

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, April 1, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Board approves rezoning request

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved a request to rezone approximately 8.1 acres of Ward Road in the Iriswood District from suburban residential district to agricultural district.

William Hitt, the applicant, plans to build a home on the property and use the land for agricultural purposes, including keeping animals.

Director of Planning and Zoning Lee Clark said the property is on the southwest side of the road.

“From a public hearing both the Planning Commission and the staff recommend the approval of this request,” he said.

Jessie Ward, who lives right across from the rezoned property, said she’s worried about the potential smell from the animals.

“They were talking about sheep and things like that, I am a farrier and I work with all kinds



The Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized Boys Basketball team Mt Olivet 1, coached by Lex Hairston.

of animals. And oh my gosh, they smell so bad,” she said.

Ward said Hitt plans to put a house in the back of the property with everything else, including the animals, being in front of her property.

“To put that so close to coming up through there, it’s a lot of smell to that. I work with him sometimes, and you have to wash your clothes twice,” she said.

Justin Hitt, William Hitt’s son, said his mother works with wool and wants a workshop area for that.

“The agricultural zoning is required for them to have the animals and to have a workshop, and to have the proper shelter for the animals. It’s likely going to be a large building,” he said.

Hitt said his parents currently have a similar setup in Colorado and will

certainly be good neighbors.

“The intention is for people to not even notice, other than maybe some wildflowers and gardens,” he said.

Mark Winfield also lives on the road, and said he’s concerned about the impact of being side by side with

See Board, page 3



Lawrence Mitchell was sworn in as the newest member of Martinsville City Council.

Mitchell sworn in as new council member

by Tara Lucas

Lawrence Mitchell was sworn in as the newest member of Martinsville City Council at a regular meeting Tuesday. Mitchell was appointed to replace former council member Chad Martin.

“I look forward to serving the citizens of Martinsville,” Mitchell said, thanking the council members for the opportunity.

The Martinsville Police

Department received accreditation under the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). Commission member, Sheriff Steve Draper, presented the certificate of accreditation to members of the police department.

“The Martinsville Police Department was the third agency to attain VLEPSC accreditation in the commonwealth,” Draper said.

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Davis working to implement goals



Debbie Hall
Staff writer

Wayne Davis is working now to implement some of his goals and priorities for the Henry County Sheriff’s Office. He decided to seek the top slot when incumbent Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry announced his July 1 retirement.

Former deputy and School Resource Officer (SRO) Del Mills also is seeking the post in the November election.

“I am fully and completely endorsing Wayne Davis to be the next sheriff of Henry County upon my retirement,” Perry said.

Those sentiments are shared by many co-workers and residents in the community as well.

“Inside the office, there’s been a tremendous outpouring of support,” said Davis, 44. “And I literally have had hundreds upon hundreds of calls and texts from outside

the office from people wanting to help.”

Davis said he attributes the support to his willingness to be hands-on, his experience, and “I also have earned the respect of my peers and fellow deputies.”

Because of the unique relationship between Perry and Davis – the two are friends in addition to working together, Davis said Perry has given him the latitude to begin implementing his goals and objectives now.

“I started about a week ago. I’m not waiting,” Davis said last week.

Supportive of local businesses, Davis said he is in the process of visiting “every local business” to talk to owners about needs, services, and the like.

If elected, Davis would

See Davis, page 3



Del Mills is pictured in the Henry County Administration Building on Tuesday afternoon. Earlier in the day, he helped load supplies that will be transported to help tornado victims in Mississippi.

Mills details office priorities in bid

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

A mass shooting incident in a Nashville, Tenn. elementary school is underscoring the need for School Resource Officers (SROs) in all Henry County schools, according to Del Mills, who hopes to be elected sheriff in November.

Wayne Davis, chief deputy in the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, also is seeking the post.

Incumbent Sheriff Lane Perry plans to retire July 1.

Although Mills has not maintained his certification as a law enforcement officer, it is not required to either campaign for, or serve as sheriff, he said, adding that his list of priorities will more

rely on communication skills, his dedication to community service and his love for youngsters.

Mills said he meets or exceeds Virginia’s minimum requirements, which mandate officers to be at least 18, a U.S. citizen, undergo a background check and have a high school education or equivalent.

The father of a 7-year-old, as well as a 23 and a 26 year old, Mills said he has a vested interest in protecting children.

“For me, it’s personal,” he said, but the concern isn’t exclusively his. It’s also one that is shared by many of the people he

See Mills, page 3

Harvest Foundation Aids in library Expansion



Pictured (left to right), Dewitt House, Lewis Turner, Karen Barley, Betsy Haskins, Rick Ward, and Betty Turner. Ward is director of the library system. Turner, Haskins, and Turner are board members.

by Tara Lucas

The Bassett Library Steering Committee and the Blue Ridge Regional Library system launched a \$2.25 million capital campaign supporting an extensive renovation and expansion of the Bassett Library. The Harvest Foundation will invest \$396,184 toward the renovation project.

“Libraries are at the heart and in the fabric of the communities they serve — they provide more than just books,” said DeWitt House, senior program officer at The Harvest Foundation. “Libraries are safe, public spaces that welcome everyone and offer resources for people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life. Most community members have a story or memory that involves our local library and the impact it had on their lives. Supporting our local libraries is a way to ensure our continued

growth in Martinsville-Henry County.”

The capital campaign “Build a Better Library Book by Book,” will raise funds for the renovation, providing much-needed space for added services and storage to meet the needs of the community. Renovations include developing a dedicated area for computers, a larger meeting room with storage, and updated rest-

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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.)

Friday, March 31-Saturday, April 1

March your calendar for the first REALLY BIG BASEMENT SALE at Fido's Finds. Friday's sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; hours Saturday are 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fido's Finds is located at 119 East Main Street in UpTown Martinsville. There will be thousands of items at rock bottom prices. All sales benefit the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. Shop, save money and save animals all at the same time. (276) 656-1101.

Saturday, April 1

Family Easter Celebration, 10 a.m. at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. Games, Egg Hunt, Crafts, Bible stories, prizes and free lunch.

Storytime and Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. at the Spencer Penn Centre. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts, and other fun activities. Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages. No registration needed.

Yoga in the Galleries, 10:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts. Enjoy a relaxing yoga session with instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. Suitable for all ages. Admission is \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, and all payments are made in cash to the instructor.

Tuesday, April 4

Wee Create!, 3 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Themed crafts for tots (ages 2-6) and their trusted adult. Adult supervision and advanced registration required by calling or e-mailing frontdesk@piedmontarts.org. This event is free for members and for non-members admission will be \$10 for one child and \$5 for every additional child. Please pay at the door.

Thursday, April 6

A dramatic presentation of "The Living Lord's Supper," to celebrate Easter. The presentation will depict Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. The Rev. Daniel Reed is pastor. Call (276) 629-2964.

Bob Ross Painting Class, 9:30 a.m. at Piedmont Arts. Learn Bob Ross's famous painting technique with certified instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse. Students should bring a roll of paper towels, all other supplies provided. Advanced registration required. March's class will guide participants to create their own "Hidden Stream." Tickets are \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members.

Friday, April 7

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will kick-off "Sounds on the Square," the 2023 Uptown First Friday Series, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse with "The League of Ordinary Gentlemen." Admission is free.

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Sunday, April 9

Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. at Blackberry Baptist Church in Bassett.

A dramatic presentation of "The Living Lord's Supper," to celebrate Easter. The presentation will depict Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. The Rev. Daniel Reed is pastor. Call (276) 629-2964.

Tuesday, April 11

Joseph P. Lovell, author, will discuss his book, "Echoes of Sandy Creek," at 10:30 a.m. in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room of the Bassett Historical Center. The event is free, and all are invited.

Tuesdays, April 11 and 25

Chix with Stix, 10:30 a.m., 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.

Friday, April 14

Red Cross Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. at Blackberry Baptist Church in Bassett.

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Center. New River Line will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 donation. Concessions will be sold.

Wednesday, April 19

A Family Council hosted by United Way of Roanoke Valley and Ready Region West is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. at YMCA Early Learning Center at Smith Memorial Methodist Church, 2703 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville. All councils are offered virtually and in person. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/223196215161147>.

Saturday, April 22

12th Annual Pig Cookin! BBQ contest at the Spencer Penn Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Event includes a Cruise-In, Pig Pattie Bingo, Barnival, Craft and Vendor Booths, Concessions, and more. Free admission, food sales start at 11 a.m. This is a cash only event. For any questions, contact the centre (276) 957-5757 or spc.susan@yahoo.com.

Earth Day Family Day at Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with plenty of activities for children, from face painting and games to nature-themed arts and crafts. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Pollinator Path will be held immediately after.

ONGOING

Sunday Group Rides at 2 p.m., Mountain Laurel Trails, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway. Nearly 10 miles of hand and machine constructed single-track trails are almost complete and based on a stacked-loop design. The 4 mile Central Loop is the "core" trail that all other optional trails are connected. Many of the trails border creeks and water while others meander through the woods or ridge tops. Call (276) 340-9144 for more information.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you out for a trek along the trail. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 to find out where the week's trek is happening! Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit brrl.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 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.

The Disability Rights and Resource Center (DRRC) will be represented at the Henry-Martinsville Health Department in Martinsville every third Wednesday afternoon to provide information to health department visitors about DRRC and its services.

April is National Second Chance Month. The Virginia Department of Corrections is hosting a four-part virtual series in April each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. as a resource to educate and inform. Topics include gun violence, community college workforce partnership, bridging gaps through hope and recovery, and from adolescence to adulthood. The sessions are open to the public. Participants can join each session via this link: <https://vadoc-virginia-gov.zoom>.

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. Income Guidelines have increased effective 1/18/2023. If you applied in the past and were denied, please call again. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions, and help you apply by phone Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Medicaid renewals will resume soon. Medicaid members need to update their mailing address and contact information. Having accurate information will make sure they receive what is needed to renew their coverage.

In-person assistance is available on Wednesdays 10 am to 1:30 at Community Storehouse 128 E. Church St. (lower level of the old Leggett Building) Martinsville. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509

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. Call (276) 647-9585.

Nurse charged in connection with inmate death

Deborah Sue Damron, 56, was charged March 22 with one count of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the August 2022 death of an inmate, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Grand jurors in Henry County handed down the indictment on March 20 in connection with the death of Bradley Steven Hensley, 42, of Blue Ridge View Dr., Bassett.

Hensley entered the Henry County Adult Detention Center on August 2, 2022. Upon entering the facility, Hensley made the staff aware of his medical history. Based on this information and his extensive pre-existing conditions, Hensley was placed under direct supervision and regularly monitored by the Wellpath medical services staff, the release stated.

Hensley told deputies he was having difficulty breathing on August 6, 2022, according to the release. Deputies immediately summoned the Wellpath medical staff on duty. At approximately 7:33 a.m., sheriff's deputies noticed Hensley lying in bed, appearing to be in medical duress.

While interacting with him, Hensley became unconscious and unresponsive. Deputies immediately began life-saving measures, including CPR, until medical staff arrived. The medical staff and deputies continued the CPR and used an AED (automated external defibrillator) on Hensley to try to revive him.

At 7:36 a.m., the Martinsville-Henry County Emergency 911 Center was contacted and notified of the situation. An EMS unit with Henry County Public Safety responded to the

call, arriving at the detention center at 7:45 a.m. Hensley was transported to SOVAH Health Martinsville, where he was pronounced dead by the medical staff, the release stated.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Western District of Virginia performed an autopsy and opined the cause of death was "acute fentanyl toxicity with adrenal crisis due to congenital adrenal hyperplasia contributing," according to the release.

Investigators from the Henry County Sheriff's Office conducted a thorough and comprehensive investigation while maintaining regular communication with Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester. Upon reviewing video evidence, investigators allege they determined the on-duty nurse employed by Wellpath medical services and responsible for inmate medical care did not perform medical checks as expected and required, according to the release.

Additionally, authorities allege Hensley's medical records were falsified to reflect rounds and vitals checks that were never performed. Although the cause of death involved fentanyl, the investigation allegedly showed a lack of care contributed to Hensley's death, the release stated.

Damron was arrested the Kentucky State Police in Pikeville, KY, where she is being held while awaiting extradition.

The case also was forwarded to the Virginia Board of Local and Regional Jails and is pending final review.

The investigation continues.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR PARTNERS AT BTW21

Three members of the Bassett Volunteer Rescue Squad were injured last week when their ambulance crashed.

Volunteers injured in ambulance crash

Three volunteers, members of the Bassett Rescue Squad, were injured last week when their ambulance crashed while responding to an emergency call. One of the volunteer members was transported from the scene by medical helicopter to a hospital in Roanoke. The other two individuals were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The 1999 Freightliner ambulance sustained significant damage in the crash, according to officials.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with our volunteers who were injured in the line of

duty," said Andrew Delello, captain of Bassett Rescue Squad. "We are grateful for their dedication and bravery, and we hope for a full and speedy recovery for all involved."

The cause of the crash is under investigation by the Virginia State Police.

The incident occurred March 26 at approximately 2:35 p.m. on Blackberry Road. Additional ambulances from Bassett Rescue Squad and Henry County Public Safety responded to assist. The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department and Henry County Sheriff's Office also assisted.

The Bassett Volunteer

Rescue Squad is a group of highly trained volunteers who serve the community with unwavering dedication and commitment. They are committed to providing quality care to all those in need, and this incident serves as a reminder of the risks they face daily, officials said.

"We want to thank our volunteers for their service and reassure the community that we remain committed to our mission of providing professional and compassionate care to all those who need it. The thoughts and prayers for our volunteers are greatly appreciated," said Delello.

Davis

from page 1

appoint a certified community specialist to help with outreach programs for businesses and the community as a whole.

"I'll look at new, modernized ways for recruitment and retention" of qualified personnel, Davis said, adding those issues are concerns in most localities.

He also would implement a training program for "our first line supervisors" with the aim of "growing our future leaders and revamp the way we train and mentor" not only those in law enforcement but also those who work in the Adult Detention Center.

Additionally, Davis said he is consistently "exploring new ways to evolve and grow the sheriff's office," and he vows to be "the most visible and transparent sheriff we've ever had. I'll make myself

available to the community." Davis believes his experience makes him the man for the job.

Being sheriff "I don't think is a role you can assume without taking the steps to get there," he said, and added he is familiar with each of those steps.

"I've worked my way up through the ranks to administration," he said.

Davis began working at the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 2000. Nine years later, he earned a supervisory position.

Before that, in 2003, he became an investigator. He also has served as sergeant and lieutenant in the Patrol Division, and lieutenant of Criminal Investigations, where he oversaw major criminal investigations cases.

He became captain of investigations in 2016.

"As captain of investigations, you are working with about every aspect of the office," Perry said. "If you can successfully do that job, and Wayne has," Davis will be able to handle the entire operation, particularly given his other experience supervising various units such as Internal Affairs Investigations and Public Information Officer.

Davis has been a member of the Sheriff's Office SWAT team for 21 years and served as its Commander for the past seven years. A Virginia Forensic Science Academy graduate, Davis also is nationally certified in internal affairs investigations.

"Each division I've worked in, I've made improvements, and this is my chance to

See Davis, page 4

Mills

from page 1

has talked to during his campaign.

Although the county currently has SROs in its middle and high schools, Mills said if elected, he will work to ensure placement in elementary schools as well. "There needs to be somebody there," both to respond quickly if needed and to serve as a positive influence for students, he said.

"That's the human side of police work. They would serve as a role model and work in tandem" with school officials, parents, children and other community stakeholders, he said of SROs.

While the school division partially funds SRO positions, Mills said "there are enough officers in that department

to handle those roles. You can't put a dollar amount on our children, but there are areas (in the budget) you can work with to allocate" funds and put SROs in elementary schools.

Children "are our highest priority," Mills said. "Children are the infrastructure of our community, and they shouldn't be concerned about safety at school. They're making friends, developing social skills" and learning various subjects.

School safety "should not be an issue at all," Mills said. That extends to parents, who are tasked with teaching their children morals and positive behaviors.

"Parenting comes from home, but an officer in the school system can be that ear" for youngsters when needed and "serve as a

positive influence for kids," Mills said.

Other concerns he has heard from voters include everything from drugs and petty larceny crimes, but one recurring theme is "that the office is slow getting back" once the report is filed.

If elected, Mills said his plan to address those concerns.

"It is not complicated. You've got to be open, trustworthy and people have to feel they can pick up the phone and call you," he said, adding that he also would work to reinvigorate Neighborhood Watch groups, which seem to have fallen by the way, particularly after the pandemic.

The watch meetings "are a time for the community to come together," Mills said.

See Mills, page 4

Board

from page 1



The Boys Basketball team FC 5, coached by Robert Kent, was recognized by the Henry County Board of Supervisors.



A resolution recognizing April 23-29 as National Library Week was presented to library staff.

a farm. "What's that going to do to the adjoining neighbors, to the ballfield, to the club, and to our property, the creeks, the environment," he said.

Clark said the planning commission believed and trusted Hitt's proposal.

"The planning commission considered" the farm's distance from other properties, he said, adding it is "pretty reasonable considering on both sides of the property. The farrier's (property is) on one side, the Ruritan Club's on the other side, and the ball field that was mentioned."

Clark said the ball field has lights that are used during nighttime hours, and attracts several children.

The planning commission "really felt that given the property is across the street from industrial uses, that it fit quite well. The fact that the pipeline runs through the property means there's a good portion of property that can't be built upon that might only be good for farming and/or grazing animals on it," he said.

Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, said he's a member of the Mt. Olivet Ruritan Club.

"We had a meeting on this subject, and we were concerned about it as anybody would be with somebody new coming into the neighborhood per se. I'm going to hope that Mr. Hitt would hold it to a high standard" and be considerate of "neighbors that's been there

quite some time," he said.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved the items of consent.

*Heard the monthly report on the delinquent tax collection efforts from Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.

*Approved a proclamation recognizing April 23-29, 2023, as National Library Week.

*Approved the appropriation of \$665,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to go towards the creation of part of the Dick & Willie Trail passage.

*Approved a resolution in support of the Henry County Public Schools application to the Virginia School Construction Assistance Program in the 2022-2024 biennium.

*Appointed Stu Warren to the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board for an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024.

*Issues a refund of business license fees for the years of 2021 and 2022 to Roochi Traders Inc., for a total amount of \$20,468.25 to be paid from the county's General Fund balance.

*Scheduled a public hearing for a siting agreement with Vesper Energy for April 17 at 7 p.m.

*Heard from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes.

*Recognized Boys Basketball teams Mt Olivet 1, coached by Lex Hairston and FC 5, coached by Robert Kent.

*Approved a change to the Henry County Code of Ordinances to allow for lifetime dog tags.

*Approved a request to rezone approximately one acre of the Reed Creek District from agricultural district to commercial district.

*Approved a request to rezone approximately five acres of the Reed Creek District from suburban residential district to agricultural district.

*Heard from Trey Lopez, of Vesper Energy, about the Axton Solar's special use permit.

"One of the conditions for the project is to put in place a citing agreement with the board of supervisors. We have formally submitted the draft citing agreement, and just ask for consideration to be given to the contents within the citing

agreement," he said.

*Heard from Jim Roberts, of Stanleytown, who urged the board to consider strengthening the solar panel ordinance.

"Among them are the deficiencies that have already been found by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). We got nothing in our ordinance that addresses this kind of situation where" there's an issue "but our state of governing has found deficiencies that have resulted in fines," he said.

"There's nothing to stop us doing business with these kinds of endeavors that are not abiding by the laws and regulations," he said.

*Heard from Mark Winfield about the need for more speed limit signs on Ward Road.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Millisecond
 - 5. Narcotic drug
 - 11. Accident
 - 14. Formal submissions
 - 15. Popular 70s rock band
 - 18. Discourage from doing
 - 19. More socially elite
 - 21. Arid
 - 23. A way to look
 - 24. Heroes
 - 28. A surfer rides it
 - 29. Potato state
 - 30. Insect repellent
 - 32. Cool!
 - 33. Have already done
 - 35. Collegiate women's fraternity
 - 36. To the ___ degree
 - 39. Gasteyer and de
 - 41. Blood type
 - 42. Looked over
 - 44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
 - 46. Species of armadillo
 - 47. Touch softly
 - 49. Part of your upper body
 - 52. Large, stocky lizards
 - 56. Lack of social or ethical standards
 - 58. Congressman
 - 60. Unofficial force
 - 62. As a result of this utterance
 - 63. A main branch of Islam
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Woman (French)
 - 2. Province of Pakistan
 - 3. This (Spanish)
 - 4. Transportation device
 - 5. Greater in importance or priority
 - 6. The human foot
 - 7. Within 8. Consumed
 - 9. Respectful Malaysian term
 - 10. Therefore
 - 12. Ceased to exist
 - 13. Type of macaroni
 - 16. English composer
 - 17. Wooded tract
 - 20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
 - 22. 36 inches
 - 25. Take too much (abbr.)
 - 26. Allow
 - 27. Individually
 - 29. Journalist Tarbell
 - 31. Bar bill
 - 34. Hong Kong food
 - stall: ___ pai dong
 - 36. Not messy
 - 37. Species that includes reedmae
 - 38. Former MLB catcher Ed
 - 40. Northern U.S. state
 - 43. Wilt
 - 45. Commercial
 - 48. Bolivian river
 - 50. Nursemaid
 - 51. A car needs four
 - 53. Guns (slang)
 - 54. American state
 - 55. Clusters of fern fronds
 - 57. Body part
 - 58. A person's brother or sister
 - 59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
 - 61. Of I

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OPINION

[Redacted] on the Orient Express

Some years ago, I wrote a play called "Man With Wings" that received a full production at Studio Roanoke, a former playhouse in downtown Roanoke.

Without going into too much detail, the play ends with one of the two characters discovering that a supernatural mystery he's devoted his life to solving was based on a lie. Overcome with the enormity of the situation, he jumps out a window to his death.

After one of the showings, a well-intentioned woman approached me. She told me that she really liked the play, but she had a suggestion: I should change the ending.

It would be so much better, she explained at great length, if rather than killing himself, the character announced that he was going to go back to the drawing board. This sure was a setback for him, but gosh darn it, tomorrow's another day!

I listened to all of this very politely with a level of patience I no longer possess, but I was fuming. I get it; suicide is an upsetting thing, and her proposed ending, while terrible,

was much nicer. But it wasn't the point of the piece, and it would have betrayed the message I intended to convey when I wrote the thing.

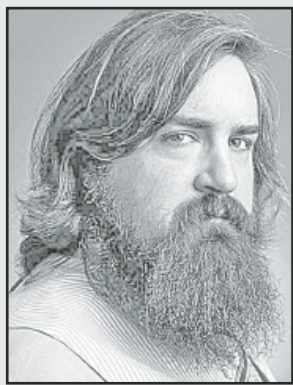
I thought about that well-intentioned lady while I was reading a news article recently.

According to Telegraph, HarperCollins has employed the services of "sensitivity readers" to create new edited and sanitized versions of Agatha Christie's beloved mystery novels about Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot.

A lot of these edits are to remove racial slurs and outdated terminology, but it doesn't stop there.

For example, in the original version of "Death on the Nile," a character complains that a group of children are pestering her: "They come back and stare, and stare, and their eyes are simply disgusting, and so are their noses, and I don't believe I really like children." The new version simply reads, "'They come back and stare, and stare. And I don't believe I really like children.'

Great work, sensitivity readers; what was once an amusing



By Ben R. Williams

line that tells us a lot about a character has been flattened out and sterilized, making it interesting and useful to no one.

Agatha Christie isn't the only author whose work has received this treatment. Puffin Books recently made the news for sanitizing the works of Roald Dahl, removing words like "ugly," "crazy," and "fat" from his books in addition to any potentially racist terminology. And Ian Fleming Publications Ltd., which owns the rights to Fleming's James Bond novels, has also run them through the sensitivity gauntlet to make sure no one gets offended while reading a book about a guy who travels the world sleeping around and murdering people.

Let me go on record as saying that I think having "sensitivity readers" sanitize literature is a massive mistake, and if I ever met someone who said that they make their living by being a "sensitivity reader," I would have to summon a lot of willpower to keep from slapping them.

"But Ben!" you may say, "it wasn't that long ago that you wrote a column about how the outrage over Dr. Seuss getting cancelled was stupid and overblown!"

That situation was very different from this one. In the case of Dr. Seuss, nothing was edited; a handful of his least popular books that contained some racist writing and imagery were allowed to lapse out of print. They're still out there in their original forms, you just can't buy a new copy.

But what's happening with the works of Christie, Fleming, and Dahl is something else entirely, and it's betraying these authors' original intent. As a writer, the idea of someone altering my words after I'm too dead to speak up about it is horrifying.

Clearly, I'm not saying that the racist, offensive content in these books is a great thing that should be celebrated. It's not.

I'm reminded, however, of a brilliant warning that Warner

Bros. began putting in front of some of their more offensive cartoons from the '30s and '40s. It reads:

"These animated shorts are products of their time. Some of them may depict some of the ethnic and racial prejudices that were commonplace in American society. These depictions were wrong then and are wrong today. While the following does not represent the Warner Bros. view of today's society, these animated shorts are being presented as they were originally created because to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed."

And there's the rub. Even aside from the question of authorial intent, removing everything controversial from these books is tantamount to claiming that racism didn't exist during the eras when these books were written.

I understand the progressive impulse to clean these books up for a modern audience. I understand the urge to scrub the more unpleasant elements of our shared history.

But rewriting a novel to make it seem as though racism never existed isn't all that different from banning discussions of race in Florida schools, and both conclusions are wrong no matter what path you took to arrive at them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's in the Old, it's in the New: "thou shalt not kill" (Exo. 20:13; Rom. 13:9). Chronologically speaking murder was the third sin committed in the Biblical story (Gen. 4:8). Were the two police officers wrong for shooting and killing Audrey Hale, the shooter behind the Nashville Covenant School shooting? Does the Bible teach that we should lay down our guns, and promote pacifism?

There has to be a moral standard from which we all draw. Is it history? Do we just make mistakes and learn better? Surely with the amount of evil and tyranny in man's history we would say that history teaches us that private citizens need to be armed, not only to protect their home and family, but also to rebel

against a tyrannical government.

Are the commoners to appeal to the "educational elite" for moral guidance? Hillsdale College in Michigan is filled with Ph.D.s. and would advocate for the Second Amendment. Don't forget Liberty University. If we appeal to "champions of education" then we won't get anywhere: there's plenty of disagreement held among the "educational elite."

It's an obvious fact that the men that built this country, and drew up its documents, were students of the Bible. The Bible has been the most printed and most influential book in the world for centuries. People may not actually read it, but they buy it. If anyone does read their Bible they'll eventually

read "Thou shalt not kill," and the policeman shot, and killed, Audrey Hale.

One of the Ten Commandments was, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exo. 20:8). Today Non-Jews know that Jews do no work on the Sabbath, but in Israel's history in Numbers 15 a Hebrew was working on the Sabbath day. "What do we do with him?" the Hebrews asked Moses. God answered, "Stone him" (Num. 15:35).

Do you see it? It appears that in order to protect one commandment, "Remember the Sabbath", they had to violate another commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." How do you stop a bad guy, Audrey Hale, with a gun? Good guys use guns to stop bad guys with guns.

What if "kill" is a bad translation? Can't we read and realize "thou shalt not murder" is the correct idea? Notice what Romans 13:4 says about law enforcement: "For he beareth not the sword in vain." Notice what Exodus 22:2 says about protecting your home from burglars: "If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him." God expected some form of justifiable bloodshed.

Words matter. Punishment and self-defense are not murder. The Bible makes that distinction to anyone who'll actually read it. I thank God for the police officers that responded to Covenant School as quickly as they did! They saved lives! They saved lives by using their guns.

Some were ready to vilify all gunowners for the actions of one. Do we now get to vilify all transgressors for the actions of one?

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

Davis from page 1

improve the sheriff's office for the community and every deputy that works there," Davis said.

Later this month, he will be awarded certification through the Virginia Sheriff's Institute Certification program, which recognizes the commitment of Virginia sheriffs and deputies to excellence, lifelong learning, and the advancement of public safety as a profession.

He will be among a small percentage of the more than 8,000 sheriffs and deputies in Virginia to earn certification through the program.

"To me, it is" a big deal, said Davis, who currently is chief deputy -- the second highest in command -- in the office. When Perry retires, Davis likely will be appointed interim sheriff.

Virginia laws specify that a locality's governing body, in this case, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, may either schedule a special election, which would be costly to taxpayers, or appoint the highest-ranking deputy in the office to serve until an election is held. Given the tight timeline between Perry's retirement and the November election, making the necessary preparations needed to hold a special election also could prove difficult.

In the past, supervisors have decided on the latter, appointing Perry to the

office of sheriff. The board followed suit with the appointment of Andrew Nester to the Commonwealth's Attorney post after then-incumbent Bob Bushell retired before his term expired.

When Perry retires, Davis is hopeful the board will take a similar approach. Meanwhile, he's working his regular shift and campaigning during his off hours.

His campaign is focused on "my credentials to lead the sheriff's office, what I have done to lead the sheriff's office, and what I'll do in the future" if elected, Davis said. "I always lead from the front. What I mean by that is I never asked a deputy to do something I wasn't willing to do myself."

With a total staff of nearly 230 and an estimated \$20 million budget, Davis said the office also is "responsible for the protection of every citizen. In Henry County, that's over 50,000 people, and I think that's a role you would have had to grow into."

Perry agreed. "It would be an utter nightmare to think that someone could lead an area law enforcement agency and not be well experienced and qualified," Perry said. "Anytime the ethics and integrity of a law enforcement agency are called into question, it hurts the entire community."

Mills from page 1

"I grew up in the 70s and 80s, and that was a big deal. Neighbors looking after neighbors."

Signs in communities with strong watch groups also acted as a deterrent to crime, and the meetings reinforce the idea that "if you see something suspicious or concerning," report it, he said. "It's not taking it in your own hands, but you need a department that will be responsive."

While John Cassell, a candidate for sheriff in the most recent election, has endorsed him, Mills said other statements floating around the community are rumors, including his plans to appoint Cassell as his chief deputy if he wins the election.

His brother, David Mills, "will be on board," he said, adding that David Mills spent 19 years as the assistant jail administrator. He would oversee the operations of the jail under Mill's administration.

It's an important assignment because "the jail is where you start" as a new officer, and "that can be overwhelming," Mills said. "You've got to have good leadership and get them trained" without overtaxing new officers.

"The jail is a totally different environment. You've got to be able to talk and communicate" effectively, he said.

As for other top slots, "I am a firm believer in promoting from within," Mills said, emphasizing that he is running for office "to improve on a department that has some fantastic, motivated men and women."

He hopes that by making the improvements he deems necessary, "that job performance will spill over into the community"

and benefit the county as a whole.

Mills, who was a communications specialist and a team leader during his stint in the Army - 1987 to 1990, said his experience in law enforcement spans several areas.

He was a member of the SWAT team, worked in community policing, law enforcement, patrol, civil process server and spent 12 years in corrections. He left that position as a shift supervisor. He retired from law enforcement in 2019, with 25 years of service.

He has a degree in Criminal Justice, and "I was an Honor Guard member for 20 years," Mills said.

Currently, Mills operates the Henry County Food Pantry, which relocated from the HJDB Event Center to the former Bassett Printing building.

In its new home, the pantry serves 1,200 to 1,400 families each month, is a centralized hub for other agencies that provide food, and directly serves food to families each week, Mills said. When located in the HJDB center, the pantry offered food only on a monthly basis.

His job at the pantry requires Mills to wear many hats; he manages budgets, writes grant applications and coordinates volunteers to keep the pantry running smoothly.

Although the new facility and expanded operations require more work, Mills finds community service fulfilling -- also is among the reasons he is seeking the sheriff post.

"I feel like I've still got a lot to offer," Mills said of his "experience, military service and community service. I still have a lot to give."

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P&HCC team takes top prize at RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition

A student at Patrick & Henry Community College earned first place and a \$1,000 prize at the second annual RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition (CBPC) hosted last week at Hampden-Sydney College's Crawley Forum in Farmville, Va.

P&HCC's Sara Wall, of Martinsville, was among seven teams – totaling 12 student entrepreneurs – who

presented their business pitches to a panel of judges and a live audience. The teams came from four different institutions of higher education in Southern Virginia, including Averett University, Hampden-Sydney College, Longwood University and Patrick & Henry Community College. The panel of judges included Anne Tyler Paulek of the

Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce and High Bridge Stables (Farmville, Va.); Ilsa Loeser of Letterpress Communications (Farmville, Va.); Logan Ryan of Long & Foster Real Estate (Richmond, Va.); Steve Creedle of Benchmark Community Bank (Kenbridge, Va.); and Varun Sadana of The Launch Place (based in Danville, Va.).

Wall will use the prize

funds to help with launching Swam, an eco-friendly products store that will serve the Martinsville and Henry County community. Wall plans to develop the Swam brand by staffing booths at local events and placing products in other stores, such as Made In Martinsville. Her long-term vision includes a brick-and-mortar storefront in Martinsville.

Wall was one of three entrants in the 2023 RISE CBPC to earn a cash prize. Second place was a tie between Longwood University student Dusten Wood of Chatham, Va. and Longwood University student Danielle Whittington of the Washington, D.C. area. Wood will use his \$750 prize fund winnings to continue prototype development and play-testing of his strategy board game designed to enhance social skills. Whittington will use her \$750 in prize funds to continue developing her mobile application designed to be an all-in-one mental health resource for college students.

Additional competitors included Jack Whelahan of Hampden-Sydney College, who pitched his jewelry brand; Longwood University students Caitlin Wiley, Jacob Poteat and John Eddy, who pitched their food-waste prevention mobile app; Longwood



PHOTO BY VON WELLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM GROUP

Sara Wall, of Martinsville, earned first place and a \$1,000 prize at the second annual RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition (CBPC) hosted last week at Hampden-Sydney College's Crawley Forum in Farmville.

University student Olivia Hopkins, who pitched her nonprofit catering concept; and Christopher Byrd, Andrew Rabon, Blake Frost and Brayden Fair of Averett University, who pitched "What's Up Water."

The RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition is open to Southern Virginia college students of all backgrounds, skills, interests and majors. To participate, students form teams, identify the problem they want to solve and gain hands-on entrepreneurial experience by interviewing potential customers and developing their business plan. Throughout the competition, student teams receive support from faculty mentors.

Winners of the inaugural 2022 RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition included five teams from five schools: Project Connect (Averett University), The Ville (Longwood University), Fail Harder Fitness (Hampden-Sydney College), BFX Studios (Patrick & Henry Community College) and You're Not Alone (Danville Community College).

The RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition is one of several programs organized by RISE Collaborative that provides access to capital through cash prizes, mentorship and networking opportunities.

See P&HCC, page 6

Minter seeks Commissioner post

Blake Minter will seek the Henry County Commissioner of the Revenue's post in the November election.

Minter has worked for the county in the Assessor's office since 2020, and has spent significant time since working to modernize the office and its practices, achieving new implementation of technology to streamline key procedures among other successes.

"From the moment I started working for Henry County, I've taken pride in working to modernize several of our services, which helps make sure constituents' services are increasingly accurate and efficient," said Minter. "I plan on bringing that approach to the Commissioner of the

Revenue's office as well if I'm chosen to represent our community. Our residents deserve fully funded, high-quality services, and I'm working to help deliver them."

Minter, who has been a real estate assessor in the Commissioner of Revenue's Assessors Office for three years, said he knows improvements can be made to better serve residents.

"The staff that I work with are knowledgeable and skilled and one of my goals is to add more personnel to help spread out the duties and workload," he said. "I want to work with realtors, attorneys, appraisers and other citizens in getting the real estate transfers, maps and property information updated in a timely man-



Blake Minter

ner as this information is crucial to their work.

"I have made large strides in getting new technology and programs for the Assessor's office to help increase efficiency and accuracy and want to perform similar strides in other areas in the department," he added.



Field widens for Treasurer post

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Mike Minter is seeking the Henry County Treasurer position in the Nov. 7 election, facing off against incumbent Scott Grindstaff and David Moore, who also is seeking the position.

A lifelong resident of Henry County, Minter said he decided to run to help the community and make it thrive.

"I actually worked in government for Congressman (Virgil) Goode in the 1990s, and I came home to become an educator. I taught history and government, but I've always had my eye on how I can help the community," he said.

Over the past five years, Minter has operated the Career Academy, which helps students in getting career minded and employment.

"I felt like now's the time in my life when I can actually do a passion of mine, which is working full time for Henry County to make it better for our citizens," he said.

If elected, Minter said he wants to focus on making sure people in the community feel welcomed and get assistance when going to the Treasurer's Office.

"It needs to be an



Three-way race for Treasurer

David Moore, the county's purchasing agent, is seeking the Henry County Treasurer's position in the upcoming election against Mike Minter and incumbent Scott Grindstaff.

Moore said one reason he decided to seek office is the county's uncollected taxes.

"There are \$4 million right now that's uncollected in personal and property taxes that are outstanding. I just feel like, and I'm aware that we have plenty of state codes and things in the state that will help us collect those taxes," he said.

Collecting outstanding taxes is also one of his biggest goals if elected. He also wants to work with auditors to reconcile the county books within the office.

"There's been some issues with that," he said.

Moore is also concerned with the office's retention rate.

"I know everyone's having problems retaining employees, but I'd like to think we could keep those employees. There's approximately five employees since 2017 that's resigned or gone onto other areas," he said.

Moore said employees have a lot of knowledge and retaining them will help the office "be a good steward of the money."

He also wants to invest money and ensure it gets a good return on the interest rates that are available.

Additionally, "being actively open to communicate with some of these taxpayers that are having difficulties" is a goal as well as working to identify "any

kind of tools that I have that I can help them pay their taxes on time," he said.

Moore has worked as the Henry County purchasing agent for 24 years. He previously worked as an adjunct professor at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) for 16 years, teaching classes like financial management, human resources, and communication skills. He previously served as the Finance Chair in 2003 for the Virginia Association of Governmental Procurement.

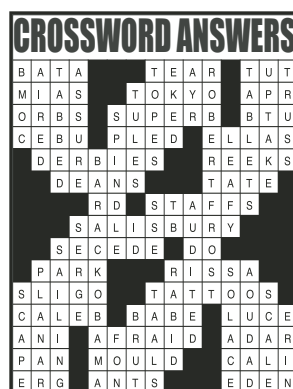
inviting place as much as anything because it's hardworking tax dollars that keep government and schools, the sheriff's office, and the police force going," he said.

Minter said residents also need to know they have someone in office

that can explain what the tax funds are used for if asked.

"The other thing is how can we make sure that we're getting all of our tax dollars for property tax, etc., that are taken in, and that we're consistent with that," he said.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook



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OBITUARIES

Hannah Glading Shelton

Hannah Glading Shelton, 92, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Friday, March 24, 2023 at Sovah Health of Martinsville and Henry County. She was born on March 6, 1931, in Coatesville, Pennsylvania to the late Frank W. Glading and Anne Moore Glading. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her daughter, Anne Moore Shelton; son, Maynard "Chip" Haile Shelton, III; and her brother, Frank W. Glading.



Hannah was a longtime member of Christ Episcopal Church, Martinsville Garden Club, Martinsville Charity League, Daughters of the American Revolution, Martinsville Book Club and Altar Guild of Christ Episcopal Church. Hannah was a graduate of West Hampton University.

She is survived by her daughter, Frances Shelton Heim (Sherry Renee

Morris) of Louisa, VA; sons, Frank Glading Shelton of Martinsville, VA, and Markley Louis Shelton (Lisa Renea Shelton) of Ridgeway, VA; grandchildren, James Michael Heim, Anne Moore Heim, Meghan Elizabeth Shelton, and Nina Maria Pariser; and two great-granddaughters, Amelia Skye Elkins, and Rayna Rose Garluck.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at Christ Episcopal Church with Rector John Adams officiating. Interment was at Roselawn Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SPCA of Martinsville-Henry County, 132 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA 24112.

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

Rebecca Lynn Garner

Rebecca Lynn Garner, 41, of Spencer, VA, passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond VA surrounded by her family. Rebecca was born on April 24, 1981, in Roanoke VA.

Rebecca had a passion for cooking, baking, and caring for her beloved dogs. She loved to draw and was very talented at it. Rebecca also loved to create homemade Christmas and birthday cards to share with her family.

Rebecca left us much too soon; she

will forever live in our hearts and we will cherish the memories and the time we had with her beautiful soul.

She leaves behind her son, Charles Garner III; her fiancé, Chris Coleman; her sister, Chastity Hedges; her brother, John Hancock; her stepfather, Claude Hall; her nephew, Kenneth Presley Jr.; and her niece, Emily Hedges. She was preceded in death by her father, David Hancock; and her mother, Kathy Hall.

Her family will have a private celebration of her life.

Mitchell

from page 1

For a department to obtain accreditation under VLEPSC, it must bring administrative, operational, training, and personnel policy standards in compliance with 192 professional standards set by the commission. Compliance must be proved over a period of years.

"This is a four-year process," said Police Chief Rob Fincher. He thanked members of the police department and retired chief, Eddie Cassidy, for their assistance with the accreditation process.

"We believe that accreditation is an essential part of building trust with the community that we serve," Fincher said, and presented the annual report for the police department.

Crime is categorized as violent crime and crimes against property. Violent crime is classified homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

"I'm happy to report from 2021 to 2022 we went from 65 total violent crimes to 57," Fincher said. Property crimes are categorized as burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Property crimes fell from 322 in 2021 to 288 in 2022. There was one homicide in the city in 2021, and none in 2022.

There were no motor

vehicle fatalities in the city in 2022, and an overall a slight decrease in motor vehicle accidents. However, Fincher indicated that there is a larger incidence of motor vehicle accidents with injuries. There is a correlation between speed and injuries in accidents.

Calls for service are categorized as officer initiated and those that are citizen driven. The number of citizen-driven calls has remained consistent. Phone calls represented the highest type of service call initiation with animal related calls being the second highest.

"That's a good sign when we have things such as animal calls, extra patrols, vacation checks, well-being checks, as opposed to crimes of violence needing our service," Fincher said.

The police department seeks grant funding on a yearly basis to lighten the burden on local taxpayers. The DMV offers grants to help with traffic enforcement with the local department seeking a speed enforcement and alcohol enforcement grant annually. A grant of \$12,600 was received in 2022 that helped to assist with the purchase of intoximeters, radar units, and overtime for officers that are needed for traffic related issues. The

department also received a justice assistance grant in the amount of \$23,347 for various items such as uniform jackets, evidence cameras, and ballistic shields.

In other matters: *April 2023 is being recognized as Martinsville's observance of Bee City Month. The City of Martinsville is an affiliate of Bee City USA. Pollinators play a vital role in the trees and plants of our community. Bee City USA encourages local residents to participate in things that create healthy environments for pollinators by planting clover, not cutting yards below 4 inches, and not raking leaves. In accordance with Bee City Month Virginia Historic Garden Week will be held in April with a tour on April 19.

*Council Member Kathy Lawson expressed condolences to the family of city school employee, Latanya Billups, who passed away

P&HCC from page 5

ties. The 2023 RISE Collegiate Business Plan Competition sponsors include Benchmark Community Bank, American National Bank & Trust, First Citizens Bank, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Long & Foster Real Estate, Letterpress Communications and the SOVA Innovation Hub. Information about sponsoring future RISE Collaborative events is

online at SOVARISE.com/partners.

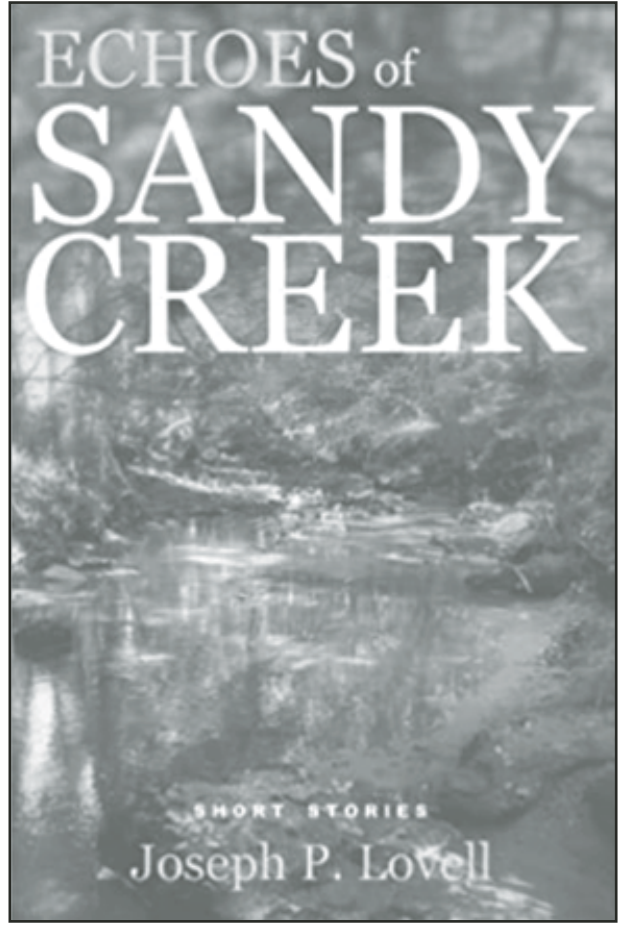
RISE Collaborative will continue its pitch competition series on Tuesday, March 28, with the RISE Business Pitch Competition at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center's (SVHEC) Innovation Center in South Boston, Va. That event will feature 15 aspiring entrepreneurs and existing

businesses of all ages and will award more than \$15,000 in prize money. Prize categories include the "Start-Up" category for new businesses, the "Grow" category for existing businesses, and the recently announced Female Founder's Fund for women entrepreneurs. For more information, visit SOVARISE.com/business-pitch-competition.

Bassett center to host book discussion

Joseph P. Lovell, author of "Echoes of Sandy Creek," will visit the Bassett Historical Center at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, to discuss his book - collection of true, heart-warming stories that will transport you back to a small Virginia farm set in the 1950s and 1960s - a time when life was simple, work was hard, and love was gently expressed. You will be caught up in wonderful memories as the writer unveils the struggles and the victories that have echoed throughout the years.

This free program will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room of the Bassett Historical Center. It is open to the public.



will be attending the council meetings beginning in April. "They are a very capable firm," said City Manager Leon Towarnicki.

*The Citizen Advisory Board is accepting appli-

cations. Boards and commissions information can be found online at www.martinsville.va.gov under the community tab and volunteers.

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*The Citizen Advisory Board is accepting appli-

cations. Boards and commissions information can be found online at www.martinsville.va.gov under the community tab and volunteers.



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper presented a Certificate of Accreditation to Police Chief Rob Fincher and members of the police department (below). Draper also is a member of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC), which oversees the multi-year accreditation process.



Patty Williams, of Bee City USA, is pictured with Council Member Tammy Pearson (left) and Martinsville Mayor LC Jones. (Vice mayor Aaron Rawls is pictured seated, far left).

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Harvest from page 1

rooms. Additionally, the meeting room will serve as a free community meeting space during and after library hours.

Two planned entrances will alleviate challenges for ingress and egress. Additional handicapped parking and a drive-thru window with a book drop will further provide safe travel in and around the building.

"The Bassett Library prides itself on the number of quality programs offered to preschoolers, school-aged children, and teens in our community," said Karen Barley, Bassett Branch Manager.

Barley unveiled the expansion plans. The new library expansion will have a children's department, a meeting room for up to 50 people, and a drive-through window. "This will be a great service for our handicapped, our elderly, and our mothers with small children," Barley said. The library utilized a drive-through window during the height of the pandemic, and it has become a necessity to patrons who frequent the library. The renovation will consist of study rooms, a conference room, testing space, and a young adult area. The expansion will add an additional 4,000 square feet of space to the library.

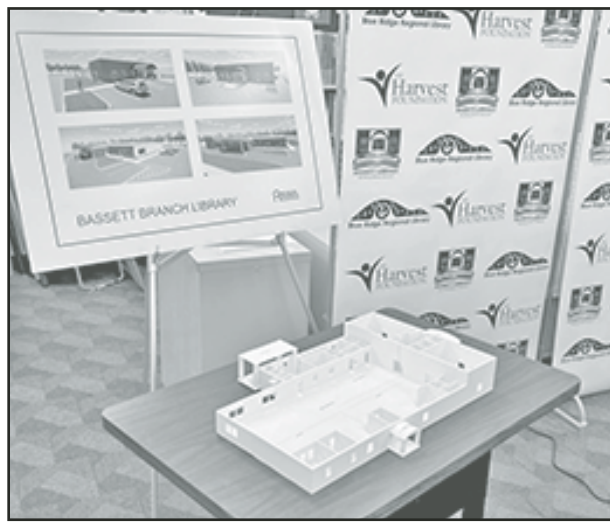
She said the renovations will support dedicated staff at the library with a new and more centralized library branch manager's office, employee break room, working space, and added storage for library equipment central to the circulation desk.

Rick Ward, director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system, said libraries are part of a community's identity, offering numerous programs open to all patrons, regardless of social status or income.

"We strive to offer new and exciting programs on a regular basis, attracting more patrons and increasing the demand for meeting rooms and our children's areas," Ward said. "The Bassett Branch has done an excellent job in this regard and has gotten so successful that the spaces



Karen Barley, manager of the Bassett branch, unveiled the expansion plans.



Those attending the announcement of an expansion project at the Bassett Branch Library last week had an opportunity to view renderings of the planned expansion.

we have are not adequate for the numbers we are seeing. Therefore, we are very excited to have this opportunity to start our expansion campaign with the generous help of The Harvest Foundation, and we look forward to making this dream come true for the patrons in the Bassett area and beyond."

Bassett residents Lewis and Betty Turner will lead fundraising efforts for the Bassett Library expansion.

"Having been a patron of the Bassett Library from its beginning, the realization of the need for its renovation and expansion is close to me," said Betty Turner, Bassett Library Steering Committee co-chair. "The library is vital to the community being served in numerous ways. We appreciate very much that The Harvest Foundation recognizes the value of this service to the community."

Lewis Turner, the other co-chair of the steering committee, added, "The investment by The Harvest Foundation gives our capital campaign a big jump start. The pressure is now on the entire committee and the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board of Trustees to step up and bring this much-needed project to completion."

The Blue Ridge Regional Library Foundation accepts donations at any branch location, through its website at brlrfoundation.org, or via mail at Bassett Expansion Fund, Bassett Branch Library, 3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, VA 24055.

Earth Day celebration, Pollinator Path ribbon cutting set



An artistic rendering of the new Pollinator Path by local artist Laura Burk.

Piedmont Arts is hosting their annual Earth Day Family Day at the museum on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with plenty of activities for children, from face painting and games to nature-themed arts and crafts. The museum will also be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Pollinator Path with a community planting day immediately following. Free snacks will be provided. All events are free and open to the public. Family Days are sponsored by Sovah Health and Carter Bank and Trust.

In addition to the planned Earth Day activities, the museum will also be revealing its

new Pollinator Path, funded in part by the Harvest Foundation's Project Hope grant. This grant was created to fund projects that spark hope in the community, and Piedmont Arts utilized it to create an accessible path that connects the museum to the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden. The pathway will be lined by native pollinator plants and artwork created by local artists. There will be a section of raised garden beds for an Adopt-A-Bed program with educational signage scattered throughout so every element of the pathway is an opportunity to learn, participate, and steward the land to protect local pollinators. Other

See Earth, page 8



CLASSIFIEDS



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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If you've read this far, you can see how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work. Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week.

Notice of Public Meeting

The City of Martinsville Arts & Cultural Committee will hold a public input meeting on April 12, 2023 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Room 207 of the New College Institute, located at 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA, for those parties interested in the following:

The City of Martinsville Arts & Cultural Committee is developing a master plan to use as a guide for the Arts & Cultural District and the entire city as a whole. A master plan will detail a community's arts and cultural visions for the city and include strategies to help implement those visions.

The Arts & Cultural Committee is requesting input from the community to obtain recommendations and ideas for the master plan, hear goals and visions from the public, and determine how to move the community forward using arts and culture effectively.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, comments may 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 Meeting

The City of Martinsville Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board will hold a joint public meeting on April 19, 2023, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and held in Council Chambers located in the Martinsville Municipal Building. The meeting is for members of both boards to discuss the current Historic Preservation Overlay (HP-O) District in the Zoning Ordinance and the current Historic District Guidelines. The purpose of the discussion is to determine if amendments to both the HP-O District and the Historic District Guidelines would be beneficial for growth and development in the city. Questions or comments can be directed to Hannah Powell at hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us or (276) 403-5156.

Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell, CZA
Community Development Specialist

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **April 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

Case R-23-07 Thirty Six Fifty One, LLC / John Reno

The property is located on the south side of Fontaine Dr., and the south west corner of Fontaine Dr. and Textile Dr., in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map numbers are 52.4(54)/13-18. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.1-acres from Commercial District B-1 to Limited Industrial District I-2. The applicant wishes to construct four, approximately 4,000 sq ft each, warehouse units.

Case R-23-08 Cyana Bulgin

The property is located on the east side of Meadowood Trail, just south of its intersection with Hodges Farm Rd., in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map number is 39.6(39)B/9. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 1 lot from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to place a manufactured home on the property.

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

Lee H. Clark, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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City school teams advance to state competition in Odyssey of the Mind

Four teams from Martinsville City Schools will travel to Leesburg, VA in April to compete against students from across the Commonwealth at the State Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) Tournament.

The teams, three from Martinsville Middle School and one from Patrick Henry Elementary School, advanced to the state competition after placing first in their categories during the Piedmont Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament in Rocky Mount, VA on March 17.

"OotM is a creative problem-solving STEM after-school program for students in Kindergarten through eighth grade," explained MCPS Coordinator of STEM, Math, and Science Jill Collins. "We had six elementary teams and three middle school teams this year participating in Odyssey's adventurous experience by learning teamwork, budgeting, building, public speaking, and so much more!"

Odyssey of the Mind challenges participants to work as a team to find original solutions to open-ended problems. Teams choose from a selection of long-term problems, each with its own requirements, time limit, and budget and create a performance, complete with props, costumes, and a script, that meets those requirements.

In addition to the long-term problem, which they have months to work on and rehearse, teams also

must solve a spontaneous problem, which tests a team's ability to think on their feet. In a spontaneous session, a team is presented with a verbal and/or hands-on problem which they have never seen before and have just a few minutes to solve. Some problems require a team to present multiple creative solutions.

Teams from city schools have competed in the state competition every year since 2016. Last year, two teams from Patrick Henry Elementary School competed in the World Finals, where one team placed third for their division in their category.

Teams that competed at this year's regional OotM tournament are:

Martinsville Middle School

The Most Dramatic Problem Ever!!! (First place, advancing to state tournament); Coach: Greg Hackenberg, Niema Merritt, Sarah Green, Veronica Smit, h Noah Wright, Cristofer Santiago, Nykira Johnson.

Pirates and the Treasure (First place, advancing to state tournament); Coach: Jessica Clervoi, Betty Sifuentes, Zaina Talley, Isabella Hurd, Viet Van Vo.

Because iCan (First place, advancing to state tournament); Coach: Kevin Paitsel, Leeayla Hairston, Ty'Layah Dillard, Kaden Paitsel, Mason Cassell, William Wall, Lily Wall.

Patrick Henry Elementary School

Pirates and the Treasure (First place, advancing to state tournament); Coach: Elizabeth Lynch, Nina Giles, Jewel Martin, Maya Williams, Katie Wall, Kyla Steward, Jade Holland-Dallas, Zyriah Bouldin.

The Most Dramatic Problem Ever!!! (Second place); Coach: Erica Crockett, Arielle Mitchell, Remmington Crockett, Dillion Wilson, Josiah Law, J'Cyere Moorman, Bently Williamson, Carter Cole.

Dinos on Parade! (non-competitive); Coach: Judy McDonald, Khamille Tatum, Paris Turner, Gabriella Gravely, Za'Mari Witcher, Amreen Narula, Espen Troncoso, Sebastian LaPrade.

Albert Harris Elementary

The Walls of Troy (Third place); Coach: Wenn Harold, Freddy Munoz, Mariah Mose, Makiya Walton, Keiana Hairston, Jasmin Nalasco, Haley Weaver, Layce Everhart.

Where's the Structure? (Second place); Coach: Tammy Allen, Miriam Carter, Alan Carrillo Tamayo, Yahya Rodriguez, Aria Lewis, Michele Yanes Vide, Kyndall Gravely, Victor Dominguez-Machuca.

Dinos on Parade! (non-competitive); Coach: Jasmine Hall, Lennette Floyd, Jayveon Lewis, Aaden Schmidt, Timothy Giles, Elijah Woody, Jermyn Akers.

Earth

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projects are underway that will directly benefit birds, bats, and bees. After the ribbon cutting, there will be time at Family Day devoted to planting garden beds for the path. For those interested in adopting a garden bed, volunteering, or donating to the Pollinator Path, please reach out to Lauren Ellis at lellis@piedmontarts.org.

Family Days are beloved community events that open the museum to the public

for exploration and fun. The galleries will be open during Family Day, so the community can take time participating in themed events and activities as well as exploring the artwork on display.

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



C.D. Prillaman of Prillaman Landscape Dimensions leads a planting day with a local class of preschoolers at Piedmont Arts.



Martinsville Middle School students Betty Sifuentes (8th grade) and Isabella Hurd (7th grade) are members of coach Jessica Clervoi's Odyssey of the Mind Team, which is advancing to the statewide tournament following a first place win at regionals on March 17.



Teams from Martinsville Middle School, Patrick Henry Elementary, and Albert Harris Elementary all competed at the Piedmont Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament held recently in Rocky Mount.



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