

## City cites increased rates, other concerns in opposing motion to dismiss a case

By Staff Reports

In a recent court filing, the City of Martinsville stated that it may need to raise wastewater rates by 25 percent and/or close its regional wastewater treatment facility if a permit issued to the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) is allowed to stand.

Those and other assertions are contained in the city's opposition to a motion to dismiss a suit it filed in the Richmond City Circuit Court on July 5 against the PSA, the Virginia State Water Control Board (VSWCB), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Michael Rolband, director of both agencies.

In the case, the city is appealing a May 6 permit that clears the way for the PSA to reopen the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Axton.

According to its appeal documents,

Martinsville would suffer "an actual or imminent injury" as a result of the permit, because it would undermine the city's ability to fund and maintain its regional wastewater treatment plant that was developed jointly with the county.

"Martinsville relies on the revenue from the sewer rates to fund" the wastewater plant's operation, the filing stated. Funds are then used to pay for daily operations, maintenance and repairs, and capital improvement projects.

"The substantial revenue derived from serving the wastewater needs" of the county "is essential to the continued existence and operation" of Martinsville's regional wastewater plant, the suit states.

The filing includes a brief history of the city's sewage disposal facility. It states the city has owned and operated the facility since the 1960s. Wastewater from the city and county has been treated in the city's facility since around

1973, and in 2005, the PSA deactivated its two wastewater plants – one of which was the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant, and became a customer of the city's regional facility.

"Martinsville has made significant investment in the operation and maintenance of its regional facility to ensure that it has adequate capacity to treat wastewater" from the two localities, the filing stated. It added that the county uses nearly 50 percent of the facility's existing capacity.

The city alleges the DEQ and the SWCB violated state law by "failing to consider and make a determination regarding the feasibility of combined or joint treatment facilities" and failed to seek advice from local, regional or state planning authorities when making a determination.

The two agency's "failure to comply" also was in violation of state statute,

according to the filing, which also alleges violation of another law by the two agencies failure to prevent water quality alterations contrary to the public interest.

The 13-page appeal asks the court to find the DEQ and SWCB "acted unlawfully in issuing the case decision and permit," according to the suit. Also, the court is asked to set aside the case decision and the permit, reprimand both state agencies and award Martinsville reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

In two filings— a demurrer and motion to dismiss, both dated July 26, the PSA asked the court to dismiss the city's appeal, citing several errors in the city's filing, its failure to meet the standing requirements of law and sovereign immunity, which generally limits judicial interference with the workings of

See **City Cites**, page 8

## Two candidates discuss the city's legal action against the PSA

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

Two candidates for Martinsville City Council discussed an appeal filed by the city against the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) and others. (See related story.)

Danny Turner, an incumbent who is seeking reelection, cited difficulties in enforcing the water-sewer agreement and disagreements over who owes what money.

"The city never has

enforced the water-sewer agreement that was in place and there's some questions about whether it's even enforceable," he said. "In that agreement, the county agreed to pay for their share of maintenance. So, the county maintains that no, we let them out of the water sewer agreement, so they don't owe that money."

The city, on the other hand, believes that the

See **PSA**, page 7

## Co-founder of new shop hopes to spread the power of 3D printing



Duncan Monroe, co-founder of The 3D Shop, is on a mission to showcase the benefits and capabilities of 3D printing.

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

Duncan Monroe, who has a background in design engineering, co-founded The 3D Shop Uptown with his partner, who lives in Colorado, who has a background in aerospace engineering.

"I started out just doing 3D printing as a hobby and started with these landscapes here. I put them on my Snapchat story and some friends of mine said, 'Hey, that's really cool. Can I pay you to make, you know, my fiancé and I's first ever hike?'" he said.

He then started taking the landscapes to craft markets and selling them. Soon enough, people began approaching him and requesting other creations.

While Monroe never intended for his hobby to grow so large, it began to morph into more than a

See **The 3D Shop**, page 2

## Continued community support helps arts organizations thrive after shutdown



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

These two photos are from the first event Piedmont Arts had after the mandatory shutdown, **Cheeseburger in Paradise** in June 2020 held at Piedmont Arts' Gravelly-Lester Art Garden. Heidi Pinkston, Executive Director (photo left), Bernadette Moore, Director of Exhibitions and Marketing and Eric Moore (photo right).

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

In a time where many arts organizations are struggling to get back on their feet after COVID-19 shut downs and trials, the community's arts organizations continue to thrive.

Scott Guebert, president of the Theatreworks Community Players board, said the theatre's recent per-

formances of 12 Angry Jurors give the organization hope for the future after it had to completely change due to the pandemic.

The recent play and performances "went really well. It was well received, we had good participation, good attendance at all of the performances, so I think people were ready to come back. Barring any further emergencies and COVID

variants and other guidance from public health officials, we're going to continue to move forward with this season," he said.

When COVID-19 hit, the theater was required to shut down due to the public health guidelines in place at the time, which threw a wrench in the organization's plans

See **Piedmont Arts**, page 6

## Pavilion at Spencer-Penn Centre honors longtime supporter



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Oct. 15 on the Margaret Spencer Shackelford Toms' Pavilion at the Spencer-Penn Centre.

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

The official opening of the new Margaret Spencer Shackelford Toms Pavilion at Spencer-Penn Centre was celebrated on Oct. 15 with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Three and a half years ago, a dear friend of Spencer-Penn passed away and left a generous gift to the Spencer-Penn family and centre, something that would serve the community for what we know will be many

years to come, and something that would open the door for partnerships and opportunities that the centre had yet to develop and embrace even more," Susan Sabin, executive director of the centre, said of Toms.

While the project had many setbacks, including COVID, Sabin said the hard work and perseverance of all of its sponsors and friends helped propel the project to fruition. People like Harrison Toms, Margaret Toms' son, who was among those

to champion the pavilion project, Sabin said.

Harrison Toms described his mother's appreciation and connections to the area, saying that it was "the roots of some of her fondest memories." He recalled her excitement surrounding events that were held at the centre and how she always wanted to know all about the happenings there.

"My mother, in her

See **Longtime Supporter honored**, page 4

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Saturday, October 22

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will hold a free class, "Do More with Less: How to Declutter Your Home" at the Martinsville location, 310 East Church Street at 2:30 p.m. The class is for ages 18 and up and registration is required. To register, call (276) 403-5430.

The 25th annual Great Goblin Gallop 5k will be held around Lake Lanier. Onsite registration begins at 9 a.m. at 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville and the race begins at 10 a.m. Early online registration is \$20 and onsite registration is \$25.

The Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation will host the 8th annual Wine by the River festival at the Smith River Sports Complex from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be food vendors, artisan vendors, live music, and wine and beer distributors. Tickets are \$15 in advance in \$25 at the gate. They can be purchased at <http://www.winebyriver.com/> Purple Honey Farms, 350 Charlton Drive, Ridgeway will have its Fall Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 for ages 12 and up.

## Sunday, October 23

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor "Local History Challenge SH" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 23, at Scuffle Hill Brewing Company, 2620 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville. Joshua Duncan, Historical Society board member and local history teacher, will serve as game show host. The winning team and runner-up will receive cool prizes – but most importantly, bragging rights. Enjoy a cold one from a special tap, and the Historical Society will receive 10% of the designated tap sales. Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will be open 2-7 p.m. Musician Forrest Taylor will perform beginning at 4 p.m.

## Tuesday, October 25

The New College Institute will host its Slingshot racing event "Stories of Racing" starting at 5:30. Admission is free. Enjoy food trucks, talks from Clay Campbell and Rhett Vandiver, virtually race on the Martinsville Speedway, and more.

## Thursday, October 27

The City of Martinsville will host Uptown Trick or Treat beginning at 4 p.m. Businesses can sign up to distribute candy. The event is for ages 12 and under and will take place along Church and Main Streets.

## Saturday, October 29

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will host "Bonez and Booz" from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be fire performances, stilt walkers, magic shows, carnival games, a beer garden, live music, and more. Costumes are encouraged. Admission is \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for ages 18-59, \$5 for seniors age 60+, and free for children under three and VMNH members. Parking will take place off site.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will be having a "Books & Treats" event at the Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be candy and treats while supplies last. Interactive Halloween story times will take place at 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:15 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to children ages 2-12.

## Monday, October 31

A hayride and trunk-or-treat will be held at Jack Dalton Park from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., hosted by Henry County Parks and Recreation and Martinsville-Henry County 4H.

A "Halloween Haunted House for Kids" will be held at the Bassett Train Station Event Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

BTW21 and the Bassett Fire Department will hold a "Family Fun Night" from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 3735 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett.

## Friday, November 4

The Spencer-Penn Centre will hold a Dehydrating Foods class from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To register, call (276)957-5757.

Piedmont Arts will host an Exhibit Opening Reception at 5:30 p.m. for their upcoming exhibit The Art of the Quilt and Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild. Admission is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will host "An Evening of Music and Dinosaurs" from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Jam out with museum favorite's and enjoy a cash bar and food. Tickets are \$15 and advance tickets are required. Tickets can be purchased at [www.vmnh.net/events/an-evening-of-music-and-dinosaurs](http://www.vmnh.net/events/an-evening-of-music-and-dinosaurs).

## Saturday, November 5

A Veterans Day Banquet will be held at the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A L Philpott Hwy, Ridgeway, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained

from any Post # 78 member.

Piedmont Arts will hold a Mini Art Quilt Class at 1 p.m. All supplies are provided. Cost is \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. Registration is required.

## ONGOING

The Coats for Kids Coat Drive is accepting donations at Hollywood Cinema and One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road until Nov. 30. For more information, call Debra Buchanan at (276)358-1463.

The Grace Network Pumpkin Patch is underway at First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville, through Oct. 31. It is 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 every Saturday 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).

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

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at its headquarters, 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) continues to offer "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Get more information or apply for new coverage via phone Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In-person application help is available on Wednesdays at Community Storehouse's new location UPTOWN at 128 East Church Street LOWER LEVEL from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509.

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 Road, Axton, on the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The book for October is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.

## New College Foundation

October 22, 2022

Dear Community Friends,

This is the second in a series of letters where I'm sharing important information about New College Foundation (NCF). From time to time, I'm asked to explain NCF's mission? Due to our close association with New College Institute (NCI) understanding NCF really requires an understanding of NCI.

In 2006 NCI and NCF were founded. NCF's original mission statement has remained unchanged and continues to guide us to date. Our mission says we will "... provide financial and other support to New College Institute...for the dissemination of education." NCI's early mission statement clarifies what education is being disseminated.

*NCI provides residents of the Martinsville – Henry County area and Southern Virginia with access to bachelor's degree-completion programs and graduate degree programs through partnerships with Virginia's colleges and universities. NCI works to create a college-going culture through outreach activities in the region it serves.*

During the past 16 years of existence approximately 500 students have earned a college degree through an NCI affiliated program. NCF has been able to financially help several of these students in fulfilling their dreams. As mentioned in my letter last week, I would love to help even more scholarship applicants. I was personally touched by the words of one of this year's applicants. "For every kindness, support, and investment I have received from the New College Foundation, the same gift will be given to all the students I am given to teach."

Since the sale of the Baldwin building, NCF now has the financial capacity to award grants. Over the past two years, NCF has awarded over \$200,000 to NCI and/or its partners in support of their current mission:

*New College Institute is a premier center of learning that provides access to academic degrees, credentials, non-credential, hands-on-training, and professional learning experiences in high quality learning environments to prepare students for regional and statewide career opportunities and participation in collaborative, positive community change, promoting regional economic prosperity and community transformation.*

Kevin DeKoninck  
Executive Director  
New College Foundation (NCF)

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## The 3D Shop from page 1

hobby.

"One printer turned to two, two turned to three, and now we're here at 18, and obviously that would take over our house pretty quickly," he said. "So my wife said we should open up a place because we're starting to not just work with other craft vendors, but we started working with businesses and those orders were in the hundreds of units of production."

Instead of simply finding a place to house his printers and materials, Monroe decided to do more and offer more to residents.

"I thought, 'If we're going to be doing it and making a location here, instead of just setting up

a print from somewhere remote, let's put it somewhere where we can have a retail space.' People can come in and see what we were able to accomplish with 3D printing," he said.

However, the offerings of 3D Shop Uptown go beyond retail.

"We're going to be teaching classes on how to do CAD design, or Computer-Aided Design 3D modeling; how to do 3D printing, the different materials, science of everything," Monroe said.

His goal is to teach others about the possibilities of 3D printing, and let them see that anyone can do it.

"I want to educate

people on 3D printing as a technology. It's grown so fast that there's a lot of people who don't know what 3D printing is, a lot of people don't know how it works, and even less people know the possibilities and how accessible the technology is today," he said.

The shop has already begun to exceed Monroe's expectations. "The first guy to walk in today was actually someone who wanted us to help fix his printer, which is not something I thought would happen that quickly," he said.

Monroe said he believed the shop would have to establish itself first, and then start getting printers into the community before it could expand its services. He was heartened to see that some people have already been introduced to the concept.

"I thought that would be once we were an established business and people know what 3D printing is, but it's encouraging to see that some people already have printers out here and need help," he said.

Monroe hopes the shop can help people of all experience levels learn about and embrace everything 3D printing can do and be.

"I want to have it be a 3D printing hub where anyone from complete 'I know nothing about 3D printing' to 'I have my own 3D printing business, can you help me either with production, can you help me with fixing my fleet and printers?' and just really be a resource to the community that way," he said.

The 3D Shop is located at 20 Walnut Street, Martinsville. It is open on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekdays by appointment.



# VMNH to host inaugural Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival



The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville will host its first-ever Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29 from 4 to 10 p.m. The inaugural event, which is designed for both families and adults, will feature a festive atmosphere that includes fire performances, stilt walkers, magic shows, carnival games, costume contests, a beer garden, food trucks and more.

“The museum is excited to offer visitors a brand new experience that revolves around the festivities of Halloween,” said VMNH Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix-Wirt. “Many people are in search of a fun, festive and safe event during this time of year and Bonez & Booz checks all the boxes.”

The event, which primarily takes place outdoors, will feature a variety of stage shows, including fire performances, magic shows, and live music throughout the evening.

“We wanted to make sure we have on-stage entertainment taking place all evening long and that the quality of entertainment is top-notch,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “The fire performances will be presented by performers from Imagine Circus located in Raleigh, North

Carolina and the magic shows will be performed by the talented illusionist Nelson Oliver. We are also bringing in Martinsville-natives Riggs Roberson and Griffin Haley, who are mainstays on the region’s festival circuit, to provide live music. Their blend of blues, country, jazz, soul, and southern rock will offer something for everyone.”

In addition to on-stage entertainment, the event will feature many on-going activities, such as face painting, balloon animals, caricature art, a photo booth, costume contests, and carnival games, including an inflatable shooting range for kids and adults provided by the Henry County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

During Bonez & Booz, the museum will also be opening up its exhibit galleries for flashlight tours.

“Because this event takes place in the evening and most of the activities will occur outside, we’re going to be able to offer flashlight tours of the exhibit galleries for the first time ever,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “From 4 to 6 p.m., the exhibit galleries will be open as normal for anyone who wishes to tour them. From 6 to 8 p.m., the galleries will be closed for guided flashlight tours for children,

which will be led by museum staff. We will then briefly close the galleries and, at 8:15 p.m., they will be re-opened to all visitors for self-guided flashlight tours. The museum will have a very limited number of flashlights available on a first-come, first-served basis and visitors are encouraged to use the flashlight capabilities of their mobile devices.”

As with all museum events, science will play a prominent role during Bonez & Booz.

“The museum’s scientific collections consist of over 10 million specimens and quite a few of them could fairly be labeled as bizarre and, in some instances, flat-out creepy,” said Hendrix-Wirt. “This event serves as an opportune time for our scientists to show-off some of those specimens for visitors to experience.”

Bonez & Booz will also feature a large variety of food and drink options, including a beer garden and a variety of food trucks offering items, such as barbeque, hot dogs, sandwiches, sausages, cotton candy, candy apples, and more. Food trucks scheduled to be on-site include DaddyQ’s BBQ, The Outdoor Host, D’s Hot/Ice, Super Dogs Hot Dog Cart, and Bahama Sno-Shack.

A full list of entertainment and associ-

ated times is listed on the official Bonez & Booz webpage at [www.vmnh.net/events/bonez-and-booz](http://www.vmnh.net/events/bonez-and-booz).

Admission to Bonez & Booz is \$10 per adult and \$5 for ages 3-17. Admission is free for children under 3, museum members, and members of museums and science centers that participate in the ASTC Passport program.

The museum also participates in the Museums for All initiative, offering discounted admission to low-income families. Through this program and additional funding provided by Hooker Furnishings, visitors who present their EBT card and accompanying ID at the museum’s box office will receive free admission to the festival.

Parking at this event will be available off-site. The museum will be closed during its normal operating hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on Saturday, October 29 in preparation for this event.

Bonez & Booz is sponsored by SOVAH Health, Bassett Furniture Industries, The Helen S. & Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust, and Martinsville Speedway.

For more information about Bonez & Booz, visit [www.vmnh.net/events/bonez-and-booz](http://www.vmnh.net/events/bonez-and-booz).

# Newest early learning center in Bassett enrolling now

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

Little Angels Early Learning Center has opened its doors to children ages two and a half to five at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church.

The learning center hopes to bring education to young children before they begin school while also teaching them Christian ideals. They are enrolling now and officially opened on Oct. 10.

Business Manager Cindy Adams said those interested may contact the program for information on enrollment.

“If they contact us, we send them a QR code and it takes them through everything, they can enroll right there. And if it works out and they’re approved and they enter then they’ve already got our daycare app, which is how we communicate,” she said.

The center is unable to take children younger than two and a half, older than five, or with physical disabilities.

Little Angels Director, Jenna Adams, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies with a minor in Early Childhood education through Longwood University and expects to graduate next spring. She said she realized a need for a learning

center in the community after working in the public schools.

“I worked in Henry County for a year, and I worked with kindergarteners mainly, and just seeing that gap, I guess from COVID, of stuff when they were coming in, stuff like their name, that they could’ve been worked with more at home,” she said.

Jenna Adams then got the idea to open up Little Angels to bridge this educational gap. She hopes to teach children the basics and give them a head start before school.

“I was like, ‘This is something I can do for my community. I could start them off when they’re young and by the time they get into school it’ll be a world of difference,’” she said. “So that’s why we’re kind of focusing on calling it more of a learning center rather than just a daycare, because we’re going to actually be here learning.”

According to Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church pastor Susan Spangenberg, though, this is not a new dream for Jenna Adams. It is one she has had since childhood.

“Jenna also shared that this dream, or the sculpting of this dream, began when she was very young. She’s had just countless teaching experiences. We’re very confident in

her.”

Spangenberg said the church displayed unanimous interest in hosting it.

“We feel it’s a God thing, that He brought us all together. Our people voted unanimously to do this, so we were very excited,” she said.

“We look forward to the partnership, look forward to the programs that Little Angels might do that we might be a part of and just grateful to be able to provide, just with our building, this ministry to our community.”

Spangenberg said. “It is so needed, particularly with a Christian viewpoint. So, we’re so grateful for Jenna and Cindy and those who will teach with them.”

Cindy Adams said the process for starting up the learning center was not an easy one. According to her, setting up a daycare is now done through the Department of Education as opposed to Social Services.

“They’re working slowly to have all daycares on the same page in that everyone will be licensed the same way. Religiously exempt daycares, in a couple of years, will probably be no more,” she said. “The Department of Education took it over because they want the same curriculum and the same type of teaching fol-

lowed from preschool all the way up.”

However, despite the difficulties, Cindy Adams said the church and other daycares in the area have been supportive.

“Other daycares around here have been great. They found out through Facebook and word of mouth, and we had several to contact us, a lady with the YMCA and she said, ‘If I get anybody on my waiting list, I’ll send them to you.’ Kings Academy is doing the same thing,” she said.

Jenna Adams said she has big goals for Little Angels, both short term and long term.

“Short term, honestly, getting kids in here, getting word out to the community, things like that. Just improving on our business and getting kids actually in here,” she said.

Jenna Adams hopes that she and the learning center can leave a lasting impact on the children who come through.

“Long term, I want to see them, I want to hear good things from their teachers, as they’re growing up saying... ‘Hey, I could tell which kids came to you,’ and espe-

cially being able to teach about Christian values and things like that, I just really hope that that stays with them as they grow up.”

Those interested in

enrolling in the program can contact either Cindy Adams at (276) 618-4834 or Jenna Adams at (276)224-8401 or email at [littleangelsbassett@gmail.com](mailto:littleangelsbassett@gmail.com).

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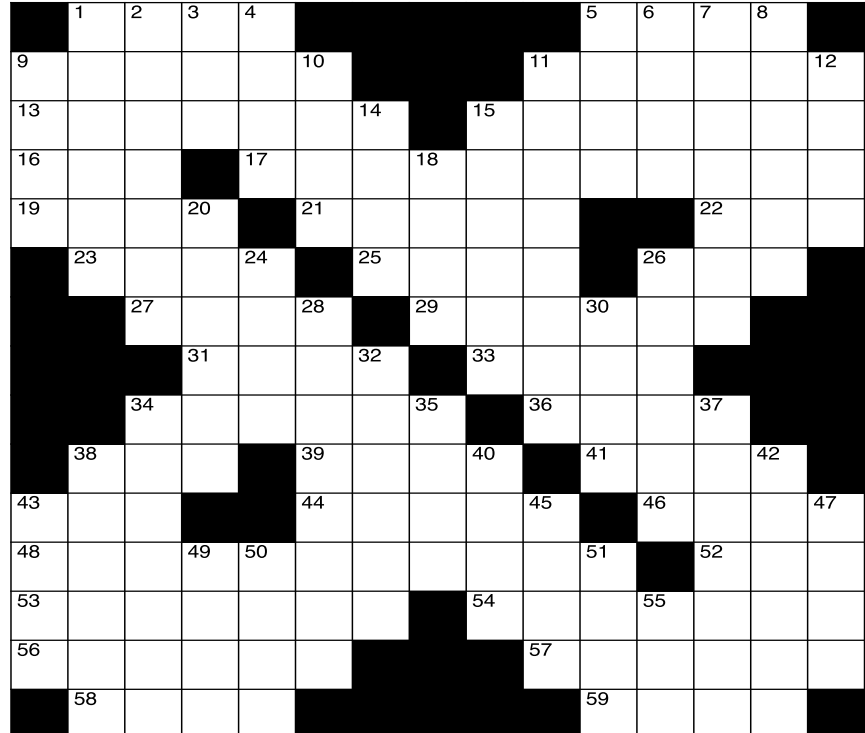


Cindy and Jenna Adams celebrated the opening of Little Angels Early Learning Center with a ribbon cutting.



The center is now enrolling children ages two and a half to five. It is located in Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 120 Old Bassett Heights Road, Bassett.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. A way to communicate
  5. Historic city
  9. Not the same
  11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
  13. One hurt the Titanic
  15. Fine dense cloth
  16. Architectural structure
  17. Where Serena works
  19. Stringed instrument
  21. Estimate
  22. Where sailors work
  23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
  25. Popular slow cooked dish
  26. Twisted Sister's Snider
  27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
  29. Put the ball in the net
  31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
  33. High school math subject
  34. Looked into
  36. Rhode Island rebellion
  38. A pea is one type
  39. You can put it on something
  41. Where golfers begin
  43. Make a mistake
  44. Semitic Sun god
  46. Ancient Greek City
  48. Beheaded
  52. A place to stay
  53. Inanely foolish
  54. Most unnatural
  56. "Dennis" is one
  57. Soothes
  58. Exam
  59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Triangular bone in lower back
  2. Building toy
  3. Pointed end of a pen
  4. Insect repellent
  5. College army
  6. Highly spiced stew
  7. Exploited
  8. Main course
  9. A bottle that contains a drug
  10. The most worthless part
  11. Everyone needs one nowadays
  12. Japanese wooden shoe
  14. Antelopes
  15. A way to cut
  18. Brooklyn hoopsters
  20. Gradually receded
  24. Ripped open
  26. College grads get one
  28. Amino acid
  30. Unruly gathering
  32. Legislative body
  34. Resembling pigs
  35. Russian assembly
  37. Take over for
  38. Put in advance
  40. Satisfy
  42. Felt
  43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
  45. Witnessess
  47. Some build hills
  49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
  50. Ancient people of Scotland
  51. Cheerless
  55. Unwell

# OPINION

## Your daily affirmation

You don't need me to tell you that it's a hard old world out there. Everyone is struggling in one way or another. Whether you're worried about your finances, or your health, or the state of the world we live in, we all have a rough row to hoe from time to time.

But today, I'm going to share a little secret with you, a small daily affirmation. No matter who you are, no matter how rough of a day you're having, I guarantee it will make you feel a little better and put a smile on your face.

If you're feeling blue, just do the following.

Step outside. Find a nice, sunny spot. Sit down in some soft grass. Close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths, and then let them out. Try to clear your mind of all the negativity and stress that you've been holding onto. And then, just think the following thought:

Alex Jones, one of the worst people who has ever lived on this planet, has been ordered to pay \$965 million to the families of the victims of the Sandy Hook massacre.

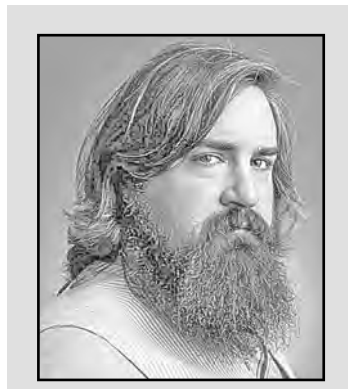
Don't you feel better already?

Just think: the man who went on the air night after night claiming that the 20 young children who were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary were actually alive, the man who claimed that their grieving parents were paid crisis actors, the man who riled up his deranged fanbase to harass these poor tortured people, now owes them nearly one billion dollars. BILLION!

Alex Jones is apparently worth about \$270 million. Not anymore! He's ruined now. And by the way, unlike his other defamation trial in Texas, there's no cap on the payout in Connecticut where this new trial took place. He owes those parents a billion dollars. This will destroy him.

Man, I feel better just thinking about it.

Is it wrong to revel in the downfall of another person? Not when it's Alex Jones, a man who made millions of dollars by riling up the most deranged members of society and catalyzing them to stalk and torment grieving parents who had endured an unspeakable tragedy. You can revel in Alex Jones'



By Ben R. Williams

downfall all you want. In fact, it's probably immoral NOT to celebrate his utter destruction.

Take it from me: go to your happy place, close your eyes, and meditate on Alex Jones' well-deserved downfall!

Do you find yourself worried about the upcoming Presidential election in 2024? Hey, don't dwell on it. Instead, just imagine Alex Jones laying in his dark, empty bedroom at 3 a.m., unable to sleep. His breathing is labored, his HGH-swollen organs straining against the birdcage of his ribs. He stares at his phone, looking for a distraction from the fact that he owes the families that he terrorized one billion dollars. He sees an article about how

the first season of Amazon's new Lord of the Rings show, the most expensive TV show ever made, cost \$500 million. He suddenly realizes that he owes the Sandy Hook families enough money to fund two additional seasons. His eyes grow watery as his mind drifts to a dark, dark place.

Don't you feel so much better?

Maybe you're worried about the economy. Our paychecks definitely don't go as far as they used to. But instead of being stressed out about it, just imagine Alex Jones sitting in the cold, clammy basement of a black market medical facility on the outskirts of a Texas industrial district. He tells the doctor, a former veterinarian disbarred for abusing ketamine, that he wishes to sell a kidney, needing just enough under-the-table money to prevent him from losing his car. It is a 1987 Toyota Tercel. The doctor shakes his head sadly and hands Alex Jones a letter. It is a notarized statement from a priest stating that Alex Jones cannot donate his organs as a panel of religious officials has confirmed that he has no soul.

Man, that would be hilarious. It's funny because it's true! Worried about global cli-

mate change? I know I am. But don't dwell on the things you cannot change. Instead, dwell on the image of Alex Jones stepping inside a Lowe's Home Improvement store somewhere in Austin, Texas. He approaches a blue-vested employee, his once-booming voice reduced to a low, phlegmy rumble.

"Where do you keep the rope?" he asks.

"Aisle 17, sir," the employee replies.

"And what about ... stools," Alex Jones says. "Do you sell stools? Wobbly ones?"

And then, just imagine Alex Jones back home, watching a YouTube video about how to tie a noose on a phone with a cracked screen. As he struggles with the thick rope, he catches a glimpse of himself in the mirror and begins to weep. He realizes his plan will never work; he doesn't have a neck.

Ha ha! It would be tragic if something like that happened to an actual person, but it's funny when it happens to an amoral monster who profits from the suffering of others!

So just remember: no matter how bad things get, you can always take comfort in the fact that you're not Alex Jones.

Unless you ARE Alex Jones, in which case, who cares?

## Longtime Supporter Honored from page 1

later years, found it hard to get around. She always looked forward to Mary Jordan's frequent visits to give her updates on the community centre and the next big challenge on Mary's horizon with regards of transition from school to community centre," he said.

Jordan was a longtime director of the facility.

Margaret Toms, her son said, also relished in the centre. In fact, "there was no other contribution that" his mother "enjoyed giving to as much as this centre. When Mary hadn't visited in a while, she would always inquire to me, 'What has happened to her? Where is she?' and I'd have to find where is Mary."

Harrison Toms said he believed his mother would be thrilled with the new pavilion and all of the possibilities it opens up for the centre and for the community.

"I know she would be absolutely astonished at this amazing pavilion that Susan Sabin and all the others at the centre helped to build in her memory. Our family

truly hopes this pavilion will serve this area and the community centre well in the years to come," he said.

Sabin then introduced Jordan, who also was friends with Margaret Toms.

"From the very beginning she was a champion of the centre, of the programs, and she was really the brain-stormer behind this project. We are so excited to have her with us today," Sabin said, adding that Jordan is the reason the centre is what it is currently.

Jordan described Harrison Toms' compliments to his mother as "modest," and noted that Margaret Toms was "a lovely, generous woman. We could not have gotten along as well as we did on this project without her."

Jordan recalled, "I just couldn't go and just say hello to Mrs. Toms and just sit and talk. She'd say, 'What do you need? What does Spencer-Penn need?' and I'd say, 'Look, I'm just coming to talk with you today,' But she was truly a very special, special lady."

Jordan hopes the pavilion will serve the centre as Margaret Toms did.

"This has turned into a great project and I hope many, many days yet to come that this pavilion will add to the original project. I thank Susan, and of course Harrison and the entire family for getting this done," she said.

Sidney McClure, president of the Spencer-Penn Centre Board, and Sabin honored those who dedicated picnic tables and memorial bricks that helped fund the pavilion project. Sabin also extended her thanks to several other individuals and organizations who helped make the project a reality.

"It takes a lot of hands and a lot of work to make these things happen. We've had some very generous partners who have worked tirelessly," she said.

Those interested in using the pavilion may contact the Spencer Penn Center Office at (276) 957-5757 or spc.susan@yahoo.com.

## Commission awards grant to P&HCC Foundation

The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission awarded Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation (P&HCC) Career and Technical Education Credentialing a \$40,425 grant last week.

The funds will cover student certification costs within the high-demand fields of advanced manufacturing.

Despite the value of industry recognized credentials in validating and confirming student skills to future employers, current state policy prohibits P&HCC

from embedding student certification costs into tuition, which eliminates the ability to use most scholarship funds to cover these costs.

While most certification testing fees are \$150 or less, these fees represent a significant financial burden for students and limits their ability to earn certifications that would assist them in the job market.

Other funding approved by the commission also was awarded to expand educational opportunities and/or broadband access, including a \$497,890 grant

to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research ExTRA: Expanding Talent through Registered Apprenticeships, a project to support development of a regional work-based learning program for the creation of new apprenticeship opportunities by employers within the 15 localities of Southern Virginia that are included in Go Virginia Region 3. The Southern Virginia Higher Education Center Welding Program Expansion was awarded a \$236,222.50 grant to expand the Welding@SVHEC Training Program.

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is a 28-member body created in 1999 to promote economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities, using proceeds of the national tobacco settlement. To date, the commission has awarded more than 2,400 grants and loans totaling more than \$1.4 billion across the tobacco region of the Commonwealth, and has provided \$309 million in indemnification payments to tobacco growers and quota holders.

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### Give us your view:

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

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

## 'The Art of the Quilt' returns to Piedmont Arts 13th biennial quilt exhibit to open Nov. 4

Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits, Friday, Nov. 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the museum.

For the 13th year, colorful quilts and fiber arts created by artists from across the Southeast will be on display as part of the museum's biennial invitational exhibition, "The Art of the Quilt." More than 40 artists will take part in this fiber arts showcase co-curated by master quilters Linda Fiedler and Betty Blessin.

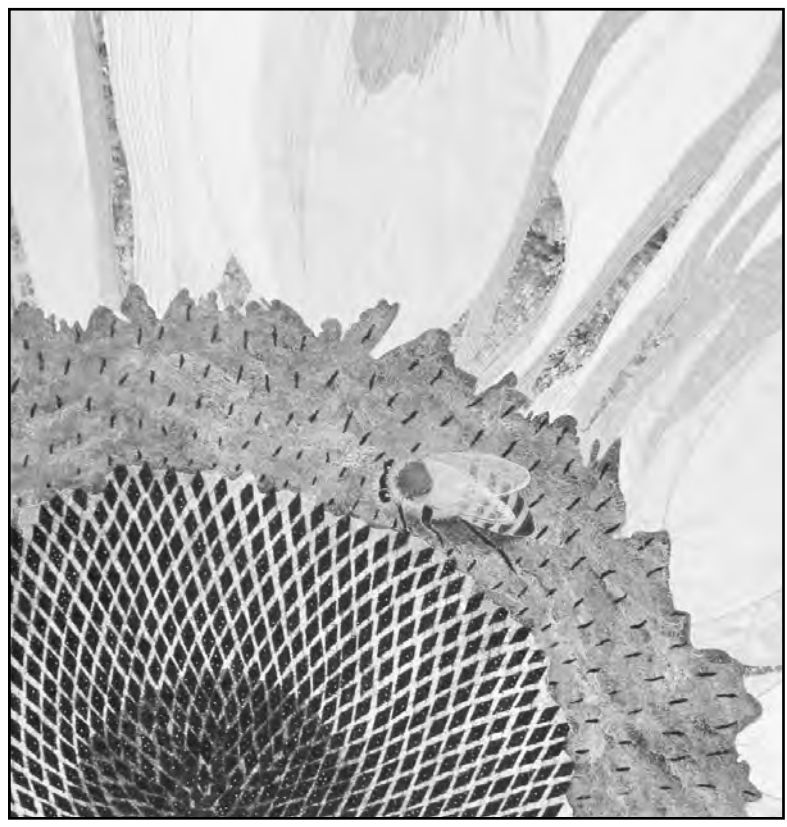
Themed "Unity," this year's exhibit features hand- and machine-stitched quilts, contemporary textiles, and a special showcase of quilts by the African American Quilt Circle of Durham, N.C.

"This exhibit is an indicator of the creative energy among artists who are currently making quilts," said Fiedler. "Having evolved beyond the quilt as just a bed covering, these artists approach quilt making much as an artist approaches painting — by combining idea, color, material, composition, form, texture, and spontaneity to express their personal interpretation of the world."

"Works by Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild" will be on display in the Lynwood Artists Gallery. A Piedmont Arts Community Partner, Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild was formed to maintain and stimulate an interest in all matters pertaining to making, collecting and preserving quilts.

"A Stitch in Time: Cross Stitch by Marilyn Vaughn" will be on display in the Hallway Gallery. The exhibit features cross stitch samplers created by Vaughn over three decades.

The opening reception is free and



Detail of "Sundance" by Carol Monti on display in "The Art of the Quilt."

open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. Music by Ann Nichols. Artist talk at 6:15 p.m. with co-curators Fiedler and Blessin. RSVP required by Nov. 1 to 276.632.3221 or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Exhibits will be on display Nov. 5 through Jan. 14. Exhibit admission is always free.

Exhibits and reception sponsored by Bunco Babes, Nancy Baker, Susan Critz, Jerri and Joe DeVault, Sandra Ford, Olivia and Pres Garrett, Libby Kormos, Anne and Gene Madonia, Susan and David Morris, Betty Lou and Ron Pigg, John and Deborah Schupp, Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild and Lynwood Artists.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville. It is located at 215 Starling Ave. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.



# OBITUARIES

## Jimmy Dale Key

Jimmy Dale Key, 68, of Rocky Mount, Virginia passed away Thursday, October 13, 2022, at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital. He was born February 19, 1954, in Winston Salem, North Carolina to the late James Louis Key and Martha Jane Brooks Key. He attended New Covenant Fellowship Church. He enjoyed fishing, bird watching, hunting, the outdoors and collected windchimes.



Carol Strickler and Mary Cardwell; and brother Sammy Key.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters,

He is survived by a daughter, Betty Key; sisters, Becky Davis, Darlene

Gravley, Dorothy Hodges and Freda Stacey; brother, Donny Key; and grandchildren, Eric Key and Jason Key.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 3:00 PM at Wayside Tabernacle Holiness Church, Pine Valley Road, Bassett, Virginia with Rev. Ray Craiger, Freda Stacey and Dorothy Hodges officiating. Burial will be private.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

## Betty Ann Kidd Durham

Betty Ann Kidd Durham, 86, of Martinsville, VA passed away Friday, October 14, 2022. She was born January 16, 1936 in Snow Creek, VA to the late Mary Emma New Kidd and Thomas Jefferson Kidd. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Melvin Lee Durham and brothers, Thomas Allen Kidd and James Wilson Kidd.



Joseph, MeriAnne, and Justus. Also surviving are numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.

She is survived by in-laws, Joseph Durham (Louise), Barbara Snead, Hazel Durham, and Bill Bates, all of Danville, VA; granddaughter, Jennifer Durham (David) and

Betty was a faithful member of Valley Chapel Pentecostal Holiness

Church where she served as secretary and treasurer for over 50 years.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, October 16, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Pastor Jody Pollard officiating. Burial was at Kidd Family Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Valley Chapel Pentecostal Holiness Church, 201 Breckenridge Cir, Axton, VA 24054.

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

## Brenda Lee Hairston

Brenda Lee Hairston, 53, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Saturday, October 15, 2022 at her home. She was born May 11, 1969, in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Lawrence Martin and Ora Bell Hairston Martin. She was a member of Reach Out Apostolic Church, enjoyed shopping, doing for others and loved children.



ters, Virginia Philpott, Sharon Martin, Dora Martin, Debra Martin, Frances Martin and Cynthia Martin; broth-

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Shirley Johnson.

She is survived by sis-

ers, Freddie Hairston (Linda), James Cable Hairston (Edna), Roy Martin, Michael Martin and Donald Martin.

A funeral was held on Friday, October 21, 2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel, with Bishop Hall officiating. Burial followed at Carver Memorial Gardens.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

## Club installs new officers



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett installed its officers for the 2022-2023 year at its October 6 meeting. April Farmer, Lt. Governor of the Capital District of Kiwanis International, led the installation ceremony. Pictured (from left) are Jim Franklin III, Secretary; Stuart Warren, President; April Farmer, Craig McCroskey, President-Elect, and Barry Helmstutler, Treasurer. (Contributed photo)

## Reynolds' fundraising efforts recognized



At its October 6 meeting, the Kiwanis Club of Bassett recognized Ray Reynolds for his accomplishments in raising funds for the Jennifer Short Scholarship that is awarded annually deserving graduates of Bassett High School. Reynolds, who has been leading the motorcycle and car fundraising rally for 20 years, is primarily responsible for raising approximately \$45,000 over that period. He will be stepping away from the rally since the last one held this summer, and it will now be administered by the Eagles Club. The Kiwanis Club of Bassett, in conjunction with the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Virginia, acts as the fiscal agent for the rally. Len Dillon (left), Administrative Officer for the Kiwanis Club of Bassett Foundation, is shown introducing Ray Reynolds to the club. (Contributed photo)

## Kiwanis Club donates to riding academy



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently donated \$500 to Tackfully Teamed Riding Academy to help with the general operating expenses of the organization that utilizes horses to provide therapeutic training to deserving individuals. Susan Warren (left) of Tackfully Teamed is shown accepting the check from April Farmer, Lt. Governor of the Capital District of Kiwanis International. (Contributed photo)

### Informal Sales Seminar

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# Piedmont Arts from page 1

for its upcoming season.

"It was just such an unknown, and everyone was shutting everything down everywhere. We said, 'Well, we've got to follow federal and the state officials and their guidance,' and so we shut the theater," Guebert said. "We had an upcoming season," in the "fall 2020 and spring 2021, but we hadn't announced it yet. We just had shows planned. We said we just couldn't do anything until we know what's going on."

However, Theatreworks developed different ways to still engage with the community and provide some semblance of normalcy during the difficult times.

"That fall, fall of '20 and spring of '21, we offered some performances on YouTube that had minimal performers and participants that came into the theater, and they did their safety protocols at that time, distances and wearing a mask. We did some streaming of just some very simple one act kind of performances," Guebert said.

Slowly and cautiously, Theatreworks began to reopen. In the summer of 2021, it showcased an audio performance of a play called "Wait Until Dark" where the actors remained off stage. Attendees were required to be masked and vaccinated, and seating was reduced.

"Then things started to look a little bit better, a little bit safer. In December of last year, we did a Reader's Theater of An O'Henry Christmas," Guebert said. "Again, we had reduced capacity, everyone was required to wear a mask, except the performers, but they were required to be vaccinated and all of the attendees were required to be vaccinated. That was really well received."

Theatreworks also used the shut down as an opportunity to upgrade some of the facilities.

"We used that opportunity to look at the theater like a lot of other businesses and organizations when they were closed that said, 'Oh, we're not open. Let's remodel, let's upgrade, let's fix things up,' so we did that," Guebert said, adding that resulted in several remodeling projects, including the bathrooms and the lobby, installing new glass on the front of the building, and an assisted listening system for those who are hard of hearing.

As things began to look safer, Theatreworks started trying to prepare for a full season.

"As things looked better public health wise, then we said, 'Okay, we've got our season of what we want to do. Do we think we can do it?' We were going to open with a musical this summer. We always do a musical in the summer, and we were ready to do the musical" but

"there was an issue where the director was unable to do it. We couldn't find another director that quickly," Guebert said.

Instead, Theatreworks held 12 Angry Jurors earlier in the season.

"We had seven performances, which we usually do six for the dramas and the comedies, and it went really well," Guebert said. "We had more than half capacity for every performance. I think that's a testament to 'People are ready to come back to the theater.'"

"COVID affected us by having to sit out almost two seasons of regular performances, but for the 16th season now, we're pretty much back, full business, full capacity," he added.

Guebert said he sees no reason for concern as to the future of Theatreworks. The community's support has allowed it to continue and remain in a stable financial position.

"The community has been very good to us, in supporting us and giving us encouragement that they want us and they're ready for us and they need us. This is an important part of life for us in this community," he said.

Theatreworks is not the only local arts organization that worked through the pandemic and is still standing strong.

Heidi Pinkston, executive director of Piedmont Arts, recounted a similar experience.

"Piedmont Arts, being an arts center, of course we closed our doors to the public" on March 17, 2020 "and we continued to stay closed to the public until, I believe, mid-June six weeks later," Pinkston said. "But, during that time that we were closed, that mandatory shut down, we continued to work. We continued to collaborate and brainstorm what we could do to stay relevant and what we could do to help the community, engage people with the arts even while they were sheltering in place.

"We did a lot of virtual programming. Our educational outreach continued with virtual outreach. It was difficult for everybody, but we continued to offer that to the community and to our teachers, schools, and students. We also created a puzzle. We had two puzzles that we created mid-summer, that's something that was a popular activity for people while sheltering at home," Pinkston said.

As soon as the gallery was able to reopen, the agency began offering services to the community.

It reopened mid-June 2020, "and following all (the) guidelines, social distancing and masking. While we did not encourage large crowds or have large crowds, we kept the art museum open," Pinkston said. "All health officials agreed

that visiting an art museum was a low-risk activity, and we felt like it was important to continue to offer arts during the difficult time."

During the first year of the pandemic, most events were held in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden, and those that weren't had limited capacity.

"We had activities in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden for adults and for children. We had a Chalk Fest Family Day in August 2020. We continued to stay in touch with our membership, and they were supportive of us. We just continued in doing what we thought was the right thing," Pinkston said.

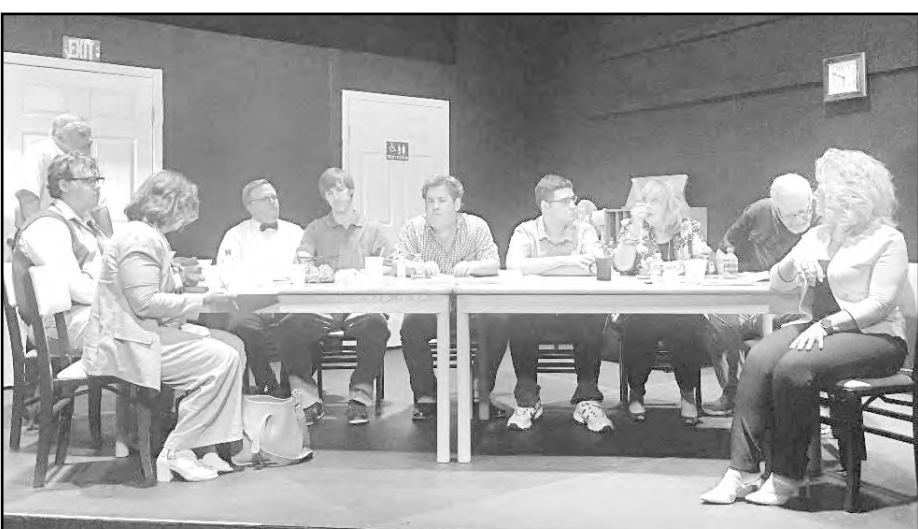
While it's been a slow process getting classes back up to pre-COVID numbers, Pinkston said the events Piedmont Arts hosts are full speed ahead.

"The attendance has been lower for our classes. Our events, everything has been very successful and so far, all of our events have been at capacity," she said.

Piedmont Arts is looking forward to many events to come. On Friday, Oct. 14 it will host Blues, Brews, and Stews in the Arts Garden. The event offers community members an opportunity to eat, drink, and listen to live music.

Pinkston said the organization sees no reason for concern for the future, thanks to the support of the community.

"There is no concern at the moment. The community has been very supportive of Piedmont Arts. You know, we've been a part of Martinsville-Henry County for over 60 years now and people value Piedmont Arts and what we do for the community," she said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THEATREWORKS COMMUNITY PROJECT

The cast of "12 Angry Jurors" included Lanetta Byrd, Landon George, Steve McPeak, Jackie Scaffidi, Scott Harmon, Chris Walker, Ethan Goins, Mike Hatfield, Don Grayson, Valerie Bowling, Tim Hall, Jo Grayson, Fran Gale, Tom Berry, and Scott Guebert. (Photos courtesy of Theatreworks Community Players)



A performance of "12 Angry Jurors" was Theatreworks' first full scale production since the COVID shutdown.

## Elementary school recognized as Virginia Naturally School

Albert Harris Elementary School recently was recognized as a Virginia Naturally School by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for its efforts to increase environmental awareness and stewardship of our youngest citizens. According to DWR's website, "Virginia Naturally Schools is the official environmental education school recognition program of the Commonwealth," recognized by the Virginia Board of Education as the "official environmental education school recognition program for the state."

The school partners with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), working with DRBA Education Outreach Manager Krista Hodges to help students learn how they can have a positive impact on the natural world around them. Students work to create solutions to problems they see on their school campus. These solutions include planting a vegetable garden to help reduce erosion.

Second grade students created and maintain a monarch butterfly waystation, benefiting not only monarchs but all pollinators in the community. Rain barrel systems are used by students to water both the vegetable garden and the waystation while simultaneously reducing the amount of water entering school storm drains.

Students have put their environmental knowledge to work not just on school grounds, but in their community. Recently, Albert Harris student Aria Lewis won a community art contest hosted by DRBA and painted a storm drain near the Uptown Farmers' Market to help educate others about storm drain pollution. In the classroom, environmental education lessons align with the scientific and engineering practices found in Virginia's Science Standards of Learning (SOLs).

STEM teacher Laurie Witt last week told the Martinsville City School Board that, "as part of the VDOE's first Taking Kids Outside Cohort, I am excited to share what we are doing at Albert Harris with other teachers around the state. Our students are practicing environmental stewardship which benefits our world today and also for years to come."

"I am so very proud that Albert Harris Elementary School received this recognition," said AHES Principal Renee Brown. "Our school is committed to outdoor education in correlation with Virginia's Standards of Learning. We are thankful to Ms. Witt for spearheading this project. Our students appreciate lessons learned while utilizing our outdoor classroom."



Students in their pollinator garden.



Students work in Albert Harris Elementary School's vegetable garden.

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### Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Property:  
**403 Clearview Drive - condemned from previous code enforcement on 5/29/2018**

Owner: Flora Jean Bender Smith

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:

#### 403 Clearview Drive

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not clean and sanitary.
- PM-504.1 - Water not maintained safe and in functioning condition.
- PM-505.1 - Every plumbing fixture not properly connected to public water.
- PM-505.3 - Water system not maintained to supply water.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical system not in compliance with requirements for occupied building.
- PM-604.3 - Electrical system constitutes hazard.

#### ORDER

**The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.**

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

#### Right of Appeal

You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 am until 5:00 p.m.

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Martinsville, Virginia, at its regular session to be conducted on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, at the City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building (second floor), 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, shall conduct the following public hearing:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-1800, a public hearing to consider the disposition of real property, specifically, the transfer by deed of gift to the Martinsville Land Bank Authority, of the following properties:

801 LOT YORK ST  
110 LOT WINGFIELD ST  
125 LOT ASKIN ST  
106 LOT SYCAMORE ST  
716 LOT BARROWS MILL RD  
1052 LOT OAK ST  
1054 LOT OAK ST  
1056 LOT OAK ST  
1050 OAK ST  
18 LOT CLEVELAND AVE  
1125 LOT PINE HALL RD  
501 LOT W CHURCH ST  
6 LOT S JACKSON ST  
105 LOT ENDLESS ST  
LOT 1019 LOT MORNINGSIDE LN  
1008 LOT JORDAN ST  
1025 LOT CHERRY ST  
922 LOT BODEN ST  
603 LOT ARMSTEAD AVE  
201 LOT SECOND ST  
732 LOT W FAYETTE ST  
740 LOT W FAYETTE ST  
744 LOT W FAYETTE ST  
113 LOT S BEAVER ST  
730 LOT W FAYETTE ST  
115 LOT S BEAVER ST  
111 LOT S BEAVER ST  
315 WEST COMMONWEALTH BLVD

A more detailed description of the properties may be obtained at the office of the City Manager. The Public is encouraged to attend and comment.

ERIC HELMS MONDAY

Attorney for the City of Martinsville, Virginia  
P.O. Box 1112/Suite 213, 55 West Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112  
Telephone: 276-403-5198      Telefax: 276-403-5194

## PSA

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county owes their share of maintenance fees.

"There's been some small amounts of money from the county to offer to settle, but they haven't," Turner said and indicated the case was put on the backburner due to reversion talks.

"We supposedly filed suit for the money. For some reason, it seems like we stopped pursuing it as we were negotiating the reversion agreement," he said.

Turner supports the city's appeal.

The county "owes the money. They should be paying it," Turner said.

The county and the PSA are separate entities, but share some employees.

Turner said he also believes that the PSA is staying afloat thanks to Martinsville.

"The county is the benefactor. Martinsville saved the PSA at a time where they'd opened up water facilities and then NAFTA hit, and all their customers left," he said of the North American Free Trade Agreement that heralded the closing of many manufacturing operations in both areas.

"If it weren't for the City of Martinsville, the PSA would've been broke a long time ago," Turner said, and added that he is looking forward to a system that will benefit both localities.

"Maybe that's something that could be looked at in the future, is maybe the city providing sewer service and the county providing water service. I think that might, in a merged system, I think we can actually help each other," he said.

Aaron Rawls, who is among the slate of candidates for city council, noted that while he is a private citizen, and therefore has not seen any contracts or documentation, "it honestly looks preposterous. It signals the terrible notion to anyone who might want to work with Martinsville, form a partnership with us and it goes bad, we'll sue you," Rawls said.

"I do not think that bodes well for revitalization efforts in

Martinsville. I think that people will be scared to get into any arrangement with us because the first thing we do is turn around and sue people," Rawls said.

In his view, the appeal is another example of the city's poor leadership and lack of consideration for how its actions affect relationships and reputation - a stance Rawls has campaigned on since the beginning.

"That's not how you treat partners, customers, whatever the county's relationship is in this, and it sounds to me like they're kind of part of both. You don't sue someone who decides they don't want to work with you anymore or buy from you anymore. That's not how you treat people who are in a relationship with you," he said.

Rawls also noted that Martinsville is using the same law firm for this legal issue as for reversion.

"I know we retained another attorney at Troutman Pepper, which is the same law firm that we use for our reversion legal work. And it seems to me, of all these things Martinsville is getting itself into, the only people who are profiting by Martinsville's behavior are the attorneys," Rawls said.

Rawls said the city is, "running money out of our community, fighting stupid battles."

LC Jones, also among the candidates, did not respond to a media request. Council members Tammy Pearson, Chad Martin, and Jennifer Bowles did not respond to interview requests. Bowles also is an incumbent council member seeking reelection.

Mayor Kathy Lawson deferred questions to City Attorney Eric Monday or Public Information Officer Kendall Davis, citing pending litigation.

## Congressional staff to hold office hours

Ninth district U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be available locally on Oct. 26.

Staff will be in Martinsville from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the City of Martinsville City Hall (Municipal Building), City Manager's Conference Room, 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

Staff will be in Patrick County from 12:30 - 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671, or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.



Count on us for your annual mammogram.

## October Is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer, making regular mammogram screenings essential.

This simple screening helps detect breast cancer early, when the odds of successful treatment are highest.

Our 3D mammography can improve cancer detection by up to 40%.

\* If you're 40 or older, remember to get a mammogram every year. Schedule yours today!

From the routine to the unforeseen, count on us.



To schedule your mammogram, call:

276.666.7561

[SovahHealth.com](http://SovahHealth.com)

\*Source: Cancer.org

 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.

**Review** the project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Mark McKissick, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **October 27, 2022**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Mark McKissick at the phone numbers listed above.

From: 0.016 mile south of intersection of Route 609  
To: 0.014 mile north of intersection of Route 609  
State Project: 0220-044-061, M501  
Federal Project: HSP-0442(069) UPC: 113946



# City Cites from page 1

government. On Sept. 9, the Office of the Attorney General filed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for both of the PSA's filings, and stated the city failed to state a cause of action against the

SWCB, DEQ or Rolband. The 16-page filing concluded the city's appeal failed to "designate and demonstrate an error of law subject to review" by the court. In Martinsville's Oct. 11 filing, the city states its opposition to the PSA's motion to dismiss.

After restating the basis for the appeal, the city filing states that "without the monies from the" PSA, "Martinsville will, at best, be forced to increase rates for its customers. At worst, it may need to close its plant. ... The rate increase could be as

high as 25%, which will harm Martinsville's customers, especially those living in disadvantaged communities." The filing notes that 56.85 percent of Martinsville's population are "persons of color, which is well above the state-

wide average of 37.80" percent. "Martinsville also has a substantial low-income population," the filing states, and alleges "environmental impacts will result from the construction and operation of an additional wastewater system."

## Wine by the River Festival set

The 8th annual Wine by the River Festival will be at the Smith River Sports Complex in Axton, on October 22 from 2-7 p.m. The Wine by the River event is held each year to raise money for the Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) that donates proceeds to charity annually. The event includes wineries, breweries, food vendors, artisan vendors, and live music with various artists. Advance tickets on sale now! \$15/advance \$25/gate. Non-taster/DD ticket \$10. Advance tickets available through Eventbrite, @winebytheriver, or www.winebyriver.com.

\*Bring chair/s or blanket/s for live music on the lawn located at the stage.

\*Come shop artisan, craft, and food vendors

\*Handicapped accessible. Contact if additional accommodations are needed.

\*Guests can enter gates at 1:30pm.

\*ID required to drink. No outside alcohol.

\*Additional FAQs listed @winebytheriver on Facebook

- Tastings**  
 Childress Vineyards  
 Chateau Morrisette  
 AmRhein Wine Cellars  
 Scuffie Hill Brewing Co.  
 Mountain Valley Brewing
- Live Music**  
 Tate Tuck  
 Above the Fray  
 Riggs Roberson & Band  
 Matt Boswell & the HBB Band  
 Rev Payton's Big Damn Band
- For more information, visit [www.winebyriver.com](http://www.winebyriver.com).



**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

**30TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD TOY RIDE**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

**RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 10**

**\$10 OR NEW TOY**

**SPONSORED BY:**

- NEW DAY CHURCH
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- Restoration 1 WATER DAMAGE EXPERTS (276) 627-8086
- Bassett
- BASSETT FUNERAL SERVICE

**Bird's CYCLE SHOP** 6537 GREENSBORO RD, RIDGEWAY, VA

**REGISTRATION AT 10AM - KICKSTANDS UP AT 1PM**  
**COST INCLUDES FOOD, RIDE, AND BAND**  
**(ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHRISTMAS CHEER)**

**LIVE MUSIC BY: Madhouse**



**Hope.**

**Trust.**

**Community.**

**We are all in this together.**



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