



**Aubree Bowman is the new event manager at the Bassett Train Station Event Center.**

## Bowman has big plans for Bassett Train Station Event Center

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

Armed with ideas to reinvigorate the Bassett Train Station Event Center, Aubree Bowman recently took the reins as its event manager.

A Patrick County native, Bowman, who began the position on Nov. 1, is a local business owner in Martinsville.

"I am an entrepreneur, a business owner, I own a couple businesses here in Martinsville. Space Buffalo Apparel, we're next to Skip's Uptown, and also Old Stone Kennel, we're nationwide, we're in all 50 states and two different countries, which is pretty cool," she said.

But in addition to businesses, event planning has always been a passion. She has helped plan events for various companies and organizations.

"I have always loved event design. I work for Sweet Oak Events sometimes, helping execute weddings and things of that nature," Bowman said. "So, when this kind of came available, I jumped on it because I love event planning, event execution, all of those things."

Bowman's position at the event center has her wearing many different

hats. She also is responsible for several different jobs.

"I book events, I plan events. Sort of like an all over coordinator," she said. "I have to book out the dates, but also, I need to execute what this space is best designed for, so weddings, corporate parties, things like that."

"Trying to get community events together so people can come in here. A lot of the stuff I do is behind the scenes. I have to decorate, I have to make sure the clients are happy, I have to come and open for them and show them where things are, make sure that their day goes as smooth as possible," she said, adding that she also does "a lot of cleaning."

Already, Bowman has many big plans for events, including a Bridal Open House to showcase the wedding potential of the space.

That event would allow "brides come in, showcase the space, to see exactly how it could be if they were having a wedding here," Bowman said. Planning and executing the event entails a number of things, such as "getting florists, caterers, all the different vendors that you would use during a wedding" and getting them set up "here to show you exactly what a

See **Train Station Event Center**, page 5

## Former BB&T building to be transformed

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

The former BB&T building in Uptown Martinsville will be renamed to One Ellsworth as part of its transformation into commercial and apartment space by JRS Realty Partners.

Two and a half years ago, BB&T, now Truist, informed city officials that the building may be demolished. The City of Martinsville saw the building as an opportunity to fill needs in the community, and opted to buy the building from the banking company.

"We know that through housing summits and other studies that have been done that we have a shortage on housing," Martinsville Mayor Kathy Lawson said at a Nov. 29 press conference. "This is a great opportunity for our city and our citizens. It's going to be beautiful."

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said the building represented a \$15 to \$20 million investment, based on current estimates of the building's size and construction costs.

"It's actually a very well-built building," he said. "When you go inside, you don't see cracking. You don't see any deterioration. It's a very good, structurally sound building."

However, Towarnicki said the benefit of the project goes well beyond the cost saved from not constructing another building.

"Seventy apartment buildings, each one will be individually metered with their own util-



**Jim Cherney, a partner with JRS Realty Partners, discussed the potential attributes of a renovation project on the former BB&T building.**

ity accounts, so we're looking at somewhere in the vicinity of \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year in utility payments that will be coming to the city," he said.

There are also benefits outside of numbers.

"When you look at Uptown and you look at what's happened to Uptown over the past maybe five to 10 years, this building represents kind of an anchor on this end of Uptown Martinsville," Towarnicki said. "On this end of the Uptown area, there really hasn't been a lot. So, we're excited

about the project here because of what it represents."

He added that businesses located Uptown also will benefit from an increase in business from those living in the roughly 70 apartments that will be created in the building.

"Having people come back to Uptown, having people live here and shop here, I think in most cases has been kind of the common denominator and the catalyst for what we need to get more activity in Uptown," Towarnicki said.

See **Former BB&T Building**, page 5

## Board approves tax relief



**The Henry County Board of Supervisors votes to grant relief on 2022 personal property taxes. From left to right: Jim Adams, Tommy Slaughter, Debra Buchanan, Joe Bryant, Garrett Dillard, and Ryan Zehr.**

**Maddy Oliver**  
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors took action at its Nov. 22 meeting to provide tax relief for residents on their 2022 personal property taxes.

Based on information provided by Commissioner of Revenue Linda Love, the board decided to waive the motor vehicle license fee on vehicles and motorcycles for one year. The fee equates to \$20.75 per vehicle registered in the county.

The Board also chose to apply the \$1.55 personal property tax on only 90 percent of the assessed value of the vehicle, lowering the overall amount residents would have to pay.

"We recognize the financial strain that our residents are already under from inflation at the gas pump and grocery store," said Jim Adams, board chairman. "We know how stressful these expenses

See **Tax Relief Approved**, page 5

## Church awards scholarships

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Morning Star Holy Church recently started a scholarship program to help local students with the cost of higher education.

The Rev. Tyler Millner said the program started after the church received a donation. The scholarship fund began in earnest about three years ago.

"So, this is the first time that we gave four \$500 scholarships," he said.

Annually, the church plans to award at least four \$500 scholarships, or two \$1,000 scholarships.

Millner said the scholarships are named in honor of people who are significant/distinguished members of the community. It's a tribute and "way of keeping their name alive," he said.

Those for whom the scholarships were named after also had some relationship to the church "either through involvement or supporting some project or ministry that we were doing," he said.

One of the scholarships, the Rev. Almeda & George B. Millner Scholarship, is named after the church's first pastor and her husband.

"The church founder with a remarkable service and leadership for 39 years," Millner said.

Another scholarship is the William & Carolyn Franck scholarship. William Franck led the Tultex Corporation from 1953-1988 for 35 years.

Milner said the two were selected for the tremendous force for good, both by his business, their personal caring and engagement as model volunteers.

"Also, for the investment and support of the Celebration Dinner for my arrival as Second Pastor," he added.

In recognition of his history making, William Hobson, a former mayor of Martinsville and the first African American to serve on the Martinsville City Council from 1976-1980, also had a scholarship named after him.

The Clay Hodge/Joe Pritchett scholarship is named after two men who played important roles

in the community, especially in leadership and engagement.

"Particularly in the realm of political action, civil rights, and daring to be a force to be reckon with in the interest and on behalf of the African American citizens in our community," Miller said.

Those awarded scholarships this year are Aniya Penn, Teja Yates, Tania Draper and Breona Warren are pictured.



**Aniya Penn**



**Teja Yates**



**Tania Draper**



**Breona Warren**





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Saturday, December 3

\*American Red Cross Brenda Riggins Memorial Blood Drive, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Stanleytown Elementary School Gym, 74 Edgewood Dr, Stanleytown, VA 24168. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments have priority. You may schedule an appointment by contacting the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), Sponsor Code: Brenda.

\*Fall into Winterfest, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Uptown Martinsville, with craft vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, a beer garden, entertainment, and more. Admission is free.

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

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

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

\*The Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County will host its Winter

Gala fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. at the HJBD Event Center. The dress is cocktail attire. Tickets are \$45 each or \$400 for a table of ten and can be purchased at [tinyurl.com/CLwinterGala](http://tinyurl.com/CLwinterGala).

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

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

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

## Sunday, December 4

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

## 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.

## Tuesday, December 13

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

## 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://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](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

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

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

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

# Nominations now being accepted for annual community service award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 22nd annual Jack Dalton Community Service Award. The award will go to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service. Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and was serving as the board chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000. All nominations must be received by Friday, December 30 at 12 p.m.

The recipient of the award will be recognized at the Henry County Board of Supervisors' meeting in January.

Nominations should be based on the candidates' personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping promote the quality of life in Henry County. Nominees must have performed the service for which they are being nominated within the calendar year 2022.

All nomination forms must be submitted online or downloaded and returned to the County Administrator's Office by 12 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2022. Forms can be found online at [www.henrycountyva.gov/jack-dalton-award](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/jack-dalton-award).

Previous award winners include Dr. Calvin Rains, Bill Adkins, Clay Campbell, Mary McGee, Charlie Bradshaw, Bob Petty, Thurman Echols, Nancy Bradshaw, Mary Jordan, Pat Ross, Claude Cobler, Beatrice Bullard, Barry Nelson, J. Smith Chaney, Jr., Paul Kennedy, Bob Norris, John Thomas "Smokey" Pegram, James L. Franklin, Jr., Dr. Joseph DeVault, Charlie "Junior" Lynch, Jr., and all of the local frontline healthcare workers in 2020.



**Nominations are now being accepted for the 22nd annual Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and was serving as the board chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.**

## 5K set for Saturday



**Taylor Boyd**  
*Staff writer*

The annual Miles in Martinsville Light Up the Night 5K is set for Saturday, Dec. 10.

Sponsored by the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, the event will be held at the Smith River Sports Complex and will start at 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

YMCA Sports Director Courtney Jones Hairston said the 5K has been going on for over four years.

While it is open to all community runners, the race also is for the YMCA's Youth in Motion program.

"We have a youth program at several elementary schools where they work on running aspects as well as incorporate activities with our YMCA character values. So, they practice throughout the season, and they celebrate that season by participating in the 5K," she said.

Hairston said about 100 children will participate in the 5K to celebrate the Youth in Motion season.

While the number of participants varies depending on the event, Hairston estimates around 150-200 people signed up for the Light Up marathon. As of Nov. 29, 224 people were registered.

The Light Up Like Liz, a 5K walk/run, will also occur in conjunction with the race.

Hairston said it's in honor of Elizabeth Coglitore, a Collinsville native who passed away in October.

"If an individual in the community has passed away" we are "letting the family members choose an organization that's local that is important to their loved one they lost and we're donating half of our proceeds to that specific organization that the family would like," she said.

Hairston said Coglitore's family chose to donate the funds to the Bassett High School girls' soccer team. "She was a really good soccer player in high school," she added.

Registration is available online at the Miles in Martinsville website, [www.milesinmartinsville.com/races/girls-fall.cfm](http://www.milesinmartinsville.com/races/girls-fall.cfm).

Paper registration is also available at the YMCA.

Those wishing to donate can do so in person, or online during registration.

For more information, go to [Facebook.com/MilesinMartinsville](https://Facebook.com/MilesinMartinsville).

# Updates to food provided through WIC are proposed

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is announcing proposed changes to the foods prescribed to participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC.

The proposed revisions support fruit and vegetable consumption by increasing the amount provided and the varieties available for purchase. Congress previously implemented a significant but temporary boost to the benefit provided to WIC participants for purchasing fruits and vegetables. FNS proposes making that increase permanent, providing participants with up to four times the amount they would otherwise receive. FNS also proposes revisions that give participants a greater variety of fruits and veggies to choose from and adjust the quantity of juice to reflect nutrition guidance, which emphasizes whole fruits and vegetables.

Other proposed changes include, but are not limited to:

Expanding whole grain options to include foods like quinoa, blue cornmeal, and teff to reflect dietary guidance and accommodate individual or cultural preferences.

Providing more non-dairy substitution options such as soy-based yogurts and cheeses – and requiring lactose-free milk to be offered.

Including canned fish in more food packages, creating more equitable access to this under-consumed food.

Requiring canned beans to be offered in addition to dried.

Adding more flexibility in the amount of formula provided to partially breastfed infants to support individual breastfeeding goals.

These – and all of the proposed changes – are based on NASEM's report, Review of WIC Food Packages: Improving Balance and Choice, and the latest edition of the dietary guidelines. Revisions are also informed by the FDA-EPA Advice about Eating Fish and feedback from WIC participants, state and tribal partners and other government agen-

cies.

The science-based revisions incorporate recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025.

"USDA is committed to advancing maternal and child health through WIC, helping mothers, babies and young kids thrive," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "These proposed changes will strengthen WIC – already an incredibly powerful program – by ensuring it provides foods that reflect the latest nutrition science to support healthy eating and bright futures."

The WIC food packages are specifically designed to supplement the foods and beverages participants already consume and fill in key nutritional gaps to support healthy growth and development. Food and Nutrition Service, or FNS, is proposing changes to align the food packages with the latest nutrition science and support equitable access to nutritious foods during critical life stages.

Taken collectively, the changes will increase the current level of assistance while providing WIC state agencies with more flexibility to tailor the packages to accommodate personal and cultural food preferences and special dietary needs and increase variety and choice for WIC participants, making the program more appealing for current and potential participants.

For the more than 6 million moms, babies and young children who participate in WIC – and the millions more eligible to participate – these proposed revisions have the potential to make positive, life-long impacts on health and well-being," said Stacy Dean, deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition, and consumer services.

FNS encourages all interested parties to provide feedback on the proposed changes by visiting [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The comment period is open through February 21.

# Jones appointed secretary of NCI board



New College Institute’s (NCI) Board of Directors met Friday, November 18, for a strategic planning session. Eric Jones was appointed by the board to serve as Secretary in a unanimous vote. His role will ensure the organization remains in compliance with all laws and mandates, and serves as the official record keeper and advisor to aid board directors in fulfilling their fiduciary duties.

Jones was nominated and appointed to the NCI Board by Gov. Ralph Northam in April 2021. This role is much more than just an appointment for Jones, as he is originally from the Martinsville-Henry County area. A native to the area, he views this volunteer service as giving back to his hometown community to provide impactful opportunities to the area citizens.

Given his ties to the Martinsville-Henry County community, Jones said he is “pleased to be able to give back and share his knowledge of the area with other NCI Board members not familiar with this region. I aim to combine both my past experience and current roles to transform the economies of south-side Virginia. I would like to volunteer my time and energy to give back to Martinsville, a place that gave so much to me”

Jones’ 22-year career has included positions in cyber security, consult-

ing and sales with Lockheed Martin, Booz Allen Hamilton and Gartner. He currently serves as AT&T’s National Security Director of Business Development and Growth. His experience has included engagements across the Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Justice, and many of the U.S. Intelligence Community agencies. Jones also holds positions as the president of AT&T’s Nation’s Capital Chapter of the Black Integrated Communications Professionals, an employee resource group, and a board member of the Wendell Scott Foundation.

Jones is the son of Royal Jones, and the late Connie C. Jones. His father is a Vietnam veteran and an active member of the American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78. Jones graduated from Laurel Park High School in 1997 where he was an honor student and four-year letterman in baseball, basketball and golf. This is also where Jones met his wife Jessica Penn Jones, a 1998 graduate of Magna Vista High School. A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, and Georgetown University, she is the CEO and co-founder of The CODE Group, a minority and woman-owned management consulting firm, specializing in consulting, communications, coaching, and courses. The two live in Annapolis, MD, with their very own “Martinsville-born” English Bulldog Bash.

After graduating from Laurel Park High School in 1997, Jones went on to graduate from Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Decision Sciences, while also lettering in golf and basketball. He then received a Master’s in Information Systems and Telecommunication Sciences from The Johns Hopkins University’s Carey School of Business. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Business Administration from Marymount University.

# Mail Theft Leads to Check Fraud

Scams aren’t always high tech – some of the most common are about as old fashioned as they come. In 2021 there were 33,000 reports of incidents involving mail carrier robberies and mail theft, up from 24,000 in 2019, according to the US Postal Inspectors (USPIS). What were the thieves looking for? Personal checks that can be washed and re-written to anyone for any amount.

The simplest way for criminals to find mail to steal is to look for mailboxes with a raised flag, which often contain bill payments with personal checks included. Another way is for criminals to steal a master key that opens the blue boxes from a postal worker. These “arrow keys” sell for between \$5,000 and \$10,000 on the black market. Once they have a personal check, thieves can “wash” the ink

off with household chemicals and fill it out to a new recipient for whatever amount they wish.

To protect yourself, deposit any mail containing checks, cash or sensitive personal information in collection boxes as close to the indicated pickup time as possible — or better yet – bring them inside the post office for mailing.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you’ve been targeted. Visit [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

To learn more about AARP Virginia, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](https://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia) and follow @AARPVa on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aarpva](https://www.twitter.com/aarpva).

# Some areas in Virginia to have new area code

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved bringing a new area code – 686 - to Virginia regions now served by the 804 area code. It is expected that the 804 area code could run out of available numbers during the third quarter of 2024.

The SCC approved a proposal by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator for an all-services distributed overlay of the new 686 area code for the 804 area code region. The new area code will be superimposed over the same geographic region covered by the current 804 area code. That region encompasses portions of Central Virginia and the Northern Neck including Richmond, Petersburg, Ashland, Charles City, Chesterfield, Columbia, Hague, Henrico, New Kent, Reedville and Water View.

Existing customers will keep their

804 area code and seven-digit telephone number. Phone numbers in the new 686 area code will not be assigned until all available phone numbers in the 804 area code are exhausted.

Implementation of the new area code overlay will be completed by early 2024, which is six months prior to the anticipated 804 area code exhaust. The relief provided by the new 686 area code is expected to last approximately 32 years.

The 804 area code already transitioned to mandatory 10-digit dialing (three-digit area code plus seven-digit phone number) in July 2022 due to the national implementation of 988, the new three-digit abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

To learn more about 804 area code relief, visit [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Public-Utility](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Public-Utility).

# Horner, Harris appointed to NCI Board

The New College Institute’s (NCI’s) Board of Directors welcomed two new board appointees, Rebecca Horner and Hubert Harris, during a recent strategic planning retreat.

Horner, of Richmond, was appointed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Horner holds a BA, MEd., and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia (UVA) and previously served on the adjunct faculty of the McIntire School of Commerce at UVA, and as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society at UVA’s School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Earlier in her career, Horner worked at American Management Systems, the McLean Group, and Broughton Systems, Inc. as an information technology and strategy consultant serving various industries of the private sector and state government. In addition to the Board of Directors at NCI, Horner currently serves on the Boards of the Institute for Family Studies in Charlottesville and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. She previously served on the University of Mary Washington Honors Program Advisory Board.

“I am honored and excited to join NCI’s Board of Directors, and I look forward to serving the Martinsville community and the Commonwealth as the organization moves forward,” she said.

Youngkin also appointed Harris to the NCI Board of Directors.

Harris retired as the Chief of Staff of Virginia State University (VSU) where he also served as Vice President for Administration, Associate Vice President for Information Technology, and Chief Information Officer. As VSU’s Chief of Staff, Harris oversaw the President’s Executive Office, the Department of Athletics, the Department of Police and Public Safety, and the Department of Technology Services. Harris authored budget decision packages that resulted in the University receiving \$12.3 million in general fund appropriations for modernizing the academic and administrative computing infrastructure. Additionally, he successfully led the university transformation from on-premises to cloud-hosted technology systems.

“Access and opportunity to higher education and job training are vital services for citizens and employers in the City of Martinsville, Henry County, and throughout our Commonwealth,” said Harris. “NCI can be a conduit for developing workforce talent throughout the West Piedmont region. I look forward to working with NCI’s Board and staff.”

Before serving the Commonwealth, Harris worked as a Senior Technology Manager with Accenture (formerly known as Andersen Consulting), Technology Architect for IBM Global Services, and Managing Principal Consultant for Informix Software. Harris holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a Master of Science in Management degree from the University of Maryland University College. In December 2022, Mr. Harris will complete his Doctor of Education degree from Liberty University. Harris is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

NCI is governed by a 15-member board, and among other duties, is directed by the Code of Virginia to “oversee the educational programs of New College and may enter into and administer agreements with institutions of higher education for such institutions to provide continuing education, instructional programs, and degree programs at New College.”

# Major drug dealer sentenced to 30 years in prison

A Lynchburg, Virginia man, who a federal jury convicted in March of distributing large quantities of heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine, was sentenced last week to 30 years in federal prison.

Quentin Lowell Horsley, 38, was convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, and 100 grams or more of heroin. Additionally, the defendant was convicted of four counts of distribution of cocaine.

According to evidence presented at trial, Horsley led a drug trafficking conspiracy where he was responsible for supplying and facilitating the distribution of substantial quantities of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana by managing a network of more than 17 drug dealers throughout the Lynchburg regional area.

The investigation culminated when the Lynchburg Police Department executed search warrants at residences used by Horsley and his co-conspirators and found nearly two kilograms of cocaine, nearly a kilogram of heroin, and more than three kilograms of methamphetamine. These narcotics had a street value of more than \$1 million.

Horsley’s reach and influence over the Lynchburg region’s drug network was so vast that one co-conspirator wrote in a text, “when you wait, you make the whole city wait.”

U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh for the Western District of Virginia, Jarod Forget, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Washington Division, and Chief Ryan M. Zuidema of the Lynchburg Police Department made the announcement.

The Lynchburg Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Welsh prosecuted the case.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Single Lens Reflex

4. People of southern Benin

7. One who is learned (abbr.)

10. Neckwear

11. Solid water

12. A way to work the soil

13. Inspiring

15. Pick up

16. It wakes you up

19. Parcel

21. Popular dog breed

23. Lets out a sigh

24. Embedded into the surface

25. Hard liquors

26. One from Scotland

27. Satisfy

30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement

34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)

35. Similar

36. Winged horse

41. Soft drink maker

45. One who doesn't live up to expectations

46. Nursemaid

47. Inheritor

50. Hot, often dusty wind

54. Serves as an introduction

55. Earned top billing

56. Mansion

57. A partner to a carrot

59. War-horse

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. It checks the heartbeat

62. Aquatic salamander

63. CNN's founder

64. Being precisely suitable and right

65. Strongly alkaline solution

CLUES DOWN

1. Pinochle trick

2. A system of connections

3. Emblems of royalty

4. Work with a soft hand

5. Plant cultivated in Peru

6. A timid man

7. Lacking intellectual depth

8. A way to order

9. Intoxicating

13. Mimic

14. Surfers use it

17. Small Eurasian deer

18. Popular Miller beer

20. Finds out about

22. Unusual

27. Small European viper

28. Indicates before

29. Birth swine

31. 7

32. Useful keyboard key

33. Letter of the Greek

alphabet

37. Edible mollusk

38. Stitched up

39. Utilized

40. \_\_\_ in tradition

41. A way to get through

42. Let off

43. Fashionable source of shade

44. In due time

47. Printing speed

48. A major division of geological time

49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal

51. \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_

52. After B

53. Unusual

58. Former money of the EU

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OPINION

A brief list of terrible drivers

Earlier this week, I drove from Patrick County to Charles Town, West Virginia to buy a pinball machine. It wasn't the first time I've made a long road trip to buy or trade for a pinball machine; in fact, it wasn't even the first time I've bought one in Charles Town.

My hobby has taken me everywhere from the South Carolina coast to Louisville, Kentucky to the outskirts of Pittsburgh. I've put a lot of miles on my car, and I've spent a lot of time on the interstate highways of the eastern U.S.

This has given me plenty of time to think and observe. With the holidays fast approaching, I figure a whole lot of folks will be on the road this month, so perhaps this would be a good opportunity to share what little wisdom I have to offer.

With that in mind, I'd like to present a brief list of terrible drivers and their vehicles. These are the folks that you should keep an eye on, the folks you should offer a wide berth, and the folks you should avoid entirely. I hope you find it useful.

A brief list of terrible drivers and their vehicles:

1. The U-Haul  
Much like you should offer plenty of space to a car with a "STUDENT DRIVER" sign on the roof, you should always give a U-Haul plenty of room. Even if you've never driven anything bigger than a smart car, you can rent a 26-foot

U-Haul truck with nothing more than a standard driver's license. Never hauled a trailer before? Who cares? U-Haul will rent one to you.

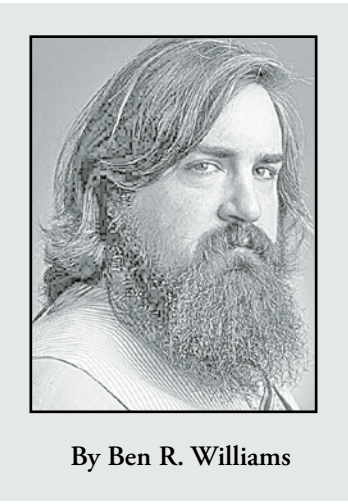
As a result, most U-Haul drivers are operating in a state of constant thanatopic terror, their massive trucks veering from lane to lane at the slightest gust of wind, their trailers wagging like a dog's tail. They aren't necessarily bad drivers, they're just constantly teetering on the brink of a total loss of control.

2. The Dodge Ram  
Let me be clear: I'm not saying that only massive jerks drive Dodge Ram pickup trucks. However, if you walk into a Dodge dealership wearing a Confederate flag hat and a Monster Energy T-shirt and call the salesman a racial slur while showering him with dip spit, he will immediately whisk you to the Ram section.

I don't like it either, but that's just the way it is.

Dodge Ram drivers do not care about the other cars on the road. They will speed up and swerve through traffic as though they were piloting a nimble motorcycle and not a massive gas-guzzling behemoth the size of an ocean-going vessel. If anyone gets in the way, it's not their fault. It's not like the Dodge Ram driver will even notice any of their innocent victims, considering the blind spot in front of the hood could conceal a Clydesdale.

Some Dodge Ram drivers will even outfit their diesel



By Ben R. Williams

engines to "roll coal," producing thick clouds of choking black smoke at the flip of a switch. They do this out of concern that others might not notice the Ram badging on their truck and mistake them for a decent person.

If you have a young child in the car, shield their eyes when a Dodge Ram passes; at least one bumper sticker will be profoundly vulgar.

3. The white BMW  
When you see any late-model BMW on the road, you should assume the driver is grossly incompetent. If the BMW is white, you should assume the driver is barely sentient.

As far as I can tell, white BMWs are shipped from the factory without turn signal stalks. If you see a turn signal flash on a white BMW, do not trust it; it is a trick.

Much like a dispossessed wandering spirit, the white

BMW will drift all over the road and merge into traffic as though its driver is unaware that other people exist. If you see a white BMW pull up next to you on the interstate, the safest course of action is to simply drive off the road and into the nearest field before the BMW merges into you.

Fortunately, white BMWs are easy to spot even at night since their powerful LED headlights are constantly on high-beam. If you want to know whether or not the driver behind you at night is in a white BMW, there's an easy test; simply roll down your window and stick your arm out. If you can see the bones in your arm through the skin, the car behind you is a BMW.

4. The heavily-modded Jeep Wrangler

If you see a late-model Jeep Wrangler that's been heavily modified with after-market parts, be on your guard. These Jeeps are easy to spot: they're bulky and hideous, they're covered in stickers advertising that the vehicle in question is, in fact, a Jeep, and they nearly always have a stupid after-market grille that makes the headlights look like angry eyes with furrowed eyebrows. This is so you know the driver is a real tough guy.

Heavily-modded Jeeps are also spotless since they're never taken off-road. Who would risk damage to their \$100,000 molded plastic investment? As a result, heavily-modded Wranglers are most dangerous in rain or snow, as the drivers have no idea how to drive their vehicles outside of a dry

asphalt road or a Wal-Mart parking lot. In bad weather, you'll generally see them roaring past you in the left lane at 100 miles an hour on their way to the scene of the grisly accident.

5. The Nissan Altima  
The average Nissan Altima has been wrecked three times and repossessed twice. It is held together with duct tape, Bondo, and prayers. It has a trade-in value of \$40, and the driver knows this.

The Nissan Altima driver is a man or woman to be both feared and respected. They do not fear death, for they drive a Nissan Altima they bought at a police auction after the previous owner was felled in a hail of gunfire, likely while in the driver's seat.

The Nissan Altima driver does not obey the rules of the road any more than they obey the rules of God or man. They are not to be engaged. Much as one would quietly observe a grizzly bear, enjoying its majesty while being prepared to escape, one should appreciate the Altima driver while avoiding their wrath. Watch as the Altima swerves across five lanes of traffic to hit a 30mph exit ramp at 85 mph. Marvel as the Altima runs off the road for no apparent reason, overcorrects, and then barely manages to avoid causing a massive pileup. Observe in wonder as the Altima roars past you on an icy road with three donut spare tires. Just like the noble grizzly, the Altima is as dangerous as it is beautiful.

Safe travels!

Gravely Preserve is site of December's First Saturday Outing

You're invited to share a hike on Saturday, December 3, with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA). The two-mile hike, DRBA's First Saturday Outing, begins at 10 a.m. at the Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve, 2525 Eggleston Falls Road, Ridgeway, Virginia. Outing coordinator is Linda Park, an avid fan of the preserve.

The Gravely Nature Preserve, part of Henry County's Smith River Trail system, was dedicated in April 2008. Developed by DRBA and Henry County, with funding from The Harvest Foundation, the 75-acre preserve features early twentieth-century tobacco barns and the Burgess Family cemetery, reminders of former owners of the property. Located on a ridge, the cemetery contains graves mostly from 1880-1920, with the most recent being 1941.

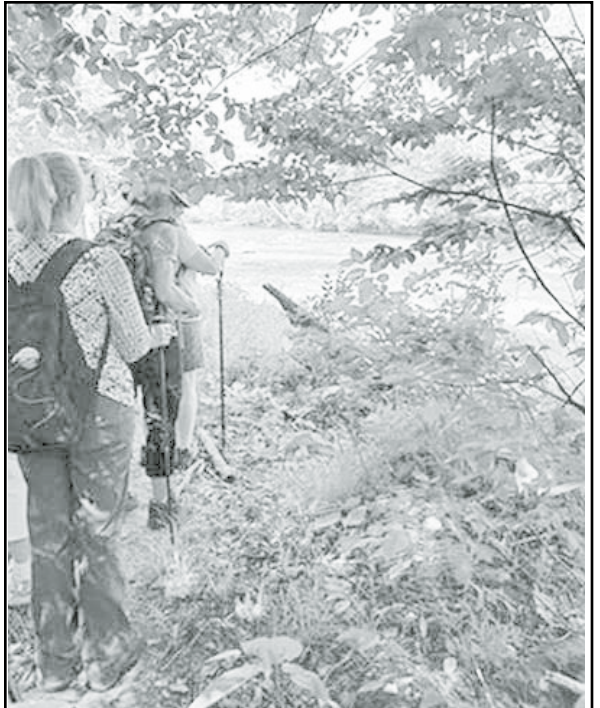
Interpretive trails on the preserve wind through mixed woodlands, some along the ridge and oth-

ers descending to the edge of the Smith River where rhododendrons thrive along the water's edge. A wide variety of ferns may still be visible this late in the year.

Industrialist, civic leader, and archaeologist Richard P. Gravely, Jr. owned the property in the late twentieth century and left detailed instructions for its preservation as a wildlife and nature conservancy. His family honored his wishes, and the resulting nature preserve has hosted educational and recreational events for all ages, including day camps, fitness walks, historic presentations, workshops, after-school programs, and geo-caching.

Participants in the hike are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot of the Gravely Nature Preserve, 2525 Eggleston Falls Road, Ridgeway. Dress in layers, wear hiking shoes or boots, and bring hiking stick(s), lunch, and water. All are invited to picnic in the Outdoor Classroom near the parking lot at the end of the hike.

**The Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA'S) First Saturday Outing in December is a two-mile hike at the Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve in Ridgeway. (Contributed)**



County reports successful fall sports season

**Maddy Oliver**  
*Staff writer*

At its Nov. 22 meeting, the Henry County Board of Supervisors heard information about the successful Parks and Recreation fall sports season by its Deputy Director Daniel Reynolds

The fall sports season includes flag football, junior tackle football, senior tackle football, and girls' basketball.

The Axton-Mount Olivet team won the season and tournament for flag football. For junior tackle, the Axton-Mount Olivet-Martinsville team won. For senior tackle football, the Laurel Park team won the regular season. For junior girls' bas-

ketball, the Axton-Mount Olivet-Drewry Mason team won the regular season. For senior girls' basketball, the Laurel Park team won the regular season.

Iriswood District board member Garrett Dillard asked about the number of female participants this year, which has been an issue in the past, and efforts to attract more girls involved in the program.

Brianna Hairston, coach of the Axton-Mount Olivet-Drewry Mason junior girls' basketball team, suggested more activities.

"I think maybe having more activities where the young ladies who do want to participate, because they're only playing for September and October and that's it. And

some of them aren't participating in the other Parks and Rec teams. I think having more opportunities, maybe something in the summertime, for the kids to do," Hairston suggested.

She emphasized the importance of offering positive things to do to children to keep them out of trouble and helping them develop more skills.

"This is a program that's going to lead to your middle school and to your high school and if you don't have that skillset. You're not going to beat the bigger teams like out in Roanoke, those teams that continuously go for the state championship every year," Hairston said. "It has to start, I think, at this age level."

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

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.

The question for Week 1 is below:

I sang the best-selling Christmas song of all time, "White Christmas."

Who Am I?



# Train Station Event Center

from page 1



The main room in the Bassett Train Station Event Center has lighting that Aubree Bowman believes is perfect for events such as art exhibitions.

walkthrough wedding would look like, including brides in dresses and things like that.”

She also is looking at a variety of festivals, such as craft festivals and a moonshine festival, and a high-end bingo event in which the center partners with the Boys and Girls Club. Potential prizes would be Louis Vuitton bags and other high-end wares.

While every new job has its challenges, Bowman says the transition into her new position has been fairly easy.

“I think with any new job, there’s always a transition period. I wouldn’t say I’ve met with a lot of difficult pieces. I think everyone has been really, really great about everything, honestly,” she said. “I think, just because this is such a fresh space, you know we had to deal with COVID. The train station was renovated and then COVID hit, so we had two years of not a lot of events being able to be put on here. So, we are really kind of in the infancy of what this could be.”

Bowman said that offers a fresh palate for her to work with, and she has big goals to ensure the space is used in creative and exciting ways.

“To get every weekend booked would be great. To do some community outreach and get some of the community in the door that haven’t been in here, and want



The Bassett Train Station Event Center can be used for weddings and other events.

to see this space and figure out ways that we can utilize it in creative ways” are among her goals, she said.

Her creative ideas include shows from local school theatre departments, a Polar Express event for youngsters, art exhibitions, and more.

“This space that’s a blank space, really, it’s a blank canvas for anything you want it to be,” she said.

But her biggest goal is to offer the community the kinds of events it wants.

“Working with the community is my main goal, to make sure we’re doing things here that they want to see. Because, you know, this place, it has been such a community staple with the farmer’s markets and things that they did prior to the renovations, so I want to see this place utilized for those things as well,” Bowman said.

She is thrilled about the upcoming events and is thankful for all those she has worked with already.

“Some of the most amazing pieces have been the people we get to work with,” Bowman said. “This community’s been amazing, they’ve given me a ton of feedback on what they want to see here, which is helpful, and across the street we have Railway (Café) which is amazing. And I’ve been able to partner with all these little businesses in the area and kind of get together in the Spring to do these events.”

# Former BB&T Building

from page 1

He also hinted at another project a couple of blocks away that is in the final meeting phases.

“I think Uptown Martinsville is really on the edge of transforming for good and it’s going to serve us well for many years to come,” he said.

Lisa Watkins, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, said the project will “add to the momentum that’s been building here in Uptown Martinsville.” She extended the support and excitement of the chamber for the project.

“We’re just happy to be here and support the effort in any way that we can to help support keeping our businesses sustainable and helping them be successful over the long haul,” she said.

Jim Cherney, a partner with JRS Realty Partners which is overseeing the project, spoke to what the project means and what led to it. He said he and his partner, John Garland, combined bring more than 83 years of Virginia development experience to the table. The two are contributing \$9 million to the project, along with \$11 million to three other local projects.

“That’s because we believe in Martinsville and we believe in Martinsville’s leadership,” he said. “We believe in their city manager and their mayor. The people, Lisa, who’s explained her involvement with getting us here. These are the folks who see potential for Martinsville.”

Cherney said Martinsville and Henry County are “on the move” and bringing in new industry, fresh innovation, and new faces with new ideas.

“Martinsville truly is a city without limits,” Cherney said. “How will this project support all that? We support the local employers here in town. People who are working in Martinsville, who are working in Henry County, get a

paycheck and leave with it to spend it in other communities. That money, if it stays here, has a multiplier effect on the entire local economy.”

He also noted the housing crisis, adding that the national crisis starts locally.

“John and I would like to build desirable buildings, buildings with apartment spaces that we would indeed live in ourselves. We want to build a product that local employees can afford,” he said, specifically mentioning teachers, first responders, and nurses as potential renters.

Cherney said the partners have an interest in historic preservation and are interested in protecting the former BB&T building, which was built in 1959 and is the tallest building in Martinsville.

“It could, it should, and it will be spared from demolition,” he said.

Garland said the renovation of the building is the most environmentally conscious option.

“There’s nothing more environmentally conscious than taking a building and not tearing it down and putting all that material in a landfill, using the structure that’s already there to create a new space,” he said.

He emphasized their desire to have a high-quality design and construction for the building.

“These apartments will have things like washers and dryers in each unit. They’ll have quartz countertops. They’ll have high end appliances, just a number of things that make the apartments very pleasing,” he said.

Roughly 30 percent of the area, though, has been reserved for commercial space, mostly the former portion of the building used by bank tellers.

“We’re thinking it would be multiple restaurants that share a kitchen so we can keep the price point down,” Garland said, “instead of trying to depend on one



John Garland, also of JRS Realty Partners, described some of the plans and timeline to transform the former bank building into apartments and commercial spaces.

restaurant occupying a large space. It can also serve the community in having a community kitchen that would serve food trucks.”

The two also are excited about the possibilities offered by the rooftop of the building.

“The rooftop is absolutely beautiful, and we first envisioned that as an apartment, but to the credit of the city, they asked instead of having an apartment up there that would only allow one person to enjoy that view, turn it into a community space and have it as an event space. So, that’s what we did,” Garland said. The space will include a kitchen and both an indoor and outdoor event space.

The timeline set puts the building being ready to be inhabited in 2025, according to Garland.

“As far as schedule, this first year and next year, 2023, will be all planning, design, financing, figuring out exactly what we’re going to do and also removal of asbestos” and other factors, he said.

“Also, the mechanical and electrical systems are from ’59 and maybe newer than that, but very old systems that aren’t appropriate for what we’ll have for the residents,” he said.

“Then, the construction will start late next year, early 2024. We’ll have a year or a little bit longer in construction. So, you’ll have to wait a little bit, but 2025 is when we’ll occupy the building,” Garland said.

# Tax Relief Approved

from page 1

can be on the average citizen, especially with the holidays around the corner. This board is committed to helping alleviate that financial burden whenever we can, and to that end, we have decided to provide relief on this year’s personal property taxes.”

County staff does not expect the relief to affect budgeted revenues for the current fiscal year due to the assessment values on used cars being higher than in prior years.

In addition to granting tax relief, the Board also extended the deadline to pay personal property taxes until Feb. 5 to account for a delay in the bills being mailed out to residents.

In other matters, the board on Tuesday:

\*Approved an additional appropriation of \$769,673.07 requested by the Henry County School Board to provide a \$1,000 bonus payment for each Standards of Quality funded instructional and support position within the school system.

\*Awarded an \$829,837 contract to Aviat Networks for upgrades to the existing emergency communications microwave network. The Sheriff’s Office, Department of Public Safety and volunteer fire and rescue departments use the system for two-way radio communication.

\*Approved the disbursement of \$201,392 in Virginia Fire Program funds to the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a new tanker-style fire truck from FESCO Emergency Sales.

\*Awarded a \$19,900 contract to CHA Consulting,

Inc., to help with the mitigation of the primary and backup electrical systems from the Henry County jail.

\*Approved the carryover of committed funds from the fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget to the FY23 budget. The funds are for items encumbered or obligated from the prior budget, but the item was not received, or the service was not performed before June 30, 2022. This year’s carryover request totals \$48,637,888.54.

\*Approved the 2023 Legislative Agenda for the Virginia General Assembly.

\*Approved a resolution waiving the comprehensive plan review for the Michaux Solar Project that was approved for a special use permit by the Board of Zoning Appeals on January 27, 2021.

\*Set a public hearing for Dec. 13 to receive comments on the amendment of Henry County Code Section 6-202 – Fees, to add subsection (J) Solar Fees. This subsection will establish a consistent fee schedule for the issuance of solar building permits.

\*Reappointed Mandy Brannock and Christy Spencer to the ANCHOR Commission to four-year terms scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2026. The Board also appointed Carol Henderson to the ANCHOR Commission to a four-year term scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2026.

\*Approved a resolution honoring Terri Cook as she prepares to retire after 32 years of service to the Commissioner of Revenue’s Office.

\*Recognized the winning teams from the Parks & Recreation fall sports programs.



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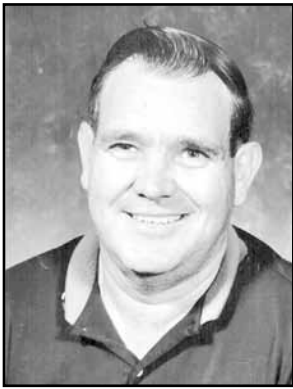


# OBITUARIES

## John Eugene Barker

John Eugene Barker, 83, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Sunday, November 27, 2022 at his home. He was born October 15, 1939, in Virginia to the late Joseph Barker and Virginia Mills Barker. He was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church and enjoyed all sports, especially softball and football.

He is survived by his wife, Delora Hubbard Barker; daughters, Marylin Hairston (Roy) and Lisa Lawrence (Anthony); grandchildren, Roy



LaShawn, Rodney Lee and Kaitlin Maria; and great grandchildren, Jaylyn Sky, Rhianna Lynn, Sincere Monte and Everlee Rowan.

The funeral was held on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Wright Funeral Service Chapel with Rev. Randy Aldridge and Steve Doby officiating. Burial followed at Fair Haven Memorial Park.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

## Asa Conway Harris

Asa Conway Harris, 92, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on November 22, 2022, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Danville, Virginia on April 13, 1930, to the late Charles Ivan Harris and Ruby Thelma Stevens Harris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Nora Ovella Jones Harris; daughter, Deborah Lou Harris Hill; three brothers, Julian “Jack” Harris, Edward “Mick” Harris, Douglas Harris; and two sisters, Imogene Harris Agee and Fern Harris Cochran.

He worked in maintenance for many years at Sale Knitting Company and then Tultex Corporation. He served as a deacon at Highland Baptist Church in Ridgeway, Virginia for over 30 years. Conway also attended Bible Baptist Church in Collinsville and



Hill Memorial Church in his later years. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his son, Ted Harris (Ruth); one brother, Arley Ted Harris; two sisters, Saundra Harris Stephens and Ramona Harris Agee; three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews and

nieces. Funeral services were held on Tuesday November 29, 2022 at Norris Funeral Services in Martinsville. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

The family would like to thank his caregivers Carolyn Chilton, Richfield Living and Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

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

## Michael Moran Peters

Michael Moran Peters, 66, of Bassett, VA passed away Friday, November 25, 2022 at his home. He was born August 2, 1956 in Martinsville, VA to the late Charlie Roosevelt Peters, Jr. and Barbara Ann Moran Peters. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister,



Deborah Peters.

He is survived by his brothers, Charlie R. Peters, III (Laura) and Duane A. “Tony” Peters; step-mother, Debra Smith; step-sister, Jamie Campbell (Jason).

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

## Jane Burgess Blankenship

Jane Burgess Blankenship, of Martinsville, VA went to be with the Lord in her Heavenly home on November 20, 2022. She was born in Roanoke, VA on September 17, 1948 and lived in Mason, West Virginia prior to living in Martinsville where she graduated from Martinsville High School in 1966. She attended Radford College where she earned her Master’s Degree in music. She married in 1969. Jane was a middle school music teacher in Durham, NC. She served as Choir Director for 20 years at Wesley Memorial UMC where she was a member.

Jane was a strong woman in a time and place where that was less common than it is now. Her voice was a tremendous gift, and her artistry inspired many to follow in her craft. Jane lived with Parkinson’s disease for nearly thirty years, a disease that took her independence and her life, but she lived that life as fully as she could, until the end. The most extraordinary love and care was given to her by JE, who fulfilled their marriage vows faithfully every day. He provided constant faith and abiding love whatever



came. Her survivors include her husband, loving and devoted caregiver of 53 years, James Elery (JE) Blankenship; sons Giles Blankenship (Kelly), Kirk Blankenship (Shelly) and Mark Blankenship; brothers, Henry Burgess (Alice), Stephen Burgess (Fran) and sister Anne Cutchin (Dan); grandchildren Davis, Sophie, Kenneth, Naomi, Lydia, Jason, Lexa, Luke, and Melania; numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

The funeral was held at Wesley Memorial UMC on Starling Ave. in Martinsville, VA, on Friday, Nov 25, with visitation immediately following the service; graveside at Roselawn Burial Park on Monday, Nov. 28.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in honor of Jane to Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Paula Eanes for the loving care she gave to Jane.

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

## Elaine Smith

Elaine Smith, 93, of Ocala, FL passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2022. She was born on September 18, 1929, in Alleghany Co., NC to the late Richard Alonzo “Lon” Williams and Ida Cecil Lowe Williams. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of sixty-six years, Bruce Jefferson Smith; son, Lonnie Leon Smith; sister, Reba Padgett; and daughter-in-law, Charlene Smith.

Mrs. Smith was a member of Chatmoss Baptist Church and worked at Bassett Walker and JC Huddle Furniture. She loved quilting, bowling, sewing, and making ceramics.

She is survived by her children, Earl Dean Smith of Martinsville, VA; Hilda Hollandsworth (David) Ocala, FL and



Jay Smith of Fieldale, VA; sister, Gladys Williams of Galax, VA; brother, Dan Williams of Galax, VA; grandchildren, Amy Watkins, Danielle Penn, Brittany Smith, Whittney Reid, and Lindsay Brooke Hollandsworth; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services with Pastor Rodney Houston officiating. Burial followed the service at Smith Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Chatmoss Baptist Church, 400 Chatmoss Court, Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

# IALR to hold open house, auction for ‘Wreaths For A Cause’ Program



The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), which serves Henry County and the City of Martinsville, will hold “Wreaths for a Cause” this holiday season.

All are invited to attend the Open House to celebrate the holidays, enjoy prizes and participate in a live and silent auction of wreaths. Tickets are \$10 each with proceeds earmarked for the United Way of Danville & Pittsylvania County. Funds from the wreaths will benefit the charity each participating organization designated.

“Every holiday season, we look forward to inviting the public to enjoy decorations in our Institute Conference Center while also giving back to our nonprofits who are so important to the fabric of our community,” said Ellen Bass of IALR. “This is the second year for Wreaths for a Cause, and we hope to raise even more funds than the \$16,000 we were fortunate to raise last year.”

The Open House will be held in IALR’s atrium on Dec. 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided. Austin Scher of the Danville Otterbots will serve as master of ceremonies, and Rita Smith of River City Auction will serve as wreath auctioneer. A 7:15 p.m. drawing will award a gift card package from local businesses (currently valued at \$250); individuals must be present to win. Open House tickets may be purchased in advance at IALR Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or at the door event night. Area businesses and organizations create and display wreaths in IALR’s atrium in honor of their selected charities to raise funds in the form of votes, or donations.

The public may visit IALR’s atrium Nov. 28-Dec. 15 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to vote for wreaths with a donation and to enjoy the festive display. Each charity retains those funds, and the wreath/charity that collects the most money before the Open House will receive a bonus of \$1,000. At the Open House, a random drawing of all wreaths will award another

\$1,000 and \$500 to a participating charity. ‘Decorating the Wreaths’ sponsors include Dewberry, JTI, Goodyear, Wilkins and Co., FCS, Riverside Roof Truss and Caesars Virginia. The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation with applied research, advanced learning, manufacturing advancement, conference center services and economic development efforts. IALR’s major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia, and also encompasses the counties of Patrick, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the City of Danville. For more information, visit [www.ialr.org](http://www.ialr.org).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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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.

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

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **December 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case.  
**Case S-22-14 Axton Solar, LLC**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-1801 through 21-1808; 21-302 and 21-902 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the proposed expansion of a previously approved (but not constructed) Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The previous request was approved on February 24, 2021 on parcels totaling approximately 1,203-acres. The applicant is now requesting to remove approximately 441 acres of the originally approved acreage and add approximately 329 acres of additional approved acreage. The resulting project area would be approximately 1,092 acres, and approximately 434.5 acres of that would be utilized for solar. The properties are generally located north of Jones Ridge Road and one parcel on the east side of Mountain Valley Road, east of address 636 Mountain Valley Rd. Also, on the south west side of Daniel Road, near its intersection with A.L. Philpott Hwy. The proposal is still to develop a 200MW facility, in the Iriswood District. The additional Tax Map numbers are 45.7/9X,11,15,16; 46.7/11,13,16A,16E,17,17I,17C,17E,28; 45.9/99; and 46.4/15. The properties are zoned Agricultural District A-1 and Commercial District B-1.  
The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

### 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 isAocated at 1 East Main Street 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

### HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the Henry County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to amend Henry County Code Section 6-202 - Fees, to add subsection (J) Solar Fees. This subsection will establish a consistent fee schedule for the issuance of solar building permits.

A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

## Classified Advertising DELIVERS

# Residents urged to get flu vaccine

In advance of National Influenza Vaccination Week December 5-9, the Pittsylvania/Danville and Southside health districts reminds everyone six months and older to get their annual influenza (flu) vaccine.

With flu activity elevated nationally, Virginia is currently seeing very high levels of the influenza virus. In fact, Virginia has already had 11,582 influenza-related infections and has investigated 97 flu outbreaks this season.

“We are seeing significantly more flu activity this year,” Pittsylvania/Danville and Southside health districts Director Scott J. Spillmann, MD, MPH said. “It’s important to get your flu vaccine as soon as possible to keep you and your family healthy.”

Flu season, the period of highest influenza activity, normally begins in early October and ends in late May. During most seasons, cases often peak in January or February; however, Virginia is seeing significant outbreaks now.

A flu vaccine is needed every season for two reasons. First, the body’s immune response from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, because flu viruses are

constantly changing, the formulation of the flu vaccine is reviewed each year and updated to keep up with changing flu viruses.

You should get the influenza vaccine as soon as it becomes available. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, it’s not too late to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza, commonly called “the flu,” is a serious disease caused by the influenza virus that affects the respiratory tract. It is highly contagious and generally spreads from person-to-person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can be transmitted even before flu-like symptoms appear. A person usually becomes sick one to three days following exposure to the virus. Typical flu symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

For the 2021-22 flu season, Virginia spent 12 weeks at widespread. During that season, Virginia reported 5,071 infections, 24 outbreaks, one influenza-associated pediatric death and 3,895 pneumonia, influenza and/or COVID-19 associated deaths.

To minimize your risk of contracting or transmitting the flu, follow these simple steps:

- Get vaccinated;
  - Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, for at least 20 seconds;
  - Cover your cough, either by using a disposable tissue or coughing into your sleeve, not your hand; and
  - Stay at home when you are sick.
- Visit [www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/](http://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/) to find a location near you to get the flu vaccine. It is safe to get both the flu and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.



# Fuel prices fell during holiday week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 7.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.34/g on Monday, Nov. 28, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 13.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 10.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.20 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.29/g on Sunday while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$2.20/g. The lowest price in the state on Sunday was \$2.29/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$2.20/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 12.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.52/g today. The national average is down 22.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 14.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the

country.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.30/g, down 6.9 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.37/g.

Richmond- \$3.34/g, down 6.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.41/g.

West Virginia- \$3.46/g, down 6.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.53/g.

“As millions of Americans hit the road for Thanksgiving, we saw gasoline prices continue drop-

ping coast to coast last week, and a new record was set for the largest single day decline in the national average. In addition, 47 of the nation’s 50 states have seen diesel prices falling as well, providing well-needed relief ahead of the holidays and helping to stem the rise in inflation,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “All the metrics look very positive for motorists as this week is likely to continue seeing falling gasoline prices, with many areas falling to the lowest level since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February. It’s entirely possible the national average price of gasoline could fall under \$3 per gallon by Christmas, which would be a huge gift to unwrap for motorists after a dizzying year at the pump.”

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up to date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

# New “Make Virginia Home” plan promotes affordable housing

At the 2022 Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled his “Make Virginia Home” Plan, which will promote increasing the supply of attainable, affordable, and accessible housing across the Commonwealth.

“After listening directly from Virginians on the various housing issues across our Commonwealth, my administration created the ‘Make Virginia Home’ plan. It is designed to address the restrictions on housing supply, improve and streamline permitting processes, and protect property owner rights. For far too long, Virginians have faced unnecessary burdens that have limited their housing options and opportunities. Today’s plan is a needed step to improve housing options and keeps my commitment to lower the cost of living and make Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family,”

said Youngkin.

“During our efforts to attract and retain businesses to Virginia, the availability of workforce housing for their future employees was consistently raised by employers. It’s clear there is a strong connection between economic growth and needs for attainable housing options. This plan will align housing development with economic growth as part of our site development process and we will engage with site selectors earlier in the recruitment process on housing to ensure workforce housing needs are addressed,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick.

The plan will focus on several key areas to increase accessibility, affordability, and attainable housing in the Commonwealth:

- Increasing the supply of land for housing.
- Create reasonable linkages between

discretionary state grant funding to localities and local policies and actions that encourage housing growth through executive action or statute.

Establish guard rails for zoning/land use review processes that include deadlines by which localities must act, and consequences if they do not, for localities seeking state assistance to increase the growth of their economies.

Create transparency by requiring localities to report on their policies and actions that impact housing development.

Investigate comprehensive reforms of Virginia’s land use and zoning laws.

Remove regulatory barriers to housing development.

Provide a more efficient way for public and private economic development and infrastructure projects to meet mandated wetlands and stream mitigation requirements in a way that

does not jeopardize the quality of that mitigation by working to operationalize Virginia’s existing Wetland and Stream Replacement Fund.

Continue to improve and streamline environmental permitting processes.

Translate Virginia’s building regulations into Spanish.

Investigate potential procedural changes in the building code adoption process that balances technical code provisions more closely with construction cost controls.

Align housing development with economic growth.

Housing is prominently included in the Commonwealth’s economic development planning and site development process.

Establish public/private partnerships with site selectors early on to include workforce housing in the site development and selection process.



# Job openings rose by 40,000 in Virginia

According to a recent release from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' September 2022 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reports Virginia job openings rebounded from August's 317,000 level to 357,000. Hires also rose by 15,000 to 177,000 for the month of September.

The most recent BLS JOLTS survey data indicated the number of September job openings nationwide increased by more nearly half a million, with an even sharper rise in Virginia. The data provides information on all the pieces that go into the net change in the number of jobs. These components include job openings, hires, layoffs, voluntary quits, and other job separations (which includes retirements and worker deaths). Putting those components together reveals the overall change in payroll employment. The JOLTS data is seasonally adjusted and describes conditions on the last business day of the month. Current month's data are preliminary and the prior month's data have been revised.

The number of September 2022 job openings in Virginia was 357,000, which was a 40,000 increase from August 2022's revised figure and reflected continued tautness in labor markets seen across the country. Nationwide, September job openings increased to 10.7 million (+437,000), partially offsetting a decline in August. In September, the largest increases in job openings nationwide were in accommodation and food services (+215,000); health care and social assistance (+115,000); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+111,000). The number of job openings decreased in wholesale trade (-104,000) and in finance and insurance (-83,000).

The Virginia job openings rate (job openings as a percentage of total employment) rose by nearly a percentage point (0.8) to 8.0 and reflected elevated levels often seen in 2022. The U.S. rate changed little at 6.5 percent in September but was 0.8 percentage point lower than its peak in March 2022. In September, the job openings rate decreased in establishments with 5,000 or more employees.

In September, there was approximately one unemployed worker per three job openings in the Commonwealth, matching July's record. This period marked the lowest rates since January 2001, when the BLS began collecting the data.

In Virginia, the unemployed per job opening ratio (sometimes called the 'job seekers ratio') peaked at 4.4 unemployed per job opening in February 2010 during the Great Recession, while the number of unemployed workers per job opening stood at 3.3 in April 2020 during the height of pandemic employment impacts.

Across the U.S., there were a ratio of unemployed people to job openings of 0.5 for September, compared with 0.6 in August. The ratio of unemployed people per job opening has been below 1.0 since July 2021. The number of unemployed people per job opening reached its highest level of 6.4 in October of 2009, at the height of the Great Recession.

The number of hires in Virginia rose by 15,000 to 177,000 in September, which was 9 percent higher over the month and nearly a third higher than five years earlier. JOLTS defines hires as all additions to the payroll during the month. The series low of 77,000 was set in April 2020, while the high of 265,000 was set in June of that year. In September, the number of U.S. hires edged down to 6.1 million and the rate changed little at 4.0 percent. Hires decreased in durable goods manufacturing (-57,000) and in state and local government education (-40,000). The number of hires decreased in 8 states, increased in 2 states, and was little changed in 40 states and the District of Columbia in September. The largest decreases in the hires level occurred in California (-91,000), Texas (-57,000), and Ohio (-47,000). The increases occurred in Arizona (+25,000) and New Hampshire (+7,000). In Virginia, the hires rate rose to 4.3% from August's revised 4.0% rate. The national hires rate was unchanged over the month. In September, hires rates decreased in 9 states, increased in 2 states, and were little changed in 39 states and the District of Columbia. The largest decreases in hires rates occurred in Iowa (-1.1 percentage points), Ohio (-0.9 point), and North Dakota (-0.8 point). The increases occurred in New Hampshire (+1.0 point) and Arizona (+0.8 point).

An estimated 109,000 workers quit jobs from Virginia employers in September. The number of quits rose by 6,000 from August revised figure of 109,000 and was up by a quarter compared to five years earlier. The number of quits was down significantly from the record-breaking month of December 2021 when 136,000 Virginia workers quit their jobs. Quits, a component of total separations, are voluntary separations

initiated by the employee.

In September, the number of U.S. quits changed little at 4.1 million, and the rate was 2.7 percent for the third month in a row. U.S. quits decreased in construction (-56,000); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-35,000); and durable goods manufacturing (-28,000). Quits increased in state and local government, excluding education (+15,000). The largest decreases in the quits level occurred in Texas (-111,000) and Florida (-28,000), as well as in Georgia and Pennsylvania (-19,000 each). The increases in the quits level occurred in Illinois (+50,000), Michigan (+21,000), and Kansas (+9,000).

The number of layoffs and discharges in Virginia decreased by 4,000 to 30,000 in September 2022 from August's revised 34,000 figure. This was flat growth over the year, but nearly 10 percent lower than five years before in 2018. In September, the number of layoffs and discharges nationwide edged down to 1.3 million and the rate changed little at 0.9 percent. The largest decreases in layoffs and discharges rates occurred in Wyoming (-2.5 percentage points) and in Alaska and Georgia (-1.0 point each). The increases in layoffs and discharges rates occurred in Ohio (+0.4 point) and in Illinois (+0.2 point). Layoffs and discharges are countercyclical, which means that layoffs typically increase during economic contractions and decrease during economic expansions.

The September 2022 churn rate (the sum of the hires rate and the total separations rate) rose to 7.9 from August's revised 7.6 rate in Virginia, indicating continued elevated velocity of movement into and out of jobs but slower than earlier in the year. Nationwide performed similarly, as the U.S. churn rate slowed over the month and signaled deceleration from early 2022. An elevated churn rate indicates a labor market with a high hires rate, a high separations rate, or both. It can signify that workers are moving more frequently into and out of jobs in the labor market. Conversely, a low churn rate indicates a labor market with a low hires rate, a low separations rate, or both. Labor markets with the most churn may also have more seasonal employment patterns not fully captured by seasonal adjustment factors, which can lead to more frequent job-to-job movement.

The VEC plans to release the October 2022 analysis of the BLS Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey for Virginia on Dec. 19.

## Virginia-grown holiday plants make fresh, festive gifts

Poinsettias are thought to be the Cadillac of holiday plants, but Virginia gift givers have plenty of other options as well.

Bulbs that blossom into delicate white flowers or large colorful blooms make delightful holiday gift options.

"Having something beautiful and alive and smells so good ... it takes care of the winter doldrums," said Becky Heath, who owns Brent's & Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester County with her husband, Brent. Flower bulbs have been the family's business for three genera-

tions, and each fall they sell thousands of paperwhites and amaryllises in time for the holidays.

"You just put them in some water with pebbles, or you put them in soil, stick them in the window, and they start growing," Heath said.

While they're a traditional holiday plant in the U.S., the bulbs originate overseas—paperwhites are typically grown in Israel and amaryllises in South Africa or the Netherlands. Millions are imported into the U.S. each year.

"We've got 28 different types (of amaryllises) and eight types of paperwhites," she said. "There's (an amaryllis) called Merry Christmas, and it's very traditional," she said. "It has six petals, blooms quickly—it has the right name, and it's so pretty."

When gifting bulbs for the holidays, timing is important, Heath said. Do you want the bulbs to bloom for the holidays, or during January after seasonal decorations are packed away?

South African amaryllis bulbs from the warmer climate bloom earlier, typically in two to four weeks, whereas Dutch varieties take four to eight weeks. Paperwhites, depending on the variety, can bloom in two to five weeks.

And if you don't want a recipient to wait for the blooms, then a poinsettia may be the way to go.



Cros-B-Crest Farm in Augusta County grows 21,000 poinsettias annually and has been supplying the holiday plants to independent garden centers throughout Virginia and surrounding states since 1986.

The Prestige red variety is consistently their best-selling poinsettia.

"Though there are so many varieties of red," noted Maggie Crosby Edwards, a family member who helps manage the farm. "And we have the novel varieties. Red glitter is probably the most popular, with a speckled variation to the bracts. There's also pink, marble and burgundy, and multiple different whites."

Some whites have a yellowish tint, others are stark.

Edwards said the houseplants are a timeless staple for the holiday season.

"Go back and watch Home Alone," she said. "You'll see a poinsettia in every scene! I would love the market to get back to that point, when we had poinsettias in every room."

# 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!

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Immunizations ■ Mammogram

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