



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newly elected Martinsville City Council members Aaron Rawls (left) and LC Jones (right), celebrate their victory with council member Tammy Pearson (center) during a victory celebration Tuesday.

Rawls and Jones win council bids, county school board seat decided

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

Aaron Rawls and LC Jones handily won their bids for Martinsville City Council against incumbents Danny Turner and Jennifer Bowles.

Rawls received 1,901 votes; Jones had 1,896. Bowles received 1,806, and Turner had 1,213.

Rawls said the win came with a mix of emotions.

"I am simultaneously thrilled and overwhelmed because we have been working on this campaign for months. It is pretty grueling. And we haven't actually done any of the work of setting Martinsville back on the right track yet, so it's like you end one marathon to start another one," he said.

Although his term doesn't begin until January, Rawls is already at work.

"I've already started reaching out to individuals who I think are poised to help us build our comeback plan. Of course, I already started talking with LC, seeing where we have some common ground, and what we think some low hanging fruit is for success in Martinsville," Rawls said. "I've also reached out outside the area with people who have built economic success stories in their cities, such as Danville and setting up meetings with them, so we can get a play-book together that I can at least present it as a starting point to the council."

Although both Rawls and Jones have been outspoken against reversion, Rawls said he did not believe the victory was an unofficial referendum on reversion. Instead, he said

campaigning led to his win.

"I won't say that issues didn't matter at all. They did. They contributed their part, and there were many parts of contribution, but knocking on doors, working the polls with really good poll workers, that is the thing that really pushed us over the top," Rawls said.

"I'm sure that we got a lot of no reversion votes, but Jennifer Bowles, who supported reversion although she was not very honest about that and maybe some people were confused about it, she got nearly as many votes as the second place person. So, I don't think it's fair to say it was an unofficial referendum on reversion," he said. Jones, on the other hand, believes the outcome is a good indicator of a referendum on reversion.

"I think that was one of the biggest topics overall. I think that's what drew the crowd. That people, they didn't want the reversion to happen, and I think that's why we had so many people to come out. I think that's a good indicator of how a referendum would go with the turn out that we had," Jones said.

While he is happy with the outcome of the election, Jones said he is most pleased with the voter turnout in the city.

"I figured it would be a pretty close election. I'm very happy that the numbers that came out. I think (Martinsville) had record numbers for a midterm election. It really shows that our citizens are paying attention, they wanted their voices to be heard, one way or the other. They really came out and partici-

Board honors Zehr's life, legacy



Henry County School Board members and school administrators presented a resolution honoring the life of board member Francis Zehr to his wife, Karen (center, with resolution), at a Nov. 3 meeting.

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

The Henry County School Board honored the life of Francis Zehr with a resolution.

Zehr served on the school board for three terms and was still serving at the time of his death in July.

The resolution passed by the board at its Nov. 3 meeting, pays "tribute to the life and memory of Mr. Francis E. Zehr," who was described as "straight-forward, passionate, and direct."

The resolution noted that Zehr was "highly esteemed by his colleagues, friends, and students, and recognized by them as an invaluable asset to the school system, the school board, and to the community, leaves a legacy that spans generations in the students and colleagues he taught, challenged and inspired."

Instead of asking for a show of

hands among members in favor of the resolution, board chairman Tom Auker, of the Blackberry District, asked consenting members to stand.

A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Francis Zehr's wife, Karen Zehr.

In other matters, the board:

\* Recognized November as 'Take You Legislator to School' month. Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, will speak at the Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School and State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, is scheduled to visit the Career Academy in March. County Administrator Dale Wagoner and Deputy County Administrator JR Powell will tour the schools this month.

\* Awarded a contract of \$3,014,036 to KNA Contracting, Inc. of Wirtz, Virginia, for additional renovations to the HVAC system at Bassett High

School. The repairs will be in high volume areas at the front of the building.

\* Considered a draft of the 2023-24 school year calendar, which was made after consulting with various committees. The calendar features a 176-day school year, a later start than usual and other changes. The calendar is scheduled for approval at a later meeting.

\* Approved a \$1,000 bonus for school employees effective Dec. 8, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

\* Proposed revisions to the school board policy to remain in compliance.

\* Heard and update on ESSER funds.

\* Heard an update from JROTC.

\* Heard the Superintendent's report.

\* Approved the consent agenda as presented.

Organizers aim to get Bassett Community Center operational again

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

Efforts continue to get the Bassett Community Center up and running again after its 2019 closure.

The center first opened in 1960. It closed in 2019 after changing hands and when operation costs became too great.

"The Stanleytown Baptist Church had taken it for quite a while and they had to give it up when they merged with another church because that church wasn't interested in having this liability to take care of," said Linda Crabtree, president of the Bassett Community Center Board.

She and Michael Jarrett are among the driving forces of the project, which seeks to breathe new life into the facility that once was a centerpiece of the community.

After the church, the keys to the center were then handed over to the Bassett Furniture Co., which does not own the building.

Still, "they were kind enough to try and take it and hire somebody

See Community Center, page 5



The center has many large, multipurpose rooms that can be used for a wide range of activities.

Performing Arts Academy helps students 'find their light'

Maddy Oliver  
Staff writer

Martinsville City Public School's Performing Arts Academy aims to help students hone-in on their creative and performing skills while also teaching them valuable life lessons.

The academy is open to students from third to twelfth grade. Students must fill out an application and undergo an interview process for consideration. The academy as a concept has been around for years, but recently was officially named the Performing Arts Academy.

Karla Scales, choreographer, said the academy is all about offering

an opportunity to help students "find their light" through all sorts of different activities and talents.

"We want our kids to find their own voice, and so we use the stage, where some students don't necessarily want to be in the spotlight, but they have other things that they can participate in where they can show their abilities and their talent," she said.

However, the lessons go beyond performing, according to music director Erika Becker.

"We also incorporate the reading, the writing, and the math piece, because there's a lot of that that goes on behind the scenes with theatre. We also incorporate all of that, so it also ties

in, and it's aligned with what they're doing in the classroom," Becker said.

One of the goals at the academy is to help students discover talents and skills they never knew they had and help them hone-in on these skills.

"We had our builder come in and just start teaching kids how to use a ruler and do measurements, and during that entire process we noticed, 'this kid really gets it. This is where she shines.' Different aspects of what we do" help students "find their light. They find what they're good at in different aspects, and some of these things you never would have known because they

don't do it this way in a classroom," Becker said.

"Even when it comes to the play, you find people who are really good at acting, those who never really knew they

See Arts Academy, page 4

DISTRICTS	MARTINSVILLE						
	ALBERT HARRIS SCHOOL	MARTINSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS ADMIN. OFFICE	MARTINSVILLE CITY HOUSING OFFICE	MARTINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	MARTINSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL	VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY	ADSENTEE
House of Representatives- 9th District							
Taysha Lee DeVaughan -D	121	279	225	323	257	174	644
H. Morgan Griffith -R	5	614	20	201	281	106	411
Member City Council							
Danny T. Turner	12	397	34	165	164	83	358
Jennifer M. Bowles	72	362	176	314	231	139	514
L.C. Jones	98	406	152	277	244	165	554
Aaron J. Rawls	63	521	77	215	287	160	578
TOTAL							1,901

City of Martinsville (Unofficial election results.)

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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))

## Sunday, November 13

The Spencer Penn Centre will hold a Sock Hop from 2 to 5 p.m., with refreshments and games. Admission is \$5.

## Monday, November 14

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library will hold their monthly meeting at 10:30 a.m., at the Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairstone Park Hwy., Bassett. Interested in joining? All are welcome!

## Thursday, November 17

Piedmont Arts will hold a Fall Barn Quilt class starting at 6 p.m. No experience is needed, and all supplies are provided. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Photographer John Plashal will hold an arts presentation and talk, “A Beautifully Broken Virginia,” at Piedmont Arts at 6:30 p.m. The art talk features abandoned buildings from across Virginia. A \$20 donation is suggested.

## Saturday, November 19

The Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade will begin at 5 p.m. and will go through Uptown Martinsville. This year’s theme is

“Christmas in Motion.” Wild Ponies will perform at Theatreworks. Doors open at 7 p.m. and show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. The Center for Community Learning hosts ‘Pictures with Santa Paws.’ Bring your dogs for pictures with Santa at the Career Academy, 340 Ridgedale Drive, Martinsville. All dogs must be leashed. Bring a donation for the SPCA and receive \$5 off.

## Sunday, November 20

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum will hold its monthly lecture at 3 p.m., “April 1865: Danville, Martinsville, and the End of the Civil War.” The lecture highlights the role of the area in the last few weeks of the Civil War. Monday, November 21 The P&HCC local board will hold its monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the MET, located at 65 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville.

## Thursday, December 1

Piedmont Arts’ Christmas tree lighting in the Gravelly Lester Art Garden, 207 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, at 4 p.m. Hot chocolate, candy canes, music from the Martinsville High School Jazz Band, and a visit from Santa are planned.

Piedmont Arts will hold a Bob Ross Painting Class at 9:30 a.m. Participants should bring a roll of paper towels, all other supplies are provided. Advanced registration is required. The cost is \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members.

## Saturday, December 3

The Fall into Winterfest will be held Uptown from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with craft vendors, food trucks, kids’ activities, a beer garden, entertainment, and more. Admission is free. Uptown Martinsville’s tree lighting is set for 5 p.m. at 55 West Church Street. The Ridgeway Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony begin at 5:30 p.m., starting on Main Street and ending at the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Santa Claus will be on hand for family pictures. Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Cookies, Roasted Chestnuts, and sounds of the season will be offered.

## ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club invites all amateur radio operators and others to their on-air weekly net held each Tuesday at 8 p.m. with a frequency of 147.090 + with 103.5 tone. Additional information can be found at [www.http://vaemcommdb.org/BARC/](http://www.http://vaemcommdb.org/BARC/), and the BARC Facebook page.

The Coats for Kids Coat Drive will be accepting donations at Hollywood Cinema and One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road until Nov. 30. For more information, call (276) 358-1463. 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 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. 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 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 (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. Call or text Ann Walker today at (276) 732-0509 to see if you may qualify and get help applying. 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 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 November is “Walking Across Egypt,” by Clyde Edgerton.

# Election

from page 1

pated, so overall I’m happy with that,” he said. Jones is looking at ways to make his transition to council smooth and seamless, and begin on a good foot. “I don’t actually start until January, but in the meantime, I just want to continue to build relationships, have a great relationship with our city schools. I’ve been working on one with the Henry County School system, that’s going well. I want to continue working with the Board of Supervisors there, and just want to really build relationships. Not just with them, but with our other council members as well,” he said. Jones thanked Bowles and Turner for their efforts while on council, and their courage. “I would thank them for their services and everything they’ve done. It takes a whole lot for an individual to step into this arena, to want to put themselves in front of a camera and

talk to people and be available for questioning all the time,” Jones said. “I would thank them for some of the things they were able to get done, their time there, regardless of my opinion of their choices of things. It takes a lot for someone to do that, and I commend them on that.” Bowles said she was “disappointed I did not win, but I’m thankful for the opportunity to serve.” She congratulated Jones and Rawls. In hindsight, Bowles said she believes the city did not do a proper job of explaining reversion, which impacted the outcome of the election. “I think we did a very poor job in explaining what reversion meant. I also feel that I personally moved forward with this because I thought it was a way we could have a real conversation with the county about consolidation of services, and I think majority of people felt as if it was trying to close down Martinsville

DISTRICTS	BLACKBERRY	HORSEPASTURE		IRISWOOD		COLLINSVILLE		REED CREEK		RIDGEWAY																		
	BASSETT # 2	GUNVILLE	SCOTT'S TAYNARD	FIELDALE	HORSEPASTURE # 1	HORSEPASTURE # 2	SPENCER	AXTON	IRISBURG	MT. OLIVET	MOUNTAIN VALLEY	COLLINSVILLE #1	DANIEL CREEK	COLLINSVILLE #2	MOUNTAIN VIEW	BASSETT #1	FIGSBORO	STANLEYTOWN	OAK LEVEL	DYERS STORE	FONTAINE	HILLCREST	RIDGEWAY #1	TOWN OF RIDGEWAY	RIDGEWAY #2	ABSENTEE	EARLY VOTING	TOTAL
House of Representatives - 9th District																												
Taysha Lee DeVaughan - D	102	50	123	64	143	264	147	155	186	312	97	60	96	134	128	85	80	96	80	31	138	66	90	56	105	536	1,006	4,430
H. Morgan Griffith - R	160	501	822	189	492	181	506	222	396	347	276	260	275	460	157	205	406	645	406	213	519	142	442	138	496	362	1,762	10,982
Member School Board Ridgeway District																												
Champ C. Hardie, Jr. (I)																					545	163	611		529	100	323	2,271
Sidney R. McClure (I)																					89	36	112		59	33	96	425
Town of Ridgeway Mayor																												
Craig A. O'Der (I)																						172				3	23	198
Town of Ridgeway Member Town Council																												
Michael R. Bass (I)																						129				2	20	151
James B. Hairston (I)																						111				1	22	134
Timothy L. Wood (I)																						130				2	20	152

### Henry County (Unofficial election results.)

High School,” Bowles said. “I think in previous years, city council has done a great job of pulling from our general funds and making sure taxes don’t increase for citizens,” Bowles said. “But citizens haven’t seen the severity of the budget cycle, and I think with all those things combined it makes the perfect storm to be anti-reversion.”

Bowles thanked her supporters, and said, “I am thankful to have served eight years and I’m thankful to have been able to give back to our community.” Turner also congratulated Jones and Rawls. “I wish the winners the best of luck. I went to their victory celebration and pledged my support for the both of them,” Turner said. He believes that once more information is successfully presented to the public regarding reversion, Martinsville residents will begin to see that it is a

necessity. “I think once the facts of reversion are out there and understood that it would be a no brainer, we might just have to revert. That side didn’t get played out, instead it was the other side,” Turner said. “There was a lot of misinformation given. It is what it is. I guess other people will deal with it next year,” he added. In Henry County, a Special Election to fill the unexpired term for the Ridgeway District School Board seat left vacant by

the passing of Francis Zehr in July was decided, with Champ Hardie winning over Sidney McClure, the appointed as interim member by the board. Hardie received 2,271 votes. McClure received 425 votes. Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, also won in Henry County, with more than 72 percent of the vote in 24 of the 27 precincts counted before press time, against his challenger, Taysha DeVaughan, a Democrat from Wise County.

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# Animal cruelty case under investigation

Henry County Sheriff's investigators are seeking information that will help resolve an animal cruelty case, according to a release.

On Nov. 2, around 10:05 a.m., officers were notified that four puppies had been found abandoned. The puppies had

been left inside an animal carrier that was abandoned in a field near the 6000 block of Dyers Store Road. Animal Control

Deputies responded to the scene and discovered that three of the dogs were deceased. The surviving dog was taken to a veterinary

clinic for treatment. The dogs were a mixed breed estimated to be 10 weeks old.

A nearby resident told authorities that they saw a vehicle parked in the area where the dogs were found on Sunday, October 30. The vehicle was described as a 2008 – 2010 Honda Ridgeline, beige in color, driven by a black man.

Anyone with informa-

tion about the incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of any reward paid.



Only one of the four puppies left in a carrier and abandoned in a field near the 6000 block of Dyers Store Road survived. The other three puppies were dead when found. The surviving puppy is estimated to be 10 weeks old.

The vehicle pictured is a sample of the auto that was reported parked in or near the area where the puppies were discovered. County authorities are seeking information in the case.

# City authorities seek information in shooting incident

The Martinsville Police Department is seeking information in an alleged shooting incident, according to a release from the city.

On Nov. 2, around 11:11 p.m., the city department was notified by the SOVAH Emergency Department that a victim suffering from a gun-

shot wound was being treated at the ER.

When officers arrived, they were notified that the victim, Jonathan Jeral Brim, 30, was transported to the hospital by personal vehicle. Authorities said Brim did not provide much detail as to how or where the incident and before

he was taken to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital by air ambulance for non-life-threatening injuries.

After speaking with witnesses at the emergency department, officers determined the incident likely occurred in the area of 1159 Yorkshire Road, Martinsville.

When officers arrived at that location, they determined that an altercation had occurred in the parking lot. Officers collected evidence, processed the scene, and spoke with residents of the apartment building.

Anyone with information related to the incident is asked

to call Sgt. Richard Ratcliffe at (276) 403-5331, or the Crime Stoppers line at 276-63-CRIME (276-632-7463). Crime Stoppers is an anonymous tip line. Callers with information leading to the arrest and conviction could be eligible for up to a \$2,500 reward.



Star of the stage Janinah Burnett will be sharing her vocal talents as the guest soloist at this concert event.

# Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Piedmont Arts team up on Holiday Pops Spectacular



Roanoke Symphony Orchestra conductor David Stewart Wiley will lead the concert.

Piedmont Arts and Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Chorus announced the most highly anticipated event of the season -- the Holiday Pops Spectacular -- will return with an all-new matinee performance, featuring soloist Janinah Burnett. The concert starts at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4th in the Martinsville High School Auditorium.

Tickets are on sale now and are \$20 for general admission, \$25 for reserved seating, and \$5 for students. Altrusa will collect non-perishable food items for Grace Network in the lobby during the symphony's performance.

There's no better way to lift your spirits than with

the music of the season delivered in full sound and spectacle by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

This year, David Stewart Wiley conducts the Holiday Pops with all the magical elements you have come to expect — high energy, familiar carols and lots of holiday warmth. The event also will feature world-renowned and beloved soprano Janinah Burnett as the soloist. She is known for her roles on both Broadway stages and at the Metropolitan Opera. You will not want to miss her soaring and shimmering vocals. Her album, "Love the Color of Your Butterfly," was released in 2021 and is available for purchasing and streaming.

# Congressional staff plan visits

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's Congressman Griffith's staff will be available in Henry and Patrick counties on November 16.

Staff will be in Henry County from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Highway.

In Patrick County, staff will be in the Conference Room of the Patrick County Administration Building, located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), trav-

eling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a locality's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Call the Christiansburg

or Abingdon offices, at (540) 381-5671 or (276) 525-1405, respectively, with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

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# CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Army legal branch

4. Dekagram

7. Underwater ship

10. 6th Jewish month

12. \_\_\_ lang syne, good old days

14. European money

15. Remover of an apple's center

17. The content of cognition

18. Bleats

19. "1836 siege" of U.S.

20. Inquiries

22. Bottled gas

23. Dutch painter Gerrit

25. An invasion or hostile attack

28. Misbeliever

31. South American Indiana

32. Bone cavities

33. Hound sounds

34. Turtle carapace

39. Wash or flow against

40. Cross a threshold

41. Pitch symbol

42. About lizards

45. Treat with contempt

48. Million barrels per day (abbr.)

49. Place to sleep

51. Harsh criticism or disapproval

54. Wipe out recorded information

56. Pesetas

58. Pitcher Herisher

59. Pronouncements

60. Dodge truck model

61. A coniferous tree

62. Ludicrously false statment

63. Lyric poem

64. Determine the sum

65. Fixed in one's purpose

CLUES DOWN

1. Mexican wattle & daub hut

2. \_\_\_ Green: playwright

3. Building for autos

4. Rum and lime or lemon juice

5. Two spiral-horned African antelopes

6. Jubilant delight

7. Cyclic

8. Fiddler crabs

9. Vehicle carrying many passengers

11. Dream sleep

13. Afghan Persian language

16. Gnawing small mammal

18. B1 deficiency disease

21. Not out

24. Chancellor Von Bismarck

26. RCO group of atoms

27. Cony

29. Makes a gas less dense

30. Instances of disease

34. A story

35. Surmounted

36. Cloissonned

37. Counterfoil

38. Kept cattle together

39. Computer screen material

43. Ancient calculator

44. Cuddle

46. District nurse

47. Employee stock ownership plan

50. Distributed game cards

52. Murres genus

53. Tear apart violently

55. Umbrella support

56. Athlete who plays for pay

57. Small amount



# OPINION

## My favorite joke

I'm writing this column on the morning of Tuesday, November 8. I find myself in the unenviable position of having to write a column just prior to one of the most significant and possibly last elections in our nation's history, yet it won't run until after the election has taken place. I have no idea how this one's going to shake out, but I think there's a decent chance that regular readers of this column will need a laugh.

And so, with that in mind, I'm simply going to share my favorite joke. I hope you enjoy.

It's the old west in the late 1800s. A wealthy young man rolls into a dusty frontier town and spots a saloon. He steps inside and walks up to the bar. The elderly bartender asks him if he wants a drink.

"Mister," the young man says, "I don't want to buy a drink; I want to buy this

bar out from under you. My claim finally struck gold and I intend to own my own saloon and make a name for myself. Name your price."

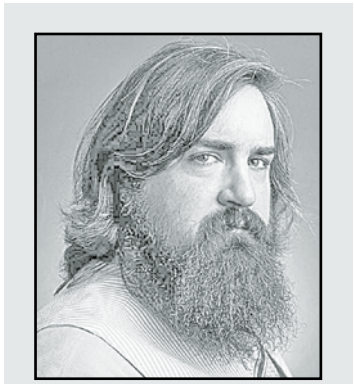
"Well," the old man says, "you've caught me at the right time. As you can see, I'm an old man now, and I've been thinking about selling this place for a while. So I'll sell it to you, and at a fair price to boot."

The young man reaches into his pocket for his checkbook, but the old man grabs his arm with a wiry grip.

"There's just one thing you've got to promise me," the old man says. "If you ever hear that Big John is coming, you run. Just drop everything and head for the hills. That Big John ... he's bad news."

"Yeah, whatever, old man," the young man says, and he writes a check and buys the place.

The young man runs the



By Ben R. Williams

saloon for many, many years, making quite a comfortable living, until eventually he finds that he's become an old man himself. One day, he's standing behind the bar polishing some glasses when a grizzled old miner bursts through the batwing doors.

"BIG JOHN'S A-COMING!" the miner shrieks before darting back out the door and running screaming down the street.

Suddenly, the whole saloon erupts into chaos. The old

cowboys all flee for the front door, three of them getting wedged into it like the Three Stooges. Another cowboy heaves himself through the plate glass window and jumps on his horse. Still another cowboy pulls up the floorboards with his bare hands and hides in the crawlspace. Within seconds, the bar is empty...

...save for the saloon owner, who's long since forgotten the old man's warning.

Before he can even react, darkness falls over the bar. He looks out the window and sees a massive shape blotting out the setting sun. It's the biggest man he's ever seen in his life.

The mountain of a man slowly rides up to the saloon. He doesn't ride a horse; no, this guy rides a buffalo, and even the buffalo seems to be straining under his weight. He steps off the buffalo and rises to his full height, ten feet tall if he's an inch. He pushes open the batwing doors, causing them to fly off

their hinges and clatter across the floor. He ducks to enter the saloon.

This man doesn't carry a set of pistols on his hips; he has two sawed-off eight gauge shotguns. He doesn't carry a rifle on his back; he carries a Civil War-era Gatling gun. And he doesn't have a whip over his shoulder; he has a live rattlesnake.

The man stomps over to the bar, the boards creaking beneath his heavy boots. He slams a fist on the old oak bar, cracking it in half.

"Gimme a beer," the man growls, his voice like thunder.

The saloon owner takes a beer with a shaking hand and pushes it across the ruined bar. The giant man doesn't bother uncorking it; he bites the neck off the bottle and downs the contents in one gulp.

Terrified, the saloon owner asks the guy if he'd like another beer.

"ANOTHER BEER!?" the man booms. "Son, I ain't got time! Big John's a-coming!"

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## I voted for you

Tuesday, we saw people wearing their "I Voted" stickers. Some people we know so well that we didn't have to ask for whom they voted, and some asked only in jest. However, I want to tell you who I voted for: I voted for you.

When I'm out and about I hear the complaints of my fellow man, so I kept those in mind when I entered the booth. I voted for economic ideas that will help you have cheaper groceries, gasoline, and utilities. I voted for you to keep more of your hard-earned money

through economic policies that will keep you from paying other peoples' bills (college debt forgiveness) and lower taxes in general. I hear folks complaining about money, so I voted to help that.

I voted for your medical rights. I've heard people complain about total strangers approaching them to ask about their medical treatment. That's private information, and you ought to have the right to keep it private. I also voted for your right to refuse or accept certain treatments. It's your body, no doctor can tell you what you are going to do with it. They can

only suggest.

Not just for you, but I also voted for your children, and grandchildren. First of all I voted that they have the right to be born. If they were unplanned, and perhaps unwanted, I voted for them in their right to be selected by a couple who wants to give them a good life, to be loved, and given attention.

It's usually bemoaned that people are "pro-birth, but not pro-life," meaning that people don't care what happens to the child after birth. No, I voted for children's education; I voted for the upcoming generation to learn more math, science,

and history and less about the LGBT agenda.

There is one way that I voted "pro-choice" as far as my voting on children: I'm for choice in education. If parents are tired of propaganda being spewed in some public schools, then they ought to have the right to choose another school: private or homeschooled.

I went into the voting booth with you in mind because Jesus told me to consider my neighbor in everything that I do: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). It's often the case that we think any and every one that disagrees with

us is an idiot, even an enemy. Well, you're my neighbor, not my enemy, but if you count me as an enemy, I still want good for you because Romans 12:20 says that's the best way.

Before I went into the voting booth I prayed. I prayed, not for one particular party, but for the entire nation. Again, because that's what the Bible tells me I ought to do in 1Peter 2:17 and 1Timothy 2:1-4.

I voted because I'm an American citizen; I voted FOR YOU because I'm a Christian.

Caleb Robertson,  
Martinsville

## Arts Academy

from page 1

had a singing voice, and it comes out. We just have a multitude of discoveries just because we give them access to so many different things," she added.

The academy has already seen effects and growth in many different aspects of students participating in the program.

"Along with the aca-

demic progress, we also see socially. I have students in class that are completely silent, don't say much, they speak very softly, and the Performing Arts Academy requires you to step out of your comfort zone," Scales said. "I've seen students where students who barely said anything, didn't want to speak up, their vol-

ume was just so low, now they're speaking up a little in class. I can hear them, and they're confident about the things they're saying and they're confident in the friendships that they're making."

Academy staff also noticed improvements in some students' behavior.

"Some students have had behavior issues and now, because they're in the Performing Arts Academy, they're like, 'No, I have to keep it together.' And they meet that standard" of good behavior endorsed by the academy, Scales said. "They do their best just to show that they are that amazing student that we know they are," she added.

There are many different ways the academy staff strives to teach valuable lessons. According to Becker, no two days are exactly the same.

"There is no routine. No day is the same. It all depends on the demand, depending on what we need to work on or what projects we have going

on. We have kids right now writing a script for a 'Say No to Drugs' commercial. No day is the same. You're going to experience something different every day," she said.

Students often engage in real world activities and projects, such as acting as Disney characters at birthday parties and helping film commercials for local businesses.

"We have students doing real world activities, where they are going out and actually doing jobs. So, we were asked to set the stage at a local dentist's office. The students actually had to create, they had to draw out, they had to create a commercial and set the stage for a dentist's office and then they delivered it and set it up for them," Scales said.

The academy operates on six pillars: passion, courage, integrity, determination, dedication, and optimism. It encourages students to embody those characteristics and develop their skills in a safe environ-

ment.

"This is something that we push in front of all of our kids. One thing I love, which I believe our students have embraced, is at the end of every night, when we finish with rehearsal or once we finish with Performing Arts Academy, the students say, 'in this place, in this space, we are safe, to always find your light,'" Scales said.

Zoey Hannans, a sixth grade student who has been cast as Annie in Martinsville Schools' upcoming winter musical "Annie Junior," joined the academy out of a passion for performing.

"I joined last year because I really like to sing and I kind of got a main part last year too, but this year I did it because I really enjoyed it from last year. It's really my passion to do this and then I just got the main role," Hannans said.

The academy, she added, is a "fun and enjoyable thing to do" that teaches her how to

project, sing, and keep her voice up.

Alex Butler, a senior with a passion for singing, said the academy teaches more than just performing skills.

"What I've learned is like normal life lessons, basically. Because not only are they teaching us how to improve our skills and everything, but they also teach us life lessons like how to time manage and things of that nature," Butler said.

He has a message for anyone considering joining the academy.

"Join. It's fun, but at the same time it's also hard work and you can't get more life lessons and you can improve yourself as a person," he said.

Jyshir Plunkett, a 10th grader, also has learned valuable lessons from his time in the academy.

"I've learned to give the most that you have when you have the chance," he said. "Because if not, then you may never have that chance again."

## High school students ‘Experience the Arts’ in Martinsville

Recently, high school students from Magna Vista High School in Ridgeway experienced the current exhibits on display at Piedmont Arts.

Throughout the day, art students were dropped off by buses for a tour led by Sarah Short, coordinator of Piedmont Arts' Education. Knowing what each class was currently working on in their own projects at school, Short tailored conversations to the specific interests of each class. This included elements of mythology in Virginia Derryberry's paintings, patterns and process through David Choun's work, and watercolor techniques used by Pat Coleman.

According to Short, the students enjoyed making connections in the

pieces they were viewing to the pieces they had been working on themselves. In addition, they had a blast in the Discovery Room.

Located in the museum, the Discovery Room is stocked with arts and crafts supplies, musical instruments, dress up items, and even puppets. The goal is to create an opportunity to spark imaginations by providing all the tools needed for creative exploration. Usually used by children, the high schoolers proved that the room is perfect for all ages as they created their own music video with the objects and instruments available. The Discovery Room is free to the public (of all ages) and open during the museum's regular

business hours.

Piedmont Arts offers guided tours for local schools, homeschool groups, and other groups that may be interested in experiencing local art. Each tour is guided by the museum's education staff who are well versed in each piece and artist on display. The tours can also be tailored to your group's age range and interests. Tours must be scheduled 48 hours in advance and can be requested on Piedmont Arts' website.

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

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# Community Center

from page 1



Smaller rooms, perfect for birthday parties and baby showers, would be available to rent.

to run it and kind of oversee it, even though it wasn't their responsibility," Crabtree said.

The furniture company spent more than \$130,000 "to put a roof on the building. If they hadn't have done that, the building wouldn't be here, probably because it would have been destroyed," she added.

The building now is owned by the non-profit Bassett Community Center, Inc.

While it was closed, it fell victim to break-ins and vandalisms, both of which meant much cleaning was necessary before other work could begin.

"The whole building was trashed. It's taken us a year. Mark Nolan and I just cleaned up the office, the director's office, less than a month ago. I guess, and that was the last area that had to be cleaned," Crabtree said.

Now, the nonprofit organization hopes to restore the center to its former glory.

Crabtree recalled the center was "the nicest recreation center east of the Mississippi" when it was built. It offered pickleball, swimming and a swim team, volleyball, bowling, ceramics, basketball, family events, shuffleboard, and more, many other events, she said, adding efforts also will be taken to restore many of those events.

The center has several spaces that have a potential for various uses, such as large lounge areas,

multipurpose rooms, a gym, an industrial kitchen, and more. The organization hopes to once again give the Bassett area a place to rent for events such as baby showers, birthdays, family reunions, and club meetings.

It also is interested in offering daycare, which is viewed as a huge need in the community.

"I think we will probably have childcare because it's a need. The problem is there's nobody to keep infants up to toddlers," Crabtree said.

Another amenity being considered is a Business Incubation Center "for people who need to use computers that don't have them, people who want to start up businesses, people who need copiers, people who need whatever," Crabtree said.

However, one of the biggest focuses of the organization is to get the pool operational again, which has been estimated to cost \$110,000. Crabtree anticipates that cost will increase because the initial estimate did not include the repair of the pipes under the concrete, the baby pool, or additions.

Crabtree also hopes to add such as a splash pad.

"We know that the problem is in the pipes under that concrete, because we have no water pressure on the returns or the skimmers... The pipes sat here through three winters with water in the pipes, probably, so they pipes are all probably

burst," Crabtree said.

She became determined to reopen the pool after the one at the Collinsville YMCA was filled in.

"That's what got me started. I said, 'That's not going to happen over here, if I can help it,'" she said.

But the center must overcome many different obstacles before it becomes operational, including asbestos remediation, improving handicap accessibility, and resupplying heat to the building.

"The boiler is gone. It's the original boiler, and there's not heat in the building. We've got another winter to go through without heat," Crabtree said.

Also needed are to change rooms that were previously bathrooms back to their original use to be up to code for the building's full capacity.

"We only have the boys' and girls' restrooms now available for that use, and there's only three commodes in the girls' restroom. And three commodes are not enough to serve 2,500 people if they're in the gym," which will seat 2,500 people with the bleachers, Crabtree said.

Another issue is the fact that the building is located in a floodplain, which has caused major problems in the past.

"The biggest negative we have here is we're in a floodplain, and we can't change that. We can't

move the creek. Twice, it (water from the creek) has gotten into the building pretty bad, and that ruined the bowling alley, because it was hard wood. It ruined the gym floor, which was also hard wood," Crabtree said.

"They make a lot of things now that didn't exist around the time the flooding happened. Both times, it was a result of a hurricane. They have tiger dams now that you can put up against the fencing to keep the water from coming on the property, but all of that costs money. So, we need money that's flexible enough to use it for things like that," she said.

And that is the biggest challenge facing the nonprofit organization, which received a \$34,000 USDA grant for plumbing, HVAC, and asbestos remediation. More is needed to complete the feasibility study before the organization is eligible for most other grants.

"We really can't go after grants until we know how much money we need. We're applying for the American Recovery Act, Congress opened more money for that, and they made money available specifically for white elephant buildings, so we're applying for that probably this week," Crabtree said.

If approved, funds from the grant that is sponsored by Henry County will be used for a feasibility and use of space study.

Donations from the commu-

nity also are welcome – and necessary for the flexible spending that is needed.

"We've raised about \$35,000, but \$20,000 of that came from three donors, so we haven't really raised but about \$10,000. However, we haven't done anything to raise money because we don't know how much money we need yet or what we're going to do," Crabtree said.

"Everybody wants to see it open, but nobody really wants to help. I think that's just the mindset of people these days," she said. "It takes money, and you don't have to give \$5,000. Five dollars would help. Anything would help."

Crabtree and Jarrett estimate it will be another three to four years before the center is completely operational again, but they hope to begin to open things up slowly after the next summer cycle.

The two and others involved in the project, have a vision of the center providing the joy to residents as it did in the past.

"For people Michael's age and maybe ten years younger than me, we have a deep abiding love for this place because we had nothing to do until this was open," Crabtree said, recalling some of the center's history.

"Once this was open, we had something to do whenever we wanted to come over here. It was our savior when I was in school," Crabtree said.



The center's banquet hall can seat 200-300 people.



The pool is Bassett Community Center's biggest priority.



The gym offers a plethora of possibilities for activities local residents would enjoy.

## Dine Small campaign kicks off Small Business Saturday

For the fifth year, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) will sponsor its Dine Small campaign on Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26.

The Dine Small campaign was created to encourage residents and visitors to eat at small locally owned restaurants in Martinsville and Henry County, especially on Small Business Saturday. That day also falls on one of the busiest shopping days of the holiday season, the day after Black Friday.

The EDC is offering \$10 vouchers towards food purchases at 15 local small restaurants that agreed to participate. Many of these restaurants have menus with meals less than \$10, thereby allowing the customer to eat for free or little cost. If a diner's meal costs more than \$10, the diner is responsible for the difference. It should be noted that the voucher cannot be used toward alcohol purchases or non-food/non-beverage items.

The campaign is a win-win for the diners and for the restaurants. The diners get a free or discounted meal, and perhaps use this experi-

ence to go to a different restaurant from their norm. The restaurants get customers through their door who may even spend more than the voucher's value.

Last year, more than 500 vouchers were distributed. There is no cost for the vouchers, but they must be picked up in person (one per person, no holds, no exceptions).

Vouchers will be available beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 14, at the Lower Level of New College Institute Baldwin Building (191 Fayette Street, Martinsville). Please park in the lower level parking lot.

Pick up hours event are 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Nov. 14-18 and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 21-22.

A list of participating restaurants is below and at <https://bit.ly/3fR4IRH>:

Burgers, Wings N' Whatnot  
Captain Tom's Seafood  
Chopstix  
Daily Grind Coffee House & Café  
The Ground Floor  
Hugo's Restaurant & Sports Bar  
Hylton's Wood-Cooking Grill

Jerry's Pizza  
La Plazita Mexican Restaurant  
Los Norteños Mexican Restaurant  
Manny's Seafood, Soul & Mexican

Pacific Bay Steak & Seafood  
Papa's Pizzeria  
Roosky's Bar & Grill  
Simply Suzanne's Café





# OBITUARIES

## William Carl Wingfield

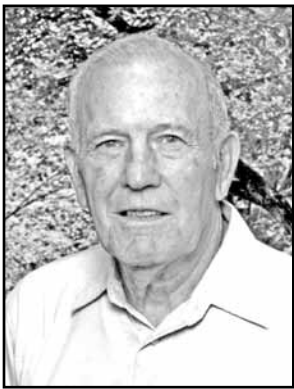
William Carl Wingfield, 90, formerly of Collinsville, Virginia passed away on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 in Roanoke, Virginia.

Carl was born on December 18, 1931, in Martinsville, Virginia, to the late William Webster Wingfield and Pearl Rakes Wingfield. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Annabel Lavinder Wingfield; sisters, Christine Compton Gregory, Virginia Frith, Bea Adkins, Dot Turner, Carolyn Hallum, Janice Gregory, and Arbutus Wingfield; and brothers, Bernice Wingfield and Vernon Wingfield.

Carl was a 1950 graduate of Martinsville High School, where he was a three-sport athlete. He was a star baseball pitcher, once pitching a no-hitter against Franklin County and unsuccessfully trying out for a Brooklyn Dodgers scout.

A few weeks after his eighteenth birthday, he joined the U.S. Air Force. Carl served in Korea during the war, managing the household of the commanding general of the Air Force. He met his future wife Annabel at the Liberty Heights Swimming Pool and corresponded with her throughout his time in the service. Once discharged, they married and settled in Figsboro before later moving to Collinsville.

Carl attended Virginia Tech on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business in 1958. After college, Carl worked as a bookkeeper for Prilliman and Pace, then as a production supervisor for DuPont and as a plant manager for Bassett Mirror Company until his retirement. Carl and Annabel instilled the value of education in their



children and sent all of them to college.

Carl was a member of the Lynwood Club and an avid golfer, playing into his late 70s. He loved spending time with his family playing Scrabble, Rook and Gin Rummy. After the loss of Annabel, Carl continued to host and prepare large meals for family holiday get-togethers until health intervened. He was a loyal Hokie, following both the men's and women's teams in many sports.

Carl maintained a positive, youthful outlook throughout his life. He was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Carl was a past member of McCabe Memorial Baptist Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Teresa Wingfield of Mountain View, California; sons, Bill Wingfield (Julie) of Roanoke, Virginia, Steve (Lea Anna) Wingfield of Ridgeway, Virginia, and Randy Wingfield of Christiansburg, Virginia; and brother, Bobby Wingfield of Chesapeake, Virginia. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Elizabeth, Allison, Baxter, Rachel, Emily, Kelsey and Dylan Wingfield.

The family wishes to express its appreciation for the comfort and care that extended family, friends, neighbors, and assisted living, nursing facility and healthcare professionals provided during the final years of his life.

A graveside service was held on November 12, 2022 at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

## Alan Rush Largen, Sr.

Alan Rush Largen, Sr., 59, of Collinsville, VA passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at his residence. He was born on December 8, 1962, in Martinsville, VA to the late Floyd Rush Largen and Waco Dalton Largen.

Mr. Largen was a truck driver and was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife, Terri Mitchell Largen; daughter, Kristen Ross; son, Alan Largen, Jr. (Margaret); grandchildren, Alexis Hernandez, Alexandra



Largen, Ryan Largen, Abigail Ross, and Timothy Largen.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, November 11, 2022, at Harvest Worship Center. The family welcomes anyone that would like to speak in memory of Alan to do so at the celebration of life.

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

## Barbara Rose Searce Meeks

Barbara Rose Searce Meeks, 89, of Ridgeway, VA passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at UNC Health Rockingham. She was born on October 14, 1933, in Danville, VA to the late Claude Allen Searce and Annie Lee Collins Searce.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Hoover Ray Meeks, Sr.; daughters, Teresa Ann Meeks Shanahan, Donna Rae Meeks Bray, and Victoria Lee Meeks Burch; sister, Virginia Lee Brott; half-sister, Barbara Turner, and half-brother, Clyde Allen Searce, Jr.

Mrs. Meeks owned Meeks Nursery in Ridgeway, VA and worked at Dan River Mills for fifteen years. She also worked at CSI in Ridgeway for six years and was of the primitive Baptist faith.



She is survived by her daughter, Tanya Elizabeth Meeks Law; sons, Hoover Ray Meeks, Jr., James Randolph Meeks, and Joel Blaine Meeks of Ridgeway, VA; half-sister, Jimmie Custer, Mae Hunt (Daryl), Mary Parker, and Diane Dyson; half-brother, Lynwood Hardy (Laurie). Also surviving are twelve grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, November 9, at Norris Funeral Services, with Elder Troy Simpson officiating.

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

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# Largen, Shively appointed by county board



Janice Largen



Elizabeth Shively

The School Board of Henry County approved a recommendation by Superintendent Sandy Strayer to fill two administrative positions at a Nov. 3 meeting.

Janice Largen will be principal at Stanleytown Elementary School. Largen has served students as a teacher and administrator since 2004.

"It's hard to put into words just how excited I am to be principal at Stanleytown Elementary. Everyone has been incredibly gracious to me and welcomed me into their close-knit community during my time as substitute administrator. I have enjoyed meeting parents, getting to know students, and talking with faculty and staff members over the last four weeks," Largen said.

"While I have learned a great deal in a short amount of time, I know that I still have much left to learn. One thing is for certain, the Stanleytown family is the true embodiment of what

it means to do what's best for kids. I look forward to being a part of that ideal," she added.

Elizabeth Shively will be Director of Pupil Transportation. Shively, a Henry County native, comes to HCPS with 23 years of experience in pupil transportation in the region.

"I am honored to be joining the Pupil Transportation team and feel privileged to serve the students and families of the county in which I grew up. I look forward to working with a great group of bus drivers, bus assistants, mechanics, and office staff, as well as others within the division," she said.

Both appointments were approved by the board after reconvening from closed session.

"I am pleased to have these leaders join teams that already do outstanding work. I know that their guidance will ensure continued excellence for our students," said Strayer.

## Credit Union sponsors Virginia Tech data analytics graduate students

The ValleyStar Credit Union will partner with Virginia Tech as a capstone sponsor for the Pamplin College of Business' Center for Business Analytics (CBA). The team will build a data-based enterprise risk management (ERM) framework to strengthen alignment of all ValleyStar teams. It's a project that will benefit the security of credit union members, making this one more example of how ValleyStar lives its mission of "Employees First. Members Benefit."

An ERM is a coordinated approach to identify, minimize and address an organization's risk. An ERM process allows the credit union to locate any organizational challenges and provide insight on how to effectively prioritize and manage the risks at hand.

The capstone agreement brings together a diverse group of graduate students with different career backgrounds and experiences, to help ValleyStar enhance a holistic, data-driven system to reinforce security and stay ahead of any risk that could enter the financial ecosystem as

the credit union evolves and moves toward the future.

"This is just one more way for ValleyStar Credit Union to strengthen the knowledge and expertise of its employees in order to benefit credit union members. ValleyStar Credit Union gains the diversity of knowledge that comes from a team of graduate students with such backgrounds as finance, business and journalism," said Robert Sparrow, chief risk officer at ValleyStar Credit Union. "The students gain the real world experience of building data-driven methodologies in real-life applications. In the end ValleyStar members will benefit from the increased efficiency and effectiveness of credit union operations."

ValleyStar will work alongside the CBA program students to work with the ValleyStar risk and compliance team to take a critical look at the data used in the credit union's current ERM program while focusing on the ValleyStar's strategic drivers to become the best in service and convenience.

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# CLASSIFIEDS



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### 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 **November 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia.

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

#### Case R-22-18 Eduardo G. Gerrero

The property is located at 1736 Dillons Fork Road, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 39.3/330,330X,330D. The request is to rezone approximately 2-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to establish an automobile sales lot on the property.

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

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

## Afternoon Lecture Series to continue Nov. 20

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture series, "April 1865: Danville, Martinsville, and the End of the Civil War," with Jarred Marlowe on Sunday, November 20, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

One of the last engagements of the Civil War in Virginia took place in Martinsville on April 8, 1865, when Union Colonel William J. Palmer's brigade of General George Stoneman's command swept through Henry County. A marker, "Near War's End Henry Courthouse Engagement," sits across from the front side of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

The Civil War effective-

ly ended on April 9, 1865, when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Battle of Appomattox Court House. The Civil War remains the deadliest military conflict in American history.

Marlowe serves on the Historical Society Board of Directors and as President of the Colonel George Waller Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. A graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, he is a supervisor at Carter Bank & Trust and lives in Collinsville with his wife, Meghan, and daughter, Ellie.

John Phillips, Historical Society president, said, "Marlowe will dive into the roles Danville and Martinsville played in the final week of the Civil War

and how American history could have been vastly different if one or two things happened differently in southern Virginia that week."

The Sunday Afternoon

Lecture series is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and the Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicapped accessible.



Jarred Marlowe

#### Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on November 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request:

#### 1) APPLICATION for CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS

- Application of Teresa Carter, Applicant and Property Owner, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for the demolition of a residential structure on a property within the Historic District of the City of Martinsville. The property is located at 632 Fayette Street and currently zoned C-C, Commercial Corridor District. The property includes as existing residential structure that is approximately 1,263 square feet and was constructed in 1934. Demolition to any structures within the Historic District require review by the Architectural Review Board and the granting of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us

### COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **November 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following cases:

#### Case S-22-15 Adelle L. Shough

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Class B Home Occupation. The specific business will be dog grooming. The property is located at 340 Lafayette Ave. in the Collinsville District, and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 41.2(5)L/8,9.

#### Case S-22-16 Spencer and Tyler Hirshfeld

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-602 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow a single family residence to be converted into a duplex dwelling. The property is located at 6900 Fairstone Park Hwy. in the Blackberry District, is zoned as Suburban Residential District S-R, and is shown on Tax Map 13.9(10)/10-12

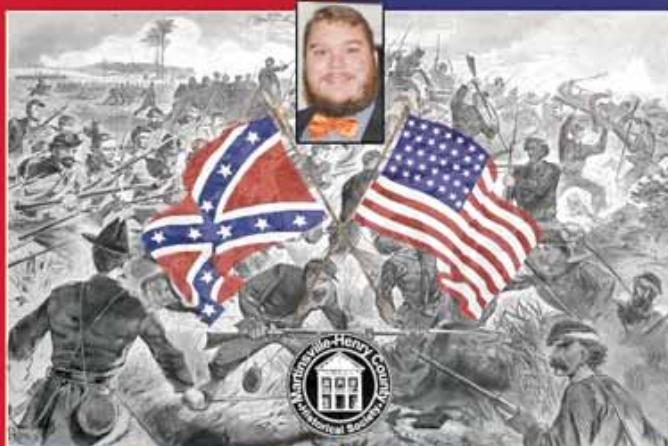
The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

## April 1865: Danville, Martinsville, and the End of the Civil War

with Jarred Marlowe



Sunday, November 20, 2022, 3:00 P.M.

Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville

## Partnership provides new apprenticeship program

The New College Institute (NCI) announced a partnership with Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) to provide an Advanced Manufacturing Machine Operator Registered Apprenticeship Program (AMMORAP), that began Oct. 31.

The Registered Apprenticeship Program is a proven training model for growing and retaining a skilled workforce in today's competitive business environment. The "earn while you learn" approach combines on-the-job training and related classroom instruction. The outcome benefits the company with a skilled workforce and provides the employee with paid training and the ability to advance upon completion of the program.

The Virginia Manufacturing Association (VMA) is contracted with the Department of Labor to assist across the country in expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs. MSI partners with employers to develop apprentice-

ship programs in various industries, ranging from cyber to electric power generation, transmission, and distribution to transportation and skilled trades.

Clifford House, Quality Assurance Instructor at NCI, negotiated the new program.

"My hope is that we can provide manufacturers with the skilled workforce that is able to facilitate all the different production needs at the same time providing apprentices with quality employment," House said.

Focused on machine operators, this program offers paid training and is to be completed in a 12-month period. Grant money is available to aid the apprentice during their training. Direct training from subject matter experts supports both the apprentice and the sponsor. Related Technical Instruction (RTI) is composed of 144 hours of virtual training which includes: Manufacturing Technician Level 1 Credential,

OSHA 10 plus additional safety training for manufacturing, Basic Machine Technology, and Process Safety Management course.

MSI offers a Pre-MT1 Assessment to students seeking the MT1 Certification. The Pre-MT1 prepares individuals to obtain certifications issued by MSI and included in the National Skills Certification System for critical manufacturing occupations.

The new partnership arrives on the heels of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's recent proclamation recognizing November as Virginia Apprenticeship Month.

The Advanced Manufacturing Registered Apprenticeship Program offers multiple sessions. Visit <https://newcollegeinstitute.org/degrees-and-training/workforce-development/advance-manufacturing-operator/to learn more and register>. For more information call House at 276-403-5671 or email [chouse@newcollegeinstitute.org](mailto:chouse@newcollegeinstitute.org).



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# Piedmont Arts brings poets and students together, sparks bursts of creativity and expression

Ninth and 10th grade English students from Bassett and Magna Vista high schools had an incredible opportunity to be led in visual poetry workshops by Angela Dribben, a published poet and Vice President for the local division of the Poetry Society of Virginia.

Students collaged, drew, wrote and created redaction poems during the workshops that are part of a series of poetry programming provided in schools by Piedmont Arts courtesy of a grant from the Harvest Youth Board.

Students fell in love with the process of creating their own works out of the found materials in front of them, and Dribben encouraged them to tap into their inner thoughts and feelings. The work that was created was moving for the young poets and spectators alike.

The series also included Professional Development by Virginia Commission for the Arts' teaching poet Regie Cabico, in partnership with Henry County Public Schools and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Professional development was offered for secondary teachers through Cabico's workshop at Blue Ridge Regional Library in Martinsville on October 26, and workshops by Roscoe Burnems in Martinsville City Schools in September.

Later this month, Carlisle Upper students will participate in a virtual workshop with Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Poet Laureate and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts teaching artist.

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



**30TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD TOY RIDE**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

**RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 10**

**\$10 OR NEW TOY**

**SPONSORED BY:**  


**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**

www.henrycountyenterprise.com

## New College Foundation

November 12, 2022

Dear Community Friends,

This week's letter is taking a slight twist. Being close to Thanksgiving just naturally makes one think of blessings. We often associate blessings just with financial gain. Blessings come in many shapes and sizes. If we gave God credit for all of our seen and unseen blessings we wouldn't have much time to complain. Can I get an Amen? Serving as a missionary in Nigeria for a year has transformed me into being a more grateful American. I'm especially grateful for clean water, life and our healthcare system.

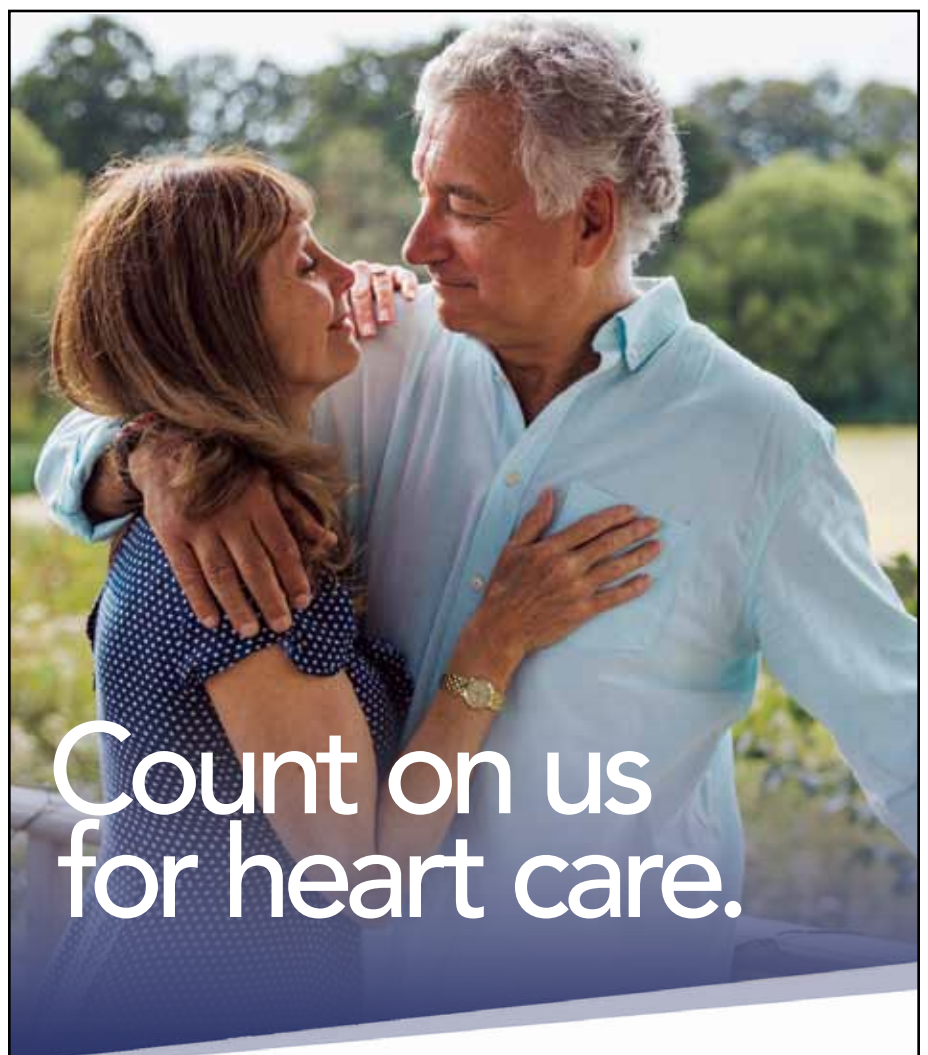
As a CPA and ordained minister, my professional life has been interesting with many twists and turns. As the Executive Director of New College Foundation (NCF) I absolutely love the privilege of blessing a student or program that benefits the community. Jesus was spot on when he said "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

One year ago, my wife and I moved to Tennessee to be closer to our grand girls. As I talked through this move with my spouse and the Trustees we all agreed that I had more things to accomplish at NCF. To be honest I didn't feel that sense of release from God to leave my job. The combination of awesome Trustees and technology has allowed me to stay connected during the times I'm away from Martinsville. The world is my parish and whether I serve one or more years in my position my zip code is irrelevant to my loyalty to NCF's mission.

God Bless You!

Kevin DeKoninck  
Executive Director  
New College Foundation (NCF)

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