

Davis to seek post as Perry retires

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

Henry County Sheriff's Maj. Wayne Davis hopes to be the next sheriff of Henry County.

Davis announced his intentions Wednesday after incumbent Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry said he plans to retire on July 1.

Davis, 44, said "I began speaking with Sheriff Perry years ago" about the prospect of seeking the office. "With his retirement, the opportunity has presented itself."

Davis said if elected, he would "ensure depu-

ties here provide the highest level of service possible to residents of Henry County."

Davis has served in various capacities in the Henry County Sheriff's Office since his appointment as a Deputy Sheriff in 2000. He has risen through the ranks, earning the position of investigator in 2003, sergeant and lieutenant in the Patrol Division, and lieutenant of Criminal Investigations, where he oversaw major criminal investigations cases.

Davis served as captain of Investigations from 2016, supervising various



Henry County Sheriff's Major Wayne Davis.

units in the department and fulfilling additional duties such as Internal Affairs Investigations and Public Information Officer. Additionally,

See **Davis**, page 3

(See inside for more candidate coverage!)

Williams discusses recent legislative session



Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, (right), with wife Britt Schneider Williams, and their son, Theodore "Rhett" Williams.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Following the completion of the most recent session for the Virginia General Assembly, Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, reflected on his second year in the House of Delegates.

"I was very happy with how the session went, and very happy with my successes in the house. I'm looking forward to going back because we'll have even more opportunities next year with more bill slots and another budget year," he said.

Williams said one of the major lessons he learned was the importance of creativity.

"You can't just go up pound your fists and

wave your arms around and expect to get things done. You have to be diligent and knowledgeable," he said. "You have to be capable of explaining and arguing these nuances."

Williams said he believes he implemented those concepts this year, especially because he knows the process and rules better than during his first session.

"I was able to be much more successful in the legislative process," he said.

During the session, Williams was able to get seven bills passed. While many were more administrative-focused, one success was the Religious Freedom Bill, which was designed to prevent the closing of churches.

The bill, he said,

See **Williams**, page 4

Hines withdraws from sheriff's race Mills continues campaign for post

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Del Mills is seeking the post of Henry County Sheriff in the Nov. 7 election.

Sandy Hines, Captain of Patrol Operations for the Martinsville Police Department, initially planned to seek the post but withdrew Wednesday afternoon, citing personal reasons.

"Now is not the right time," Hines said. "I may revisit it in the future."

Incumbent Sheriff Lane Perry said Wednesday afternoon that he will retire effective July 1. Mills, a former Henry County Sheriff's officer, said he retired in 2019 with 25 years on the force. Before that, he

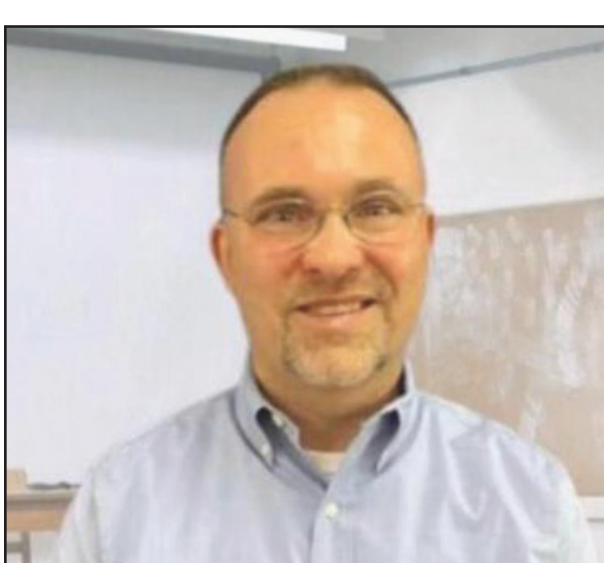
served in the Army for three years.

Mills said if elected, he would work to make the office more community based.

"I had the opportunity to start volunteer work with the Henry County Food Pantry. It really opened my eyes to the needs of the community, and there's a lot that can be done and there's a lot that we can do," Mills said.

He also would like to see more community policing and neighborhood watch involvement.

"I like the idea of officer presence in the school system. In Henry County, we address the high schools and middle schools, and I feel like there is a need, I was



Del Mills, a retired Henry County Sheriff's officer and School Resource Officer (SRO), hopes to be elected Henry County Sheriff in November.

a former SRO (School Resource Officer), there is a need in the elementary schools for a presence there," he said.

Mills also would share resources with officers and keep them informed so they can better serve those in the community.



Joe Martin



Khalil Baker

Four city residents vie for open council position, Towarnicki to step down in July

by **Tara Lucas**

At a regular meeting of the Martinsville City Council on Tuesday, four city residents indicated their interest in being considered for the vacancy that exists on the council after Chad Martin's resignation.

The four - Theresa Spencer, Lawrence

Mitchell, Joe Martin, and Khalil Baker - all presented to the council as a candidate for the vacancy. Interviews will be held to select the newest council member.

City Manager Leon Towarnicki announced that he will retire after 41 years of service, effective in July.

Towarnicki also gave an overview of the

recent tour of the west end neighborhoods by council members and other city officials. Four wheelers on Armstead Avenue and inoperable vehicles were among the issues noticed on the tour. A recap was provided on the subsequent neighborhood meeting that was held at Albert Harris Elementary School on Monday.

One resident expressed concern over the license plate reader cameras that are mounted in several areas. The condition of Paradise Inn on Fayette Street, and the safety of the structure, also was a concern for west end residents.

Towarnicki stated

See **Four**, page 4

Judge dismisses the city's filing

Staff Reports

A judge dismissed the City of Martinsville's petition for appeal filed last year in which the city sought to appeal a permit that could clear the way for the Henry County PSA to reopen the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Axton.

Richmond City Circuit Court Judge Claire G. Cardwell in a March 7 order dismissed the petition, which named the PSA, the Virginia State Water Control Board (VSWCB), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Michael Rolband, director of both agencies.

"Martinsville has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because the statutes cited in its assignments of error are not applicable to the VPDES permitting pro-

cess," Cardwell wrote in the order.

The city stated that it may need to raise wastewater rates by 25 percent and/or close its regional wastewater treatment facility if the PSA's permit remained in effect.

The city alleged it would suffer "actual or imminent injury," because the permit would undermine its ability to fund and maintain its regional wastewater treat-

See **Judge**, page 3

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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.)

Monday, March 20

P&HCC College Board meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center.

Events

Sunday March 19

Create your own barn quilt at Spencer-Penn, from noon to 4 pm. All supplies are provided. Cost varies, depending on size. Class will be filled on a first paid first served basis. Once payment is received, design choice should be sent to the instructor, Lauren, at misslaurenbyron@gmail.com. Questions may be e-mailed to Lauren at the above e-mail address or to Susan at spc.susan@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 25

The Harvest Youth Board's Books & Bunnies, which features an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, interactive activities,

food trucks and books, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex Amphitheater, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton.

Tuesday, March 28

Book Bingo at the Martinsville Main Library will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is free. Registration begins on March 21.

The Southern Gentlemen Bluegrass Band will perform at 10 a.m. in the Historical Center's Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. The event is free.

ONGOING

Create a Memory Garden Planter at select branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library in March. All events begin at 2:30 on: March 14 at the Ridgeway Branch; March 15 at the Collinsville Branch; March 16 at the Patrick County Branch; March 17 at the Bassett Branch and March 18 at the Main Branch in Martinsville. Participants are required to bring a pair of closed toe tribute shoes to create the planter. To register, or for more information, call the participating branch

library of your choice.

Begin your journey of health and wellness by joining the Blue Ridge Regional Library's new Walking Club. The club meets at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in March at the Main Library in Martinsville.

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.

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

Piedmont Arts' Summer Camps Now Enrolling

Summer Art Camp

June 5th-9th

Grades K-2

To register, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTxfmrrOeyc1dVGFt9GDrhl7kZitwA2S2zEyMdjgm6H4iTkg/viewform>

Get crafty at this multi-day Art Camp for grades K–2. Campers will explore a variety of artistic techniques, styles and materials. An art show will take place at the end of camp, showcasing campers' work for their families to enjoy. Class meets daily June 5 – 9 from 9 am – 12 pm each day. Advanced registration required.

Drop off and pick up will occur at the Piedmont Arts classroom.

Curtains Up! Theatre Camp

June 12th-16th

Grades 3-5

Visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczvskOAQeL5c7qrrRMJJJRkvT-h0Ku1ibgkL7agfbffeHNRg/viewform> to register.

At the museum's first-ever Curtains Up! Theater Camp for grades 3–5, children will get an opportunity to learn everything they need to take center stage. Theatre is an art rooted in creative self-expression and creative imagination. Campers will learn the foundation of theatre skills that will culminate in a small performance for friends and families at the end of the week.

- Skills include:
- Storytelling and imagination
- Voice and projection
- Physicality and ensemble building
- Character building
- Prop and costume design

Each day, will focus on one of these skills. Students will come away from Curtains Up! with life skills, like self-confidence, boosted creativity and imagination, collaboration, communication, and empathy. The performance on Friday afternoon will be created in the camp by the campers with a script of their own making.

Drop off and pick up will occur in the main lobby of Piedmont Arts.

Summer Art Camp

June 12th-16th

Grades 3-5

Go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczvskOAQeL5c7qrrRMJJJRkvT-h0Ku1ibgkL7agfbffeHNRg/viewform> to register.

Get crafty at this multi-day Art Camp for grades 3–5. Campers will explore a variety of artistic techniques, styles and materials. An art show will take place at the end of camp, showcasing campers' work for their families to enjoy. Class meets daily June 12 – 16 from 9 am – 12 pm each day. Advanced registration required.

Drop off and pick up will occur at the Piedmont Arts classroom.

County schools to offer free summer meals

As part of its efforts to ensure kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months, Henry County Public Schools is pleased to announce its summer meals site will be serving kids and teens. Starting on June 5, all kids and teens 18 and under can receive meals free of charge, no registration needed

The summer months are already one of the hungriest times of year for many kids. The need will be even greater this summer as the nation continues to grapple with the pandemic.

Due to changes at the federal level, we are no longer able to offer grab and go meals. We are dedicated to still serving children and the community, and we plan to serve meals Monday-Thursday June 5-29 and July 10-August 3.

The Summer Meals program is funded by the USDA and run by school districts and local organizations, and sites can be found throughout the community. Families can text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 304-304 and type in a zip code to find nearby summer meals sites, along with operating days and times. No application, registration or proof of residency or citizenship is required at sites.

Visit <https://www.henry.k12.va.us/domain/2845> or call 638-1165 to learn more.

Sheriff warns community about ongoing phone scam

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry issued a warning to residents about an ongoing phone scam in which scammers pose as sheriff's deputies and threaten to arrest the victim if they do not pay a fine.

The caller may identify themselves as a law enforcement officer who claims the victim is about to be arrested for not appearing for jury duty or serving on a grand jury. The scammer advises the victim that they can avoid being arrested by paying a fine and then walks them through buying a prepaid debit or gift card or making an electronic payment to satisfy the "fine."

These scammers often provide convincing information, including the real name and location of the courthouse, court phone numbers, and case and badge numbers. The scammers may include information such as a potential victim's maiden name, work address, home address, and date of birth. In some cases, they may even spoof the phone number from the sheriff's office. The people conducting this scam can be persuasive. Residents are advised to always be hesitant to provide personally identifying information over the phone or via text message.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office personally serves grand jury summons.

If you are scheduled to serve on a grand jury or jury duty, you will receive paper work delivered to your residence by the Sheriff's Office. If there is a warrant for your arrest, deputies will show up at your house. They will not call you. Deputies will not contact residents and demand payment or personal information by phone or email. Court officials and law enforcement officers will never ask for a credit card or debit card number, wire transfers, or bank routing number over the phone.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office tries to keep the public informed on what types of scams are taking place and reminds citizens most scams originate from outside the United States. If you question a phone call or letter, call law enforcement before acting on its instructions.

Anyone who has been victimized by a scam or has information on suspected scammers 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.

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Business development manager selected for Financial Wellbeing for All Committee

ValleyStar Credit Union's business development manager, Rachael Williams, was selected to be a member of the Virginia Credit Union League's (VACUL) Financial Wellbeing for All Committee to address financial participation, education and inclusion for the communities ValleyStar serves.

The committee aims to aid credit unions in living the "Credit Union Difference" through initiatives and programs designed to improve financial outcomes. The committee will also leverage its initiatives and knowledge gained from credit unions to advocate for the industry and educate policymakers about the credit union's efforts to improve the financial

wellbeing of the communities we serve.

"Our members' financial wellbeing is at the core of everything I do," said Williams, ValleyStar's business development manager. "I work diligently to provide financial education for ValleyStar members through classes and online resources to ensure all members are given the proper resources to achieve and maintain a healthy financial wellbeing."

Williams' selection is one more example of her leadership as she grows the talent, skills and experience exemplified by the ValleyStar team. Financial wellbeing for members is a key aspect of the credit union's focus to be the best in service and convenience.

Davis

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Davis has been a member of the Sheriff's Office SWAT team for 21 years, and served as the SWAT Commander for the past seven years.

Davis was promoted to the position of Major earlier this month. A Virginia Forensic Science Academy graduate, Davis is nationally certified in internal affairs investigations.

In February, he attained the Virginia Sheriff's Institute Certification, which will be awarded at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute's Spring Conference in April. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute Certification Program recognizes the commitment of Virginia sheriffs and deputies to excellence, lifelong learning, and the advancement of public safety as a profession.

In announcing his retirement, Perry said "I have served the citizens of Henry County through the Sheriff's Office" for more than 30 years. "In that time, I've served in many capacities such as corrections, patrol, criminal investigations and drug investigations. Then, I began serving in progressive supervisory capacities."

Nearly 17 years ago, "I was privileged to be elected to serve as Sheriff," he wrote. "Through all of this I have enjoyed serving the citizens. It has been a pleasure serving and I am very thankful for all of the working relationships that have helped me succeed in my career. I wish the absolute best for the citizens and the county as I look forward to what God has in store for me."

Upon Perry's official retirement, Davis will seek to be appointed interim sheriff. If successful, he would fulfill the remainder of Perry's term, which ends December 31.

Judge

from page 1

ment plant, a facility that was developed jointly with the county.

"Martinsville relies on the revenue from the sewer rates to fund" the wastewater plant's operation, the filing stated. Funds are then used to pay for daily operations, maintenance and repairs, and capital improvement projects.

"The substantial revenue derived from serving the wastewater needs" of the county "is essential to the continued

existence and operation" of Martinsville's regional wastewater plant, the suit states.

The Office of the Attorney General also filed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the case last year in which it stated the city failed to state a cause of action against the SWCB, DEQ or Rolband. The 16-page document concluded the city's appeal failed to "designate and demonstrate an error of law subject to review."

Fitness Studio Opens in Uptown

by Tara Lucas

Body by Jenise is now open in Uptown Martinsville. Owner Jenise Bryson moved to the area two years ago and has family in Henry County. She is a fitness enthusiast with 23 years of experience training others to reach their fitness goals.

"This right here is what I've been dying to do for the past 10-12 years," Bryson said of her new boutique fitness studio. She offers personal training in her studio, mobile in-home training, and virtual personal training.

Bryson emphasizes nutrition as key to anyone wanting to get in shape. Bryson, who is also a Herbalife distributor says, "Abs are made in the

kitchen." She indicated that nutrition and proper diet is the largest factor in being physically fit. "Food first over fitness," she said.

This Saturday March 18, individuals and families are welcome to participate in a free demonstration of the "Biggest Loser" bootcamp at The Spencer Penn Centre at 11:30 a.m. Individuals can register for \$49 to participate in the 6-week program. Family registration for up to 5 family members is \$99. For more information on personal training services available, visit www.bodybyjenise.com or reach out on Facebook and Instagram pages Body by Jenise.



Pictured are owner Jenise Bryson (center), Mayor LC Jones (left), Michael Scales (right), Longwood SBDC, and Chamber of Commerce staff.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of footwear
5. Studies a lot all at once
10. Adventure story
14. Hundred thousand
15. Former U.S. Vice President
16. Ruler
17. Indian city
18. Similar
19. Ship as cargo
20. Volcanic craters
22. Boxing's "GOAT"
23. Bullfighting maneuvers
24. London soccer team
27. Score perfectly
30. No (Scottish)
31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
32. Woman (French)
35. Unwanted attic "decor"
37. Peter Griffin's daughter
38. Broad, shallow crater
39. Large instruments
40. Low bank or reef
41. ___ and Venzetti
42. Oil group
43. Father
44. Aggressive men
45. Pairs well with green
46. Travelers need it
47. Digital audiotape
48. Midway between northeast and east
49. Chemistry descriptor
52. S. China seaport
55. Sound unit
56. Heavy cavalry sword
60. Thick piece of something
61. Spa town in Austria
63. Boyfriend
64. Norse personification of old age
65. Type of box
66. Tie together
67. Fiber from the coconut
68. Chicago mayor
69. Old English letters
CLUES DOWN
1. Type of sauce
2. Pattern of notes
3. Plant with long seedpods
4. Map out
5. Numbers cruncher
6. Make a mental connection
7. Italian tenor
8. N. America's highest mountain peak
9. Witness
10. Arabic given name
11. Music awards
12. "The Immoralist" author
13. Area units
21. Units of loudness
23. Political action committee
25. Bar bill
26. Witch
27. A theatrical performer
28. 2-door car
29. ___ and flowed
32. Paper-___ art
- medium
33. City in Georgia
34. Irregular
36. College sports conference
37. Angry
38. Partner to cheese
40. S. American mammal
41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
43. Split pulses
44. Disfigure
46. Cow noise
47. Erase
49. Chadic language
50. Reward for doing well
51. Paid TV
52. Millisecond
53. Other
54. Colombian city
57. Necklace part
58. Every one of two or more people
59. Regrets
61. They come after "A"
62. Horse noise

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OPINION

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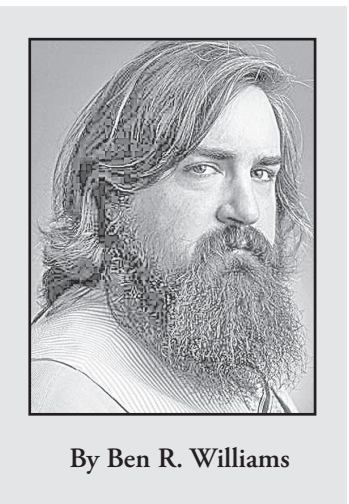
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One apple — \$2.99
It’s one apple! Choose from Granny Smith, Red Delicious, or Fuji. It’s a single apple for just under three American dollars. It’s an apple.

A dozen eggs from Ethical Farms — \$8.99
The chickens at Ethical Farms are raised in a free-range environment lacking

the cruelty of so many other factory farms; like their slogan says, “If you don’t buy from Ethical Farms, you’re a human monster undeserving of the gift of life.” Now that the price of all eggs has increased dramatically, there’s no better time to switch over to Ethical Farms and spend nearly ten dollars on a dozen eggs.

Spang! Laundry Detergent — \$24.99
We all need laundry detergent; if your clothes aren’t clean, people will judge you and you might miss the big promotion! Now you can buy almost a gallon of Spang! laundry detergent for just 25 dollars. When you’re hard at work, just think about the fact that you’re trading one to two



By Ben R. Williams

hours of your labor for the privilege of buying a gallon of Spang! laundry detergent.

Panatachi 50-inch 4K UHD TV — \$198
For the price of eight gallons of Spang! laundry detergent, you can bring home a 50 inch 4K ultra high definition television! Assembled

in Vietnam by Panatachi, a division of PanCarbide Heavy Industries and Youth Labor Camps, this TV is capable of picking up a signal from a satellite in outer space and translating it into a crystal-clear high-definition image with eight channel surround sound, all while somehow costing less than \$200. If you find yourself grappling with a vague sense that something in our nation is irretrievably broken, pick up a Panatachi TV and let network television wash those worries away!

Signore Affordable’s Family-Size Frozen Pizza — \$28
Frozen pizza, the thing you keep in your freezer to have a cheap dinner option when you don’t feel like cooking, costs \$28 now. Of course, if you made your own pizza from scratch, it would cost \$60 and take two hours, so what are

you gonna do, am I right?
ElectroWatt LED lightbulbs — \$22
Tired of tripping over stuff at night? There’s no better solution than lightbulbs! This two-pack of LED lightbulbs are allegedly the equivalent of 60 watts. They may seem expensive, but considering that the price of electricity is skyrocketing, there’s no better time to either switch to LED bulbs or adjust to living in darkness like a blind cave salamander.

The Medicine You Need to Remain Alive — \$1,100
When it comes to remaining alive, there’s no better option than The Medicine You Need to Remain Alive. It’s available in our pharmacy, which opened back in 1970 when The Medicine You Need to Remain Alive cost a buck fifty.

Four

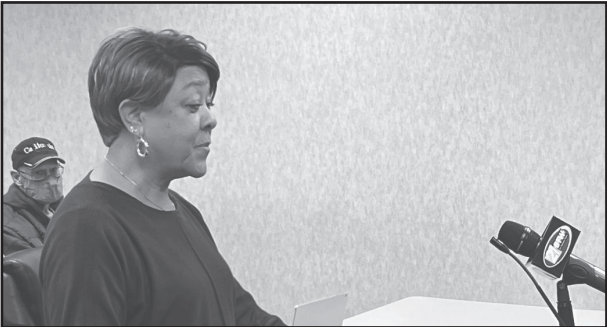
from page 1



Local track athlete and 2021 Magna Vista High School graduate, Rennie Hairston, was among those recognized Tuesday. Hairston is the 2023 USA Virginia Track and Field 3-way Indoor Champion amongst many other athletic achievements. He is pictured with Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls (left), and Mayor LC Jones (right).



Lawrence Mitchell



Theresa Spencer



Martinsville High School diving athlete Natalie Laprade was recognized for her achievements in state and regional diving championships. She is pictured with Martinsville with Mayor LC Jones.

that there will be some additional meetings concerning local parks to gather improvement ideas from residents.

Police Chief Rob Fincher addressed the traffic cameras. “It’s checking tags, it doesn’t run plates,” he said, and indicated that the cameras are designed to recognize tags that are in a criminal information network. That system also assists with locating missing persons. There are plans to install live action cameras near local businesses, but there are no plans to put live action cameras in residential neighborhoods.

“Although it is legal, I personally feel that would be an invasion of privacy,” Fincher said. Once the live action cameras are installed, the information gathered is considered public.

Executive Director of The Boys and Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, Joanie Pettie, gave an update on the performance of the local club.

“We have had a wonderful year,” Pettie said. The local Boys and Girls Club is 1 of 84 clubs in the state of Virginia. There is a currently a wait list for participants that wish to be a part of the club. Boys and Girls Club is active in each city school.



Martinsville High School track athlete Jahmal Jones was recognized for winning two state titles for indoor track. Jones also broke state records for the 55-meter dash and the 300-meter dash. He is pictured with Martinsville with Mayor LC Jones.

“Our clubs really do reach a lot of kids,” Pettie said. In the past year, the club requested transportation funds due to bus driver shortages and other transportation issues related to the pandemic. The funds that were received helped to acquire 3 used vans to help provide transportation to students. There are applications available online, in each school, or at the office at 311 Church Street in Martinsville, for students who wish to participate in the club.

City Council discussed and approved the establishment of The Citizen Advisory Board. Council member Tammy Pearson thanked the Chamber of Commerce for a successful Fast Track Trade Show. Council Member Kathy Lawson thanked the local Honor Guard for the services they provide to local veterans. She also announced a local business recently purchased the Sears building at The Villages of Martinsville. Vice-Mayor Aaron Rawls said the City of Martinsville’s podcast can be found online. The city’s Public Information Officer, Kendall Davis, said the podcast will soon be available on other platforms such as iTunes and Spotify.

Williams

from page 1

stemmed from the Covid-19 pandemic, “because that was something that really upset me and the folks in my district, which was not being able to go to church and fellowship at that time,” he said.

Williams said his bill would bar governors from using the Emergency Powers Act to close churches and other places of worship.

He believes his ability to get the bill passed was huge, considering the House has a Republican majority while the Senate has a primarily Democratic majority.

“I was able to really get creative with the language, because that’s what we have to do around here,” he said.

Williams said the bill that won approval was similar to one he brought last year, but then “I worked to get the words right so that voting against it was almost immoral,” he said. “That’s how we were able to get it through” the Senate.

One of his administrative bills focused on the removal process of an elected official that is failing to do their job.

“It’s always been a very complicated process because you have to have signatures on a petition, but there was no signature standard form,” Williams said. “So, you might get 10 percent of the electorate to sign pieces of paper and then show up to court” and have “the judge say, ‘you didn’t do it right.’”

His bill crafted “a much better solution, and a much cleaner process, and a much more clear and understandable duty, and it moves at a much quicker pace,” Williams said of the proposal that also won approval.

Additionally, “it’s much quicker, like a few months,”

he said. “If you had all your signatures together and you knew what you were doing, you could do it in about 45 days.”

He explained that he carries “a lot of those like nuanced, legislative bills that are fixes, or they’re like large packages of bills that really play more in a state-wide arena because of my relationship with the Attorney General’s Office. They gave me a number of bills this year,” he said, adding he’s honored the office trusted him to carry some of its signature legislation.

Another bill he helped get passed was the bipartisan Parole Board Transparency Bill.

“We wanted to see more sunlight on the Parole Board, and so did the Democrats. We wanted to do it a little bit different, but ultimately, we were able to come to an agreement about what was best and that passed,” he said.

Williams said his impetus for proposals comes from a variety of sources -- representatives collect ideas, learn about problems, and needs throughout the district and the communities.

“Last year, we heard a tremendous amount of concern from all of our localities when it came to outdated and failing and crumbling water and sewer infrastructure,” Williams said. “We heard it from multiple localities, so we worked on putting together a study for opportunities for rural area public water and sewer system upgrades.”

If he’s elected in the Nov. election to serve the new 47th District, Williams said he looks forward to listening to the new district’s concerns and issues and then putting his experience as a successful legislator to work to find solutions.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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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

OBITUARIES

Eva Agee “Susie” Allen

Eva Agee “Susie” Allen, 77, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. She was born December 24, 1945 in Henry County, VA to the late Nina Lankford Agee and Jesse Agee. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Edna Lawrence; and brothers, Lewis Agee, Mack Agee, Jack Agee, Billy “Duck” Agee, Paul Agee, and Junior Agee.

Mrs. Allen was a member of Beckham United Methodist Church. She was an extraordinary and devoted woman in all she did, especially as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin Leslie Allen of the home; sons, Leslie Michael Allen (Tammy) of Axton, VA and Jamie Ryan Allen (Tonya) of Bassett, VA; grandchildren,



Dawson, Olivia, Colby, Logan, and Avery; brother, Jimmy Agee; sisters-in-law, Kathy Agee, Joyce Agee, Mae Agee, Bertha Agee, Sheree Washburn (C.A.); and brother-in-law, Gilbert Allen (Barbara). Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Rev. Dwayne Pruitt and Pastor Dean White officiating. Visitation was on March 10, 2023 at Norris Funeral Services and other times at the Agee Family Building on Lennox Dr., Axton, VA. Burial was at Agee Family Cemetery.

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

Elizabeth Ann Harris

Elizabeth Ann Harris, 78, of Fieldale, VA passed away Sunday, March 12, 2023 at her home. She was born September 13, 1944 in Eden, NC to the late Ora D. Roberts and Thomas Lewis Roberts. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Lee Harris and brother, Thomas Louie Roberts.

She is survived by her daughters, Penny Swinney (John), Pamela Akers (Tony), and Bonnie Patterson (Jeremiah); grandchildren, Christiana Campbell and Kayla Moran; and great-grandchildren, Aaron Campbell, Callie Moran, and Elizabeth Moran. She is also survived by her sister, Brenda Fulp



(Phillip) and brother, Gary Roberts (Deborah).

Mrs. Harris went to True Church of Jesus Christ where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday School. She worked for Hooker Furniture for 20 years and retired there as an inspector. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel, with Pastor Dwayne Fulp officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

Local Sorority Highlights Mentor Program

by Tara Lucas

The Martinsville City School Board on Monday heard from the local Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Its president, Brenell Thomas,

highlighted the activities within the community. The alumni chapter has partnered with city and county schools to provide books each year to local preschool students.

The organization has five programmatic thrusts

in the following areas: economic development, a focus on young entrepreneurs. DST recently relaunched the Dr. Betty L. Shabazz Delta Academy, a mentoring program aimed at young ladies in middle school ages 11-14 years old. The program current-

ly has 12 participants and is led by local educator. Dr. Paulette Simington.

“Our focus is on trying to help them to find strength within themselves to become the women they can be,” said Simington. Mentors meet with participants on the fourth Monday of each month.

The city school division recognized several students during the meeting, including Eastman Oratorical contest participant and runner-up, Ava Grant. Martinsville High School Indoor track team members Jordan Smith, Ronnie Jackson, Jahmal Jones, Rayshawn Dickerson (who did not attend), and Rickyah Mitchell-Hairston. Natalie Laprade also was recognized for her achievements in diving.

Applications for the Clearview Early Learning Center will be available on March 27. Sheila Williams said that the first applications will be given out to the current 3-year old students who will return to the program in the upcoming school year. Applications can be picked up at the school or downloaded from the MCPS website. The application contains a list of all documentation that needs to be submitted for enrollment consideration.

Pending budget approval, the program will have 36 slots available for 3-year olds, and 64 slots for 4-year olds. Current students must reapply to participate. Potential students must be 3 years old by September 30 to enroll.



Ava Grant is pictured with English teacher Lynn Deckel as well as other school officials and members of the Martinsville School Board.



Natalie Laprade is pictured with school officials that include coach Katarina Childress and members of the Martinsville School Board.



Members of the track team and Coach Lynwood Dodson are pictured with Martinsville School Board members.



Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are pictured with school officials and members of the Martinsville School Board. The chapter partners with city and county schools to provide books each year to local preschool students.



Brenell Thomas, chapter president of the Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



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Candidates make 2023 election bid

‘Unwavering commitment,’ Buchanan’s pledge when announcing re-election bid

Debra Parsons Buchanan has filed the necessary paperwork to seek re-election to the Henry County Board of Supervisors representing the Horsepasture District. She was first elected to the Board in 1996. Buchanan said that she is proud of the work and progress that has been done in the Horsepasture District and throughout the county. “It is a great honor and privilege to serve, and I have tried to do the best job possible in representing the Horsepasture District. I have always believed in listening & involving our citizens in moving our community forward. I have held regular Horsepasture District Community meetings for the last 28 years, updating our citizens on what’s going on in our district as well as in Henry County,” she said. “We listen to concerns, answer questions and try to find workable solutions for issues impacting our residents. “I challenged the status quo on reversion and helped lead the effort to provide relevant information on the negative economic impact to our county citizens. Buchanan has served as chairman of the Fieldale Housing Rehabilitation Board and the Smith River Small Town Collaboration Board. She has been a constant advocate for the Fieldale Recreation Center (Fieldale Y) receiving several grants. In 2022, Henry County obtained a \$500,000 ARC grant and a \$1 million grant from the Department of Housing and Community



Development for renovations to the center. “I continue to support necessary infrastructure improvements. They are critical to create jobs & grow our economy,” Buchanan said, and added that “Henry County worked to secure a \$958,960 grant to construct a pump station and sewer line in the Carver Road community to increase sewer system capacity. Water lines were extended along Preston Road from Pleasant Grove to Marigold Road and several of our side streets, including Eagle Lane and Pine Forest, were connected to PSA. “For the Horsepasture District to grow, we must meet the needs of potential businesses and provide public water and sewer service up the Route 58W corridor,” she said. “Extending water and sewer service in the Horsepasture District is a priority, and I will continue to push forward to meet the needs.” Noting that along with the county’s help, the PSA recently received \$6.2 million to replace all the water lines in Fieldale. Buchanan also said the Blue Ridge Airport Expansion “is exciting for the Horsepasture District and our entire region, and I continue to support their growth.” A champion of the Spencer Penn Centre, which Buchanan describes as “a shining light in our community,” she also continues to support the development of the Mayo River State Park. In 2022, Buchanan and other supervisor members dedicated & placed Bridge Memorials for our Fallen Police Officers; secured a \$33 million dollar grant for universal broadband coverage for our residents and businesses; purchased a 117-acre tract adjacent to the Smith River Sports Complex for the future Riverview Park additional outdoor recreation; supported significant salary increases step up for all licensed school staff and provided pay increases across the board for all county employees; sup-

See Buchanan, page 7

Cobler to seek Reed Creek District post

Pam Cobler announced that she will seek the Reed Creek District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors in the November election. Tommy Slaughter, incumbent, will not seek reelection. Slaughter said he is endorsing Cobler. Slaughter was among the supervisors to vote in support of the recent reversion efforts by the City of Martinsville. The city later nixed those efforts. “I am comfortable with the direction it’s going,” Cobler said. “I’m not looking to add additional tax burden that isn’t needed.” A self-described “strong, conservative woman,” Cobler said she has experience in education, business, government, and healthcare, after having “lived and worked in Henry County as an educator, entrepreneur, and public servant for many years.” Her goals include “working together with a group of people who may have different opinions but all working towards the same goals of making Henry County the best place to live,



work, and raise and support family,” Cobler wrote in a release, and added that “she knows she brings a different voice to the table that will support and add to all the economic, education, safety, and other accomplishments.”

Grindstaff to seek 7th term as Henry County Treasurer

Incumbent Henry County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff will seek a seventh term to the post, and has filed paperwork necessary to appear on the November 7 General Election ballot. “Serving the citizens of Henry County is an honor and a privilege, and not one I take lightly,” Grindstaff said. “When I first ran in 1999, my goal was to improve the office both in customer service and in safeguarding the monies with which this office is entrusted. I believe these goals have been achieved in each of my 24 years of service, and I look forward to keeping those policies alive for another term.” Grindstaff has had the designation as a Master Treasurer since 2002 and has modernized operations in the Treasurer’s Office throughout his tenure. These updates were accomplished in part because of his exten-

sive banking experience in the private sector before seeking office. “With my banking background, we were immediately able to maximize interest income on the funds collected by the county,” Grindstaff said. Grindstaff also implemented the convenience of alternative payment options, helping ease the burden of citizens having to come to the County Administration Building to pay their bills. “We have increased our online payments and over-the-phone payment options for our taxpayers,” Grindstaff said. “We have worked closely with those who struggled to pay on time and set up payment arrangements in accordance with the applicable laws.” Several other policies have been updated during Grindstaff’s tenure, including the conversion to the Motor Vehicle License fee (which eliminated the annual

See Grindstaff, page 7

Nester will seek reelection as Commonwealth’s Attorney

Incumbent Commonwealth’s Attorney, M. Andrew Nester, plans to seek reelection to the Chief Prosecutor’s post in the November 7 general election. Nester was appointed Commonwealth’s Attorney in July 2013, elected to the position in a special election held in November 2013. He has continuously been reelected to serve in this position in two prior general elections. Before becoming Commonwealth’s Attorney, Nester began his career with the office as an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney in 2005. He was promoted to Chief Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney in the spring of 2013.

Nester, 42, said he is proud of the many accomplishments his office has made since taking over as the chief prosecutor in 2013. “Our office has been successful in holding violent criminals and drug dealers responsible for their crimes by securing lengthy prison sentences for these individuals and thereby protecting our locality,” Nester said. “My office has also aggressively pursued defendants placed on good behavior (unsupervised probation) by the Courts and held them responsible for violating the terms of their good behavior. Furthermore, with the help of our Victim-Witness Office, we have actively pursued individuals who fail to pay court ordered restitution

to victims of crimes. These actions have resulted in activation of suspended jail and prison time and fines being imposed on defendants that may ordinarily slip through the system’s cracks,” Nester said. “If you commit crime in Henry County, you will be held responsible for your actions,” he added. Noting the continued efforts to punish drug offenders in the community by the work his office is doing through Civil Asset Forfeiture, Nester said that “since 2013, in conjunction with the Henry County Sheriff’s Office and the Virginia State Police, my office has assisted in seizing nearly one million dollars in cash. In addition to cash, the assets seized include over 50 automobiles, multiple parcels of real estate,

boats, tractors, utility trailers, multiple ATVs, and numerous electronics, just to name a few. “In addition to prison sentences and fines, I firmly believe this has a substantial deterrent effect to show those that sell or distribute drugs in our community that it is not a profitable venture and when we catch you, we will take the fruits of your enterprise,” Nester said, adding “the money and other revenue generated from the assets seized and forfeited are divided among my office and law enforcement agencies to assist in covering some of our operational costs. This is a direct savings to the taxpayers of our county.” His “excellent working relationship with the law enforcement community,” Nester said “is certainly one of the keys that allow my office to reach successful outcomes in many of the cases we handle. By being reelected as Commonwealth’s Attorney I intend to continue the development of these rela-



tionships as we work hand-in-hand to bring criminals to justice. I aspire to continue to work hard to obtain justice for victims of crimes in a fair and reasonable way.” Attorney. I want to continue to give back to this community by working hard to make it a safe place for all of us to live, work, worship and raise a family.” A Henry County native and lifelong resident, Nester and his wife, Christy, have two sons, River and Tyde. He is a graduate of the Bassett High School, Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department, hopes to continue his public service by Law. Nester is a member of the Rich Acres Christian Church where he also serves as an elder.

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Buchanan

from page 6

ported providing additional salary raises for our deputies, including compression raises, to better align their pay with years of service; supported additional funding for EMS training, supplies and equipment and supported upgrades to Jordan Creek Park.

The Commonwealth Crossing Business Center (CCBC) has consistently proven to be a great asset, Buchanan said. With the announcement of Press Glass (226 jobs), and the excitement of the largest capital investment in Henry County's history with the construction of Crown Holdings (126 jobs), "we are continuing to create a lot of excitement with this industrial park. Henry County received \$22.2 million to grade Lot 2 from 57 over 150 acres. Natural gas was extended to the park, making it a Tier 5 facility (the highest available).

"It will be the only site in Virginia over 100 acres with rail access and all utilities in place," she said. "We want to continue to diversify and grow our economy as we strive to attract more young people, families and businesses to our community."

In 1996, Buchanan started the "Coat Drive For Kids" in the Horsepasture District, which has now expanded throughout the county. Since its inception, more than 10,000 coats have been collected and distributed.

In 2000, she began the "Shoes For The Soul" initiative in the Horsepasture District. "Partnering with local churches, we reach out to provide new tennis shoes for children in need," Buchanan said, adding that she has been a member of the Horsepasture Ruritan Club for 28 years, currently, serves on the Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Workforce Investment boards.

"The next four years will be a pivotal period for Henry County," Buchanan said. "We have navigated the challenges

of the pandemic, using available resources and leveraging outside funds, all while keeping in mind the economic impact it will have on the people we represent.

"The good news is that more people are working now in Henry County than any time since 2003," Buchanan said. "I am proud to be a part of the accomplishments of Henry County, but there is more to do. My heart is in this community and I am working every day to help make" her district and the county as a whole "a better place to live and work."

Grindstaff

from page 6

car decals) and increasing the number of judicial sales to enhance collection rates.

"Our collection rates are constantly around 95% for Real Estate and Personal Property taxes," Grindstaff said, "The additional judicial sales allow us to get delinquent accounts paid more quickly and abandoned properties back on the tax rolls with new owners."

In addition to his local duties, Grindstaff is involved with the Treasurer's Association of Virginia. He has served on the Board of Directors for several years and most recently chaired the Education Committee.

He currently co-teaches the Customer Service class for deputy treasurers across the Commonwealth, and in 2021 was awarded the Commonwealth Award by his fellow treasurers in appreciation and recognition of years of service to the Treasurer's Association.

"I have tried every day of my tenure to treat others with respect, just as I want to be treated," Grindstaff said. "I promise I will take the same approach for the next four years."

Strayer tapped for role at The Harvest Foundation

Dr. Sandy Strayer was selected as the Harvest Foundation's the new health and education program officer. She will begin her role on July 3.

"We are thrilled to welcome Sandy to our team following a months-long national search for the right candidate," said Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation. "Sandy embraces the foundation's North Star of Hope and embodies the organizational values that drive our service to Martinsville-Henry County. Her leadership and expertise will support our mission to grow a stronger MHC where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Strayer said she is excited to begin her new role by listening to community members and getting to know different stakeholders throughout Martinsville-Henry County.

"Spending more than 30 years as an educator has taught me so much, but there are many other areas of the community I haven't gotten a chance to be involved in and would like to know more about," Strayer said. "I want to

shine a light on the great things happening in our community and encourage others to share that message."

Strayer currently serves as superintendent of Henry County Public Schools, headquartered in Collinsville, Va. She has nearly two decades of experience working with The Harvest Foundation as a grantee, engaged in professional development initiatives and other programs to grow K-12 education in Martinsville-Henry County. She announced her retirement in January, effective July 1, 2023.

"When I decided to retire from education, I knew I still wanted to support and enhance my community," Strayer said. "Taking on this role at Harvest seems like the perfect fit to move into this next chapter of my life. The possibilities for growing our community are endless."

DeWitt House, senior program officer for The Harvest Foundation, said Strayer is an incredible addition to the foundation, highlighting her relationship-building skills and working with community members.

"Working closely with Sandy throughout my years in education in Martinsville-Henry County afforded me the

opportunity to experience her compassion and true love for this community," said House. "Sandy is a community connector — her ability to develop and foster collaborative relationships will directly impact positive growth and transformation for MHC. We welcome Sandy to our team and look forward to a bright future ahead for our community."

Diversifying funding models and exploring innovative ways to amplify community impact led the foundation to expand its team. Sheryl Agee, senior operating officer at Harvest, said Strayer's addition allows the foundation to continue its growth trajectory.

"Sandy's extensive background in education gives her a unique insight into the diverse needs of families in Martinsville-Henry County and challenges they may be facing," Agee said. "Her experience will complement the foundation's work in building strong support systems for care that ultimately lead to a community where everyone can envision a hopeful future for themselves and their families."

As the health and education program officer at Harvest, Strayer will focus on identifying community needs in health and education while facilitat-



ing collaboration among regional stakeholders to support programming in Martinsville-Henry County.

Strayer's professional career began in Henry County Public Schools as a secondary teacher at Bassett High School in 1992. She's held a number of positions throughout the school system, including principalships, director of K-12 instruction, and assistant superintendent. She received her undergraduate degree and doctorate from Radford University and her master's degree from George Mason University, with other degrees and endorsements from Longwood University and the University of Virginia.

Strayer and her husband, Seth, enjoy spending quality time with family and playing with their dog, Cheese.

Congressional staff to visit communities

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available at the following locations on March 22:

* Henry County from 10–11:30 a.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building, located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

* Patrick County from 12:30 – 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, located at 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting

constituents at risk. If a locality's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Board Meeting Room on the first floor of the Henry County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on a proposed amendment to the Henry County Code of Ordinances regarding dog licenses.

A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the County Administrator's Office in the Henry County Administration Building, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Dale Wagoner
County Administrator

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **March 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case.

Case S-23-05 Stephen Hayes

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the use of the property as an event center with a potential dance hall permit. The property is located at 5780 Figsboro Rd, in the Reed Creek District and shown on Tax Map 7.9/34,35,30B. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1.

The application for this request may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Notice of Public Meeting

A public input meeting will be held on March 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, for those parties in interest to the following:

The City of Martinsville has partnered with a consultant team from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business on a project to assess the state of affordable financing options for its citizens and businesses. The UVA team wishes to hear directly from the public regarding the impact that access (or lack thereof) to affordable financing options has made on their investment and purchasing decisions.

The desired outcome of this project is to recommend options that the city and its organizational partners can pursue to expand financial access and boost economic activity in Martinsville. The team hopes to present the results of this project at a city council meeting in April.

If you are unable to attend the public meeting but would like to provide input, please complete a 4-minute survey here:
https://tinyurl/MartinsvilleFinancing

Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us

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Reading celebration continues in city schools

Carter Bank & Trust CEO Litz Van Dyke read to students on March 9 at Patrick Henry Elementary School (PHES) as part of the school's Virginia Reads One Book celebration.

Van Dyke read two chapters of the book J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard. That same book is currently being read by elementary students across the state in other schools participating in the program.

PHES' participation in Virginia Reads One Book

is sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, which provided copies of the book to every student at the school and even donated a barber chair for students to sit in for some quiet reading time. Several other Carter Bank employees have been visiting individual classes to read chapters of the book to students as well.

"It was a pleasure to have Carter Bank & Trust President Litz Van Dyke read to students today at Patrick Henry," said PHES Principal Cameron Cooper. "The students were definitely engaged

during his read-aloud times and our fifth graders thanked him for the contribution made by CB&T to fund a copy of the book for each student. It was even more fun to have him read to students in the barber chair donated by Carter Bank for the two weeks we are reading this book!"

Virginia Reads One Book is a States Read One Book program of Read to Them, a Virginia-based nonprofit promoting family literacy. For more information, visit www.readtothem.org.



Carter Bank & Trust CEO Litz Van Dyke reads to PHES Kindergarten students.



Carter Bank and Trust CEO Litz Van Dyke with Rebekah Gentry's fifth-grade class.



Patrick & Henry Community College receives \$16,000 donation

ValleyStar Credit Union donated \$16,000 to Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) to support school programs and double the number of ValleyStar scholarships offered to students each year. ValleyStar Credit Union is dedicated to P&HCC's goal of providing a quality education for students. As a result, ValleyStar presented two checks during a surprise presentation to Tiffani Underwood, the executive director of the P&HCC Foundation and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

The donation affords \$10,000 to P&HCC's motorsports program for the next three years and \$6,000 for the business program.

"ValleyStar is interested in the success of P&HCC's students and

helping them achieve a journey of lifelong learning," said Kevin Laine, executive vice president at ValleyStar. "These students are a great asset to our communities, and investing in their education is money well spent. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with P&HCC."

"We were shocked and thrilled with the surprise donation from ValleyStar Credit Union," said Underwood. "ValleyStar has been a valuable partner to P&HCC for over thirty years, and we couldn't be more honored that they chose to increase their investment in our students, our college and our community."

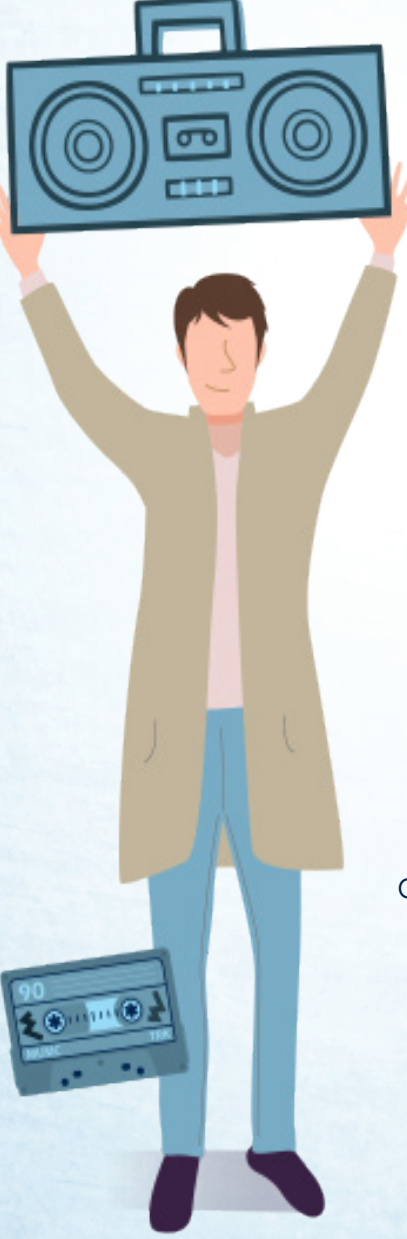
ValleyStar scholarship recipients are called ValleyStar Scholars. The \$1,500 scholarships are

awarded to students with financial needs studying business and/or accounting. The \$6,000 donation increased the yearly number of ValleyStar Scholars from two to four.

In addition to the ValleyStar Scholars program, a donation was made to help support the motorsports program, which allows the program to race its late-model car in local races at Martinsville Speedway while continuing to provide hands-on training opportunities for students. The \$10,000 motorsports program donation will be made annually through 2025.

ValleyStar is a full-service financial institution that is headquartered in Martinsville. For more information, visit valleystar.org.

Hey, 80s kid. Get to know your colon health!



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- You've experienced a persistent abdominal discomfort or change in your bowel habits
- A family member has experienced colon cancer or polyps in the past

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