



Henry County Public Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer plans to retire in July. (Contributed photo)

Board considers next steps as Strayer prepares to retire in July

Staff Reports

Henry County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Sandy Strayer will retire in July, after 31 years as an educator. Strayer plans to focus more time on her family and to pursue avenues to continue to support her community and education.

"It has been a privilege to serve as part of the school system in Henry County," Strayer said. "I am forever grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have had as an educator in our community over the years and for the support and collaboration provided by so many colleagues and community members. I feel blessed to have worked with so many extraordinary people - many who have provided motivation for the work I have been privileged to lead.

"The students, staff, parents, community members, and school board have enriched my life and these relationships will continue to be of great value to me," she added.

The school board will begin a search for the next superintendent soon, according to Teddy Martin II, chairman of the Henry County School Board.

Because Strayer's announcement was recent, "we haven't fully finalized" the search process yet, but will determine the next steps in the process soon, with the goal of filling the post by July 1.

"I think Dr. Strayer's intention of giving us that information now," months ahead of her planned departure was to give the board time to conduct a search and hire the best-suited candidate, Martin said, and added that he believes the division will have a slate of qualified applicants outside and

inside the division.

In making its final selection, "we will try to do what's best for the division and the community," Martin said, and noted Strayer's influence throughout the division.

"Dr. Strayer's leadership has ensured continued growth for Henry County Public Schools. Her high expectations for academic achievement and behavior, as well as her ongoing work to improve salaries and working conditions for division employees, has solidified HCPS as a great place to work and learn," Martin said. "We are certainly grateful for her long-term dedication to the school community and wish her well as she begins this new chapter."

A graduate of Drewry Mason High School, Strayer joined the county school division in 1992 as a teacher at Bassett High School and remained there until 2001. She served as assistant principal at Fieldale Collinsville High School from 2001-2004 and was assistant principal at Bassett High School during the 2004-2005 school year.

In 2005, she became principal at Collinsville Primary School and remained there until 2010, when she became director of secondary instruction and career and technical education, a position she held for three years before moving into the role of director of K-12 instruction. In 2014, she was named Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and assumed the role of Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration in 2017. She served as acting Superintendent from July-November 2018 when she was named to the superintendent role.

Anonymous (AA), and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

The facility also will teach residents some life skills lessons and nutrition.

"We're going to do some trades, but right now it'll pretty much be gardening and landscaping and kitchen stuff until we can expand," she said.

The center will have 18 staff members, including three kitchen staff, 12 peers, one licensed professional counselor (LPC), and two certified substance abuse counselors.

Tallman said the facility sits on about 55 acres of land with walking trails and a cabin.

"It's not so close in a neighbor-

hood that you're going to have a lot of concern, it really sits off the highway. Even though there are homes close by you can't really see them with the trees and stuff, so it's nice and private," she said.

Tallman said the facility will accept transgender patients as long as they live the life of whatever gender they identify with.

"If they identify as female, live and dress and work as a female, every day we'll accept them," she said.

Jason Stevens, Sobrius's CEO, decided to expand into the Bassett area with a women's facility after doing research on where the highest substance use rates

were, Tallman said.

"The CEO really enjoys finding old buildings and old homes and then transitioning them into facilities," she said.

"We believe that everyone deserves access to the highest quality of care, and we are committed to providing that to the women of Bassett and the surrounding areas," Stevens said.

The company was first founded with a men's facility in Galax. Its third location in Bedford will open later this year.

For more information or to apply, go to www.sobrius.health/bassett, or contact Admissions Coordinator Chasity Johnson at (276) 601-2736 x 1007.

Foundation dedicated to its mission of honoring one life by investing in others



Magna Vista High School students at Mill Mountain Theatre to see "In the Heights." (Contributed photos from activities in 2022)

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

With nearly \$75,000 already invested in scholarships and arts opportunities between Henry County, Martinsville, and Roanoke, the For Alison Foundation is only

teeing up as it begins its eighth year of commitment to young people in the communities it serves.

In April, drama students from Bassett High School will attend a performance of "Beetlejuice" at the Tanger Center in Greensboro, N.C., courtesy of the foundation.

"And there's more to come," Barbara Parker said of the plans underway for this year by the foundation that began in 2016 to honor Alison Parker's life and continue her legacy by giving children arts

See Alison Foundation page 5

Martin honored with the 2022 Jack Dalton Community Service Award

The Henry County Board of Supervisors awarded the 2022 Jack Dalton Community Service Award to Harold William Martin during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Martin, who serves as the fire chief of Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Horsepasture Rescue Squad, was nominated for his contributions to the county that have dated back to the 1980s. The Horsepasture native has served on the Henry County Emergency Services Honor Guard for four years, on the Henry County Fire Review Board for 12 years and he is an active member of the

See Martin Honored page 2



The Henry County Board of Supervisors presented the 2022 Jack Dalton Community Service Award to Harold William Martin during a meeting Tuesday. Pictured (first row, left to right) are Horsepasture Supervisor Debra Buchanan, Martin and Vice-Chairman Joe Bryant; (second row, left to right) Reed Creek Supervisor Tommy Slaughter, Chairman Jim Adams and Ridgeway Supervisor Ryan Zehr. (Contributed photo)

Registration is underway for Spring Special Prom Night

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

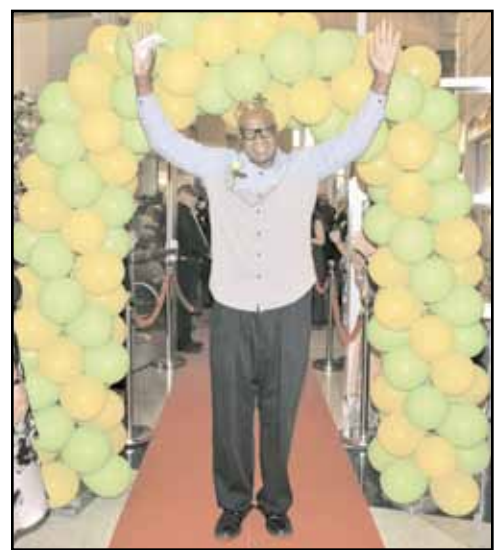
Registration for the second annual Spring Special Prom Night, an event for adults with disabilities, is underway for the event that will be held on Friday, March 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville.

Laura Steere, of Friends of Infinity Acres Ranch, a 501©3 animal educational non-profit,

said she decided to start the event last year because a similar experience offered by a different agency was put on hold for about three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We felt that this was just such an amazing opportunity, and we said we're doing to do one locally," Steere said. "We reached out to the museum, and they very quickly and willingly said they would donate

See Spring Special Prom Night, page 3



Making a grand entrance at the 2022 Spring Prom. (Contributed photos from the inaugural event)

New treatment facility for women opens in Bassett

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

The Sobrius Women's Addiction Treatment Facility in Bassett held its grand opening on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Location Executive Director Angie Tallman said the facility will not take residents until about two weeks after the opening.

"We're initially going to start with eight" residents. "Once the septic is upgraded, we'll be able to take 16, but we're certified for eight right now," she said.

Tallman said the facility will offer guided imagery relaxation, individual counseling, group counseling, Alcoholics



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)

Free EBT card holder admission is made possible by The Institute of Museum and Library Services and Hooker Furnishings. Admission is available at the gate. Groupons are accepted.

Friday, January 27

Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits, Freeman Vines' Hanging Tree Guitars, Rupe Dalton Retrospective, The World Beside the Rails, and Works by Rocky Wall. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, January 28

Bug Festival 2023 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10/Ages 18-59, \$5/Ages 3-17, \$5/Seniors 60+, FREE for children under 3, VMNH Members, members of ASTC Passport participating institutions, EBT card holders who present their EBT card and official photo ID.

ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club will hold an in-person at the First Christian Church in Galax. Elections will be held at the BARC meeting, membership dues will be collected, an auction of analog gear is anticipated, and the 2023 events calendar will be discussed. All amateur radio operators and interested non-hams are welcome to attend. Find important test prerequisites and other club activities on our *new* webpage, www.briarpatcharc.com, and our BARC Facebook page. And join us on air each Tuesday, 8 p.m. on 147.090+ with 103.5 Tone."

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, 8 a.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.

Martin Honored

from page 1

Martinsville-Henry County Fire Association.

In addition to his work in emergency services, Martin assists with the annual Smith River Clean Up, does handy work for widows in the community, and takes food to shelters for the homeless. Along with his own volunteer service, Martin has instilled a love for service in the next generation through his classroom instruction and recruitment efforts.

The Jack Dalton Community Service Award is named in honor of Jack Dalton, who served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and who was serving as the Board Chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

The award is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Board of Supervisors and annually goes to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$1.2 million from the Appalachian Regional Commission for improvements to Reservoir Road at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.
- Approved an additional appropriation of \$8,114 for the Clerk of Court's office to fund a part-time employee to help with a project in the clerk's office.
- Approved an additional appropriation of \$95,000 from state asset forfeiture funds to buy two replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Office special investigations division.
- Awarded a \$118,404 contract to Sheehy Ford, of Richmond, to buy three police interceptor utility vehicles.
- Approved an additional appropriation of \$50,000 received from the Virginia Tourism Corporation to provide for an updated sign at Philpott Lake & Marina, as

well as other tourism related projects to be determined.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$3,000 received from state asset forfeiture funds to cover travel-related expenses of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.
- Approved an additional \$549,342 appropriation to the current year budget of unexpended school funds from fiscal year (FY) 2022. The school administration has indicated that the funds will be used to cover the cost of capital projects, such as a new rooftop heating and cooling system at Laurel Park Middle School.
- Approved an additional appropriation of \$50,884 received from the Circuit Court Records Preservation Grant Program to be used for reformatting and indexing wills from 1777-1974 and the preservation of marriage bonds for multiple years between 1832 and 1851.
- Awarded a contract to Creedle, Jones & Associates for financial auditing services through FY2027, with a two-year extension option. The fee for FY2023 and FY2024 is \$64,250 annually, increasing to \$66,250 for FY2025 and FY2026. The fee for FY2027 will be \$68,250.
- Approved a request to rezone two lots in the Horsepasture District from Agricultural District to Mixed Residential District. The applicant wishes to create two additional lots out of the property.
- Approved a request to rezone approximately 0.74-acres in the Horsepasture District from Agricultural District to Commercial District. The applicant wishes to market the property for commercial purposes or the potential placement of general advertising signs.
- Approved the rezoning of approximately 20-acres in the Blackberry District from Rural Residential District to Agricultural District. The applicant wishes to build a house and outdoor building on the property.



Healthy New Year

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy start to the new year.

As we welcome a new year, we want to remind you that scheduling a yearly physical exam is an important part of maintaining good health.

Five questions to ask your doctor this year:

1. What is the most important change I can make to improve my health?
2. What vaccinations do I need to be up to date?
3. What is my blood pressure, cholesterol level and blood glucose level?
4. Knowing my family history, are there screenings or tests I should have?
5. Are any of my current medications no longer needed?

To learn more or find a provider online, visit SovahHealth.com or call 844.GO.SOVAH

Nonprofits in Henry County among those to receive funding boost from solar company

The Axton Solar project continues to invest in communities by helping local organizations with quarterly grants awarded to the Ridgeway District Rescue Squad, SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, and Pittsylvania County Young Life. Funds will be used to provide emergency services to Henry County, plus the Town of Ridgeway and surrounding areas, shelter and care for local animals, and provide a safe after prom event for Chatham High School students.

Officials with Axton Solar and Vesper Energy have said they are committed to being good neighbors in Henry and Pittsylvania counties, in part by providing new revenue streams, local income opportunities, tax incentives, and affordable clean energy. "Knowing that we're able to make a difference in the lives of this heart-centered community is its own holiday gift. The holidays are a great time for giving as these tireless organizations work hard to improve the community at every level. We're grateful for the opportunity," Axton Solar Senior Development Manager Trey Lopez said of the grant program.

Award winners credited the solar company for giving back to the community. "We are ever so grateful to accept this grant," Ridgeway Rescue Squad Sgt. Buzz Custer said, and added the grant "will allow our organization to continue to meet and exceed the ever-growing needs of the communities we serve. This grant is a further extension of the commitment Vesper Energy has made to invest and build within Henry County."

Patti Covington, who serves on the SPCA's Board of Directors, said, "we are grateful to Vesper Energy for generous funding towards this important program. Companion animals are an effective catalyst for human healing, and at no time is this more apparent than seeing the Hope Center employees integrate into our organization and bond with our animals. Thank you, Vesper Energy for helping us to make this program possible."

"We are so excited about this grant. This will help us give our students a safe, fun and exciting after prom experience," said Pitt Co Young Life Area Director Ben Paris.

Axton Solar provides community grants every quarter to help benefit the local community, which is especially important during the holiday season – when many organizations need simultaneous funding and finances are often at their tightest. The project is slated to create hundreds of jobs during construction, hundreds of thousands of dollars in maintenance jobs after construction, as well as a new stream of passive, stable income after completion of the project which will benefit the local economy. Tax revenue will also become an annual source of revenue to generate meaningful impact on students and the community.

BTW21

2x3.5

color

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook



Masking and other infection prevention protocols are followed for specific patient encounters, as appropriate.

Spring Special Prom Night from page 1

the space for it.”
 As she talked to other community partners, Steere said other donations came in just as quickly.
 “We’ve gotten flowers and corsages, boutonnieres, crowns and tiaras, a red carpet, table decorations, balloon archways, food, and even a limo ride, all donated to make this an amazing prom event. Last year was flat-out magical,” she said.
 Steere estimated 65 guests and nearly as many volunteers attend-

ed last year’s event.
 “Our goal was to have almost a one-to-one match so that people would have people to help them getting their food plates, being seated, and escort them through the red carpet, and dance with them on the dance floor,” she said.
 “Everyone kind of had a special chaperone to help make their evening more exciting.”
 She said she hopes to have around 100 participants and volunteers this year.

A photographer will be at the event for free portraits. Hairdressers and manicurists also will have a “pretty station” to help guests get touched up before their entrance on the Red Carpet.
 “Everything is based on making their night spectacular,” Steere said, adding the event is free for the guests of honor. Group homes, parents, and guardians transport guests to and from the museum.
 “Everything else is our treat to our guests,”

Steere said. “So, it’s really made to honor our guests at no expense. This is a community event. We’re the coordinators, but it is a total community effort” with numerous people volunteering.
 Sponsors and those who have donated include VMNH, Molina Healthcare, Jones & DeShon Orthodontists, Infinity Acres Ranch & 4-H Club, DJ Smiley, Wright Funeral Home, Dawson Photography, Martinsville Rotary Club, Fidelity Bank,

Hugo’s, Los Nortenos, Jerry’s Pizza, YMCA, BETA Clubs, and other community volunteers.
 The deadline to register

is Feb. 28. To register, visit www.InfinityAcres.org.
 To volunteer, donate, or sponsor, call or text Steere at (276) 358-2378.



Jasmine, all smiles and ready for a memorable night, made her appearance on the Red Carpet.



Phoenix and Mac making their entrance at the first Spring Special Prom Night.

**2ND ANNUAL
SPRING SPECIAL
Prom Night**

**Free Event for
Adults with Disabilities (over 18)**

**March 3rd, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Natural History Museum
Martinsville**

**Pre-Registration Required
(2/28/23 Registration Deadline)**

**Finger-foods, Beverages
Red Carpet, Music & Dancing
Swag Bags, Pictures & Crowns**

FUN WITH FRIENDS

Sponsors & Donations: VMNH, Molina Healthcare, Jones & DeShon Orthodontists, Infinity Acres Ranch & 4-H Club, DJ Smiley, Wright Funeral Home, Dawson Photography, Martinsville Rotary Club, Fidelity Bank, Hugo's, Los Nortenos, Jerry's Pizza, YMCA, BETA Clubs and community VOLUNTEERS!

Register for the second annual Spring Special Prom Night by the February 28 deadline by visiting www.InfinityAcres.org.

County revamps website with new branding

An updated version of the official website for Henry County has launched featuring the county’s new brand of “Community Connected.” CivicPlus, an industry leader in software development for local governments, was awarded the contract to host web services for Henry County and the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) in July.

“We are excited to begin our partnership with CivicPlus and to leverage their platform to enhance the online interactions between our residents and their local government,” said Dale Wagoner, County Administrator and PSA General Manager. “The launch of the website coincides with the official unveiling of our new brand and I’m confident the features will exemplify our commitment to being ‘Community Connected.’”

The new brand, complete with a modernized logo and color scheme, highlights the county’s progress



towards universal broadband coverage and its focus on uniting residents through easier access to information and recreational opportunities.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the process of creating a new logo for Henry County,” said Brandon Martin, the county’s Public Information Officer. “At first glance, the design looks chic and contemporary, but it’s all centered on a rural community set in the foothills of the mountains. The logo pays homage to the fact that Henry County is adapting to modern times but with-

out changing the core of what makes our community so great—our connection to nature and to each other.”

A key component of the new website will be a subscription feature, allowing residents to sign up for email or text message updates. The updates are customizable to the preferences of the individual subscriber, and can include notifications on news stories, emergency alerts, meetings, activities, and bid postings for contractors.

The process of searching for meeting agendas and minutes also was modified to be more user friendly. Following each Board of Supervisors meeting, a link will be added to the agendas so that residents may view the proceedings on the county’s YouTube page. Along with greater mobile capability, the website has been formatted to allow greater access to information for residents with disabilities. To view the website, visit www.henry-countyva.gov.

Sites in Virginia eyed by Amazon Web Services

Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com, Inc. company (NASDAQ: AMZN), plans to invest \$35 billion by 2040 to establish multiple data center campuses across Virginia, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said in a Friday release.

Numerous localities are under consideration and will be decided at a later date. These new campuses will combine expandable capacity to position AWS for long-term growth in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with the General Assembly’s Major Employment and Investment (MEI) Project Approval Commission to secure the project to expand data center investment to new locations across Virginia. Pending approval by the Virginia General Assembly, the Commonwealth is developing a new Mega Data Center Incentive Program, which the company will be eligible to receive. The new program includes up to a 15-year extension of Data Center Sales and Use tax exemptions on qualifying equipment and enabling software. In addition, and also subject to approval by the General Assembly, AWS will be eligible to receive an MEI custom performance grant of up to \$140 million for site and infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and other project-related costs.

Amazon is among the largest private-sector employers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, establishing its first AWS data centers and operations facilities in 2006 and later announcing its second headquarters (HQ2) in Arlington in 2018. This announcement of planned investment will create at least 1,000 total new jobs across Virginia.

“AWS has a significant presence in Virginia, and we are excited that AWS has chosen to continue their growth and expand their footprint across the Commonwealth,” said Youngkin. “Virginia will continue to encourage the development of this new generation of data center campuses across multiple regions of the Commonwealth. These areas offer robust utility infrastructure, lower costs, great livability, and highly educated workforces and will benefit from the associated economic development and increased tax base, assisting the schools and providing services to the community.”

“With the highest concentration of tech talent in the U.S., Virginia boasts one of the largest data center workforces in the nation—an advantage that sets us apart and directly benefits an industry leader like AWS,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. “We thank AWS for its commitment to the Commonwealth of Virginia and look forward to a continued partnership in the years to come.”

“Virginia is a world leader in innovation and cloud computing, thanks to its investment in a robust, highly skilled workforce and emphasis on long-term public and private partnerships,” said Roger Wehner, Director of Economic Development, AWS. “Since 2006, AWS has invested more than \$35 billion in Virginia, boosting the Commonwealth’s total Gross Domestic Product by nearly \$7 billion and supporting thousands of jobs annually. Building on these successful beginnings, we plan to invest an additional \$35 billion in the Commonwealth of Virginia by 2040 and create 1,000 jobs.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3				4	5	6	7
8			9				10		
11							12		
13				14			15		
16							17		
18					19	20			
				21				22	
					23			24	
				25				26	
			27					28	
								29	30
								31	32
								33	
34								35	
36								37	
38								39	
40								41	
42								43	

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tax collector Fishes without the line touching water Brooklyn hoopsters Actress Lathan A metric for athletes Food storage location Colossus Desolations Accustom to something unpleasant ___ Kubrick, filmmaker You might ask this at Thanksgiving Arkansas city Gave food to Request | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> V-shaped open trough Make lively It accompanies feather Blonde bombshell One who revolves Bluish greens Charity Having the shape of a cube Unwind Believed by some to be the supreme being Checks or guides Leak slowly through Top-quality Midway between south and southeast | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Part of your foot It’s at the back of the eyeball Where things stand Offered Contains pollen Boisterous get-together Asserts out loud They’re in the sky Canonized A politician’s official stances It can catch fish British thermal unit Helps little firms Where patients go for treatment Large red deer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pokes holes in “Star Wars” hero Solo One in a hospital Scandinavian god of battle Famous cat ___ Angeles: City of Angels Type of drug (abbr.) City along the Rhine Animal disease Martini ingredients Get away Rare species of rodent Suppress |
|---|---|--|--|

SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
JOURNALISM

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

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS
OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101

OPINION

Regarding the status quo

Whenever I'm telling a young person about how different things used to be — which is a topic that I'm sure all young people find endlessly compelling — I always mention the grocery store.

When I was a little kid in the late '80s, I vividly remember going with my mom to the Winn-Dixie in Stanleytown. Every shopping cart had a little plastic ashtray molded into the handle, and it was nothing to see someone inspecting the tomatoes with a Marlboro 100 dangling from their lip. In fact, I remember when Winn-Dixie banned people from smoking while they were checking out (you could still smoke literally anywhere else in the store) and people were FURIOUS.

Today, if you saw someone light a cigarette in the middle of the grocery store, you would assume that they were in the middle of a psychological breakdown. Back then, it was perfectly normal.

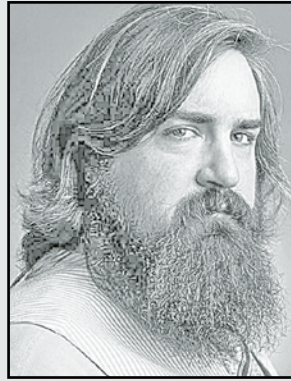
But there's another thing I remember from the grocery store that is increasingly becoming a distant memory.

For whatever reason, I have a distinct memory of seeing my mom pushing a shopping cart absolutely overflowing with merchandise. There was no room to add a single grape. And after everything got rung up, I remember seeing the total on the little register display: \$125.

This, of course, seemed like an absolutely outrageous sum of money to me at the time. I couldn't even imagine possessing \$125, and if I did, I certainly wouldn't have wasted it on something boring like groceries when there were video games and Ghostbusters toys to be had.

Now, of course, the idea of spending \$125 on two weeks' worth of groceries seems like some kind of beautiful dream.

I don't often see overloaded shopping carts anymore. Instead, most people seem to



By Ben R. Williams

shop like I do, going to the grocery store a few times a week to grab just a handful of things. Even so, I can't get out of the grocery store without spending at least \$50, and that's on a good day.

You don't need me to tell you that the inflation we're experiencing right now is unreal. The price of eggs has allegedly skyrocketed due to an avian flu outbreak that's forced hatcheries to cull massive numbers of laying hens, but there are plenty of items skyrocketing simply because companies are using inflation as an excuse to gouge consumers. Sure, people on fixed incomes are struggling

to survive, but at least the shareholders are happy!

Of course, the inflation doesn't stop there. Restaurants are more expensive. The housing market has gone insane. Electric bills are rising. Cars have become so expensive that I'm planning to drive my Toyota until it collapses into a million pieces like the Bluesmobile when they arrive at the Honorable Richard J. Daley Plaza.

I make a good living, but somehow, it doesn't feel like I'm making any more money than when I first entered the workforce. I have no idea how folks making minimum wage are making ends meet.

I mention all this because I read a Financial Times article the other day titled "Millennials are shattering the oldest rule in politics." For decades, progressive young people have been told, usually in condescending fashion, that they'll become more conservative as they grow older.

My generation, the article argues, is bucking the trend. If anything, we're becoming more progressive as we grow older.

This should not be a surprise.

The central premise of conservatism is that there is something you want to conserve. If

I'm comfortable with the status quo, why would I want some moonbat politician with big progressive ideas to come in and upset the apple cart? What if I lose my Social Security or my retirement? Why would I want things to change when I'm perfectly happy with the way they are already?

But my generation, by and large, is far from happy with the way things are now. Who on Earth would want to preserve THIS status quo? Who would support billionaires lining their pockets while the poor get poorer everyday? Who would support a system where two people working two full time jobs still can't afford even a modest home? Who would support being bankrupted by a medical emergency?

As far as Social Security goes, I have yet to meet a single person my age who actually believes they'll receive a dime from it. Sure, millennials are paying into Social Security, but there's no doubt in my mind that the piggybank will be long since shattered and spent by the time I'm old enough to receive any of it.

It shouldn't be a shock that millennials are rejecting conservatism. What's left to conserve?

Report from Richmond

Del. Les Adams

16th House District

A very swift pace has developed for everyone inside the Capitol at Richmond for the 2023 legislative session. Most of the time for legislators is now spent in committee and subcommittee meetings and dozens of bills have already been dispatched or reported from these committees. The bills that survive will soon be heard on the floor of the House of Delegates.

Personally, I have cast many votes already on numerous pieces of legislation as part of my service on the committees of Courts of Justice, Privileges and Elections, and Commerce and

Energy. In my role as chairman of the criminal law subcommittee, I have presided over the presentation of more bills than perhaps any other Delegate due to the large number of referrals made from the Speaker of the House. I have also presented several bills before my colleagues that I intend to write about in future updates as this legislative process continues.

As I mentioned last week, I have also enjoyed the privilege of working in cooperation with a gubernatorial administration that shares our values and has demonstrated a commitment to the economic needs of our region. In particular, I referenced upcoming direct financial investment in business and



Del. Les Adams

manufacturing sites designed to benefit our area. In fact, Governor Youngkin recently announced that over \$90 million in grants were awarded to 21 sites across the Commonwealth as part of the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program. Two of the top ten awardees from that announcement are here in our

part of Southside Virginia: Commonwealth Crossing Business Park in Henry County and the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill in Pittsylvania County.

Described by the Governor as an "unprecedented" site development funding plan, these grants, administered by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, will "drive economic growth" by ensuring the sites are "project ready" to support new jobs. For the Henry County location, the funds will ensure a unique 150 acre pad that is expected to attract massive corporate interest. The Megasite at Berry Hill is likewise uniquely attractive to major employers, as the recently considered investments by Hyundai and Ford Motor companies illustrate. Although the right fit for Berry Hill has yet to

be named, I am convinced that a successful project at our state's largest megasite will come soon.

Finally, I would mention this week that despite the busy schedule we are currently under, I am delighted to meet with constituents who have the chance to visit Richmond while we are assembled. Although we are still near the start of session, I have had the occasion to visit with many people and groups interested in specific legislation relevant to their industry or vocation. These include law enforcement leaders, local financial officers, and health officials.

These visits are always helpful as I consider the proposals touching on various fields. So if you have thoughts to share about matters to be addressed this session, or perhaps wish to schedule a visit at my Richmond office, call (804) 698-1016.

One charged in Ridgeway incident

Henry County Sheriff's investigators are seeking information about a shooting incident in Ridgeway.

According to a release, around 8:12 p.m. on January 24, a caller reported a shooting incident at

1429 J S Holland Road, Ridgeway, Virginia.

Responding deputies made contact with David Goodwin, 56, of 1353 J S Holland Road, and found that he had suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen. He was

transported to SOVAH Health Martinsville and subsequently air-lifted to a Roanoke hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

During the investigation, authorities determined that Goodwin and Dustin Lyn Hylton were at 1429 J S Holland Road when an alleged argument ensued inside the home. During the altercation, a firearm was

produced, and Goodwin suffered a single gunshot wound.

Hylton, 35, of Ridgeway was taken into custody at the scene on charges of malicious wounding and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is currently being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Anyone with informa-

tion about the incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards 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.



Dustin Lyn Hylton is being held with no bond in connection with a January 24 incident in Ridgeway.

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher

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

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

Give us your view:

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

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

Proposal to protect students against merit withholders announced

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has requested Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (Henrico) and Del. Nick Freitas (Culpeper) to sponsor legislation on his behalf to require Virginia schools to inform students and their parents about National Merit Scholarships and other awards.

In December, it was discovered that Fairfax County had been withholding National Merit awards from students, thereby jeopardizing their scholarship opportunities. In response to these reports, Youngkin asked Attorney General Miyares to investigate Fairfax County's handling of more than 1,000 students who were not notified of National Merit Awards. Now, the controversy has spread to sixteen Northern Virginia schools, including Loudoun and Prince William counties, who delayed notifying students of their National Merit recognition.

"We now know that at least 16 schools across three different school divisions in Northern Virginia withheld notification of accolades from high-performing students in the name of 'equity.' Parents are rightfully upset, and they should be," said Youngkin.

The proposed legislation would prohibit any school board, public school, including Governor's Schools, or employee from withholding recognition, awards, or postsecondary scholarship eligibility earned by a student who was transferred solely to a school system. National Merit Scholarships and other awards would be required to be sent to students and their parents as soon as possible after the school system receives the information. This measure will not affect the Attorney General's investigation in any manner but ensure that this never happens again in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"In Virginia, parents matter and the legislation I've asked Senator Dunnivant and Delegate Freitas to introduce today will ensure that merit and accolades are

celebrated in the Commonwealth," Youngkin said. "We will not allow our students and their parents to be left uninformed of their hard-earned recognition in what we now know was widespread across more than a dozen schools in multiple school divisions."

"There has been a pattern of multiple schools withholding information regarding merit awards from students and parents. This legislation is a common sense solution that will prevent discrimination against students who have worked hard and earned recognition," said Dunnivant.

"Students who work hard and achieve the highest levels of academic excellence deserve both the recognition they are entitled to as well as the opportunities that these awards afford them when applying for college. This bill will ensure that students in Virginia will never be denied this recognition, because a few misguided administrators put their ideological agenda before the best interests of these hard working students," Freitas said.

"What happened in Northern Virginia was truly reprehensible, and I appreciate the steps taken by the Governor and Attorney General to address the situation. This bill is a common-sense approach to promoting opportunity and preventing punishment for academic success," said Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears.

"As a child of an immigrant, I know that education is the doorway to the American Miracle. It is supposed to create equal opportunities for our students - not equal outcomes at the expense of others. While my office continues our civil rights investigation into Fairfax County and looks into potential violations at additional school systems, I applaud the Governor for introducing legislation that would prevent this from happening again," Miyares said.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Alison Foundation

from page 1

opportunities in southwest Virginia.

The daughter of Barbara and Andy Parker, Alison “was a graduate of James Madison University (JMU) School of Media Arts and Design and she was a journalist. She got a job before she graduated college, and went to North Carolina to work as a journalist for WCTI television,” she said.

In 2014, Alison Parker was recruited by WDBJ to work on the morning show. She also relocated back to the area.

“On August 26, 2015, she was doing just a routine show at Smith Mountain Lake, and talking to one of the people who was on staff about planning events that they had there at the marina,” Barbara Parker said. Alison Parker and her cameraman, Adam Ward, “were shot and killed by a disgruntled former employee of WDBJ.”

Because the show was live, the shootings were televised, Barbara Parker said, adding that the gunman also recorded the incident and posted it online.

After Alison’s death, Barbara Parker said that she and her husband had a choice -- to either curl up or to get up and take action. They chose the latter.

“We started two things. We started fighting gun violence, we did everything we could to call attention to gun violence in this country, and try to do something about it,” she said.

The two also created the foundation to honor Alison’s love for the arts.

“We did not want her to be remembered only for the way that she died, but for what she was like and who she was. She was so passionate about the arts,” Barbara Parker said.

Barbara Parker spent 19 years as the Director of Programs for Piedmont Arts. While there, daughter Alison visited after school multiple times a week.

Alison “was also a dancer. She danced for 13 years, most of that in Martinsville. She loved the arts. She loved to feature it in all her stories that she did with WDBJ,” Barbara Parker said, and added that many children don’t have those opportunities to experience the arts.

As a result, the For Alison Foundation’s mission is “to give kids arts opportunities that can really be meaningful,” Barbara Parker said. “There’s a lot of kids with talent, they don’t have the access to the things that youngsters in larger cities have, “and they don’t have opportunities to go see live theater and things like that.”

Since its formation, the foundation has maintained its commitment to the arts and to giving youngsters opportunities they otherwise may not have.

“We have some things that we support every year because they’re just meaningful. One of those is the Grandin Theatre Film Lab in Roanoke,” Barbara Parker said of the film lab that is an afterschool program that teaches children about filmmaking.

“They write scripts, they film scripts, they direct, they do everything it takes to produce these short films. They’ve won Emmy Awards for student films,” she said.

Barbara Parker said knowledge learned from the program gives students the ability to work in the film industry right after high school, and earn union wages.

The foundation also gives scholarships to young peo-

ple at the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and students at the Star City School of Ballet.

Pedro Szalay, the owner of Star City and one of Alison’s friends, named his studio the ‘Alison Parker Studio.’

Closer to the Parker’s home in Martinsville and Henry County, “we try to give those kids opportunities they’re normally not going to have because of where we live,” Barbara Parker said.

For instance, the foundation took all the art students from Martinsville High School to the Taubman Museum of Arts in Roanoke to view the Ruth E. Carter exhibit.

Carter is “the costume designer who created all the costumes for ‘Black Panther,’ all of Spike Lee’s films. She won an Academy Award for ‘Black Panther.’ Her costumes were on exhibit up there, so we paid for them to be able to go up and see that,” Barbara Parker said.

The foundation also paid for fifth-grade students attending Campbell Court Elementary School to see the “Lion King” at the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts in Greensboro, N.C.

Barbara Parker said it’s exciting for children to get out and see the world, especially in the arts.

“You have kids that are so talented, and they really want to do something with that. Sometimes going to see a professional show is what will just really give them that spark” and reinforce the knowledge “that there’s a world out there that’s not a small town,” Barbara Parker said. “It’s a whole new world for them.”

A scholarship also was established at JMU in Alison’s honor. It is currently endowed at an estimated \$375,000, Barbara Parker said.

“We give a merit scholarship to a rising senior in the School of Media Art and Design. We also give a four-year scholarship for an incoming freshman,” she said.

JMU also named its television studio after Alison. “So, if you watch one of their broadcasts it says, ‘live from the Alison B. Parker Studio,’” Barbara Parker said, and added that she believes Alison’s legacy will continue to thrive.

“They’re not going to forget her, she seemed to have touched a lot of people’s lives,” Barbara Parker said. “That gives us a lot of comfort: That we can do something to impact other kids’ lives.”

For more information go to www.foralison.org, or

[Facebook.com/ForAlisonFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ForAlisonFoundation).

To donate go to the website or send a check to P.O. Box 1205 Collinsville, VA 24078.

The For Alison Foundation by the numbers

Investing in young people in Martinsville, Henry County, and beyond is the mission of the For Alison Foundation, created to honor the life of Alison Parker and her love for the arts.

Since 2016, it has provided opportunities for more than 1,100 young people to experience the arts, including:

- 19 need-based dance and music scholarships to the Star City School of Ballet and Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra in Roanoke.

- Trips to the Blackfriars and Mill Mountain Theatre for a total of 263 HS theatre students from Magna Vista High School and Bassett High School in Henry County.

- Trip for 52 Campbell Court Elementary School 5th graders to see a performance of “The Lion King.”

- Trips for 553 4th graders from Martinsville and Henry County to performances of “The Nutcracker.”

- Trip for 57 Martinsville High School art students to see the “Afrofuturism” costume exhibit at the Taubman.

- Band clinics for 87 students from Martinsville and Henry County.

- For Alison is the longest continuous funder for the Grandin Theatre Film Lab after-school program in Roanoke. <https://www.grandintheatre.com/film-lab> (<https://www.grandintheatre.com/film-lab>).



Grandin Theatre Film Lab working on a student-produced short film.



Students rehearsing with the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Nominations Now Open For Distinguished Alumni

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation is seeking nominations for P&HCC graduates to be named “Distinguished Alumni” during the annual awards dinner. The deadline to make a nomination is February 20, 2023.

To be considered, nominees must have graduated with a degree or certificate or taken a minimum of 24 credit hours from P&HCC. They must have demonstrated success within their chosen career or field of expertise, given significant community-based services, and be able to attend the awards ceremony.

“This award is a great honor for P&HCC alums,” said Tiffani Underwood, Executive Director of the P&HCC Foundation. “It recognizes the achievements of our students, and honors those who found Patrick & Henry Community College

to be a significant stepping stone to their overall success.”

Last year’s recipients were Jennifer Ashworth (’91), Ann Blankenship (’86), Crystal Booth (’96), Mark Gilbert (’96), Daniel Hennis, Sr. (’73), Gary Hollandsworth (’70), Rob Lovell (’79), Melissa Martin (’89), Melissa Smith (’94), Kristy Walker (’93), Jason Wood (’98), and Shonna Woods (’00).

Alumni nomination forms can be accessed online at www.patrickhenryfoundation.com, under the “Helpful Links” section. Forms are also available from the foundation office at Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. Contact Letitia Pulliam at 276-656-0250 or at lpulliam@patrickhenry.edu.

Local students named to President’s List at JMU

James Madison University announced the following students made the president’s list for the fall 2022 semester:

Beatrice Bradner of Martinsville, who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.

Rya Hall of Fieldale, who is majoring in Elementary Education - BS.

Liza Fox of Martinsville, who is

majoring in Hospitality Management - BS.

Brianna Kirks of Axton, who is majoring in Individualized Study - BIS.

Students who earn president’s list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above.

JMU announces fall 2022 Dean’s List

James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the Dean’s List for the fall 2022 semester.

Sydney Witcher of Martinsville, who is majoring in Engineering - BS.

Alayna Campbell of Martinsville, who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Chloe Wilkes of Collinsville, who is majoring in Graphic Design - BFA.

Jamal Martin of Axton, who is majoring in Marketing - BBA.

Delfino Quintero of Axton, who is majoring in Sport & Recreation Management - BS.

Kaden Knight of Ridgeway, who is majoring in Statistics - BS.

New P&HCC College Board Member Named

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board welcomes its newest member, Mrs. Pamela Jamison Allen.

Allen is no stranger to P&HCC. She received her associate degree from P&HCC and was named a P&HCC Distinguished Alumna. She has also served on the Patrick & Henry Foundation Board for several years.

Allen has worked locally with many non-profit organizations including Grace Network, United Way, Christmas Cheer, and Piedmont Arts.



Pamela J. Allen was appointed by the City of Martinsville to fill the spot of Mr. Bob Vogler who passed away in Oct. 2022. His term would have expired in 2024. She will be eligible for her first full four-year term in 2024.

JOIN US

WEEKLY SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE
10:30AM

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel
NEVER MISS A SERVICE

NEW DAY CHURCH
MHC

705 LIBERTY ST MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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

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

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

We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

OBITUARIES

Judith Emma (Moore)

Bigler

Judith Emma (Moore) Bigler departed this life on January 21, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, and son, Jimmy. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer (Bill), her son Jon (Robyn) and her granddaughter, Reagan.

Born in Pensacola, Florida, on June 11, 1930, Judy loved spending time at Pensacola Beach and met her future husband, Jim, there. He was training to be a navy pilot, and Judy was smitten from the first time she met him. They were married in 1950, while Jim was still in the Navy, and that marriage lasted for 66 years before Jim passed in 2017. During that time, Jim went to work for Dupont, and as a result, they lived in multiple towns before finally settling down in Martinsville in 1967. Once she had children, Judy was fortunate to be able to be



a stay-at-home mom and raise them.

Even though she had moved away, Pensacola still had her heart and the family would vacation at Pensacola Beach every year. It was the highlight of the summer for them all, even after the children were grown.

The family would like to thank everyone at King's Grant and Mountain Valley Hospice for the love and care they have provided.

There will be no local visitation or service. Burial will be private in Pensacola at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Martinsville SPCA.

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

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

Doris Davis Stout

Doris Davis Stout, 91, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Monday, January 23, 2023. She was born July 3, 1931 in East Bend, N.C. to Leo Melvin Davis and Mollie Taylor Davis.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, AJ Stout;

son, Ricky Stout; brothers, Melvin, Gene and Jerry Davis; great granddaughter, Maddalyn Stout.

She is survived by her sons, Anthony Stout (Karen), Jay Stout (Amy); daughter-in-law, Mona Stout; grandchildren, Kyle Hathaway, Breana Stout, Alivia Stout and Noah Stout; great grandchild, Elijah Davis; sisters-in-law, Darlis Davis and Ann Blackburn; nieces, Carla Sharpe and Fonda Sandwick; nephew, Mike Davis.

Mrs. Stout dearly loved her family and enjoyed cooking on special occa-



sions. She was the core and foundation of her family. She worked very hard to fill the void after the passing of her husband in 1994.

A visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at McKee Stone Funeral Home. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m., officiated by Rev. Tim Hunt. The interment will be in Sherwood Memorial Park in Salem, Va.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. West, Suite 602 B, Martinsville, VA 24112

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

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

Stacey Dawn Steagall

Stacey Dawn Steagall, 61, of Collinsville passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023. She was born in Martinsville on March 29, 1961 to Shirley F. Stone and E.J. Steagall.

She was a 1979 graduate of Fieldale-Collinsville High School and a graduate of National Business College. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Martinsville. She worked for Bassett-Walker and Panel CDC before becoming disabled.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her three brothers, Richard Steagall of Greensboro, Barry Steagall of Nesconset, NY, and Clinton Stone (Karina) of Annapolis, MD; stepbrother, Jim Stone (Becky) of Collinsville, step-sister, Carolyn Stone of Fork Mountain,



a niece Allyson Hallstead (David), and a nephew, Randy Steagall (Ellie) of Greensboro.

Visitation starts at 11 a.m., and the funeral will be held at noon, on Friday, January 27, 2023, at First Baptist Church of Martinsville,

officiated by Revs. John Fulcher and Libby Grammer. Interment will be at Roselawn Burial

Park. Memorials can be made to First Baptist Church of Martinsville or the American Cancer Society.

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

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

Free flu vaccines to be available in Danville

The Pittsylvania-Danville Health District will offer free seasonal flu vaccine at a special clinic on Friday, February 3, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Ballou Park Recreation Center located at 760 West Main St., Danville.

A limited supply of free influenza vaccine will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for everyone ages 6 months and older.

The purpose of this exercise is to simulate a mass vaccination event in which the health department and local agencies would work together so community members could be vaccinated efficiently during a time of emergency. An example would be a worldwide outbreak of influenza - also known as an influenza pandemic. This vaccine is provided by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Preparedness.

"We've already documented cases of influenza this season in the area, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health recommend vaccination each year for everyone 6 months and older," said Scott J. Spillmann, MD, MPH, director, Pittsylvania-Danville Health District. "Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its potentially severe complications."

"The timing and duration of flu seasons vary. Since they can occur from early fall to late spring, residents should take advantage of this opportunity to get vaccinated," said Julia Gwaltney, RN, nurse manager for the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District. "It takes up to two weeks to develop the vaccine's full protection."

"In the commonwealth of Virginia, the flu season typically peaks in early January and continues through March. Getting a flu shot in January or February will help safeguard Virginia residents from the nuisance of influenza and the potentially life-threatening complications it causes," said Chris Andrews, MPH, epidemiologist for the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District. "I would encourage everyone who is eligible to get a flu shot to protect yourself and others."

Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk for influenza complications, including:

* Pregnant and postpartum women, or those who will be pregnant during the influenza season;

* Persons over 65 years of age, including residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;

* People who have chronic lung or heart problems, including asthma; and

* People who have other serious medical conditions, such as diabetes, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, anemia, cancer, weak immune systems (including those with HIV) or a seizure disorder.

To help prevent the spread of influenza to people in high-risk groups, those who live with people in a high risk group and healthcare workers should also receive an annual influenza vaccine. Travelers to countries outside of the U.S. may also need to consider influenza vaccination, even at different times of the year.

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.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that influenza has resulted in as many as 49 million illnesses, up to 960,000 hospitalizations and between 12,000 - 79,000 deaths annually in the U.S. since 2010.

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.

For more information, call the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District at 434-766-9828 or visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia.

General Fund Revenues Up Halfway Through FY23

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the General Fund revenue collections for December 2022. Through the first half of the fiscal year, adjusting for policy actions and timing issues, general fund revenues were up 6.5 percent over the prior years. On an unadjusted basis, general fund revenues were 0.8 percent higher versus the projected 8.8 percent decline assumed in the Governor's December proposed budget amendments for the full fiscal year.

"This revenue report confirms Virginia remains in a great position to make critical investments this year and lower taxes in the Commonwealth so that we can compete to win against our peer states," said Youngkin. "The consistent revenues we've seen throughout this fiscal year underscore the Commonwealth's financial health and capacity to deliver tax cuts for families and local businesses throughout Virginia, I look forward to working together with the General Assembly to make this a reality, just as we did last year."

"December results were slight-

ly ahead of expectations, with our major revenue sources reflecting a stable job market and consumer with continued pressure on corporate profits," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "For the first half of the fiscal year, revenue collections are consistent with updated revenue projections included in the Governor's proposed budget, and I am confident that in coming months revenues will continue to meet or exceed our conservative forecast."

Major policy and timing adjustments contributing to revenue growth include the impacts of the repeal of the Accelerated Sales Tax (AST) and the recently enacted optional Pass-Through Entity Tax, which affects the timing of payments but not total state tax liability for the year. These policies combined added \$509 million to collections fiscal year-to-date. These were offset by tax rebates and changes to the standard deduction which subtracted \$1.2 billion to revenue growth, for a net reduction of \$728 million in the first 6 months of Fiscal Year 2023.

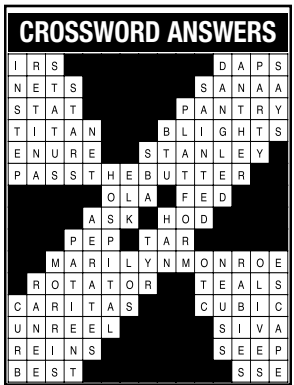
Administrative Support and Waste Management Leading Industry for Claims

The number of initial claims significantly increased in the latest filing week to 2,656 but remained at levels typically seen over the last twelve months, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced last week.

For the filing week ending January 14, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,656, which is an increase of 698 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were from administrative support and waste management; construction; retail trade; and professional, scientific, and technical services. Continued weeks claimed totaled 10,677, which was an increase of 588 claims from the previous week and an increase of 51% from the 7,059 continued claims from the comparable week last year.

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

In the week ending January 14, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 190,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 205,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 285,575 in the week ending January 14, a decrease of 53,582 (or -15.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 336,424 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. New York's preliminary weekly change (-17,196) was the largest decrease. Michigan's weekly change (-5,540) was the second largest decrease. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-5,072) was the third largest decrease. New Jersey's weekly change (-4,122) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-267) was the 26th largest decrease.



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

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

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

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

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

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



CLASSIFIEDS



SERVICES

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

Thomas Land Solutions LLC
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

FOR SALE

Hoyer patient electric body lift. Never used. Lists for over \$1900. Asking \$999 or best offer.
Mahogany China cabinet, an antique settee and an antique chest of drawers.
Call 276-694-4100 for more information.
Experienced Mechanic 40 hrs. Monday-Friday Patrick Springs area Call Duncan Speed Shop 276-694-4133

HELP WANTED

PARC Workshop Direct Support Professional (DSP)
Will assist Medicaid sponsored individuals in basic skills, safety rules, social skills and PARC rules and regulations. Qualifications: Associates degree preferred but not required. At least 1 year experience working with DD/

HELP WANTED

ID population. May substitute in appropriate fields for education. Provide above average clerical, secretarial and computer skills. Background in training, supervision and "people skills" a plus. Must be able to pass all required background screens/drug test complete state competency training and update training annually. Call us at 276-694-4211 or email parcworkshop@embarqmail.com.

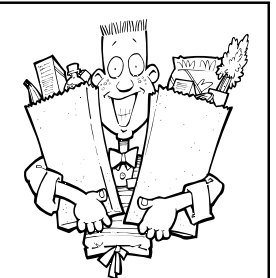
Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: MHC After 3 After School Instructor, Magna Vista High School Career Coach, and Adjunct Faculty in Professional Development, Nursing Lecturer/Clinical, and Assistant Women's Basketball Coach. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page,

HELP WANTED

and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick & Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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



BAG

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE RECORD OWNER: Rodney M. Edwards

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to and paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Rodney M Edwards
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
53 Longbow Dr. - Blackberry District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 14.4(006)000/000E
Account Number - 114920004

County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 141 SEVENTH STREET, FIELDDALE, VA 24089 LOCATED IN HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

In execution of the Deed of Trust executed by Stacy M. Ilconich in the original amount of \$55,000.00 dated October 24, 2018, and recorded as Instrument No. 180003692, a default having occurred in the payment of the debt therein secured and having been request by the holder of the debt therein described, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder at the front steps of the Henry County Courthouse located at 3160 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, Virginia 24112 on February 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL 1: All that certain lot or parcel of land, beginning at a stake in the south edge of Seventh Street, said stake marking the northeast corner of Lot No. 9, Block No. 5, in the village of Fieldale, Virginia, as shown on Map of Fieldale Development, Sheet 2 of 2, dated April 10, 1941, and recorded the 17th day of April, 1941, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, in Map Book 2, page 313, and running thence with the south edge of Seventh Street, North 86 degrees 33 minutes East 61.78 feet to an iron in the south edge of Seventh Street; thence South 2 degrees East 151.75 feet to an iron in the north line of Lot No. 10, said Block No. 5; thence with the north line of said lot No. 10, South 83 degrees 41 minutes West 75.9 feet to an iron marking the southeast corner of Lot No. 9, said Block No. 5; thence with the east line of said Lot No. 9, North 6 degrees 50 minutes East 157.73 feet to the point of beginning; containing 10,544 square feet, more or less, and being the west part of Lot No. 8, Block No. 5, of the above said map.

PARCEL 2: All that certain lot or parcel of land with improvements thereon located, situate in and near the Village of Fieldale, Henry County, Virginia, and being Lot No. 9, Block No. 5, of Subdivision of the Fieldale Development of the Village of Fieldale, as shown by Plat marked Sheet 2 of 2 dated April 10, 1941, and recorded on the 17th day of April, 1941, in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's office in Map Book 2, page 313.
Property Identification: PIN: 19678, 19679

This sale shall be for cash or cashier's check to the highest bidder, and bidder's deposit of 10% shall be required at the sale with the balance in 30 days. The Trustee's special warranty deed will be delivered at closing to the buyer or order. The property will be sold "AS IS". All announcements at the time of sale take precedence over this notice.

Given under my hand this 25th day of January, 2023.

R. Colby Warren, Substitute Trustee

For More information contact:
R. Colby Warren
Warren Shelton PLLC
217 Lynn Street
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 792-2350

Classified Advertising DELIVERS



Be Winter-Wise.

And COVID/flu Smart.

Wash hands. Mask when needed. Circulate the air. Vaccinate. Stay home when sick!



www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus

**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

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