



Allie Keatts began her current post as manager of the Henry County Animal Shelter in July.

Keatts works to fulfill goals at county shelter

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Since being selected as manager of the Henry County Animal Shelter in July, Allie Keatts has already met with some success.

"Our biggest success is that we started doing adoptions directly from our facility in August," Keatts said. Before that, "we were having to really just rely on other facilities to pull (animals) from us. If they didn't pull from us, then these animals just sat here until their time was up," she said.

"Now, we're nearing 100 adoptions since August, and that's awesome. That's almost 100 lives that were saved straight from our facility," Keatts said, adding that she also takes every opportunity to promote animals in the shelter.

For instance, "I manage our Facebook page," Keatts said, adding that social media is a key to helping reunite pets with their families or find new homes.

Keatts said she posts photos and information about animals coming into the shelter as strays "in an attempt to find their previous owners or their current owners. If nobody comes forward"

to claim them, "then I advertise them as available for adoption."

"I also complete adoptions, I assist the animal control officers with their paperwork and cruelty cases" and perform other tasks, she said.

There also are a few issues plaguing the shelter that Keatts hopes to address. Among the most prominent are public education and overpopulation in the shelter.

In the last few months, the shelter has posted a few 'code red' alerts on its social media page to try and adopt animals due to the high numbers of cats and dogs.

"We have a pretty good success rate with having other facilities pull cats, so we don't stress as much when it comes to being full on cats," Keatts said. "However, dogs are a little bit harder to rehome, just because they are definitely more personable animals."

She added that meet and greets are required before dogs can be adopted to make sure the new home will be a good fit for both the dog and its potential new family. Those meetings include children in the home as well as other animals in the household.

Because of that, "it is a little bit harder to get the

See **Keatts**, page 4

Court considers arguments in arbitration hearing

Staff Reports

Henry County and the City of Martinsville are awaiting a decision following a Monday hearing with a special court tasked with deciding whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Voluntary Settlement Agreement (VSA) between the two localities meets the benchmark for arbitration.

Presiding Chief Judge W.

Reilly Marchant, of Richmond, and Frederick A. Rowlett, of Smyth and Washington counties and the City of Bristol, determined to issue a written opinion in the case following the more than an hour hearing.

Attorneys representing each locality made arguments in the case, including Stephen C. Piepgrass, attorney for the City of Martinsville, and Jeremy Carroll, attorney for Henry

County. County Attorney George Lyle and City Attorney Eric Monday also attended the hearing that was held via Zoom.

While a procedurally complex case, Piepgrass said "the issue before the court is simple."

He asked the court to determine whether an arbitration clause in the city's MOU or VSA with the county, "or both

See **Arbitration**, page 5

Student performers to present "Annie, JR." this weekend

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Students in Martinsville City Schools' Performing Arts Academy will perform the winter musical, "Annie, JR.," this weekend at Martinsville High School.

The academy accepts students from third to 12th grades, but regardless of their age, performers have been working hard to perfect the play about "little orphan Annie, who charms everyone's hearts after her rough start in 1930s New York City."

Zoey Hannans, a sixth grader who is playing the role of Annie, said her favorite part of the production has been "not being so antisocial and actually talking to people and making new friends and expressing my passion for

See **Annie, JR.**, page 5



"Annie JR.," a winter musical, will be performed by local students on Dec. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/paaanniejr22>.

Broadband expansion project to take place in two phases

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

A broadband expansion project will take place in Henry County in two phases, with the goal of offering fast service to everyone in the county. The project is a collaboration with Appalachian Power.

The project, which has also been extended to Franklin and Patrick Counties, seeks to allow county residents the ability to access reliable Internet connection. While it is a county wide project, many of the residents who will be most affected are located in the rural parts of the

county.

County Administrator Dale Wagoner said, "In our case, this will allow us to build fiber to homes currently that have no access to broadband within the county."

Phase One will allow fiber to be built to residents and businesses with no access to broadband.

"We're kind of in an interesting situation in Henry County. We have areas that have really good broadband connectivity, and then we have some areas that have zero connectivity. So, phase one will build fiber to the homes and businesses in areas that have

zero connectivity to broadband," Wagoner said.

Phase One will affect more than 3,000 people in the county. It is being completely funded with a Virginia Telecommunications Infrastructure (VATI) grant, a grant shared with Franklin and Patrick counties which came in at about \$10.8 million for Henry County. Henry County also committed \$4 million to the project and the county's school division committed \$1 million to the project. The Harvest Foundation committed \$1.5 million. Matching portions will

See **Broadband**, page 5

Music, energy help prepare area students for collaborative concert at MVHS

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Da Capo Virginia, an organization dedicated to bringing out the best in children through music, brought its VIVO &

Friends program tailored for students with special needs to the Magna Vista High School Auditorium for a collaborative concert.

Tracee Prillaman, program director and executive director of Da Capo

Virginia, said the program focuses on children in self-contained special education classes. She goes into these classes and teaches the year's theme to about 70 students while helping them prepare for the

concert.

"I go into the county schools, into those classrooms each fall and each spring, and teach a set of material. We do a giant collaborative concert where we merge all 12 of

those classes and partner with other arts organizations to bring a giant collaborative event," she said.

The program includes a theme that students learn about through the music. This year's theme was "It's

Electric." The students use a wide variety of experiences and techniques to have fun and learn while being taught the material.

The 'It's Electric' theme of this year meant stu-

See **MVHS**, page 6



About 70 special education students participated in the Da Capo Virginia concert.



Students performed parachute choreography to "Mr. Blue Sky," by ELO, learning about the power the sun provides.

VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.
HENRYCOUNTY
ENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
**FOR MORE
UPDATES**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be books for decorating, entertaining, & cooking for all of your entertaining needs. Lots of new finds just in time for Christmas.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Martinsville City Council meets at 7 p.m., in the council chambers, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

Friday, December 16

New College Institute’s Innovation Lab will celebrate its grand opening and holiday celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. The lab encourages learning through creative inquiry and experimentation. Food, drink, and gingerbread house fixings will be provided.

Saturday, December 17

A free toy give away, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club and Performance 276, will take place at Performance 276, 714 Memorial Boulevard, Martinsville. There will also be a toy ride. Drivers must bring a toy for a boy and girl in order to participate. Drivers will meet at 11 a.m. at 100 Fair Oaks Drive, Stanleytown.

Sunday, December 18

Come to the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society Historic Henry County Courthouse for an

afternoon of Christmas music. Music will begin at 3 p.m. Those in attendance are encouraged to wear festive attire.

ONGOING

*The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club serves amateur radio operators in southwest Virginia and northwest North Carolina. Anyone interested is invited to the on-air weekly net held each Tuesday night at 8 p.m. with a frequency of 147.090 + with 103.5 tone. Additional information can be found at [www.http://vaemcommdb.org/BARC/](http://www.vaemcommdb.org/BARC/), and their BARC Facebook page.

*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 brrl.lib.va.us.

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

*MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) continues to offer “no-touch” Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to see if you may qualify.

*The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Call (276) 647-9585.

Board to hear audit report at meeting Tuesday

Staff Reports

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hear a report on the county’s audit of the fiscal year that ended June 30 when it meets at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Kim Jackson, of the firm of Creedle, Jones and Alga, P.C., will present the report and answer questions.

In other matters at its 3 p.m. meeting, the board will:

*Consider a resolution to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the ANCHOR Commission, which provides comprehensive care and treat-

ment for youth and their families.

*Consider a resolution honoring Robin Byrd, who has served as the Victim/Witness Program Director for more than 47 years. She plans to retire Dec. 31.

*Hear an update from Mark Heath, president/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

*Hear an update from Lisa Watkins, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

*Introduce the county’s lobbyist from Cozen O’Conner Public

Strategies. The firm is used to help ensure the county’s interests are heard in Richmond. Two members of the firm - Julia Hammond and Heidi Hertz - will attend the meeting, provide an overview of services and answer questions.

*Consider an additional appropriation of \$1,491,500 from a Harvest Foundation Grant for the county’s broadband project.

*Consider an additional appropriation re: Pupil Transportation and Fuel Costs – School Board

*Hear a presentation about the Drug

Treatment Court by Kelly Koebel, Senior Assistant Director of Clinical Services with Piedmont Community Services.

*Consider a date and time to hold its 2023 Organizational Meeting soon after the first of the year. During this meeting, the board will set its meeting dates for the 2023 calendar year and elect a chairman and vice-chairman.

*Consider meeting in closed session to discuss appointees to the Henry County Public Service Authority, pending legal matters, the acquisition/disposal of real estate

and as yet unannounced industries.

The board also meets Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, located on King’s Mountain Road in Collinsville.

At that meeting, the board:

*Will hear a report on General Highway Matters from Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

*Hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the County Code. Lee Clark, director of Planning, Zoning, and Inspections, is requesting

the board consider establishing a consistent fee schedule for the issuance of solar building permits.

*Hold a public hearing on a rezoning application by Eduardo G. Gerrero, who requested to rezone approximately 2-acres located at 1736 Dillons Fork Road, in the Blackberry District from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. Gerrero wishes to establish an automobile sales lot on the property. Both the Planning Commission and staff recommended that the rezoning request be denied.

Martinsville Speedway’s annual Christmas Toy Drive raises \$19,200, collects more than 400 toys for area youngsters

Martinsville Speedway held the 28th annual Christmas Toy Drive to benefit the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County on Saturday, Dec. 3. The traditional holiday event raised \$19,200 in donations and collected more than 400 toys that will be distributed to families in need this Christmas season.

“We are grateful to the Martinsville and Henry County community coming together to impact the lives of others this holiday season for the 28th Annual Christmas Toy Drive,” said Clay Campbell, Martinsville Speedway President. “Thanks to our valued Martinsville Speedway partners, race fans and community for donating to

the Grace Network’s efforts to support families this Christmas season.”

The Christmas Toy Drive welcomed the greater Martinsville region to donate an unwrapped toy or \$25 for the opportunity to drive laps around the iconic track in their personal vehicles. In addition to hundreds of members of the community, AEP, Bassett Furniture, Campbell Family Foundation, Patrick & Henry Community College all made significant contributions to the 28th Annual Christmas Toy Drive.

“Well, it’s that wonderful time of the year as it begins to look like Christmas in our homes and towns. But in some homes, there are tough times

and not so much joy and laughter. That’s why Grace Network teams up with Martinsville Speedway for the annual toy drive,” said Tracy Hinchcliff, Executive Director, Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County. “To have the ability to bring joy and smiles to kids that otherwise might not be able to experience that wonderful gift of love on Christmas morning, is so precious to all of us that can make it possible in this small way. This year we were able to serve over 800 kids and we were so blessed to be able to do that. We are grateful to a community that pitches in and helps make it all happen and particularly grateful to NASCAR and the Martinsville

Speedway to continue to change lives right here in our community. To give back is what it’s all about and Martinsville Speedway is really good at it, and we are grateful. Thank you to the Speedway staff and the Grace Network volunteers that makes the magic happen. Merry Christmas, everyone.”

The donated toys and monetary donations will be distributed to more than 800 area children through the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, which is a faith-based, first-stop center for resources for families in crisis. The organization supports those in the community who need support to keep a roof over their heads, homes warm and lighted,

and food on the table with short-term assistance and long-term solutions. To learn more, visit gracenetworkmhc.org.

Over its 28 year history, the annual Christmas Toy Drive has impacted more than 21,000 area children through nearly \$320,000 in donations and over 50,000 toys to unwrap on Christmas morning in Martinsville and Henry County. The Christmas Toy Drive is one of the most popular events in the region with residents from Henry County and the surrounding counties in Virginia and North Carolina coming to support the community and take laps on the same historic half-mile short track as NASCAR’s biggest stars.



Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway, presents funds raised during the 28th annual Christmas Toy Drive to Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

More than 400 toys were collected during the Martinsville Speedway’s 28th annual Christmas Toy Drive. The toys and \$19,200 raised during the event will be distributed to more than 800 area children through the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County.

Martinsville Middle School showcases nationally recognized learning strategies

State and national AVID representatives and regional educators at Martinsville Middle School (MMS) recently to learn about how the school is implementing AVID learning strategies schoolwide to improve student success.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an academic support program designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. The mission of AVID focuses on closing the opportunity gap, providing support for students, and allowing them to achieve success and activate their desire and commitment to own their present and their future.

The school's AVID showcase was designed to demonstrate the variety of AVID strategies at work in the school. The morning began by inviting attendees to "think-write-pair-share" about what brought them to the showcase. Guests first worked individually, writing about why they were attending and what they hoped to gain from the showcase, then discussing those thoughts in small groups.

Following that, attendees had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see how teachers in each grade level were implementing various AVID strategies across the whole curriculum. Educators witnessed AVID tutoring groups in action, saw teachers in multiple disciplines utilize the four corners activity (which requires

every student to participate in thoughtful discussion by taking a position on an issue), gallery walks (in which rotating groups of students work to answer questions posed by the teacher), and more—each activity promoting critical thinking, discussion, participation, and collaboration.

The showcase concluded with a panel discussion, giving attendees the chance to hear directly from students, teachers, and even parents about how the school's implementation of AVID has affected them.

"AVID is like a second home to me," one student said of AVID's focus on collaboration. "We're all a big family."

One parent shared the story of her son who was struggling academically. "Once he got into AVID, everything changed," she said.

At the conclusion of the showcase, AVID Associate Senior Director Allen Johnson noted how impressed AVID staff were with what they saw at the school. "You can see the passion, the accountability, as well as the (AVID) system," he said.

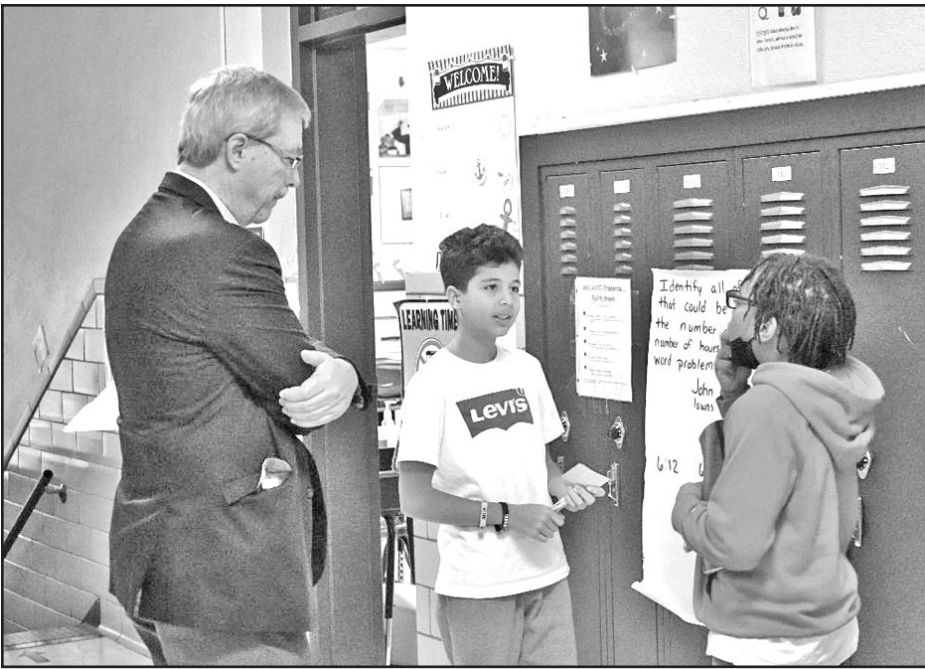
"Being successful is never surprising," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, who is a member of AVID's National Superintendents Executive Board. "We have wonderful students and staff who work so hard."

He challenged those in attendance "not to

schedule an appointment," but rather "just decide to come back and see if we're real. I just want you to walk in and see if we're doing it. This is what we do every day—I give you that guarantee, you'll see this every day in our schools. It's what we do."

"In our district, we have seen the positive impact that AVID strategies have on individual students and entire buildings," said Cary Wright, city schools Director of Humanities and Advanced Programs. "Other educators may see the student demographics in Martinsville as a challenge, but AVID strategies in the areas of writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading have proven essential to our success, as evidenced by our full accreditation, even coming out of a pandemic.

"We were thrilled to share our middle school successes with regional colleagues so they could see that AVID really works," Wright said. "Our Martinsville City Public Schools family is excited about being a part of the National AVID Organization," Talley said after the showcase. "We are honored to be a division-wide member of this effective academic institution. Students are learning to apply academic skills to life-changing goals and visions! Our membership will bring enhanced learning to our teachers and students as well as benefit our community."



AVID Associate Senior Director Allen Johnson discusses how Martinsville Middle School students worked out the solution to a math problem during an AVID gallery walk.



Morgan Belton, Martinsville Middle School's AVID coordinator, discusses how AVID has created a supportive family environment among students and teachers at the school.



AVID Associate Senior Director Allen Johnson presented Martinsville Middle School Principal Ama Waller with a professional learning voucher as a show of gratitude at the conclusion of the AVID showcase there.

Coat drive 'wraps up' for year

The 27th annual "Coats for Kids" drive began in September and ran through November 30. The last of the coats collected from donors were dropped off and are being prepared to be distributed to area children in need.

There are several community organizations and local businesses that come together for the Coats for Kids drive each year by collecting coats, cleaning coats, and advocating for the drive to help a child in need stay warm.

Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Parsons Buchanan spearheaded

the drive for 27 years. The Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation (MWW), a local non-profit organization which has participated in the "Coats for Kids" drive since 2013, and made their annual contribution of coats Monday at One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road in Martinsville. One Hour Martinizing, owned and operated by Avery Mills, cleans each coat before they are distributed.

Buchanan, Mills and the MWW Foundation appreciate all who donated to and supported the 2022 "Coats for Kids" drive.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured are Debra Buchanan-Horsepasture District Supervisor; Tanya Martin, Doogie Wade, and Thad Wade, all of the Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation; Avery Mills-owner of One Hour Martinizing; Debra Wade and Brad Hughes, both of the Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation.

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

Crossword 3x7

OPINION

Hate Registration

I have long been fascinated by the Dunning-Kruger Effect.

The Dunning-Kruger Effect is a form of cognitive bias. Put simply, it states that people who are very capable or experienced in a certain area tend to underestimate their own abilities. They're aware enough to understand the limitations of their knowledge.

On the other end of the spectrum, people who aren't terribly capable or experienced tend to overestimate their abilities. They're not competent enough to realize how incompetent they are.

This brings us once again to Kanye West, also known as "Ye" and soon to be known as "Yedolf" or "Ku Klux Kanye."

West may as well be the poster child for the bad end of Dunning-Kruger Syndrome. Seldom has a human being thought so highly of himself while bringing so little to the table. This is a man who once said that his greatest pain in life was that he'd never be able to see himself perform live. This is a man who seems to believe that having a talent for good hooks is tantamount to being Jonas Salk. West's narcissism believes he's holding up a royal flush while his intellect slaps down a Jack high and the little card that tells you the rules for draw

and stud poker.

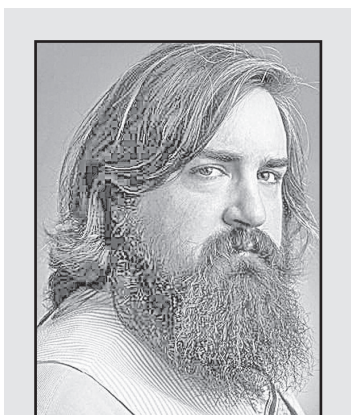
It was darkly fascinating to watch West's recent interview with Alex Jones. West, joined by internet-famous white supremacist Nick Fuentes, accomplished the impossible: he made Jones seem reasonable and measured.

The bizarre, endless interview can be summarized as follows: West would say something horribly antisemitic, Jones would offer him an offramp, and then West would zip right past it and double down.

During the course of the interview, West repeatedly praised Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, bemoaned the fact that we only focus on the BAD stuff when we talk about the Third Reich, claimed that Hitler invented both highways and the microphone (which he assuredly did not), dabbled in some old-fashioned Holocaust denial, and held a conversation with an aquarium net that was supposed to represent former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

West's defenders point out that he's bipolar and that he's still traumatized from the death of his mother. I've known bipolar people, many of whom have lost loved ones, and it generally hasn't turned them into insane Nazis.

There's something grimly



By Ben R. Williams

fascinating about watching a man go out of his way to self-destruct. It's why Nic Cage won an Oscar for "Leaving Las Vegas." And once, I may have even laughed at West exuberantly announcing "I LOOOOOOOOOVE Hitler!" in the same tone of voice you'd use to compliment your grandma's snickerdoodles.

But no matter how bizarre West's descent becomes, I ain't laughing.

Lately, West has become surrounded by the worst hangers-on imaginable, people like Fuentes and Milo Yiannopoulos, the short-lived manager of his 2024 Presidential campaign. His inner orbit is made up of white supremacists, anti-semites, and hate-mongers. They clearly have his ear; West is repeating their hateful talking points like a well-trained parrot.

There are three reasons

why these people have injected themselves into West's life. The first and most obvious reason, of course, is money. West may be hemorrhaging money, but he's still a wealthy man for now, and the parasites have lined up like ticks draining a dying dog.

The second reason is that West amuses them. It amuses them to see him dance like their puppet, to sabotage his career by saying the blunt, hateful things that they sincerely believe but are too smart to say out loud. People like Yiannopoulos and Fuentes mask their hate speech in a thick haze of irony so they can claim plausible deniability. West can't do that; he doesn't understand irony, or humor, or subtext.

The third reason — and perhaps the most evil — is that they want West to normalize hate speech. They want his diehard fans, the people who believe West can do no wrong, to hear him slander the Jews. If his fans truly believe West is a genius despite all evidence to the contrary, it's a pretty short drive to Holocaust denial.

That should concern everyone, but it concerns me more each day.

For more than two years now, I've been with my girlfriend Lauren. Lauren is Jewish. As it turns out, her whole family is. What are the odds?

I've visited Lauren's family numerous times. I've been

to her synagogue on a few occasions. I've been welcomed with open arms across the board.

From these folks, I've heard plenty of stories of antisemitism, both casual and pointed. While working at Red Lobster years ago, Lauren had a coworker ask her if she was part of the Illuminati, the supposed secret shadow organization running the government, as though the fact that she was working at a Red Lobster wouldn't immediately discredit the question.

On a less lighthearted note, I've also seen the security measures at the synagogue and heard about the fear that strikes when a stranger wanders in. Are they seeking fellowship, or are they heavily armed and hoping to make the news? You never know anymore.

Antisemitism is always bubbling under the surface of society like a dormant volcano, and every so often it erupts. West and his foul ilk are doing their level best to help the eruption along. As a society, it's our duty to reject them as forcefully as possible.

West and his fellow white supremacists would have you believe that there's a shadowy cabal operating in the background of society, a group of cruel, warped monsters that want nothing more than to destroy human decency.

They're not wrong; they're just pointing their fingers in the wrong direction.

Keatts

from page 1

dogs out" of the shelter, she said. Additionally, "we get more dogs in as strays than we do cats as well. Most cats are owner surrendered, people overpopulating and not controlling colonies and stuff like that."

In those cases, "they continue to reproduce and before you know it, someone is bringing in 27 cats at a time because they can't handle 27 cats," she said.

The shelter encourages owners to spay/neuter their pets to help slow the overpopulation affecting all shelters in the community and even nationwide.

Keatts said another issue is the lack of proper

identification on family pets, which makes locating owners difficult when a beloved pet becomes lost and winds up in the shelter.

"Something like a microchip that we can just type that number into a database and the owner's information comes up, that would help a lot," she said. Or "having collars on that just have the five dollar tags you can get at Walmart that just have the owner's name and telephone number on it, that helps us 100 percent get animals back home to their families. Just little stuff like that would help tremendously, and just getting the community to

realize that taking those extra steps would help a lot."

Keatts' background in animal care, which stretches back to her graduation from high school and has included different forms throughout her career, laid the foundation for her current post.

"I started right out of high school in 2013 working for the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. I worked there for two and a half years doing rescue work," she said. "Then I moved to Boyce-Holland Veterinary Services in Stuart, and I was a vet assistant there for eight years."

That solid footing helped prepare Keatts for the various roles of her current position.

"Where I started working for the SPCA, being there, I was able to learn the shelter environment and the intake, the adoptions and trying to find rescues and stuff like that for the animals that were in the facility. And then when I went to vet med, I got a lot of background with animal

care, sickness, diseases, and learning how to help control them," she said.

Keatts' experience at the veterinarian's office also extends to her current position in other helpful ways, such as supplying her with resources and connections to help facilitate operations at the shelter.

"Also working in vet med, the vet's office that I worked with also worked very closely with a lot of other facilities as in rescues and other animal control offices" the like, she said.

"So, I was able to kind of learn some of the background that way, as well as gain relationships with some of those other facilities that we had as clients at the time," Keatts said.

But she is quick to note that without the help of the other animal shelter and animal control staff, none of the shelter's accomplishments would have been possible.

"We have two new animal control officers who are absolutely awesome," Keatts said. "They stay

so busy all day, every day.

"I also have a rescue coordinator. She is amazing, I could not do my job without her. She helps a lot with trying to reach out to some of these rescues and getting them to come in and kind of evaluate some of our dogs and cats," Keatts said.

"She was able to get 16 out at one time, so she's pretty great. Then of course my cleaners," she said. "There's no way in the world that we could do what we do if we were back there having to clean all day."

In addition to continuing adoptions from the facility, Keatts said she hopes to create and implement a foster program to help animals in the shelter, which "would help a lot with when we get more overly full, if we had a foster who could pull somebody for the weekend while we made space, that would help tremendously."

Along with that, Keatts wants to begin a volunteer program that would allow volunteers to visit the shelter and

help get the pets outside more often. That would be helpful to the animals in several ways, from providing them with more exercise to helping get them more socialized and acquainted with people.

"We don't currently allow volunteers. There is some paperwork that we have to get figured out on what we're allowed to do," she said. But "I'd really like to start a volunteer program where we can get people down here and walk some of these dogs and get them out more and socializing, because we get a lot of feral animals."

Now that it is adopting animals out of the facility, the shelter also is considering holding adoption events to help get shelter pets into new homes.

"We've got several different parades going on around us," Keatts said. "We don't have any commitments" currently, but "we have been looking into it. We are going to start doing things like that."

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Debbie Hall, *Editor*
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Maddy Oliver, *Reporter*
newsreporter@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager*
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

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

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

Christmas Trivia Contest

To celebrate the season, the Henry County Enterprise is sponsoring a Christmas Trivia Contest from Dec. 3 to Dec. 24.

- The Henry County Enterprise is sponsoring a "Who Am I" trivia contest, from Dec. 3 to Dec. 24.
- To participate, email answers by Dec. 31 to submissions@theenterprise.net.
- The first entry to correctly answer all four questions will win a prize package valued at more than \$100,
- with prizes that include a two-year digital subscription to the Henry County Enterprise, (one to keep and
- one to share), a one-year print subscription to the Henry County Enterprise, and two free classified ads
- (35 words or less).

Subscription prizes must be claimed by Jan. 15, 2023.
Classified ads must be published by June 30, 2023.

I am credited for inventing the first electric Christmas lights. Who Am I?

Be sure to like the

Henry County Enterprise

on Facebook

Broadband

from page 1

be provided by the private vendor, RiverStreet Networks, which will install, supervise, and provide service for the fiber included in the project, and Appalachian Power, which is helping to deploy the fiber faster and allowing the county to put the fiber on their poles.

“Since they’re electrical utility, they have to go through the regulatory process with the state Corporation Commission, so we’re in that phase now of getting that regulatory approval which could take about six months,” Wagoner said of the project’s timing.

Once that process is completed, the vendor can start building out the fiber, hopefully within six months, and being completed within a year, he said.

Phase Two will affect those who have access to broadband, but it “does not meet the Federal Communication Commission’s definition of broadband. In layman’s terms,

it’s people who have internet, they just don’t have really good internet,” Wagoner said.

This phase affects fewer people because some of them will be picked up during Phase One, but Wagoner said it will affect around 800 county residents.

Another VATI grant has been applied for this phase.

“Between the county, the Harvest Foundation, and our school system, we have committed to match for both of those grants, but we’re still waiting for the primary grant to come through,” Wagoner said.

The timing of Phase Two will be about a year after the completion of the first phase, he said.

While there is no formal third phase, there is another “component” to the broadband expansion project, Wagoner said.

“We’re going to promote the affordability aspects of broadband. There are some federal programs that can reduce the

cost of internet to our residents with low to moderate income, so that’s kind of a component of Phase One and Two is to make sure those funds get out and people take advantage of the lower price,” he said.

Wagoner said he is excited about the ideas of offering the best internet possible to those who have previously had none.

“We’re building fiber. So, the interesting thing about this is individuals and businesses who have no internet right now, once this first phase is completed, they will have the best internet available of anywhere in the county, and then we’ll kind of work backwards,” Wagoner said. “That’s pretty exciting that we’re going to be able to offer fiber into the homes in our community.”

Monica Hatchett, director of Communications for the county school division, recalled the struggles the division experienced during the

pandemic when explaining the school system’s contribution to the project.

“Probably one of our greatest concerns was students who did not have internet at home. Certainly, it’s an issue if you have accessibility but no internet, but even more an issue if there’s not even the possibility of internet. And that is the case in some areas of Henry County,” she said. “We had to think really creatively. We set up Wi-Fi spots so that kids and their families could come to our school parking lots and download things, but obviously that’s still not ideal.”

The school division believes the collaborative project to provide and extend coverage will help address these issues, according to Hatchett, who added the division is “excited to see the project come to fruition.

“We have committed a portion of our dollars to support a community wide effort in conjunction with the local government and the Harvest

Foundation to help provide that for the communities in Henry County that don’t have (internet access) available,” she said.

Hatchett hopes that once this project is completed, schools and students alike will be better equipped to navigate remote learning situations, regardless of what the cause for the remote learning may be.

“This is a giant step in the right direction. We learned a lot through the pandemic, and we are prepared if we do ever have to go back to remote learning. If a student needs that option, whether it’s a choice that they and their family make or mandated in some way by illness or inclement weather even, we want to be able to have that opportunity for all of our students,” she said.

As the project progresses, RiverStreet Networks will begin contacting eligible residents with the option to sign up for the service.

Arbitration

from page 1

of those clauses, binding, effective or enforceable? If that question is answered in the affirmative by the court, then the court does not need to go into” other issues of merit.

“We believe the law is very clear that the arbitration agreements are enforceable and should be enforced in this case,” Piepgrass said.

Martinsville has been looking at reversion since the 1950s, Piepgrass said, adding that declining population translated into a decline in revenues, while services to city residents remain “pretty much the same.” Given the loss of population and revenue, “reversion is really inevitable, especially because of cities being barred from expanding their borders for the last several decades.”

The city initially pur-

sued a contested reversion, he said. Following mediation, an MOU was approved and signed by both city and county officials on May 26, 2021, Piepgrass said, and noted that while the MOU stated that each locality should do its best to reduce the MOU to an agreement, or VSA, if that did not occur, terms of the MOU stated that it would remain a binding agreement.

The next paragraph in the MOU includes the arbitration clause, Piepgrass said, adding that the MOU created “a framework or a skeleton for reversion.”

After the MOU was signed, Piepgrass said he, along with legal counsel for both localities “went to work putting the meat on that skeleton and coming up with the more substantial” provisions of the

Voluntary Settlement Agreement, which was approved by resolution on Aug. 24, 2021.

The VSA included a number of provisions and effective dates, some immediately upon signing while others were later in the process, Piepgrass said. Among the key provisions that went into effect upon signing were related to the parties agreeing to take steps to effectuate reversion, and another in which the parties agreed that neither of them would take steps to undermine the agreement.

Another section noted by Piepgrass contains the arbitration clause, he said. The Commission on Local Government then approved the agreement, and “then, the election ... and the apparent transfer of power,” the county rejected the agreement

in December 2021.

“The last part you just said about the county not agreeing to it ... That was a necessary step was it not,” Rowlett asked. “And there’s no dispute that the board of supervisors did not approve it?”

Piepgrass responded affirmatively to both questions.

Marchant said the problem is the VSA was to have then received an affirmative majority vote by both legislative bodies, but “you didn’t get” that. “You got the board of supervisors of Henry County rejected it. So, what would there be to arbitrate?”

An arbitrator would not have the authority to tell the Henry County Board of Supervisors “which way they’ve got to vote,” Marchant said. “If they voted not to approve the Voluntary Settlement Agreement,

they’re independent individuals that vote as they see fit.

“They’re a political branch, not a judiciary branch, not an executive branch ... I don’t know what there would be to arbitrate,” Marchant said. “It seems to me like you got to the end of the line of voluntary settlement after the county voted against it because I don’t know what’s left” in terms of the voluntary settlement statute.

Piepgrass fielded most of the questions and spent much of the allotted 30 minutes detailing the city’s position on the case.

Carroll, of Gwynn Waddell Carroll & Lockaby, spoke briefly and outlined the county’s position.

The agreement shall not become binding on the localities until affirmed by the court, he said, adding that applies

to both the MOU and the VSA.

He argued that to have a binding arbitration, “you have to have a binding contract. We know the parties do not have a binding contract. There has been some contention about enforcing piecemeal parts of the Voluntary Settlement Agreement.

“Respectfully, there is no severability clause in either agreement so there is no basis for concluding that certain provisions of either” agreement are enforceable, Carroll said. “We respectfully request that the courts overrule the motion to compel arbitration.”

In rebuttal, Piepgrass, of the Troutman Pepper firm, maintained that the MOU, which remains in effect, includes the arbitration clause. He added it “is binding and effective on the parties.”

Annie, JR.

from page 1

what I really like doing.”

She said she also learned that it is important to not be afraid to make mistakes, and she encourages others to experience the art form that she is so passionate about by joining the academy or pursuing another form of theatre.

“My favorite thing about theatre is meeting new friends, becoming friends with new people, and being nice to others and singing and dancing,” Hannans said. “What I advise people to do, I think that they should do theatre. Because you may not like the singing, but you’ll really get used to it and you’ll love the dances and everything and people are really nice here.”

Kamori Dillard, a ninth grader portraying Grace Farrell in the performance, said the people you meet while doing theatre productions are amazing people and the experience is unlike any other.

“It’s basically like having a second family, like the staff, the stage crew, everyone. You grow relationships with these people who you never thought that you’d grow a relationship, and you never thought that you’d even get to meet someone like that. It’s better if you have friends that do it,” she said.

Dillard has learned many different aspects of acting and what makes an actor accomplished, as well as how to bring a character to life.

“I’ve definitely learned some characterization skills, learning on how to build a character and

build their emotions and just their characteristics that they may have. Just knowing how to put myself into my character and become that character based off just a script and based off just a few notes that are being given to me, and just learning how to pick up these emotions and different feelings on the stage throughout the whole building of getting the production done,” she said.

Dillard believes that having similar productions in schools is a valuable tool to teach “some life lessons and skills that will help you in the future.” However, she said the lessons go beyond theatre.

“We were taught how to measure and build props, and make scenes and all this stuff and we’re taught how to move props and so it’s really beneficial, especially if someone was getting into maybe like building or being an engineer. It’s actually really helpful. Not only for the people in the play, but for the people working behind the scenes,” she said.

Dillard said she is confused when people say that plays are boring. She said she believes they don’t understand all of the hard work that goes into bringing a play to fruition.

“If you’ve never done a production and seen how it gets built and how this series of events just builds up to this big, amazing thing, you’ll never understand why I do what I do and why I continue doing it. So basically, I guess what I’m saying is, don’t

knock it until you try it,” she said.

Monica Watkins, an eleventh grader playing the role of Miss Hannigan, said her favorite thing about the production is simply “acting the character.”

She’s learned several different lessons throughout the production.

“I have learned to not be so in my shell, but socialize with different people. Make mistakes in front of people so that way I get comfortable with doing it right. Practice makes perfect, because if you do not practice, then it’s not going to flow like you want it to,” Watkins said.

Watkins also believes that there are many advantages to these productions in schools, but the biggest is that they offer a safe space to students wanting to perform.

“I think an advantage is that kids who like to do different things, like singing, dancing ..., they like to act. They get a chance to be in a safe space and put on a production, learn new things about it,” she said. “Also, getting the chance to show the community that hey, this is a good chance for us to raise money for the school, for this program that we’re trying to do. I feel like it really just gives kids a space to be themselves and perform like they would if they were at home.”

Logan Carter, a senior portraying Oliver Warbucks, said his favorite part is “the entire experience as a

whole.” This is not his first performance, having done four productions at the school and one at Patrick & Henry Community College.

“I always enjoy these. They’re a lot of fun, I enjoy every aspect of it, but if I had to pinpoint, I guess it would be, at least for this show, putting on the show itself. There’s just so many aspects to putting on a show that I enjoy so much, having to pinpoint to one is kind of hard for me,” he said.

Carter has learned a valuable lesson about not second guessing himself and simply going after things.

“If you know you can do something, you can do it. Don’t second guess yourself,” he said of the lesson he learned from a previous role.

“Before this role, I primarily played sort of fictional characters, you know? I was in the ‘Lion King,’ and I played Pumba. I was in ‘Aladdin,’ and I played the Genie. I’ve played characters, I’ve played animals, I’ve played mystical beings of fiction, but Oliver Warbucks is a real person with real emotions,” he said.

The characters in this play are “not some sort of creature that was spawned to make entertainment. When I got into the role, I was kind of having doubts like, ‘Can I do this role? Am I going to being able to pull off the emotion that I need to?’

“As the process went on, I started second guessing myself, but as we’re getting closer to the actual show, I

have noticed that I can do this. I know I can,” Carter said.

He too has advice for those considering getting into theatre.

“My advice is, don’t be nervous. I know that’s something that’s very hard to say, but don’t be nervous. If they want you, they want you. If they don’t, they don’t. It’s no big deal. There’s always going to be another show, you’re always going to have another chance. It’s not because you’re talented, you’re just not what they were looking for,” he said.

“To have the courage to go to an audition in the first place is enough,” Carter said.



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OBITUARIES

Charlene G. White

Charlene G. White, 88, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2022. She was born January 20, 1934 in Brooklyn, N.Y. to the late Dr. Charles Lewis Gesell and Vyvan Gesell.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Bob White; her son, Robert Charles White; sisters, Jeanne Gesell Watson and Onslea Helen Gesell.

She is survived by one son, Ross Porterfield White (Susie Ray), of Martinsville; two grandchildren, Kayla White and Jamie Marsigit (Dino); and four great grandchildren.

Mrs. White was a native of New York where she graduated from Berkeley Institute High School in Brooklyn and Barnard College in 1951. Afterwards, she worked in the editorial department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In 1957 she married Bob P. White



and moved to Martinsville where she became active in several civic organizations and did substitute teaching.

She has served as president of the Charity League of Martinsville Henry County, secretary of the board of directors of Chatmoss Country Club and as the French cooking instructor at Reynolds Homestead in Critz.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Martinsville.

A private graveside service will be held at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to the Robert Charles White Scholarship Fund at Carlisle School, 300 Carlisle School, 300 Carlisle Road, Axton, Va. 24054.

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

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

Lillie Sue Hoyle

Lillie Sue Hoyle, 88, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday, November 23, 2022. She was home with her loving husband and daughter by her side.

Lillie was born December 2, 1933 to the late Helen Virginia and William Basil Trent Sr. from Spencer, VA. She also is preceded in death by her sister Virginia Dare Mott and a brother William Basil (Dub) Trent, Jr.

Lillie was a 1951 graduate of the Spencer Penn High School, Spencer, VA. She retired from Dupont with 38 years of service. Lillie was a dedicated member of Mayo Baptist Church of Spencer, VA.

Lillie leaves behind, to cherish her memory, a loving and devoted husband of 69 years, Jacob W. Hoyle; daugh-



ter Brenda H. Roberson and her husband, Doug of Hampton, VA. She also leaves behind 2 grandchildren Casey Gail Kern and Riley Sue Roberson, 1 great grandchild Bailey Linda Kern, all of Hampton, VA; one brother, George R. Trent, of Spencer, VA.

Services were held Monday, November 28, 2022, at Mayo Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Mayo Baptist Church, 85 Penn Store Road, Spencer, VA 24165 or to American Cancer Society. A special thank you to the dedicated Hospice services received.

Arrangements are by Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, VA. To express and post condolences online, please visit www.Collinsmckeestonebassett.com.

Nancy Powell Osborne

Nancy Powell Osborne, 91, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Thursday, December 1, 2022. She was born on October 8, 1931, in Museville, VA to the late William Henry Powell and Louise Tuck Powell. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of fifty-eight years, Arthur Filmore Osborne; sons, Michael Bill “Mike” Osborne, and Mark Osborne; brother, Richard Powell and granddaughter, Amanda “Mandy” Biggs.

She was a member of Kearfortt Memorial Baptist Church of Martinsville, VA for more than fifty years and worked at E. I. DuPont for more than thirty years where she retired as an inspector. Nancy loved her church and loved to read her bible daily until losing her eyesight. She was very



devoted to her family and friends. She enjoyed traveling, shopping, and eating good food.

Mrs. Osborne is survived by her loving daughter, Mitzi Osborne French; grandchildren, Allison French, Nicole Osborne, April Broadnax, and Tammy Saunders; great-grandchildren, Logan Osborne, Dylan Ferguson, Ethan Aaron, and Kayleigh Stallard.

The funeral was held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services with the Rev. J.D. Harmon officiating. Burial was at Museville Christian Church Cemetery.

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

MVHS

from page 1

dents “studied electricity, power, and energy this semester, so everything we do is related to that,” Prillaman said. “They’re going to sing. They’re going to dance. They’re going to do parachute choreography, hula hoop choreography, (and) they’re going to play some instruments. It’s a wide variety of music experience for them.”

The event also featured the Magna Vista High School Show Choir and the Laurel Park Middle School seventh grade choir.

For their last song, the students danced to “We Are” by Keke Palmer, stressing the importance of relationships

between each other and between the professionals who help students through their educational journey.

Although “we’ve talked about electricity, power, and energy today just a bit,” Prillaman said. “we know the most critical power is a relationship with people. Building relationships with people one at a time. And we do that because we are family.”

“We may not look like the traditional or typical family, but I can assure you that all of the SPED teachers and para-professionals up here are family,” she said. “They are family to your kids each and every day in the classroom.”



High school students performed “Lights” by Journey, with many students performing solos on vocals or bells.



Students participating in “It’s Electric!” held at Magna Vista High School used hula hoops in some of their choreography.

ValleyStar Credit Union wins Interior Design Excellence Award

ValleyStar Credit Union’s Administrative Campus won the Interior Design Excellence Award (IDEA) for Virginia and West Virginia in the corporate category for the ValleyStar Administrative Campus in Rocky Mount, Virginia. Spectrum Design of Roanoke was the Architect and Interior Designer for the project. The IDEA award is the highest prize for interior design given by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and International Interior Design Association (IIDA). This year’s contest had almost 400 entries, and ValleyStar won the highest award in its category.

“We are honored to receive the IDEA award for our administrative campus,”

said Kevin B. Laine, executive vice president of ValleyStar Credit Union. “Spectrum engaged our entire team throughout the design and construction process to ensure that our vision and values were realized in the architecture and interior design of the building. The idea was to create a great place for great people to work.” ValleyStar Credit Union strives to be a “best place to work” organization. Efforts to do so include providing a state-of-the-art facility that features a stocked snack bar, outside space to work, a lactation room and a fitness center that is open to all ValleyStar employees. The building was designed with expansive views and natural materials, making the landscape a key feature of the interior.

Answers 1x2

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

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

WE OFFER FLEXIBLE ADVERTISING PACKAGES, IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101 OR (276) 693-3713.



Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- 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



SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodwork-
ing, design, tile, closet & garage organiz-
ers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach Coun-
ty- 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.

HELP WANTED

Experienced Mechanic
40 hrs. Monday-Friday
Patrick Springs area
Call Duncan Speed Shop
276-694-4133

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 submis-
sions@theenterprise.net to get the word
out to potential hires.



THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

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.

Notice of Public Hearing
A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on December 15, 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 The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, Applicant(s) and Owner(s), requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for the replacement of the roof to business property located within the Martinsville Historic District. The property is located at 1 East Main Street and is currently zoned C-UB, Uptown Business District, and will be operated under a business use as a museum and historic site. The existing building is approximately 9,345 square feet and was built in 1929. Exterior changes to buildings 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
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

P&HCC Board announces two new members

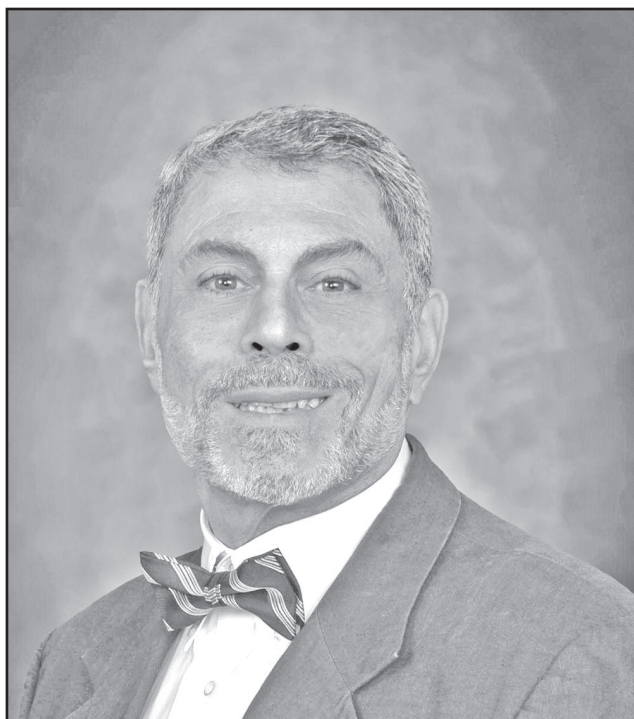
The Patrick & Henry Community College Board recently welcomed Ouss Sahhar and Tim Stone.

Sahhar, representing Martinsville, said that he recently moved to Martinsville from Winston Salem, N.C., where he had been a senior vice president with Info Tech Alliance. He holds a bachelor's degree in foreign languages from East Carolina University. He is currently the director of custodial services for Henry County Public Schools.

Stone, representing Henry County, is a life-long resident of Bassett, and a P&HCC graduate. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in business with a major in finance. He became a certified residential real estate appraiser in 1997, and he formed Stone Real Estate Appraisal Service the following year providing appraisal services in the Henry, Franklin, and Patrick County areas.

Sahhar begins his first 4-year term which ends in 2026.

Stone is filling an unexpired term that ends in 2024.



Ouss Sahhar



Tim Stone

First pediatric flu death reported for season

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) on Wednesday, Nov. 30 announced the state's first reported influenza-associated pediatric death for the 2022-23 flu season. Sadly, a child (5-12 years old) in Virginia's Southwest region died from complications associated with influenza. To protect the family's privacy, VDH will not provide any further information regarding this death.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the family of this child," said State Health Commissioner Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH. "Flu can be a very dangerous illness. With Virginia and many

other states experiencing high or very high levels of flu activity, I urge everyone who is eligible to receive the flu vaccine to do so as soon as possible, consulting your physician as needed. While we can never stop all cases of flu, the best way to reduce your risk is to get the vaccine, which is available to anyone over 6 months of age."

VDH recommends taking three actions to prevent the flu.

*Everyone 6 months & older should receive a yearly flu vaccine;

*Practice good preventive health with hand hygiene (washing your hands regularly

with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer), respiratory etiquette (coughing and sneezing into a tissue or the inside of your elbow rather than your open hand), and staying home when you feel sick; and

*Take antivirals as prescribed by your physician if you do become sick with the flu.

Virginia is experiencing early and very high flu activity during the current flu season compared to previous flu seasons. Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) visits for influenza-like illness are also very high (8% of total ED & UCC visits) for this time

of the season compared to the same time during the previous 12 seasons except for the 2009-10 pandemic year. Virginia reported one influenza-associated death among children during the 2021-2022 flu season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention preliminary in-season burden estimates that influenza has resulted in 6.2 – 14 million illnesses, 53,000 – 110,000 hospitalizations and 2,900 – 8,400 deaths in the U.S. so far this flu season, from October 1 – November 19, 2022. Certain groups are at higher risk for serious illness from flu, including chil-

dren younger than 5, pregnant women, people aged 65 and older, and those with suppressed immune systems or certain chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease.

The flu shot is widely available in Virginia at many different locations, including pharmacies and health departments. To learn more and to get help finding vaccines, contact the Call Center at 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682, TTY users call 7-1-1). Assistance is available in English, Spanish, and more than 100 other languages. Visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccine near you.

Thanksgiving holiday weekend crashes claim 14 lives

Three pedestrians and a motorcyclist were among the 14 individuals who lost their lives on Virginia highways over the 2022 Thanksgiving weekend, according to preliminary data. Of the 10 individuals riding in vehicles equipped with seatbelts, eight chose not to wear one.

"Not sure how many times we can say this until folks start paying attention, but 'Seatbelts save lives,'" said Colonel Gary T. Settle, Virginia State

Police Superintendent. "We are now heading into the 2022 holiday season with 14 families grieving the loss of their loved ones due to these Thanksgiving holiday traffic crashes. For eight of those 14, the simple act of buckling up may well have prevented such tragic outcomes. Please buckle up everyone in your vehicle every time and on every ride."

In total, during the five-day period, which began at 12:01 a.m. Nov.

23, and concluded at midnight Nov. 27, 14 people lost their lives to traffic crashes in Virginia. The fatal crashes occurred in the counties of Brunswick, Campbell, Chesterfield, Floyd, Greenville, Henrico, Loudoun, Powhatan, Prince William, Rockingham and Spotsylvania and the cities of Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach. Of those crashes, three involved pedestrians, one included a motorcycle and eight were

not wearing a seatbelt.

This is an increase from 2021 when there were five traffic fatalities during the five-day Thanksgiving statistical counting period.

In an effort to prevent traffic deaths and injuries during the Thanksgiving holiday, the Virginia State Police participated in Operation C.A.R.E., the Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort. Operation CARE is an annual, state-sponsored, national program during

which state police increases its visibility and traffic enforcement efforts during the five-day statistical counting period.

The 2022 Thanksgiving Holiday CARE initiative resulted in troopers citing 4,413 speeders and 1,803 reckless drivers statewide. Virginia troopers arrested 93 drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, and cited 454 for seatbelt violations.

State police respond-

ed to 1,449 traffic crashes across the Commonwealth, with 138 of those resulting in injuries. State police also assisted 890 disabled/stranded motorists during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Funds generated from summonses issued by Virginia State Police go directly to court fees and the state's Literary Fund, which benefits public school construction, technology funding and teacher retirement.

Dental group to host Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to Henritze Dental Group in Collinsville on December 15, from 3-5 p.m. The

dental office is located at 2200 Daniels Creek Road in Collinsville.

Photography will be provided and uploaded

to a private Google Drive link after the event.

This is a free event for anyone - you don't have to be a patient.



PHOTO BY JESSON MATA



Your Community, Your Solar Project

Thank you Henry County residents for providing feedback on our project. We have made changes and believe Axton Solar is now a better project thanks to your input.

Visit our website www.axtonsolarva.com to learn more
or follow us on Facebook @AxtonSolarVA

A Clean Energy Future, Rooted in Conservative Principles

Across Virginia, farmers are supporting the grid with a new cash crop—solar energy. Supporting solar in your community protects property rights, empowers ratepayers, promotes competition and technological innovation, fosters job growth, and encourages energy diversification and independence.

Paid for by Conservatives for Clean Energy, Virginia