

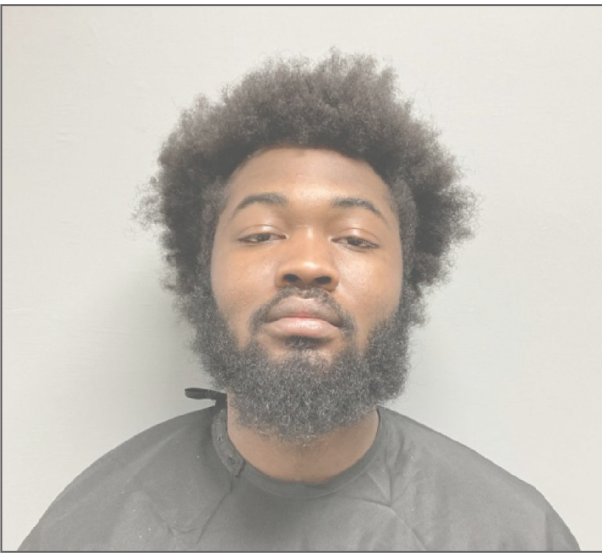
# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, February 18, 2023

(USPS-6)

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## First-degree murder charge issued in connection with shooting death



Jahari Keontae Pritchett, of Martinsville, is wanted on several charges related to a February 14 incident.

### Staff Reports

A Bassett man died from a gunshot wound and the alleged shooter is being held in the Henry County

Adult Detention Center with no bond, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Jahari Keontae Pritchett was taken into custody Wednesday on charges in connection with a shooting

incident Tuesday that resulted in the death of Deshawn Marquis Ross.

Around 6:50 p.m. on February 14, a 911 caller reported a gunshot wound at Northview Garden

Apartments, located at 755 Stultz Road,

Martinsville, according to a release.

When Henry County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived at the scene, they found a young man suffering

from an apparent gunshot wound. The man was located inside one of the apartments at the complex.

Henry County Public Safety EMS arrived and began treatment. Ross, 22, of Bassett, died at the scene, according to the release.

"All we can definitively say at this time is the victim had suffered at least one gunshot wound to the torso," Henry County Sheriff's Capt. Wayne Davis said.

His body was trans-

ported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Western District of Virginia, where an autopsy will be performed to determine the cause and manner of death.

As the investigation developed, authorities learned that an argument had ensued between Ross and another man, identified as Pritchett. A firearm allegedly was produced during the argument and Ross was fatally wounded before the shooter allegedly fled the scene.

Pritchett, 22, of Martinsville, was taken into custody without incident in the Axton area. He is charged

with first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm after having been convicted of a felony.

Anyone with information about the incident or Pritchett's whereabouts 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.



The Martinsville-Henry County Firefighter's Association's fire safety trailer was recently restored after being out of commission due to weather-associated damages.

## Fire safety trailer returns to service after restoration project

### By Taylor Boyd

The Martinsville-Henry County Firefighter's Association's Fire Safety Trailer is back in service after a lengthy restoration process.

Lee Cooley, president of the association, said the trailer is used as a prop when teaching children and adults fire safety.

"We actually take kids in, show them the kitchen. We take them into a living room, and we'll sit there and talk about safety," Cooley said. "Then, we smoke it up and they'll sit there and see how the smoke rolls."

The simulation-like trailer resembles a camper. It includes a kitchen, living room, bedroom, hallway, and stair area, and balcony.

When the smoke detector sounds the alarm, "we teach them how to get out,"

Cooley said. "We show them how to roll out of the bed and things like that" to help save a life in the event of a fire at home.

Cooley said the restoration was needed after the trailer became damaged



The fire safety trailer has smoke machines, smoke detectors, heat simulators, and cameras to assist in training.

from setting out in the weather too long. The trailer now has smoke machines, smoke alarms, heat simulators, and cameras.

He estimates the cost of restoration, including labor, was about \$20,000.

"We raised money and paid for it. The guys donated their time in Martinsville City and Henry County putting it back together," he said.

Cooley said the association is in dire need of a place to permanently house the trailer.

"It's so tall, it won't go in none of the stations," he said of the 12 feet, 6-inch tall trailer. "We found places. We moved it from here to there until we finally finished it up."

The trailer is currently available for training and was recently used by the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department.

Those interested in scheduling training may contact their local fire department or the association.



School Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley recognized the Martinsville City School Board for school board appreciation month. (From left to right), Yvonne Givens, Donna Dillard, Michael Williamson and Talley.

## City school board approves spending plan for upcoming fiscal year

### By Taylor Boyd

The Martinsville City School Board approved its fiscal year 2023-24 budget at a Feb. 13 meeting.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, Jr. said the \$25,758,772 budget represents an increase of \$1,173,191 from the previous year.

The spending plan that includes an increase of \$347,240 in the local funding request now will be presented to the Martinsville City Council.

Travis Clement, Executive Director of Administrative Services, said the overall budget increase of \$1,173,191 was driven by four major changes.

"One of those is a reduction in state grants. That's because we're losing a couple of slots in the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) programs.

We're losing funding for those two positions," he said.

Although a reduction of about \$171,270 is expected in the state's sales tax revenues, the division anticipates an increase of \$1,010,223 in state funds, which will include "things such as the additional reading specialist, the state's portion of the five percent raise, and the replacement of the hygiene and food tax component that was reduced. So, that's going to replace the loss of the sales tax that comes to the school division," he said.

Clement said the division was short \$347,240 when it tried to balance the budget.

That amount is "going to be a request to the city council to increase

See School Board, page 7

## Supervisors discuss accomplishments, goals for upcoming year

### By Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Board of Supervisors reviewed the fiscal year 2022-23's goals at a recent planning session.

County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the goals were more general terms.

One goal involved the Blue Ridge Regional Airport.

"The airport's doing a tremendous job right now," Wagoner said. "The county bought the land a few years ago and expanded the runway. We recently sold it back to the airport so they can begin that



The Henry County Board of Supervisors discusses its accomplishments and goals for the new fiscal year during a recent planning session.

process."

Wagoner said Airport Road was relocated for the airport's expansion, and

there currently are about \$25 million worth of projects in the works over the

See Goals, page 7

## Burning Ban now in effect

The statewide Burn Ban went into effect on February 15.

This ban on open-air burning before 4 p.m. is in effect through April 30 and applies to all open-air burning within 300 feet of woodland. In Martinsville, all open-air burning to be complete by 8 p.m.

The dangers of fires spreading during this timeframe are due to higher winds, lower relative humidity, and extremely dry fuels on the forest floor. Recreational fires are still allowed if entirely contained by a

noncombustible material and covered with a metal screen containing ¼ inch or smaller openings. Please use extreme caution to remove all combustibles around the area to be burned, and all outdoor fires shall be attended to at all times. As always, the only materials allowed to be burned are paper, cardboard, leaves, and tree, yard, and garden trimmings located on the premises.

For more information on fire safety, visit martinsville-va.gov, the Va. Dept. of Forestry website,

or call the Martinsville Fire & EMS Department at (276) 403-5325.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Friday, February 17 - Saturday, February 18

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Friday's sale, from 2-5 p.m., is "Members only," and you can join at the door. Saturday's sale is open to the public from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Egypt, westerns, & regular and Religious fiction will be highlighted, and there are lots of "new to us" books in young adult, children's, cookbooks, & many more great finds. ALL paperback books are .50 cents & ALL hardback books are \$1, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds go back into the library system. Snow dates are February 24 & 25.

## Saturday, February 18

Yoga in the Galleries, 10:30 a.m. at Piedmont Arts. Enjoy a relaxing yoga session with instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. This is an event for all ages. This event will be \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Please bring cash to pay the instructor.

Artful Mending, 1 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Give your clothes some love and a new life at Artful Mending with instructor Jennifer Reis. Participants will learn to use creative patching, embroidery, needle felting, and embellishing to repair and refresh personal articles of clothing. All supplies to repair will be provided; participants are invited to bring jeans, shirts, jackets, and wool sweaters. Advanced registration required and can be completed at [www.piedmontarts.org](http://www.piedmontarts.org). Tickets are \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members.

The Martinsville Henry County SPCA's wellness clinic, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule an appointment.

## Wednesday, February 22

The Martinsville Henry County

SPCA's wellness clinic, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule an appointment.

## Thursday, February 23

Longwood Small Business Center offers Building the Foundation for Your Business with Brandon Hennessey, the center's Director of Innovation, Research and Entrepreneurship, from 9 to 10 a.m. The event will provide free start-up assistance to businesses via Zoom. The event includes prepare to start a successful business, evaluate your entrepreneurial abilities, marketing strategies, financial resources, legal form of organization, tips to prepare & present your business plan, and cybersecurity tips. To register, visit <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?key=90430001>.

## Thursday - Sunday, February 23 - 25

TheatreWorks Community Players present "Driving Miss Daisy," at 7 p.m., in the Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 for each show and can be purchased online at [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net), or at the door. Visit [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net) or [info@twcp.net](mailto:info@twcp.net).

## Sunday, February 25

Dr. King in Virginia & the Virginia Martin Luther King Holiday Narrative, at 1 p.m. will be presented by the Rev. Tyler Millner at Morning Star Holy Church, 2939 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville.

## Tuesday, February 28

Registration ends for the 2nd annual Spring Special Prom Night, free event for people over 18 with disabilities. Sponsored by Infinity Acres Ranch and partners, the prom will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 3 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Visit [www.infinity-acres.org/events.html](http://www.infinity-acres.org/events.html) to register.

Chix with Stix, 10:30 a.m. at Piedmont Arts. Knitters are invited to work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your

own supplies. Free to members. \$5 for non-members (pay at the door). Advanced registration required.

## Thursday-Saturday, March 2 - 4

TheatreWorks Community Players present "Driving Miss Daisy," at 7 p.m., in the Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 for each show and can be purchased online at [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net), or at the door. Visit [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net) or [info@twcp.net](mailto:info@twcp.net).

## Sunday, March 5

TheatreWorks Community Players present "Driving Miss Daisy," at 2 p.m., in the Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 for each show and can be purchased online at [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net), or at the door. Visit [www.twcp.net](http://www.twcp.net) or [info@twcp.net](mailto:info@twcp.net).

## Thursday, March 16

Riddick Dance, 6:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. A contemporary African American dance company featuring a broad repertory, expressive movement and a fusion of dance styles. Riddick will perform three pieces: Limerick of Our Souls, a dance-theater assortment including love stories, poems, and speeches; ONE, a mixed media piece dealing with love, loss, forgiveness, and conflict resolution through the enlightening, meditative music of Alice Coltrane; and The King Project, improvisational dance theater laced in visual projections based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches, "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountain Top," and his "Letter from Birmingham Jail." A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the performance starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase from [www.piedmontarts.org](http://www.piedmontarts.org).

## 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](http://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."

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 [brlib.va.us](http://brlib.va.us).

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 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) offers "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. 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. Call (276) 647-9585.

## Community Health Worker program grows in Martinsville, Henry County

The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville looks to hire a Spanish-speaking Community Health Worker (CHW) to address health disparities within the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx communities in Martinsville-Henry County. The Harvest Foundation funded a \$25,000 grant to support this new position.

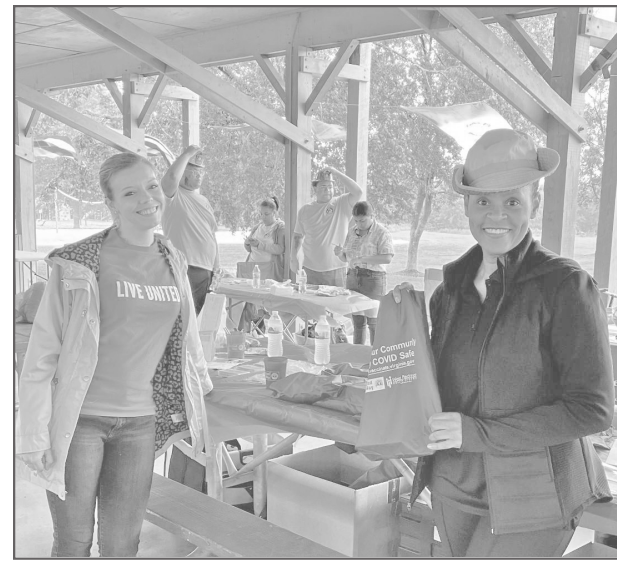
"Community Health Workers are frontline agents of change who are culturally and community informed," said India Brown, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. "Their work is especially important when serving communities of color, like the Hispanic/Latinx community, that are often underserved. We hope our investment will increase awareness and access to community services within the Hispanic/Latinx community."

Community Health Workers engage the entire community to improve the overall public health of the region. This position will focus primarily on building relationships with the Spanish-speaking community to foster trusting relationships with individuals who are not connected to local medical resources. They also will share information about services that address health challenges and directly

connect clients to medical services offered by local providers.

"We are incredibly appreciative of the Harvest Foundation, the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, and United Way Worldwide for investing in this project," said Philip Wenkstern, executive director of The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville. "The United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every individual throughout Martinsville and Henry County. This project will enable us to strengthen connections with a long-underserved segment of our community."

United Way will receive technical assistance from The Penn Center for Community Health Workers. The center administers the IMPACT Model, a standardized, scalable program that utilizes evidence-based research and the latest technology so organizations can successfully staff and manage CHW programs at scale. Wenkstern added that the provided technical assistance ensures United Way will have the resources needed to improve strategies that directly support improved health, develop measurement systems that capture progress, and build local



Brandy Lawless (left), community engagement coordinator at United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, is pictured with Community Health Worker Karen Millner at a fall community event in 2022.

capacity for development.

The United Way of Henry County and Martinsville supports this grant-funded position with partners at The Harvest Foundation and the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia - Martinsville, and United Way Worldwide.

To apply or to learn more, visit [unitedwayofhcm.org/careers](http://unitedwayofhcm.org/careers) or call (276) 638-3946.

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# Sumner tapped to lead NCI

Joe E. Sumner, current Associate Vice-President for Economic Development of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, in Valdosta Georgia, has been selected as the new NCI Executive Director, beginning February 28. "I am honored to join the team of New College Institute, and my family and I are excited to become active and engaged members of the Martinsville Henry County community," Sumner said. "I look forward to continuing the successes of NCI while developing new and innovative educational opportunities for current and future students."

Sumner was selected after an extensive search process led by members of the NCI Board, which in October announced it was beginning the search to identify the next leader of the institute.

The Executive Search Committee, led by Richard Hall, Eric Jones, and Hubert Harris, received and assessed 28 applications from candidates across the country for the position. Over the past three months, the search committee conducted a rigorous and thorough process of reviewing these applications and held multiple stages of interviews with numerous well-qualified candidates. In the final round of interviews, NCI engaged and welcomed inputs from NCI staff, peer Virginia institutes of higher education and community colleges and supporting stakeholders from the greater southside VA region. The goal was to offer a collaborative environment to gain multiple perspectives and viewpoints as a part of the decision-making process.

Sumner, a decorated soldier who was wounded while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, has dedicated his post-military professional career to creating the tech talent pipeline partnership between communities, education, and industry.

The Georgia native earned both a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering Technology and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management at Kennesaw State University; he is expected to receive his Doctorate in Leadership from Valdosta University in 2023.

A former small business owner of a successful mechatronics company, Sumner brings to NCI an impressive resume of experience in both education and the advanced manufacturing industry. Believing that education, training, and workforce development are the key to sustained economic revitalization and an increased quality of life in our region, he was a leader in the development of a first-of-its-kind college and

career academy in Georgia in the K-12 education space. Additionally, he has been a tireless advocate and leader in the STEM-C Robotics competition programs in Georgia's public schools. He has most recently served as an Associate Vice-President for Program Development, Academic Affairs and Economic Development during his time at the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College in Valdosta, Georgia.

Sumner noted that he is "eager to strengthen existing relationships, rekindle past relationships, and establish new ones with partners who share the vision that NCI is an invaluable resource of opportunities for the region. Working together, we can continue to grow and strengthen the Martinsville Henry County workforce and economy for today, tomorrow, and many generations ahead."

State Sen. Bill Stanley, chairman of NCI's Board of Directors, said "Joe is a perfect fit for NCI. His experience, energy, "can-do" spirit, and overwhelming drive to succeed will make him a transformational leader for the Institute as we move forward. NCI's members of its Board of Directors have been working diligently in the development of an aggressive long-range strategic plan for NCI to provide innovative, state-of-the-art educational opportunities for our students that will prepare them for the high-demand, high-paying jobs in the 21st Century workforce. Joe Sumner is the just the leader we need to ensure NCI's success in the future. The members of the Board of Directors and I remain dedicated to the proposition that Virginia's New College Institute will be a leader in both education and workforce training in our region, both now, and for years to come. And we are grateful for the Commonwealth of Virginia's dedicated commitment to the economic and educational future of both Martinsville and Henry County with its unwavering support of the New College Institute Mission."

"Given that I am a lifelong resident of Martinsville-Henry County and a product of Bassett High School, I chose to live, work, invest, and give back to the community which we call home," Hall said. "Because of this, I was particularly sensitive to bringing in a leader that would embrace the hard-working blue-collar values of the residents that make up our community. Joe Sumner has demonstrated, throughout the interview process, a superior level of knowledge and expertise in the education and workforce training space, and he possesses a deep desire to work, live and raise his family

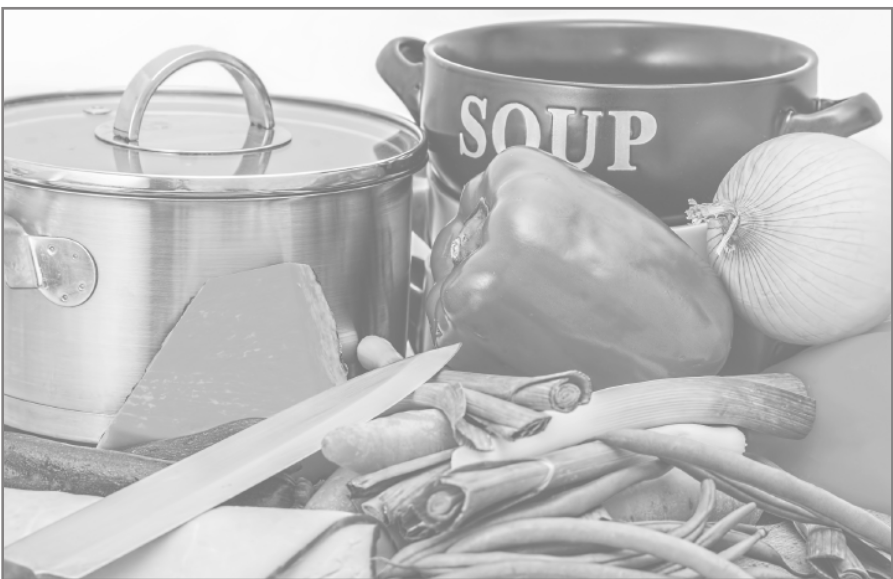
in our community. Coupled with his unique blend of background in workforce training and academic leadership, Mr. Sumner is the right choice at the right time for future success of NCI."

"I am proud that as a part of the candidate assessment process, we had the opportunity to involve community partners and stakeholders, as we at NCI, value their feedback and support," said Jones. "As a 1997 graduate of Laurel Park High School and having deep family roots in the Martinsville/Henry County area, I am glad the candidates had an opportunity to meet members of the community that have educated, mentored, and inspired so many like me, throughout our lives and careers. With the selection of Mr. Sumner as the Executive Director of New College Institute, I am excited to see what the future holds as NCI pursues initiatives to engage students and enhance educational opportunities across the region."

Harris said, "With the selection of Mr. Sumner as the Executive Director, New College Institute is well positioned to fulfill its mission by providing educational and workforce development programming for Martinsville-Henry County citizens and employers. As an educator, I know firsthand the importance of having the right leadership and supporting cast to drive success."

Founded by the Virginia General Assembly by charter in 2006, The New College Institute is a state agency that provides access to degree programs (bachelor, master, and doctorate) through partnerships with VA colleges and universities. NCI strives to be accessible and convenient for students of all ages. Our staff, faculty, and board members are all committed to making NCI a premier educational facility for students, businesses, and the community at large. Located on the historic Baldwin Block in Martinsville, Virginia, NCI's main campus building is a 21st century state-of-the-art educational center that was recently purchased by the Commonwealth of Virginia from a now-defunct supporting foundation in 2020.

In addition to college-level degree and certification programs, NCI also offers job-specific education and training programs, as well as experiential learning opportunities such as the NCI Internship Program and regional cybersecurity and engineering competitions. NCI continues to be a community partner with the region in sponsoring numerous events throughout the year at its main campus.



## Award proceeds will help feeding program

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust has awarded Feeding Southwest Virginia a \$200,000 grant to support the organization's operational expenses as it implements its strategic plan to nourish neighbors, engage community partners and develop solutions to address food insecurity. The grant will be particularly impactful in counties like Buchanan, Lee, and Dickenson, where food insecurity rates are over 19 percent compared to Virginia's average of 7.7 percent.

This support will aid Feeding Southwest Virginia in its efforts to provide food to over 140,000 neighbors who need food assistance in our region. "This is an amazing partnership for Feeding Southwest Virginia," said Pamela Irvine, CEO of Feeding

Southwest Virginia. "The generosity of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust allows us to carry out our strategic plan and further our mission to reduce hunger."

One in eight neighbors in the 26 counties and nine city service region are food insecure, according to a release. Patrick and Henry counties are among those to benefit from the agency's effort. According to the release, the grant will play a critical role in helping Feeding Southwest Virginia provide nutritious food to families in need.

Approximately \$30 million worth of food and grocery-related products are channeled annually through more than 370 food pantries and meal programs in the agency's service region. Visit [www.feedingswva.org](http://www.feedingswva.org) for more information.

## Bassett man held with no bond on drug charges

Dana Juan Reynolds, of Bassett, is being held with no bond on several drug related charges after Henry County Sheriff's investigators executed a search warrant at 2451 Willie Craig Road, Bassett, on February 14.

Investigators seized suspected methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana, and a large quantity of US currency, according to a release.

When deputies entered the home, investigators allege there was an active attempt to destroy the narcotics.

Reynolds, 44, of the home, was charged with possession with the intent to distribute cocaine after

having two or more prior convictions; possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine after having two or more prior convictions; and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana more than one ounce less than five pounds.

He is being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

This matter remains under investigation, and additional charges are anticipated, according to the release.

Anyone with information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-



**Dana Juan Reynolds**

8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                              | philosopher                   | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                | 31. Mollusks                              |
| 1. Revolutions per minute                        | 36. Sharp, shrill bark        | 1. Flower cluster                | 32. German municipality                   |
| 4. Hymns   | 37. Albanian monetary units   | 2. A form                        | 33. Body part                             |
| 10. Brew   | 39. Launched Apollo           | 3. Inner organ regions           | 35. City of Angels                        |
| 11. Did not acknowledge                          | 40. One who graduated         | 4. Local law enforcement         | hoopsters                                 |
| 12. Atomic #77                                   | 41. Exist                     | 5. A citizen of Senegal          | 38. Suffocate                             |
| 14. Partly digested food                         | 42. Passed by                 | 6. Positively charged electrodes | 41. Pleasing to the eye                   |
| 15. Not one                                      | 48. Very unpleasant smell     | 7. Connects granules             | 43. Poplar trees (Spanish)                |
| 16. Lesotho capital                              | 50. Graduates                 | 8. Business practice             | 44. Ship officer                          |
| 18. Copyreading                                  | 51. Seedless raisin           | 9. The Mount Rushmore State      | 45. Individual investment account (abbr.) |
| 22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter | 52. Self-protection           | 12. Leader                       | 46. Prefix meaning within                 |
| 23. One's biological father                      | 53. Clue                      | 13. Hindu queen                  | 47. Ceased to live                        |
| 24. An aggregate of molecules                    | 54. Life-savers               | 17. Proofreading mark            | 49. Day by day                            |
| 26. Equally                                      | 55. Ingest too much           | 19. European country             | 56. Not color                             |
| 27. Khoikhoi people                              | 56. Misrepresented            | 20. Greek mythological nymph     | 57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)       |
| 28. Jump in figure skating                       | 58. Small Eurasian deer       | 21. Grandfather                  |   |
| 30. Lantern                                      | 59. Most mocking              | 25. Clears                       |   |
| 31. TV network                                   | 60. Soviet Socialist Republic | 29. Amount of time               |   |
| 34. Georges __, French                           |                               |                                  |   |

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## OPINION

## My impression of every Facebook group

POST: Hi everyone, thanks for letting me join the Snarple Repair Help Group. I just picked up a really nice Snarple, but unfortunately, the capacitor at C36 is blown. I can't make out the specifications on it and I can't find a schematic online. Can anyone tell me the value of the capacitor at C36? Thanks in advance!

REPLY 1: Why did you buy a Snarple? You'd be much better off with a Blarple.

REPLY 2: Did you try plugging it in?

REPLY 3: That Snarple can't be fixed ... I'll take it off your hands for five bucks! :)

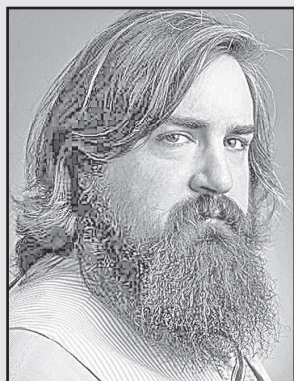
REPLY 4: I've been repair-

ing Snarples for 40 years and I've never seen one with a blown capacitor at C36. I'm looking at a Snarple right now and C36 is fine. I can read the values on it perfectly.

REPLY 5: Someone posted this exact same question on the Usenet forum alt.snarple in 1998. I recommend you do your research.

REPLY 6: I've got three Snarples in my garage and they're all in much better shape. I hope you didn't pay too much.

REPLY 7: If you're looking to trade, I have a really nice wheelbarrow I'd be willing to let go. All it needs is a new wheel.



By Ben R. Williams

REPLY 8: If you don't even know the value of the capacitor at C36 then you really shouldn't be trying to repair a Snarple yourself. You should take it to someone who actually knows what they're doing.

REPLY 9: Oh wow, a Snarple! I remember the first time I ever saw one. My dad took me to the boardwalk and

I remember seeing a whole bunch of folks lined up at the Snarple. Then my dad took me to get some french fries at this little stand. That was back when they had those square glass bottles of vinegar with the little hole in the cap that you could sprinkle on your fries. Whatever happened to those? Anyway, we were getting ready to eat our fries when this flock of seagulls just came out of nowhere and carried off the whole container. My dad was FURIOUS! He went back to the stand and asked the guy for some replacement fries, and the fry guy said my dad would have to pay for them. My dad told the guy that was B.S., seagulls stole the fries, and the fry guy said, "What, do you think the seagulls are on my payroll or something?" Well, that set dad off and we ended up getting escorted back to the parking lot by security. My dad came back the next day with a .22 rifle to give the

seagulls some payback, but the security guys recognized him and I guess they kind of misinterpreted the situation and my dad ended up going to jail for awhile. He still hates seagulls to this day, so we ended up moving to Lebanon, Kansas because it's the geographic center of the contiguous United States and he figured there wouldn't be any seagulls there. Now he has a job sweeping the floors at a factory that makes prescription pants for people who were born with unfortunate legs. Anyway, thanks for sharing the pic of your Snarple! I have no idea how to fix them.

REPLY 10: It's a 150uf 160V radial capacitor. I've included a few high-resolution photos. Good luck with the repair!

REPLY 11: That Snarple is a total loss, I'll give you five bucks for it :)

## Richmond Reports

Bill Stanley  
State Senator

As the outdoor temperatures got warmer, the political business of the Virginia General Assembly started to heat up as well. We started considering House bills in the Senate, as they begin to consider ours. And because the House is led by Republicans, and our Senate is Democrat-controlled, much of each side's partisan priorities will meet the "buzz saw" in the other chamber. As the last two weeks of the legislative session begins, debates will continue on the many bills left to consider, patience's will be tested, and tempers may flare a time or two. In fact, tempers flared both in committee and on the floor regarding my bill to protect children from internet pornography, which I will detail in just a bit. And yet despite this partisan divide, both House and Senate will still be able to find some consensus on other legislative proposals (that are not partisan in nature), that will make our Commonwealth better. But there is still much to do until we get to that point.

China has been a serious topic of conversation throughout this session, and it is a rare occasion indeed when issues related to foreign affairs even come before the General Assembly. This week, the Senate of Virginia narrowly approved two bills with foreign policy implications. And considering the lead-in to this week's session was the downing of the Chinese government's spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina, both bills have to do with the activities of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Senate Bill 1438, that I co-patroned with my friend Senator Richard Stuart (R-King George), would prohibit a foreign adversary from acquiring or transferring any interest in agricultural land in Virginia. Simply put, The CCP cannot buy our beloved Virginia farmland. As you may have learned from news reports over the last year, entities under the direct control or influence of the Chinese government have purchased 6.1 billion dollars of agricultural land in the United States, usually close to militarily sensitive locations. It is

only natural that we do all we can to protect our farmlands from a country that wants only to do us harm. Moreover, Virginia has an abundance of militarily sensitive locations, which puts us at an even greater risk than many other states for these types of land purchases by China. This legislation protects Virginia land from these purchases. Incredibly enough, the vote on the legislation was close in the Senate. Only five Democrat senators (out of 22) joined all the Republicans in approving the bill, which is now headed to the House of Delegates for its consideration. I fully expect this bill to be approved shortly by them, and sent on to the Governor for his signature. We also took up the issue whether to ban the use Tik Tok and WeChat apps on all state-owned devices. TikTok is the most downloaded app in the world. Known for short viral videos, it has tens of millions of users in the country. TikTok collects a lot of data from every one of its subscribers. It tracks account information, search history, and any content created through the platform, along with users' locations and behavioral information. The problem is, the companies are owned by you guessed it, the Chinese Communist Party. The vote on banning TikTok and WeChat, was stunningly close, as it gets: a tie. Senate Bill 1459, sponsored by Senator Ryan McDougle (R-Hanover) and co-sponsored by every member of the Senate Republican Caucus, would ban the use of these apps on state-owned devices.

Although this legislation sailed through the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee without opposition, Democrats had a change of heart when the bill was before the full Senate. This time, only two Democrats joined all the Republicans to pass the bill. That, however, was only enough for a 20-20 tie. Enter Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, who broke the tie vote to pass the legislation, which will soon be voted on by the House. The Senate also approved this week its proposed amendments to the 2022- 2024 biennial budget, taking the first step to begin negotiations with the House of Delegates on a final package to send to Governor Youngkin. Over the final two weeks of session, House and Senate negotiators will meet to hammer out the differences, which are quite substantial on tax relief. The House

plan includes virtually all of the tax relief proposed by Governor Youngkin while the Senate plan does not. Between now and the scheduled end of session on February 25, negotiators on behalf of both sides will meet to hammer out an agreement. As we closed out crossover, one of my bills, SB 1515 stirred up a heated debate on the floor of the Senate on Tuesday evening. This bill would protect children under the age of 18 from being exposed to pornography on the internet, by requiring that these sites implement a user age identification filter, or face liability for any child harmed by such exposure. Seems simple enough, and something that as a government, we should do to help parents keep their children from the harmful effects of internet pornography. Despite this rational analysis, a local Democrat Senator attempted to kill the bill on the floor of the Senate. After much debate on my part, the bill finally passed out of the Senate, 37-3. We need to do this. Studies have clearly shown that the exposure pornography to children contributes to the hyper-sexualization of teens and prepubescent children, leads to low self-esteem, body image disorders, and an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages. The government protects minors from exposure to pornography at "bricks and mortar" stores, and it should do so as well on the internet. I will keep you up to date as this important piece of legislation works its way through the House of Delegates in the next two weeks. This week, I also had three pieces of my legislation considered by House committees. Thankfully, all passed muster so far, and are moving on to the House floor for final approval. Two of the bills give our Virginia Employment Commission the power to investigate and prosecute fraud that has cost our state over one billion dollars in unemployment benefits during the pandemic; the other bill that won approval in the House Education committee was the school modernizations standards act that will be a major step in the public school modernization process here in Virginia. With six more of my bills to still be considered next week, I will let you know how they fare as they move through the House of Delegates.

Steve Helms, Vice President and General Manager, Primland Resort, was among the visitors.

## Report from Richmond



Del. Les R. Adams  
16th House District

The Virginia General Assembly is now past its "crossover" date and is in the stage of the legislative calendar during which the House and Senate may only consider bills that passed the opposite chamber. From the 100 members in the Republican led House, just under 600 bills were passed. Slightly more than 500 were passed in the Democrat led Senate that holds 40 members. Therefore, in these remaining days of the 2023 session, my time is now spent considering Senate proposals in my assigned House committees and presenting my bills in the

Senate committees to which they were referred.

This year, I introduced a total of 13 bills and successfully passed each one out of the House of Delegates. Some of those measures I described in previous columns. What follows here are brief summaries of a few of the others that also passed. These select proposals reflect ideas stemming from conversations with constituents and gubernatorial administration officials that would promote public health, public safety, and certain transportation needs of our region.

House Bill 2008 directs the Department of Health to convene a work group to study and make recommendations for reducing the occurrence and impact of tick-borne diseases in the Commonwealth. Should it become law, the work group will be required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2023. This

will help address the rise of new syndromes, such as alpha-gal.

House Bill 2018 would allow local family assessment and planning teams (FAPT) and community policy and management teams (CPMT) to share information with local law enforcement or threat assessment teams established by the school board if a FAPT or CPMT obtains information that a child poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself or others. Under current law, all information about specific children and families obtained by FAPT and CPMT members must be kept confidential. This change in the law was suggested to me following one of our nation's horrific school shootings and could serve as an important preventive measure to avoid a tragedy of like kind.

House Bill 2302 authorizes the Governor to direct funds from the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for transportation projects

determined to be necessary to support major economic development initiatives or to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs when recommended by the Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce and Trade. The bill also authorizes the Governor to use funds from the Fund to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs. The bill authorizes the use of grants, funds directed to the Board, and revolving loans for property acquisition and new or improved infrastructure to support economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs.

This transportation bill, which is a priority of Governor Youngkin, could prove very significant to our region if implemented correctly, as it was written to serve prospective economic development projects like those being developed in Southside Virginia.

Your Community, Your Voice  
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

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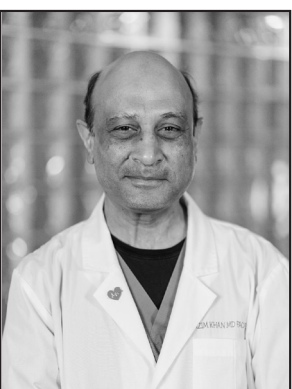
## Give us your view:

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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

See more at [www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)

# Four Easy Ways to Show Your Heart Some Love



**By Dr. Nazim Khan, Cardiologist, Sovah Health - Martinsville**

We often associate the month of February with hearts because of Valentine's Day. However, there is another reason we should think of hearts in February – it's American Heart Month, a designated time to advocate for cardiovascular health and raise awareness about heart disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one person dies every 34 seconds from heart disease, making this disease the leading cause of death for both men and women of most racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

Your heart is one of the hardest working muscles in your body and it beats around the clock. With so much riding on this essential muscle, it's important to ensure you're doing all you can to keep it in good shape. Fortunately, there are many things you can do to show your heart how much you care during American Heart Month and throughout the year. Anyone – at any age – can benefit from these simple tips:

Maintain a healthy diet.

Drinking plenty of water and eating a diet of lower-calorie, nutrient-rich foods can help you control your weight, cholesterol levels and blood pressure, which helps lower your risk of heart disease. A healthy diet is easily achievable by:

Drinking at least 64 ounces of water each day and avoiding sugary beverages, like sodas, bottled teas, smoothies, adult beverages and fruit juices.

Filling your plate with fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, skinless poultry and fish, nuts and legumes.

Limiting your intake of foods with saturated fat, trans fats, sodium, sugar and red meat. If you do choose to eat red meat, make sure you're using the leanest cut you can find.

Understand the warning signs and symptoms of heart attacks.

Some heart attacks are very sudden and intense, leaving little time to respond to signs or symptoms. Other heart attacks, however, start slowly with mild pain or discomfort. Pay close attention to your body and don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 if you or someone you're with experiences any of the following:

Discomfort in the chest that comes and goes or lasts more than a few minutes. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Discomfort in other

areas of the upper body, including pain or discomfort in one or both arms, your back, neck, jaw or stomach.

Shortness of breath. This can occur with or without chest discomfort.

Other possible signs, including breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Stay up-to-date on your numbers.

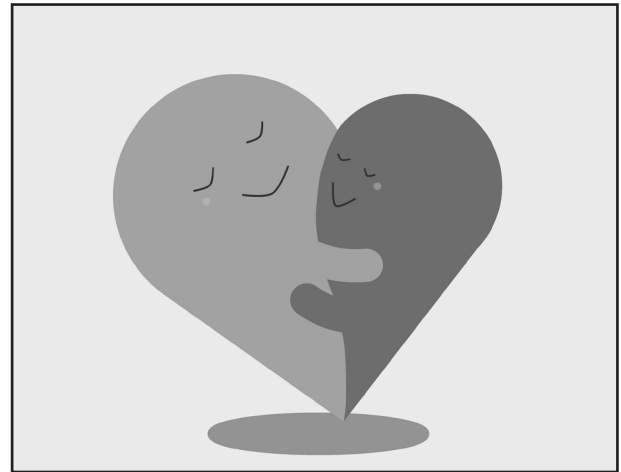
A key part of staying on top of your heart health is being aware of your cholesterol and blood pressure numbers. Cholesterol is a substance that circulates in your blood and comes in two different types – LDL (the "bad" kind) and HDL (the "good" kind). Blood pressure is the force of blood within your arteries. Like cholesterol, there are two types – systolic pressure (the higher of the two numbers) and diastolic pressure (the lower of the two numbers). Be sure to get your levels checked regularly and talk to your primary care provider about what you can do to keep them within a healthy range.

Know your family heart health history.

Risk factors for heart disease can also be genetic, so knowing your family's heart health history can help you determine how healthy your heart is and measure your risk for heart issues now or down the road. By having a working knowledge of your family's medical history, you can also help your provider identify where you may be at higher risk for certain conditions like heart disease and work to reduce your risks through lifestyle changes.

When you act early and make your heart health a top priority, you can get to know your heart better and help reduce your risk for heart disease. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to catch any other potential issues and work together with your provider to keep your heart healthy for the long run.

To speak to a provider about your heart health, call 844.GO.SOVAH or visit the Find a Doctor tab at SovahHealth.com to schedule an appointment today. In the event of a heart-related emergency, call 9-1-1. Minutes matter, and acting quickly may save a life, including your own.



**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, M'ville Rotary Club, Fidelity Bank, Hugo's, Los Nortenos, Jerry's Pizza, YMCA, BETA Clubs and community VOLUNTEERS!

Sign up for Spring Prom to be held on March 3.

## Beat the deadline to register for the Spring Special Prom

Register now for the second annual Spring Special Prom Night and beat the February 28 deadline.

The free event for adults with disabilities 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, started the event last year, along with sponsors and volunteers.

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.

To register, visit [www.InfinityAcres.org](http://www.InfinityAcres.org).

Volunteers and sponsors also are needed. To volunteer, donate, or sponsor, call or text Steere at (276) 358-2378.

## Registration underway for 3rd Annual Miss Henry County Fair Pageant

The registration period for the 2023 Miss Henry County Fair Pageant is now open.

Prospective contestants for all age divisions must submit their application to Henry County Parks and Recreation by May 26.

The pageant features divisions for multiple ages from babies to adults.

The "Miss" division winner, which is for ages 17-22, will compete in the Miss Virginia Association of Fairs State Pageant in January 2024.

An entry fee is required for contestants in all age brackets which

will range from \$40-\$75, depending on the division. The pageant is open to surrounding counties if their county is not having a fair pageant. However, contestants for the "Miss" category must live in Henry County or the City of Martinsville.

Two special awards will be presented this year: Spirit of Miss Henry County Fair Pageant and Miss Outgoing Personality. The Spirit of Miss Henry County Pageant award will go to the contestant that brings the most canned food for donation to the local food bank. The Miss

Outgoing Personality award will go to the contestant that raises and submits the most sponsorship dollars.

Jones & DeShon Orthodontists is sponsoring the pageant. Jones & DeShon Orthodontists is the largest Invisalign provider in Virginia and they were voted the #1 Orthodontists in South West Virginia. The Miss Henry County Fair Pageant is scheduled for June 10 at the Henry County Recreation Center located on 395 John Redd Boulevard, Collinsville.



Michael and Tina Furr, owners of the Bassett Farmers Market, are pictured with Brandon Martin, Henry County's public information officer, at a ribbon cutting of their new business, Bassett Farmers Market.

## Farmers Market now open in Bassett

The Bassett Farmers Market, located at 168 Reed Stone St., Bassett, is now open to serve customers following a ribbon cutting last week. The market offers fresh produce, homemade jams and jellies, Homestead Creamery ice cream and other products, as well as honey and other goodies. The store is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call (276) 732-6595 or email [Mfurr042000@gmail.com](mailto:Mfurr042000@gmail.com).

## Student Briefs

### Hairston named to Dean's List at Hollins University

Naomi Hairston of Bassett earned Dean's List honors during the fall 2022 semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.

### Area students named to RU's Dean's List

Radford University has released its Dean's List for Fall 2022.

Students placed on the Dean's List must meet four specific criteria. They must have 12 semester hours of coursework graded A-F; earn GPA's of at least 3.4 for courses not graded on a pass-fail basis; obtain no grade lower than "C"; and receive no incomplete grades.

Area students named to the list are: Kevin Richard Garibay of Martinsville; Christopher Ross Harper of Bassett; Liliana Grace Dailey of Ridgeway; Hunter Wayne Greer of Axton; Charlie David Koger of Bassett; Lauren Elizabeth Luther of Ridgeway; William Tucker Agee of Martinsville; Tori Shea Easter of Fieldale; Jessica Olguin Martinez of Bassett; Ainsley Marie Jones of Bassett; Bethany C Mills of Bassett; Erica Ivy Gilley of Bassett; Kaitlyn Wickham of Martinsville; Naomi Lenae Manns of Spencer; Tyler Dean Goad of Martinsville; Sofia Hernandez of Stanleytown; Taylor Hill of Martinsville; Michaela Grace Dalton of Bassett; Mackenzie Wynne

Edmonds of Martinsville; Zaria Armstrong of Bassett; Bryson Davis Brown of Martinsville; James Walker Franklin of Collinsville; Angel David Rivera-Ortiz of Martinsville; Dustin Ryder Staples of Martinsville; Makahla J Moss of Ridgeway; Katlyn Cheyenne Wilson of Ridgeway; Shenika Dillard Bowles of Martinsville; Taylor Jo Gary of Martinsville; Benjamin Thomas Hylton of Fieldale; Sarah Cole Kendrick of Collinsville; Emily Elaine McVey of Collinsville; Noelya Jazmin Santiago of Collinsville; Taylor Brooke Vaught of Bassett; Presley Jolee Washburn of Martinsville; Whitley Benae Manns of Spencer; Pierson Rain Turner of Axton; Haven Leeann Foley of Bassett; Savannah Mercedes Shelton of Bassett; Shyheim O Woods of Bassett; Haley Renee Motley of Collinsville; Kelsie Rea of Martinsville; Harli Faith Chapman of Ridgeway; Lyndsey P Newman of Spencer and Kendra Demise Foster of Martinsville.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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**10:30AM**

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MHC

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

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# OBITUARIES

## Kerielea Vestal Byrd

Kerielea Vestal Byrd born of Burbank California on November 30, 1961, joined her Angel Family and was carried home to heaven on January 28, 2023 at 61 years young. After an inspiring fight with breast cancer, Kerielea passed surrounded by countless loved ones by her side at one of her favorite places on earth, The Valley, Woolwine Va. Anyone that met Kerielea couldn't help but notice the way she embodied hope. Her life-long memoir was to BE POSITIVE. She strived in every way to be a shining bright light for all she came in contact with. She preached hope and kindness daily while wearing one of her many hats as Periodontal Surgical assistant for Dr. John R. Wheelless, traveler, entertainer, festival goer, dog lover, bee keeper, Gardener, chef, horse rider, water-skier, entrepreneur, but most importantly a Mother. Her care for others was unmatched. She spent her days waking up and talking to her angels daily to gain strength to carry on such a beautiful legacy of pure LOVE. Her lessons will carry through the lives of so many. Kerielea was one of the



great ones. She is survived by her parents, Jack and Diane Allen Vestal of Stuart, VA; husband Anthony Edwin Byrd of Woolwine, VA; brother Thomas Allen Vestal (Sandra Vestal) of Cary, N.C.; daughter Emmye Myers Coder (Dr. Andrew Coder) of Danville, VA; son John-Thomas Monroe Myers of Martinsville, VA; niece

Laurenn Aleen Vestal and nephew Jace Allen Vestal, Father of their children, John Frederick Myers of Martinsville, VA, as well as so many more of her chosen family members from along the way.

A visitation for Kerielea Byrd will be Friday, February 17, 2023 6 - 8 p.m. at Rich Acres Christian Church.

A Celebration of Life for Kerielea Byrd will be Saturday, February 18, 2023 11 a.m. at Rich Acres Christian Church.

Donations may be made to the SPCA, 132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville, Virginia 24112.

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

## David Huston Chittum

David Huston Chittum, 90, left to reside with our Lord on February 12, 2023, at King's Grant Retirement Community in Martinsville, Va. David was born in Staunton, VA, son of the late Harold T. and Cornelia J. Chittum of Waynesboro.

David served in the U.S. Army from 1954 until 1956. He later graduated from the University of Richmond with a degree in Sociology, and then received his master's degree from Madison College.

He began his teaching career at Spencer-Penn Elementary school. David worked for many years with the Martinsville City School System, as a teacher, principal, and social worker as the Visiting Teacher.

An avid golfer, he belonged to Chatmoss and Forest Park Country Clubs, where he enjoyed helping others improve their game, as well as his own success which included 17 Holes-In-One. For many years he enjoyed hunting and fishing as well.

David was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his older brother, Hal



T. Chittum, Jr., and sister-in-law Betty Chittum. He is survived by two adoring sons, David H. Chittum, Jr. and his wife Mary Kay Kahn-Chittum of Roanoke; and William Robert Chittum and his wife, Jessica Farnsier Chittum, two grandchildren, Tyler and Aleah Chittum, of Jonesborough, TN, nephew Hal Chittum

III, of Florida; nieces Ann Chittum of Charleston, SC; and Janet Sosnoski of Dobson, NC.

A memorial service will be held on February 25, 2023, at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, located at 1901 Patrick Henry Ave, Martinsville, Va., officiated by Reverend Dr. Bea Miller. The family will receive friends before the service, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. in the narthex. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

Memorial donations to First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville are welcome.

McKee-Stone Funeral home in Martinsville is in charge of the arrangements. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## Gary Dean McNeely

Gary Dean McNeely, 66, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Monday, February 13, 2023. He was born in Martinsville August 18, 1956 to Glenwood Lester McNeely and Irene Eanes McNeely.

He is survived by his ex-wife and caregiver Vickie McNeely; daughter, Stacey Hundley (Josh); son, Brandon McNeely; grandchildren, Greyson Hundley and Hayden Harrell; twin-brother Larry McNeely; brother, Ronnie McNeely (Judy); nephews Jonathan and Keith McNeely.

Gary worked at Bassett Furniture Table Plant. He was a very hard worker who loved his family and especially his grandchildren. He also enjoyed NASCAR Racing.



A graveside service was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at Roselawn Burial Park and officiated by Chaplain Andrew Purcell. Following the interment, a visitation was held at Grandbery Methodist Church.

Memorial donations may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. West, Suite 602 B, Martinsville, VA. 24112 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 3907, Martinsville, VA 24112

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

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## Robert James Oakley

Robert James Oakley, 72, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Monday, February 6, 2023. He was born in Martinsville on June 7, 1950, to George D. Oakley and Julia Ann Lester.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, George T. "Capt Tii" Lester, Sr. and Frances Parker Turner Lester; step-grandmother, Lottie Shelton Lester; his wife, Peggy Williams Oakley; sons, Robert J. Oakley, II and Dan Lee Oakley; daughter Ann Lee Oakley; sisters, Sally Parker Oakley Burch and Julia Oakley Gravelly; brothers, George D. Oakley, Jr. and John D. Oakley, Jr.

He is survived by his granddaughter, Kylee Rain Oakley; sister-in-law, Angeline Riddle Oakley; and several nieces and nephews.



Robert was a graduate of Martinsville High School and attended Hargrave Military Academy and Columbia Commercial College. He was a member of Hope Presbyterian Church.

Robert was a very devoted UVA sports fan and a member of the Blue Ridge Miata Club. He also enjoyed the music of his favorite band, Chicago.

A funeral was held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at McKee Stone Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Hope Presbyterian Church, 2331 Old Chatham Road, Martinsville, Va.

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

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

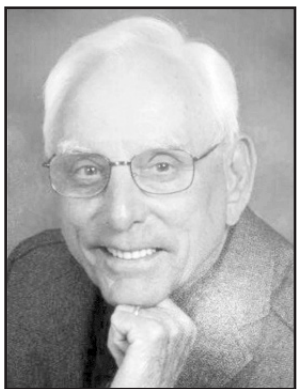
## William "Larry" Stewart

Mr. William "Larry" Stewart, age 81 of Bassett, VA, left this life peacefully into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

Larry was born on August 23, 1941, in Henry County, VA to the late Ethel Stewart and the late Abraham Stewart. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Tommy and Wayne Stewart and sister, Mary Wall. Larry was a faithful and active member of Blackberry Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was a member of the Veterans Honor Guard of Martinsville-Henry County.

He was a skilled craftsman and a retired manager from American Furniture Company of Martinsville.

Larry was a family man and he loved spending time with his kinfolk. On any given day you could find him piddling in his shed or sitting outside in the sun watching the traffic. He loved going to the beach and he was known to take a drive on a pleasant afternoon just



to check out some road work. Larry was methodical and thoughtful, and he took his time in life to enjoy things. He had a rare gift where he truly lived in the present and he was always smiling.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife (who he adored) Natalie Anne Stewart, Children: daughter, Brenda Carol Haynes

(Todd) of Franklin County and son, Robert Stewart of Roanoke. His sister, Martha S. Bryant (Ronnie) and three grandchildren, Erica Turman (Chase), Kaitlyn Stewart and Zachery Haynes.

A funeral was conducted on Thursday, February 9, 2023, with Pastor Chad Janey officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery with Military Rites.

Donations be made to Blackberry Baptist Church "Cemetery Fund" 3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett, VA 24055.

Online condolences at [www.collinsmckeestonebassett.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonebassett.com). Collins Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Stewart family.

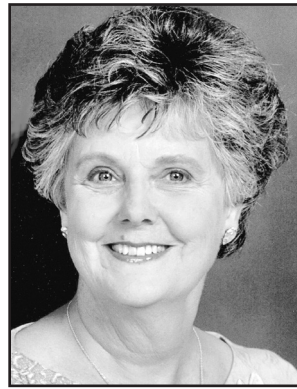
## Linda Osborne Wormald

Linda Osborne Wormald, 78, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. She was born in Climax, Va. August 22, 1944, to the late Carl Hopkins Osborne and Mary H. Kanode.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Ronnie C. Osborne and stepson, Michael S. Wormald.

She is survived by her husband, Paul A. Wormald; son, Michael Elliott Doyle (Olga); grandsons, Michael Doyle, Jr. and Alexander Doyle; sisters, Rebecca O. Adkins and Lynn O. McGhee; step-brother, Kermit L. Kanode; stepsisters Barbara K. Durbin and Bonnie K. Drake; and stepsons, Gary L. Wormald and Jeffrey A. Wormald.

Linda was a 1962 graduate of Drewry Mason High School. She did clerical



work in numerous companies and businesses in Martinsville and Henry County. She retired from Warren Trucking Company in Ridgeway, Va.

She loved her family and especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed reading, home decorating and gardening.

A graveside service was held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at Mountain View Cemetery, officiated by Rev. Doug Ramsey.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Bassett, P.O. Box 557, Bassett, Va. 24055.

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

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## Eloise Mae Hondel Fidell

Eloise Mae Hondel Fidell, 98, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, February 12, 2023. She was born on August 17, 1924, in Syracuse, NY to the late Cora Simmons Hondel and Edward Hondel. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, George W. Fidell; daughter, Joyce E. Appel; sister, Beatrice Russell and two brothers, Edward, and Wayne Hondel.

Mrs. Fidell was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Martinsville, VA.

She is survived by her son, William E. Fidell (Mary); daughter, Judith E. Allen; grandchildren, Jennifer Foster, Patrick Fidell, Brendan Fidell, Angela Appel, Jessica Appel, Michael Appel, and Kimberly Appel. She is also survived by her five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or to King's Grant Fellowship Fund.

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

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### 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 **March 2, 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 S-23-02 Patrick Henry Saddle Club, c/o Mary Knight

A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a campground facility to accommodate up to 22 sites on approximately 8-acres. The property is located at 394 Saddleridge Road, in the Blackberry District, is zoned Agricultural District A-I, as shown on Tax Map 24.3/2,2A,2B.

#### Case S-23-03 Kasey Lucas

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-902 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the operation of an event center with a dance hall permit. The property is located at 1960 Virginia Ave, in the Collinsville District and shown on Tax Map 41.1(32)/2,3A-3C,ABC. The property is zoned Commercial District B-1.

#### Case S-23-04 Charles Edward Long, III

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an approximately 40'x70' building to be used as an event center with a dance hall permit. The property is located behind 3531 Dillons Fork Rd, in the Blackberry District and shown on Tax Map 39.1/57. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP

Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection



## Goals

from page 1

next five years, including" expanding the runway, relocating more of Airport Road to provide for more hangers, and they also plan to build a new terminal."

Wagoner said a resolution will be presented to the board later this month to work with the airport to apply for airport road lane funds.

"Only localities can apply for it," he explained, "so with your permission, we're going to apply for some transportation lanes where we can relocate Airport Road and they'll provide all the match for it."

Wagoner said the county did not accomplish its goal of building a new shell building.

"At this point in time, I don't think that's the best use of our money right now. Getting Lot #2 graded is our best option as far as economic development," he said.

When the county's last shell building was built, it cost \$2.2 million. Current estimates place

the cost between \$11-12 million, Wagoner said, and added the county's goal of identifying a new industrial park site is in the works. Meanwhile, Lot #2 was identified as the most attractive and best use of land.

"I have asked for a quote from a consultant that did our study many years ago that recommended we buy Commonwealth Crossing," Wagoner said. "I hope in our budget documentation we'll have the recommendation to fund that study to do that, and take a look at all our current industrial parks" as well as "look for large pieces of land that could make a really good industrial park 20 years from now."

The goal of expanding utilities up U.S. 58 West is still in progress. The county received a grant to expand the sewer line about a mile, Wagoner said and noted the county also received money to expand broadband in the county.

"The money's half the

battle, right," he said.

Wagoner said he believes the supervisors completed their goal of supporting education and trades.

"The only thing we didn't fund in their (Henry County Schools) budget last year was a recommendation to lower the facilities money because they got \$3.5 million in new school money. So, in essence, you contributed more to education and not facilities," he said.

The county also is continuing a partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and working to meet the trade needs of local industries.

Wagoner said he thinks the county also continues to make progress on improving tax collection efforts.

"We lean pretty heavily on the Treasurer, and it's still about like it was last year," he said.

While there is no county-organized Healthy Henry County Initiative, Wagoner believes the

county has made strides to meet that goal.

"For years now, we have had a very good working relationship with the Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness. We put a lot of money into that organization to build healthy initiatives in the community," he said.

Wagoner said that relationship led to the county starting work on the trails, to promote walking and exercising, especially work on the Dick & Willie Passage Rail Trail.

"The Martinsville-Henry County Health Department has hired two community health workers with the goal of addressing health issues within the community," he said.

The goal of having new scoreboards for the schools was not achieved.

"The budget last year included \$35,000 in the school budget to purchase a scoreboard, but the Board of Supervisors has no authority to tell the schools how they spend

their money," he said.

Wagoner said he believes the school board does not plan the purchase at this time.

The goal of recognizing Parks and Recreation champions was accomplished, as was the goal of an expansion with the Public Service Authority (PSA).

"The PSA probably applied for more grants in the last year than we have in a long time," Wagoner said. "We're fortunate to get \$6.2 million to replace all waterlines in Fieldale," all of which are "many years old."

Other sewer lines were installed, including one on U.S. 58, and the county applied for grants for more expansion projects.

For future expansion to occur, residents will need to respond to surveys to determine potential interest in water and sewer services.

The county is meeting the goal to broadcast all supervisor meetings live.

"Since the pandemic started, we record every

single board meeting and post them the next day to our website and on YouTube," Wagoner said.

The goal of giving all county employees pay raises also was met, with "across the board five percent for all employees" pay hikes last year, Wagoner said. "We also fully implemented \$4,160 to sheriffs, deputies, and public safety employees."

A list of goals for the upcoming fiscal year included priority projects of grading Lot #2, working on broadband expansion, improving employee compensation and benefits, and updating the county's comprehensive plan.

Other goals include working to improve rescue squad relations, airport expansion, expanding utilities up U.S. 58 West, working to find a hotel/motel to locate in the county, finalizing the plan to address opioids, and expanding the solar ordinance in the Iriswood District.

## School Board

from page 1



**The Martinsville City School Board recognized Coordinator of STEM, Math, and Science Jill Collins and Director of Human Resources Yani Smith for school board clerk appreciation week.**

their appropriation, the local component, to us by that much," he said.

Talley said the local revenue factors include division enrollment. The projected enrollment for next year includes 1,690 K-12 students, 110 preschoolers, and 80 for adult education.

"A total enrollment of 1,880. We're looking for a state entitlement of around \$295,000, and a supplement of about \$543,000," he said and estimated the division will lose about \$13,002.

Talley said primary costs include \$878,476 for the five percent raises. The health insurance increase costs are currently unknown.

"Budgeted requests around \$433,000, and then

some technical adjustments. We're looking at around \$1,173,191," he said. Seventy percent of the total estimated expenditures will go towards instruction, "with an increase of expenses of \$781,000" for about \$18.1 million.

Clement said instruction technology had an increase of \$193,000 for a total of \$1,313,127.

"Administration is a \$101,000 increase, and attendance and health is \$54,000, for a total of \$155,658" in increases, he said.

The proposal includes \$1,241,909 and \$3,176,160 for maintenance and operations in the transportation category.

In other matters, the board:

\*Approved the personnel report as amended.

\*Heard from Ebony Allen about e@dreamz.

\*Recognized school board clerk appreciation week.

\*Recognized February as school board appreciation month.

\*Heard from Martinsville Middle School Principal Ama Waller about Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI).

\*Heard an update on the 2024 prom. It will be held on April 22 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Martinsville High School Commons with the theme of "Masquerade Ball." The After Prom event will be held at the Martinsville Speedway.

\*Approved the Jan. 12 and Jan. 30 meeting minutes.

\*Approved the finance report for the period ending Jan. 31.

\*Heard the supervisor's report.

\*Nominated Tau Omicron Chapter Omega Psi

Phi Fraternity, Inc and Piedmont Arts to be recognized for their support to the school division as part of a Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) program.

\*Approved the fiscal year 2023-2024 academic calendar.

\*Approved the policies as presented for the first reading.

Tony Jones attended the meeting via phone.

Jim Woods did not attend the meeting.



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# Funds are available to support veteran services

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is seeking to award \$4.5 million in grants to support veteran suicide prevention and opioid addiction services.

DVS is dedicated to ending the epidemics of veteran suicide and opioid addiction and building Federal, State, and local partnerships to accomplish this life-saving mission.

Toward this goal, the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services, or SOS Program of DVS, aims to enhance understanding of suicide prevention and opioid addiction among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) and build community support capacity to ensure the RIGHT HELP is widely available RIGHT NOW for military-connected citizens and families.

The SOS program will serve as the steward of these funds and is formally soliciting a Request for Applications (RFA) to establish awards for community-based suicide prevention and opioid addiction services and programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“DVS is pleased to have a key role in enhancing Virginia’s behavioral health system of care, ultimately ensuring we are providing the best quality of service to the SMVF community. These grant funds offer a critical and timely



opportunity to provide extended resources across the Commonwealth,” noted Daniel Gade, Commissioner of DVS.

Grant funds will be used to promote the use of evidence-based practices such as peer support, crisis intervention, behavioral health focused prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

Eligible applicants must be an incorporated for profit or non-profit organization or community service provider/organization/locality serving Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For all non-profit organizations, proof of an IRS 501(c)3 designation is required at the time of application.

To be considered for selection, applicants are to submit a complete response to the RFA no later than 2 p.m. on

February 28.

To be considered for selection, an Applicant must submit a complete response to this RFA. Applicants are requested to submit an electronic response in eVA (the Commonwealth’s electronic procurement system for state and local government). Responses received after the closing date and time specified in the RFA posting in eVA will be uploaded. All Applicants must be registered in eVA. See Section X Special Terms and Conditions. The following provides information/instruction on reviewing and responding to solicitations in the new eVA platform:

1. Go to <https://eva.virginia.gov>
2. Click on “I Sell To Virginia”
3. Click on “eVA Supplier Training” and click on the “Viewing and Responding to Solicitations Video.”



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## Number of initial unemployment claims trend down

Data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) indicates that the number of initial claims edged slightly lower in the latest filing week to 1,829 and remained at levels typically seen over the last twelve months.

For the filing week ending February 4, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,829, which was a decrease of 91 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were from administrative and support and waste management; professional, scientific, and technical services; construction; retail trade; and health care and social assistance. Continued weeks claimed totaled 11,699, which was an increase of 75 claims from the previous week and an increase of 63% from the 7,180 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 February 4, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 196,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week’s unrevised level of 183,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 234,654 in the week ending February 4, an increase of 9,628 (or 4.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 230,740 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Georgia’s preliminary weekly change (-1,665) was the largest decrease. New Jersey’s weekly change (-1,440) was the second largest decrease. Texas’s preliminary weekly change (-1,062) was the third largest decrease. Arkansas’s weekly change (-772) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia’s preliminary weekly change (+154) was the 16th largest increase.

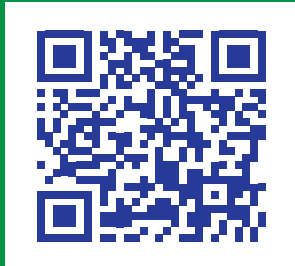
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