

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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(USPS-6)

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Trey Lopez represented Axton Solar and Vesper Energy at the public hearing.

BZA approves special use permit for solar farm project

Maddy Oliver Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals approved a special use permit to Axton Solar and Vesper Energy to change the acreage of a solar farm project in Axton.

The special use permit requested to take the previously solar farm land of 1,203 acres, which was approved on February 24, 2021, remove 441 acres, and add 329 additional acres for a total acreage of 1,092 acres, 434 acres of which would be used for solar panels. The property is located north of Jones Ridge Road, one partial east of Mountain Valley Road, and on the southwest side of Daniel Road near its intersection with U.S. 58.

The facility will be a 200-201 megawatt facility in the Iriswood district.

Lee Clark, Director of Planning, Zoning and Inspections, commented on how long the project has been underway.

"This is, at some point soon, I guess we'll be close to two years that we've been talking about this Axton Solar Project," he said.

Trey Lopez with Vesper Energy and Axton Solar presented information on the project and how the company has worked to address concerns of nearby residents.

"The application before you seeks to enhance the project above and beyond Axton Solar's current special use permit. Through thorough public engagement, we have sought to identify and address various concerns, questions, and offer feedback to the community by seeking a mutual understanding between the concerns of the landowners, the neighbors, and the local community," Lopez said.

Some of the changes made include removing portions of the project, increased setbacks and vegetation buffers,

implementing noise mitigation during construction, reducing construction hours, and only using Tier One modules which do not contain the chemical cadmium telluride, reducing the risk of harmful chemicals leaking.

Many residents spoke in favor of the project, many of which wore stickers that read "yes solar."

Jimmy Ford noted the economic advantage the county would gain from the project. He said there is a current solar project in Axton, the tax per acre for which is \$67.

"The total tax for that land now is \$18,617.48 on 200 and some acres. In 2020, before it was used for solar energy, the tax on it was \$1,027.98. That's a little over 1,800 percent increase in taxes on the exact same amount of land."

If land associated with the new project is taxed the same way, he said it would generate \$3,682,342.36 over the projected 35 years of the project.

Jarrell Carter lives adjacent to the project with his wife, and both were initially against the project.

"We were opposed to it because of the eyecore and noise. (Axton Solar) talked to us and addressed our concerns about where the actual project would be, about how they would take care of the noise ordinance and things. They came out and really understood our problems and concerns that we had. So, speaking for my wife, we're actually for it today," he said.

Brian Robertson, of Robertson Ridge Road, spoke in support of the project.

"No one probably has any deeper roots than me and my wife, because the 100 acres that surround me was owned by my wife's grandfather, and my mother-in-law lived

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Jones and Rawls gear up for January

Maddy Oliver Staff writer

LC Jones and Aaron Rawls, the newly elected Martinsville City Council members, have been hard at work to prepare for the upcoming year, with big plans for their tenures.

Jones has been talking with people throughout the region, and especially those in the community, to establish relationships.

"I've been speaking with different community leaders, business owners, citizens in general. That's Martinsville, Henry County, even as far as Danville and Roanoke, just really trying to rebuild relationships and establish some new relationships and really trying to put a plan together of things that may be possible to get done with the right relationships and a path forward to turn a new leaf here in Martinsville," he said.

Rebuilding relationships is one of Jones' priorities. He believes that having fresh faces on city council will be a good start in that

process.

"I think the narrative is kind of changing with having Aaron and myself. We're both new. We both want some changes made, and want to rebuild relationships. I think it's kind of putting a lot of people at ease. We've still got to keep reaching out and talking to more people. And I understand there's going to be a lot more to that process, but that's the start of it," he said.

Jones, who remains anti-reversion, wants reversion to be one of the first things that is addressed in the first couple of council meetings held in 2023.

"One of the first things I kind of want to get done and over with is reversion. I know we're still waiting on the three-judge panel, and a lot is going to be weighed and based off of that decision, but I still stand on my stances from when I was campaigning that I would like to see the end of the reversion," he said.

Jones said he knows there's a process to ending reversion, and he

believes that the resources spent on it could be better spent elsewhere.

"It's been a dark cloud over us for so long. We've put so much money into it, and it's gotten us nowhere. I feel like we need to put the same energy, time, effort, and money into rebuilding relationships and to doing something positive for our city," Jones said.

He also addressed the city council's recent contract termination of city attorney Eric Monday.

Jones said he "thought it was a bad decision on their part."

Members of council supporting the contract termination said they did so after hearing that incoming council members - Jones and Rawls - planned to do so.

"I know the rumor was floating around about possible changes," Jones said, "but the way I look at it, both (the city manager and city attorney) have a lot of experience. They bring a lot of value to the city, so I was very much open to just having a conversation. I know

See Jones & Rawls, page 5

Case continued until new year

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

The court case between two Virginia House of Delegates members was continued until the new year.

The case between Del. Marie March, R-Floyd and Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, will now be heard on January 4, at 10 a.m. at the Wytheville Court House.

In an email to March, Breanna Goins, of the Wythe County's Commonwealth's Attorney Office,

said the judge was concerned about bad weather and requested the continuance.

The case was brought due to an incident at a Republican fundraiser at the Wytheville Meeting Center in Wytheville on Saturday, Sept. 24 that resulted in March filing misdemeanor assault and battery charges against Williams.

March accused Williams of intentionally slamming into her as he was leaving the building.

In her criminal complaint March wrote, "tonite (sic) I was @ (sic)

the GOP fundraiser @ (sic) the Wytheville Meeting Center and my opponent intentionally pushed/shouldered (sic) slammed into me in front of a large group of people."

Williams said he accidentally bumped into March when he passed through an opening between people near the door.

"I immediately apologized and said, 'oh sorry' and then I kept walking and then she accused me of bumping her. I said, 'no I did not bump you' and I kept going," he said.

ANCHOR Commission celebrates 50 years of serving youth

Maddy Oliver Staff writer

The ANCHOR Commission, which provides corrective services for youth ages 12 to 17 in Martinsville, Henry and Patrick counties, is celebrating 50 years of serving the community.

ANCHOR, according to executive director Ricky Walker, "tries to give young men a new chance and a way to give them the treatment, give them the resources they need while they're still in the community."

The organization began in 1972, when a group home for boys was created. In 1973, a group home for girls was created. It expanded several times in the 1990s and continues to expand.

Referrals for many of ANCHOR's programs typically comes through the courts and the courts service program, but some also come from the Department of Social Services. There are some scholarships available for various programs for those who need them and cannot afford them.

ANCHOR also has a shelter care program, which makes up "a lot" of ANCHOR's placements. Previously, there had not been a shelter care program in the area for the past 25-years.

"We started our current shel-

ter care in 2020, and we started it just in time for the pandemic. So, it was kind of difficult for the first couple of years keeping it up and running, but we survived the pandemic and we're doing really well," Walker said.

Walker explained the differences between group homes and shelter care and the roles of each program. ANCHOR is currently the only shelter care or group home service in the region, with the closest being in Lynchburg.

"A group home placement is more of a long-term placement. It's generally up to six months. Shelter care placements are, by code, a short-term placement. They can only be up to 90 days. A shelter care order can be reissued or extended, but generally that's for 90 days," he said.

Another program offered is Outreach and GPS. This helps prevent youth from needing to be monitored in more intensive ways, such as a detention center. The program serves about 65 young people per year, saving the localities ANCHOR serves a "tremendous amount of money," Walker said.

"Outreach and GPS is going on and checking on young people at home, in their schools, at their place of work if they have

one, and that can be done with or without GPS monitoring. We can go out and check on them just as an enhanced supervision for the courts or the court service unit, or we can go out and do that as well as having a GPS unit monitoring their movements every day," Walker said.

ANCHOR has substance use disorder programs, as well. One of them, called Seven Challenges, is a comprehensive counseling program that aims to "meet young people where they're at."

"Whereas most adults have decided that they need some help, or they've decided that they need to do something different, with young people a lot of times the only reason they see it as a problem is because the courts, their parents, or someone else is telling them they have to stop," Walker said.

Seven Challenges walks participants through the decision-making process and helps them to learn how to make decisions about safe and healthy options.

There's also the Brief Challenges program, a shorter

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Internal investigation leads to officer dismissal

The Martinsville Police Department has fired the officer involved in the December 16 incident at Martinsville Middle School, following an internal investigation that was prompted by a video being circulated on social media.

The video involved a Martinsville Middle School stu-

dent and a Martinsville Police Officer, who was temporarily serving as the School Resource Officer.

The video included a caution - 'Viewer Discretion Advised.' The person who uploaded the video states, in part, that an officer "felt like he had to involve his self in a discipline bus matter got on the

bus hostel" (sic) with a middle school student.

When announcing the internal investigation, authorities noted all available footage, including body camera footage, would be reviewed. At the time, it also noted that the officer involved in the incident would no longer serve as a School Resource Officer

at any Martinsville City Public School.

All information is being turned over to a special prosecutor, who will determine whether or not criminal charges are necessary.

The internal investigation is ongoing, therefore no additional statements will be released at this time.

VISIT 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)

Friday, December 23

Ride and Dine every Friday afternoon with members of the Henry County Bike Club. Each week fellow cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the Dick & Willie Trail to put in some miles and to refuel with a delicious lunch at a local eatery. A different lunch locality is chosen each week so that your Friday afternoon is always unique and interesting. For more information on Ride 'N Dine, call Marti at (276) 358-1312. Rides are year-round but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees. Check Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Sunday, January 1

Whiskey Run Hike, 10 a.m., Stuart's Knob Trailhead, Fairy Stone State Park, 967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart. Includes the history of moonshining and how residents of Fayerdale used Stuart's Knob to provide for their families.

Mayo River Trails Red Bud Trail Hike, 1 p.m. at The Trails at Mayo River, 500 Pratt Road, Spencer. Hike 1.3 miles and discover the history of Native Americans who inhabited the area and the importance of William Byrd's expedition. For more details,

visit www.virginiastateparks.gov/first-dayhikes.

Thursday, January 5

Henry County School Board will hold its monthly/organizational meeting at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Room, located on the 1st Floor of the Henry County Administration Building in Collinsville.

Friday, January 13

Music Night at the Spencer-Penn Centre with the hard drivin' oldtime dance band from Sparta, NC, Gap Civil. Gate opens at 5 p.m. and the band starts at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions, including the ever popular Spencer Penn hot dogs and BBQ, will be sold.

Sunday, January 15

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will have speakers at the Historic Henry County Court House for "Founders Day: Lumber" in an educational program about the history of lumber in the area. The event will begin at 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

The Spencer-Penn Centre will host a barn quilting class from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Class will be filled on a first paid first served basis. Once payment is received by Spencer-Penn, design choice should be sent to the instruc-

tor, Lauren at misslaurenbyron@gmail.com. Registration deadline in January 13.

ONGOING

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

MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions about existing coverage or help you apply for new coverage by phone Monday - Friday, 8a.m. to 5p.m. In-person application help is available on Wednesdays at Community Storehouse's new location UPTOWN at 128 East Church Street LOWER LEVEL from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call or text Ann Walker today at (276)732-0509 to see if you may qualify and get help applying.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning, 15 Primary School Road, Collinsville, at (276) 647-9585.

Longtime PSA board chairman to step down Jan. 5

The long-time chairman of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors, Gerry Lawicki, presided over his final meeting on Monday. Lawicki, whose term ends Jan. 5, has served as the representative of the Iriswood District for 20 years and as chairman of the board

for 14 years.

"I want to thank the organization for allowing me to serve on the board," Lawicki said. "It's been tremendous working with all of you. This organization is truly special. I've found that if you start off with quality folks and you give them motivation and direc-

tion, then they generally come through for you. It's been a great ride and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all."

During his tenure as chairman, Lawicki led the effort to consolidate resources and personnel with Henry County, which resulted in significant savings for both

organizations. Lawicki championed "fiscal responsibility," which led to consistent financial growth for the PSA. The value of the PSA's total assets has increased by approximately \$14 million since 2008. However, this growth did not come at the expense of customers. There has only been one rate increase since Lawicki took over as chairman. Numerous capital projects were also initiated or completed during Lawicki's tenure, including the Irisburg Water

Tank Project, the Preston Road Water Project, the Fieldale Lead Service Project and the extension of water and sewer services to Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.

"Mr. Lawicki has been a tremendous asset to the PSA and his leadership will be truly missed," said Dale Wagoner, General Manager of the PSA. "He has been a great advocate for his district and I'm confident his replacement will carry on that mantle."

Curtis Millner, an

Army veteran and former chairman of the Henry County School Board, has been appointed to succeed Lawicki as the representative of the Iriswood District.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved a \$1,000 stipend for full-time employees and a prorated stipend to part-time employees based on the number of hours that they work. Funds for the stipends will come from savings from vacant positions and revenue growth.



time to schedule

Don't delay your annual screenings. Make the most of your insurance benefits.

If you haven't already scheduled your annual wellness check-up and any recommended screenings and immunizations, do it today. Taking care of these items before the end of the year is a great way to take care of yourself, and a great way to make the most of your health insurance benefits before deductibles reset in January!

Screenings include:

- Annual Check-Up ■ Bone Density Test ■ Colonoscopy
- Immunizations ■ Mammogram
- Sleep Study Test ■ Well Woman Exam



To learn more or to find a provider, visit SovahHealth.com

To find a provider or make an appointment, call 844.GO.SOVAH



PSA General Manager Dale Wagoner (left) presents PSA Board of Directors Chairman Gerry Lawicki with a ceremonial gavel in honor of his 20 years of public service.

New Year's 2023

Worship by
LeAnne Naff, John Heiss, and Ben McClaren

NEW DAY CHURCH

705 Liberty Street
Martinsville, Va

Dec 30, 6:30PM

Dec 31, 5PM

Jan 1, 10:30AM

Carlisle School dedicates renovated gym



Pictured, left to right, are Bill Adkins, Mancino Craighead, Jason Niblett, Demario Mattox.



Head of School, Gracie Agnew.



Completed Coaches Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A renovated gym was dedicated on Friday, December 16, at Carlisle School. It is now referred to as Coaches Court as a way of honoring those who have given time, energy, and wisdom to Carlisle student-athletes, teaching them about life, the importance of teamwork, discipline, and respect, all the while stressing education.

Carlisle recognizes the importance that coaches can play in the lives of children. They foster positive youth development, form strong bonds, and teach players to

honor the game, win or lose.

Carlisle's first varsity basketball coaches were Tom Webster, who coached the girls, and Tyler Harris who coached the boys beginning in 1970. Basketball was the only sport played in the gym until volleyball was added as a fall sport in 2004.

The school boasts 15 State Championships including six varsity boys under Jeff Adkins, and one championship under Jason Niblett. There have been eight varsity girls' titles earned, four under the leadership of Tony Jones and four

under the coaching of Mancino Craighead.

Head of School, Gracie Agnew expressed gratitude to those donors who made the renovation possible. In less than a month, more than \$120,000 was raised -- all funds earmarked for floor replacement, new lighting, and painting.

Friday's ceremony included video clips from former Carlisle student athletes who had played on state championship teams and moved on to play at the collegiate and professional levels.

Thon Maker, who was a tenth-round draft pick chosen to play for the Milwaukee Bucks also played for the Detroit Pistons and the Cleveland Cavaliers as well as the Long Island Nets. Thon thanked Carlisle for the "role it played in his development." Currently, he is in China with the Fujian Sturgeons.

Kaleb Johnson class of 2015, who played at Georgetown, expressed his gratitude for all that was done for him while a student at Carlisle. He has played for the Austin Spurs G

League and Brillantes de Zulia in Venezuela. Yesid Mosquera has played in Cafeteros de Armenia in Colombia, Gaiteros de Zulia in Venezuela, Piratas de loslagos in Ecuador and Team Cali, Colombia. Yesid used the opportunity to encourage students to take advantage of the new facility, to "embrace the community."

More than 150 attended the dedication ceremony, including Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, one of the original founders and steadfast supporters of the school.

Magna Vista students among winners of Holiday Traffic Safety Jingle Contest

A group of students from the Warrior Tech Academy at Magna Vista High School in Henry County won third place in the 2022 Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday Jingle Contest.

Seven students are shown in the video that is posted on YouTube. Featured students are Mason Whitaker, Caleb Regans and Levi McPeek. Students substitute lyrics "Stay Alive, Don't Drink & Drive Cause You Don't Want to Die. Seatbelt On, Hands on the Wheel, You Don't Wanna Pass Away," to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

The contest, sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO), the Virginia State Police (VSP), the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and State Farm, was started to challenge students, ages 11-19, to create a safe driving jingle (short song or tune) to promote buckling up, as well as celebrating and driving safely throughout the holidays. A judging panel selected the top six jingles in the

high school division and top five in the middle school division for public voting December 12-15, and from there it was up to Virginia.

Prizes sponsored by State Farm® will be awarded to the top three jingles with the most votes as follows in the high school division:

First Place - Laci Craig; Liberty High School, Bedford County - \$500

Second Place - Asaph King; Homeschool, Stafford County - \$200

Third Place - Magna Vista High School Warrior Tech 17, Henry County - \$100

Winners in the middle school division and the prizes are:

First Place - Vikram Goudar; Old Donation School, Virginia Beach - \$200

Second Place - Myles and Nicholas Crosby; Elizabeth Davis Middle School, Chesterfield County - \$100

Third Place - Esaias King; Homeschool, Stafford County - \$50

To view the winning jingles, visit the Holiday

Campaign Page.

Craig and Goudar's jingles will be shared on social media throughout the Christmas holiday to remind students to drive and celebrate safely.

The four runners up and other jingle entries received will also be shared on social media starting this week.

"Congratulations to all the students who placed in the jingle contest and a special thanks to each student who took the time to create a jingle," said Mary King, YOVASO Program Manager. "We were very impressed with all the jingles and can't wait for everyone to view and share them on social media. What a fun way for teens to encourage each other to buckle up and drive safely!"

YOVASO is Virginia's Peer-to-Peer Education and Prevention Program for Young Driver and Passenger Safety and is a program of the Virginia State Police. Membership in YOVASO is free and open to all Virginia high schools, middle schools, and youth groups.

Bassett resident Inducted into Honor Society

Karen Southerland, of Bassett, was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Southerland was initiated at George Mason University.

Southerland is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candi-

dates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Crossword 3x7

BZA from page 1

there. The land adjacent to that was owned by my uncles and now by the Ellis'. Being able to keep it somewhat in the family, and at the end of the day, it is their land," Robertson said.

Pam Ellis, the owner of the land used for the solar project, spoke in favor of the project.

"Part of the land that we're discussing with Trey on this project is our farm, which was my parent's farm, which was my grandparent's farm. I was opposed like (the Carters) were at first for the project, just because just to our north and west was where the original solar farm was put in that was not regulated. And that adjoins by property," Ellis said. "I wasn't happy

about it. Yes, it does boil down to the money with the county. It is a great opportunity. Our county, our area, needs money."

While many others also spoke in favor, some residents spoke in opposition as well.

Rocky Wall, of Sandy River Road, said many of the people present were his neighbors and that he had been vocal in his opposition of the project. There are "a lot of things not being considered" such as Vesper refusing to provide EMF rating information to the state in their application, he said.

"Then, everyone is talking about being able to return it to the farmer in 30, 35, 40 years. Mr. Lopez in his town hall

meeting over the summer readily admitted that they don't know that. That's just an opinion of theirs. It's not a fact," Wall said. He added there is no evidence about the long term effects of solar farms in general.

Other residents said they believed the solar panels would be an eye sore and feared the chemicals the area would be exposed to, but Lopez reiterated that no cadmium telluride would be used in the panels.

Clark set forth the conditions for the permit, including that the project must be completed within five years of the permit being granted.

The board unanimously voted to approve the special use permit.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OPINION

The square peg

Back when I was in elementary and middle school, I had a good friend. We'll call him Rick.

Rick, like me and most of my friends, was kind of a weirdo. He was a little guy, small for his age and skinny as a rail, and like so many of my classmates, he was diagnosed with ADHD and given a prescription for Ritalin. He would routinely "cheek" his pills and spit them out later because he didn't like the way they made him feel. I saw him do this a couple of times and I never said a word about it to him or anyone else; looking back, I'm glad I didn't.

Rick's parents were substantially older than everyone else's parents; when he was born, his mother was in her 40s and his dad was in his 50s, although he seemed like he was about a hundred. He was a crotchety old fellow who had no time for the foolishness of young people. I remember on one occasion when I was spending the night at Rick's house, we stayed up to watch Howard Stern at the interminably late hour of about 11 p.m. We had the volume on the TV so low that we could barely even hear it ourselves, yet Rick's dad came storming down the stairs to yell at us for waking up the whole dang house. He wore a hearing aid, so I'm guessing he just had a sixth sense for childhood mischief.

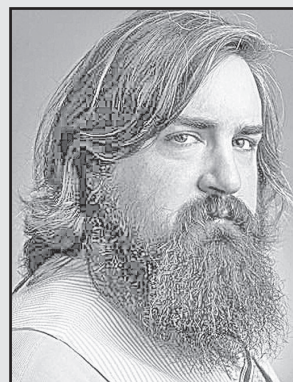
Rick was a good-hearted kid, but he was frequently in trouble. He was incredibly impulsive; it was like he was born without the filter that prevents you from acting on every single idea that enters your head. I remember one

time in middle school, he took a paperclip, bent it into a V, and then shoved it into an electrical outlet just to see what would happen. What happened was it started glowing red-hot, burned through the jacket he was using to try and frantically pull it out of the wall, and then blew a breaker. He got detention for that one, plus a ruined jacket.

On another occasion, one of our science classes got too rowdy so the teacher made us all sit in silence for ten minutes. The entire time, one of our classmates was tapping a pen on his desk. The moment the teacher told us that our ten minutes of silence was over, Rick looked at our classmate and shouted, "FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WILL YOU STOP TAPPING THAT PEN?" He got detention for that too, even though I backed up his argument that he did wait until after the ten minutes of silence were over before screaming.

Rick was incredibly smart, but he wasn't a very good student. He never got good grades, mainly because he had such a difficult time focusing in class despite the Ritalin. When he was able to focus, it was on all the wrong things.

One time, Rick's mom made the mistake of entrusting us with a \$20 and sent us down to the Food Lion on the corner to buy a bottle of club soda. Once we stepped inside the grocery store, Rick spotted something amazing: one of the little toy dispensers at the front of the store advertised that you could win a virtual pet, which was the height of coolness at the time. It wasn't



By Ben R. Williams

a name-brand Tamagotchi, just some kind of cheap knockoff, but that didn't deter Rick. We bought the club soda, converted the change into quarters, and Rick began feeding them into the toy machine like a chronic gambler at an Atlantic City slot machine. The machine only held one virtual pet; every other capsule contained a tiny ceramic mug with a picture of a mouse eating a piece of cheese painted on it. After we'd collected about 30 tiny mouse mugs, Rick finally won the virtual pet.

When my mom came to pick me up an hour later, he gave it to me; he said he wasn't really interested in it.

I was always tight with Rick — he was one of my best friends, after all — but sometimes, his impulsiveness and odd interests could be a little scary. One time when I was hanging out at his house, he asked me if I wanted to play a game he'd invented called "Sniper." How could I resist? Rick grabbed a plastic case containing his disassembled paintball gun and we went outside. He set an empty soda can on the curb. There was a house under

construction across the street, framed but still incomplete. With as much gravitas as a middle schooler can muster, Rick led me across the street and up the stairs to the home's second story. He opened the case and wordlessly assembled the paintball gun, peered out the window to make sure no one had spotted us, and then fired a single shot, knocking the soda can over. He rapidly disassembled the gun and put it back in the case, then walked back down the stairs, calm and controlled, and crossed the street back to his house. When we were safely inside, he informed me that he didn't think we'd been spotted.

Right as we were entering high school, Rick's parents decided to up and move across the country to Colorado. I heard through the grapevine that Rick's impulsiveness got the better of him there, too. Rick and I shared a love of video games, and as a prank, he emailed Nintendo of America to say that the critters in their Pokemon games were telling him to burn things.

Unfortunately, he did this from a school computer in Littleton, Colorado just a couple years after the Columbine High School shooting, and Nintendo turned his email over to the FBI. Two agents showed up at his door to inform him that his prank wasn't very funny. I would give money to have seen his dad's reaction to that visit.

The last time I saw Rick was probably around 2002, which was somehow 20 years ago. After he moved, we both moved on with our lives. We never spoke on the phone once, to my recollection. In the early days of Facebook he added me as a friend, but he eventually deleted his account.

Rick's real name is pretty unique, so every so often — maybe once every year or two — I'd look him up online to see if I could find out what he'd been up to.

Earlier this week, I was watching a video about the making of one of Rick's favorite video games. I decided to look him up.

I found his obituary. Rick died Nov. 23, 2021, at the age of 36. The obituary was brief. He was preceded in death by his father, who had passed away in 2019. It mentioned his lifelong love of Legos, his two dogs, his Bachelors in psychology, and the fact that he once wrote an article about collecting records for his college magazine.

That was pretty much it, 36 years flattened down to a couple paragraphs.

There was no mention of his two pet ferrets he used to own; he would zip himself up in a sleeping bag with them and roll around the floor giggling, which remains one of the funniest things I have ever seen. There was no mention of the time I made him laugh so hard that he sneezed milk all over my slice of pizza. There was no mention of the time that he accidentally set off a paintball bomb in his mom's nicest bathroom.

It's a strange thing to lose a person that you hadn't seen in 20 years and never expected to see again. I don't know that Rick and I would have had much in common in the 2020s, but I liked knowing he was out there somewhere, a square peg in a round hole causing mischief despite himself.

Here's to you, old friend. Wherever you are, I hope the Pokemon are still telling you to burn things.

Gifts, Wishes, and Christmas Magic

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, we decided to share a few thoughts of our holiday season with you. May you and yours have a magical and blessed Christmas.

Gift giving

When I was a child, Christmas was a stress-free holiday filled with magic and happiness.

My holiday season was filled with lights decorating the house, a Christmas tree decked out to the

nines, and a menagerie of presents underneath the tree.

Now as an adult, I get to see all the stress that makes the magic work. I am faced with the pressures that come with Christmas: buying presents, creating a Christmas dinner menu, and trying to keep the cats from destroying the holiday decorations.

I find that buying presents is the hardest one out of the bunch. My mother, who loves to give gifts, is

the rare breed of person who does not really enjoy receiving gifts.

She is not a huge fan of knick-knacks and has outgrown my childhood crafts. Instead, she prefers practical gifts that can help her in her day-to-day life and will be used often.

Gift giving with her makes me of think of the husbands that give their wives vacuum cleaners and new dish washers for the holidays to help them with the housework.

Which is ironic since one of her gifts this year is a new Roomba.

Despite the newfound realization of what makes the Christmas magic possible, I can't wait for the day to come.

-- Taylor Boyd
Reporter

Christmas Wish Books Modern technology is amazing. Often for the better, sometimes for the worse. At the risk of dating myself, I can remember a time before the internet, and sometimes try to imagine what I would have thought about being able to go onto a computer (or these days, a phone), ordering just about anything imaginable and it showing up at my front door a few days later. My daughter will never know a time without this kind of convenience.

And it's a shame.

She will never know the unbridled joy of finding the Sears Christmas catalog in the mailbox. I thought my head would explode the year both the Sears and J. C. Penney Christmas catalogs showed up the same day. For kids who have grown up in the computer age, they can't understand how massive this was. There was a reason Sears called it the "Wish Book."

After it arrived, there was the inevitable sibling battle over who got the catalog first. But oh my, when it was your turn. Flipping through the pages of all those toys and games. There may have been clothing in there somewhere, but I never noticed. I would pour over every page, trying in vain to narrow down my choices, knowing there was a limit to what Santa could carry on his sled, because, like my mother, he too apparently shopped at Sears.

My brother and I got different color pens, then went crazy, circling everything we hoped and dreamed might find its way under our Christmas tree. After we finished marking everything, I'm surprised my parents, and Santa, could make heads or tails of all the circled, starred and underlined toys. Somehow, they managed.

As a parent, I feel like I've missed something. I

try to imagine my daughter looking forward to the catalog's arrival and ripping through the pages, marking everything she wants and handing it over with great hope Santa will get a look.

The reality is just different now. Every so often I'll hear her yelling for me to look at a toy commercial on YouTube, or pulling me down an aisle at a store to see what she "just has to have for Christmas." Scrolling through Amazon, while convenient, just lacks something when compared to the Wish Book.

Gratefully, one thing hasn't changed. On Christmas morning, way too early for the adult me, my daughter's excitement is just like mine when I was her age. Watching her tear the wrapping paper off her gifts, it doesn't matter whether they came from a catalog or an online store. The joy of Christmas morning, thankfully, hasn't changed.

- Pat Delaney,
Office Manager

Christmas Magic

As a child, winter-time was always one of my favorite times of the year. I loved staying up a little too late just to see if school would get cancelled when it snowed and playing outside in the snow until my fingers and toes grew numb.

Christmas, however,

was the cherry on top. My parents always went the extra mile to make Christmas even more special. I always remember, especially when we were little, how my mom would do presents. We'd open a couple of gifts, unpack our stockings, and settle into the joy of our new toys and candy and new cozy clothes.

Just when we thought Christmas unwrapping was over, my mom would pull the "best" present, the one we had been asking for all year, out of its hiding place. Sometimes it was in the ottoman, or under the couch, or in another room altogether. We would always be so excited to open up this gift, and somehow, I never expected it.

As we get older, I find that we tend to wonder where the Christmas magic has gone. Christmas seems to come and pass quicker and quicker and we don't feel as though we have time to appreciate it. I have realized now that truly, the thing that made Christmas so magical as children was family, especially our parents. If we simply take the time to still enjoy those things, and understand that we have to make a little magic ourselves, Christmas is still just as magical as when we were kids.

- Maddy Oliver,
Reporter

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Give us your view:

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

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

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 spent Christmas

Eve running around the Nakatomi Plaza, trying stop the bad guys. Who Am I?

NCI to add Sea Survival to GWO Training Offerings

The New College Institute (NCI) is making it easier for offshore wind turbine technicians to become Global Wind Organisation (GWO)-certified with the addition of Sea Survival to its existing GWO Basic Safety Training (BST). Currently, the week-long training consists of four modules: First Aid, Working at Heights, Manual Handling and Fire Awareness.

The addition of Sea Survival positions Virginia and NCI as a leader in the GWO-certified wind training industry by providing a one-stop shop for obtaining both Basic Safety Training (with Sea Survival), and Basic Technical Training (BTT) certifications.

Additionally, according to the

Global Wind Organisation (globalwindsafety.org), NCI will be one of only two organizations in the United States to offer both the complete, 5-module Basic Safety Training, as well as Basic Technical Training.

GWO is a non-profit group of wind turbine owners and wind turbine manufacturers, committed to the creation and adoption of standardized safety training and emergency procedures. Independent training providers deliver GWO-certified training to technicians and students worldwide.

The BST Sea Survival course will give participants, by theoretical and practical training, the ability to act safely and responsibly and to take the correct preventive actions in all

aspects of offshore operations from shore to installation vessel (or WTG) and vice versa. This is both during normal operations and in an offshore wind energy environment emergency.

Typical topics include recognizing and responding to cold water immersion, such as cold shock, hypothermia and contaminated water; proper use of lifesaving equipment; and practical instruction on safely transferring between vessels, handling equipment, and how to respond during a man overboard scenario.

To facilitate this single-day training, NCI has contracted with Blue Stone Dive Resort in Thomasville, NC. The former slate quarry is now a 19.5-acre lake, which already facilitates

trainings for multiple open-water certifications, such as SCUBA and rescue training.

The new training is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2023 and will be led by NCI's Coordinator of Wind Training, Evan Kissel. Participants must be 18 years old, physically fit and capable of handling the mental and physical demands required for certification. Individuals may choose from either the standalone Sea Survival course (with BST training prerequisite) or as part of the 5-module Basic Safety Training.

"Sea survival is going to be a great help to the Commonwealth, as NCI will be able to offer a complete package to wind energy companies that require GWO offshore train-

ing. Additionally, industries that may need general sea survival training will also benefit, as the training covers multiple aspects of open-water skills," said Evan Kissel, Coordinator of Wind Training.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, wind turbine technician jobs are projected to grow 44 percent from 2021 to 2031, and earn an annual wage of \$56,260 (as of May 2021). In Hampton Roads alone, offshore wind industry could create about 1100 direct and indirect jobs annually, based on a 2020 offshore wind economic impact analysis commissioned by the Hampton Roads Alliance (<https://coastalvawind.com/about-offshore-wind/creating-jobs.aspx>).

ANCHOR from page 1

program that acts as an assessment to determine if young people have a substance use disorder problem, especially among youth who claim they were caught the first time they had a substance, he said.

"One of the best compliments I've had of both of those programs is a young person coming through, be it the group home or one of these two programs, coming out and one young man in particular said that the Seven Challenges Program not only helped him make decisions about drug use, it also helped him make decisions about life," Walker said.

Recently, ANCHOR has also started Anger Replacement Training (ART), which helps young people with anger management issues. The ART program and both substance use programs are for young men as well as young women.

"ART, it's an intensive program, it's been used for over

thirty years across the country, it's one that the state of Virginia uses in all of their institutions, and it's 10 weeks of group or individual sessions. The leaders for that program, they use things like skill streaming, which is basically teaching them ways to deal with their anger management issues, anger control training, and more reasoning training," Walker said.

ANCHOR also offers a co-parenting class for parents going through a custody situation. It's a four hour class, taken via Zoom, that "highlights each component required by the state of Virginia for parenting situations and custody situations," Walker said.

"I like to say that it teaches parents how to get along when they're parenting a child from separate locations and it also teaches them how not to use the child as a pawn, if you will, and to get along for the

sake of the child and for the benefit of the child," Walker said.

The Transitional Day Program, a cooperative agreement with Henry County Public Schools, helps to educate students with emotional and psychological disabilities that affect their behavior to where they cannot be in a traditional classroom, he said.

"They need a more restrictive classroom environment, and the aim of the program is to work with them and return them to a traditional school classroom setting at some point in the future," Walker said.

The various programs have an effect on many of the young people who pass through them. Walker said, adding it is sometimes difficult to see these changes in the group home and shelter care placement because "you see them every day, but when you look at the beginning

and end of their time there you can see the impact.

"It's a really rewarding experience to see a young man coming in that he doesn't realize what he should be doing. He's getting in trouble, he's doing things out in the community that he shouldn't be doing, and then when he leaves here you can almost see him getting to be where they're acting like more of an adult," Walker said. "They're making their decisions for the right reasons, they've learned how to get along with other people in social situations, hopefully they've learned not to be so impulsive and reacting so quickly when they get mad, and they can work things out whether than just getting in a fight."

Walker thanked each locality for the 50 year resolutions they presented and said the work of ANCHOR would not be possible without

many different organizations, including the United Way, Harvest Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Martinsville, Charity League, and many businesses, church organizations, civic organizations, and individuals. He also thanked the localities and ANCHOR staff and board members.

"None of this would be possible without the work of our staff, our ANCHOR staff, the board members, the ANCHOR Commission Board. They are tremendous, they have always supported ANCHOR," Walker said.

"Some of our board members have been with us a long time and they just really like being a part of the board because of our mission and because of what we do in the community. The support of the localities, it wouldn't be possible without the three localities, Henry County, Martinsville, and Patrick County," he said.

Jones & Rawls from page 1

we don't necessarily agree on the same things, especially as far as reversion, but I did think there was a space where we could work together."

Jones said constituents have expressed concern about the manner in which the contract was terminated, and he believes it is not a good look for the city.

"I'm not sure why they made that decision, especially after they just redid his contract. "I don't know all the details behind everything, but it didn't look good. It didn't look like the right thing to do from a moral perspective, an ethical perspective," he said.

When it comes to keeping the assistant city manager and city attorney position as one position, Jones said he's not even sure the city needs an assistant manager, but wants to see "what we can do to be the most effective."

"I'm not sure we need an assistant city manager. And that's something else I've really got to dive into. I met with Leon (Towarnicki, city manager) yesterday, we're scheduled to meet again pretty soon. I get to dive into a little bit more of what he needs on a daily basis and what he's got going on. I'm not sure that's a position that we may need," Jones said.

Overall, Jones is excited to begin the process

of bringing many of the plans he campaigned on to fruition.

"I'm eager to get going. I can't wait. I think the citizens are eager as well. They're hopeful for a whole lot really fast. Things are not going to come fast. It's going to still be a process like it always has been. I really feel that the transparency that we plan to show the community will really put an ease on as the process moves along at times," he said.

Rawls, too, has been talking to those in the community to try and get the ball rolling, creating the transparency that was part and parcel of his campaign.

Rawls said he and Jones "have spent together a tremendous amount of time being with citizens throughout the community. Talking, listening, revisiting things that we brought up during our campaign, that we ran on. Letting people know how we plan to take action, and then actually figuring out how our plans will unfold once we're seated," he said.

One of Rawls' areas of focus is housing in Martinsville.

"We've made clear to the city manager, and been trying to work with partners throughout the state and within the community, to get some aggressive building plans going for places to live for people

in Martinsville," Rawls said. "Right now, we have a significant shortage of housing, both for people who wish to come here and rent and for people who wish to come here and buy a home."

Rawls said the first meeting, where mayor and vice mayor are selected, will be "pretty smooth." Unlike Jones, Rawls said he does not want to make a huge splash during the first meeting.

"I suspect that we'll see a little bit of talk about reversion, and probably anything the current council has pending that has not yet been addressed. That may include proclamations or something like that. And we don't want to make a huge impact in this first meeting, particularly if we take up reversion. That's a task that, while a few elements of it will need to be discussed, want to be sure that we are clear and present the facts to the citizens really well. If reversion is on there, I expect to see some of that," he said.

When it comes to rebuilding relationships, Rawls is primarily focused at first addressing the issues facing Martinsville directly.

"I've had a couple of board of supervisors pass their numbers on to me. I don't want to be discourteous, but I want to be really sincere that I'm dead set on deal-

ing with the issues that Martinsville faces in its own backyard first. I just don't see the county as the first step in discussion or problem-solving right this second," he said.

Like Jones, Rawls said he is concerned about how the former council approached the termination of Monday's contract. "Most people, if not all people that observed that, found that to be bizarre and improper," Rawls said. "I was very concerned about the manner in which it was done because I feel like it's a risky way to do that, and I say that as a long time personnel manager."

"What was raised as a motion was made by a councilmember who suggested 'we've all heard the rumors,' which to me as a manager, terminating someone based on rumors is a wrongful termination lawsuit waiting to happen," Rawls said. "That's an extremely risky thing to state publicly and then execute."

Rawls does not want the manner in which the termination was handled to come back and negatively affect the city.

"I've never seen a termination handled like that. My concern only extends to the extent of the city being at risk. If there's no push back, I don't want to beat anybody up about it, I'm just happy it's done, and I wish everyone well in whatever they do,"

Rawls said. "It's my job as a council member to protect the city from risk, and that was an extremely risky way to have handled that."

Rawls also believes that city attorney and assistant city manager being one position, "caused quite a few issues within the city." He mentioned exploring the possibility of the city attorney position being a part time position.

"If I were king for a day, there would not

be any shared positions between the city attorney and any other administrative role. I don't think that was proper," he said.

Overall, Rawls is excited to take office in January and drive his plans for a better Martinsville forward.

"I'm so excited to start building a future for Martinsville that's actually bright and has vision, rather than just waiting around to decline," he said.



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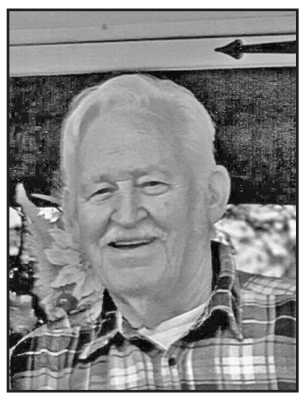
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OBITUARIES

George William "Boonie" Cobbler, Jr. William "Bill" Clarence Smith, Jr.

George William "Boonie" Cobbler, Jr., 79, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Saturday, December 17, 2022. He was born in Henry County February 21, 1943 to George William Cobbler, Sr. and Betty Holley Cobbler.



Lance Cobbler, Ethan Cobbler, Ashley Johnson, Brandee Johnson and Jacob Shuler; and 5 great grandchildren.

Mr. Cobbler was a machine operator at Pulaski Furniture Company. He was of the Baptist faith. He loved riding horses and hunting.

A funeral was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at McKee-Stone

Funeral Home Chapel, officiated by Reverend Sammy Caldwell. Interment was in Roselawn Burial Park.

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

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

William "Bill" Clarence Smith, Jr., age 93, of Horsepasture, VA, died at his home Friday, December 16, 2022. Bill was born in Stoneville, NC on January 17, 1929, to William Clarence Smith, Sr., and Pearl Dillard Smith. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Nancy Roberson Smith, a son, William (Billy) Clarence Smith, III., a grandson, Tyler Smith and his second wife, Evelyn J. Smith.



were shared among like-minded volunteers and eased the grief journey after the death of his first wife, Nancy.

He was known for his infectious smile, his deep Christian faith, his love of family and friends, his ability to fix anything and as his wives, children and grandchildren would say, "he knew how to save a penny."

Surviving are his wife, Adelia Moore Smith; daughters, Martha Smith Anderson (Brady), Sue Smith Hane (Tom), Lee Smith Robison (Churchill) and Susan Prillman Smith; grandchildren, Wyatt Anderson (Meg), John Brady Anderson, Julia Anderson, Nicholas Hane, Claiborne Hane (Jessica), Anna Sullivan (Josh), Morgan Robison and great-grandchildren, Max Smith, Tucker and Ford Sullivan.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude for his caregivers, Stephanie Wade, Shirley Everett Wimbush, Chris and Maurice Parent, Dorothy Wells, Shirley Stockton and Marquita Rucker who provided tender loving care for our dad.

The funeral was held at Horsepasture Christian Church on Monday, December 19, 2022, with Rev. David Cuthbertson officiating. Burial was at the Horsepasture Christian Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory is serving the Smith family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Harold Brooks McGuire

Harold Brooks McGuire, 84, of Axton, Va. passed away on Friday, December 16, 2022. He was born in Axton, Va. March 13, 1932 to George Obie McGuire and Velma Dickinson McGuire.



Rigney (Jerry); brother-in-law, Darrel Jackson (Becky).

Mr. McGuire loved his family and friends. He also loved living and working on his farm. He was a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at the McGuire family cemetery, officiated by Reverend Gary Shupe.

The family is very appreciative of the care and kindness provided by the staff at Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, N.C.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home is serving the McGuire family. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeestonemartinsville.com.

Edward M. "Marty" Gravely, Jr.

Edward M. "Marty" Gravely, Jr. of Radford, Virginia passed away in his sleep on December 6, 2022. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, R. P. Gravely, Jr. and Bennie M. Gravely and Hiram P. English and Bessie H. English.

H. Gibbs, Ruth H. Hundley, Margaret H. Moore, and Elizabeth S. Gravely; and great uncle, Bobby E. Hodges; and numerous cousins.

An avid and published photographer, Marty found joy in music, the outdoors, genealogy, and his family, and he never met an animal he didn't love.

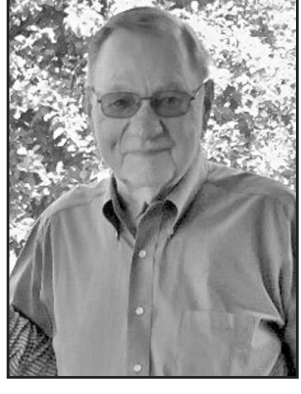
A family service will be held in Martinsville at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Radford Animal Control / Shelter at 104 Pulaski Street in Radford.

The Gravely family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneral-home.com.

He is survived by his father, Edward M. Gravely, Sr., his mother, Yvonne E. Gravely, his step-mother Pryor D. Gravely, his sister, Julia Gravely Henry, his half-sister Anne P. Gravely, his brother-in-law, Brandon F. Henry, and his nephew, Ewan P. Henry. He is also survived by his aunts, Anne G. Shropshire, Sally G. Parker, Elizabeth G. Sullivan (Pat), and Nancy E. Castevens (Monty); great aunts, Jeannette H. Newman, Daisy

Eddie Glenn Naff

Eddie Glenn Naff, 90, of Bassett, Va. passed away Saturday, December 17, 2022. He was born in Roanoke, Va. May 26, 1932, to Rudolph Calvert Naff, Sr. and Lillian Sue Doss Naff.



Prillaman; brothers, R.C. Naff, Jr., David Naff and Bobby Naff.

Mr. Naff served in the Army during the Korean War. He was a renowned champion race car driver in the Sportsman Division at Franklin County Speedway. He was a self-employed auto mechanic and a Volkswagen restoration expert.

A funeral was held on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at Mill Creek Baptist Church, officiated by Reverend David Naff.

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

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

Bradley Roland Haynes

Bradley Roland Haynes "Ronnie" of Martinsville, VA passed away Monday, December 19, 2022. He was born May 2, 1963 in Martinsville, VA to the late Ruby Crotts Haynes and Bryant Rodger Haynes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Bruce Roger Haynes.



Ronnie was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his sisters, Wendy Watkins (Clifford), Rhoda Wood (Mark), and Loretta Jean Haynes.

Services will be private.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Haynes family.

Michelle "Shelly" Boyd Decker

Michelle "Shelly" Boyd Decker, 60, of Martinsville, VA passed away on December 15, 2022. She was predeceased by her father, Johnny Boyd. Many continue to celebrate her life, including her husband Keith Decker, her children Finley Turner, Sydnon Trent, Christina Beaton, and Elizabeth Howell. Her grandchildren, Eleanor and Adley, knew her briefly but fondly.



Shelly was born in Manila, Arkansas in 1962. She and her siblings Angie and John were raised by her parents JoAnn and Johnny Boyd. Shelly went on to live many lives, from cruise ships, to pageant stages,

to yoga studios. But ultimately her favorite place to be was at home in front of the fire with her dog Joey. She was fiercely independent but loyal to those she loved. Not a single person had a better pajama set collection or could surpass her record-setting hours watched of British television. We will keep the fire lit for you.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

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

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COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **January 11, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.
The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.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 input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.
Case R-23-01 Randolph C. Campbell
The property is located at 49 and 81 Tanks Prestige Avenue, in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map numbers are 39.7/123R, 124. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots from Agricultural District A-1 to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant wishes to create two additional lots out of the property.
Case R-23-02 Bryan Timbrook
The property is located in the south west corner of the intersection of Maple Leaf Rd and A.L. Philpott Hwy, in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map numbers are 58.2/15, 16. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots, containing a total of approximately 2 acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to market the property for commercial purposes.
Case R-23-03 Ray Reynolds
The property is located on the west side of Blackberry Rd, just behind the address of 2814 Blackberry Rd., in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map numbers are 26.5(23)/1-4. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 4 lots, containing a total of approximately 20 acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1.
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, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



First 3 'Rives on the Road' concerts announced

Organizers of the Rives on the Road concert series recently announced the first three events of 2023.

The series, which will total at least five concerts and take place at venues throughout Martinsville-Henry County, will begin on Feb. 18 at Forest Park Country Club in Martinsville, with roots-rock band, Yarn, performing a tribute to Simon & Garfunkel. The Jared Stout Band will kick off this annual "opening party" event with a set of music, and all patrons attending the show will receive catered dinner and open bar.

A special concert and storytelling session, celebrating the late Doc Watson, will take place March 11 at the HJDB Event Center in Bassett.

On March 17, Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country will headline a concert that also features a set from the TC Carter Band at the New College Institute in uptown Martinsville.

Music fans can purchase individual tickets to each show, or buy a 2023 Season Pass for \$125 that will garner free entry to the opening party on Feb. 18, as well as the March 11 and 17 concerts, plus at least two more shows in 2023.

Season Passes are transferrable to friends and family for any given show

during the year, and Presenting Sponsors of the concert series are being sought for a \$500 fee. Presenting Sponsors will receive their business name on a banner that is displayed at all shows, as well as four 2023 Season Passes.

The 'Rives on the Road' concert series is organized by 'Arts at the Rives,' a sub-committee of Rooster Walk Inc.'s board of directors.

Rooster Walk Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit company, absorbed a nonprofit named "Arts at the Rives" in 2016 and began organizing and promoting concerts at the Rives Theatre in uptown Martinsville. In the fall of 2019, the Rives Theatre tragically caught fire and was a total loss. It has not been rebuilt. To keep the music alive, Rooster Walk Inc., now offers "Rives on the Road" concerts each year. These "pop-up shows" take place in various venues in the Martinsville-Henry County community, and cover a wide range of genres, from rock and blues to bluegrass, country, jazz and more.

Tickets can be purchased online at roosterwalk.eventbrite.com, or by mailing a check written to Arts at the Rives to PO Box 3067, Martinsville, Va., 24115.

For more information, visit www.roosterwalk.com/upcoming-shows.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
COLLINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
ROUTE 57 WEST WATER STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
BID #23-01193-3102

Sealed bids for construction of the Route 57 West Water Storage Improvements Project will be received by the County of Henry in Room 210 Purchasing Department at the Henry County Administration Building, P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078 (Postal Service) or 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112 (UPS or Fed Ex) until **3:00 p.m. on January 19, 2023** and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud in the 1st Floor Summerlin Room.

The project includes construction of a 500,000 gallon water storage tank, approximately 6,200 LF of 12" water line, and related improvements.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: The Lane Group, 119 North Main Street, Galax, Virginia 24333, Phone (276) 236-4588, e-mail state@thelanegroupinc.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Thursdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office or as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at:

Henry County Administration Building, Engineering & Mapping Department, Room 208 or Purchasing Department, Room 210, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia 24112
Online at: Valley Construction News, 426 Campbell Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24016
Dodge Data & Analytics (subscription required)
Carolinas AGC /iSqFt (subscription required)

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 for each set. A CD containing PDF files of the Bidding Documents may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to "The Lane Group". Upon request and receipt of the document fee indicated above, Bidding Documents may be picked up at the Issuing Office. The Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents via delivery service for an additional fee. The date that the Bidding Documents are picked up/transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

The procedure for withdrawal of bids shall be according to provision B.1 contained in Va. Code §2.2-4330, as amended.

If a contract is for one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) or more, or if the total value of all construction, removal, repair, or improvements undertaken by the bidder within any twelve-month period is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) or more, the bidder is required under Title 54, Chapter 11, Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, to show evidence of being licensed as a "Class A Contractor." If a contract is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, but less than one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000), the bidder is required to show evidence of being licensed as a "Class B Contractor." The bidder shall place on the outside of the envelope containing the bid and shall place in the bid over his signature whichever of the following notations is appropriate:

"Licensed Class A Virginia Contractor No. _____"

"Licensed Class B Virginia Contractor No. _____"

The Henry County Public Service Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, handicap or familiar status. MBE/WBE firms are encouraged to submit bids.

An optional Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled to be held at **10:00 a.m.** local time on **January 4, 2023** in the 1st Floor Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia. Attendance is not mandatory, but all BIDDERS are encouraged to attend.

by: Mr. Dale Wagoner
General Manager

Teen charged in connection with bomb threat

A 14-year-old is alleged to have called in the bomb threat to Wal-Mart on December 18, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

The incident occurred about 3:30 p.m., with a bomb threat called into the super center located at 976 Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville. The store was subsequently evacuated. The Henry County Sheriff's Office Explosives Detection Canine, along with canines from the Virginia State Police, Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office, and Virginia Tech Police Department conducted a systematic search of the property. Nothing suspicious was located.

The Henry County Department of Public Safety and local volunteer fire

and rescue units were on the scene as a precaution. The Henry County Sheriff's Office and store officials worked together to ensure the safety of the customers and employees.

The juvenile was arrested December 20 on a charge of threatening to bomb a building, and is being held at the W.W. Moore Detention Center in Danville.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

Rooster Walk presents
RIVES
On the Road
OPENING PARTY
SIMON & YARNFUNKEL
WITH **THE JARED STOUT BAND**
SATURDAY FOREST PARK COUNTRY CLUB CATERED DINNER &
FEB. 18, 2023 MARTINSVILLE, VA OPEN BAR INCLUDED
MORE INFO AT ROOSTERWALK.COM

See more online at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com



AXTON SOLAR

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](https://www.facebook.com/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