

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 1, 2022

(USPS-6)

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## Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch now open

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

Fall brings with it all things pumpkin, and Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch is filled with the fruity delight most closely associated with the season, as more than 50 volunteers gathered to unload the pumpkins and set up Grace Network's 15th annual Pumpkin Patch at First Baptist Church Martinsville.

Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director, said this year there are nearly 1,500 bulk pumpkins and 1,500 small pumpkins and gourds.

Hinchcliff is excited to again

offer an opportunity to the community that is seldom seen in the area.

"We just get lots of feedback. As a matter of fact, there's not a lot of pumpkin patches close in town and around Henry County, so this just really brings a service. Not only does selling them help Grace Network, but it's also a community effort," she said.

As for the response, Hinchcliff said many visitors enjoy visiting the pumpkin patch.

"People love to come out and take pictures, they bring their dogs to take pictures. It's just fun for little children to run around in a pumpkin patch. So many

of us grew up with that environment, and it's just a real gift to the community to be able to provide this," she said.

Grace Network is particularly excited about the source of its pumpkins, which has been the same each year they have hosted the event. The organization sources its pumpkins from the North Carolina-based Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers, which gets its pumpkins from the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

This offers an opportunity for the residents of the reservation, who are often impoverished, to

See **Pumpkin Patch**, page 7



More than 50 volunteers help unload pumpkins and organize them in Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch, located at First Baptist Church Martinsville.



"Help the homeless until they can help themselves," was written on one of the signs carried by a group advocating for a homeless shelter.

## City officials are urged to help build a homeless shelter

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

More than 40 people gathered outside the City Municipal Building before Martinsville City Council's Sept. 27 meeting to advocate for a homeless shelter in Martinsville.

Carrying signs that read "Bless our people," "Love thy neighbor," "We need a shelter," and "Help the homeless," representatives from the rally addressed council members.

Keith Owens, executive director of the Peer Recovery Connection which organized the rally, was among those to speak at the meeting.

"As you leave here tonight, it's cold, and the warming center is not going to open until November. There are people laying on park benches, they're in gazebos, they're on the Dick and Willie Trail in tent encampments and it's a growing problem," Owens said. "We become, as a peer center, that's become a problem. We have to dedicate someone who goes through housing because there are no resources really to give to these people."

Owens said that he and others are trying to "remain the squeaky wheel," and keep the issue of a homeless shelter at

See **Homeless Shelter**, page 9

## School officials look for ways to improve as schools earn reaccreditation

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

The Virginia Department of Education recently released accreditation ratings for this school year, which showed that all schools in Henry County and Martinsville are reaccredited, but educators and other school officials continue to push to improve.

"Through the pandemic, our students had that detachment by virtual learning and just having to learn everything in such completely different ways that having everyone reacclimate to schools and then be successful in the manner that they were was very important for us," said Monica Hatchett, director of communications for Henry County Public

Schools.

However, Hatchett also said there is room for improvement. Although all schools were reaccredited, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School received a rating of "accredited with conditions," which differed from their rating of "accredited" when the schools were last evaluated for the 2019-2020 school year.

"Accredited with conditions means that one of their indicators was rated at a level three, because the accreditation ratings come at different levels," Hatchett said. "Any time a school has one or more indicators at a three, they receive an overall status of accredited with conditions."

The middle school's level three indicator was in science. Hatchett

said that the school will undergo an academic review to ensure that the school aligns with the state's desired quality of instruction, assessment, and instructional leadership.

Hatchett said the county schools will work to improve this field, as well as other areas such as English and attendance.

"We do certainly see that there are areas for improvement just like always, and for us usually our area of greatest concern is reading. This year is no different," Hatchett said. "We certainly still continue to work on reading with our students at all levels, but especially at the foundational levels, and to continue to strive

See **Reaccreditation**, page 3

## County honors organizations, individuals for years of service

The Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized several individuals and organizations for dedicated service to the community at a board meeting Tuesday.

Among those honored were Sandra Adams, the Harvest Foundation, Dan River Basin Association, and Mount Olivet Ruritan Club.

The board first recognized the 20th anniversary of the Harvest Foundation, which was formed from the sale of the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville. Since then, the foundation has been a driving force for community improvement in the area.

"Ever since the time of that sale, they have been investing



Members of the Harvest Foundation accept a resolution honoring their service from the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

See **Honors**, page 4

## Delegates clash in advance of 2023 election as video, bodycam footage of alleged abuse is released

**Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd**  
Staff Writers

The battle between two Virginia lawmakers pitted against each other after the district boundaries were redrawn heated up during a GOP fundraiser at the Wytheville Meeting Center on Sept. 24, with Del. Marie March filing a complaint against Del. Wren Williams alleging assault and battery.

In the complaint filed Saturday, March R-Floyd, alleged "tonite (sic) I was @ (sic) the GOP fundraiser @ (sic) the Wytheville Meeting Center and my opponent intentionally pushed/shouldered slammed into me in front of a large group of people."

Williams, R-Stuart, said he accidentally bumped into March when exiting

See **Delegates**, page 9



Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart. (Courtesy Ray Reynolds)



Del. Marie March, R-Floyd.

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 FOR MORE UPDATES



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Friday, September 30

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a Halloween Movie Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Martinsville branch, 310 East Church Street. Free snacks will be provided. To register, call (276) 403-5430.

## Saturday, October 1

The Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County will hold its annual Bargain Fair at 242 Franklin Street, Martinsville. Come shop with the ladies in pink. All proceeds benefit the children of Martinsville and Henry County. Doors open promptly at 8 a.m., with bargains on sporting goods, furniture, books, home goods, holiday, toys, shoes, treasures and clothing for everyone in the family.

## Thursday, October 6

The Henry County School Board will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the Henry County Administration Building, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville. Mount Sinai Church, 7 Peters Street,

Martinsville, will host a City Council Candidates Forum at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. There will be an opportunity for questions.

## Saturday, October 8

A fundraiser concert will be held on the lawn of Fieldale Recreation Center from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5. Music will be by 220 South. No coolers allowed. Please bring a chair.

## Saturday, October 29

Martinsville's Oktoberfest will be held in Uptown from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## ONGOING

The Grace Network Pumpkin Patch will be held through Oct. 31 at First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville. It will be open Monday-Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit [martinsvilleuptown.com](http://martinsvilleuptown.com).

Calling all lovers of board games! Come by the Martinsville Library, 310 E. Church Street Martinsville, for a monthly Board Game Day held on the first Saturday of every month Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your friends and your favorite games or try out one of the games the library has on hand. And most importantly, have fun! The Board Game Day is free and open to the public.

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics every second and fourth Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment.

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](http://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. Call (276) 647-9585.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts its 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 October is "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah.

## Martinsville resident graduates from JMU

Marawan Bayoumy, of Martinsville, graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from James Madison University during commencement exercises in August 2022.

## Donation awarded to Bassett center



The Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution recently made a donation to the Bassett Historical Center to thank them for their support of the chapter. Pictured (from L to R) are: Jarred Marlowe-President, Col. George Waller Chapter, Fran Snead-Director, Bassett Historical Center, and Gary Hollandsworth-Treasurer, Col. George Waller Chapter.

## MCPS Assistant Superintendent for Instruction participates in research conference

Martinsville City Public Schools' (MCPS) Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing recently participated in an annual conference hosted by the Virginia Education Research Association (VERA.)

The theme of 2022's conference was education research and practice across Virginia. Dr. Downing served on a panel in a session entitled "Critical Issues and Directions Researched During the Pandemic: Virginia Practitioners Speak," presenting her own research and findings related to the topic.

Dr. Downing has spent 29-years in education, including teaching at the elementary, middle, junior high, and high school levels. She served as lead teacher and Instructional Coordinator at Martinsville Middle School before moving into division administration. She has served MCPS as Federal Programs Coordinator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

Downing has a Master of Education as a reading specialist from Averett University, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Radford University,

and recently earned a Doctor of Education in Equational Leadership and Policy Study from Virginia Tech. "Dr. Downing is an innovative educator who has years of proven positive academic results," said Schools Superintendent

Dr. Zebedee Talley. "Martinsville City Public Schools is very fortunate to have her as a long-time staff member. Dr. Downing continues on her quest to make educational practices effective for all students."



Dr. Angilee Downing

### Informal Sales Seminar

You Are Cordially Invited To Attend an Informal Sales Seminar on Medicare:

Designed for those New to Medicare or Considering New Options for your 2023 Medicare Enrollment Benefits.

You and age appropriate guests are invited to attend a sales event and enjoy snacks on us. Please feel free to bring your spouse, significant other, or anyone else who's researching Medicare for their health benefits. There is absolutely no cost or obligation for you to attend, but seating is limited, so register now!

Whether you are new to Medicare or exploring your options, this sales event has you covered. Come to get your questions answered and see the benefits in the Aetna plan.

Discussion Highlights include:

- Medicare eligibility requirements
- What to do if your Medicare plan is changing
- What to look for in a Medicare plan
- How to properly evaluate your Medicare options
- Whether you need both Medicare Parts A & B
- What to do if your Medicare coverage is not adequate
- A simple approach to Medicare enrollment

Learn about all your options.

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# Universal broadband access inches closer in county

Henry County is one step closer to ensuring access to broadband for homes and businesses previously unserved by high-speed internet capability.

The Harvest Foundation invested \$1,491,500 in matching grant funds that leverage state and federal funding to achieve universal broadband in Martinsville-Henry County. DeWitt House, senior program officer, said broadband access is a utility to which everyone should have unrestricted access.

“From banking and paying bills to completing schoolwork, there is no end to how much we depend on the internet to live,” House said. “The digital divide was clear before, but following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of access to high-speed internet became even more pronounced. Ensuring universal access to broadband throughout Martinsville-Henry County meets our goals to

grow the community and its infrastructure, but it also goes further in creating equity among MHC residents.”

Broadband expansion is a clear goal in Harvest’s strategic plan, “because we realize for us to thrive as a community, it’s essential for every household and business to have affordable high-speed internet access. The internet makes it easier for us to find jobs, receive healthcare, and learn. What happens to people who don’t have access? We have to treat broadband access as an essential service because, in this day and age, it is.”

This funding leverages resources provided by a VATI (Virginia Telecommunications Initiative) grant of \$33,571,073 secured in 2021 by the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) to connect 10,056 unserved locations in Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. Other partners include

RiverStreet Networks and Appalachian Power. Virginia’s DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development) administers the VATI program.

Henry County’s universal broadband project includes two phases. The first phase begins in the fall and should take approximately two years to complete. Phase 1 will connect 3,058 locations identified through county research using GIS, broadband surveys, and guidance from the Virginia DHCD. Phase 2 will connect locations not previously identified in the original survey and expand broadband access to locations with internet that may not meet high-speed standards.

Pricing compared to other providers is competitive, and significant discounts as part of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program are available for low-to-moderate income

families.

“Expanding broadband to everyone in our County who wants it is a priority for us,” said Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner. “This grant is great news for our community as we continue our efforts to get broad-

band services to every corner of Henry County. Broadband is not only critical to creating economic opportunities for our citizens, it is needed in homes for education, telemedicine, and other needs that improve the quality of life for families. Thanks to the

support of the Harvest Foundation, we’ll be able to leverage other grant funds to make universal broadband a reality in our community.”

Visit [westpiedmont-pdc.org/wppdc-west-broadband-project](http://westpiedmont-pdc.org/wppdc-west-broadband-project) to see updates on this project and to learn more.



The Harvest Foundation invested \$1,491,500 in matching grant funds that leverage state and federal funding to achieve universal broadband in Martinsville-Henry County. Pictured from left to right are Caleb Gravely, Harvest Foundation President Kate Keller, Christian Youngblood, Tiffany Hairston, Harvest Foundation Senior Program Officer DeWitt House, and Mark Alley.

# Carter Bank & Trust Teams up with Innovation Refunds to Help Companies Claim Refunds

Carter Bank & Trust (“CBT”) (NASDAQ:CARE) has partnered with Innovation Refunds (“IR”), a financial solutions provider connecting businesses to payroll tax refunds through the Employee Retention Credit (ERC), to help companies collect money they’re owed from the government.

Through this partnership, CBT and IR can help businesses get up to \$26,000 per employee kept on payroll during the COVID-19 pan-

demic. Even if a company has obtained Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds, it could still qualify for a payroll tax refund through the ERC. With more than \$1 billion in refunds secured for businesses and an average refund of \$375,000, IR is CBT’s preferred ERC partner.

“We’re the first bank in Virginia and North Carolina to partner with Innovative Refunds to help businesses access money through the Employee Retention Credit,”

Carter Bank & Trust CEO Litz Van Dyke said. “Navigating the IRS can be difficult, especially for businesses that are still trying to get back on their feet after the pandemic. Through this partnership, we’re making that process as seamless as possible, allowing for business owners to focus on their day-to-day operations.”

“Even through the worst of it, many businesses were unaware of the benefits available to them,” said Howard Makler, CEO of IR. “In today’s

economy, these amounts could very well make or break a business. Organizations must leverage the expertise of tax professionals like ourselves to ensure they take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them by the Federal Government.”

With a mission to empower businesses for growth, IR makes it easy for companies to collect their refund through a simple application and refund evaluation with no upfront costs. IR’s more than 300 combined

years of business and accounting experience help ensure no money is left on the table.

“The pandemic presented a litany of challenges for small businesses. As they look to bounce back in the years following 2020, it is critical for business owners to participate and take advantage of relief opportunities such as the ERC program,” said Makler.

To find out if your business qualifies for the ERC, visit <https://crtbrnk.com/3SpleWv>.

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To find out if your business qualifies for the ERC, visit <https://crtbrnk.com/3SpleWv>.

## Reaccreditation from page 1

for excellent attendance with our students, because accreditation is related to attendance as well.”

While there are subcategories, schools are primarily rated based on “learning indicators” in Math, English, and Science.

Many county schools received lower ratings in the sub-indicators of “students with disabilities” across all subjects. Hatchett said the schools are looking at these lower scores in order to improve them in the future.

“We look at every - the state calls them gap groups - so that could be demographics, it could be economically disadvantaged versus not economically disadvantaged, it could be race, it could be special education status. And so, we do look at those gap group performances as well and consider that in our annual equity report each year as we strategize for serving each of our student populations,” she said.

what do they know and how can we build on that to move them forward,” she said.

City Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr. said this is the seventh consecutive year the schools have retained accreditation status. He also said he is proud of the hard work of students and educators. He also attributed some of the success during the pandemic to the fact that all students in the city schools have a technological device.

“Going through a pandemic and still being successful was not easy for teachers and students. I challenged them to get in the classroom,” Talley said. “It was not easy for students and teachers, and they did a tremendous job to remain our accreditation status through this. Tremendous job.”

However, city schools

also see room for improvement, especially in science. Many schools received lower ratings in science than across other subjects.

Both Downing and Talley said that is likely because science SOLs are cumulative, meaning for grades 5 and 8, they are taken in the third year. Students were not in school to learn much of the material for the tests.

“That’s a cumulative test, and some of the students really did not have significant science instruction during that time, and so we’ve stepped that up and we’ll increase the hours for science,” Talley said.

Downing outlined some of the steps being taken to improve these science scores.

“We are reworking and restructuring the way we teach science. We’ve also increased time in our

master schedules for science instruction at the elementary level,” she said. “We’ve been working a lot with professional development with our teachers on more of a hands-on, inquiry-based model of exploring scientific concepts. So, we’re really restructuring the way we teach science.”

Another area the city schools are looking to improve is attendance, especially at the high school level. Downing said many students became employed during the pandemic, and get-

ting some of them back in the classroom consistently has been difficult.

“Chronic absenteeism was a big issue last year. It’s hard getting students back in school on a consistent basis,” she said.

Talley said he is proud of the quality of education in Virginia and what it brings to the state, and he hopes Martinsville schools will continue producing well-educated students.

“I’m proud to be involved in education in Virginia, because one of the drawing points for

industry and business here is our education. Our students get a tremendous education, and you can find that on any variable in any study of why businesses seem to locate here. We’re always one of the top states in terms of attracting businesses,” Talley said.

“Here in Martinsville, we want to make sure that our students offer businesses good students and also that our students have an opportunity to be useful citizens in higher education as well as industry,” he added.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
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55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63						64		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Fall down
5. Gas usage measurement
8. Golf score
11. A superior grade of black tea
13. Wrath
14. Eating house
15. Delay leaving a place
16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
17. Canadian flyers
18. Walks back and forth
20. Frequently
21. Humans have two
22. Surrounds with armed forces
25. Made proper
30. Medical buildings
31. Patty Hearst's captors
32. Hits with a drop shot
33. Italy's PM 1919-20
38. Promotions

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
2. Jump
3. Eaten as a vegetable
4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
5. Brunchtime staple
6. Makes money off of
7. Refined
8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
9. From a distance
10. Officials
12. It helps you see
14. Central Canadian indigenous person
19. Invests in little enterprises
23. They help in tough situations
24. Industrial port in Poland
25. Type of screen
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Alcoholic beverage

**CLUES ACROSS**

41. En \_\_: incidentally
43. Queens baseball team
45. Commoner
47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
49. Payroll firm
50. Broadway actress
55. Skipper butterflies
56. Hint
57. Daniel \_\_, French composer
59. English children's author Blyton
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Patriotic women's group
63. The woman
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

**CLUES DOWN**

28. Newspapers need it
29. Herbal tea
34. Distinctive practice
35. Exercise system \_\_-bo
36. Explosive
37. Belonging to a thing
39. Presidential candidates engage in the
40. Of the Swedes
41. Meadow-grass
42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
44. Hooray!
45. Greek city
46. One way to do it by example
47. Imitated
48. "Game of Thrones" actress
51. Swiss river
52. Drought-resistant plant
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

Martinsville City Public Schools shared a similar sentiment.

Dr. Angilee Downing, assistant superintendent of instruction for the city division, said that maintaining the schools’ accreditation rankings was among the biggest successes.

“All of our schools are accredited, despite facing the challenges of a lot of students and teachers having to quarantine, especially the first part of last year, we still managed to move our students forward and get everybody in safely and do what we needed to do,” she said.

Downing said she believes that is due, in part, to a different approach the city takes towards learning.

“We focused on accelerating our student learning rather than remediating. We took a strength-based approach and looked at

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## OPINION

## My impression of every mandatory employee training module

Hello there! I'm Corporate Carl, and I'm a barely animated piece of flat art! You might know my art style by the names "Corporate Memphis" or "Alegria," but one thing's for sure: my proportions are geometric, my limbs are elongated, and my skin is purple out of some misguided attempt to engender a sense of inclusivity. Anyway, I'm here to teach you how to order staples in an interminably long web-based interactive video!

Staples: when it comes to sticking two or more pieces of paper together by punching a thin piece of metal through the upper left corner, there's no better product on the market. But what happens when you run out of staples? Well, good old Corporate Carl is here to help you out!

First, go to [www.corporate-solutions.com/user/userlogin/acquisitions/officesupplies/staplers/accessories.html](http://www.corporate-solutions.com/user/userlogin/acquisitions/officesupplies/staplers/accessories.html). Once the page loads, simply create an account using your employee ID number. When prompted, enter your social security number and cell phone number to register for two-step authentication, then

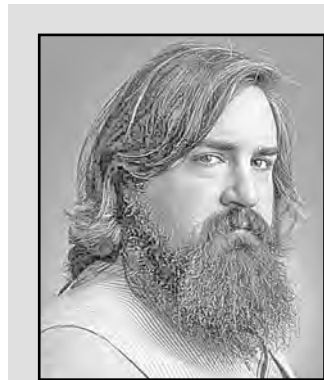
create ten security questions so you can log in securely.

Once you're logged in, it's time to order some staples, right? Hey hey, not so fast! First we need to know what kind of stapler you're using! Simply click on the "Stapler" button, then click on the "Stapler Style" button, then choose your employee number from the drop-down menu.

As you can see, there are several options. Do you have a standard stapler, a mini stapler, an effortless stapler, a long-reach stapler, or a heavy duty stapler? Click on the stapler you have on your desk. If you aren't sure what kind of stapler you have, please go to [www.corporate-solutions.com/humanresources/staplerinquiries.html](http://www.corporate-solutions.com/humanresources/staplerinquiries.html) to send your Human Resources representative a request for a stapler manufacturer datasheet (allow up to 30 business days for the request to be processed).

By the way, if you click the "NEXT" button before I'm done talking, my AI-generated audio clip WILL start over. Show of Corporate Carl a little respect!

Now that you've selected



By Ben R. Williams

your stapler, it's time to determine what kind of staples you need! Staples are divided by a two-number metric system, with the first number referring to the gauge (or thickness) of the staple and the second number referring to the length of the staple's legs. In the drop-down "Staple Select" menu, you'll see the following common staple sizes: 23/6 (this is the standard size), 23/8, 23/10, 23/13, 23/15, 23/17, 23/20, and 23/24. Depending on the size of the staple, you can staple anywhere from 30 to 250 sheets of paper together!

Let's take a break for a pop quiz! Corporate Carl has come up with some real head-scratchers for you! Answer the following questions by clicking TRUE or FALSE.

1. TRUE or FALSE: The stapler as we know it was invented in 1879 and was called the McGill Single-Stroke Staple Press.

2. TRUE or FALSE: There's a direct correlation between a high tide and increased stapling activity.

3. TRUE or FALSE: If your stapler stops working, you should aim it at your unprotected eyeball while repeatedly pressing the lever.

Good job! You got all the questions right in less than seven tries! Let's move on!

Once you've selected the type of staples you need, you probably think you're done, right? Slow down there, buckaroo! Next, go to the drop-down menu and select the number of staples you need. Remember to memorize the codes for each type; a full strip of 200 staples is code CROX, a half-strip of 100 staples is code CROV, and

a rolled cartridge of 5,000 staples is code CR0X (this one is a zero instead of an O). Nobody is exactly sure what these codes mean, but you'll need to memorize them because they randomly switch places within the drop-down menu for reasons our IT department hasn't been able to figure out yet.

You're almost in the home stretch! Now it's time to send a Staple Request Invoice (SRI) to the fiscal department. Whatever you do, DO NOT press the button labeled "SEND STAPLE REQUEST INVOICE." This deletes the request. Instead, simply press the button marked "DELETE."

And that's it! You're now a regular staple-ordering John or Jane, and Corporate Carl is very proud of you!

But what if you need a less permanent solution to your paper-binding needs? Well my friend, it's time to order some paper clips! To learn how to order paper clips, go back to the home menu and select training module 167 of 348. Corporate Carl will see you there!

## Axton resident named to James Madison University dean's list

Brianna Kirks of Axton has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the summer 2022 semester. Students who earn

dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Kirks is majoring in individualized study.



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### Give us your view:

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

## Honors

from page 1

back in our community and giving back to our residents to make this a better place to live, work, grow, educate, and raise a family," said County Administrator Dale Wagoner.

Kate Keller, Bill Kirby, Sheryl Agee, DeWitt House, Jr. and Latala Hodges represented the Harvest Foundation and received the recognition.

"As our current representative of the Harvest Foundation, we wanted to thank you all for this recognition. This organization has had a pretty fantastic 20 years," said Keller, president of the organization. "We've learned a lot over the years and hope to get better and better at what we do so that we can serve this community in the best way we know how."

Jim Adams, chairman of the supervisors, also noted the hard work that Harvest puts into improving the community.

"We really appreciate the efforts of each and every one of you. Those of you that think that it's a 9 to 5 job, it's more than that. I see multiple members out at different functions and different areas of the community," Adams said.

The board also recognized the 20th anniversary of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), which aims to improve and maintain the waterways of the region.

Tiffany Haworth, DRBA's executive director, received the resolution.

"I have been lucky enough to be with DRBA for 12 years now. I was not here at the very beginning when it started. It actually started in North Carolina and a couple of years later came here to Henry County and Martinsville. We could not have done what we have done in this community without your partnership and without your cooperation and without your support," Haworth told county officials.

"Equally, this group does not work a 9 to 5 job. If you've ever been on a Smith River Clean Up, it's quite a task pulling everything, you name it, everything out of the river," Adams said. "No one appreciates clean water more than when you don't have clean water."

The board then recognized the 50th anniversary of the Mount Olivet Ruritan Club for its continued support and community service.

Bill McDaniels, club president, accepted the resolution. McDaniels, who joined the club in 1978, said "Thank you for presenting this to us. We'll continue to try and do the good work that we've done."

Adams, who has served with the Sanville Ruritan Club for 43 years, thanked the club for its support.

"We appreciate their com-

munity service efforts. They have definitely made an impact on the community," he said.

Sandra Adams also was recognized for her years of service with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Sandra Adams has served on that board since Sept. 1, 1989. She retired effective Aug. 31, with a total of 33 years of service. Sandra Adams also is a licensed realtor and owns Adams Grocery in Sanville with her husband.

Lee Clark, director of planning, zoning and inspections, offered some background on her work.

"Sandra came on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the way I say it, before it existed. Zoning only came into effect in Henry County in 1989," Clark said. "I consider Sandra, easily, the matriarch of that board. The Board of Zoning Appeals is a very unique board. They are appointed by the head Circuit Court Judge and basically their decisions are

only answerable back to that judge, Clark said.

"When zoning was first adopted, not a lot of people in Henry County really liked the idea of people telling them what they could and could not do with their property, but I think over the years they've all changed and they know that this is a protection for them and their property," Sandra Adams said. "This is a great honor. Thank you."

Jim Adams, who said he has no relation to Sandra Adams, said, "I quote Sandra quite often.

"I was up at the store one day and I said, 'Sandra, people say that if you run a store, you've pretty much got it made, and I need to ask you a question. Do you own the store or does the store own you?' I hadn't much more than got it out of my mouth and she said, 'The store owns you,' Jim Adams said, adding that she worked tirelessly at the store and still had time to serve on the county board.



Tiffany Haworth, of the Dan River Basin Association, attended Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, during which the organization was recognized for 20 years of service.



Bill McDaniels accepted a resolution in celebration of 50 years of the Mount Olivet Ruritan Club.



Sandra Adams, who spent 33 years on the county's Board of Zoning Appeals, was among those honored Tuesday. She also received a standing ovation from those in attendance.

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# Recent ratings show current accreditation standards unreliable measure of school performance

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jillian Balow, said that despite deep learning losses caused by the closure of most schools to in-person instruction from March 2020 to August 2021, the percentage of Virginia's public schools meeting the state Board of Education's accreditation standards dropped by only three points compared with pre-pandemic performance.

Eighty-nine percent of schools earned full accreditation for 2022-2023, compared with 92% in 2019-2020, the last year for which the Virginia Department of Education calculated school ratings before the coronavirus pandemic.

"These ratings call into question the effectiveness of our accreditation standards in identifying schools where students are struggling to achieve grade-level proficiency," Balow said. "The number and percentage of schools earning accreditation is almost as high as three years ago, despite significant declines in achievement on Standards of Learning tests in reading, math and science — especially among minority and economically disadvantaged students. Accreditation is one of the primary drivers of state interventions and local efforts to improve outcomes for students, and frankly, the school ratings we are releasing today fail to capture the extent of the crisis facing our schools and students."

Under the accreditation system adopted by the state Board of Education

in 2017 and implemented the following year, schools are evaluated on school quality indicators grouped in three categories: academic achievement, achievement gaps, and student engagement and outcomes. Performance on each indicator is rated at one of the following levels:

Level 1: Meets or exceeds state standard or sufficient improvement.

Level 2: Near standard or sufficient improvement.

Level 3: Below state standard.

The following tables summarize how Virginia schools performed on each applicable indicator.

"The school quality indicator data and the overall school ratings are skewed by several factors that obscure the impact of the pandemic and school closures," Balow said. "For example, in English, lower expectations on the reading tests introduced in 2020-2021 and how growth is factored into accreditation resulted in more schools achieving at Level 1 in English than before the pandemic. This masks the catastrophic learning losses experienced by our most vulnerable students."

Prior to the pandemic, the number of students statewide who failed an SOL reading test but showed growth — and therefore counted toward their school's accreditation rating — ranged from 19,000-20,000. With this latest round of accreditation calculations, the number has more than tripled to 61,000.

Similarly, the number

of students who failed a math SOL test before the pandemic but showed growth and counted toward their school's rating was about 20,000. This year the number has quadrupled to more than 88,000.

"Teachers and principals are working hard, and this is reflected in the growth we are seeing," Balow said. "And in commending them for their efforts, I encourage educators in every school — regardless of accreditation rating — to look deeply into their data and chart sure paths to recovery and grade-level proficiency for all of their students."

The following table illustrates how four schools are rated this year at the same performance level in reading and math under the current accreditation systems despite widely differing percentages of students demonstrating proficiency on state assessments.

In addition, 136 schools that otherwise would have been accredited with conditions were automatically granted full accreditation due to waivers mandated by the General Assembly. Legislation approved in 2015 grants three-year waivers from annual review to schools previously accredited for three consecutive years.

Under the Board of Education's 2017 accreditation standards, schools earn one of the following three accreditation ratings based on performance on school quality indicators, as follows:

Accredited — Schools with all school quality indicators at either Level

1 or Level 2. In addition, high-performing schools with waivers from annual accreditation authorized by the General Assembly are rated as Accredited.

Accredited with Conditions — Schools

with one or more school quality indicators at Level 3.

Accreditation Denied — Schools that fail to adopt or fully implement required corrective actions to address Level 3 school

quality indicators.

School-by-school accreditation ratings and school quality indicator data are available on updated online School Quality Profile reports and on the VDOE website.

Accreditation Rating	Number of Schools 2022-2023	Number of Schools 2019-2020	Percentage of Schools 2022-2023	Percentage of Schools 2019-2020
Accredited	1,628	1,682	89%	92%
Alternative Accreditation Plan	3	5	<1%	<1%
Accredited With Conditions	190	132	10%	7%
New School	9	6	<1%	<1%
Total	1,830	1,825	100%	100%

Indicator	Schools at Level 1 2022-2023	Schools at Level 1 2019-2020	Schools at Level 2 2022-2023	Schools at Level 2 2019-2020	Schools at Level 3 2022-2023	Schools at Level 3 2019-2020
English	1,705	1,689	63	81	52	49
Mathematics	1,755	1,769	28	23	38	27
Science	1,381	1,649	153	51	235	60

Indicator	Schools at Level 1 2022-2023	Schools at Level 1 2019-2020	Schools at Level 2 2022-2023	Schools at Level 2 2019-2020	Schools at Level 3 2022-2023	Schools at Level 3 2019-2020
English	1,248	975	477	719	95	125
Mathematics	1,341	1,406	375	352	105	61

Indicator	Schools at Level 1 2022-2023	Schools at Level 1 2019-2020	Schools at Level 2 2022-2023	Schools at Level 2 2019-2020	Schools at Level 3 2022-2023	Schools at Level 3 2019-2020
Chronic Absenteeism	1,195	1,663	505	133	121	23
Dropout Rate	263	256	46	43	21	31
Graduation/Completion	296	302	29	17	4	9

SOL Assessment	Students Showing Growth, Not Proficiency 2018-2019	Students Showing Growth, Not Proficiency 2021-2022
Reading	19,000-20,000	61,000
Math	20,000	88,000

School and Indicator	Annual Pass Rate	Accreditation Combined Rate	Accreditation Performance Level
School A: Math	56%	88%	Level 1
School A: Reading	56%	86%	Level 1
School B: Math	40%	82%	Level 1
School B: Reading	58%	82%	Level 1
School C: Math	91%	97%	Level 1
School C: Reading	93%	98%	Level 1

## Blues, Brews & Stews celebrates fall with live music, craft beer and more

Piedmont Arts is excited to announce the fifth annual Blues, Brews & Stews. This event brings live music, craft beer and Brunswick stew to the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden, Friday, Oct. 14. Gates open at 6 p.m.

Stay toasty by the fire pit while enjoying Brunswick stew, a cash bar with craft beer and wine, and live music by The Griffin Haley Band. A delicious meal of Brunswick stew will be included in the ticket price.

Griffin Haley is an Americana singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from southwestern Virginia. From his very first time on stage, sitting in with legendary bluesmen Bob Margolin (Muddy Waters) and Albert Castiglia, Haley has defied genres playing

alongside of musicians of all walks of life. His upcoming debut album, "From Here on Out," features recording artists Sam Fribush (Hiss Golden Messenger), Patrick Lyons (Colter Wall), Thomas Roth (Ritchie Blackmore), Isaac Hadden, and Austin Janey (Sierra Ferrell).

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. No outside food or drinks allowed. In case of rain, Blues, Brews & Stews will be held at Piedmont Arts.

Admission to Blues, Brews & Stews is \$20 per person. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and online at PiedmontArts.org.

Blues, Brews & Stews is sponsored by Burton & Company and Diversified Trust. The Gravelly-Lester Art Garden is located at 207 Starling Ave., Martinsville.



PIEDMONT ARTS

# Blues Brews & Stews

Sponsored by

## P&HCC Wins National Award For Advanced Manufacturing Program

P&HCC's Advanced Manufacturing program has won the first Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Innovation and Access Award for its partnership with Festo Didactic and the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3).

"We know we have an outstanding program and outstanding instructors. This national award just validates that for us and our students," said Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC President.

In response to advanced manufacturing employers citing the need for increasingly complex training, P&HCC introduced advanced manufacturing training in Industry 4.0 in partnership with Festo Didactic and the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) in 2018 and in 2019 became the first institution in the nation to offer all three levels of training and the first to offer the highest level of Industry 4.0 training.

In June 2020, P&HCC became the first NC3 and Festo Center of Excellence, recognizing P&HCC's role in driving the future of career and technical education and workforce development. P&HCC now serves as an NC3 Leadership School.

Local employers who have enrolled their staff in this program include Eastman Chemical Company, Blue Ridge Aquaculture, Ten Oaks, and GS Industries.

Since September 2018, P&HCC has awarded 1,455 NC3 Festo Industry 4.0 certifications.

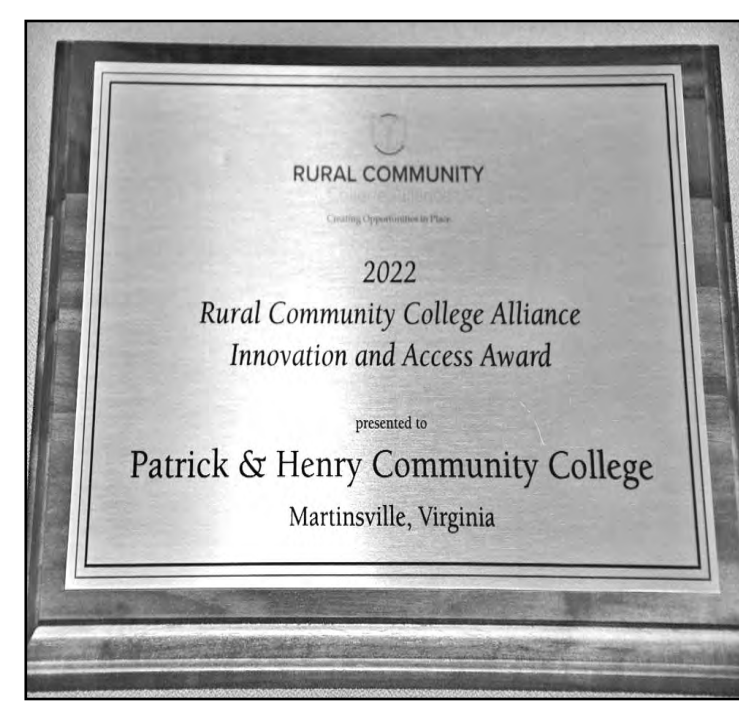
In May, P&HCC led the country in the number of Festo NC3 certifications awarded. Multiple employers in the region now guarantee interviews to anyone completing the certification, including Press Glass, Drake Extrusion, Virginia Glass Products Corporation, Virginia Mirror, and Ten Oaks.

P&HCC's training ability through its partnership with Festo Didactic and NC3 is integral to the community's recruitment of advanced manufacturers including Press Glass Inc. that recently added 212 jobs and Crown Holdings Inc. that added 126 jobs paying approximately \$50,000/year.

"Congratulations to Dr. Hodges and the Patrick & Henry Community College team on this well-deserved award from Rural Community College Alliance. The RCCA Innovation and Access award amplifies P&HCC efforts to implement Festo/NC3 competency-based Industry 4.0 advanced manufacturing certifications that reach all students and are recognized by local industry in our communities. Their efforts are a benchmark for all communities," said Roger Tadajewski, Executive Director, National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3).

"Festo is extremely proud to partner with Patrick and Henry Community College to help fill the ever growing skills gap in the United States," said Tony Oran, Vice

President of Festo Didactic, North America. "This collaboration with P&HCC and NC3 serves as a model of how partnerships are key to this effort."



# OBITUARIES

## Virginia Helen Mills

Virginia Helen Mills, 95, of Martinsville, Virginia, went Home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, while residing in Tender Years Adult Care, home of Vickie Manley. A special thank-you is extended to Vickie Manley, Toni Kendrick, Ashley Prillaman, and all caregivers of Virginia through the years.



became a devoted and dedicated member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Ridgeway, Virginia, where she served, among other capacities, as a Sunday school teacher and a leader of women's ministries.

The funeral was on Monday, September 26, 2022, at Hillcrest Baptist Church, with Pastor Steve Doby and Pastor Doug Ramsey officiating. A procession traveled to Sardis Church Cemetery next to Sardis Primitive Baptist Church, 2013 Sardis Church Road, Madison, North Carolina 27025, for interment.

Flowers are welcomed, and memorial donations in Virginia's name to any of the following are appreciated: Hillcrest Baptist Church Children's Ministries Fund or Church Building Fund, 18075 A. L. Philpott Highway, Ridgeway, Virginia 24148; Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 730 E. Church Street, Suite 13, Martinsville, Virginia 24112; Sardis Church Cemetery Fund, Attention: Mr. Todd Vaughn, 2013 Sardis Church Road, Madison, North Carolina 27025; Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 9904 U. S. Highway 150 East, Reidsville, North Carolina 27320 (mailing address P. O. Box 329, Reidsville, North Carolina 27320), in memory of Virginia's beloved cousin Reverend Gaylord Dix.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, VA is serving the family. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeeastonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeeastonemartinsville.com).

Virginia was born February 7, 1927, in Rockingham County, North Carolina, a daughter of Robert Pink Mills and Lillian Hall Mills. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in passing by her sister Elizabeth Mills Atkins.

Virginia was a graduate of Leaksville High School, Leaksville (Eden), North Carolina, Class of 1943. She graduated from Piedmont Bible College, now known as Carolina University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. For her extensive study of the Bible, in 2002, she was awarded a General Bible Diploma from Temple Bible Institute in Martinsville.

Throughout her career, Virginia was employed in clerical and administrative positions within banking and manufacturing. While employed with Fieldcrest Mills in Leaksville she served as the bookkeeper of the Bi-County Joint Board of the Textile Workers Union of America. Prior to retiring, she had been an employee of Lacy Manufacturing and Pannill Manufacturing, both in Martinsville.

On September 30, 1973, she

## Bobby Joe Foley, Jr.

Bobby Joe Foley, Jr., 53, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born on October 8, 1968, to the late Bobby Joe Foley, Sr., and Denise Foley.



(Polly) and Chris Foley (Ashley); sister, Melissa Foley; nieces and nephews, Ashley, Matt, Amy, and Danielle.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Bobby to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 4110, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Foley family. Online

condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his brothers, William Foley

## Jeanette Bowles Arrington

Jeanette Bowles Arrington, 84, of Bassett, VA passed away on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born on July 7, 1938, in Franklin County, VA to the late George Wiley Bowles and Rachel Law Bowles. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, George Redford Bowles.



Scarlett Noelle Goad and Ethan Patrick Goad.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, with Pastor Lee Ashley officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA 24112.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Arrington family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

She is survived by her son, Joey Rogers Arrington of the residence, and her step-grandchildren, Daniel Goad and his wife, Christina Margaret Bonner,

# Galax man died in Patrick County incident

A Galax man died in a crash on Thursday around 4 p.m. following a pursuit with law enforcement, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

The incident began on U.S. 58 east of Stuart when the sheriff's office tried to stop a 1987 Jeep Commanche, allegedly driving at an excessive speed, according to Smith and a release from the Virginia State Police. The vehicle failed to stop and crossed over into the oncoming lane of travel prior to entering the town limits.

Patrick County Sheriff's deputies blocked both the intersection at Walmart and the eastbound lane of U.S. 58 at the hospital, forcing the vehicle back into the westbound lane, Smith said. The Jeep side-swiped a vehicle at the intersec-

tion of Patrick Avenue and South Main Street, he added.

The Jeep, running on two blown tires at this point, continued on South Main Street until attempting to turn right onto Ashby Drive, Smith said. The vehicle exited the roadway at this point and went over an embankment.

The driver, identified as Joseph Lee Duncan, 28, was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene, authorities said.

The 1987 Jeep had been reported stolen from Mt. Airy, N.C. Duncan was a fugitive wanted from both Carroll County and the City of Galax.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash that remains under investigation by the Virginia State Police.

## Free FAFSA assistance available through GRASP

GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.) provides FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion assistance FREE of charge through its GRASP Advisors working at more than 110 schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://grasp4va.org/grasp-schools>). The FAFSA is the application

for undergraduate and graduate students seeking federal student aid (i.e., grants, work study loans). The application for the 2023-2024 academic year opens on October 1.

Contact the school counseling office or email the school's GRASP Advisor to make an appointment (see link

above). GRASP also offers evening virtual appointments on Wednesday nights and Saturdays; call 804-923-0059 to make a virtual appointment. Email advising inquiries to [advising@grasp4va.org](mailto:advising@grasp4va.org).

Additional financial aid information/resources are available at the GRASP website, [www.grasp4va.org](http://www.grasp4va.org).

## Early voting opens, same-day registration new this year

**Natalie Barr**  
*Capital News Service*

Virginia voters began casting their ballots for the November election on Friday, Sept. 23.

Voters can submit absentee ballots by mail or in person at their local registrar's office, commonly referred to as early voting. No application or reason is necessary to vote early. Some jurisdictions may have additional satellite locations, according to a press release from the Virginia Department of Elections.

Early in-person voting will also be held the two Saturdays preceding Election Day. In-person early voting ends on Nov. 5, the Saturday before the election.

New this year is the ability to register to vote up to and on Election Day. Any voters who register after the Oct. 17 deadline will be given a provisional ballot. Legislators have passed voting reform measures in recent years that expand access to the polls.

VCUVotes, a student-led coalition at Virginia C o m m o n w e a l t h

University in Richmond, educates students on the importance of voting, according to the organization's mission statement. The coalition recently held a student voter registration event on National Voter Registration Day.

Cameron Hart, director of partnerships for VCU Votes, said the group also promotes the importance of elections. Students need the space to educate themselves and develop their own thoughts and make their own decisions, Hart said.

"It's very important to vote and use your voice and exercise that civic duty," Hart said.

Many students who came to the event were already registered to vote, Hart said. Hart wants people to view voting as important for all elections, not just presidential races.

"I feel like it's important to vote in any election, but also stressing the importance of voting locally," Hart said. "This election is directly affecting us. If you feel a certain way about a law, voting can help express your voice in order to maybe reverse that law."

The upcoming election will be the first time voting for physical therapy student Nikolett Kormos. Kormos, a freshman,

said she registered to vote at the event.

"I think it's super important to vote, and for young people to vote," Kormos said. "It keeps us educated."

Absentee ballots will be mailed starting Sept. 23 to military and overseas voters, and to anyone who has applied to receive one, according to a state Department of Elections press release.

Voters can request a mail-in absentee ballot through the Department of Elections site until Oct. 28. Mailed ballots must be post-marked by Nov. 8 and received by the registrar no later than noon on the third day following the election, according to the Department of Elections. Mailed ballots also require a witness signature. Ballots can be dropped off at the registrar's office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters can direct questions to their general registrar's office or the Department of Elections, where they can also see what types of identification are accepted.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia C o m m o n w e a l t h University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP
The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2022-2023.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://www.plow4va.com/. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday October 7, 2022 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

Pumpkin Patch

from page 1

have jobs and a source of income, Hinchcliff said.

"Because the growing environment of the East Coast was very volatile and unpredictable, (Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers) was able to search out and find the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. They found it was a perfect place to grow pumpkins," Hinchcliff said.

"The ground was fertile, the climate was right. It was a perfect growing ground. And so, they negotiated with the Navajo Reservation, and they lease the land that they grow the pumpkins from them, along with hiring the Navajo Reservation population to grow and harvest the pumpkins."

Hinchcliff believes this helps spread the mission of Grace Network beyond just the immediate area. "They are benefiting, and our community is benefiting," she said.

Grace Network, which has been in operation for 16 years, hosts the pumpkin patch as a fundraiser. Over the last 14 years, it has raised \$66,000 through the event. The proceeds are then used to help those in the community who are in need, especially with paying bills and putting food on the table.

"We help those that are facing eviction. We help those that are facing utility cut off, whether it's electricity or water or gas, and we also, because of crisis, many people may be able to pay their bills but maybe not have enough money to feed

their family. So, we also have a Food Pantry to help in those crisis situations," Hinchcliff said.

She said one of the things she cherishes is that the pumpkin patch gives the community a chance to have fun while also helping

those around them.

"It's a perfect blend of community activities that we can all come together for the good of the community," she said.

The first day of operation for this year's Pumpkin Patch was Sept. 24. It will

run until Oct. 31, and is open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. It is located at First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Avenue.



This is Grace Network's 15th year hosting the Pumpkin Patch as a fundraiser that benefits both the community and others as far away as New Mexico.



More than 3,000 pumpkins and gourds were unloaded off of a truck for display and to sell in Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch.

Investigation of bus crash continues

The Virginia State Police (VSP) are investigating a Sept. 23 crash involving a Henry County school bus and another vehicle.

The crash occurred at 8-15 a.m. on River Road in Henry County. There were two minor inju-

ries on the bus and the driver and passenger of the other vehicle involved were transported to the hospital in Martinsville.

Charges are pending on the driver of the vehicle that struck the bus, according to a release from the VSP.



Volunteer firefighters work to clear River Road in the aftermath of a Sept. 23 school bus crash in Henry County. (Courtesy of BTW21. Visit www.btw21.com for complete video)

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 October 12, 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.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook
A large graphic with the text 'Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook' and a Facebook logo.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation
Route 220 Business (Virginia Avenue) and Route 609 (Daniels Creek Road) Pedestrian Improvements Henry County
Find out about plans to improve safety by installing pedestrian signals and ramps at all four corners of the signaled intersection at Route 220 Business (Virginia Avenue) and Route 609 (Daniels Creek Road) in the Collinsville area of Henry County. Three crosswalks also would be installed at the intersection.

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# Register now for Women Impact Virginia summit

Women from around the commonwealth will come together Oct. 12 for the inaugural Women Impact Virginia Summit in Richmond. Both virtual and in-person registration is available.

Organized by Virginia Tech's

Reynolds Homestead in collaboration with other university outreach facilities across Virginia, the summit aims to advance female leaders by connecting and empowering women who want to impact their community. The event

will feature inspirational women sharing their stories of personal success and struggle along with tips and tools for building confidence and influence at work.

Speakers Nancy Howell Agee, president and chief

executive officer of Carilion Clinic, and Nneka Chiazor, vice president of Public and Government Affairs for Cox Communications, will anchor the full-day program at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. For more information and to

register, visit [www.cpe.vt.edu/impact](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/impact). Register by Oct. 3 to attend in person and by Oct. 10 to attend virtually.

For more information, contact Sarah Wray, [wrayse88@vt.edu](mailto:wrayse88@vt.edu) or 276-694-7181 ext. 27.

# National Rabies Week, World Rabies Day

The numbers are staggering when you consider the number of lives lost to rabies. While it is a preventable virus, 60,000 people die each year from rabies worldwide. In fact, viruses that cause rabies exist on every continent except Antarctica.

Since the early 1900s, the number of rabies-related deaths in the U.S. has declined. At that time 100 people lost their lives each year. Today, the number of deaths averages only two or three

annually. Of those, contact with bats is usually the culprit. The steady decline is a result of several factors. Pet vaccination and animal control programs have become more commonplace over the years. As public health professionals, we have actively contributed to surveillance, testing, and outreach education.

To bring further awareness on a large scale, the first World Rabies Day campaign took place in 2007. We continue

to dedicate a day each September to the ongoing global efforts of prevention. On September 28, World Rabies Day will focus on the theme of "Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths." This highlights the connection of the environment with both people and animals.

It is most often wild animals, such as raccoons or skunks that are responsible for more than 90% of rabies cases. In July, our own community encountered a fox that

tested positive for rabies. After learning several people near Mount Cross Road and Tyler Avenue had been in contact with the animal, the health district notified the public immediately. This also prompted an extensive investigation that continued for several weeks as it was imperative to ensure our residents remained safe.

During a health crisis such as this, it is vital to have an effective team who can work

together. Agencies and organizations throughout Danville and Pittsylvania County offered their assistance and support. City of Danville police and animal control provided their expertise to help. The Danville Area Humane Society played a large part in aiding this effort. I would like to add my personal thanks to all who helped in this endeavor and to the entire community for their cooperation and support.

In addition to World Rabies Day on September 28, Virginia recognizes September 29 - October 2 as Rabies Awareness Week. This serves as an optimal time to make sure your pets are current on their rabies protection. It's a critical lifesaving step not only for their protection but also for yours.

For more information on rabies, visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/animal-contact-human-health/)

# Virginia hires increased by 24,000 in July

The Virginia Employment Commission announced today the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' July 2022 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reports Virginia job openings rose to a record-high 344,000. With hires increasing by 24,000 in July, Virginia had the largest increase in workers in the nation.

According to the most recent BLS JOLTS survey data, the estimated number of July hires nationwide was little changed in most states and only significantly increased in Virginia. BLS JOLTS data provides information on all pieces that go into the net change in the number of jobs. These components include job openings, hires, layoffs, voluntary quits, and other job separations (which includes retirements and worker deaths). Putting those components together reveals the overall change in payroll employment. JOLTS data is seasonally adjusted and describes conditions on the last business day of the month. Current month's data are preliminary and the prior month's data have been revised.

The number of July 2022 job openings in Virginia was 344,000 and was a 14,000 increase from June's 2022's revised figure, exceeding the record 340,000 reached in March of this year. The U.S. number of job openings was little changed at 11.2 million on the last business day of July 2022. The number of job openings increased in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+81,000); arts, entertainment, and recreation (+53,000); federal government (+47,000); and state and local government education (+42,000). Job openings decreased in durable goods manufacturing (-47,000). The Virginia job openings rate (job openings as a percentage of total employment) matched March's 7.8% but was slightly lower than the series high of 7.9% set in September 2021. In July, the U.S. job openings rate was little changed at 6.8%

In July 2022, there was less than one (0.3) unemployed worker per job opening in the Commonwealth, after holding steady over the previous few months. July's number marked the lowest rate since January 2001, when the BLS began collecting the data. In Virginia, the

unemployed per job opening ratio (sometimes called the 'job seekers ratio') peaked at 4.4 unemployed per job opening in February 2010 during the Great Recession, while the number of unemployed workers per job opening stood at 3.3 in April 2020 during the height of pandemic employment impacts.

In January 2020 (before the start of the most recent recession, which spanned February to April 2020), the U.S. job openings rate was 4.5% and had been above 4.0% for over 30 consecutive months. The unemployment rate had been 4.1% or lower for all of 2018 and 2019. It was 3.5% in January 2020. In April 2020, the job openings rate fell to its recent minimum, 3.5%, while the unemployment rate reached its recent peak, 14.7%. Since May 2020, there has been a steady increase in the job openings rate and decrease in the unemployment rate.

The number of hires in Virginia rose by 24,000 to 193,000 in July, which was nearly 8% greater over the year and a third higher than five years earlier. JOLTS defines hires as all additions to the payroll during the month. The series low of 77,000 was set in April 2020, while the high of 265,000 was set in June of that year. Nationwide, the number and rate of hires were little changed at 6.4 million and 4.2%, respectively. Hires were little changed in all industries. The hires rate significantly increased in establishments with 1,000 to 4,999 employees. In Virginia, the hires rate rose to 4.7% from June's revised 4.2% rate. Across the nation in July, hires rates decreased in 4 states, increased in 1 state, and were little changed in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

An estimated 122,000 workers quit jobs from Virginia employers in July. The number of quits rose by 11,000 from June's revised figure of 111,000 and was a quarter higher than a year earlier. However, it was down significantly from the record-breaking month of December 2021 when 131,000 Virginia workers quit their jobs. Quits, a component of total separations, are voluntary separations initiated by the employee. Across the U.S. in July, the number of quits was little

changed at 4.2 million. Quits decreased in health care and social assistance (-73,000) and in state and local government education (-21,000). Quits increased in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+39,000). The number of quits can be seen as a leading indicator of wage trends in that it includes workers who quit to move to another job.

The quits rate in the Commonwealth increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 3.0% and remained at the highly elevated levels seen over the last twelve months. The quits rate nationwide was little changed at 2.7%. In July, quits rates decreased in 7 states and increased in 5 states. The largest decreases in quits rates occurred in Oklahoma (-0.9 percentage point), Georgia (-0.8 point), and Delaware (-0.7 point). The increases in quits rates occurred in Alaska and Vermont (+0.6 percentage point each), as well as Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania (+0.5 point each).

The hires-per-job openings (HPJO) ratio was little-changed in July at around one hire for every two job openings in Virginia, equal to the 0.6 rate nationwide. This measure shows the rate of hiring compared to open jobs and is a proxy for time to fill positions. Over five years, the ability to hire for job openings has fallen by nearly a third nationwide and in the Commonwealth.

In July, the number of total separations in Virginia increased by 15,000 to 167,000 from June's revised 152,000 estimate. The number and rate of total separations nationwide were little changed at 5.9 million and 3.9%, respectively in July. Total separations increased in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+65,000). The Virginia total separations rate increased to 4.1%, compared to the 3.9% rate nationwide. In July, the national total separations rate was little changed over the month. Total separations rates decreased in 6 states, increased in 2 states, and were little changed in 42 states and the District of Columbia. The largest decreases in total separations rates occurred in Georgia (-0.9 percentage point) and in Massachusetts and Oklahoma (-0.7 point each). Increases occurred

in Pennsylvania (+0.7 percentage point) and Minnesota (+0.6 point).

In July 2022, the 'annual fill' rate (the ratio of 'this month' hires to 'last month' job openings, over the year) rebounded to 0.9 from the revised June's figure of 0.8. The U.S. annual fill rate was little changed at 0.9. This indicates, in Virginia, a trend in recent month towards less difficulty in filling positions when compared to a year earlier. The fill rate is a measure used to evaluate how labor markets differ in the pace that job openings are filled. An annual fill rate near or above 1.0 can indicate that employers are growing more efficient at filling job openings. On the other hand, an annual fill rate of less than 1.0 can indicate a tighter labor market, with employers having greater difficulty filling job openings compared to a year earlier.

Going back to 2001, the highest annual fill rate occurred during June 2020 because, after the nationwide shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, employers across the country sought to quickly hire for vacated positions. The lowest fill rate in Virginia occurred in June 2021. During that time, there were many factors that hindered the filling of vacant positions by employers, such as health concerns, employee skills, and childcare needs, but the biggest factor was the comparison against the historic re-hiring hike the year before.

The number of layoffs and discharges in

Virginia rebounded by 7,000 to 36,000 in July 2022 from June's revised 29,000 figure. This was an increase of a third over the year, but nearly 15% lower than five years before in 2018. In July, the number of layoffs and discharges nationwide was little changed at 1.4 million after hitting a series low in April from data going back to January 2001. Layoffs and discharges were little changed in all industries. The layoffs and discharges rate increased in establishments with 250 to 999 employees but decreased in establishments with 1,000 to 4,999 employees. The largest increases in layoffs and discharges rates occurred in Mississippi (+0.6 percentage point), Minnesota (+0.5 point), and Ohio (+0.4 point). Layoffs and discharges are countercyclical, which means that layoffs typically increase during economic contractions and decrease during economic expansions.

The July 2022 churn rate (the sum of the hires rate and the total separations rate) rose to 8.8 from June's revised 8.0 rate in Virginia, indicating continued elevated velocity of movement into and out of jobs. Nationwide, the July 2022 churn rate was little changed over the month and lower than Virginia's, indicating slightly slower velocity heading into the second half of 2022. An elevated churn rate indicates a labor market with a high hires rate, a high separations rate, or both. It can signify that workers are moving more frequently into and out of

jobs in the labor market. Conversely, a low churn rate indicates a labor market with a low hires rate, a low separations rate, or both. Labor markets with the most churn may also have more seasonal employment patterns not fully captured by seasonal adjustment factors, which can lead to more frequent job-to-job movement.

2022 JOLTS figures show yet another month of a hot job market in which workers were able to consider multiple options and employers were still eager to hire. This was evidenced in the number of workers quitting their jobs. In every month going back a year, at least 100,000 Virginia workers left their job if you count February's 97,000 figure. This has never happened before, going back to 2001. Over 70% of total separations in July were quits and may be an indication of continued worker confidence in their chances to find a better job. At the same time, both hires and job openings continued to greatly exceed the number of quits nationwide, with Virginia hiring especially resilient in July. Many believe that the U.S. economy is slowing down, but hiring managers didn't seem to agree. Employers have struggled to build back their staffs to where they want them. An explanation for this may be that, now that they have employees again, employers want to hold on to them, refraining from additional layoffs to hedge their bets to not have churn again, which is so costly.



PHOTO BY ERIC PROUZEZ



# Homeless Shelter from page 1

the forefront of city council's mind.

Michael Harrison, pastor of The Community Fellowship, said the homeless shelter would need to be a "wrap around shelter," meaning that residents stay long-term, are assigned a case worker and provided with a plan and services to get them back on their feet.

"What does that shelter look like? Somewhere between 30 and 32 beds. It's a wrap around shelter. It's not just a bed, hot meal and a cot for a night. This is a way to get people off the street and to get them help," he said.

He also listed some of the requirements for the location, which is currently being negotiated with different parties. He said it needs to be situated along the bus route, within walking distance of Uptown, and accessible.

Harrison asked that city officials look into various forms of funding for the shelter, including the use of ARPA funding, opioid compensation money, and grants from the Harvest Foundation.

Owens said once built, the cost to operate the shelter would be about \$250,000 per year.

"We just have a need for a shelter, and I know it all revolves around location and building costs or rehab of buildings. I think some other

players in our community have shown vested interest, and it's all contingent on funding from the city, funding from the county," Owens said.

Both he and Harrison noted the increase prevalence of homelessness in the community and the cost that it brings to the area.

According to Department of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated cost "is \$47 to \$60 a day for people who are unhoused and, on the street," Owens said. "And these costs are incurred through public servants - the rescue squad, police departments - and the time whenever someone is arrested and what it costs to house those people."

He noted those costs can soar due to hospital visits and vandalism.

Owens also discussed the increase in homelessness his organization has witnessed and how it applies to its mission.

"If no one has a stable place to lay their head, they're not going to find recovery, and we have just become inundated with homelessness and people seeking housing and affordable housing, any housing at all," he said.

"We are watching tent communities, more and more tent communities, come up in our community. By the way, our phone calls for home-

lessness have gone up 300 percent in 2022," Harrison added.

Owens said a shelter would be a step towards better days for the city and county.

"We're just wanting to be those people, those citizens of the community, because I'm one of those citizens that believe there are better days ahead. Our better days aren't behind us just because we've lost all the industry. As a community, our better days are to come," Owens said. "I'm here, I'm a lifer I call it, so I'll be here. We just need to help those people that are most vulnerable and need life, hope, and passion, love."

Harrison asked council and other citizens to step up to help the homeless population in the area.

"We live in an incredible place. We are blessed. And if I can, let me remind us, we are blessed. We are so blessed. Let's find some people who need some help and let's go help them. We need funds to do that," he said.

Mayor Kathy Lawson and Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles noted the city's collaboration with United Way to help those facing eviction.

Chad Martin, council member, said no one knows how homelessness is until they walk in someone else's shoes. He referenced a short period of time during college in

which he slept in his car and at friends' houses. He said while this was a short period of time, it was eye opening.

Martin encouraged the county and its school system, as well as the city school system, council, and community organizations to engage in a "poverty day or weekend."

"I would ask, on a Saturday, that we be dropped off at the library, maybe only given \$5 with your telephone, and say, 'Figure it out,'" he said.

He added that being homeless makes it difficult to reach out.

"Being homeless is a dehumanizing experi-

ence. It's hard to look people face to face. It's hard to want to reach out. It takes a lot of courage to actually ask for help," Martin said.

Tammy Pearson, council member, called for the council to take the lead in helping Owens and Harrison bring their plans for a shelter to fruition.

"As many of our citizens have said, including here tonight, instead of talking let's take action," she said. "And so, I would like to ask that our city takes a lead in working with Pastor Harrison and others, and let's pull some groups together, like the city and Henry County

and pull together others such as Harvest, United Way, Grace Network, and others to sit down at the table and come up with actionable plans."

In other matters, the council:

\* Approved the amended minutes from the Aug. 9 and Aug. 23 meetings.

\* Heard an overview of the Sept. 26 West End Neighborhood meeting.

\* Opened up the floor to public comments on the possible demolition of Paradise Inn on West Fayette Street.

\* Acknowledged the 20th anniversary of the Harvest Foundation.

\* Approved the consent agenda.



Many citizens attended the Sept. 27 city council meeting, including those participating in a rally to advocate for a homeless shelter.

# Delegates from page 1

the building, and immediately apologized.

The contact was "like you would bump into the corner of a wall, but it wasn't intentional," Williams said, and alleged the resulting complaint is a political "hit job."

In a telephone interview Monday afternoon, March said before the incident took place, Williams "was walking up to various conversations and trying to pick a fight with these people, and I heard about some of that throughout the night, and I witnessed one altercation with one of the Board of Supervisor members of Carroll County."

As the evening wound down, March said attendees were talking, taking photos, and filtering out of the center. March said she was turned talking to groups of people near to where the room opened into another room.

"I guess he came diagonally. I'm not sure because I wasn't paying attention to him. I didn't even realize until the last seconds that it was Wren. I wasn't paying attention," she said.

"There was no corridor, there was no hallway. One big room empties out into another huge room. Wren didn't need to be anywhere near me. He had 30-feet. He could have been 30-feet away," she said, and alleged that Williams changed his course when leaving the room, went over to her and slammed into her as he walked past.

"Everybody saw it. We have eight eyewitnesses. People like gasped when he did it. They were like, 'Oh my God, are you okay?' It was a scene," she said.

"I think he realized he hit me really hard, and he realized probably that it looked worse than what he was planning. I don't know exactly, but he left," she said.

One of her aides ran to the police who were on scene and brought them over to her, March said, and "they asked if I wanted to press charges. I said absolutely. It was abuse."

"This was a huge facility, there was ample space, and it was not overly crowded. He could have gone any direction and he

chose to slam into me. He did not brush up against my shoulder. He slammed into me."

Williams provided a different account of the incident.

At the end of the night, Williams said the event shifted more into a party. "It became very loud, and it had gotten late. I live a good distance away and my six-month pregnant wife was interested in going home and getting off her feet," he said.

As they prepared to leave, Williams said he noticed March was standing with a group of people just outside the door in a semi-circle.

"They had been standing there for quite a while, and I felt like we needed to leave and that was the exit, so we were going to have to basically make our way there. My wife was hesitant because she knows what can happen when you get around people like that," he said.

But his wife's "feet were swollen and hurting," due to the pregnancy, he said. "So, we went ahead and went through that door."

William said he decided to go first, and "when I walked through there, something caught my arm and spun me around and I immediately said, 'oh, I'm sorry,' and I kept going, and I realized that it was Marie March. I immediately apologized and said, 'Oh sorry' and then I kept walking."

Williams said March then "freaked out, caused a giant commotion and had the cops sought after me for accidentally bumping into her."

Williams said he did not feel the contact in his shoulder, his triceps, or his upper arm. Rather, "it was something in my elbow. It spun me around," he said.

One of the two videos, released by Williams Monday night, shows the exchange. The other shows March recreating her version of the incident for law enforcement officers.

The first video is more of a wide-shot general hallways view that is "unfortunately pretty grainy," Williams said. However, at the 8:55:40 mark, the recording shows Williams passing through a large group of people, turn twice, and

then continue to walk forward, followed by his legislative assistant and then, his wife.

At 8:55:42 p.m., Williams said he accidentally bumped into March, and at 8:55:43, the video shows Williams turning, he said to apologize to March.

The 9:01:29 to 9:01:32 p.m. time stamp of the second video, which is in color, shows March reenacting the incident.

"In the second video you will see that Mrs. March falsely accused me of effectively lowering my shoulder and running into her like a pulling guard

like a fullback in football. Then you see her throw up her arms in the air and stumble back two or three steps," Williams said.

March sent a link to bodycam footage from the law enforcement officer who talked to Williams in the parking lot and spoke to March and some eyewitnesses back inside the center.

"We are a Commonwealth of laws and I've turned this over to law enforcement," March wrote. "There were numerous witnesses to this event. Mr. Williams' attempt to bully and smear me is disappointing

... This is not about a race for political office.

"This is about conducting ourselves with civility, respect and according to the law," March wrote. It is clear in this body camera footage that Mr. Williams is carefully choosing his words" when stating that he did not act intentionally.

"However, he did not deny the action itself. In addition to his attempts to avoid legal responsibility, he released an incomplete and grainy video in an attempt to conceal his actions," March wrote. "The truth will prevail."

Williams said he is

scheduled to be arraigned on Nov. 21, and plans to "vigorously defend" the charge.

Williams' current district encompasses Patrick County and includes portions of Henry and Franklin counties. March's current district includes all of Floyd County and parts of Montgomery and Pulaski counties.

They will vie in November 2023 election for the newly drawn 47th House District.

The videos and the bodycam footage are available online at www.henrycountyenterprise.com.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT		RULES 3A:3 AND 7C:3	
Commonwealth of Virginia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court	
Under penalty of perjury, I, the undersigned Complainant swear or affirm that I have reason to believe that the Accused committed a criminal offense, on or about:			
9-24-22 DATE OFFENSE OCCURRED		in the [ ] City [ ] County [ ] Town	
or, <u>Wytheville</u>			
I base my belief on the following facts: (Print ALL information clearly.)			
<u>Tonight I was @ the GOP fundraiser @ the Wytheville meeting center AND my opponent in the intentionally pushed/shouldered slammed into me in front of a large group of people.</u>			
The statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
In making this complaint, I have read and fully understand the following:			
• By swearing to these facts, I agree to appear in court and testify if a warrant or summons is issued.			
• The charge in this warrant cannot be dismissed except by the court, even at my request.			
NAME OF COMPLAINANT (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) <u>Marie March Elizabeth</u>		SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT 	
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day:			
09/24/2022 09:27 PM DATE AND TIME		Andrew Goodfellow [ ] CLERK [ ] MAGISTRATE [ ] JUDGE	
FORM DC-311 REVISED 8/2011 (A21994 12/20)			

A copy of the complaint filed by Del. Marie March, R-Floyd, against Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, following an alleged incident in Wytheville, Va.

**SANDI MCGUIRE**

**OCTOBER 30 10:30AM**

**NEW DAY MARTINSVILLE 705 LIBERTY STREET MARTINSVILLE, VA**

# Pittsylvania County young farmer recognized for winter wheat disease research

Grain farmers work hard to combat crop diseases, spending valuable

time, money and other resources in those efforts. One Pittsylvania County

young farmer's innovative project has garnered Virginia wheat growers'

attention.

Megan Pollok, a junior in the Virginia Tech

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is researching disease resistance in winter wheat.

Fusarium head blight, a fungal disease, impacts a variety of plants. If left untreated, the disease affects the head of the plant with what is called "head scab," rendering seeds unusable as it spreads throughout the field and infects the entire crop.

Bacterial endophytes are organisms such as bacteria or fungi naturally occurring within a plant.

"My research centers on establishing relationships between bacterial endophytes and resistant wheat varieties in order to minimize fusarium blight impacts," Pollok said.

A major outbreak could reduce the crop to being used as animal feed.

"Everyone's goal is growing milling-quality wheat and not feed wheat—the price is so dramatically different," said Robert Harper, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation grain marketing specialist. "This research is very important, very applicable. It will impact every wheat grower in Virginia as they breed disease resistance into varieties, so we can maintain these phe-

nominal no-till systems that protect soil health, prevent erosion and save farmers money on diesel fuel and time."

Continual plant treatment with crop protectants also has environmental impacts.

"These kinds of biological controls can take away the need for chemical inputs," Harper said.

Pollok was the 2020 Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers Outstanding Young Agriculturalist. The award honors high school juniors and seniors for academic, community and agribusiness achievement. She is involved with operations at Hill View Farms Inc., where her family produces beef cattle and certified seed.

"It's inspiring to work with such a bright and talented young mind," said Nicholas Santantonio, an assistant professor in the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. "Megan is developing and testing new innovative solutions to problems that we've been working on for a long time. We need innovators like Megan to develop the solutions we would never think to try."



PHOTO BY DAVID VON DIEMAR



**West Piedmont**  
HEALTH DISTRICT

**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus)