

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, August 27, 2022

(USPS-6)

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Virginia Supreme Court defers constitutionality argument of reversion referendum to three judge panel

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

The Virginia Supreme Court ruled on Aug. 22 that the constitutionality of the reversion referendum would best be determined by a three judge panel.

This was announced at the Martinsville City Council meeting by City Attorney Eric Monday.

At the Council meeting, Monday said, "The Supreme Court has issued an opinion saying that the appropriate venue for determining the constitutionality of the referendum law is the three judge panel, and that only after the three judge panel has ruled will the Supreme

Court address the issue of the constitutionality."

Monday emphasized that this was not a dismissal of the issue by the Supreme Court, but rather a deference of the issue to the three judge panel that has previously been involved in the reversion proceedings. He also said that this was in no way a ruling by the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court said absolutely nothing about the underlying issue which is the constitutionality of the law. They did not address that at all because they said that the three judge panel would be the appropriate forum for that question to first be addressed," Monday said.

The city's chief legal counsel for the reversion, Stephen Piepgrass, has already contacted the three judge panel to move forward with these proceedings. The city has decided that they will not immediately pursue the constitutionality of the referendum law with the three judge panel.

Monday said that he believes the issue of the referendum's constitutionality will ultimately be heard by the Virginia Supreme Court.

"Frankly, if the three judge panel finds that law to be unconstitutional, I have no doubt that the county, whose goal is to delay this process as long as possible, will appeal it to the Supreme Court,"

he said.

Aug. 19 was the last day the referendum could be ordered to be placed on the ballot for the Nov. election. It must wait until at least next Nov., as a city of Martinsville's size is not permitted to hold a special election for this issue.

In other matters, the Martinsville City Council:

* Discussed the approval of the minutes for the July 12 and July 26 council meetings and the July 25 Druid Hills/Uptown Neighborhood Meeting.

* Presented certificates to the "If I Were Mayor" essay winners. The winners are: **See Reversion Referendum, page 2**



More than a dozen of Hamlet Vineyard's wines placed in competitions, with several earning gold or silver in the annual Virginia Governor's Cup. Owner Virginia Hamlet said the vineyard's Eltham was included in the Governor's Case.

A love for wine is the foundation of Hamlet Vineyards

Taylor Boyd
Staff Writer

Hamlet Vineyards in Bassett is the culmination of Virginia Hamlet's love of wine.

Hamlet said she first learned about the wine making process in 2008 when she took a wine making course at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

"I thought 'do I want to do that?' Then I saw the professor was from Napa (California) and had a degree from UC Davis (University of California, Davis), and I was like this guy is legit," she said.

After completing that course, Hamlet started taking other classes in P&HCC's viticulture program.

"I just fell in love, and I was just enjoying it. My husband said 'well, what are you going to do with all that?' and I said, 'have fun and enjoy. Don't mess this up for me,'" she said, laughing.

Hamlet's husband suggested the couple should start a vineyard and sell the grapes. He even wrote a business plan, and grape vines were planted in 2010.

"Our goal was to just sell our fruit to Chateau Morrisette, and they agreed

See **Hamlet Vineyards**, page 8

Henry County School Board Appoints Sidney McClure to Ridgeway District Seat

Henry County Public Schools has appointed Sidney McClure as the interim school board member for the Ridgeway District seat left vacant after the death of Francis Zehr in July, according to a press release from the schools.

The school board held interviews with the four interim candidates on Aug. 23 and selected McClure for the position on the same day. McClure will have all the authority and powers of the other school board members and will serve from Sept. 1 until Nov. 30.

McClure is a public safety trainer and a graduate of Magna Vista. The release states that he also intends to run for the seat in Nov. "It is an honor and privilege this board has entrusted me to represent the Ridgeway District. My goal is to provide this community with the best representation to ensure the students are safe and receive the highest form of education possible. This board provides the foundation for our students and I want to make sure we are giving them the best foundation possible to exceed and excel in life. I look forward to serving this great community," McClure said.

McClure's first official meeting is the board's regular meeting on Thursday, Sept. 1.



Sidney McClure will serve on the school board from Sept. 1 until Nov. 30.

Southwest Virginia Ballet and Piedmont Arts bring dancing and learning to Martinsville elementary schools

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Patrick Henry Elementary and Albert Harris Elementary School 4th graders delivered a performance showcasing what they learned during the week-long residency program Dance Español on Aug. 19.

The program, which is funded by Piedmont Arts and led by Southwest Virginia Ballet's Artistic Director Pedro Szalay, aims to teach children the basics of the Spanish language through dance, and along the way teach them a variety of other skills and life lessons.

"Dance Español is giving the opportunity to



Students at Patrick Henry Elementary School performed what they learned during the week-long Dance Español program, led by Southwest Virginia Ballet's Artistic Director Pedro Szalay.

learn the basics of the Spanish language through dance," Szalay, who started the program in 2012, said. "We keep the same formation of leadership, teamwork, endurance, and learning with music, because all the classes are live

music." Szalay was born to Hungarian parents and is a native of La Guaira, Venezuela. He aims to teach children to

See **SWVA Ballet**, page 4

Supervisors grant funding for comprehensive classification and compensation study

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on Aug. 23 and agreed to contribute a share of the \$74,550 required for a comprehensive classification and compensation study of the Henry County Sheriff's Office and Henry County Public Schools. The county will pay half of the amount, \$37,275, with the other half covered by the schools.

The study was requested by the Board of Supervisors in Sept. 2021, though no funds were allocated for the project at the time.

Dale Wagoner, County Administrator, said that the study will obtain information through a

variety of methods and resources. "This is a very in-depth process that will include talking with department heads, employees, creating focus groups, online surveys and a market analysis," Wagoner said.

The study will be used to determine if there are employees within the county schools or sheriff's office who are incorrectly classified, as well as whether or not there are particular demographics within the systems who are not being correctly compensated. The study will not be completed until spring of 2023, but the county has requested that the information be released to it slowly and in chunks so that it may make plans for how to implement and take action on the results of the



The Board of Supervisors met for their regular meeting on Aug. 23 at the Henry County Administration Building.

study.

The study will be conducted by Evergreen Solutions, LLC.

In other matters, the board:

*Was given a report by Henry County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff. The county collected 92% of personal property taxes and 94% of real estate taxes as of July 29.

*Received a monthly update from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation's president and CEO, Mark Heath. There was no change in the county unemployment rate between May and June, while the city saw a 0.2% decrease. Heath also discussed Small Business Saturday, which is scheduled for Nov. 26. \$10 coupons to local restaurants who sign up to participate will be available

See **Supervisors Grant Funding**, page 4

VISIT

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Friday, August 26

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a "Movie on the Lawn" at 8:30 p.m. with the movie beginning at sunset. The event will be held at the Main Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street, Martinsville. Popcorn will be provided, but guests are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. Registration is required. More registration or more information, call (276)403-5430.

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.

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA will host its annual fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fido's Finds, 119 East Main Street, Martinsville. Items will be sold at low prices and proceeds will support the SPCA. For more information, call (276)656-1101.

Saturday, September 10

The Southside Survivor Response Center will celebrate its second annual Community Without Limits event 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.

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA will host its annual fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fido's Finds, 119 East Main Street, Martinsville. Items will be sold at low prices and proceeds will support the SPCA. For more information, call (276)656-1101.

Tuesday, September 13

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host Book BINGO at the Bassett Branch (3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett). Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited, so please register by calling (276) 629-2426.

Saturday, September 17

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, is hosting the MHC is for Book Lovers Book-fest, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Attendees will enjoy vendors, food trucks, and meet and greets with attending authors. Admission is free.

Saturday, September 24

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.

Sunday, September 25

The Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer-Penn Road, Spencer, will host a Barn Quilt class from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Supplies are provided. Pricing is based on size: 12" by 36" exterior \$75, 24"x24" exterior \$65, 36"x36" exterior \$85. Pre-registration is required by Monday, September 16. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

Tuesday, September 27

The Bassett Historical Center will host a discussion with Pittsylvania County author William Guerrant at 10 a.m. Guerrant will discuss his first novel, "Jim Wrenn." The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

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, visit brrl.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 at (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.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts their new book club, "Books and Brews," at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton. Talk about the month's books while sipping on a good beer. The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The book for September is The Good Daughter by Alexandra Burt.

Reversion Referendum

from page 1

ners, from Martinsville Middle Schools, were Logan Richardson, Jazmin Mota-Ocampo, and Elijah Saunders.

* Heard an update from SOVAH Health Martinsville CEO, Spencer Thomas. Thomas discussed the hospital's new accreditation, new providers, and future plans. Thomas also addressed the rumors that the hospital is closing. "Despite everything we've weathered over the last two years, we're in a good position financially. We're not in a position where we're closed or even contemplating closing," Thomas said.

* Heard an update regarding the Martinsville Mustangs, including this past season's success with community sponsorships, their high attendance rate, and their plans to make improvements to the ballfield such as covered seating and updated restrooms.

* Heard an update from City Manager Leon Towarnicki on the local public bus system, PART, which continues to be used by a large number of our community members.

* Heard an update from Electric Department Director, Durwin Joyce, on a new utility outage call-in system that is being implemented.

* Set the 2022 tax year personal property tax allocation percentage for qualifying vehicles at 47.4%, up from last year's of 44.28%.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. One point north of due west</p> <p>4. Indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia</p> <p>9. Popular California/Nevada lake</p> <p>14. Go quickly</p> <p>15. Fatty acid in soaps</p> <p>16. Brand of fuel stations</p> <p>17. State of fuss</p> <p>18. Romance novelist</p> <p>20. Members of a household</p> <p>22. Asserts to be the case</p> <p>23. Type of infection</p> <p>24. With metal inlays</p> <p>28. Chinese philosophic principle</p> <p>29. Early multimedia</p> <p>30. Employee stock ownership plan</p> <p>31. He investigated Clinton administration</p> <p>33. Shells</p> <p>37. Six</p> | <p>38. Snake-like fish</p> <p>39. Capital of Kenya</p> <p>41. Influential group (abbr.)</p> <p>42. Used to chop</p> <p>43. It comes as a case</p> <p>44. Challenges</p> <p>46. Small amounts</p> <p>49. The Golden State</p> <p>50. Peyton's little brother</p> <p>51. For walking in Alaska</p> <p>55. Buddhist honorific titles</p> <p>58. Lively ballroom dance</p> <p>59. Capital of Albania</p> <p>60. Late night host</p> <p>64. Draw from</p> <p>65. A way to utilize</p> <p>66. One who is not native Hawaiian</p> <p>67. A power to perceive</p> <p>68. Bulky</p> <p>69. Horse mackerels</p> <p>70. Proclaim out loud</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Hits</p> <p>2. Bathroom accessory</p> <p>3. Young</p> <p>4. Beef cattles</p> <p>5. It's often in soap</p> <p>6. For each</p> <p>7. Innermost membrane enveloping the brain</p> <p>8. A way to leave</p> <p>9. Emaciation</p> <p>10. Punish with a fine</p> <p>11. Steeds</p> <p>12. Having eight</p> <p>13. Greek goddess of the dawn</p> <p>19. Mature reproductive cells</p> <p>21. Armadillo species</p> <p>24. Ancient country in what is now Romania</p> <p>25. Extreme greed</p> <p>26. Stars</p> <p>27. Poems</p> <p>31. Places to sit</p> | <p>32. One from the Lone Star State</p> <p>34. Small rails</p> <p>35. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)</p> <p>36. Where coaches work</p> <p>40. Indicates position</p> <p>41. Mammals</p> <p>45. Resembling a wing</p> <p>47. Beliefs</p> <p>48. Hindu male religious teachers</p> <p>52. Mischievously</p> <p>53. Where athletes want to end up (abbr.)</p> <p>54. Large, deep-bodied fish</p> <p>56. Horned squash bug genus</p> <p>57. Excessively sentimental</p> <p>59. Shared verbally</p> <p>60. You can put it on toast</p> <p>61. Data mining methodology (abbr.)</p> <p>62. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects</p> <p>63. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano</p> |
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BrightView Health addiction treatment center opens its doors to Martinsville-Henry County

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

The BrightView Health addiction treatment center celebrated its May 31 opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 22.

As the opioid epidemic surges on and continues to hit Martinsville-Henry County hard, the need for addiction recovery programs increases, according to Marsha Neal, the Operations Director of Martinsville's BrightView. She hopes that BrightView can help those with addictions in our community. "It's needed so much, because there are so many people in this area that have drug addictions that truly need our help."

BrightView is a comprehensive outpatient addiction center. BrightView's Regional Community Outreach Manager, Thomas Fraticelli, said they focus on three aspects of recovery. The center does this through a combination of programs and resources available within its walls and referrals to outside resources.

These three aspects are: physical, by offering connections to primary care physicians and other medical resources; counseling, by providing access to counselors, including telemedicine; and social,

by offering group sessions and resources such as interview training. Treatment, including medication, can begin the same day the patient walks through the doors.

The outpatient center is here to help anyone in our community who needs it, be it through treatment at the center, connecting patients with other resources, or a mix of the two. "BrightView is here to help any of those who have substance use disorders. Even alcohol, we help those that are addicted to alcohol. If we find that we can't help them and they need inpatient services, we help locate that for them as well. We're here, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 a.m., to bring patients in, and we're not going to turn them away," Neal said.

With doors that are open to everyone, BrightView meets patients where they are to help them get on their feet. Neal said, "We take walk ins, we take referrals, we see people that are homeless, have nowhere to live, we work with anybody and everybody to help them treat their addiction."

Brightview accepts Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, and the uninsured, and works with the latter to get them insurance. In the meantime, they offer financial plans. "We have a financial assistance program that helps them out.



BrightView staff celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting.

It's only for a couple of months until we can get them on Medicaid or some form of insurance. It helps them get through their appointments. It doesn't help pay for their medicine, but it helps them with their appointments."

BrightView aims to shed a new light on addiction and its treatments. Fraticelli emphasizes that they aim to change the language around addiction, such as referring to tests as "positive" or "negative" as opposed to "clean" or "dirty".

The treatment center takes the approach that addiction is not a choice that the patient made. "We treat their addiction as a disease, not just a bad choice in their lives that they have made. We treat it as a disease, and we want to help them overcome their addictions. That's what we're here for, because in this

area it's bad, and we know that. Coming here is hopefully going to help people more than they've ever been helped in this area," Neal said.

BrightView offers a number of programs at the center, including counseling, group sessions, medical screenings, and more. It is their hope that in the near future, they will bring on a pharmacist in order to allow patients to receive all of their medication from BrightView.

BrightView is located at 1836 Virginia Ave, Martinsville and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted and transportation is available. A photo ID is not required if you can provide a piece of mail with your name and address. For more information, call 1(833)510-4329.

"Hometown Hustle" returns for a second season

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Hometown Hustle, a web series hosted by Natalie Hodge and her media company Rudy's Girl Media, returns for a second season with the intent of helping out even more local business owners.

The first season of the show aired last year and featured six local businesses and their owners. The entrepreneurs featured on season one have already seen the impact of the exposure from the show.

DeShanta Hairston, owner of local bookstore Books and Crannies, was featured in season one of "Hometown Hustle." Open since 2016 and located in Uptown Martinsville, Books and Crannies sells new and used books. Books and Crannies' episode of the web series helped bring the bookstore some publicity from the area, but this is not the only thing that the series showcased. Between being a mom and an entrepreneur, Hairston has a lot on her plate, and she believes that "Hometown Hustle" truly captured what it means to be both.

"It helped give a little insight into what it's like to be a mom and an entrepreneur of a small business, and just how hard it is juggling everything," she said.

Hairston said that the cast and pro-

duction crew of "Hometown Hustle" made the entire experience pleasant, and everything was well put together and thoroughly thought out. "Natalie and her team are very professional," Hairston said. "They're so much fun to work with."

Wayne Draper, owner of The TAD Space in Martinsville, also spoke to the benefit of being on Hometown Hustle and the positive effect it had on his business. The TAD Space seeks to provide a variety of resources for local businesses and employees, such as meeting spaces and office spaces for remote workers.

"When it comes to businesses in general, any type of exposure you get helps tremendously," Draper said. Draper said that the expertise in the business and entrepreneurship arena that Hodge brings to the table has a huge impact on the business, even after it originally aired. Since his appearance on the series, Draper has noticed a change in how the community views and interacts with The TAD Space and said that "everything that Natalie puts her hands on makes a major difference in the community."

Season two premieres in October and will be released weekly, with two businesses from Southwest Virginia featured each week. For more information and to watch season one, visit Rudy's Girl Media's website at <https://www.rudysgirl.com/>

SOL test scores show Martinsville students recovering rapidly from pandemic learning loss

The students of Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) are recovering rapidly from learning loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a release from MCPS.

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing data for the 2021-2022 academic year, released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) last Thursday shows that MCPS students are making significant jumps in SOL pass rates since the historic lows of the 2020-2021 school year, the first year the tests were taken since the onset of the pandemic.

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly every MCPS student (99 percent) participated in SOL testing during the 20-22 school year, exceeding the state's 95 percent participation target. Division-wide, students across all subgroups made substantial gains in each of the core areas of science, math, and reading.

In math, MCPS students achieved a 59 percent pass rate, an impressive 29 percent increase from the 30 percent pass rate in the 20-21 school year. In the area of science, the division's 46 percent pass rate equates to an 18-point gain over the previous year's 28 percent. Students also improved in reading, going from a 53 percent pass rate in 20-21 to 61 percent in the 21-22 school year.

"Our students, staff, and families worked together to make these gains despite the challenges faced from the pandemic," said Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing. "We will continue to focus on the individual needs of our students and providing the supports necessary to accelerate learning and close any gaps that may remain."

Though students have not yet attained the high pass rates they achieved prior to the pandemic (80 percent in math, 68 percent in science, and 67 percent in reading for the 2018-2019 school year, the last year the tests were taken before the onset of COVID-19), these latest scores indicate that the division is on the right track in its efforts to make up for the learning loss that has occurred over the past several years.

"We are very proud of our students, families, teachers, support personnel, staff, and school board members," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebede Talley. "We have made significant gains in all areas and plan to accelerate our students to a place of academic excellence. In addition, we plan to focus on social emotional learning and relationship team building social skills. The journey of academic excellence continues for Martinsville City Public Schools."

PSA working towards 50-year water agreement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Maddy Oliver
Staff Writer

Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) requested the reallocation of 4 million gallons per day by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE has published a report stating the results of the completed study, along with the proposed alternatives to achieve this request.

At an information meeting on Aug. 18, USACE gave an overview of this report to the public. USACE Project Manager, Kent Tranter, said that the Corps received a letter from Henry County PSA requesting this reallocation. "In response to that letter, the Corps agreed to do a study for the reallocation and look at options and identify the most cost-effective means of providing that additional water," Tranter said.

USACE looked into several methods for providing this request and the pros and cons of each of them. "We didn't just go right to the reallocation. We did take a big picture look and try to identify other measures besides reallocation that would be cost effective and provide the same amount of water."

These alternatives ranged from the most expensive option of building a new water supply reservoir, with a cost of \$444,400,000, to no action at no cost. The alternative that was ultimately proposed by the USACE was conservation storage reallocation, at a total cost of \$8,460,000.

"That became our recommended plan. The recommended plan is to reallocate 5,200 acre feet of conservation storage to water supply storage. This constitutes 3.58% of the usable storage in the lake," Tranter said. He also said that this plan does not require any structural modifications to the dam.

The Corps said that this plan will have no impact on the environmental wellbeing or water quality of Philpott. The lake will remain within historical lake elevation range during normal operations.

A slightly higher water flow will be noticeable between the dam and the county intake.

Hydroelectric operations at Philpott will see a slight impact. Tranter



USACE Project Manager, Kent Tranter, delivered a public information presentation on the Philpott water reallocation study.

said, "The analysis indicated that 'For the small amount of reservoir storage reallocated from the Conservation Pool there will be a very small annual hydropower value loss of \$6,077, or 0.21%.'"

The cost will be borne by Henry County. "The county is required to pay a percentage based off of the 3.58%. They have to essentially purchase that percentage of the construction cost to the dam," Tranter said. He said that the county would have up to 30 years to pay this construction cost. The county would also be responsible for that percentage of the maintenance cost. According to Tranter, this cost came out to around \$400,000 per year for the county. There are different federal programs to help the county pay for

this, and USACE is looking into these programs.

The study will be completed in spring of 2023 and go into effect that summer. The agreement will then be in place for a 50-year timeframe from 2023 to 2072. At this time, a public commenting period is open for the community to make comments or ask questions about the draft report until Aug. 29. These comments will be included in the final draft.

To comment on the draft report, send an email to philpott-reallocation-feasibility-study@usace.army.mil

The draft report can be located at <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Reallocation-Feasibility-Study/>



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OPINION

Will the real Alex Jones please stand up?

Since late July, the world has watched Alex Jones take the stand in court, defending himself against defamation charges.

For those unfamiliar, Jones is the far-right conspiracy theorist who hosts The Alex Jones Show and runs the website InfoWars. Over the years, he has told his followers that the government is withholding information about the 1969 moon landing, the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, 9/11, and more.

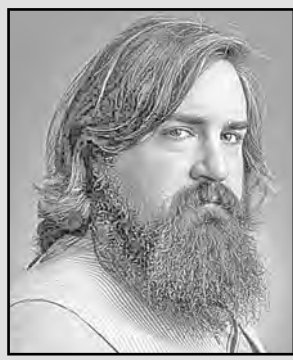
The civil cases against Jones, however, all stem from his insistence that the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting, which claimed the lives of 20 young children and six staffers at the school, was a “false flag” operation by gun control advocates. Jones believes that the entire shooting was a fake event designed to pass laws that would take away

guns, which definitely hasn't happened in the decade since the massacre, but I guess these things take time.

On his various programs, Jones claimed that “no one died” at Sandy Hook, and that the horrible massacre of children aged 6-7 was “staged.”

The grieving parents of these children, Jones insisted, were “crisis actors.” They weren't actually heartbroken parents, just actors pretending to be sad so they could rake in millions from gun control advocates.

All of this led to these grieving parents being harassed by Jones' followers. Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, parents of Sandy Hook victim Jesse Lewis, said Jones' conspiracy theorist fans even opened fire on their house and car, which was a big part of the reason they were



By Ben R. Williams

suing Jones for defamation.

I've been watching the trials of Alex Jones, and I've seen him take the stand and deny all of his old conspiracy theories. And every time I see Alex Jones sitting in the witness box, there's only one thought on my mind:

That man isn't the real Alex Jones.

I've seen Alex Jones. This grotesque, sweating schlub is no Alex Jones. He looks like a wino ate Alex Jones and then caught

the flu. He's utterly pathetic.

I mean, just look at him. Alex Jones is only 48 years old! This guy has to be in his late 50s, and even then, it's a BAD late 50s. His voice sounds like he's been gargling sulfuric acid. His giant, fat face is all sweaty and ruddy. He looks like he buys suits from a German sausage casing manufacturer. THIS is the guy who leads an army of conspiracy theorists? What a joke.

And this fake actor playing Alex Jones has NO charisma. He certainly doesn't have the strength of his convictions. The REAL Alex Jones spent a decade harassing the families of the Sandy Hook victims, but the second this fake Alex Jones gets on the stand, it's all “boo hoo hoo, I take it all back, I'm so sorry.” What a pathetic little diaper baby.

And THEN, ladies and gentlemen, we're to believe that Alex Jones' attorneys ACCIDENTALLY sent the entire contents of his cell phone to the opposing counsel? As

though any semi-competent attorney would EVER make such an egregious mistake? I'm sorry, but I don't believe a word of it. This script has some serious plot holes.

There's no telling how these sham civil trials will pan out but whatever happens, I'm sure the REAL Alex Jones will be laughing all the way to the bank.

As for the fate of this crisis actor pretending to be Alex Jones, I hope he ends up getting the lethal injection. Sure, it seems unlikely a civil trial would result in capital punishment, but after what this bloated liar has done to the public trust, it's exactly what he deserves.

Supervisors Grant Funding from page 1

at the former Visitor Center and will only be valid for this date.

* Approved Public Safety Director, Matt Tatum's, request for a contract not to exceed \$2,000 to Bill Agee Consulting to assess Henry County's current radio microwave system. Tatum said that the system reached its end of serviceable life in 2021. The Board also agreed to help with developing a request for proposal to update the system after the consultation.

* Approved Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester's request for an additional appropriation of \$8,500 from state asset forfeiture funds to cover the cost of travel expenses.

* Approved Sheriff Lane Perry's request to allocate

\$19,566 from the state asset forfeiture funds for the purpose of purchasing radio headsets for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

* Approved Perry's request for a contract to Montgomery Technology Systems, LLC in the amount of \$133,500 to replace the security features in the Henry County Courthouse, including the camera system, security locks, and access controls.

* Formally established a mutual aid agreement with Pittsylvania County regarding fire and emergency services.

* Opened a commenting period from Aug. 24 to Sept. 24 regarding a \$17,262 Justice Assistance Grant given to the Sheriff's Office.

* Designated Phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Passage Trail as public outdoor recreation land and approved a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation to begin Phase 7 of the Dick and Willie Passage Trail.

* Was informed by Henry County Attorney, George Lyle, that the county has received its first payment from the nationwide settlement brought upon by opioid company Endo's bankruptcy. The settlement was in the amount of \$46,409. The county is expecting two more payments in the near future, one of which will be slightly larger than the first and the other will be significantly larger.

SWVA Ballet from page 1

be proud of who they are and to embrace their cultures. “The most important thing I can teach, you need to be proud of who you are and where you're from,” Szalay said.

Along with learning to embrace their culture, Szalay wants children to understand that their background does not determine what they are capable of. “That's important to teach them, they're able to accomplish something. I don't care what their background is, or religion, or race, they are able to work together,” he said.

However, the lessons that Dance Español aims to teach go far beyond learning the dances and language. Szalay wishes to instill in them an appreciation for the arts, and all of the lessons that come with it. “The arts are important to learn. This program is about math, science, literature, PE, and it's all involved in that,” he said.

Along with these lessons, Szalay says that he is able to teach the students a variety of other life lessons through the arts. “What I try to teach them, too, is about team-

work. To build a better place where we work together. And what's the best way to do it, but with the arts. Art is crucial in these times.”

Dance Español sets out to help students increase their self-esteem, practice teamwork, and receive encouragement. Szalay believes that these traits, along with the arts, are what helps us to build strong communities. “That's my motto, ‘working together will make a better city,’ and especially with the arts, that's crucial,” he said.

Instilling these qualities in students is more than just a goal for Dance Español. 4th grade teacher Lizzy Fulcher says that in the short week the students participated in this program, she has already begun to see a difference.

“They've really enjoyed it throughout the week, and I've seen a lot of confidence built and respect,” she said.

Fulcher also said that this program has been especially beneficial in helping this group of students to break out of their shell when it comes to performing in front of people. These students lost many of these opportunities in recent years to Covid, and are now getting to experi-

ence them.

Bringing these programs into schools offers a unique opportunity to students. “It's a different type of learning for them. In the classroom, we can do a variety of learning opportunities for students, but these kinds of programs, it's just showing them a different world, in a sense. Mr. Pedro is bringing his background of his culture to our students and they're able to ask him questions about where he's from and his accent and his language. These kinds of programs really provide a wealth of knowledge for our students because a lot of them may not get to experience travel to different places in the world,” Fulcher said.

Szalay said that this program is a great opportunity for children, and the lessons they learn are vital. “Getting to plant that little seed somewhere, that's crucial. I don't care if I need to drive three hours. The success of this program is not about me, it's about the students, how they want to enrich themselves and be open minded to learn something new. It's the most valuable thing.”

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Virginia Museum of Natural History receives over \$37,000 in grant funding from Institute of Museum and Library Services for Scope it Out! initiative, new microscopy lab

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) has received a grant of \$37,780.32 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in support of the museum's Scope it Out! initiative aimed at bolstering the museum's science education programs and outreach activities. Primarily, the initiative will establish a one-of-a-kind Exploration Lab featuring research-quality microscopy equipment that will foster discovery, problem solving, and critical thinking via eyes-on and hands-on learning opportunities for students of all ages.

“We're incredibly grateful for the generous support of IMLS and its recognition of the impact that the upcoming Exploration Lab will have on the museum's ability to provide one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning experiences for students of all ages,” said VMNH Education and Public Programs Manager Christy Deatherage, who also serves as project leader for the Exploration Lab. “Microscopes are invaluable devices for examining various specimens because they open an exploratory window for discovering tiny features that cannot be seen by the naked eye. With microscopes, students are equipped with an exciting and engaging tool they can use to explore previously hidden dimensions of science and the natural world they live in.”

At the K-12 level, the lab will primarily be used by VMNH educators for programming targeted at school groups, including homeschool families. VMNH curators will also use the lab to teach groups of high school and college students, as well as citizen scientists, such as participants of the Virginia Master Naturalist program.

Featuring all new, research quality microscopy equipment, the Exploration Lab will consist of 15 student workstations equipped with Leica EZ4 educational stereomicroscopes and three instructor work-

stations equipped with two Leica EZ4-W and one Leica S9i stereomicroscopes with built-in cameras, Wi-Fi capabilities, monitors, and imaging software. Using the digital capabilities of the EZ4-W and S9i microscopes, students will be able to observe specimens under the instructors' microscopes, and then repeat the same process at their own workstations. This advanced setup is especially helpful for younger students and students with special needs, who will be more easily able to repeat the actions of instructors in a step-by-step fashion.

“Beyond the desire to implement research-quality equipment, we want to make sure the lab is established in a way that promotes accessibility and provides a learning experience conducive for all age levels and needs,” said Deatherage.

Although the Exploration Lab will be primarily dedicated to educational programming, it will also be accessible to VMNH scientists, visiting researchers, and citizen scientists who are conducting specimen-based research.

“While many museums worldwide successfully incorporate ‘science labs’ in their exhibits, such spaces are often designed to mimic working labs rather than being fully functional facilities,” said VMNH Curator of Mammals Dr. Nancy Moncrief. “Rather than act as an extension of the museum's exhibit galleries, the Exploration Lab is unique in that it will be a fully functional microscopy lab capable of accommodating professional scientific research.”

The Exploration Lab, which will be located in the research wing of the museum facility, is planned to open during the 2022-23 academic calendar.

To learn more about the museum, including more information about its educational offerings, visit www.vmnh.net.

New College Foundation announces scholarships, awards

New College Foundation (NCF) announced that eight area students have been awarded scholarships for the 2022/2023 academic year, according to a release.

These individuals are participating in one of New College Institute's (NCI) affiliated programs leading toward a college degree. In commenting on this news, Kevin DeKoninck, NCF's Executive Director, said, "I'm grateful for donors who have made these scholarships possible. Also, I'm grateful for NCF's Trustees unwavering commitment to collegiate education. The Trustees recently increased the payout formula resulting in a \$6,000 (or 52%) increase in scholarships over the prior formula."

DeKoninck went on to say that while he is pleased by the individual higher scholarship amounts, he was disappointed by the significant decline in applicants for this cycle. "NCF had approximately \$25,000 in unspent scholarship funds," he said, "and this is disappointing."

Each year a college professor teaching in one of NCI's affiliated programs is selected to receive the Lula White Johnson Distinguished Teacher Award. The award comes with a plaque and \$1,000 check

from NCF. This year Dr. Challen Mabry, professor in Bluefield University's Master of Counselling Program, has been selected as the 2022 recipient.

In speaking about Dr. Mabry one student said, "I can genuinely say Dr. Mabry is one of the most passionate, authentic, and driven servant leaders I have ever met. She provides academic guidance in a loving yet directive way."

NCF's commitment to higher education extends well beyond providing scholarships. In July NCF Trustees provided NCI a \$40,000 grant for augmented Reality/Virtual training equipment. Earlier this year NCF provided a \$41,500 grant to help Longwood students at NCI pass their licensure exams. DeKoninck said, "Providing these students the proper resources will be a direct benefit to our community."

NCF also provided \$4,000 of the \$7,000 funding needed for the Martinsville-Henry County National Society of Black Engineers chapter to attend the National Kidwind competition in San Antonio, Texas in May. New College Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization established for the purpose of supporting New College Institute and its students.



Dr. Challen Mabry was selected as the 2022 recipient of the Lula White Johnson Distinguished Teacher Award.

Campbell named new Martinsville High School basketball coach

Louis Campbell, 43, has been named the new head coach for Martinsville High School's basketball team. Originally from Rahway, NJ, Campbell attended the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYBuffalo) in New York where he earned his bachelor's degree in social science and played combo guard for the Buffalo Bulls basketball team.

After college, Campbell played professional basketball internationally in Germany, Japan, France, and Spain. In 2015, as a player for Strasbourg IG, he was awarded the French Basketball Cup MVP for his role in his team's victory in the 2014-2015 French Basketball Cup tournament.

Campbell returned to the U.S. where he joined the staff of the Chicago Bulls as a

Player Development and Video Coordinator. He moved to Virginia in 2020 and eventually found himself in Martinsville where he became an Assistant Coach for the Patrick & Henry Community College Patriots basketball team.

He joined the staff at Martinsville High School in 2021 as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher and currently works as a special education teacher at the school. During his time at MHS, Campbell said he has had the opportunity to interact with student athletes and watch them in action.

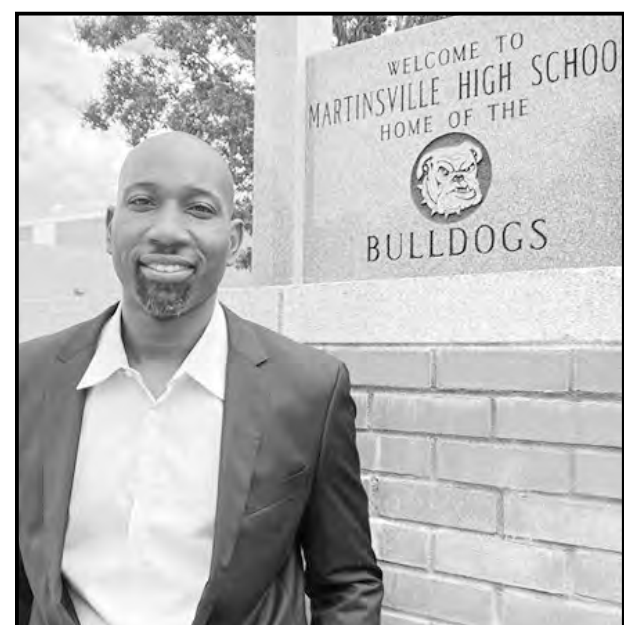
"I knew that I had something to offer" the team, he said.

Campbell, who has mentored student athletes most of his adult life, plans to take a holistic

approach to his coaching style. He said he is looking forward to getting to know not only his players, but his players' families and "getting to know where these kids are from. If I want to maneuver them in the right way, I've got to see where they're coming from first," he said.

Campbell said he hopes to teach his team to look beyond their athletic talent, to see their abilities not only as a key to success in basketball but as a key to opening up other doors and other pathways in life outside of the basketball court.

"I think it's imperative that our athletes see themselves as more than just athletes," Campbell said. "Our athletes have to be scholars, they have to be students, and they have to have a different mindset on how they use the sport. That's



everything to me."
"We are excited for a new era of Bulldogs basketball," said Martinsville High School Athletic Director Tommy Golding. "We are a strong athletic conference and we have high expectations both of our athletes and our coaching staff. We hope he will bring something to our program that we haven't had in awhile."

P&HCC names interim head baseball coach

Patrick & Henry Community College has named Brandon Nania the Interim Head Baseball Coach.

Nania replaces Cody Ellis, who stepped down to pursue other opportunities.

Nania has helped P&H to 82 wins, 1 Region 10 Championship and 1 World Series appearance since becoming the lead assistant coach for the Pats in 2020.

"We are very excited to have Brandon Nania lead the Pats Baseball program" said P&H Athletic Director and Assistant Vice-President for Student Engagement and Inclusion Brian Henderson. This isn't just another job for him, this is Coach Nania's PHamily. I'm 100% sure he will give his all as head coach, just as he did as a former player here at P&H."

Nania, while serving as the assistant P&H baseball coach, gained valuable experience as the head coach of the Martinsville Mustangs in the Coastal Plain League for the past two seasons.



On this interim appointment, Nania stated, "I'm thankful first and foremost to Coach Ellis for giving me an opportunity to join his staff three years ago. He's been such an incredible mentor and an even better friend. Now, it's my turn to provide the same oppor-

tunities for this group of young men and future Pats baseball recruits."

Nania holds honors as being two-time All-Region selection and a part of the All-Defensive Team during his time as a player at P&H. He also held numerous offensive records including single season RBI's (60), career RBI's (117), career doubles (42), and career home runs (16). After his two-year stint at P&H, he transferred to Winston-Salem State University where he gained a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Youth Development.

Coach Nania continued, "I also want to thank Dr. Hodges, Athletic Director Brian Henderson, and the P&H family for having confidence in me to lead this great program. I'm truly humbled and incredibly excited to carry on the winning tradition and to continue developing young men here at Patrick & Henry Community College."

Advocates worried about how bill will impact children with autism

Taylor Boyd
Staff Writer

Local behavioral advocates are worried about how a recently passed Senate Bill will affect students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disabilities.

Krystal Barker, owner of CPB Behavioral Therapy and Advocacy Services, LLC, said the Virginia Autism Project brought the issues with SB 36 to light. "They actually spent the entire General Assembly period fighting against this bill," she said.

Barker said SB 36 is a bill that criminalizes violent behavior. "Anything that happens in school that is aggressive in nature or that results in a fight, or any sort of physical action now gives principal the ability to call law enforcement," she said.

Barker noted the issue with the

bill is that it does not discriminate between kids with disabilities and kids without disabilities. "This is a quote from the bill: 'that a principal is not required but may report to the local law enforcement agency any such incident committed by a student that has a disability,'" she said.

Barker said the biggest concern she has with the bill is what happens when a child with a disability is in a crisis moment. Barker noted that many children with ASD or disabilities will use violent behavior when in a crisis moment or when they are overstimulated.

"Essentially, under this bill that behavior can result in law enforcement intervention," Barker said. "The child can be arrested with the way that the bill is written with the exception of this one sentence, and this one sentence leaves it up to the principal's discre-

tion as to whether or not law enforcement will be called in those types of instances."

Barker said the bill needs more than the one sentence to protect children with disabilities. "Because this is a manifestation of their disabilities," she said. "They can't necessarily control it."

As an autism advocate, Barker said she is not worried about the schools in this area, but believes some students might be missed in the shuffle if they have not yet been diagnosed with a disability or don't have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

In Northern Virginia on July 1, the very first day the law went into effect, Barker said children with disabilities who were having aggressive behavior, whether it was in school or on the bus, had law enforcement called on them by their school systems.

"In the cases I read about, par-

ents intervened and the kids were not arrested, but there's not always going to be a parent to intervene or an officer that's going to listen" or understands disabilities, she said.

Barker said the potential risks don't just affect children with ASD, but also Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). "We're seeing more and more kids that have ADHD that have the behavior component," she said. "There are also kids that have emotional disturbances or emotional disabilities that have the aggressive component."

She added that the timing of the bill is unfortunate as the country is in a mental health crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, go to cpb-behavioraltherapy.com or Facebook. [com/CPBBehavioralTherapyandAdvocacyServices,LLC](https://www.facebook.com/CPBBehavioralTherapyandAdvocacyServices,LLC).

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

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OBITUARIES

Henry Earl Hopkins

Henry Earl Hopkins, 72, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Monday, August 22, 2022, at his residence. He was born January 12, 1950, in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina to the late Henry Thomas "Joe" Hopkins and Mary Elizabeth Trent Reese. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy and was a Vietnam Veteran. He enjoyed boating, classic cars and working outside.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Henry Wayne Hopkins; and brother, Milton Ray Hopkins.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Dodson



2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. Burial will be private.

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

Hopkins; daughters, Chelsea Hopkins Moore (Matt), Tori Davis (Louis), Kimberly Burden (Lonnie) and Angela Nelson; sisters, Patricia Dowers (Les) and Jane Holbrook (Richard); grandchildren, Wesley Moore, Cooper Davis and Michael Nelson; several step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Friday, August 26,

Jimmy Lynn Taylor, 61, of Martinsville, VA passed away Friday, August 19, 2022 at his home. He was born April 22, 1961 in Rocky Mount, VA to Betty Lou Robertson Taylor and the late James Calvin Taylor. He was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Susie and Luther Robertson and Essie and Benjamin Taylor; special uncle, Donnie Robertson; and many other uncles and aunts.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his sister, Wanda Taylor; niece, Jessica Fackler; great-niece, Cheyenne Geramita; aunt, Patricia Hodges; uncle,



Dalton Taylor (Gloria); and many cousins.

Jimmy was a member of Jones Chapel Church of the Brethren and worked as a brick mason for Frith Construction.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Helen Walker officiating. Burial followed the service at Taylor Family Cemetery in Rocky Mount, VA.

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

State Superintendent encourages Virginia families to submit applications for free meals

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow is encouraging Virginia families to submit free meal applications to local schools.

Virginia is expanding eligibility for free meals during the 2022-2023 school year through funding provided by the General Assembly in the state budget. Students with families at or below 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Previously, students from families with an income at or below 130% of the poverty level were eligible for free meals.

Emergency federal flexibility that allowed free meals for all students during the pandemic expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Moving forward, many Virginia schools will now require applications and use family income to determine eligibility for free, reduced-price or paid meals.

"School meals are important sources of nutrition for students and help reduce food insecurity in the commonwealth," Balow said. "I urge all families to apply to determine if they qualify. Filling out an application

is simple and takes less than 15 minutes."

Students are automatically eligible for free meals if anyone in their household receives benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Medicaid. Schools will notify families if a child is automatically eligible.

More than 525,000 students qualified for free meals in Virginia when data was last collected in 2019. The new eligibility means approximately 64,500 more kids can access free meals.

Many Virginia schools and divisions use a program called the Community Eligibility Provision to serve free meals to all students, in which case free meal applications are not collected. Families can contact their local school divisions to see if they are a part of the program.

"It's more important than ever for families to apply for free school meals. If no application is on file, stu-

dents will need to pay for meals on the first day of school and may start to accrue meal debt, said VDOE School Nutrition Director Sandy Curwood. "And the good news is, if you qualify, free meals are seamless. Students will access their meals in the cafeteria with a pin number or a lunch card, with no overt identification. Please apply now," Curwood said.

Filling out a free form may help families qualify for additional benefits to include discounted exam fees and college applications, extracurricular and scholarship opportunities.

"School meals are critical to supporting academic success and well-being," said Director of No Kid Hungry Virginia Sarah Steely. "We are grateful to all school nutrition staff who work hard to fuel our students' minds and bodies," Steely said.

Families can reach out to their local school nutrition department with questions related to the free meal application form.

USDA extends infant formula waivers, supports WIC state agencies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended a series of waivers to provide WIC families with additional formula options through the end of the year, according to a USDA press release.

The waivers, which were previously set to expire at the end of September, will now be available through the earlier of either Dec. 31, 2022, or 60 days after the expiration of the state's COVID-19 major disaster declaration, ensuring WIC families have continued access to the formula they need.

"USDA recognizes the flexibilities provided by these waivers remain necessary as we continue to pull every lever to address infant formula supply issues and provide certainty for families," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We will continue to work all hands on deck to ensure families can access infant formula, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government approach to get more safe formula on store shelves nationwide."

The waivers extended today allow WIC state agencies, with the necessary agreements from their infant formula contract manufacturers, to offer participants additional infant formula options, such as alternate sizes, forms and brands. The planned Dec. 31 expiration date will provide state agencies with continued flexibility while the nationwide supply of infant formula recovers.

USDA began offering waivers immediately after the Feb. 17, 2022, voluntary recall of certain Abbott powder infant formulas, which exacerbated existing sup-

ply chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, FNS has granted nearly 500 waivers to WIC state agencies, providing flexibilities to better serve WIC participants receiving benefits for infant formula.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service continues to work tirelessly to ensure WIC participants and stakeholders have the information they need to keep infants fed and safe. Working closely with the White House, recent USDA actions include:

- Recommending that state agencies in contracts with Reckitt Mead Johnson or Gerber – two of the three infant formula manufacturers for WIC, the third being Abbott – seek contract flexibility to allow alternate formulas if the contracted size, form or brand of formula is unavailable, with USDA paying the cost difference.

- Leveraging new authority from the Access to Baby Formula Act to allow states to make imported formulas available to WIC participants, as well as participating in the cross-government effort through Operation Fly Formula to rapidly transport safe specialty and regular formula into the country.

- Providing a toolkit and guidance to WIC state agencies and stakeholders to assist with distributing imported formula.

- Calling on states to take advantage of all available WIC flexibilities and waivers that could help those they serve and providing extensive, tailored technical assistance to facilitate the process. Now, nearly all state agencies have applicable waivers in place.

VDSS releases summer P-EBT benefits

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has received federal approval to issue retroactive Summer P-EBT benefits to eligible K-12 students, according to a VDSS release.

As food security continues to be a challenge for many Virginia households with school-age children, VDSS is pleased to be able to offer this temporary assistance to individuals and families in need of nutritional support. The additional P-EBT benefit will provide approximately \$276 million in food assistance to more than 700,000 students.

All school-age children who attended a school approved to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision or were eligible to receive free or reduced-

price meals during the 2021 - 2022 school year can expect to receive a one-time summer benefit of \$391 on their previously issued P-EBT or SNAP EBT card.

Households that do not have an existing P-EBT or SNAP EBT card will have a card mailed to the address provided by their school within seven to 10 days of benefit issuance. Additional assistance for lost or discarded EBT cards is available at PebtVA.com.

Eligible households should also note that federal regulations have changed regarding the expiration of unused benefits on inactive SNAP EBT or P-EBT cards. Previously, unused SNAP and P-EBT benefits were removed after one year of inactivity. Benefits will now expire on cards after nine months of no spending

activity, as required by federal law. To retain benefits and maintain an active card status, an eligible food purchase must be made within nine months. Additional communication and instructions have been mailed to SNAP and P-EBT recipients to further awareness and ensure households are able to make maximum use of these nutrition benefits.

VDSS has not received federal guidance at this time regarding the status of P-EBT benefits for the 2022 - 2023 school year. For the latest updates and guidance, including information regarding the Summer P-EBT benefit, visit PebtVA.com or contact the P-EBT Call Center at 1-866-513-1414 (Toll Free) or 804-294-1633 (7AM - 6PM, Monday - Friday).

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CLASSIFIEDS



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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Yard Sale

Furniture trucks, wood & metal.
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September 1-5, 8a.m.-4p.m.
Corner of Golf Course Road and Hwy 58 East.

GREAT BIG Yard Sale

Sat. Aug 27th. 7a.m.-1p.m. or so at Roberts Market on

YARD SALE

3918 Fairstone Park HWY. (57). Pitchforks, shovels etc, come along, surveying equipment, transits, tripod, other tools, gas cans, heavy duty wheelbarrow, and a smaller one, large ship, old jug, Stone jar, old honey stand, and other old pieces, household, pots, utensils, bedding, kitchen, microtome, centrifuge, tubs of stuff unknown. Cleaned out a Garage and a basement.

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FOR SALE

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Call 540-815-8598

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If you've read this far, you can see how effective a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can be.
Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to place your ad.

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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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YARD SALE

Yard Sale?

An ad in our classifieds will let people know about all the great stuff you're selling.
Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to get the word out and get them to your yard sale.

ADVERTISE!

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **September 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.
The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **September 27, 2022 at 6:00 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 input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.
Case R-22-16 Amanullah Sarwary
The property is located at 57 Soapstone Road in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map number is 50.7/44. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3.48-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to market the property for commercial purposes.
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, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 33.2-915 through 33.2-922 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building at 3300 Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.
The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input into the issue of the abandonment of a temporary 40' x 50' turn-around located between the addresses of 468 & 510 Pioneer Trail in the Collinsville District.
The documents showing the location of the proposed abandonment is available for public inspection in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection, Room 205, Henry County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



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Classified Advertising DELIVERS

Savory September brings art of tailgating to Piedmont Arts on Sept. 9



Bring your crew and all your wacky tailgating traditions for a night of friendly rivalries at Savory September: The Art of Tailgating, on Friday, Sept. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts.

Local chefs will cook up classic tailgating fare and shake up custom cocktails, plus there will be ice cold refreshments at the open bar. Local singer-songwriter Jake Earles will perform classic country hits, original music and more. Ticket price includes food and drinks.

Proceeds from Savory September support Piedmont Arts programming in Martinsville-Henry County.

In addition to the party, there are plenty of chances to win big in the annual Savory September raffle. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for a book of six and can be purchased at Piedmont Arts. Raffle prizes include:

- Four tickets and one parking pass to Virginia Tech vs. Wofford football game, Sept. 17, 2022
- Two tickets on the 50 yard line

and one parking pass to NC State vs. Texas Tech, Sept. 17, 2022; Includes one night hotel stay at Embassy Suites

- Two four-day general admission tickets to Rooster Walk 13, May 25-28, 2023

- One free rental at the TAD Space

- One lounge chair and cushion set from Bassett Furniture

- One three-section bookcase from Bassett Furniture

- One tailgating prize package from Piedmont Arts

Admission to Savory September is \$50 per person. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and PiedmontArts.org.

Savory September is sponsored by VisitMartinsville, Alliancebee, Collinsville Printing Co., Stateline Heart and Vascular, King Kidz, SouthPrint, Ameristaff, Dr. David and Dr. Susan Morris, Olivia and Pres Garrett, Draper Flowers and Gifts, TAD Space, Rooster Walk and Bassett Furniture.

Roscoe Burnems combines poetry, comedy in one-man performance "Traumedy"



Photo of Roscoe Burnems by Lechele.

Roscoe Burnems combines poetry and comedy in his one-man performance "Traumedy," coming to Piedmont Arts, Thursday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

According to a release from Piedmont Arts, this groundbreaking performance combines funny stories, jokes, and sarcasm into prolific spoken word poems that discuss trauma, resilience, and the human experience. "Traumedy" includes mature content and is recommended for ages 18 and up.

Burnems — also known as Douglas Powell — is an author, spoken-word artist, educator, and the first poet laureate of Richmond, Va. His performances have been seen everywhere from coffee shops to universities to theaters. In 2019, he added a TEDx Talk to his list of accomplishments, speaking at a TEDxYouth event.

An open poetry slam emceed by DJ WHAT?! will be held from 6-7 p.m. Performance from 7-8 p.m. Light refreshments and open bar.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and PiedmontArts.org.

Sign up to participate in the poetry slam (participant tickets are \$10) by calling 276.632.3221 or emailing bjohnson@piedmontarts.org.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Hamlet Vineyards from page 1



Hamlet Vineyards grows five-acres of grapes, or around 4,500 grape vines.



Hamlet Vineyards has an outdoor seating area that can be used in the summer or winter for wine tastings.

to buy everything we grew, but eventually they let us go one year at harvest on one of our varieties," she said.

Hamlet said the couple scrambled to find a wine maker in Charlottesville.

"We made wine that year. We had a little party, and it sold out, and we were like ... we're going into the wine business," she said.

Early on in the business, Hamlet said she held wine tastings at her home and bought picnic furniture for guests before creating a patio with a tent.

"Then, we realized we needed to be open more. We needed to be open year-round, so we renovated the barn and opened year-round in 2015," she said.

Hamlet said the first vintage the vineyard created was in 2013. Now, Hamlet creates more than 10 different wines from six varieties of grapes that are grown on-site. While both red and white wines are made, Hamlet believes more white wines are produced.

The five-acre, 4,500 vine vineyard is harvested from August to October, she said. Once the grapes are loaded

into bins, they are taken to Charlottesville to be crushed, fermented, and made into wine. Hamlet said she goes to Charlottesville often to be involved in every step of the process.

"We didn't have the space for a winery, and we're so small, it's really nice to be able to have a facility that we rent to be able to do that," she said, adding that Charlottesville is a center for Virginia's wine industry.

Hamlet estimated the vineyard produces enough grapes to make 1,000 cases of wine, or 12,000 bottles, per year. Except in 2020, when the vineyard lost all its fruit to freezes.

"So, on top of the excitement of the pandemic, we had no fruit. We knew we had to buy grapes for the first time to make wine," she said.

During this time, Hamlet decided to try something new and purchased the grapes needed to make Chardonnay.

"People loved it, so we've continued to buy Chardonnay and make that," she said.

Several of Hamlet's wines have also won competitions. Hamlet said the vineyard began entering contests to gain outside credibility. There are some, she said, who may believe the wine isn't going to be good if it comes from a small winery outside of the major wine regions.

The vineyard's first big win was receiving gold in the 2015 San Francisco International Wine Competition for its Petit Verdot.

Hamlet said the vineyard also consistently enters the Virginia Governor's Cup, the state's most prestigious wine competition, and wins silver and gold every year for every wine entered.

"At the end of the competition, they selected 12 wines from the gold medal winners, and that's called the Governor's case. Our Eltham was selected for the Governor's case," she said.

The vineyard's Rose also won a competition in California for Rose wines.

Nowadays, its wine is sold to several local restaurants, including Pickle & Ash in Patrick County, Wild Magnolia, and Shindig Uptown Bistro + Catering, and the Martinsville Mustangs baseball field. Wine was also previously sold to Primland Resort in Meadows of Dan.

Wine and gourmet-to-go food are also available at Hamlet Kitchen in Martinsville, Monday through Friday.

Hamlet's Vineyard is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. on Sundays for tastings. Private events are hosted Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, visit www.hamletvineyards.com, or [Facebook.com/HamletVineyards](https://www.facebook.com/HamletVineyards).

SANDI MCGUIRES
OCTOBER 30
10:30AM
NEW DAY MARTINSVILLE
705 LIBERTY STREET
MARTINSVILLE, VA



Hamlet Vineyards started growing grapes in 2010 and produced its first vintage wine in 2013.

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