



Billy and Angela Wheeler, the owners of Woody's Supermarket and Grill, take a quick break from their duties.

Community support drives success of Ridgeway business

Christy Lemons
Special to The Enterprise

Woody's Supermarket and Grill, a well-known market and eatery in Ridgeway, is much like the word 'y'all' in the south: It has been part of the community for as long as nearly anyone recalls.

Owners Billy and Angela Wheeler both understand why. They say it is because of their loyal customers and the community as a whole.

"Thanks to the community for all their support," Billy Wheeler said, and explained that he began working at the market as a bag boy when he was 15 years old.

Back then, the business was owned by Ben Woody. Over the years, Wheeler and Woody worked out an agreement which stated that if Wheeler stayed with the company, he would get a percentage of the profit. Time and hard work paid off, and after Woody's death, Wheeler said he and a partner took over the business. Billy Wheeler has been the owner for more than 20 years now.

Trouble began about eight years ago, when another store opened next door. In 2016, business at Woody's dropped dramatically, threatening to shutter the store permanently.

Tammy Hankins, a local patron, used social media to start a campaign and gain support from the community. Others quickly got involved, and the community rallied, signing petitions, raising funds, in short, going all out to help save the supermarket. Soon, business picked up.

Other hurdles have risen through the years, the Wheelers said.

About three years ago, Woody's opened its own grill, and started offering a menu packed with an array of foods, including breakfast and dinner items. But the best-selling item by far is Billy Wheeler's own creation, the Warrior Burger - a half-pound of beef topped with the customers' preference of condiments, all for \$6.49. The burger was inspired by the Spartan Burger, a carryover from the former Spartan Restaurant that once was situated near the current Sheetz store, Wheeler said.

The meat that is used to prepare items on the menu is cut fresh in the supermarket, Wheeler said, adding that while it took time to build that part of the business, the grill is now successful. In fact, some days the grill is just as busy as the supermarket.

Even when the pandemic hit, Woody's Supermarket and Grill

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Jones, Rawls elected as mayor and vice mayor

Staff Reports

At its Jan. 3 organizational meeting, Martinsville City Council elected new council members LC Jones as mayor and Aaron Rawls as vice mayor. Council member Chad Martin did not arrive until near the end of the meeting.

Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk Jeanie Nunn first issued the Oath of Office to Jones and Rawls before calling for nominations for mayor.

Council member Tammy Pearson nominated Jones as mayor, which was seconded by former mayor Kathy Lawson. Nominations were then closed, leaving Jones as an uncontested candidate. Pearson then moved for Jones to be elected, seconded by Lawson.

Jones then took his seat as mayor, met by applause from the audience. He then called for nominations for vice mayor. Pearson nominated Rawls as vice mayor, seconded by Lawson. The vote to elect Rawls was unanimous among attending members, and also met with applause.

Jones called for an establishment of a regular meeting schedule. Lawson suggested maintaining the schedule of the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 7 p.m., which was the decided upon schedule. Jones then opened the floor for remarks.

"First, I just want to say I'm excited for a new year, what it has to offer our city," Pearson said. "I



LC Jones is pictured taking his oath of office as a new council member and as mayor. The oath was administered by Martinsville Circuit Court Clerk Jeanie Nunn.



Aaron Rawls taking his oath of office as a new council member and as vice mayor.

do want to note that change can be difficult. Though, I do believe with honorable intentions, commitment to excellence, fortitude and consistent impact and feedback from our citizens, change can be, no, it will be positive.

"I am excited and proud to

be a part of city council and I believe working together, we can really make our city shine. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you. I'm looking forward to it," she said.

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Fincher named Martinsville's Chief of Police

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Rob Fincher was named the City of Martinsville's Chief of Police by the city's administration effective Jan. 1.

Fincher, 52, previously served as the city's Deputy Chief of Police for the past five years.

In his new position, Fincher said he plans to continue and strengthen the department's efforts in community policing.

"I have a strong commitment to community policing, and I want to ensure our officers and the public have that outstanding partnership with one another to help improve the quality of life in this community and reduce crime," he said.

Fincher said commu-

nity-oriented policing is a philosophy and not just a program. This is accomplished, in part, by increasing the citizen to officer contacts that are being done outside of calls for service.

"Those experiences of officers meeting with the public and vice versa in non-call for service types of situations makes a huge difference. It helps to improve communications between officers and the public, but it also helps to rejuvenate officers to reestablish and ensure that service mindset," he said.

Fincher also plans to start a trust-building campaign by implementing several policies and practices, many of which the department is already doing - such as being state accredited and pub-

lishing use of force complaint and process policies.

Continued training for deescalating for officers is also on Fincher's agenda.

"That's something that you just can't receive training on once. You have to do that routinely in order to make certain that mindset is in place," he said.

Fincher also wants to hold more programs to help officers, such as setting up employee wellness programs to include mental health.

"That way, they have a resource to help them with this really stressful job," he said.

A focus on mental health will also help to train officers on trauma and informed responses "so that they kind of have



Robert Fincher recently was named Chief of Police of the City of Martinsville.

the tools necessary when they have to go into these really bad situations on how to deal with those situations on an individual basis," the chief said.

He also plans to increase

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Howell takes the helm as Martinsville Fire Chief

Staff Reports

Dan Howell, a longtime member of the Martinsville Fire Department, will take over the role of Martinsville Fire Chief following the retirement of Ted Anderson Jr.

Howell has been with the department since 1996, and has undertaken many different roles during that time, climbing his way up the ranks.

"I've been employed here since 1996. I became a lieutenant in 2001, a captain in 2002, assistant chief in 2006, and then fire chief in 2023," Howell said.

However, he was involved in firefighting as a volunteer long before.

"I've been a volunteer firefighter in Patrick and Henry counties since 1987. I've been a member of the Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department since '87 and I'm still active there," he said.

Howell believes that his various roles and working his way through the ranks has prepared him for his current position.

However, Howell also holds degrees in business, and he believes this education has also served to prepare him.

"I've been employed through the City of Martinsville for 26 years. I've been in the fire service combined since 1987. I have an associate's, bachelor's and master's degree in business, and I've just got a lot of experience with the department, working with the city, and serving the community," he said.

According to Howell, the new position represents a shift for him - from operations to an administrative role.

"I've spent the last 26 years in operations, so I either spent all my time in an ambulance or on a fire engine. Now, I'll spend most of my time in an office behind a desk. I've moved into an administrative role from an

operational role," he said.

He said there are some duties that need to be fulfilled early on in the position, mainly revolving around employment in the department. Getting positions filled in one of his goals as chief.

"We've got some promotions we need to complete and get some positions filled. We've got some vacancies, and then just moving the department forward."

Howell believes that staffing is one of the biggest challenges facing the department.

"Recruiting new firefighters and hiring those and retention of firefighters" are all challenges, he said.

However, there are also some things that Howell believes are going well within the Martinsville Fire Department.

"We have a lot of services that we provide beyond just fire and EMS. We're also responsible for emergency management within the department. Fire

inspections and investigations, the department's responsible for all of those in the city," Howell said.

"We also have a community health worker now that goes out, works with people who are in need in Martinsville, Henry, and Patrick county, so those are all programs that I fully support



Dan Howell

and will do everything I can to keep them moving," he said.

"We've got a great group of people here and I look forward to working with each and every one of them," he said, and added that when he's not working, he enjoys spending time with family, including his wife and two daughters.



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)

Monday, January 9

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library will hold their monthly meeting at 10:30 am, at the Martinsville Branch Library, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Interested in joining? Everyone is welcome.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its annual Organizational Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Boardroom of the Administration building.

Friday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 15

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will have speakers at the Historic Henry County Court House for "Founders Day: Lumber" in an educational program about the his-

tory of lumber in the area. The event will begin at 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

The Spencer-Penn Centre will host a barn quilting class from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Class will be filled on a first paid first served basis. Once payment is received by Spencer-Penn, design choice should be sent to the instructor, Lauren at misslaurenbyron@gmail.com. Registration deadline in January 13.

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.

ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club will hold an in-person VE (exam) session 7 p.m., at First Christian Church in Galax, VA. Officer elections will be held at the BARC meeting, membership dues will be collected, an auction of analog gear is anticipated, and the 2023 events schedule will be discussed. All amateur radio operators and interested non-hams are welcome

to attend. Find important exam prerequisites, registration info 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 brl.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.

Ridgeway Business from page 1

flourished. Many stores ran low on supplies and ingredients like meat, but Woody's managed to keep a steady supply. The struggle then became keeping the prices down. Soon after the pandemic began, nearly everything increased in price, including meat and other ingredients.

Not wanting to let the community down, the Wheelers kept their prices down until internal reports showed that they were selling products, like meat, for less than the price they were paying. They realized that their prices had to go up, but the increase, they said, was smaller in comparison to some. Even now, the meat prices at Woody's remain cheaper than many others in town, the Wheelers said.

In addition to their dedication to customers and the community as a whole, the Wheelers also are dedicated to maintaining the classic, old world feeling and look of the store.

Years ago, Angela Wheeler said her first display item was an old family bicycle she bought from a customer. Other customers seemed to like the old bicycle, and soon many brought in memorabilia to share. The tops of coolers and other flat surfaces that wrap around the interior of the store are now filled with unique items, home to everything from a giant Godzilla to a classic fire engine.

Although the supermarket has had its ups and downs over the years, the Wheelers' guiding principal has never changed.

"People come first," they said, adding that they put in long hours each day to serve a community which has supported them through the years.



Coolers and other flat surfaces in the store are home to a collection of memorabilia, some from customers and others curated by Angela Wheeler, who owns along with her husband owns Woody's Supermarket and Grill, located at 644 Morehead Road in Ridgeway.



Meats, such as beef and chicken, are among the products available to customers shopping at Woody's Supermarket and Grill. The business is a mainstay in Ridgeway.

Woody's Supermarket and Grill in Ridgeway offers customers a wide variety of produce.



Billy and Angela Wheeler enjoy some down time from their roles as owners of Woody's Supermarket and Grill in Ridgeway.

Fincher from page 1

transparency between the department and the public. In addition to increased communications, Fincher plans to publish more items on the department's website.

"We'll publish our use of force policy, our grievance process, our complaint process - where if someone wishes to complain, provide a step by step on how to do that," he said, adding that the department is going to participate in the National Use of Force database.

While there will be some things the department will not be able to discuss at certain times, Fincher said information will be released as soon as possible and whenever it can.

"We're going to release as much information as possible because our relationship with our community is key."

The key element for that "is communications," he said. Fincher also plans to increase efforts in officer recruitment and retention.

"We are short-handed, and just like any department in Virginia they're all shorthanded, we need to get some personnel in place that allows us to do more proactive and community-oriented operations," he said.

A graduate of Martinsville High School, Fincher graduated from Averett College (now University) with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He also has a M.A. in Human Services and Executive Leadership from Liberty University.

Fincher has served as an officer for the Martinsville Police Department for more than 28 years, and in a

number of positions, including patrol officer, criminal investigator, assistant supervisor and supervisor of patrol shifts, and in other capacities throughout his tenure.

He's also received training other the Virginia Association's Chiefs of Police (VACP) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

Fincher and his wife have been married for nearly 30 years. The couple have two children, a daughter who recently graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a son, a recently-named Eagle Scout who is a junior at Magna Vista High School.

In his spare time, Fincher serves as the chairman for the district's Boy Scouts of America and enjoys being outdoors.

Jones, Rawls from page 1

Lawson, former mayor, said the council has "an opportunity every two years to start with new beginnings, and I'm very pleased this morning to say that LC Jones is our new mayor. I look forward to working with him and the vice mayor and new beginnings.

"It's always new beginnings. And we have a light to shine in our city and I know that we can do that," she said. "Just moving forward with positivity and growing in the things that we have established in the past will lead us to nothing but success. So, congratulations to our two newest members of council. I will work with you any way I possibly can. My ear is always open."

"I'm so excited to be here. I will keep my remarks brief because I see a lot of friendly and familiar faces and you know the extent to which Mr. Jones, and I have already been hustling," Rawls said. "Take my word for it when I say we've basically been working a full-time job since November 8 and then some.

"All I want to say, if you are out there and many of you have already reached out who wish to participate in the future of Martinsville. Thank you, thank you, thank you," he said. "If you are out there and have not yet reached out and think you've got a part to play here, I think you are right, and I hope you will contact me. Facebook, phone, email, stop me in the streets which many people do. Thank

you all so much."

Jones first said he wanted "to thank the people who have carried me through some of the tough times and putting me here today where I am with a purpose. I'd like to thank my mother, my family, my friends, my coworkers, former coworkers. I'd like to thank the many students in the city of Martinsville.

"We stand together here, all of the citizens today, and I'm truly humbled at the opportunity of heading it. I'm honored by the trust that you bestow and by the great respect. I appreciate my fellow council members sitting next to me, those who made the sacrifices and paved the way for us to be here today," Jones said. "I know it's not realistic to think that we will always agree on everything, but it is my hope that the one thing that we will agree on is a more prosperous, vibrant, and successful Martinsville city."

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said that while he did not plan to comment, "I certainly appreciate Mr. Rawls, Mr. Jones, those of you being on council. I think at the end of the day it's important to remember that we're all on the same team. There's a lot of great stuff going on in Martinsville, and I think we can all work together to help move the city forward and I certainly look forward to doing that."

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

Historical Society to celebrate Lumber Heritage at Founders Day



The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will celebrate the local lumber heritage at Founders Day on Sunday, January 15, 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County

Courthouse. Distinguished Speakers will be Jay Dickens, Chief Executive Officer, and Barry Fulcher, Vice President of Forestlands, both of The Lester Group.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Dickens graduated from Millsaps College with degrees in finance and political science. He lives in Martinsville with his wife, Jill.

A native of Martinsville, Virginia, Fulcher graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in forestry. He lives in Bassett with his wife, Candy.

Former employees of The Lester Group and other lumber-related companies are especially invited to attend to be recognized. Attendees are also encouraged to wear or bring company products and other mementos.

The event is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse



Jay Dickens



Barry Fulcher

is fully handicap accessible.

“Each year the Historical Society honors an industry which helped to create and develop our area,” John Phillips, president of the Historical Society, said. “We are excited to celebrate lumber this year and encourage everyone to join us. The impact of our lumber industry far exceeds our geographical boundaries.”

Forecasted road projects may impact travel

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. New information is noted by “NEW,” and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke.

ROANOKE COUNTY
(UPDATED 12-16-22) * BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE – The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile stretch of the Parkway, mile marker 121.4 to 136, will be closed to all uses including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place until 2023.

CARROLL COUNTY
(UPDATED 12-30-22) * ROUTE 645 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Partial removal and demolition of the existing culvert on Route 645 (Stone Mountain Road) is underway. The road will be closed for removal of existing culvert and installation of a new box culvert. A detour will be in place at the intersections of Route 645 and Route 618 and Route 645 and Route 638. Estimated completion is April 2023.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
(UPDATED 12-9-22) * ROUTE 834 AND 670 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT – The roundabout project at Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) and Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road) is underway. Flaggers will be controlling traffic around the intersection of Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road) and Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) on weekdays during the spring and summer months. The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone. Drivers should expect traffic shifts and new traffic patterns throughout the duration of the project as turn lanes and portions of the new roundabout are being constructed. The new roundabout with lighting is anticipated to open to traffic in fall 2022. Overall project is expected to be

completed in early 2023.
(UPDATED 8-19-22) * ROUTE 775 CLOSURE - Route 775 (Iron Ridge Road) is closed to traffic as an emergency closure from Route 697 (Wirtz Road) to Route 220 due to a bridge washout. The road will remain closed until further notice.

HENRY COUNTY
(UPDATED 12-30-22) * ROUTE 220 BUSINESS NORTHBOUND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER REED CREEK – The Route 220 Business northbound bridge replacement over Reed Creek is underway. It is located on Route 220 Business over Reed Creek approximately 0.4 miles east of the Route 220 and Route 220 Business intersection. The bridge work will require the northbound bridge being restricted to one lane of travel across the bridge throughout the duration of the project. The bridge will have a width restriction in place of 13’ 6” and lane closures will be in place. Message boards will be in place to alert drivers. Expected completion date is late summer 2024.

PATRICK COUNTY
(UPDATED 12-30-22) * ROUTE 58 LOVER’S LEAP PROJECT – Construction is underway on Lover’s Leap area of Route 58. Current work includes clearing and grading activities on the west and east portions of the project. While traffic impacts are limited in the east section, flagging operations may be in place in the west section. A 45 mph speed reduction is in place on Route 58 for the entire length of the project. Message boards are in place to alert traffic and drivers should expect delays. Estimated completion date is May 2026.

BLASTING NOTICE: Blasting operations are underway on the project. Intermittent blasting will be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays and continue at various locations on the project through summer 2025. The first blasting will impact traffic in the vicinity of Dehart Botanical Gardens, approximately 1.7 miles east of the Lovers Leap Mountain overlook and Fred Clifton Park. For blasting that is close to Route 58, traffic in both directions may be blocked for approximately 15-20 minutes at a time. Drivers and residents along the Route 58 corridor should expect loud noise and allow extra travel time. Electronic message boards will be used to inform drivers of scheduled blasting that will impact traffic.

DETOUR SIGNS: While detour

signs in a fluorescent pink color are in place, these do not designate a permanent or scheduled detour. The signed detour route is suitable for all traffic during incidents including tractor-trailers and other large vehicles. These signs are used for incident detours only.

ROAD MAINTENANCE: VDOT performs the following activities as part of routine maintenance on roadways throughout the district. To submit a work order request for road repairs or assistance, contact our customer service center at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or submit online at www.virginiaidot.org.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for a several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a smoother surface.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS – Pavement marking operations will be performed district wide, in various counties on secondary routes. These will be mobile operations with lane closures, as they proceed through each county. Motorists should use caution and follow mobile signs for direction.

DITCHING, GRADING, SLOPE AND SHOULDER REPAIRS – Lane closures may be in place during daylight hours for shoulder repairs. Watch for flaggers controlling traffic.

PIPE REPLACEMENTS – Crews will be working on various secondary roads to replace pipes under the roadway with periodic lane closures during daylight hours on weekdays. Watch for flaggers controlling traffic.

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE – Crews will be working on various sec-

ondary roads where drainage issues are present with periodic lane closures during daylight hours on weekdays. Watch for flaggers controlling traffic.

MOWING, TREE TRIMMING AND BRUSH REMOVAL (VARIOUS ROUTES) – Crews will mow on secondary routes during daylight hours on weekdays. Watch for lane and/or shoulder closures.

UNPAVED ROAD MAINTENANCE – Crews will be working on various secondary non-hard surface roads grading and replacing stone with periodic lane closures during daylight hours on weekdays. Watch for flaggers controlling traffic.

GUARDRAIL REPAIRS - Lane closures may be in place for guardrail repairs at various locations. Work will be performed during daytime hours from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PAVING INFORMATION: VDOT now offers coverage of tracking paving progress statewide, which allows community members and stakeholders to view specific locations slated for paving and individual details of each project. Paving season typically extends from April to November and the map is updated weekly to detail exactly where paving projects are planned, ongoing and show how they’re to give residents and travelers a tool to use to best plan for travel and stay safe near these work zones. Drivers can get specific information about the status of paving projects at the Virginia Roads Paving Map or www.virginiaroads.org.

TRAFFIC ALERTS:

511: For the most current traffic and road work information, call 511, download the 511 App or visit www.511virginia.org.

TWITTER: You can also follow 511 Twitter feeds for the southwest area of Virginia at @511southwestva or follow @VaDOTSalem on Twitter.

FACEBOOK: Join our Facebook community group page at www.facebook.com/groups/VDOTSalem for traffic and general information on projects in the Salem District area.

On the 511 website, drivers can also sign up to receive personalized traffic alerts, view traffic cameras or download the free Android or iPhone mobile app.

Consumers are paying more at the pump

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 14.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.08/g Monday, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 17.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 7.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.67 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.40/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.59/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 12.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.17/g today. The national average is down 22.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 9.5 cents per gallon lower 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- \$2.99/g, up 9.5 cents per gallon from last week’s \$2.90/g.

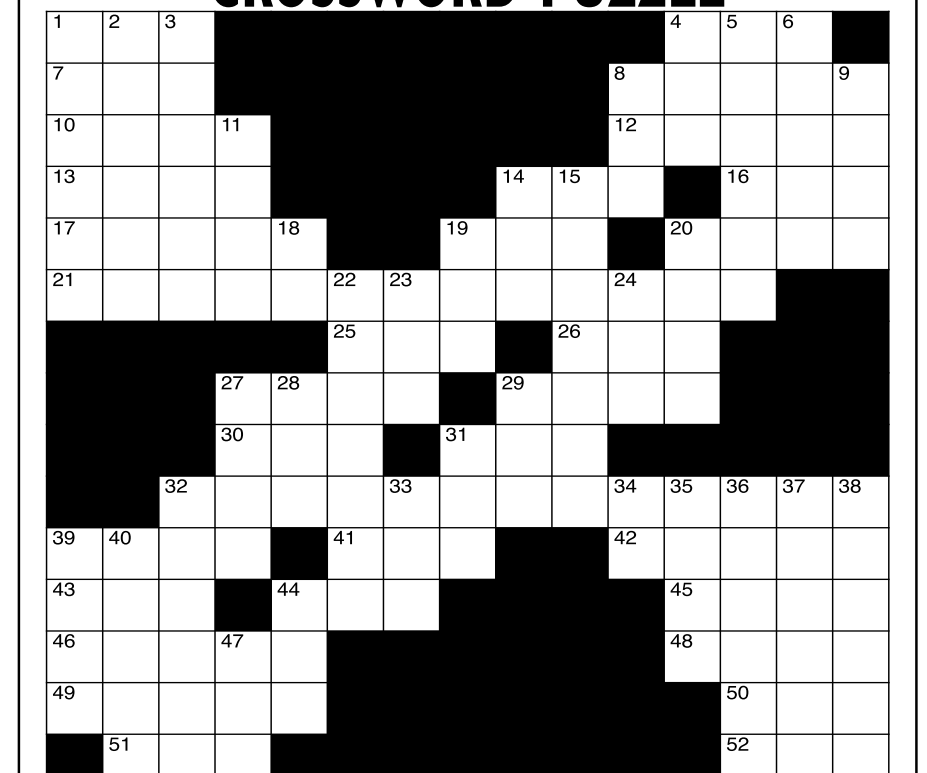
Richmond- \$3.10/g, up 20.1 cents per gallon from last week’s \$2.90/g.

West Virginia- \$3.04/g, up 1.3 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.03/g.

“For the first time in two months, the nation’s average price of gasoline rose sharply last week, as extremely cold weather led to many refinery issues, shutting down over a million barrels of refining capacity, pushing wholesale prices up,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “In addition, China’s reopening plans gave markets inspiration that global oil demand will start to recover, as China’s nearly three year Covid-zero policies appear to be coming to an end. While the jump at the pump will likely be temporary as most refiners get back online after cold-weather related issues, some regions like the Rockies may see more price increases than others as cold-weather shutdowns hit the region fairly hard, with one refinery likely remaining down through the first quarter of 2023. Most areas have seen the bulk of the rise already hit, but should oil continue to rally, more increases could be on the way.”

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Basics</p> <p>4. Swiss river</p> <p>7. Constrictor snake</p> <p>8. Building occupied by monks</p> <p>10. Discount</p> <p>12. Deal a blow to</p> <p>13. Relating to the ear</p> <p>14. Thyrotropin</p> <p>16. Loud, unpleasant noise</p> <p>17. Large intestines</p> <p>19. Move with a curving trajectory</p> <p>20. Witnesses</p> <p>21. You need both to live</p> <p>25. Dash</p> <p>26. Network</p> <p>27. Dig</p> <p>29. C. European river</p> | <p>30. Supplement with difficulty</p> <p>31. Corporate executive</p> <p>32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife</p> <p>39. No variation</p> <p>41. Airborne (abbr.)</p> <p>42. "Heidi" author</p> <p>43. Affirmative</p> <p>44. Pie ___ mode</p> <p>45. W. Asian country</p> <p>46. Grotesque or bizarre</p> <p>48. Delicacy (archaic)</p> <p>49. Textile</p> <p>50. Denial</p> <p>51. Electronic data processing</p> <p>52. Attempt</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Engulf</p> <p>2. Waterside hotel</p> <p>3. Printed cotton fabric</p> <p>4. Defensive nuclear weapon</p> <p>5. One who follows the rules</p> <p>6. Lace up once more</p> <p>8. Fire byproduct</p> <p>9. Hankerings</p> <p>11. Outer</p> <p>14. One-time aerospace firm</p> <p>15. Seafood</p> <p>18. Commercial</p> <p>19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)</p> <p>20. Samoan monetary unit</p> <p>22. Type of gland</p> <p>23. Arrest</p> <p>24. Check</p> <p>27. Past participle of be</p> | <p>28. Alias</p> <p>29. A major division of geological time</p> <p>31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)</p> <p>32. Joked</p> <p>33. Helps little firms</p> <p>34. Roman numeral 50</p> <p>35. Impressive in size or scope</p> <p>36. Domineering leader</p> <p>37. A person who delivers a speech</p> <p>38. One after 89</p> <p>39. Young hawk</p> <p>40. The scene of any event or action</p> <p>44. A team's best pitcher</p> <p>47. Integrated data processing</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

OPINION

An open letter from the FBI

The FBI is seeking the public's assistance in identifying individuals who made unlawful entry into the U.S. Capitol building and committed various other alleged criminal violations, such as destruction of property, assaulting law enforcement personnel, targeting members of the media for assault, and other unlawful conduct, on January 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

We have deployed our full investigative resources and are working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in these criminal activities.

While we are now two years out from the attack on the Capitol, many of the individuals involved remain at large. Your assistance is requested.

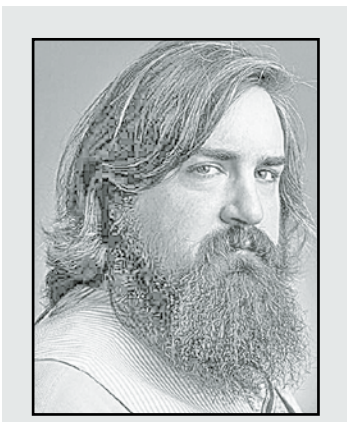
The FBI is seeking information regarding one individual in particular. A description follows below. If you know

this individual, we ask that you contact the FBI immediately.

The individual in question is between 40 and 60 years of age. He was seen inside the Capitol building wearing a red "MAGA" hat, a camouflage jacket, and a pair of Oakley sunglasses. He has a salt-and-pepper goatee. He is believed to own a lifted late-model pickup truck.

After typing that out, we at the FBI realize this information could describe virtually every individual involved in the attack on the Capitol. We apologize for the vagueness and will attempt to offer more information.

The individual in question is heavy-set and unvaccinated. He is often ruddy-cheeked at the slightest display of physical labor and has multiple comorbidities. He considers himself a "lion" rather than a "sheep." He is profoundly



By Ben R. Williams

unattractive.

Ok, so this isn't going too well. We'll see if we can come up with anything else.

The individual in question has few friends and is, at best, tolerated by those he claims as friends. He may or may not be married, but if he is married, it is a doomed and loveless affair. He has become estranged from most of his family due to his abhorrent and hateful beliefs which he harps on constantly. If he has a Facebook page, it is extremely racist, although if asked, he will claim to not be

a racist.

Man, we aren't getting anywhere here, are we? It's like they stamp these guys out at a factory downtown. Let's see what else we've got.

The individual in question claims to not be afraid of anything despite the fact that his entire life is ruled by fear. He is afraid of whatever the TV tells him to be afraid of. He fears foreigners, outsiders, and anyone who is not also a heterosexual white male. He also fears economic devastation while paradoxically also fearing any progressive legislation that would prevent him from being forced into bankruptcy when any one of his multiple health issues lands him in the hospital for an extended stay. He has a child's understanding of politics, government, and the world outside of the ten mile radius of the rural town where he was born, raised, and will inevitably die of a respiratory disease.

Look, we here at the FBI are doing our best, all right? We've been staring at the same mugshots for two straight years. Just file after

file of ugly, hateful men. Are they multiple men, or just one man? Can both things be true? We can no longer say.

The individual in question does not believe in white privilege because he has amounted to very little despite it. When he grudgingly eats at an ethnic restaurant, he orders a burger and fries. He loves memes about how cool the bikers in Easy Rider were while not realizing that he's more closely aligned to the rednecks who gunned them down in the final scene. He is inexplicably proud of having drunk water from the hose and his ability to write in cursive. He misses the days when he could support a family by putting a washer on the end of a screw for eight hours a day, yet he is also strongly anti-union. His every waking moment is spent fighting back against the wave of cognitive dissonance that threatens to overwhelm him as his needs and his desires are in stark opposition.

All right, we at the FBI give up. Just send us your least favorite uncle's home address and maybe we'll nab this guy eventually.

Farmers urged to respond to ag census before deadline

Time to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture is running out, and Virginia farmers are being encouraged to return their questionnaires before the Feb. 6 deadline.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service mailed online access codes for the census to every known American farmer in November, followed by hard copies this month.

The Census of Agriculture provides "the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation," said Herman Ellison, NASS state statistician for Virginia.

"Through the ag census, producers can show the nation the value of U.S. agriculture and influence decisions that will shape the future of the industry," Ellison continued. Data from the census, he said, works for producers by improving decision- and policymaking regarding jobs, transportation, production practices,

new technologies, marketing opportunities, farm services and programs, and local, state and federal policy.

The census has been conducted every five years for over 180 years. It counts every U.S. farming operation—large or small, urban or rural—from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold during the corresponding census year.

The data from the 2022 Census of Agriculture is expected to be released in the spring or summer of 2024.

Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, noted that the census provides farmers with an opportunity to document who and where they are, and what they produce.

Additionally, the five-year snapshot of American farms gauges performance over time, and the data can

be used to compare similar agricultural operations to those in other states.

The data collected from the census provides a clear understanding of agriculture's economic value in Virginia and the U.S.

"The ag census is very important for farmers in that the data is used to document agriculture's financial importance to the overall economy, which may affect local and state governments' stance on farmers and their land," Banks said. "The information also is particularly helpful to Virginia Farm Bureau and similar organizations who help form federal policy."

Producers can access 2022 Census of Agriculture forms and instructions online. Questionnaires may be returned by mail or at agcounts.usda.gov.

Producers with questions are encouraged to call the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 888-424-7828.

Resolve to avoid Crypto Scams this year

Here's a New Year's Resolution we could all benefit from: be vigilant about cryptocurrency scams. Fraud involving crypto investment schemes and crypto as payment in other schemes skyrocketed in 2022, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Reported losses exceeded \$1 billion.

Last year, the evergreen online romance scam turned into crypto "investment opportunities" — starting on such

platforms as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn in addition to dating sites and apps. The target can see their assets gaining value as they continue to invest more money, only the crypto exchange they are on is fake. When they try cashing out, they're told they must first pay excessive fees, and they don't get their money back.

In the 'crypto as payment' schemes, criminals convince targets that some urgent matter requires quick payment

and direct them to a nearby crypto-ATM machine that converts cash into electronic currency. These losses are virtually unrecoverable.

The best way to avoid these scams — really any scam — is to know about them so you can avoid engaging from the start. Seek a financial advisor's guidance on investing, and anyone pressuring you to pay by crypto to address and urgent or time-sensitive matter is a criminal.

If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork.

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

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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

How to combat seasonal affective disorder

The common cold is synonymous with times of year when temperatures dip. When people spend more time indoors, they're more vulnerable to contagious cold viruses. But the common cold is not the only health issue that presents itself most often when the mercury drops. Seasonal affective disorder, also known as "SAD," affects millions of people every year. The National Institute of Mental Health notes that SAD is a type of depression characterized by its recurrent seasonal pattern. Symptoms of SAD, which can include nearly daily and day-long feelings of depression, changes in appetite or weight and feelings of lower energy, last around four to five months. Researchers are unsure about the exact cause of SAD, but in most people, its onset is believed to be connected to the reduction in hours of sunlight during the winter. (WebMD notes that around 10 percent of people with SAD get it in the reverse, experiencing symptoms of depression at the onset of summer as opposed to winter.) Despite uncertainty about the causes of SAD, the NIMH notes there are ways to treat the condition. And it might benefit people who have experienced SAD to begin treatment prior to winter, as NIMH notes treatments that begin before fall could help to prevent or reduce the depression associated with the condition. Individuals who suspect they have SAD should relay their concerns to their health care provider, who will then ask patients to fill out a questionnaire to determine if symptoms meet the criteria for SAD. If such a diagnosis is confirmed, individuals may be presented with any of the following treatment options. Light therapy The NIMH notes that light therapy has been used to treat SAD since the 1980s. The crux of light therapy is to expose individuals with SAD to bright light every day with the hope that such exposure can serve as a stand-in for natural sunlight. Individuals undergoing light therapy typically begin their day sitting in front of a very bright light box for around 30 to 45 minutes. The boxes filter out potentially harmful UV light, but alternative therapies may be recommended for individuals with certain eye diseases or those taking particular medications. Psychotherapy According to



The National Institute of Mental Health notes that SAD is a type of depression characterized by its recurrent seasonal pattern.

the NIMH, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has been adapted to help treat people with SAD. CBT is a type of talk therapy, and CBT-SAD typically entails two weekly group sessions for six weeks. These sessions focus on replacing negative thoughts related to winter with more positive thoughts. The therapy also tries to help individuals identify and schedule pleasant, engaging indoor or outdoor activities. The NIMH notes that researchers' comparison of CBT-SAD with light therapy found both treatments were effective at improving SAD symptoms. Medications Doctors may recommend patients with SAD take medications known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs. Various types of depression have been found to disturb serotonin activity, and SAD is no exception. SSRIs have been proven to effectively improve patients' moods, but it's important that individuals discuss the side effects of SSRIs with their physicians prior to taking medication. Vitamin D has been linked to improving symptoms of SAD, but the NIMH notes this is a misconception, as the research regarding vitamin D supplementation as a treatment for SAD has thus far produced mixed results. Individuals who suspect they may have SAD are urged to speak with their physicians so they can overcome this often treatable condition.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com



Area lakes frozen after cold snap

The lake at Fairy Stone State Park remained frozen nearly a week after the frigid temperatures that hit the area over Christmas weekend gave way to milder conditions. Last week, many areas experienced temperatures in the low 60s, before rain moved in to usher in the new year. (Pat Delaney)

Training for dam owners offered

Owners of the state's more than 2,600 regulated dams, consultants and engineers can learn about funding available for getting their structures into compliance with regulations.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is offering two virtual training sessions on Jan. 17 and Feb. 7 from 2-4 p.m.

Participants will learn about regulatory requirements, managing dam safety within the Dam Safety Inventory System and funding available through the 2023 Dam Safety Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. A total of \$5 million is

available to eligible Virginia dam owners for engineering studies, plans, repairs and other measures to help bring dams into compliance.

"The funding made available this year is an important and unprecedented opportunity for dam owners to improve the safety and function of their dams," said Wendy Howard-Cooper, DCR director of the division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management.

Online registration is available at dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dsfpm-grants.

Edible landscapes localize fresh options year-round

Virginians can create their own yard-to-table edible landscapes.

For those lacking acreage, an edible landscape can be scaled down, said Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Alyssa Ford Morel. Her own residential foodscape includes Padrón peppers, fennel, Jerusalem artichoke and an edible passionflower vine that doubles as a privacy screen.

"And our Swiss chard is going gangbusters!" she said.

For smaller spaces like patios, she recommends edibles suitable for containers—arugula, cherry tomatoes, hot peppers, kale, leeks and sweet potato.

Growing an edible landscape can be done affordably.

"I encourage you to start small," Morel advised beginners. "Pick a few plants to try. Don't try to convert your entire yard."

Morel considers the design aesthetic, thoughtfully employing elements of color, texture, line, placement and form, by interplanting, trellising and layering edible species.

And those with plenty of acreage may learn from horticulturalist Michael McConkey's Edible Landscaping.

Working 25 acres of orchard and greenhouses in Nelson County, McConkey grows over 180 exotic and native cultivars that are sold and shipped locally, throughout Virginia and nationwide.

As a promoter of backyard orcharding since 1979, he wants potential growers to know that cultivating their own "foodscape" of edible fruits, herbs, berries, nuts and flowers is within reach.

Since McConkey lives on site, most of his own meals are picked fresh from the backyard pantry.

His team manages pawpaw trees, gumi shrubs, kiwi vines and chinquapin nut bushes by hand with no chemical input. He has attempted to grow hundreds of varieties over the years, and about one-third have performed well in Virginia.

"A lot of this is a test orchard," McConkey said. "We've found what actually works here."

With trial and error, the nursery developed an extensive edible inventory, including desert-loving species like the prickly pear hardy cactus.

"I juice them for fruit salads," he said. "It's a little vegetably-tasting, like beet juice with an aloe consistency, and deep red. It's good on sweet fruit or citrus salads."

To watch an edible landscaping video produced by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, visit bit.ly/3S8w8A9.

Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims decreased from the previous filing week

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced last week that the number of initial claims decreased in the latest filing week to 1,189, remaining at levels typically seen earlier in the year.

For the filing week ending December 24, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,189, which is a decrease of 268 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry from administrative support and waste management, accommodation and food services, manufacturing, construction, and professional, scientific and technical services. Continued weeks claimed totaled 9,286, which was an increase of 259 claims from the previous week and was nearly twice as large as the 4,904 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 December 24, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims was 225,000, an increase of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 216,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 271,590 in the week ending December 24, an increase of 23,146 (or 9.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 257,870 initial claims in the comparable week in 2021. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported increases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (+4,785) was the largest increase. Kentucky's weekly change (+4,162) was the second largest increase. Massachusetts's preliminary weekly change (+2,353) was the third largest increase. New York's weekly change (+2,234) was the fourth largest increase. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-117) was the 14th largest decrease.

Six areas are the focus of Youngkin's Comprehensive Economic Development Policy

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently unveiled "Compete to Win," a comprehensive economic development policy to grow Virginia's economy which he announced at the 2022 Virginia Economic Summit hosted by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Developed to address Virginia's sluggish economic performance in recent years, the ambitious plan outlines a roadmap to enhance the Commonwealth's competitive position and accelerate economic growth over the next three years. Key focus areas include acceleration of support for prioritized industries and new sectors, workforce development and growth, site and infrastructure development, increased housing supply and tax reform, cost and ease of doing business, and the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurship.

"Economic development is essential to making Virginia an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family," said Youngkin. "While we have made substantial progress in a post-pandemic economy over the past year, there is still much recovery work to be done. Now is the time to hit the accelerator and build a best-in-class business environment so Virginia can compete to

win, and this comprehensive plan will enable us to do just that. I look forward to the collaboration ahead to solidify the Commonwealth's position as the top state for business in the nation."

To accomplish its economic development goals, Governor Youngkin's Administration will undertake six strategies to drive economic development in Virginia into high gear:

*Accelerate Support for Target Industries and New Sectors: Elevate industries where Virginia has competitive advantages and establish strategic segments for key sectors to generate growth for rural and urban Virginia, leverage all of government plus enablers to capture growth in industries where Virginia is in a strong position to win and enhance Virginia's competitiveness for high-growth industries.

*Unleash a Talented Workforce: Grow Virginia's workforce, improve connections between talent and businesses, and prepare Virginians to acquire in-demand, marketable skills.

*Accelerate Site and Infrastructure Development: Prepare sites, utilities, and roadways to meet market demand, streamline Virginia's permitting processes to

increase speed to market, and proactively invest in the necessary infrastructure to support growth.

*Make Virginia More Affordable: Address housing supply shortages, energy costs, and individual taxes to reduce the cost of living in Virginia.

*Break Down Barriers: Evaluate Virginia's business taxes, licensing, and other costs, and modernize Virginia's regulatory processes to reduce costs of doing business and remove barriers to success.

*Drive Innovation: Strengthen a statewide culture conducive to entrepreneurship by enhancing connections between businesses, universities, investors, and talent and reducing burdensome regulations for small businesses and early-stage companies.

"Virginia's economic future depends on bold vision and even bolder execution," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "We are committed to ensuring the Commonwealth has the business climate, prepared sites, workforce pipeline, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and livability to successfully compete and drive economic growth across the Commonwealth, and we are ready to continue this critical work with a strategic roadmap to follow."

Be sure to like the
Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

OBITUARIES

Peggy Covington Jefferson

Peggy Covington Jefferson, 97, was born November 29, 1925, in Martinsville, Virginia. She passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, December 29, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter E., and Bula Waid Covington; husband of 63 years, Eldon Knight Jefferson; son-in-law, Gary M. Kendall; two sisters and two brothers.



She is survived by daughters, Sharon J. Henderson (Jerry), Sheila K. Dunning (Buzzy), Susan J. Hensley (Steve); grandchildren, Darren Henderson (Marianne), Lynda Rostar (Jimmy), Courtney Davies (Ben), Amanda Henderson (Mike), Ryan Kendall (Heather), Ross Kendall (Danielle), Daniel Hensley (Heather), Catherine Burke (Bill), and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was a lifelong member of Horsepasture Christian Church. The family wishes to express deep appreciation and gratitude to Marcella Dalton, Susan Penn, Angela Wade, Danielle Widener, and Leslie Williams for their faithful and loving care of our mother.

A private family graveside service will be followed by visitation from 2-3 p.m. at Horsepasture Christian Church on Saturday, January 7, 2023.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorials be made to Spencer-Penn Centre or charity of your choice.

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

Letcher Clyde DeHart

Letcher Clyde DeHart, 95, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Friday, December 30, 2022, at Mulberry Creek Nursing & Rehab. He was born on November 9, 1927, in Franklin County, VA to the late Clyde W. DeHart and Myrtle I. Stone DeHart. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Ina DeHart; son, Randolph DeHart; brothers, Bobby, and Garland; sisters, Lovelene Wade, Jean Ball and Linda Morris.

Mr. DeHart served in the United States Army during WWII. He worked at E.I. DuPont in the power

department.

He is survived by his grandson, Brian DeHart; granddaughter, Morgan DeHart; brothers, Richard DeHart and Billy DeHart; sister, Marie "Tootsie" Cook; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at Roselawn Burial Park, with Daniel Guenther officiating.

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

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

Applications open for Piedmont Arts scholarships

Piedmont Arts is accepting applications for the Nicodemus Hufford Memorial Arts Scholarship and the Harold Knowlton Work Memorial Scholarship, which provide funds for students from Martinsville or Henry County to pursue a degree in the visual or performing arts at an accredited four-year institution.

The Hufford Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors from Martinsville or Henry County who plan to pursue a degree in the visual or performing arts. Hufford scholarships of up to \$1,500 are available.

The Work Scholarship is available to rising college sophomores, juniors and seniors who graduated from a high school in Martinsville or Henry County and are currently pursuing a degree in the

visual or performing arts at an accredited four-year institution. Work scholarships of up to \$2,500 are available.

Applicants for both scholarships are required to attend a personal interview and audition with the Piedmont Arts Scholarship Committee. Applications are due at Piedmont Arts by 5 p.m. on April 30. Applications are available at the museum and PiedmontArts.org, under the Education tab. For questions, contact Education Coordinator Sarah Short at sshort@piedmontarts.org.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum, located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

Art Scholarships

Applications Due: April 30, 2023

Open to graduating high school seniors and college students from Martinsville-Henry County who are pursuing a degree in the arts

More info at PiedmontArts.org

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Virginia Ranks High in Annual Health Report

Virginia ranked 14th in United Healthcare's annual America's Health Rankings report.

The state saw a 14% decline in the number of uninsured adults between 2019 and 2021. However, the state has some areas

where it could improve. Between 2014 and 2021, Virginia saw a 47% increase in the number of adults in frequent mental distress.

Sandra Serna, director of the office of health equity at the Virginia Department of Health, thinks as good as Virginia's ranking is, there is still room for improvement. She described some of the work being done with building the state's health care workforce.

"We do a lot around health care workforce incentive programs and

initiatives to get providers of a variety of types," Serna explained. "Not just behavioral health, but primary care and other specialties into areas of the Commonwealth where there may be a health care provider shortage."

During the pandemic the Department of Health developed the Prayers and Prevention Program, which provided mini-grants to faith-based organizations to inform their congregations about the pandemic and ensure people get COVID-19 vaccines. She hopes commu-

nity leaders can continue to fill the information gap created by the pandemic.

Serna is eager to see numerous programs come to fruition to bridge any gaps in health equity throughout the state, but is concerned after the pandemic, public health workers are burned out.

She also wants to address the health disparities which existed prior to the pandemic. However, Serna stressed the future of rural Virginia's health goes beyond health policy.

"We also give, in the office of health equity,

mini grants to nonprofit entities in the rural parts of the state," Serna pointed out. "As well to help them address what we at the VDH would call the social determinants of health."

The grants address issues like housing, food insecurity, community safety and social connection. Overall, Serna wants to ensure people are getting the health care they need, after the pandemic kept people from going to their doctors.

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

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New surgeon joins Sovah Health

Kareem Hamdy, MD joined Sovah Physician Practices on January 1, and will be operating under Sovah Surgical Specialists – Martinsville.

"Dr. Hamdy has practiced in our community for many years and is an asset to the growth of our Surgical Services program," said Spencer Thomas, CEO, Sovah Health – Martinsville. "He brings extensive

general surgery experience and training to the Sovah Physician Practices team, and we are excited to continue providing high-quality care to our community."

Dr. Hamdy is a board-certified general surgeon who received his Doctor of Medicine from Alexandria University School of Medicine (Alexandria, Egypt) and completed his residency at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Iowa City, IA).

At Sovah Surgical Specialists–Martinsville, Dr. Hamdy specializes in general surgical procedures, peripheral vascular procedures, breast

surgery, screening and diagnostic colonoscopy, upper endoscopy, and anti-reflux surgery. He is accepting new patients and appointments may be made by calling (276) 634-5003. The new practice is located at 319 Hospital Drive, Suite 210 in Martinsville, VA.

Sovah Physician Practices includes regional physician offices representing many medical specialties and serves the south-central Virginia and north central North Carolina region. Specialties include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, medical and radia-



Kareem Hamdy

tion oncology, pulmonology, ENT, urology, and cardiology. To learn more, visit our website at SovahPhysicians.com.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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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.

SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine wood-working, 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
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Never used.
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HELP WANTED

Experienced Mechanic
40 hrs. Monday-Friday
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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/ID population. May substitute in appropriate fields for educational. 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.



HELP WANTED

Martinsville (Main) FULL-TIME CIRCULATION ASSISTANT
The Blue Ridge Regional Library seeks an individual with experience dealing with the public and the ability to perform varied clerical and technical tasks in providing service to patrons at the circulation desk in a full-time position. A working knowledge of computers and high school diploma or equivalent required. To download an application and view a complete job description, visit our website at www.brrl.lib.va.us. The Blue Ridge Regional Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

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

Martinsville Planning Commission Regular Meeting Schedule 2023
City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building
4:00 p.m.
January 18, 2023
February 15, 2023
March 15, 2023
April 19, 2023
May 17, 2023
June 21, 2023
July 19, 2023
August 16, 2023
September 20, 2023
October 18, 2023
November 15, 2023
December 20, 2023 (Tentative)

Deadlines for applications for public hearings are approximately 30 days before the scheduled Planning Commission meeting. This allows staff proper time to advertise and have all supporting documentation prepared. All Planning Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, at 4:00 p.m., on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Planning Commission meeting dates may be subject to change due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances. Once action is taken on an application by the Planning Commission, the application is then forwarded to the City Manager's office to be considered at a public hearing with City Council. For further information regarding the Planning Commission please contact Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us or (276) 403-5156.

Architectural Review Board (ARB) Regular Meeting Schedule 2023
City Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building
10:00 a.m.
January 19, 2023
February 16, 2023
March 16, 2023
April 20, 2023
May 18, 2023
June 15, 2023
July 20, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 19, 2023
November 16, 2023
December 21, 2023

Deadlines for applications for public hearings are approximately 30 days before the scheduled Architectural Review Board (ARB) meeting. This allows staff proper time to advertise and have all supporting documentation prepared. All ARB meetings are held in Council Chambers, at 10:00 a.m., on the 3rd Thursday of each month. ARB meetings are held on an as-needed basis and may be cancelled by the board Chair if there are no items for the agenda. For further information regarding the ARB please contact Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us or (276) 403-5156.

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on January 19, 2023 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:

- APPLICATION for CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS** - Application of D.C. Saufley, Inc., Applicant, and Cynthia Edgerton, Owner, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for the construction of an addition to a residential structure located within the Martinsville Historic District. The property is located at 1 Starling Avenue, is currently zoned R-T, Residential Transitional, and is currently operating under a bed and breakfast use. The existing structure is approximately 4,712 square feet and was built in 1925. 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

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **January 25, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of these public hearings is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Variance and a Special Use Permit for the following cases.

Case V-23-01 Scott Markwell, Appalachian Power Project Manager
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-307 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for 3 transmission line structures to be constructed to a height of 90' instead of the limit of 75'. The project is located behind the address of 800 County Line Road, and just south of 860 County Line Road, in the Blackberry District. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 37.8/45.

Case S-23-01 Sunny Rock Solar, LLC
A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-1801 through 21-1808; and 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The properties are located in the north east corner of the intersection of Soapstone Road and Joseph Martin Hwy, extending in a north eastern direction, in the Ridgeway District, and zoned as Agricultural District A-1. The Tax Map numbers are 61.2/77-78 and 61.6/101-102. The proposal is to develop a 20MW facility on 180-acres, approximately 122-acres of which will contain solar use. The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Notice of Joint Meeting

A joint meeting will be held between the Martinsville Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals on January 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. The purpose of this joint meeting is to review and discuss the final draft of amendments to the city's Zoning Ordinance, draft amendments to the Zoning Map, and a possible boundary increase to the C-UB, Uptown Business District. 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

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held before Martinsville City Council on January 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.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:
REQUEST to APPEAL - Request of Teresa Carter, property owner, to appeal the decision of the Architectural Review Board of the City of Martinsville, which denied a demolition request for the residential structure located at 632 Fayette Street and in the Historic District. Section XXI.C.13, *Provisions for demolition and razing*, of the Zoning Ordinance, requires approval of the Architectural Review Board for demolition in the Historic Districts. Section XXI.C.11, *Appeal of Architectural Review Board decision*, of the Zoning Ordinance, allows decisions of the ARB to be appealed to City Council. 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

To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.



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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.

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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