



"With as many inmates as we had in here, along with the correctional officers just trying to work and do their job, we were way beyond the life expectancy for this building. It made it a lot longer than what we anticipated and probably what it should have," JR Powell, deputy county administrator, said during a recent tour of the Henry County Jail.

Former jail to be torn down next summer

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Plans are in the works to demolish the Henry County Jail on Kings Mountain Road sometime next summer. Built in 1974 by Frith Construction, the building consistently struggled with overpopulation. Eventually, the new Henry County Adult Detention Center was built, and since March the former jail has been empty and unused.

"You won't believe the number" of inmates meant to be housed in the facility compared to how many typically housed there, JR Powell, deputy county administrator, said during a recent tour of the facility.

"When the jail was built in 1974, it was built to house 67 inmates. That quickly grew, and in 1997 they did the first renovation, added the Records Department here, the Processing Room, and the Sally port (secure entry)," Powell said as he walked through the now vacant building.

"Prior to 1997, the basement was offices, but they renovated that as well in '97 and it basically doubled the occupancy," he said, adding the facility "went from 67 beds to right at 120 beds. Prior to them closing the jail, the number of inmates that we had in here was up to 220 plus."

General population cells

could sometimes have up to 30 people, with inmates sleeping anywhere they could place a mat, be it floors, tables, or anywhere else they could find the space, Powell said, and added it was "not a very hospitable area to be trying to help people and rehabilitate them."

In advance of the demo, county officials are salvaging everything possible, whether that is through repurposing, re-using or auctioning items that are no longer needed, Powell said.

Now each of the rooms - the processing Room, the old control center where correctional officers monitored cameras, the "drunk tank," where intoxicated inmates being processed waited to sober up, the solitary cells, the visitation area, general cells, and the medical area - are eerily quiet.

The county keeps the HVAC system running to avoid stagnant air. It and other electrical components buzz and hum. Those sounds were masked and easily unnoticed when the building was in use. Papers and writing utensils still litter the floors in some areas, as Powell discussed the fate of the building.

Although many people have proposed the idea of repurposing the building for a variety of purposes, Powell said the way the building was constructed, that option is not realistic.

See **Former Jail**, page 5

Taxpayers to receive late personal property bills for second year

Staff Reports

Personal property taxpayers in Henry County will once again receive their tax bills late this year, due in part to a new program installed in the Commissioner of Revenue's office.

Personal property tax is collected on cars/trucks, motorcycles, and the like at a rate of \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed value in Henry County.

Linda Love, Commissioner of Revenue, said the personal prop-

erty tax tickets are currently being generated, but as of Wednesday, Nov. 16, they had not been mailed.

"They put in a new program, and we've had trouble. They had trouble getting it to calculate and do several things. Finally, today (Nov. 16), we've been able to start calculating and all on it," she said, adding that the program was installed in her office in September.

Brandon Martin, the county's public information officer, said there was an update to the MUNIS

program in September, but he was not aware of a new program.

MUNIS is the "financial software that pretty much every government around here uses," he said, adding the Henry County Public Service Authority and other similar agencies also use the software.

In addition to issues with the program, Love said other factors also contributed to the delay.

See **Taxpayers**, page 2

Unique activities planned for new park, residents asked for input

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

A wide range of amenities will be offered at Riverview Park, which will be created on a 117-acre plot of land obtained by Henry County. The county also continues to seek input from residents on the development of the new facility.

Roger Adams, director of the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department, said the land, which is adjacent to the Smith River Sports Complex, was obtained through a combination of grants and land donations.

"The county acquired the land through grants, through a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and we used a donation. Newco Corporation donated part

See **New Park**, page 6



Riverview Park will be crafted out of a 117-acre plot of land located next to the Smith River Sports Complex.

Ellis wants to use new role to help bring out creative side in others

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Lauren Ellis assumed the role of programs and public relations coordinator at Piedmont Arts in September, armed with a vision to bring out the best in people through the arts.

With a bachelors in theatre from University of South Carolina - Aiken, Ellis has always been a theatre person at heart.

"My background is almost primarily in theatre, I am an artist, but I am a theatre artist at the core of my being," she said.

Ellis then moved to Detroit and started working with a theatre

See **Ellis**, page 2



Lauren Ellis, who is Piedmont Arts' new programs and public relations coordinator, believes that art is part of the "human experience."

Photographer discusses work, storytelling during Piedmont Arts event



Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

John Plashal, a Richmond photographer, visited Piedmont Arts to talk about his work, 'A Beautifully Broken Virginia,' which shows abandoned locations throughout the state.

The visit, part of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Statewide Programs and sponsored by Kings Grant, featured Plashal, who discussed his journey in photography, the types of locations he photographs and the storytellers he encounters along the way.

"When you see the topic 'A Beautifully Broken Virginia' or 'Stories of an Abandoned

Virginia,' you're tantalized enough to want to come (and) see, because we all love, as people, stories, right? Stories are always just something that we intrinsically enjoy as human beings. Then we see the word 'abandoned' and, even though we aren't all Virginians, many of us are native Virginians. So, it all makes for a pretty appealing title," Plashal said.

Plashal, himself a Virginia native, became interested in photography as a hobby, but that soon flourished into a need to learn more and tell the stories of the buildings he photographs, particularly the houses.

"I was immediately drawn to them. I loved

the texture, I loved the mood, from a photographic perspective," he said. "This started out as nothing more than wanting to learn how to use my camera and

See **Photographer**, page 5

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UPDATES



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, December 1

Henry County School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m., 1st Floor, Summerlin Room
County Administration Building, Collinsville.

Piedmont Arts' annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held in the Gravely Lester Art Garden, 207 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, at 4 p.m., with hot chocolate, candy canes, music from the Martinsville High School Jazz Band, and a visit from Santa.

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.

Friday, December 2

Fido's Finds' "Fall into Winter" Basement Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All sales benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA.

Saturday, December 3

The City of Martinsville will hold the "Fall into Winterfest" from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be craft vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, a beer garden, entertainment, and more. Admission is free.

Uptown Martinsville's tree lighting will take place at 5 p.m. at 55 West Church Street.

The Ridgeway Christmas Parade and

tree lighting ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. starting on Main Street and ending at the Ridgeway branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Santa Claus will be on hand for family pictures. Enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, roasted chestnuts, and sounds of the season.

The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department will hold an 'All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa,' from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$8.

The Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County will host its Winter Gala fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. at the HJBD Event Center. The dress is cocktail attire. Tickets are \$45 each or \$400 for a table of ten and can be purchased at tinyurl.com/CLwinterGala.

Fido's Finds' "Fall into Winter" basement sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All sales benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA.

Santa will be at Studio 107 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for pictures. A 5x7 picture can be purchased for \$15.

The Martinsville Speedway will be collecting toys for its 28th annual Christmas Toy Drive. Toys will be collected from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the speedway. A \$25 donation can also be made. Donators 18 years and older have the opportunity to take a lap around the speedway.

Sunday, December 4

The Roanoke Symphony Holiday Pops Spectacular will take place in the Martinsville High School auditorium at 3 p.m. Altrusa will collect non-perishable food items for Grace Network in the lobby during the symphony's performance.

Santa will be at The Ground Floor from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Photos are \$10 per family.

Saturday, December 10

Piedmont Arts will host "Yoga in the Gallery" at 10:30 a.m. Bring your own mat, block, water bottle, and other supplies. The class is free to members and \$10 for non-members.

The SPCA's annual Pet Pictures with Santa will take place from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Families, children, and pets are all welcome. The cost is \$10 per pose.

Come to the Spencer-Penn Centre for Storytime and Cookies with Santa from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cookies, crafts, and pictures will also be available. The event is free, but donations are encouraged. To register, call (276) 957-5757.

ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club serves amateur radio operators in southwest Virginia and northwest North Carolina. They invite all amateur radio operators and interested public to their on-air weekly net held each Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. with a frequency of 147.090 + with 103.5 tone. Additional information can be found at www.http://vaem-commdb.org/BARC/, and their 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 Debra Buchanan at (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.

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

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

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

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. Contact the Center for Community Learning, 15 Primary School Road, Collinsville, at (276) 647-9585.

Fieldale project awarded \$1 million in grant funding

Staff Reports

The Fieldale Heritage Revitalization Project received a substantial funding boost last week. It was among 10 projects across Virginia to share in the more than \$11.5 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Lee Clark, director of Planning, Zoning and Inspections, said the county applied for the funds through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on behalf of the Fieldale group, which owns the property.

The county will oversee the funds on behalf of the group.

"DHCD generally awards the funds to the locality and have the locality be responsible for the use of those funds on the

project," he said.

Clark said the county will be responsible for hiring the architectural firm to create the design and overseeing the construction of the project.

"We oversee all of that process, and take care of that process," he said.

A committee that includes members of the Fieldale Heritage Board, county staff, and member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors which represents Fieldale, will be created, and "along with the help of DHCD that will be very much involved in helping to guide the progress," he said.

Clark said the county was also awarded a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to further enhance the project.

Clark said the county pro-

cured an architectural and engineering (A&E) firm to start the design work on the Fieldale building.

"We've just been holding off in having them get started until we knew whether if we would be awarded this grant from DHCD. Even prior to that we were awarded a planning grant where we used a consultant to perform a study on behalf of the Fieldale Heritage group to determine what some of the best uses of that building could potentially be," he said.

The project in Henry County is slated to receive \$1 million in funding from CDBG to rehabilitate an underutilized historic building into a community center that will serve an area in which 58 percent of residents classify as low- to moderate-income persons. The

rehabilitated facility will offer programming and services to help families through outdoor recreation, swimming lessons, gym facilities, senior programming and internet access, and it will be the only such facility in the county, according to a release from Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who announced the awards last week.

"Community Development Block Grants continue to be an invaluable resource for Virginia communities, offering targeted support to community-identified needs and fostering support for our most vulnerable Virginians," said Youngkin. "With these grants, we can make important investments in infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and economic development that will build stronger communities for all across the

Commonwealth."

The federally funded CDBG program has been administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development since 1982 and annually receives approximately \$19 million to distribute to small cities, counties, and towns. Most CDBG grants are awarded through a competitive process with a goal of benefiting low- and moderate-income households.

Localities can use the funds to provide infrastructure for new or expanding industries, new or improved water and sewer systems in rural areas, rehabilitate housing in declining neighborhoods, revitalize commercial districts, support to small businesses and provide facilities for a variety of needed services, such as health clinics.

Ellis

from page 1

company before deciding to attend grad school at Hollins University in Roanoke. After getting her masters in playwriting and a certificate in new play directing and beginning to do freelance theatre and new works, she began teaching at Hollins in spring of 2020.

Ellis's position now is one that sometimes has her wearing many hats and bridging many gaps at once. She expects that as Piedmont Arts approaches the time to select programming for a new season, her duties will shift.

"What I have found is I'm kind of the Venn diagram, or kind of the

middle part between our marketing and also education," she said. "The events and stuff that we do that are kind of at that intersection are kind of where I have sort of taken over."

She also is the one who does most of the "forward-facing publicity" such as newspaper and TV interviews. In addition, she helps with programming and bringing events to fruition, whether that's setting up equipment, helping speakers know all of the details, managing the checklists, or making sure everything gets done. Every day, she said, is a new adventure.

"I have never had a

day that has repeated itself in any way, shape, or form. Every time I come in, I am doing something new," she said.

Ellis believes that her background in theatre, primarily with her focus on directing and stage managing, has helped to give her a mindset that is beneficial in her position at Piedmont Arts.

"In theatre, because you know primarily, I'm a director and a stage manager, so it's all about that big picture vision and all the teeny-tiny little details that have to go into making that thing possible. My brain is programmed to look at things like, 'Okay, I

know this is my end goal. What are all the teeny-tiny little steps that need to happen and when do they need to happen to make that thing happen," she said.

One of her goals is to continue rotating the kinds of programming that local residents enjoy.

"This is kind of a shift for me. Like I said, I'm from South Carolina, live in Roanoke, and now working in Martinsville. So, I'm trying to kind of get a grasp of what people here want and like, and there are so many events that we do that are just beloved by our community, by our public, so I don't want to

come in and just uproot those things," she said.

However, her primary goal is to look at programming from a different angle: One that puts art in the hands of people in the community and brings out their inner artists.

"Because I'm an educator and an artist, I think my primary focus is also in this. I feel that art is for everybody, and I feel that everyone is an artist," Ellis said. "I think that sometimes that gets stamped out of us at an early age for a lot of reasons."

"In addition to, yes let's do programming that we know people love, but let's also do

programming that kind of flips that narrative and gets more people involved with actually making art themselves," Ellis said.

She said she loves that art helps people to bring out and embrace their emotions, and added that art is part of the "human experience," and intends to ensure that events offered at Piedmont Arts continue to accomplish that.

"I think what art does is (that) through these events, we are helping people recognize (their) emotions in ways that normally we don't, or we don't feel them to the scope or scale that we can or should," she said.

Taxpayers

from page 1

"Programs change and we've lost employees this year. At one point, we were down to two employees," she said.

The office currently has seven employees, six full time and one part time.

Love said she believes the Henry County Board of Supervisors would consider granting an extension, but she hopes that does not become a regular occurrence.

"Last year, she (Love) asked for it. I guess theoretically, either Love or Scott Grindstaff, Treasurer, "could ask, but it

could come from either one," Martin said. "It's possible it could come up in the next meeting," which is on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Last year the supervisors approved the request for an extension, pushing the due date from December 5 to February 4.

"I kind of foresee something like that happening again," Treasurer Scott Grindstaff said, and added that although the tax bills are paid in his office, he cannot prepare the tax tickets until he has all of the informa-

tion. That information comes from Love's office.

"I cannot generate the bills until I get them from her," he said.

If the date is moved Grindstaff said residents will have more time to pay the tax bills.

Having a late tax ticket may hinder the county's ability to create a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

"It will hinder it a little bit because we usually start the budget process around February 1, but we have experience because we did it this last year,

so it won't be something new to us," he said.

The deadline for real estate taxes will remain Dec. 5.

Martin said tax revenues "really are our only source of revenue besides some grants here and there. We don't necessarily see it having a major impact immediately."

However, Martin said an impact could occur over time if the number of delinquent accounts rises or "in the event it's later in the year when we're trying to get those taxes collected."

In his October 25 report to the supervisors, Grindstaff noted that 92.66 percent of personal property taxes had been collected for 2021.

Grindstaff reported that 93.56 percent of the 2019 personal property taxes had been collected in October 2020.

"So, immediately there won't be an effect, but it could play out in time," Martin said. "We'll have to wait and see."

For questions or information, call Love at (276) 634-4690 or Grindstaff at (276) 634-4675.

Transmission rates high for flu, RSV

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The West Piedmont Health District (WPHD) is reporting high transmission rates of influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in the region.

Nancy Bell, public information officer for the district, said a substantial transmission of cases is 52 to 100 cases per 100,000 people.

"It's mostly in the schools and at long-term care facilities, and really just school-aged children in general. It's just in enclosed settings you're going to have more

infection," she said.

RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Bell said it affects the lungs and breathing passages. The illness can generally last between three and seven days, with most people who have a mild illness recovering in less than two weeks.

"Infants, young children, and older adults are at a higher risk of developing serious complications if they get sick with RSV," she said.

People can prevent RSV by covering coughs and sneezes, washing their hands, cleaning frequently

touched surfaces like door-knobs and mobile devices, and avoid close contact with others.

Bell said RSV is part of a trifecta that includes COVID-19 and the flu.

"It's all very dangerous put together, and one of the main reasons is you can't really tell one from another necessarily. Without a positive COVID test, you can't rule out COVID," she said.

Bell added that while COVID transmissions are down, the vaccine numbers are slightly flat.

"The new vaccine covers both strands of the virus that

have been so bothersome. We have cautioned people to get flu and COVID vaccines, and you can get them at the same time," she said.

Bell said the differences between the viruses is minimal because "all three of them are affecting your respiratory system."

The viruses also are treated the same, with mucus looseners, cough suppressants, and fever reducers.

"RSV can kill you just like COVID can, and in some cases the flu can as well. Especially in extremely young and extremely old folks," she said.

Most years, the presence of RSV is hardly noted, Bell said. However, "it's quite prominent this year."

The flu also came earlier this year, she added. "We started having flu and RSV cases at the beginning of October. (That's) when they became noticeable."

WPHD Epidemiologist Sharon Ortiz-Garcia said the organization's seasonal flu surveillance efforts helps to track case levels. Efforts include collecting and analyzing data on visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers for influenza-like illness (ILI), laboratory results of confirmatory tests, suspected and confirmed outbreaks, and

pediatric and adult deaths.

"In general, for the week ending on November 5, the SW Region, which includes WPHD, reported an ILI intensity level of 10, which is considered high. Also, the whole state is reporting an intensity level of 10," she said.

Ortiz-Garcia said some schools in the district, including Patrick County, have reported absenteeism due to the flu in the last two weeks.

"Compared to this time in the last flu season, the activity level has significantly increased," she said.

For additional information on RSV and influenza, visit vdh.virginia.gov or cdc.gov.

Man wanted in Martinsville, Patrick facing extradition

Kasey Shane Blake, 33, of 1151 Trot Valley Road, Stuart, was arrested in Stokes County, North Carolina, shortly after 4:45 p.m., Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said Saturday. Multiple deputies with the Patrick County Sheriff's Office were on duty searching for Blake.

He was wanted for attempted murder in connection with an incident in the City of Martinsville, and in Patrick County on felony eluding police in connection with an alleged incident Friday night on Trot Valley Road in Stuart.

At 4:45 p.m. Saturday, Deputy Cody Fortner spotted a gray 2015 Kia SUV that Blake had allegedly

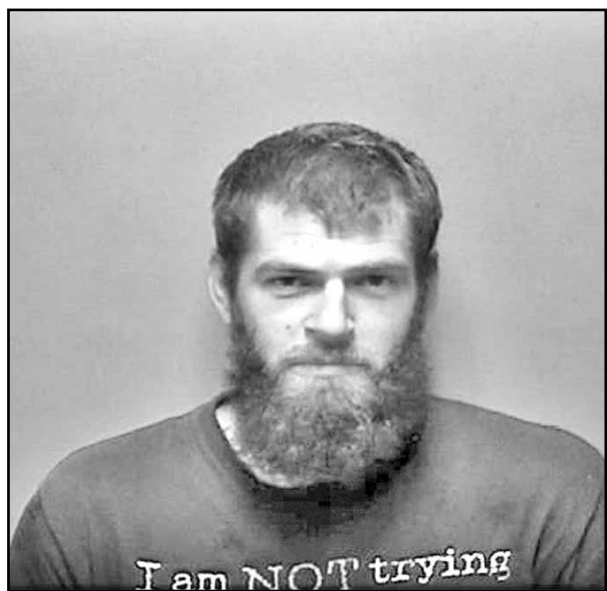
taken from his grandmother. The vehicle did not stop for Fortner and allegedly fled on Shepherd Mill Road, crossing in to North Carolina. The Kia crashed a short time later. Authorities alleged Blake was found to be the driver. He was taken in to custody and turned over to authorities in Stokes County, N.C. He will be held on a fugitive from justice warrant pending his extradition back to Virginia.

Around 5:05 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, officers with the Martinsville Police Department responded to 20 Progress Drive to a report of a domestic related altercation that ultimately led to the stabbing of a man and woman.

The male victim attempted to drive himself to the hospital, but ended up stopping at American National Bank located on Liberty St. He was treated by Martinsville Fire & EMS before being flown to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital where he is in stable condition. The female victim received minor injuries.

Blake is alleged to have fled the scene on foot prior before officers arrived.

This case remains under investigation. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Martinsville Police Sgt. Ratcliffe at (276) 226-0218 or Crime Stoppers at 276-63-CRIME (276-632-7463).



United Way puts focus on financial stability, upward mobility



The annual Dollars and Sense Reality Fair, held Nov. 3-4 at New College Institute in Martinsville, exposes high school seniors to the costs associated with life. Pictured is U.S. Army Recruiter SSG Jason Jordan speaking with students from Magna Vista High School.



The annual Dollars and Sense Reality Fair, held Nov. 3-4 at New College Institute in Martinsville, exposes high school seniors to the costs associated with life. Pictured are Edward Preston (left), a program manager of Ross Innovative Employment Solutions, and Helen Howell (right), director of the MHC National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter, speaking to students about unintended life expenses.

The United Way of Henry County & Martinsville embraces flexibility as the organization looks to improve the economic outlook and stability of low-to-moderate-income individuals throughout Martinsville and Henry County.

The Harvest Foundation recently invested \$600,000 over three years in United Way's "Building a Better Tomorrow" project, a continuum of unique services and opportunities that provide a pathway to financial stability for vulnerable members of the community, and support for those individuals in their efforts to purchase a home.

"We are excited to partner with United Way on the continued growth of their upward mobility efforts," said Sheryl Agee, senior operating officer at The Harvest Foundation. "Our community is only as strong as each individual who calls MHC home, and the reality is that a percentage of our community don't always have resources to meet their most basic needs. Building a Better Tomorrow recognizes that each individual has a unique story with diverse needs and challenges, and it meets them where they are on their journey

towards stability, financial security, and building a better future."

Agee added that this project directly aligns with The Harvest Foundation's strategic plan priority of creating a resilient and diverse economy with the vision that everyone shares in the promise of a healthy and prosperous future.

Programs within Building a Better Tomorrow differ in intensity and who they support. For example, individuals on the first step toward financial stability may enroll in financial education services. These may include workshops on creating a budget, understanding credit scores, setting smart money goals, prioritizing debt repayments, and identity protection.

If an individual faces significant financial barriers, they may enroll in the evidence-based Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World program, an intensive 16-week training course designed to make significant progress toward self-sufficiency.

United Way also begins financial education programs at the high school level through the annual Dollars and Sense Reality Fair, an event expos-

ing high school seniors to the costs associated with life. Given a budget and a career, students must work through scenarios such as budgeting for savings, retirement, vacations, and paying for housing, utilities, transportation, and groceries.

"Creating inclusive systems that provide opportunities for the advancement of every member of our community is incredibly important," said Philip Wenkstern, executive director of United Way of Henry County & Martinsville. "Programs and services supported through this grant have a proven ability to create positive change in the lives of some of the most vulnerable residents of Martinsville and Henry County. We truly appreciate the Harvest Foundation's recognition of this important need in our community and the support they have provided to help the United Way continue the fight for the financial stability of all local residents."

Wenkstern added that to truly move the needle for these residents, a one-size-fits-all approach will not work.

"Services offered through this project work to meet the specific needs and situations of each

participant," Wenkstern said. "These services are proven to provide an avenue of upward mobil-

ity. Regardless of the particular circumstances an individual faces, these programs will be avail-

able to support their economic progress toward a stable and prosperous future."

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**
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 - So. Am. treeless grassland
 - A fencing sword
 - Do over, as of a house
 - Confederate general Richard S.
 - Seamen
 - Honey bee genus
 - City in central Poland on the Meczna
 - E. M. Forster novel
 - Jenny __, Swedish soprano
 - Illumined
 - Escargots
 - Surgical clamp
 - Maize
 - Ngerulmud is the Republic's capital
 - Jima, WW II battlefield
 - Master copies
 - Jack of little fat
 - Apple or lemon meringue
 - Actress Zellwegger
 - At this place
 - Remunerations
 - Removes writing
 - Fit out a ship with sails, etc.
 - Elinor __, British novelist
 - M. Ali's famous boast
 - Damascus is the capital
 - Worldly rather than spiritual
 - Winglike structures
 - Indicating silence
 - Myanmar monetary unit
 - 100 = 1 tala
 - Translucent, greenish variety of chalcedony
 - Impudence
 - Netherlands river
- CLUES DOWN**
- Denotes change of position
 - So. Am. armadillo with 3 bands of bony plates
 - About aviation
 - Repairing worn shoes
 - Decapods
 - Having moderate heat
 - Almost horizontal entrance to a mine
 - Somalian shilling (abbr.)
 - Penetrable
 - To be in store for
 - People of ancient Media
 - A way to work the soil
 - Air-launched missile
 - 1/1000 of an inch
 - Mater, one's school
 - Old English poet or bard
 - Persian wheel used to raise water
 - Spirit in "The Tempest"
 - Drag, cart or haul
 - If not; otherwise
 - Coverings for wheels
 - Having cognizance
 - Lugs
 - Sheet of glass in a window
 - Cause annoyance in
 - Sound of a horse
 - Appantion
 - Military land forces
 - Selects by votes
 - A shag rug made in Sweden
 - Anchovy pear tree
 - 8th Jewish calendar month
 - Blood clams genus
 - Benevolent & Protective Order of
 - Birthplace of Buddhism Bodh
 - Ancient Greek City aka Vella
 - Capital of Yemen
 - Golf ball pegs
 - Engine additive

OPINION

The worst funniest thing

I've been involved in theater in one capacity or another for pretty much my entire life.

One of the great things about live theater is the stories that come from it, particularly the stories about disasters. I've shared before the story — most likely apocryphal, but I want to believe — about a Passion play wherein the actor playing Jesus had to be replaced half-way through with a much thinner actor; when it came time for him to ascend to Heaven on a hidden wire, the rigging was set for a heavier man and skinny Jesus was launched screaming into the ceiling.

Again, that one's probably not true, but man, do I ever want it to be.

However, the story I share today is one I witnessed with my own two eyes.

When I was a young man, my class went on a trip to Martinsville Middle School to see a traveling production of "The Diary of Anne Frank."

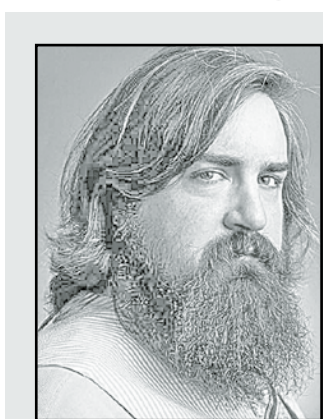
If you're unfamiliar, the stage play is based on "The Diary of a Young Girl," a journal kept by a young Jewish girl named

Anne Frank while she and her family spent two years hiding in the attic above a factory during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The family was arrested in 1944 and Anne Frank died of typhus the following year in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Obviously, any adaptation of Anne Frank's story is some heavy stuff. We had been learning about the Holocaust in school, and our teacher decided the best way to drive the lesson home was to take us to see this play. What better way to help kids understand the horrors of World War II than by exposing them to the story of Anne Frank, a child herself?

Before the trip to see the play, our teacher told us to be on our best behavior. We weren't going to see "Peter Pan" or something. This was serious business. You don't cut up with your buddies or play with your Tamagotchi during "The Diary of Anne Frank." You watch quietly and respectfully.

As I said, this was a traveling production of the play. These were professional actors



By Ben R. Williams

who criss-crossed the country performing this play for school groups. This was a well-oiled machine. And as it happened, the stage at Martinsville Middle School at the time was perfect for the production. There was a short flight of stairs at the very front of the stage, and since the entire play takes place in the attic above a factory, the stairs served as the perfect spot for actors to enter the stage.

The play began, and everyone in the audience was very

quiet and respectful. It wasn't hard to get lost in the world of the play; the actors were excellent.

There is a scene in the play in which a prowler breaks into the factory. The Frank family, along with some other folks who are hiding with them, fall silent; if the prowler hears them, it could spell their doom.

The prowler soon leaves, but things become even more tense when two police officers, summoned by a night watchman, arrive to investigate the break-in. They shine their flashlights on the very bookcase that conceals the secret staircase to the attic where the Frank family is hiding.

During this scene, the actor playing Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father, slowly and silently paced around the attic, a finger held to his lips. Meanwhile, the actors playing the two police officers chatted near the concealed staircase at the front of the stage as they searched the premises.

It's an impossibly tense scene, a moment of life or death that hinges on everyone in the attic remaining silent.

My classmates and I were still as statues. You could have heard a pin drop.

And then Otto Frank fell down the stairs.

When I say that the actor playing Otto Frank fell down the stairs, I don't mean that he tripped and slipped down one or two of them. He hit every stair on the way down. There couldn't have been more than seven or eight steps, but it sounded like he hit about twenty. Curly Howard himself could not have done a better pratfall.

Everyone, both on stage and in the audience, watched in stunned silence. The two police officers in front of the stage didn't even react to Otto crashing to the ground in front of them like a 200-pound sack of potatoes. Otto Frank gathered himself up, darted back up the stairs with a pronounced limp, looked around at the other actors on stage, and said the following in a hoarse stage whisper:

"I don't think they heard that."

As God is my witness, it was the funniest thing I have ever seen that didn't get a single laugh.

Recalling past Thanksgiving celebrations

As we plan to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, we wanted to share stories about our memorable past gatherings. We hope you enjoyed them and that you and yours made wonderful new memories this year.

distraction from the simpler things. Sure, there was football on TV, but unlike having your face in a phone or tablet, we still talked throughout whatever game was on.

The whole family would sit and talk all day. Thanksgiving was the day everyone was together, under one roof, enjoying each other's company. Yet with the rest of the family there, it was my grandfather who I spend the most time with. We would reminisce about all the summers I spent with him and my grandmother, often frustrating her with the almost photographic memories we shared of those amazing summers.

I was so lucky to have had my grandfather around in my for-

ties. There were so many Thanksgivings. The one following his passing is one I remember so clearly. In a house with other loved ones, I felt alone. Sitting in "his" chair, I so missed talking for hours with him. There were other times during the year we would visit, but Thanksgiving (helped by our shared love of turkey and dressing) was different. It was a day that was looked forward to all year. It was a day we knew we'd be together. Until we weren't.

--- Pat Delaney,
Office Manager

Cooking Disaster

My level of interest in anything having to do with a stove or oven is minuscule at best. But on holidays, I try. Usually, no one gets sick (at least they haven't said).

My biggest kitchen disaster was several years ago, when I decided to try a new recipe - Crock Pot Mashed Potatoes. It called for the addition of sour cream and a few other minor changes from the usual milk, but-

ter, salt and pepper.

The potatoes cooked without incident, and recipe in hand, I set about making the dish that was pictured. As I worked to get it "just right," the potatoes looked dark, ultimately becoming a ghastly shade of dark gray.

With some guests waiting to eat and minutes to spare before the others arrived, I opened a new container of sour cream, and added about half to the potatoes, hoping they would look less like gray goop. The color was better, but still lacking. So, I added the other half to the mixture, finishing up just as the final guests arrived.

"What did you put in these potatoes," was the first question. Since I hadn't yet tasted them - or saw the look on the guest's face, I proudly explained that I tried a new recipe.

The next comment - from a younger guest - was a sincere and heartfelt "YUCK."

Before swallowing the sample on my fork, I

tossed the entire dish. Best I recall, everyone clapped.

Someone mentions the fiasco every year, much to my chagrin. There is a silver lining - my family insists that I provide only nonedible supplies. Every now and again, I slip in a pie - made by someone else.

--- Debbie Hall,
Editor

Cherish the past, enjoy the now

Thanksgiving for me, like many others, has always been about family. I could write on and on about memories from holiday's past, about jokes spoken over full plates, innocent and cute quips from the children in my family, time spent with those who are no longer with us, but I am quickly realizing that this holiday season is shaping up to be one of my dearest and most memorable.

This holiday season is my first one as a married woman, and watching my spouse interact with the family I love so dear-

ly, laughing with them as I have for a lifetime, has been an incredibly heart-warming experience.

Most of my grandparents have passed on, two of which very recently, and seeing my spouse interact with my papa and knowing she gets to meet a man who means so much to me is truly an irreplaceable feeling. There's always something special, in my opinion, about adding more people to a family, as well as getting to become a part of someone else's family. This year, as well, will be the first year that we get to host any sort of holiday. We will host a Friendsgiving with some of our closest friends, bringing a whole new layer of companionship to the holiday.

I have always been someone with an appreciation for living in the moment. I am forever thankful for the memories I have, but I never want to miss the memories I am creating.

--- Maddy Oliver,
Reporter

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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



PHOTO BY ELEMENTS DIGITAL

Still time to participate in Letters From Santa

Santa and his elves are working their Christmas magic through the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department, and there's still time to participate.

Deputy Director of the department Daniel Reynolds said personalized letters from Santa will be created from forms filled out by parents/guardians. The forms have space for the child's and other information like their age, and three friends or

relatives.

Using that information, "we sent out a letter to each child from Santa," he said.

Reynolds said the department has been doing the Letters from Santa program for more than 10 years.

"It's something to give the kids a little something extra for Christmas. We typically get anywhere from 700 to 1,000 each year. It's a ton. We send them out and it's just a

little spark to get kids excited about Christmas," he said.

The forms are available at the department office and also can be sent via email.

Forms must be returned to the department by Dec. 9.

Letters will begin mailing out around Dec. 5-6 to ensure there's enough time to get to every child.

For additional information, call the department at (276) 634-4640.

Photographer from page 1

taking pictures of old places that I find in the middle of nowhere.”

Plashal believes photos of abandoned places elicit an emotional response that is hard to explain.

“These houses, I heard it best from somebody, they arouse an emotion in us that, to many, is inexplicable,” he said.

Plashal’s method for finding houses to photograph is one that some find interesting, and others find crazy.

“Remember ‘Pin the Tail on the Donkey?’ I’ll literally blindfold myself and point to a place on a Virginia map and say, ‘Okay I’m going to Clifton Forge.’ I’ll drive to Clifton Forge. My first stop will be a gas station. You can always identify the locals.

Friendly as they can be,” he said.

Plashal said he then asks about the diner frequented by local residents. He goes there and asks around for stories and notable locations in the area. In addition to houses, he also photographs churches, schools, libraries, diners, masonic lodges, asylums, and more.

Eventually, he realized that he didn’t just want to photograph the places, he wanted to learn about them. “I needed to know about these places,” he said.

Plashal recounted a story of taking a picture of a house and wanting to learn more about it. He asked the woman who lived next door about the house, and was told she didn’t know much about it besides

the fact that the woman who lived there made the best coconut pie in Virginia.

Later on, he was developing his presentation in retirement communities, he shared a picture of the house. He then saw a man he believed to be having a medical emergency.

“Then his 69-year-old nephew says, ‘John, John, don’t worry about it. This is my uncle Charles. He’s just having an emotional moment because he grew up in that house,’” Plashal said, adding that retelling the story causes a physical reaction.

“Right now, I have chills on my arms,” he said to the audience. Turning back to the encounter, “I said, ‘Sir, can I ask you a question. Was there a woman that you knew of

that made a real tasty coconut pie?’

The man answered, ‘Yes indeed, that was my momma,’” Plashal said, adding that he’ll never forget what happened to him after that, which he considers the moment that “justified this entire journey.”

Plashal said he spent hours listening to the stories as told by Charles Johnson, a 96-year-old who had recently had a stroke and spent decades mourning his son.

“All of a sudden, this hobby of mine, of photographing abandoned places, turned into a very personal experience,” he said. “To the point where I gave a total stranger, 96 years young, a beautiful opportunity to reminisce.”

This is one of many sto-

ries of Plashal “taking off his public speaking hat” and “no longer being a professional speaker, but becoming a professional listener.”

Plashal said people often ask him how he identifies himself as an artist.

While he used to think it was about how much money he could make, as time went on, it became less about that and more about learning and telling stories.

“I realized the importance of how you can touch other human beings and your fellow Virginians by showing them images like this and getting to meet people like Charles Johnson,” he said.

John Plashal gave his presentation “A Beautifully Broken Virginia” at Piedmont Arts on Nov. 17.

Former Jail from page 1



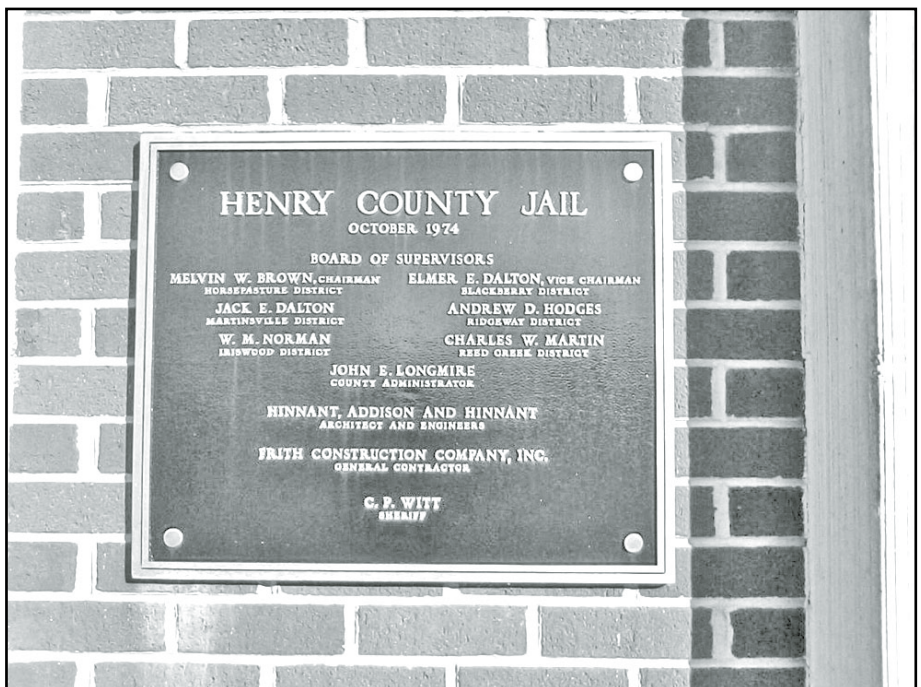
Deputy Henry County Administrator JR Powell recalled the first time he walked into the Henry County Jail. He said that he was shocked the facility was being used to house people, and he is glad they now have a newer, nicer facility.



The once crowded jail is now mostly empty, aside from some auctioned items that wait to be picked up by buyers. Even much of the heavy-duty kitchen equipment has been sold.



General population cells would sometimes house 30 inmates, with some sleeping on mats that were placed on floors and tables.



“With as many inmates as we had in here, along with the correctional officers just trying to work and do their job, we were way beyond the life expectancy for this building. It made it a lot longer than what we anticipated and probably what it should have,” JR Powell, deputy county administrator, said during a recent tour of the Henry County Jail.

“People asked, ‘Well, why couldn’t you repurpose this building for something else?’ It’s a decent looking building from the outside,” he said. “The problem was, we had contractors come in, and the way that this building was constructed for a jail, it’s solid concrete, it’s got reinforced rebar steel inside of it, and in order to renovate this to become like an office space or anything like that, it was going to cost millions of dollars.”

“It just made much more sense to just do demolition. The plans are just to do a full demolition. We’ve got some budgetary numbers to do full demolition of the building, which includes hauling everything out of here. The basement, everything, then filling it in with fresh dirt, replanting grass, and then who knows, 10-years from now, they may decide to build something on this lot,” he said.

Permitting dictates that the building could be just pushed into the basement and have dirt poured over top, but for a building to be constructed on the site later, the rubble would have to be dug back out and the area cleared, Powell said.

So far, funding has not been allocated specifically for full demolition, but officials are hopeful it will be in place by the demolition timeline. The county is looking towards possible grants to help with funding, Powell said.

“We’re going to try to apply for grants. Right now,

there have not been funds budgeted for the full demolition. There are funds that were budgeted in the current budget year to begin the mitigation process of starting some of the demolition. That’s the project that I’ve been leading, and that’s primarily been doing the prep work,” Powell said.

This prep work included lead and asbestos checks. Asbestos was found in the building, and is scheduled to be removed in the coming weeks. Prep work

also includes the rewiring of much of the electric and fiber optic wiring at the complex, which also includes the Henry County Administration Building.

“On this whole complex, this jail building was the first building here. So, before the administration building was here, this was here,” Powell said of the jail. “Before the sheriff’s office building was here, this was here. So, that being set up that way, a lot of the electricity, a lot of the fiber

optics, all of that came to this building first and then branched out.”

As a result, all must be removed or rerouted to omit the jail, he added.

In the meantime, the county has been repurposing everything it can from the building, such as the fencing outside the building, and selling other things at auction. Little has gone to scrap, and the county has saved on those costs by using its own refuse department for the

work instead of hiring an outside entity, he said.

“Anything from the jail that we can repurpose, we are,” Powell said. “A lot of the stuff ... the kitchen had all the stoves, the washrooms had washers and dryers in it, a lot of the old furnishing - desks and stuff, we put them all on GovDeals, the auction site. We’ve sold a lot of the stuff that was in there. And all those funds just come back into the county and then we repurpose it to

continue working with this project.”

Besides the few things that were old, aged, and had little value, most everything in the building has been sold. Before the building is demolished, the county intends to remove and recycle any of the steel in the facility that it can.

“We’ve stripped out anything that had any value to it,” Powell said. “Anything that we could sell, auction off, repurpose, it’s out of here.”



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OBITUARIES

Mildred Leedy Huddle

Mildred Leedy Huddle, 102, of Martinsville, VA passed away Wednesday, November 16, 2022. She was born March 12, 1920 in Bluefield, WV to the late Bruce Leedy and Maude Meredith Leedy. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar Brown Huddle; son, Garland K. Huddle; sisters, Pauline Hounshell, Ruby Overbay, and Iva Haynes; and brother, Ray Leedy.



VA; grandchildren, Tammie Moody of Vale, NC and Gregory Huddle of Fairmont, NC; three great-grandchildren, Jacob, Jordan, and Jaqson Moody; and sister, Esther Taylor of Hillsville, VA.

The funeral was held on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Rev. Susan Spangenberg officiating. Entombment was at Roselawn Abbey.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Starling Avenue Baptist Church, 932 Starling Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

William "Bill" Harold Gravely

William "Bill" Harold Gravely, 88, of Axton, VA passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022. He was born on November 16, 1934, to the late Fred S. Gravely, Sr., and Lula Ingram Gravely in Bassett, VA. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnne Diuguid Gravely; daughter, Elizabeth G. Greene; sister, Eunice Terry; brothers, Fred Gravely, Jr., Eugene Gravely, and Bernard Gravely.



member of the AMVETS and the Gideons International Group.

He is survived by his daughter, Veronica G. Morton (Jackie); son-in-law, Rodney Greene; sister, Frances Hall; brother, Larry Gravely (Pat); grandchildren, Crystal G. Hall (Steven), Constance G. Lewis (Jimmy), Ashlee N. Underwood (Peanut); and William T. Nelson (Maegan). In addition to his grandchildren, he is survived by his great-grandchildren, Austin Hall, Landon Hall, Dylan Meeks, Bricen Lewis, and Lane Nelson.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at Axton Baptist Church with Pastor Tony Lundy officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Kenneth Todd Hairfield

Kenneth Todd Hairfield, 50, of Axton, VA passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at his residence. He was born on May 13, 1972, in Martinsville, VA to Linda Elizabeth Earles Maxwell and the late Irvin Richardson Hairfield. In addition to his father, he is preceded in death by his stepfather, David Maxwell.



In addition to his mother, he is survived by his sister, Robin Hairfield of Axton, VA and nephew, Anthony Capo of Axton, VA.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, November 25, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Pastor David Deisher officiating.

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

New Park from page 1



Roger Adams, the county's director of Parks and Recreation, is excited about the opportunities the park could offer residents and visitors.

of the back property that goes to the river, and we used that as a match. We were able to get all of this property with no county funds," Adams said.

The county has big plans for the park, including a zipline park, nature gardens, mountain bike trails, treehouse and tiny house rentals, an adaptive playground, interpretive areas, and more, but is asking residents for feedback and input on what they want to see.

"There's a survey right now on the county website that we're encouraging folks to go and make choices about what types of things they would like to have here," Adams said. "A lot of different options and then folks can put their own options in too, if they'd like."

Adams said he believes the amenities currently being considered, combined with the park's proximity to the Smith River Sports Complex, will be a good match.

"The nice thing with this is, with the Smith River Sports Complex being right next door, we kind of envisioned this as an opportunity for folks who are coming for tournaments and things at the Sports Complex to maybe come earlier, or to give other family members that aren't participating in the tournament something to do. We're right next door," Adams said of the park.

"If we have lodging options, of course that would probably book up during tournaments" as visitors rented available lodging, he said. "If they have several children and

one child is playing in the tournament and the other is not, there would be things here for them to do."

The county didn't want Riverview to be just another park, but rather to offer something different to residents and tourists alike, providing both groups with a unique experience.

"We have 27 park facilities in the county," Adams said. "We were looking at this as an opportunity to create things that we don't currently have, so as to attract visitors here as well as for our residents to use."

The county is seeking grant opportunities to fund the amenities offered in the park.

"There are numerous grant opportunities out there and coming available. Our plan is to apply for as many grants as we can to get the funds to do the different amenities," Adams said. "Depending upon the amenities, there might be a certain grant that's available for a specific amenity that we can apply for. There are some grants that are available for any type of recreational use and then there would be some that are specific for a certain type of amenity, so there's a lot of different grant opportunities out there that we hope to take advantage of."

The survey and announcement of the park has been met with positive reception, according to Adams. People are "excited about having something new here." Adams said the response is similar to when a marina was built

at Philpott Lake.

"There was no marina here," he said, adding that "we didn't have a place to get fuel on the lake or buy groceries or snacks, drinks, ice." The marina provided an amenity.

Projects are underway to connect the Dick and Willie Trail, Adams said, and "we just opened the Dog Park in Collinsville. There wasn't an urban dog park here for people to take advantage of, so just the new amenities we can offer to advance the quality of life in Henry County, providing residents things to do and also to attract visitors here from out of town to spend their tourism dollars here."

He also is excited about all of the different projects that have happened or are planned to improve the experience of residents and visitors. Although Riverview Park will take a few years to complete, Adams also is excited to get the results on the survey and create a masterplan so that more of the work can get underway.

"Doing a project of this magnitude, you know it's going to take a few years," he said. "But we hope, once we finish the survey and see what residents want and develop a master plan, we can start applying for various grants."

"It'll be a few years, but hopefully a park of this magnitude will just be a great amenity," Adams said, and reminded those who are interested either about the proposed plan or completing the survey, to visit <https://www.henrycountyva.gov/riverview>.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

M	A	A	R	P	T	A	S	P	A	M	P	A	
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Much of the land is wooded and undeveloped, providing even more potential for the new Riverview Park.

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COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **December 14, 2022, at 1:00 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 citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case.
Case S-22-14 Axton Solar, LLC
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-1801 through 21-1808; 21-302 and 21-902 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the proposed expansion of a previously approved (but not constructed) Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The previous request was approved on February 24, 2021 on parcels totaling approximately 1,203-acres. The applicant is now requesting to remove approximately 441 acres of the originally approved acreage and add approximately 329 acres of additional approved acreage. The resulting project area would be approximately 1,092 acres, and approximately 434.5 acres of that would be utilized for solar. The properties are generally located north of Jones Ridge Road and one parcel on the east side of Mountain Valley Road, east of address 636 Mountain Valley Rd. Also, on the south west side of Daniel Road, near its intersection with A.L. Philpott Hwy. The proposal is still to develop a 200MW facility, in the Iriswood District. The additional Tax Map numbers are 45.7/9X,11,15,16; 46.7/11,13,16A,16E,17,17I,17C,17E,28; 45.9/99; and 46.4/15. The properties are zoned Agricultural District A-1 and Commercial District B-1.
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

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the Henry County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.
The purpose of the public hearing is to amend Henry County Code Section 6-202 - Fees, to add subsection (J) Solar Fees. This subsection will establish a consistent fee schedule for the issuance of solar building permits.
A copy of the full text of the ordinance 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

Pursuant to Section 30-140 of the Code of Virginia as amended, authorities such as the Henry County Public Service Authority are required to present a summary statement of financial position. The following schedule is a summary of the Henry County Public Service Authority's Statement of Net Position for 2022 and 2021:

	2022	2021 (Restated)	\$ Change	% Change
Current Assets	\$ 23,904,860	\$ 22,394,283	\$ 1,510,577	6.75%
Net Capital Assets	78,516,361	78,970,876	(454,515)	-0.58%
Other Noncurrent Assets	3,230,838	3,212,879	17,959	0.56%
Total Assets	105,652,059	104,578,038	1,074,021	1.03%
Deferred Outflows of Resources	815,355	1,104,080	(288,725)	-26.15%
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 106,467,414	\$105,682,118	\$ 785,296	0.74%
Total Liabilities	\$ 30,905,917	\$ 32,618,788	\$ (1,712,871)	-5.25%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,699,382	996,106	1,703,276	170.99%
Net Position				
Net investment in capital assets	51,360,871	52,135,955	(775,084)	-1.49%
Restricted for debt	2,344,251	2,304,892	39,359	1.71%
Unrestricted	19,156,993	17,626,377	1,530,616	8.68%
Total Net Position	72,862,115	72,067,224	794,891	1.10%
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position	\$ 106,467,414	\$105,682,118	\$ 785,296	0.74%

The purpose of the Authority is to provide water and sewer services to communities in Henry County, Virginia. Total assets consist of cash and capital assets including land, buildings, and work in process utilized to improve water and sewer facilities. The liabilities included accounts payable related to improvements to the Authority's capital assets. A copy of a detailed financial statement may be obtained by contacting the General Manager, Henry County Public Service Authority, P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, Virginia 24078.

Greensky Bluegrass to headline Rooster Walk 13 festival at Pop's Farm

Chart-topping, progressive jamgrass rockers Greensky Bluegrass will headline the 13th annual Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival this May at Pop's Farm in Martinsville, Va., festival organizers recently announced.

Joining GSBG, who return to Rooster Walk for the first time since a headline appearance in 2017, are fifteen amazing bands that make up the first artist announcement for RW13, which will take place May 25-28. Also set to make an appearance at the Southeast's preeminent Memorial Day weekend festival are legendary southern rock icons The Marshall Tucker Band, Trouble No More (the only Allman Brothers tribute band on the planet that is officially endorsed by the actual The Allman Brothers Band), Doom Flamingo (a six-piece synthwave beast), Kitchen Dwellers (progressive bluegrass), Yarn (roots

rock), Neighbor (jam), Mike & The Moonpies (neotraditional country), Crawford & Power (red-clay country), Sol Driven Train (rock), The Wilson Springs Hotel (country/western/swing/bluegrass), Isaac Hadden Organ Trio (rock/funk), Sneazy (R&B/Soul/Jam), TC Carter Band (blues/rock), Big Fat Gap (bluegrass) and Pirates of the Piedmont (musical marauders).

More than 30 additional bands will be added to the lineup, headed by GSBG, in the coming weeks and months.

Tickets for Rooster Walk 13 went on sale at noon on Nov. 22 at the newly redesigned www.roosterwalk.com, which also features all the information needed to plan for an amazing experience: band bios and music, ticket descriptions, festival experiences, frequently asked questions, a venue map and more.

The festival will take place Thursday-Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in the rolling foothills surrounding Martinsville, Va. Rooster Walk is a 4-day festival celebrating music, art, and the great outdoors at the idyllic Pop's Farm venue. With roughly 50 bands performing on 6 different stages, an amazing roster of stellar music steers the Rooster Walk experience.

In addition to approximately 80 sets of live music, the family-friendly Rooster Walk will offer a wide variety of kids' activities, craft beer, great food, arts and numerous opportunities to enjoy Virginia's great outdoors with kayak river floats, bike rides, yoga, a disc golf course and beautiful on-site camping.

Rooster Walk has been named one of the Top 5 festivals in the state by the Richmond-Times Dispatch. It also was voted the region's Most Creative Charitable Event by read-



Contributed photo

Greensky Bluegrass will headline Rooster Walk 13 festival at Pop's Farm. The event will be held Thursday-Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

ers of Virginia Living Magazine for three consecutive years. The festival was created in memory of late Martinsville natives Edwin "The Rooster" Penn and Walker Shank, who graduated from Martinsville High School in 2000.

A portion of proceeds from the festi-

val will be donated to local and regional charities, including Rooster Walk's own Penn-Shank Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund for students at Martinsville High School, and the Rooster Walk Music Instrument Program for public band programs in the local city and county school sys-

tems.

The festival is produced by Rooster Walk Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting music, arts and education in its home of Martinsville-Henry County. Since 2009, Rooster Walk Inc. has donated more than \$270,000 to local and regional charities.

SPCA announces Match Challenge for Giving Tuesday, sets open house

The SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County announced a \$50,000 match challenge active now through Giving Tuesday, November 29. Contributions received on Giving Tuesday, November 29 or those received before and marked "Giving Tuesday" will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.

To celebrate, the organization will hold an Open House from noon until 6 p.m. at the SPCA on Giving Tuesday.

The importance of this fund-raising opportunity cannot be overstated given that 98 percent of the SPCA's operating budget is funded by donations from individuals, grants, and fees. The shelter has been full, and costs have risen drastically this year.

"This community historically has been very generous when we ask for help, and we need help," the agency wrote in a release. "Every dollar is important and appreciated."

To help animals in the community, contribute between now and Nov. 29, and be sure to attend the open house, from noon to 6 p.m.

Donations can be made in person at the SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville 24112, by mail, or online at www.spcamhc.org/form/donate.



Hundreds flock to Christmas Parade

The Martinsville Henry County Christmas Parade, sponsored by Crown Brand-Building Packaging this year, attracted hundreds of people eager to kick-off the season. (All photos are courtesy of our partners at BTW21)



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Virginia ABC sets Holiday Store Hours

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) stores will observe several holidays in November, December and January that will affect operating hours.

On Thursday, Nov. 24, all Virginia ABC stores will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Stores will observe normal hours on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 25.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, all Virginia ABC stores will close at 5 p.m. and will remain closed on Sunday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day. Stores will reopen and observe normal hours on Monday, Dec. 26.

On Saturday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 1, all stores will close early at 6 p.m. in observance of New Year's Eve and New

Year's Day. You can find operating hours for your local

Virginia ABC store at <https://www.abc.virginia.gov/stores>.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIANN KOEPKE