-

nity to highlight our community through a collaborative effort,” said Kendall Davis, Public Information Officer for the City of Martinsville. “Not only will it be informative for visitors, it’ll also be an entertaining way to introduce aspects of our community that could be over looked by lifelong residents.”

“The video series is inspired by the 2000’s television show ‘MTV Cribs’ where celebrities would let the audience into their homes to showcase how wonderful of a place their homes were to live,” said Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer for Henry County. “So, through this series, we will be letting people into our home—Martinsville-Henry County—to show them that this is also a wonderful place

to live, work, and play.”

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced on May 2 that VTC awarded more than \$2.7 million for 259 local and regional tourism marketing programs across the state to help increase visitation and revenue for Virginia’s localities through tourism.

“These grant funds provide an important opportunity for communities across the Commonwealth to accelerate recovery efforts and continue with their best-in-class marketing initiatives to attract new travelers,” said Rita McClenny, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism. “Increased visitation translates directly into revenue generation, underscoring tourism’s important role in stimulating economic growth and

expansion.”

The VTC Marketing Leverage Program is designed to increase visitor spending by leveraging limited marketing dollars, stimulating new tourism marketing through partnerships, and extending the “Virginia is for Lovers” brand. Under the grant program, a minimum of three Virginia entities had to partner financially to apply for a grant. The partners needed to consist of Virginia cities, towns, counties, convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, other local or regional destination marketing organizations, private businesses, museums, attractions, cultural events, and other tourism-related businesses.

New exhibits feature Renaissance-style paintings, other works

Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum’s new exhibits, Friday, Aug. 12 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the museum.

“Private Domain,” an exhibition of large-scale oil-on-canvas figure paintings by Virginia Derryberry, explores contemporary aspects of alchemy, the forerunner of modern science. Many of the paintings are multi-panel pieces that use a Renaissance altarpiece format and question the nature of sequential narrative. The intent is to suggest multiple interpretations rather than straightforward illustration of a specific narrative. At first glance, it seems that a “real” space is being defined, but in fact, the painted images are constructed from multiple viewpoints and lighting systems.

Passages of volumetric rendering set next to more abstract, painterly areas result in the creation of a virtual, shifting world where nothing is quite what it seems.

Derryberry’s work is shown regularly in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States, and her paintings have been written about in an extensive list of publications including, New American Paintings magazine and Oxford American magazine. She has received such awards as Outstanding Artistic Achievement from the Southeastern College Art Association; Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome; Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award and the Feldman Professor Award for scholarship from UNC-Asheville; and the Annual Artist Fellowship from

the Southeastern College Art Association.

“Continuity (Color + Texture)” features assemblages by Raleigh-based artist Davis Choun, whose work is born out of an attraction to discarded or everyday materials, most notably clothespins. After disassembling the clothespins, the wood pieces are then burned, dyed, and/or stained. Using those pieces, he composes a pattern to affix to a panel, allowing the clothespins to interact and layer on one another. His processes of manipulation heavily rely on improvisation and continuity.

Choun was born and raised in Rutherford County in western North Carolina and graduated from the School of Design at NC State University. His work has been supported by

various galleries around North Carolina, including Artspace in downtown Raleigh, where he was awarded an Emerging Artist Residency.

“Seasons and Colors of the Appalachian Trail” is a photo-essay celebrating the 85th anniversary of the completion of the Appalachian Trail. This pictorial guide of the natural beauty of the Appalachian Mountains was collected on photographer Bill Booz’s thru-hike of the entire 2,160-mile-long trail. This seven month odyssey took Booz through 14 states and an estimated five million steps to complete. Booz’s photographs transport viewers into some of nature’s finest scenes — from delicate details of flowers in the spring to the majesty of the mountains in fall.

“Works by Pat Coleman” will be on display in the Lynwood Artists Gallery.

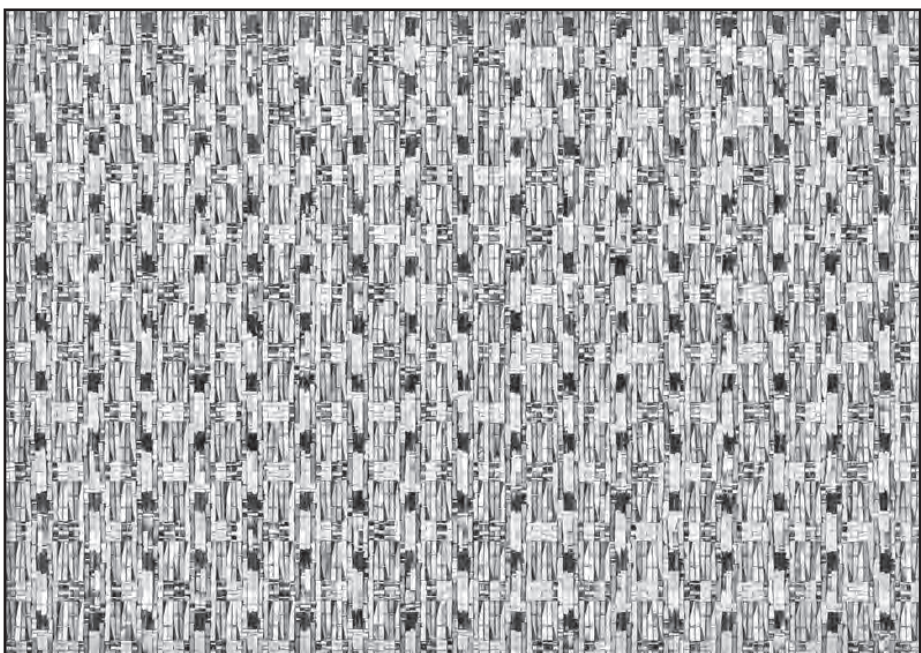
The opening reception is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. Music by Spencer Koger. Artist talk at 6:15 p.m. with a walk-and-talk through “Private Domain” led by Virginia Derryberry. RSVP required by Aug. 9 to (276) 632-3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Exhibits will be on display Aug. 13 - Oct. 22. Exhibit admission is always free.

Exhibits and reception sponsored by Toy and Joe Cobbe, Jo and Don Grayson, Nancy and Henry Moore, Barbara and Andy Parker, Barbara and Guy Stanley, Lynn and Noel Ward and Lynwood Artists.



“Three Graces of 2021,” Virginia Derryberry



“PINS 24,” Davis Choun



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join the Axton Solar project team for our community meeting to learn more about our project.



Doors open at 5:30 pm, program begins at 6 pm.
Light refreshments and appetizers will be served.



Thursday, August 4th,
doors open at 5:30 pm



The TAD Space
Ballroom

The Axton Solar Project team invites residents from Pittsylvania County and Henry County to join us at our August 4 community meeting. We are excited to talk with you and share more about this project.