

Volunteers are needed as Warming Center opens for season

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

The Martinsville-Henry County Warming Center is seeking volunteers as operations get underway for the season.

The center, operated at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 725 Beechnut Lane, Martinsville, offers those experiencing homelessness a warm place to spend the night during the winter months. Guests receive a warm meal each night, hot or to-go breakfast in the mornings, a tote for bedding and supplies, and more.

"We also will connect our guests with any community resources that they may need. We've had great success in the past seasons with helping many, many of our guests find permanent housing and

work and that's something that we're really proud of and something that we strive to do each season," said Hailey Roberson, co-director of operations for the center.

The center prides itself on being a "low barrier" shelter, "which means come as you are. We will welcome you with open arms. We have some intake paperwork, but guests are free to give us as much or as little information as possible. We don't want anyone to be turned away because they feel uncomfortable," Roberson said.

The center began "as a collaboration between Salvation Army and some local churches, and has continued to be a collaboration of several local churches," she said. In addition to Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, it is supported by

Community Fellowship of Martinsville, which offers facilities for storage and guest access to the Clothes Closet; First Baptist Church of Martinsville, which often provides storage and transportation; and Holy Trinity Church of Martinsville, which often provides meals.

The center also offers transportation from the Martinsville Library at 6:30 p.m. Guests may opt to return to the library at 7:30 a.m. the next morning. The center opens at 7 p.m. and closes at 8 a.m.

Operating days are dependent on the weather.

"Our first opening night will be November 1, and then we will be able to be open any night that the temperature will be 35 degrees or below, from

November the first until May. That final ending date will be determined, of course, by weather," Roberson said.

However, to fulfill its mission, the center desperately needs volunteers. Without the proper number of volunteers for each position, the center cannot operate for the night regardless of the temperature. There are several different ways to volunteer.

The first is transportation, which is often filled by a church or church group. It can, however, be fulfilled by any individual with an adequate vehicle. Both evening and morning shifts are needed.

"We offer pick up to our guests from the Martinsville Library, then they're brought to the church and then in the

See **Warming Center**, page 2

Several races are on Tuesday's ballot

Voters headed to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8 will decide several contested races in Henry County and the City of Martinsville as well as the Town of Ridgeway.

Polls will be open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Leading the ballot is a contest for the 9th District Congressional seat, with incumbent U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, to meet challenger Taysha DeVaughan, a Democrat.

Four candidates are vying for two seats on the Martinsville City Council, with incumbents Jennifer Bowles and Danny Turner facing challengers LC Carter and Aaron Rawls.

A special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Francis Zehr, who died while representing the Ridgeway District on the Henry

County School Board. Two candidates are vying for that position – Champ Hardie, a retired educator; and Sidney McClure, who was appointed to the post by the remaining school board members.

Several candidates also are seeking positions in the Town of Ridgeway. They are Michael R. Bass, James B. Hairston and Timothy L. Wood, all of whom are seeking a seat on the Ridgeway Town Council.

Craig O'Der, Jr., is seeking to serve as mayor of the Town of Ridgeway.

Voters are encouraged to visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> or contact the Registrar's Office to check their information prior to Election Day.

Sample ballots and polling places are published inside (page 7).

Libraries offering new privacy pod workspace



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

The new privacy pods at libraries in Patrick County and Martinsville offer a quiet, private space to work.

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Libraries in Martinsville and Patrick County recently obtained new privacy pods, soundproof work stations which provide users with a quiet and private place to work.

The pods were made possible with left-over American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funds as a project from the Library of Virginia, which approached Rick Ward, director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system, about the opportunity.

"They gave us a webinar with another director who had purchased one and they were trying to show us how well they worked. They had some ARPA funds left over and they were just getting a feel for who would

See **Privacy Pod Workplace**, page 4



Legacy continues as Big Bird's Toy Ride returns for 30th year

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Kickstands will go up on Saturday, Nov. 12 as the The Big Bird Toy Ride once again gets underway to raise proceeds that will benefit Christmas Cheer.

Ricky "Big Bird" Holcomb started the ride 30 years ago, and it has been helping many children feel the holiday spirit ever since. Holcomb passed away in February

of 2021, but his legacy lives on in the ride.

Chad Hall, of BTW21, took on the ride four years ago after Holcomb's health began to decline. Hall said the ride is always a success, with something to offer for just about everyone.

"This will be our 30th annual and normally we have a wonderful turnout. We always have different sponsors that do door prizes, 50/50," he said.

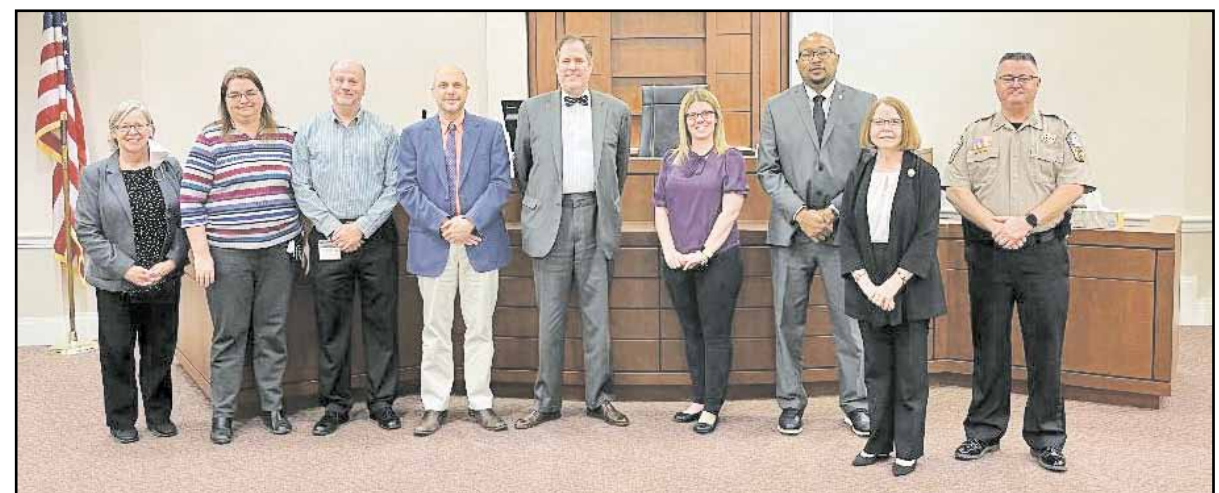
In addition to motorcycles, Hall said vehicles of all types are welcome.

"Cars are welcome. We do call it the Big Bird 30th Annual Biker Ride, but we have classic cars as well, and we invite all the classic car guys that would like to come," he said.

Admission is \$10 or an unwrapped toy, but Hall said many participants donate both.

See **Big Bird's Toy Ride**, page 8

Drug treatment court seeks to keep offenders out of jails



(From left to right): Sandra Haley, Director, Public Defender; Kelly Koebel, LPC, Drug Court Coordinator; Tim Wood, Treatment Representative, Case Manager; Andrew Nester, Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney; Circuit Court Judge G. Carter Greer, Chief Judge 21st Judicial Circuit; Jessica Alley-Cox 22nd District Probation & Parole; Quincy Gravely, Drug Court Case Manager; Freda Holiday, Halifax Drug Court Coordinator; Capt. Allen Hall, Sheriff's Office. (Courtesy of Kelly Koebel)

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

A new drug treatment court, a collaboration between the court system and Piedmont Community Services (PCS), is looking to take drug offenders out of the jails and into treatment. The court currently operates in Henry County with the goal of expanding into Martinsville and eventually Patrick County.

Kelly Koebel, Senior Assistant Director of Clinical Services at PCS, is the coordinator. She said there is a stark difference between treatment courts and traditional courts.

"Drug courts are specialty dockets that were approved by the Supreme Court, and the big difference between traditional courts and drug courts is that traditional courts are really about punishment for breaking a law.

Treatment courts, the culture is different. We are focused on encouraging someone to succeed and treatment," she said.

After attempting to get the court up and running for many years, the current state of the drug epidemic in the area finally urged it along, but it would not have been possible without people behind it championing

See **Drug Treatment Court**, 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)

Saturday, November 5

A Veterans Day Banquet will be held at the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A L Philpott Hwy, Ridgeway, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained from any Post # 78 member.

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host "Houseplants 101" at the Martinsville Library as part of the "At Home" series at 2:30 p.m. The class is free, but registration is required. To register, call (276)403-5430.

Wednesday, November 9

The General Joseph Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Hugo's Restaurant and Sport Bar. The program features Jeff Briggs, Revolutionary Uniforms & Mens Clothing.

Friday, November 11

The MHC Veterans Service Organization will hold a Veteran's Day Service at the HJDB Event Center, 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, at 11 a.m.

Theatreworks will perform Piano Bar, "Shake, Rattle, and Rock" at 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 13

The Spencer Penn Centre's Sock Hop, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments and games. Admission is \$5.

Thursday, November 17

Piedmont Arts hosts a Fall Barn Quilt class starting at 6 p.m. 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 begins at 5 p.m. 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.

Sunday, November 20

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center and Museum's monthly lecture begins at 3 p.m. This month's lecture is April 1865: Danville, Martinsville, and the End of the Civil War.

Monday, November 21

The P&HCC local board will hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the MET, located at 65 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville.

ONGOING

The Coats for Kids Coat Drive will be accepting donations at Hollywood Cinema and One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road through 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 Nov. 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 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 brl.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application help. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 for more information. In person help is available on Wednesdays at the Community Storehouse, 128 East Church Street, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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. Call (276) 647-9585.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts "Books and Brews" at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton at 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. The book for November is Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton.

Warming Center from page 1

morning, we drop them off again at the Martinsville Library," Roberson said.

Volunteers also can provide meals for guests. Those who want to fulfill this role are asked to bring a meal that can serve about 30 people.

"There are so many wonderful people and organizations in the community that donate meals to our guests. That's just cooking a meal at home and bringing it to the church so that we can serve it to our guests," Roberson said.

The center also accepts donations to help provide breakfast.

"We also offer breakfast in the mornings before our guests leave the facility.

We do both hot breakfast as well as to-go breakfast items. So, any breakfast items are always a welcome donation," she said.

There is also a need for volunteers to cover the intake position. This role operates from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is responsible for check in, getting the totes to guests, serving dinner, and helping guests get settled.

"This is at the church, interacting with guests, welcoming them as they arrive, and helping them get their things settled for the evenings," Roberson said.

The last position, the overnight shift, is the most challenging to fill. The shift

is from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m., and the volunteer is responsible for overseeing guests throughout the night and helping to get breakfast served the next morning, usually around 6 or 7 a.m.

"We would like for three people to be there for the overnight shift so that one person can be awake and alert just in case there's a person who needs to be brought into the center after hours, or if our guests have questions or have a need, someone's there to take care of that," Roberson said.

The center will offer a volunteer training session at the TAD Space in Martinsville.

"Individuals who are interested in learning how to get involved, they'll just get a brief overview of what each of the positions look like and how they would fulfill that position to see which position might be most comfortable for them and be able to ask and have any questions that they have answered," Roberson said.

However, the in person training session is not required.

"There is a virtual training option so anyone who is not able to attend the trainings can also be trained virtually. There's a slideshow presentation and then a brief quiz just to check for understanding of the main concepts," Roberson said.

She encourages anyone who is unsure about volunteering to shadow some of the current volunteers.

"If someone is interested in volunteering, but is still a little on the fence about what it might look like, they're always welcome to visit the center," she said. "We have some wonderful, wonderful volunteers who are willing to sort of shadow new volunteers and help them get acquainted with how things operate so we're not just throwing them in blind."

Volunteer sign ups, donation lists, operating schedules, and more information can be found on the center's Facebook page, or by calling (276) 207-9660. Donations may be brought to Community Fellowship Church, 2674 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville.

New College Foundation

November 5, 2022

Dear Community Friends,

I'm a student of history and whether it's national, biblical, church, local, family or even business history I'm all ears. In reviewing some of the New College Foundation's (NCF) historical documents, I enjoyed seeing the names of our founding Trustees. While these original nine Trustees are no longer on the NCF Board their mission lives on, especially through scholarships created by many of them. Like our founding Trustees, our current Trustees work and/or have lived in Martinsville and surrounding communities most of their lives. They are passionate about serving the people of the Martinsville – Henry County area and Southern Virginia. While it is true the Trustee's names have changed over the years, NCF's desire to provide access to education in our community has never changed. When we analyze a funding request the question always comes back to are we best serving our community by honoring a particular request?

Serving as a trustee, director or executive on a foundation carries with it significant fiduciary responsibilities. People in this capacity have a fiduciary responsibility to the mission along with a fiduciary responsibility to the larger public interest. When our Trustees make any financial decision, they understand their role of being a good steward.

Over my professional work life, I have worked closely with several large corporate boards. I have also served on numerous community and church boards. The big corporate boards provide various perks such as stock options, trips to fun destinations and the prestige of being associated with a certain organization. Church boards and most nonprofits, including NCF, can't offer these types of perks. My experience with nonprofits has taught me that most agree to serve because they feel called to serve. They have a desire to give back. Over the past seven years or so one particular community leader has served on our Board for all the right reasons. She has served as a past president and held many other roles, all of which she did with distinction. Patrice Newnam will be retiring from our board at the end of this calendar year. Please make a point to thank her and other people who serve on nonprofit boards.

Kevin DeKoninck
Executive Director
New College Foundation (NCF)

PO Box 492, Martinsville, VA 24114
276.403.4445 www.ncfmhc.org

Christmas Cheer applications now being accepted

Christmas Cheer applications are being accepted through November 18, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 300 Franklin St, Suite 200 which is the Clock Tower Building. Applications must be completed in person. Proof of residency in Martinsville or Henry County is required. A birth certificate or court document is need-

ed for children aged 10 and under.

Christmas Cheer has been providing for the less fortunate in the Martinsville Henry County area since 1951.

Anyone who wishes to donate may mail it to Christmas Cheer, PO Box 540, Martinsville, VA 24114, or drop off at the Cheer office.

New company to sponsor 2022 Christmas Parade

Crown Holdings, of Ridgeway, is the sponsor of the 2022 Martinsville & Henry County Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 19, at 5 p.m.

Join the Pre-Show, set to start at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Martin Plaza in Uptown Martinsville. "Christmas in Motion" is the theme for this year's Parade.

In January of 2021, Crown announced the building of a new beverage can manufacturing facility in Henry County, Virginia. After investing more than \$170 million, the new company will produce the first can this fall.

"With the kick-off of this great new company it adds to the excitement of the holiday season," said Charles Roark, producer of this year's parade.

Star News Parade encourages community support for floats from churches, businesses, and community and/or civic groups. Anyone interested in entering the parade or creating a float for the parade is asked to contact Jessica Benfield at (276) 656-3900.

The entry form is also available online at facebook.com/mhccparade.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Public vision for new park sought

Henry County is giving residents an opportunity to help design a park through an online survey scheduled to run until Dec. 5.

The county recently acquired approximately 117-acres adjacent to the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex for the future development of its next destination known as Riverview Park. The land was obtained through a donation from Newco, Inc., and a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Since acquiring the property, a team of engineers and recreational experts have been developing a master plan, based on the constraints of the terrain, to unveil to the community. With the site analysis complete, the county is now seeking public opinion on what should be featured in the park.

"We want Riverview Park to provide recreational opportunities that are currently unavailable or scarce throughout the West Piedmont region," said Roger Adams, the county's Director of Parks and Recreation. "We've worked with a team of experts to come up with some excellent ideas, but we want this park to be created for and by the people who are going to use it. To that end, we hope to get a lot of feedback on this survey, so we know how to move forward with development."

Some suggested ideas that are listed in the master plan are a zipline, a rope challenge course and an adaptive play area for children with special needs. The master plan also includes the possibility of a camping area complete with yurts, retrofitted rail cars, cabins and tents.

Ultimately, the survey is designed to gauge interest in the ideas included in the master plan and to provide a platform for residents to suggest their own ideas. As grant funds become available, the park will be developed based on the feedback received in the survey.

To access the survey, visit: <https://www.henrycountyva.gov/riverview>.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- ENTRANCE**
The main entrance to the park exudes a sense of arrival and announces the beginning of the visitor's outdoor nature experience. In addition to the gateway improvements and new signage, the widened, two-lane paved road through the park can accommodate recreation and emergency vehicles alike.
- CAMPING AREA**
Enjoy the benefits of nature with year-round camping from full service glamping accommodations (electricity, bathrooms, running water) of yurts, rail cars and cabin rentals, to the primitive experience of tent camping.
- ADAPTIVE PLAY AREA**
An ADA accessible play space providing an inclusive, welcoming experience for children of all ages and abilities. A space designed to build self-confidence while creating a sense of community through social interaction, hands-on learning, and exercise with family and friends.
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM / AMPHITHEATER**
A unique environment that provides a natural backdrop to host ceremonies, performances, school field trips and special events.
- FISHING DOCK**
A great destination for anglers to enjoy fishing in a fully stocked spring-fed pond. The pond is adjacent to a forest and arboretum, providing a relaxing environment and nature experience.
- WILDLIFE OBSERVATION DECK**
Hikers and wildlife enthusiasts can take a break from the trails and experience unimpeded views of the local flora, fauna and migrating birds.
- PAVILION VEGETATIVE SCREENING**
A grouping of new vegetation to enhance the privacy of the large outdoor activity space.
- ZIPLINE**
Built in the trees, the zipline provides an opportunity to enjoy the scenery with a birds-eye view while traversing the wooded environment. Perfect for team building functions or a getaway with friends.
- ROPE CHALLENGE COURSE**
A test of courage and agility with state of the art, in the trees, challenge course for visitors of all ages.
- ARBORETUM & SENSORY GARDEN**
Explore the 2.3 acre botanical collection of the native flora, and experience therapeutic horticulture in the sensory garden. Visitors can enjoy the meandering pathways and quiet nooks to engage with wildlife attracted to the exhibits. A popular attraction for photographers, artists and nature lovers alike.
- ADA RIVER ACCESS**
Visitors can enjoy kayak and canoe access to the Smith River Blueway, with 18.4 miles to Spray Dam in Eden, NC and two access points in between. The inclusive boat launch includes an ADA ramp and fishing dock.
- HIKING / BIKING TRAIL**
4.2 Miles of dedicated trails to explore the park on foot or on wheels. The trail includes nature nodes with benches to relax, connect with nature, and enjoy beautiful vistas.
- OUTFITTER (KAYAKS, TUBES, ETC.)**
An on-site outfitter to provide premium gear, equipment and water vessel rentals.
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE**
Visitors are welcome to share a common space to host family functions and activities.
- EXISTING GOLF DRIVING RANGE**
The 1.2 acre driving range is open to the public year round with 10 covered tee boxes, natural grass hitting area and automatic ball dispenser.
- RV PARK (IN DEVELOPMENT)**
Access to full service hook-ups and an on-site bathroom. The RV park is conveniently located next to the Smith River for convenient water adventures, and the Adaptive Play area for kids of all abilities.
- 18 HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE**
Players can enjoy a challenging 18-hole disc golf course that winds through a diverse scenery of open fields and hilly, wooded terrain.

RIVERVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- ENTRANCE
- CAMPING AREA: (3) YURTS (FULL SERVICE), (4) RAIL CARS, (5) CABINS, (10) TENTS (PRIMITIVE)
- ADAPTIVE PLAY AREA
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM / AMPHITHEATER
- FISHING DOCK
- WILDLIFE OBSERVATION DECK
- PAVILION VEGETATIVE SCREENING
- ZIPLINE
- ROPE CHALLENGE COURSE
- ARBORETUM & SENSORY GARDEN (2.3 ACRES)
- ADA RIVER ACCESS
- HIKING / BIKING TRAIL (4.2 MILES)
- OUTFITTER (KAYAKS, TUBES, ETC.)
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
- EXISTING GOLF DRIVING RANGE
- RV PARK (IN DEVELOPMENT)
- 18 HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE

**Note: Refer to the images on the following pages for a visual description of each program element.*

RIVERVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN

Solar company awards Quarterly Community Grants to local organizations

The Axton Solar Project, as part of Virginia's clean energy production initiative to reach sustainability goals and provide enough clean electricity to power 20,000 Virginia homes, is committed to furthering efforts locally in Henry and Pittsylvania counties.

The project contributes quarterly grants to local organizations to further its impact on the local community and its leaders who are creating a stronger and more connected Commonwealth. The organizations which benefited from these grants include Brosville Fire and Rescue, Martinsville Henry County SPCA, Pittsylvania County Young Life, Storehouse/Hunger Free Henry County, From the Heart Productions, Dry Fork Ruritan Club, and the Danville Symphony Orchestra.

According to Brosville Fire and Rescue Chief Carolyn Jarrett, "With the money awarded to us, we will be able to educate the community on fire prevention by going to the area schools to talk with the students about how they can prevent fires, and if there is a fire what they need to do. We will also use the funding to educate the younger children that firefighters are there to help. Some of the funding that is being received will be used to assist families with getting a smoke detector if there are none in the home."

Caroline Frith, the SPCA's operations manager, said,

"Many of our shelter animals arrive with broken spirits. Our Hope Center employees are able to relate to them in a very special way. Their care and attention to our animals has a calming and healing effect, making them less anxious and more adoptable. We are grateful to Axton Solar for their support of this great partnership."

Travis J. Adkins, of the Community Storehouse HungerFreeMHC said, "Our impacts are as vital to every one person or family who's received help as it is to the full scope of a healthy and productive community. I'm proud of those impacts, and our methods to feed those in need and reduce food waste. None of what we've accomplished in the last two decades would be possible without every branch of the giving tree working in unison - including our new partnership with Axton Solar."

"By providing so many organizations additional resources, the Axton Solar project is able to do more than just create a healthier, more diverse environment through clean energy and pollinator plants around the panels. We are also able to directly impact the daily lives of so many in the area. Being a true partner in Henry and Pittsylvania counties is important as we grow and become a long-term member of the community," said Trey Lopez, development manager at Vesper Energy.

Axton solar provides community grants every quar-

ter and submissions are now being collected for the December 15th deadline. To find out more about the community grant, visit the dedicated web page for Axton's Community Grant Program.

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Unemployment claims continue to decline

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims fell again in the latest filing week to 377, remaining at a historically low level, according to the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)

For the filing week ending October 15, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 377, which is a decrease of 105 claimants from the previous week.

More than half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were in professional, scientific, and technical services, administrative support and waste management, health care and social assistance, manufacturing, and construction.

Continued weeks

claimed totaled 6,159, which was a decrease of 13 claims from the previous week and 90% lower than the 58,421 continued claims from the comparable week last year.

Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending October 15, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 214,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000

from 228,000 to 226,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 178,369 in the week ending October 15, a decrease of 20,003 (or -10.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 257,215 initial claims in the comparable week in 2021. According to preliminary data, the majority of U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Possibly influenced by the recovery from Hurricane Ian, Florida's preliminary weekly change (-3,856) was the largest decrease. New York's weekly change (-2,963) was the second largest decrease. California's preliminary weekly change (-2,354)

was the third largest decrease. Texas's weekly change (-1,682) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-46) was the 29th largest decrease.

IT department wins Community of Trust Awards

The ValleyStar Credit Union information technology (IT) department won two Community of Trust Awards for "Most Efficient Onboarding" and "Time-to-Value" at the DefenseStorm Client Appreciation Events last week.

DefenseStorm is the ValleyStar security data platform that assists in protecting the credit union network security. The platform logs data, and compiles it into one system that alerts the credit union if there is anything out of the ordinary detected. DefenseStorm alerts on many different types of cyber security related incidents, allowing ValleyStar to protect members from fraud and other suspicious

activity.

"Onboarding a new program is never an easy task," said Matt Davis, director of IT & cybersecurity. "Our team was determined to get the DefenseStorm platform running, and we did it in record-breaking time. This created efficiency for our team and guides us toward achieving our vision of being the best in service and convenience for our members."

The ValleyStar IT department implemented DefenseStorm earlier this year. DefenseStorm onboarding typically takes several months, but the IT department had the platform running within the first month.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear undersea weapon
- Partner to flows
- "Snow" in Welsh
- Famed Mexican painter
- Song
- ticks outward from the crown
- Doddering
- Resist authority (slang)
- Antsy
- Ansby
- Wrath
- Spills the beans
- Past
- The woman
- One has 24 hours
- Talk
- It can sting
- Astronomy unit
- Halfway
- Chinese dynasty
- Australian river
- Software to transfer audio (abbr)
- Fabric
- Crucifix
- Defunct European economic group
- "Hotel California"
- Michael Knight's car
- Actress Ryan
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Golden-__ corn
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Sword
- Ottoman military title
- Aromatic plants
- Cold wind
- Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
- Political unit
- Indiscreetly reveal secrets
- Comfort food dish
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city
- CLUES DOWN
- One point east of southeast
- Italian monetary unit
- Warship prison
- Tropical American tree
- Alias
- Normal or sound powers of mind
- English county
- Not compatible with
- Female deer
- Not late
- La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
- Impudence
- Adviser
- Founder of Babism
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Male parent
- Type of plug
- Capital of Vietnam
- Fungal disease
- Shelter
- Finished
- Excrete
- Unhappy
- Partner to cheese
- Coffee receptacle
- Spend time dully
- Makes full
- Snake-like fish
- Take in solid food
- __ student, learns healing
- A way to take away
- Impart a lesson to
- "Transformers" actress Fox
- Spiritual leader
- Every one of two or more things
- Indian city
- 17th stars
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- Isidor __ American Nobel physicist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

OPINION

On decency

When I first heard that Paul Pelosi, husband of Democratic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, was attacked in their home by a hammer-wielding lunatic who was demanding to know her whereabouts, I made three predictions.

The first prediction was that right-wing politicians would immediately label the attacker either a crazed Democrat or a mentally-ill loner with no known motive. This prediction came true instantly. One rumor that quickly took hold, published by the Santa Monica Observer, alleged that Paul Pelosi had picked the attacker up at a gay bar and the violent assault was part of some sort of lovers quarrel. This was of course completely baseless, but that didn't stop America's Favorite Try-Hard Elon Musk from sharing it on Twitter.

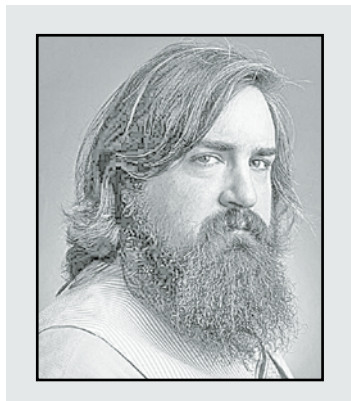
My second prediction was that it would turn out the attacker was, in fact, a right-wing nut job who had been whipped into a frenzy by Q-Anon conspiracy theories. This was also proven accurate when it was revealed that the attacker had a blog highlight-

ing fringe right-wing memes and featuring various screeds against Jews, black people, Democrats, and transgender people, among others.

My third prediction was that the same Republican leadership that amplifies and enables the most unhinged voices within the party would take a moment to pay lip service to the attack, fumbling about how it was an unspeakable tragedy not to be tolerated, before returning to their lucrative day jobs of tolerating it.

Sure, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell briefly rose from his grave to strongly condemn the attack, as did House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, but fittingly enough, they were in the minority.

Kari Lake, the Republican nominee for Governor of Arizona, cracked a joke about the attack at a campaign event, saying that Nancy Pelosi has protection when she's in Washington D.C., but "apparently her house doesn't have a lot of protection." I realize that barely qualifies as a joke, but



By Ben R. Williams

her audience loved it.

Lake faced some backlash for the comment, forcing her to appear on Fox News and inform Tucker Carlson, the most popular cable news host in America with a regular audience of 3-4 million people, that she is being silenced by the media. When we're discussing an 82-year-old man whose skull was caved in with a hammer, let us not forget the real victim: Kari Lake's precious feelings.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump Jr., who's a politician in the same way that I'm a pilot based on the aviator wings given to me on my first plane ride as a tiny child, retweeted an image of a hammer sitting

on a pair of underwear. The photo was labeled the "Paul Pelosi Halloween costume," presumably a reference to the gay bar conspiracy theory I mentioned earlier in the column. Isn't it hilarious that an elderly man gets brutally attacked with a hammer?

And then, of course, there's our own Governor Glenn Youngkin, who joked at a campaign rally in Stafford that "there's no room for violence anywhere, but we're going to send (Nancy Pelosi) back to be with him in California."

Youngkin was called out, but he hasn't apologized for the remarks. Why should he? Seven or eight years ago, a joke like that would have been political suicide. Not anymore.

The thing is, I don't even LIKE Nancy Pelosi. She's yet another dinosaur corporate Democrat who makes the faintest effort to publicly appear progressive while privately maintaining the status quo. As a politician, Nancy Pelosi has virtually nothing to offer me, and unless I come across a hot stock tip, there's no reason she would ever want to hear my opinion, either.

And yet — call me crazy here — I just can't take any

delight in her husband having his skull fractured by a hammer-wielding psychopath. It's not funny, it's disturbing, and I have an ominous feeling that it's a bellwether of more violence to come.

I sometimes think about Joseph N. Welch, who served as the chief counsel for the U.S. Army when it was under investigation for Communist activities by Sen. Joe McCarthy. During the hearings, when McCarthy continued to baselessly attack a young attorney by claiming him to be a Communist, Welch famously asked McCarthy, "At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

It was considered a turning point in the era of McCarthyism, a plain question that opened the eyes of millions and showed them that McCarthy was nothing more than a cruel bully, not some defender of American ideals.

It's absurd to think of a thing like that happening now. During Welch's era, decency was still considered a virtue. In the political landscape of 2022, it's nothing more than an impediment, a roadblock on the path to success.

Who needs decency when cruelty pays the bills?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Republican Party no longer exists!

Eric Trump, on several recent occasions, said the Republican party is now the Trump party. I totally agree. Rightly or wrongly, the GOP candidates have had more of my votes in the past than not.

The GOP is trying to put public officials into office who deny the 2020 election results, and believe violence is a legitimate part of public discourse, which is a form of politics that is deeply disturbing because it means that the Republican Party has allied itself with anti-democratic value, violence, and racism. Glen Youngkin knew he could not win in Virginia if he openly supported Trump and his policies, because the Democrats had a slim advantage in the Senate. With 2024 Presidential aspirations, he has embraced Kari Lake in

Arizona, despite her denial of the 2020 presidential election results, as did Bob Good and Morgan Griffith, along with her extreme total abortion ban.

I have never supported abortion as a means of birth control, but women can be victims also. No support by the GOP exists for victims of reported incest, rape or even the life of the mother. Pro-birth is not necessarily pro-life.

All RINO's, (Republicans In Name Only) voted against the assault weapons ban. Why are so many police in the U.S.A. leaving their jobs? A major reason is the fear that they have facing criminals and deranged individuals who have the assault weapons to kill them. The MAGA crazies support Trump, who is the greatest criminal threat to this country's existence as a democracy, by

his attempt, with other members of the House and Senate, to overthrow the 2020 election results and keep Trump in power. Again, these RINO's will not hold Trump accountable for his crimes.

The RINO's blame Biden for high inflation, but it is a Global problem caused by pandemic pent up demand with the suppliers unable to increase production and deliver products due to a shortage of workers. It is TEMPORARY and will come down, but the loss of democracy will be permanent because the RINO's will never relinquish power.

A Republican Congress, according to Kevin McCarthy, will encourage Putin to continue his carnage by the GOP limiting aid to Ukraine. Cutting Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlements; and codifying the abolition of all

abortion in their intent. Social Security could easily be made forever solvent with large increases for recipients, if there was no cap on income (currently \$147,000).

Like 2020, the GOP has no platform policy to solve any problems, like crime, inflation, health, immigration, etc. Shifting blame from themselves and attempting to maintain minority power, by decreasing voting and/or refusing to confirm election results if they lose, seems to be their only policy.

Vote for the Democrat candidates for our only chance of survival as a nation. Even if they are not always perfect, at least, they try!

A true independent since June 1963.

Gary L. Johnson
Town of Ridgeway Councilman
(1990 – 2002)

Privacy Pod Workspace from page 1

like to have one," Ward said.

The booths are "similar to an old phone booth," he said, adding they are nearly soundproof, with motion activated lights and circulation fans, outlets for electronic devices, and a chair and small desk.

"We've checked them out and I was told that someone got in it and yelled, you could just barely hear them on the outside," Ward said.

Garry Clifton, branch manager at the Patrick County Library, said patrons can utilize the pods in many different ways.

"They're set up as privacy rooms, and they can be used for people that need a place to do work, so they can work over the web, like Zoom. It can also be used, possibly, for tele-(health). It can also be used for people to make private phone calls because it has the sound dampening insulation" and those on the outside can't hear. "It can also be used just for a quiet place to study," Clifton said.

The pods have been received positively.

"I can actually see the pod from my office and so far, it's been pretty good. I've seen I don't know how many people have used it, and we've gotten very positive comments back from the patrons who have used it," Ward said.

Clifton reports a similar reception.

It "has been good. I would say that, in Patrick County, I don't think many people had ever seen them before. I had not seen one before. So, we've been answering a lot of questions, but we have had

some people that have been coming in and using it, especially to be able to make phone calls," Clifton said.

The branches prefer for patrons to reserve the pods whenever possible to help avoid conflicts of time.

"We like for you to check in with us and it's better" to reserve, "because that way we don't have people trying to use it at the same time. If somebody came in and needed it and nobody had signed up to use it, of course we would let them go ahead and use it. But we prefer that you sign up for it if you know in advance that you're going to need it," Ward said.

While Ward would like to implement these pods at other branches, this is dependent on two factors: size and funding.

"What I was mainly concerned about was the size. They're fairly large, and some of our branches wouldn't have room for them, I don't think," Ward said.

The branches would also need to receive more funding for the purchase, delivery, and assembly of the pods before they could be installed at other branch locations.

"We're very, very grateful to the Library of Virginia for giving us this opportunity to acquire them, because we wouldn't have been able to without their help," Ward said.

Remains found in Martinsville blaze identified

The remains found in the structure fire on Oct. 14, were positively identified as Rita Cox Sands, 79, according to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke, VA.

Sands was the owner and sole occupant of the home that was located at 405 Forest St. Martinsville, according to city authorities.

Official autopsy results that show the cause and manner of death, are not expected for several more weeks, Kendall Davis, Public Information Officer for the City of Martinsville, said. He added that foul play is not suspected.

Sands' family has been notified, he added.

On Oct. 19, the Fire Marshal division of Martinsville Fire & EMS concluded the blaze was accidental in nature. Burn patterns, along with other evidence, led authorities to determine the fire

originated in the bedroom, located in the rear of the home.

Fire investigators located an electrical outlet in the fire debris that showed evidence of an unspecified failure involving the receptacle being overloaded. Flames spread from the outlet to adjacent wood, furniture, and ultimately the rest of the structure, according to previous reports.

Martinsville Fire Marshal Andy Powers reminded residents to be extra careful with the return of cold weather and the upcoming holiday season.

"Have your heating systems serviced by qualified technicians, make sure you have working, in date smoke alarms within your home. If you need a smoke alarm, contact us at (276) 403-5325 or Henry County Department of Public Safety at (276) 634-4660," Powers said.

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See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OBITUARIES

Samuel Bradley “Sam” Rakes

Samuel Bradley “Sam” Rakes passed away on Friday, October 28, 2022, at his home with his devoted wife by his side.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Harold Delma Rakes and Bernice Allene Spencer Rakes; grandparents, Melvin & Elizabeth Rakes and Vester & Katherine Spencer; nephew, Jeremy Dale Turner.

Sam was a man of many talents. He owned and operated Rakes Construction for many years. He was a master mechanic, welder, and fabricator. There was nothing he could not build or create. Most recently, he worked at Stik-Pak Solutions in Rocky Mount, VA.

Always looking for an adventure, Sam spent many years barrel racing throughout the southeast. In later years, he could be found riding his Harley with his wife. He was often blazing through the Hatfield-McCoy trails of West Virginia. As an avid hunter, Sam was always looking for the next trophy-worthy deer or bear. Many nights were spent singing karaoke wherever the music was found. Regardless of where you



would find him, Sam was determined to live life to the fullest.

Loved ones left to cherish Sam's memory include his wife, Leslie Adams Rakes; sister, Tami Rakes Harper and her husband, Jerry; son, Micah Bo Bradley Rakes and his wife, Chelsea; grandsons, Brendan Isaac Rakes and Oliver Graham Harris; niece, Bailey Shae Turner; and nephew, Jacob Barrett Turner. Additional family includes father-in-law, Jesse Adams, Sr. and Judy Hale; sister-in-law, Julie Kitzmiller and her husband Robert; niece Ashley Kitzmiller Dillon and her husband Brad; nephew, Colton Kitzmiller; niece, Hayden Kitzmiller; stepmother, Vergie Rakes; stepsisters, Vickie Beasley and Jennifer Caldwell; and nieces Holly Beasley

and Chloe Caldwell.

Visitation will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at McKee-Stone Funeral Home in Martinsville, VA. A memorial service begins at noon.

Sam believed in the philosophy “come as you are.” He accepted everyone without any judgement. The family would like to honor this by asking that you join us in comfortable, casual attire.

The Rakes family would like to extend special gratitude to Dr. Mark Witcher and his team at Carilion Clinic Neurosurgery for their exceptional knowledge, patience, and care. Additional appreciation is extended to the amazing team at Mountain Valley Hospice for providing us a way to spend his final days at home.

If you would like to make a donation in lieu of flowers, please make donations in Sam's memory to Mountain Valley Hospice, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. West, Suite 602 B, Martinsville, VA 24112.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com.

Rodney L. Pritchett

Rodney L. Pritchett, 61, of Ridgeway, VA passed away Friday, October 28, 2022, at his home. He was born July 12, 1961, in Winston Salem, NC to James Vernon Pritchett and the late Virginia Brackin Pritchett.

Rodney worked for Akzo Nobel chemical coating for 25 plus years in sales and service. Later, he attended Patrick Henry Community College and achieved his certificate in HVAC. After working in heating and air for a short period of time he went to work for the Martinsville City Sheriff's Department. During his time with the Sheriff's Department, he became a firearms instructor, an OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) spray instructor, and served on the Emergency Response Team, and later became the medical officer for the jail.

Rodney was also very active with fishing clubs, throughout Virginia. He served as the President of the Max Ten BASS Masters. Finally, Rodney was a very active member of his community in his earlier years. He was a member of the Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue squad, and the Fieldale Fire Department. Later, he joined the Martinsville



Henry County Rescue Squad where he received his lifetime membership after 20 years of volunteer service.

Rodney also enjoyed earning certifications to teach and to name a few he became a HAZMAT instructor, Search and Rescue Instructor, High Angle Tactical Rescue Instructor, and an EVOIC instructor. He also earned his EMT, Dive Rescue International Rescue Diver, and certified in vehicle extrication.

Hobbies enjoyed by Rodney included fishing, hunting, riding his Harley Davidson along with scuba diving and was always up for an adventure to see something new. Some of his favorite diving trips included Roatan, Bimini, and wrecks off the coast of Morehead City, NC. One of his most mem-

orable dives included the U352, a German WW2 Submarine. He also enjoyed intramural softball teams, but his favorite sports included watching his family during game time or taking a special girl to her favorite bookstores.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years Bonnie Blair Pritchett; daughter, Carlie Pritchett; sons, Cooper Pritchett, and Jason Pritchett (Catherine) of Sneads Ferry, NC; grandchildren, Addison, and Haden; brother, Robin Pritchett (Ceal) of Maggie Valley, NC; and brother-in-law, Brian K. Blair of Danville, VA.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Norris Funeral Services. A visitation will be an hour before the service. Rev. Ryan Riley and Pastor Ricky Bates will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Mountain Valley Hospice, 240 Commonwealth Blvd W Unit 602B, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Glen Michael Watkins

Glen Michael Watkins, 71, of Patrick Springs, VA passed away Tuesday, November 1, 2022. He was born

April 29, 1951, in Stoneville, NC to the late Clyde Benjamin Watkins and Annie Mae Purdy Watkins.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda Watkins; daughter, Erin Watkins Lawless (Matt); and



granddaughter, Alorah Lawless.

A graveside service was held on Friday, November 4, 2022, at Roselawn Burial Park with Pastor Jimmy Hodges officiating.

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

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

Drug Treatment Court

from page 1

for it, Koebel said.

“It’s a conversation that had been going on many years. I think the real impetus or trigger this go round is just how bad the opioids have been in our community, and we just had some people really champion this effort,” she said.

The late Jim Tobin, former executive director of Piedmont Community Services, and Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassidy were among the driving forces, Koebel said.

The court first began in January and enrolled its first participant in April. The referral process is simple, but has been slow with only five participants so far, prompting the court to start trying to get the word out about the option. The court aims to eventually have 20 participants at a time.

To be considered as a participant, “the defense attorney and the defendant would actually first need to have the conversation about, ‘Do you want to do drug court?’ Once they make that decision, the defense attorney contacts a commonwealth attorney and they decide on a plea,” Koebel said.

The person is required to plead guilty to their charge. The plea agreement may stipulate a reduction of the charge, or a dismissal upon completion of the program.

The agreement also outlines consequences for those who fail to complete the program.

“Typically, you will get a longer sentence than you would if you just go ahead and get your sentence today,” Koebel said.

Referrals are screened by the Commonwealth Attorney’s office. Those that move forward to the next step are sent to PCS for an assessment.

“We use a tool called the RANT, and that helps us decide if they are high risk and high needs. We want people that are high risk and high needs. If they’re low risk and low needs, the likelihood is they don’t need something as intensive as a drug treatment court,” Koebel said.

However, the treatment court is not an easy path. According to Koebel, “a good bit” is expected out of the participants in this five-stage program.

“The first phases of our court are pretty intense in

terms of involvement. They are required to comply with any service recommendations from their mental health and substance use assessment,” she said. “For most of our people, that is going to be a minimum of nine hours a week of treatment. They have court every two weeks, they have a curfew that is being checked, they will have at least two random drug screens a week.”

As participants move through the program and become more stable, the expectations change and increase.

“We have community service hours that are required in phase two through five. We require them to start peer recovery groups. We’re working on financial issues and medical issues and” housing concerns, Koebel said, and added that some of the later phases require participants to either work or seek additional education.

“There’s actually a good bit of requirements,” she said.

The program lasts a minimum of one year, with at least 90 consecutive days of sobriety required for graduation.

Participants are connected with many different services to help throughout the course of the program, such as extensive counseling, employment training, peer groups, medication assisted treatment, and more.

The ultimate success of the program is graduation. Despite the fact that the court has not been operational long enough to have a graduation rate, state statistics and current participant progress are reasons for hope.

“I think we’re really actually doing pretty well,” Koebel said. “The average graduation rate is around 55 to 60 percent, it fluctuates a good bit. But, out of the individuals that we have, two have already gotten over 80 days clean, which is amazing. They’re really still early on, only in phase two, and for them to already be abstinent for this amount of time is a huge testament to how well they’re doing.”

State courts have also seen a reduced rate of recidivism as a result of drug courts.

“What we’re really looking at is, research has kind of shown a 50% reduction in recidivism for people that are involved in and successfully complete drug court. And we know that a lot of crimes, they’re not all drug related crimes, but a lot of them can actually be if you

take it back to what the person is doing,” Koebel said.

There also is a cost savings. Treatment courts oftentimes save localities money as opposed to housing offenders as inmates.

“It’s actually cheaper to have someone go through a drug court, even though drug courts are not free, it is cheaper from a locality standpoint than housing an inmate. Housing an inmate can become pretty financially expensive,” Koebel said.

Koebel estimated incarceration costs \$60 to 65 per day per inmate. She estimated that over a six-month period, the treatment court saves a locality \$5,000 per person. The state average is that one successful participant saves a locality \$21,000.

Ultimately, though, the goal of the drug treatment court is to help individuals get back on their feet.

“The other thing that we’re really trying to work on with these individuals is to make them successful members of our society. Help them to get jobs, go through some job training, maybe some additional education if their career requires it. Also helping them to kind of reunite with their family and friends that they have burned bridges. For parents, that might be at some point, regaining custody of their children,” Koebel said.

While the treatment court saves localities money, funding is needed. Grants and state funding are being sought and organizers are hoping intended service areas will help.

“We actually were in City Council meeting to talk with them about needing some funds so we can expand into to city. So far, we have only been operating in the county. We are supposed to be at the Board of Supervisors meeting in Henry County in December to have a similar discussion,” Koebel said.

The drug treatment court hopes to expand services to Martinsville and eventually Patrick County. All three locations are within the same judicial district, so no additional applications would need to be made.

It also intends to add more programs, such as family programs, alumni programs, and more. At the end of the day, though, the goal is simple.

“Our goal is to really get people out of the jails and get them into treatment where they can get better,” Koebel said.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Hospital recognized for Excellence with ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation

The American College of Cardiology has recognized Sovah Health – Martinsville for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain. Sovah Health – Martinsville was awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation in October based on rigorous onsite evaluation of the staff's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 730,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. The most common symptom of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain or discomfort. However, women are more likely to have atypical symptoms. Other heart attack symptoms include, but are not limited to, tingling or discomfort in one or both arms, back, shoulder, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, cold sweat, unusual tiredness, heartburn-like feeling, nausea or vomiting, sudden dizziness and fainting.

Hospitals that have earned ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation have proven exceptional competency in treating patients with heart attack symptoms. They have streamlined their systems from admission to evalu-

ation to diagnosis and treatment all the way through to appropriate post-discharge care and recommendations and assistance in patient lifestyle changes.

"Sovah Health – Martinsville has demonstrated its commitment to providing their community with excellent heart care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. "ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award Sovah Health – Martinsville with Chest Pain Center Accreditation."

Hospitals receiving Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the ACC must take part in a multi-faceted clinical process that involves: completing a gap analysis; examining variances of care, developing an action plan; a rigorous onsite review; and monitoring for sustained success. Improved methods and strategies of caring for patients include streamlining processes, implementing of guidelines and standards, and adopting best practices in the care of patients experiencing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack. Facilities that achieve accreditation meet or exceed an array of stringent criteria and have organized a team of doctors, nurses, clinicians, and

other administrative staff that earnestly support the efforts leading to better patient education and improved patient outcomes.

"Earning Chest Pain Center accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our clinical team, our community partners and the ACC, who have been working collaboratively to ensure our hospital is prepared to provide high quality care to patients when heart attacks strike," said Spencer Thomas, CEO of Sovah Health – Martinsville. "Sovah Health's top priority is to provide quality healthcare close to home, and this accomplishment demonstrates one of the many ways we continually work to enhance and improve our service."

Sovah Health – Martinsville is also ACC Accredited for Cardiac Cath Lab and Heart Failure.

The ACC offers U.S. and international hospitals like Sovah Health access to a comprehensive suite of cardiac accreditation services designed to optimize patient outcomes and improve hospital financial performance. These services are focused on all aspects of cardiac care, including emergency treatment of heart attacks.

Kids clothing resale store marks 50th new business to open since the pandemic

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Forever Young, a store for new and used children's clothes, opened its doors on Nov. 1, marking the 50th business to open in Uptown since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Austin and Kaylee White, who moved to Martinsville four years ago, opened the store after noticing a need for affordable children's clothing in the area. Children grow out of their clothes quickly, but their clothing tends to be expensive.

"We have two kids of our own and clothing is expensive. They don't wear it very long. So, we were actually in another store location, and I just kind of thought make it for our own city," Austin White said.

The store mostly sells new and used children's clothing at affordable prices, but also offers other children's items.

"New and used clothing, primarily. We do have kids gear, bouncers, cribs, pack and plays, pretty much the necessities for kids," Austin White said.

Many of the new businesses opening in recent years have done so with help and support from the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's multiple business startup programs. Forever Young said the chamber's involvement made the process easier.

"It was pretty easy. Or straightforward, I should say. The chamber helped us out a lot," Austin White said.

Eventually, he said he would like to see a second location to help more families pur-



Forever Young celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Nov. 1.

chase affordable clothing and items for their children.

"Long term, I would like to see another store open in the future, not

sure exactly how long," he said.

Forever Young, located at 100 East Main Street, is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth board supports poetry effort in high schools

The Harvest Youth Board funded a \$5,000 grant to Piedmont Arts to support the "Poetry to Lift Us Up" project in all local high schools. The program features engaging workshops taught by Roscoe Burnems, a National Poetry Slam winner and Richmond, Virginia's first-ever poet laureate, and Angela Dribben, of the Poetry Society of Virginia.

The primary focus of the sessions is to make poetry accessible to students of all ability and literacy levels. In addition, the workshops enable students to break away from the monotony of nonfiction-writing prompts and essays, while also strengthening students' ability to write and analyze them.

Harvest Youth Board Member Cristiano di Maro said, "The grant focuses on increasing literacy in local high schools through poetry, while also making poetry fun and interactive for young people in our area. Being able to write better, and

have a new appreciation for poetry, are skills that people can use throughout their entire lives. I think this grant is perfect for stimulating interest and enjoyment in writing in our schools."

Sarah Short, Education Coordinator for Piedmont Arts, said poetry readings, slams and groups are a fantastic way for students to hone their public speaking skills.

"After years of irregular schooling and separation, poetry offers students a way to connect that is authentic, encouraging and fun," Short said. "Students will analyze, write and perform original poetry in new and exciting ways during these workshops, and hopefully, outside of the classroom as well."

For more information about Piedmont Arts, its programs or how to donate, visit piedmontarts.org. To find out more about the Harvest Youth Board, visit theharvestfoundation.org/youthboard.



A local project is aimed at improving local literacy scores and establishing poetry clubs at local high schools garnered support from the Harvest Youth Board. Pictured (from left) are Webb Garrett, Harvest Youth Board member and Grants Committee chair; Sarah Short, education coordinator at Piedmont Arts; and Chloe Taylor, Harvest Youth Board and Grants Committee member.

Inaugural festival attracts thousands



Thousands attended the Virginia Museum of Natural History's first, Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival. Guests were treated to performances, exhibits, games, costume contests and flashlight tours through the darkened museum. (Pat Delaney)

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A	G	H	A	S	A	G	E	S	B	O	R	A
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H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I

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

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- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

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- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101



CLASSIFIEDS



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week.

Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to get the word out.

SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

FOR SALE

Brand new RTV-X900 Kubota diesel side-by-side utility vehicle.
Hydraulic dump bed, spray-in bed liner.
\$18,500
Call 276-229-9373 for more information.

Hoyer patient electric body lift. Never used.
Lists for over \$1900. Asking \$999 or best offer.
Call 276-229-9373 for information.

FOR SALE

For Sale: Dark brown genuine leather loveseat with rocker recliners and center console- \$400.00. Call 276-692-7339.

HELP WANTED

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Student Success Center Coordinator, Upward Bound Math & Science Advisor and Instructor, MHC After 3 Middle School Director, CDL Driver, Law Enforcement Officer I, Switchboard Operator, Workforce Grants Specialist, Workforce Grants Advisor, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in History, Human Services, Mechatronics, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing, and Welding. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the

HELP WANTED

bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick & Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the

HELP WANTED

basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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 an 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



Sample Ballots and Polling Places

Polling places in Henry County:

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Blackberry
Bassett #2 Bassett Rescue Squad Training Center, 1946 Riverside Drive, Bassett
Gunville Bassett Ruritan Building, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett;
Scott's Tanyard Sanville Elementary School, 19 Sanville School Road, Bassett.

Horsepasture
Fieldale Victory Baptist Church, 1300 Dillon's Fork Road, Fieldale;
Horsepasture #1 Horsepasture Fire Station Recreation Bldg., 17787 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Ridgeway;
Horsepasture #2 Horsepasture Ruritan Bldg., 16209 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Martinsville;
Spencer Spencer Ruritan Bldg. (Lower Level), 150 George Taylor Road, Spencer;

Iriswood
Axton Axton Elementary School, 1500 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Axton;
Irisburg Galilean House of Worship, 5078 A. L. Philpott Highway, Martinsville;
Mt. Olivet Mt. Olivet Ruritan Bldg., 400 Ward Road, Martinsville;
Mountain Valley Mtn. Valley Leatherwood Club, 2485 North Fork Road, Martinsville.

Collinsville
Collinsville #1 F-C Middle School (Entrance B) Left Side, 645 Miles Road, Collinsville;
Daniels Creek F-C Middle School Auditorium (Entrance A), 645 Miles Road, Collinsville;
Collinsville #2 Collinsville Primary School/CCL, 15 Primary Road, Collinsville;
Mountain View Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church, 1995 Old Chatham Road, Martinsville.

Reed Creek
Bassett #1 Bassett Fire Station, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett;
Figsboro Figsboro School/Career Academy, 340 Ridgedale Drive, Martinsville;
Stanleytown Stanleytown Elementary School, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown;
Oak Level Oak Level Ruritan Bldg., 7668 Oak Level Road, Bassett;
Dyers Store Dyers Store Fire Department, 3230 Chatham Road, Martinsville.

Ridgeway
Fontaine Rich Acres Elementary School, 400 Rich Acres School Road, Martinsville;
Hillcrest Rich Acres Fire Station, 1766 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville;
Ridgeway #1 Ridgeway Library, 900 Vista View Lane, Ridgeway;
Ridgeway #2 Ridgeway Baptist Church (Social Hall), 15 Church St., Ridgeway.

November 8, 2022 Sample Ballot – Henry County, VA

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Henry
General Election
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Instructions:
To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.

Member House of Representatives* – Vote for only one
 Taysha Lee DeVaughn– D
 H. Morgan Griffith – R
 Write In _____

* The District in which you live or vote will determine the candidates that will be on your Official Ballot

Authorized by
The Henry County Electoral Board
3300 Kings Mountain Road Room 103
Martinsville, Virginia 24112
276-634-4698

November 8, 2022 Sample Ballot – Henry County, VA

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Henry
General Election
Special Election: Ridgeway District School Board
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Instructions:
To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.

Member House of Representatives* – Vote for only one
 Taysha Lee DeVaughn– D
 H. Morgan Griffith – R
 Write In _____

SPECIAL ELECTION
Member School Board Ridgeway District* (CERTAIN PRECINCTS 601, 602, 603, Town of Ridgeway, 604)
Vote for only one
 Champ C. Hardie, Jr. (I)
 Sidney R. McClure (I)
 Write In _____

* The District in which you live or vote will determine the candidates that will be on your Official Ballot

Authorized by
The Henry County Electoral Board
3300 Kings Mountain Road Room 103
Martinsville, Virginia 24112
276-634-4698

November 8, 2022 Sample Ballot – Henry County, VA

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
County of Henry
General Election
Town of Ridgeway
Special Election: Ridgeway District School Board
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Instructions:
To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.

Member House of Representatives* – Vote for only one
 Taysha Lee DeVaughn– D
 H. Morgan Griffith – R
 Write In _____

SPECIAL ELECTION
Member School Board Ridgeway District* (CERTAIN PRECINCTS 601, 602, 603, Town of Ridgeway, 604)
Vote for only one
 Champ C. Hardie, Jr. (I)
 Sidney R. McClure (I)
 Write In _____

TOWN OF RIDGEWAY
Town of Ridgeway Mayor* – Vote for only one
 Craig A. O'Der, Jr. (I)
 Write In _____

Town of Ridgeway Member Town Council* Vote for up to six:
 Michael R. Bass (I)
 James B. Hairston (I)
 Timothy L. Wood (I)
 Write In _____
 Write In _____
 Write In _____

* The District in which you live or vote will determine the candidates that will be on your Official Ballot

Authorized by
The Henry County Electoral Board
3300 Kings Mountain Road Room 103
Martinsville, Virginia 24112
276-634-4698

Polling places in Martinsville:

The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Albert Harris School**
710 Smith Street
- Martinsville City Schools Administrative Offices**
746 Indian Trail
- Martinsville City Housing Office**
605 Fourth Street
- Martinsville High School**
351 Commonwealth Boulevard
- Martinsville Middle School**
30 Cleveland Avenue
- Virginia Museum of Natural History**
21 Starling Avenue.

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
City of Martinsville
General Election
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Instructions to voters
To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:
To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not count.

Member House of Representatives 9th District
Vote for only one
 Taysha Lee DeVaughan - D
 H. Morgan Griffith - R
 Write-in _____

Member City Council
Vote for not more than two
 Danny T. Turner
 Jennifer M. Bowles
 L. C. Jones
 Aaron J. Lewis
 Write-in _____
 Write-in _____

END OF BALLOT

Ballot Style # _____
Typ: Seq: Spl: _____

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the City of Martinsville, 55 West Church Street, Room 122, Martinsville, VA 24112
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, all appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-902 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-624-6920.

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

County participates in initiative to support of local veterans

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, Henry County announced that the administration building would be illuminated green Oct. 25 – Nov. 13 as part of “Operation Green Light,” a new national collaborative initiative of the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support military veterans.

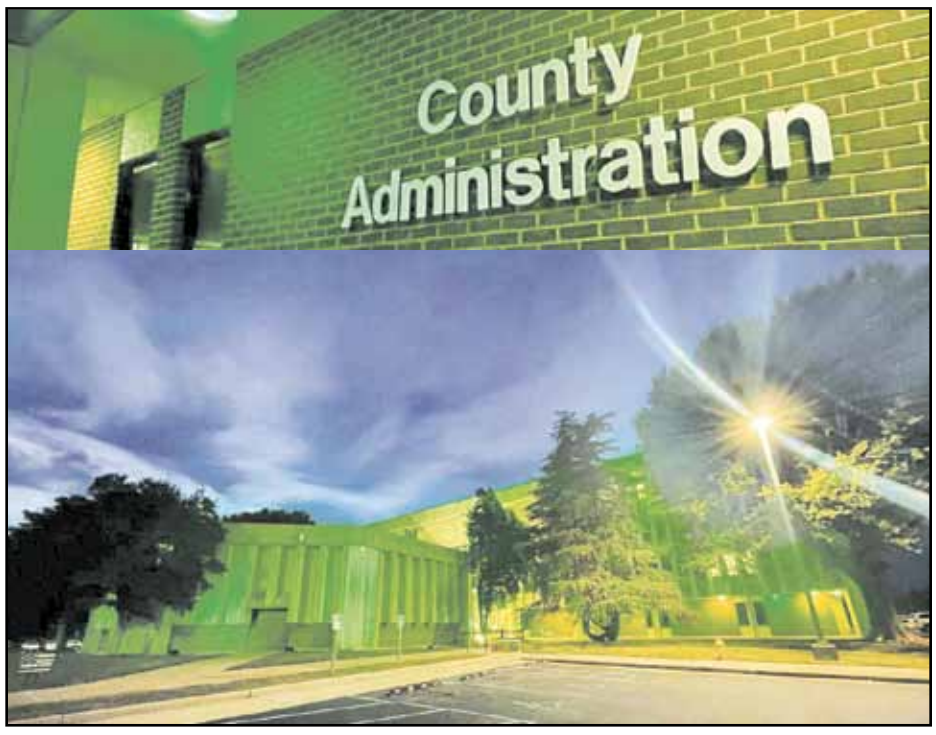
The initiative also serves to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist veterans and their families.

“Our nation’s voluntary military force members, and their families, have made immense sacrifices for our safety and security since the founding of our country,” said Debra Buchanan, supervisor of the Horsepasture District. “This service to country also often results in significant stress to many of the veterans who served in times of war and conflict. We

want to make sure our veterans and their families know that their service mattered, that we are grateful for their sacrifices, and that it is now our turn to make sure they are served by their county government and our community.”

In addition to lighting the county administration building, residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb in their house to a green bulb. This can be an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see, or an interior light that sparks a conversation with friends.

By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. While this event is focused around the week of Veterans Day (Nov. 7-13), participants are encouraged to continue shining the light year-round. Residents can share their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.



The lighting of the Christmas tree is set for on Thursday, December 1 in Piedmont Arts’ Gravely-Lester Art Garden.

Annual Christmas tree lighting to kickoff holiday season

Piedmont Arts will usher in the holiday season with the annual Christmas Tree lighting in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden on Thursday, December 1. The festivities start at 4 p.m. with holiday music performed by the Martinsville High School Jazz Band, wintery treats like candy canes and hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa. As the sun goes down, the tree will be lit. It will continue to shine through New Year’s Day. Admission is free to the event sponsored by State Farm Agent Chris Wyatt and Press Glass.

This will be the fifth year that Piedmont Arts has

hosted a Christmas tree lighting. Like the sculptures in the Art Garden, the tree will be a work of art. Created by Ian Hogg, a local independent IT consultant and light artist, it will include more than 3,000 lights. Hogg is known for his Christmas light displays at his private home and at local events such as Rooster Walk.

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.

Big Bird’s Toy Ride from page 1



Participants also enjoy a free meal, live music, and an onsite auction.

“For 10 bucks, you get to ride in a great event. You get to get a free meal, hear some great music, and participate in some auction, 50/50, and all the proceeds go to Christmas Cheer,” Hall said.

Participation in the ride itself isn’t even mandatory. Those wishing to participate in the festivities can register at Sportlanes for the same cost.

“Even if you don’t ride the ride, you can still register, come in, enjoy the show, and still get a meal,” Hall said.

The ride begins at Bird’s Cycle Shop, located at 6537 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and ends around 12:30 p.m., with kickstands up at 1 p.m.

“The ride always leaves from Big Bird’s shop in Ridgeway. We leave there, we go all the way through the City of Martinsville, go through the bridge at the Hardees (on Bridge Street), do a full loop through the city and go back down Commonwealth,” Hall said.

“We take a right at the big intersection at Walmart, ride all the way through town and we go all the way to Bassett, across the bridge at Bassett where the old middle school is. We hang a left, come all the way back, and normally hit (U.S.) 220 and come right back through the middle of Collinsville.”

The ride then ends at Sportlanes, where the auction, live music, and meal are held.

Though this is the typical route, changes may be made to make the ride safer for bikers, depending on the number of motorcycles involved. The rain date is Dec. 10, which coincides with the Bassett Christmas Parade.

Annual proceeds range from \$5,000 to nearly \$20,000, Hall said, and estimated that last year’s ride raised \$8,000.

“What I love about it, it all stays local. It’s always Henry County, and I feel like that’s probably one of the reasons that Bird really kept pushing this ride. The money does stay local and that means a lot,” he said.

Donations, in the form of currency, unwrapped toys, and auction items, also may be made without attending the event.

“Anybody that wants to be a sponsor or participate,” Hall said. “All they have to do is give me a call. We would love if somebody else wanted to make donations, everything’s tax deductible.”

For questions or to donate, call Hall at (276)647-9289.



30TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD TOY RIDE

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 10

\$10 OR NEW TOY

SPONSORED BY:

NEW DAY CHURCH | 21 BTW | HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE | PAPA'S PIZZERIA ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Bojangles | JERRY'S PIZZA | Bassett

Restoration 1 (276) 627-8086 | BASSETT FUNERAL SERVICE

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

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

LIVE MUSIC BY: Madhouse