

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, March 25, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Planning Commission approves rezoning requests

by Tara Lucas

The Henry County Planning Commission recently conducted public hearings on rezoning requests submitted by two county residents.

William W. Hitt of Colorado plans to acquire property located on the south side of Ward Road, between the addresses of 178 and 400 Ward Road, in the Iriswood District of Henry County. Hitt submitted a request to rezone 8.1 acres of the property from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. He plans to build a home on the property as well as a steel building to house animals, specifically horses and sheep. Hitt's son, Justin Hitt, spoke on his behalf at the hearing.

"They are not intending to have a commercial farm, it's more of a homestead, a retire-

ment property," Justin Hitt said. The proposed home on the property is expected to be around 1,000-square-feet, with a larger structure being built to house the animals and necessary equipment. Residential zoning prevents homeowners from building any accessory buildings that are larger than 50 percent of the total square feet of the home on the property.

Other residents on Ward Road are concerned about the gas line on the property. Neighboring resident Kenneth Hewitt discussed his concern.

"There is a risk that could be caused by future development on this property," Hewitt said. He was also concerned that rezoning properties could cause other rezoning requests which, in turn, could affect living conditions in the area.



Justin Hitt

Other neighbors agreed to allow the issue to be reviewed by the Henry County Board of Supervisors at its March 28 meeting.

See **Planning**, page 6

Millner hopes exhibit serves as a catalyst for change

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

The Rev. Tyler Millner is hoping a celebratory exhibit in his church will serve as a springboard and change the way Black history is taught.

"We need to expand our celebration of Black history and transition it to Black History Education," said Millner, pastor of Morning Star Holy Church, which houses the "Together" exhibit/display through March.

The multi-faceted exhibit is a salute to Black History Month (February), the 2023

King Holiday, and Women's History Month-March, as well as to promote the idea of Black History Education.

It includes the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday/Community Learning Week, which is the national model for celebrating the King Holiday; the United Holy Church of America, Inc./Virginia Convocation, which is the oldest Black Pentecostal body in the US; Black History/Civil Rights; Classic Photos/Images, and this year, Women's History Month.

"We decided to keep the exhibit going through March, so we expanded



The Rev. Tyler Millner shows some of the memorabilia in an exhibit/display celebrating Black History and titled "Together."

it," Millner said. Part of that expansion includes information

about "the black press,

See **Millner**, page 7

GOP officials attend meeting in Henry County



State Sen. Bill Stanley

State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, along with Dels. Les Adams, R-Chatham, and Wren Williams, R-Stuart, attended a meeting Tuesday in Henry County.

Stanley discussed efforts to ensure parental involvement in education.

Adams discussed transportation as it relates to

Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre in Henry County and the Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill in Pittsylvania County. He also noted that all of the bills he proposed during the most recent session of the General Assembly were approved.

Williams discussed his proposals which were approved by the General Assembly.



Del. Les Adams



Del. Wren Williams

PHOTOS BY RAY REYNOLDS

harvest
Youth Board

Books & Bunnies

MARCH 25, 2023
RAINDATE: APRIL 1ST, 2023
11AM - 2PM

SMITH RIVER SPORTS COMPLEX
AMPHITHEATER
1000 IRISBURG ROAD, AXTON, VA

Easter Egg Hunt
Crafts
Interactive Activities
Food Trucks
& Books!

The second annual Books & Bunnies event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at the Smith River Sports Complex Amphitheater.

Books & Bunnies hopes to boost child literacy

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The second annual Books & Bunnies event is set for Saturday, March 25.

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex Amphitheater. The rain date will be April 1 at the same time.

Started by the Harvest Youth Board, Stacy Peters, the Harvest Foundation grants administrator, said the

free event focuses on literacy within the community.

"After doing some research," the youth board "saw where the literacy rates were a little lower after COVID, and they learned a whole lot about if a child is behind by the age of third grade in reading that they may struggle with reading pretty much for the rest of their life.

"So, they really wanted to take an initiative and do something for the children

See **Books**, page 4

Public hearings slated for March 28 meeting

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will meet at 3 and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, in the Summerlin Room of the Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road. Several public hearings will be held during its 6 p.m. meeting.

A public hearing on a proposed Amendment to the Henry County Code of Ordinances regarding Dog Licenses is among those scheduled. The change, requested by Treasurer Scott Grindstaff, is for the board to consider offering lifetime dog tags for \$20 per dog.

Currently, dog tags cost \$5 per year for fertile (unaltered) dogs or \$15 for three years. The cost for unsexed dogs is \$3 per year or a total of \$9 for three years.

Following the public hearing, county staff recommends the board approve the amendment.

Also, at their 6 p.m. meeting, supervisors will:

*Hold a public hearing on a rezoning application by William W. Hitt for property located on the south side of Ward Road, between the addresses of 178 and

400 Ward Road, in the Iriswood District.

Witt is requesting the rezoning of 8.1 acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1, with plans to build a home on the property and use the land for agricultural purposes, including the keeping of animals. Both the Planning Commission and county staff recommend that the rezoning request be approved after the hearing.

*Hold a public hearing on a rezoning application for Everything Outdoors, LLC/Travis Crouch, on property located in the southwest corner of the intersection of Virginia Ave. and Camilla Dr., in the Reed Creek District. Crouch is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1 acre from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1, with plans to con-

See **Hearings**, page 2

VISIT

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FOR MORE UPDATES



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

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.

Blue Ridge Regional Library presents "Look & Learn Makeup Master Class," 2:30 to 4 p.m. Angel Moyer, professional makeup artist and owner of Angel Face Beauty Co., teaches you the tips, tricks, and techniques for applying simple, natural makeup that makes you feel beautiful in your own skin. Attendees will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a makeup goody gift bag. This class is for adults ages 18 & up. Registration is required due to limited space. For more details and registration call (276) 403-5430.

Sunday, March 26

TheatreWorks Community Players will hold a Volunteer Open House from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Blackbox Theatre 44 Franklin St, Martinsville, VA 24112. Attend to learn about opportunities to volunteer with Theatreworks Community Players. Contact info@twcp.net.

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.

Saturday, April 1

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.

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.

Friday, April 14

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.

ONGOING

"Together" exhibit, open Sundays noon to 3 p.m. at Morning Star Holy Church, 2839 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Sunday Group Ride, Mountain Laurel Trails, 361 Mountain Laurel Trail, Ridgeway, 2 p.m. on Sundays. 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. These trails were specifically designed to appeal to all skill levels, beginner to advanced. It remains a work-in-progress, with signage, maps, parking lot facilities (outhouse/information board), along with optional technical trail features like skinnys and rock gardens that are in the planning. 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.

Hearings

from page 1

struct a billboard on the property. This particular use would also require the issuance of a Special Use Permit by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Following the hearing, both the

Planning Commission and county staff recommend approval of the rezoning request.

*Hold a public hearing on a second rezoning application from Everything Outdoors,

LLC/Travis Crouch on property that is located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Camilla and Thornwood drives, in the Reed Creek District. The applicant

is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5 acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1, with plans to build a large storage shelter on the property. After

the hearing, both the Planning Commission and county staff recommend approval of the rezoning request.

* Hear a report on general highway matters from Lisa Price Hughes, resident engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

*Hear a presentation from Henry County Parks and Recreation staff who will recognize the winning teams of the winter sports programs.

At its 3 p.m. meeting, the board will:

*Hear a monthly report on Delinquent Tax Collection Efforts. Grindstaff noted in board documents that

as of February 28, 2023, the county has collected 94.86 percent of 2021 personal property taxes, including a monthly total of \$42,545.44. In the same timeframe, the county has collected 91.45 percent of 2022 Real Estate taxes, including \$261,088.27 in the month.


*Hear a monthly update from Mark Heath, president/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

*Consider a proclamation recognizing

National Library Week.

*Consider an additional appropriation of \$665,000 in grant funds received from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) to develop and build phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Trail. At its February meeting, the board approved an additional appropriation of \$641,700 received from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant received for the same portion of the trail. Combined, this funding will provide 2.9 miles of trail passage, connecting the trail currently ending at Mulberry Creek to the trailhead on Spruce Street, which leads onto the Smith River Sports Complex. Once completed, the entire Dick and Willie Trail will be approximately 11 miles.

*Consider meeting in closed session to discuss appointees to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Henry Martinsville Social Services Board, and Patrick & Henry Community College Board; pending legal matters; the acquisition/disposal of real estate and to discuss as-yet unannounced industries.

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Historical Society to kick off “Sounds in the Square”

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will kick off “Sounds on the Square,” the 2023 Uptown First Friday Series, on Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse with “The League of Ordinary Gentlemen.” Admission is free. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers (\$5/16oz cup), and food will be for sale.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Invite your friends and family for an evening of fun and entertainment. Especially welcome are guests visiting for the Easter weekend. “The League of Ordinary Gentlemen” will play your favorite hits from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, 10s, and today, along with a few originals. The extraordinary cover band received the “Readers’ Choice for Favorite Band Award” from the Danville Register & Bee

in 2021 and 2022 and a “RAVE Award” from the Showcase Magazine in 2022. One fan recently stated, “What an awesome band! Super talented group of guys. We sang along to everything from Eminem to Smashmouth to the Stones. Everyone seemed to really enjoy their music and funny, yet chill vibe. Highly recommend!” “Sounds on the Square” is sponsored by the Martinsville-Henry

County Historical Society and its partners – Carter Bank & Trust, Children’s First Pediatrics, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, and Sarver Cleaning Services. The full 2023 Sounds on the Square season includes April 7 – “Opening Night” with The League of Ordinary Gentlemen; May 5 – “Open Mic” with Above the Fray; June 2 – “Welcome to Summer” with Forrest

Taylor; July 7 – “Red, White, & Brew” with the Elena Flores Duo; August 4 – “Courthouse Karaoke” with BJ’s Karaoke; September 2 – “Courthouse Crawling” with Sue Ann Ehmann; and October 6 – “Harvest Moon Ball” with the Tate Tuck Trio. John Phillips, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, said, “Sounds on the Square revives the historical significance of courthouses serving as

places to gather socially. The Historical Society proudly offers this community outreach series free of charge to the public as a means of sharing a local landmark, the Historic Henry County Courthouse, while bringing together friends and neighbors from near and far. The Historic Center & Museum will also be open during the event.” Followtheeventat <https://www.facebook.com/events/225332476619631>.



“The League of Ordinary Gentlemen” will perform at the kick off of the First Friday Series. The show is set for Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Friday, April 7, 2023, 7:00-10:00 P.M.
Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse
1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia
Free Admission • Food & Beverages Available • Bring a Lawn Chair
All Ages Welcome • Full series schedule will be announced

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Winners of 8th annual Black History Month Art Contest announced

Martinsville Mayor L.C. Jones joined UScellular to announce the winners of its 8th annual Black History Month Art Contest with The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge. The event was held at the New College Institute, Macy Martin Lecture Hall, located at 191 Fayette Street in Martinsville on March 15. Families, friends, winners, UScellular associates, Boys & Girls club staff and Martinsville City Council members Kathy Lawson and Tammy Pearson

attended the celebration. Public voting for the finalists’ art was available online, and the winning artists were awarded gift cards in the following amounts: Bentley Williamson, 10, received \$250 for 1st Place for a portrait of Jackie Robinson. Josh Stockton, 12, received \$150 for 2nd Place for a portrait of MLK Jr. Rania Womack, 9, received \$100 for 3rd Place for a portrait of Katherine Johnson.

In recognition of influential Black STEM icons, Boys & Girls Club members were encouraged to create original pieces of artwork of important historical figures, world leaders, scientists and educators who have made vital contributions to the world of STEM. Ten finalists were chosen by representatives from the Boys & Girls Club and local UScellular leaders based on creativity, quality, interpretation, clarity of theme and overall impression. Public voting for the finalists was made available online throughout the month of February. In addition, the finalists’ artwork was digitally displayed in UScellular retail location at 820 Commonwealth Blvd. “We really enjoy working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge to celebrate Black History Month and

to highlight the achievements of Black icons,” said Leslie Martin, Martinsville store manager for UScellular. “Congratulations to the participants and winners in this year’s contest.” Additionally, through its After School Access Project, in 2022, eight Virginia non-profits received a combined \$1.3 million worth of hot spots and service to help youth connect to the Internet. Part of this donation went to the Boys & Girls Clubs of The Blue Ridge who received 225 hotspots and service for 2 years valued at \$253,350. UScellular has pledged up to \$13 million in hotspots and service to help up to 50,000 youth connect to reliable internet in its markets across the nation. For more information about UScellular’s corporate social responsibility initiatives, please go to <https://newsroom.uscellular.com/community/>.



Pictured (left to right) are Leslie Martin of UScellular,; 1st Place Winner Bentley Williamson, 3rd Place Winner Rania Womack, 2nd Place Winner Josh Stockton and back row Martinsville Mayor L.C. Jones and Joanie Petty from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who regrets
- 5. Time zone
- 8. Subway dweller
- 11. Bend in a river
- 13. Alias
- 14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 15. Very (music)
- 16. Zero
- 17. Phil __, former CIA
- 18. Competitions
- 20. Unwell
- 21. Puts in place
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Allows light to pass through
- 30. Climbed quickly
- 31. We all have it
- 32. There's a North & South
- 33. Emaciation
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Very dark colors
- 43. Unwanted
- 45. Grants
- 48. Three visited Jesus
- 49. Wife of Amun
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. I (German)
- 57. French opera composer
- 59. Six (Spanish)
- 60. Last letter
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. A curved shape
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. Tall plant
- 5. Cassava
- 6. Talented
- 7. Capital of Estonia
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. In a way, assists
- 10. Men's fashion accessories
- 12. Misery
- 14. Skin disorder
- 19. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 23. Good friend
- 24. Stationary portion of a generator
- 25. Expression of disappointment
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Where birds fly
- 28. Midway between north and northeast
- 29. Chaotic states
- 34. Comedic actress Gasteroy
- 35. Kids' dining accessory
- 36. Snake-like fish
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Assign lifelike qualities to
- 40. One who cites
- 41. Midway between east and southeast
- 42. North wind
- 44. One or the other
- 45. Cavalry sword
- 46. Of the Hungarian language
- 47. Life stories
- 48. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. French cleric
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Free from

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Computer memory
- 2. "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)
- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. College army

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

OPINION

History, Florida-style

Last year, Florida Gov. Ron “The Form of the Destructor” DeSantis signed legislation prohibiting any school instruction that could make students feel responsibility, guilt, or anguish for what other members of their race did in the past.

As a result, a report recently surfaced that textbook publisher Studies Weekly, in an attempt to adhere to the law, drafted a textbook that told the story of Rosa Parks without ever mentioning her race, which many would consider an integral piece of context.

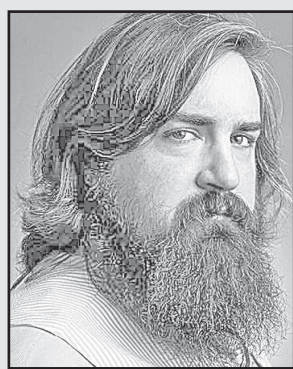
While the Florida Department of Education informed Studies Weekly that they had perhaps taken a step too far in sanitizing their history lessons, one can easily understand why the publisher chose to play it safe. Considering that Florida Republicans just introduced legislation that would ban Florida colleges and universities from running programs

that promote diversity and inclusion, it seems Florida isn't too keen on the fact that other races keep having the audacity to exist.

However, we're not out of the woods yet. While visiting Florida recently, I decided to visit the birthplace of Gov. Ron DeSantis. Once I arrived at the landfill, I stumbled across a discarded textbook proof. Titled “History for Floridians: From Our Constantly Changing Past to Our Unavoidable Future,” this volume offered up some very interesting interpretations of our nation's recent history. I will share a few choice excerpts:

ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As a child, Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed of growing up to give famous speeches that would have pull quotes suitable for posters and desktop page-a-day calendars. His most famous speech was about a dream he had once. In that speech, he



By Ben R. Williams

said the following:

“I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its ... governor ... right down in Alabama ... little ... boys and ... girls will be able to join hands with little ... boys and ... girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.”

Dr. King went on to say that he hoped to one day hear freedom ring!

“When we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children ... Protestants

... will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old ... (song): Free at last.”

It was an amazing speech. Tragically, Dr. King would die just a few years later somehow.

ON ROSA PARKS

One day, Rosa Parks was on a bus when the bus driver asked her to move so another person could sit in her seat. She refused. Today, we look back on Rosa Parks as a hero to people who enjoy sitting.

ON THE KU KLUX KLAN

A peaceful group of equestrian bedsheet enthusiasts, the flowing robes of the Ku Klux Klan may look like dresses, but they're different because a man wearing a dress is a sin. Members of the KKK often build lowercase t's, which is shorthand for the word “tolerance.” They set these lowercase t's on fire to better draw attention to them.

ON HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman was a famous train conductor.

Yeah, that's the ticket.

ON GEORGE WALLACE

George Wallace is a very funny comedian. We are unaware of anyone else named George Wallace, and we will remain unaware of any other George Wallace now, tomorrow, and forever.

ON RUBY BRIDGES

On Nov. 14, 1960, a little girl named Ruby Bridges went to school. That's pretty much it.

ON BIRMINGHAM

In Birmingham, Alabama in the spring of 1963, a bunch of people decided it was nice weather for a pleasant stroll. The Birmingham Police Department decided it was a little warm out, so they playfully sprayed the folks with hoses to help cool them down. The police also let them play with some dogs. What a wonderful time they all had!

ON MALCOLM X

Malcolm X was... uh ...HEY, LOOK OVER THERE!

Books

from page 1

in this area,” she said.

There will be an Easter egg hunt, crafts, interactive games, food trucks, and books at the event.

“Every child that comes will get at least one book,” she said.

Peters said children will receive books appropriate for their age groups.

“Some of the books last year were donated by Smart Beginnings. The

Harvest Youth Board purchased a large number of books as well to be given out,” she said.

Peters estimates between 500-700 children attended last year's event.

For last year's Easter egg hunt, Peters said more than 20,000 eggs were hidden.

“This year they actually ordered a few more. I think it's 22,000,” she

said.

There will also be two egg hunts this year at two different times.

“Because at that time of year, there's a lot of other activities going on and we didn't want anyone to miss it, so we put up two different time frames,” she said.

Board member Cristiano Di Maro said being able to see hundreds

of kids at last year's event get full baskets of Easter eggs and being able to take a book home was fulfilling.

“This year, I'm so excited to be putting on the event again. I am looking forward to seeing an even bigger turnout and even more books being put in the hands of kids in our community,” he said.

Thomas named president of M-HC Chamber



The Martinsville – Henry County Chamber of Commerce, a membership based association whose mission is to promote and protect the interests of the business community, welcomes Brenell Thomas as the President. Thomas will also serve as the Executive Director of the Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG). Thomas is the former Coordinator of Training and Professional Development at Patrick & Henry Community College and brings 21 years of valuable experience in workforce development, training, and professional development that will contribute to the success in her new role as President.

“The search committee was very impressed with Brenell's commitment to the Martinsville Henry County community over the years, her strong connections to many of our local businesses and her leadership training expertise. We believe she can work well with our staff, our membership, and the community at large, and she'll be a great asset in this role,” said Anne Smith, chamber board chairman.

While at P&HCC, Thomas was awarded the 2017 Virginia Community College System's Chancellor's Award, a 2011 Community Education Recognition Award, 2010 VCCA Staff Showcase Award, and she has completed the Leadership M-HC program of the Chamber of Commerce. She has also served on and held offices with many boards in the M-HC community including the Chamber and its Education Foundation, ensuring a better place for all to live.

The M-HC Chamber of Commerce and C-PEG began the search for a new president and executive director following former President Lisa Watkins' resignation. Thomas will start April 3.

“I am grateful for the confidence the Board has placed

2023 Congressional Art Competition gets underway

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith announced the beginning of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition in the Ninth District.

“Each year, the U.S. House of Representatives sponsors the Congressional Art Competition for high school students. It's a great opportunity to see the artistic talents of Southwest Virginia students, one of whom will have his or her work selected for display in the Capitol,” Griffith, R-Salem said.

“Last year, Maria Wilson of Virginia High School won the Congressional Art Competition in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. Her artwork is entitled ‘Highlands Sunset.’

“The theme for this year's contest is ‘Discovering Virginia's Beautiful Ninth District.’ I look forward to seeing how the young artists of the Ninth will use their talents in exploration of this theme,” he added.

Interested students must submit a photograph of their original artwork to either the Christiansburg or Abingdon district office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 21 for consideration. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed student information release form, which is available by contacting a Ninth District office or visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

The winning artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol complex for one year. In addition, the second and third place selections will be on display in one of the Ninth District offices.

To read the complete listing of rules and guidelines or download the Student Release Form for the Congressional Art Competition, please visit www.morgangriffith.house.gov. Faculty or students with any additional questions about the competition may contact Josh Hess at (540) 381-5671 or by email at josh.hess@mail.house.gov.

in my ability to lead C-PEG and the Chamber, an organization with a strong legacy of serving Martinsville and Henry County for almost 65 years,” said Brenell Thomas. “I hope to transfer my passion for workforce development into a positive energy that helps our community!”

Thomas received her Bachelor of Arts from University of Virginia and is currently working on her master's degree from Radford University. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Kennett selected new EPC member

Danielle Kennett, ValleyStar Credit Union's collections manager, was selected to be a member of the Virginia Credit Union League's (VACUL) Emerging Professionals Committee, which consists of 12 credit union professionals from across Virginia who strive to connect, empower and engage emerging professionals in the credit union industry.

“I'm honored to have been chosen,” Kennett said. “I have worked persistently over the last year to obtain my EMERGE Certification, which has helped me gain a deeper understanding of the credit union industry

and build foundational knowledge related to leadership and communication.”

Kennett was notified of her selection at the GAC in Washington, D.C. Kennett's new role will allow her to share her talent, skills and experiences with other professionals in the industry while bringing in new information that will help ValleyStar be the best in service and convenience.

Headquartered in Martinsville, Virginia, ValleyStar operates digital banking services and six physical branch locations. For more information, visit valleystar.org.



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HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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Give us your view:

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

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



Candies and other sweet treats are available at Sweet Heaven, Inc., located at 2 E. Church Street.

Sweet Heaven opens in Uptown Martinsville



PHOTOS BY TARA LUCAS

Sweet Heaven owners Joe and Shalita Armstrong, with their son Tristan, along with Martinsville Mayor LC Jones and officials from the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce cut a ribbon at the eatery's new Uptown location.

Sweet Heaven, Inc., has opened in its new home, located at 2 E. Church Street in Uptown Martinsville.

Owned by Joe and Shalita Armstrong, the business first opened in 2021, and recently moved to the current location.

Sweet Heaven offers a variety of treats including over 18

different flavors of Hershey's ice cream, a variety of vintage candies, truffles, and candied fruits provided by Shelby's Sweets and Treats.

Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with some Sunday operations, which will be announced via social media.



Adult day care benefits from Bassett Kiwanis



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently donated \$500 to the Edwards Adult Daycare Center to help with expenses at the center and to help provide activities to their clients. Pictured are Bassett Kiwanis Club President Stuart Warren (left), presenting the check to Patsy Dillard (right), director of the Edwards Adult Daycare Center.

Kiwanis help learning center



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently donated \$350 to the Little Angels Early Learning Center in Bassett. The funds will be used to help with operating expenses and activities. Pictured are Stuart Warren (left) president of the Kiwanis Club of Bassett, Jenna Adams (center) of Little Angels, and April Farmer (right), Lt. Governor of the Capital District of Kiwanis International.

Farm Market Fresh Program for Seniors to begin accepting applications on April 3

The Southern Area Agency on Aging will accept applications for Farm Market Fresh Program, also known as the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, beginning April 3 and continuing as long as the supply lasts.

Eligible seniors may receive \$50 worth of checks that can be used to purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at participating farmers' markets. The number of people who can

participate is limited. Beginning on Monday, April 3, the SAAA will take applications over the phone and in person. The agency will continue to accept applications throughout the following weeks while the supply of \$50 booklets lasts.

You may qualify if:
*you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before June 1, 2023, and
*you are a resi-

dent of Danville City, Martinsville City, Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County or Pittsylvania County, and

*you do not live with and are not an immediate family member of the farmer who grows the produce, and

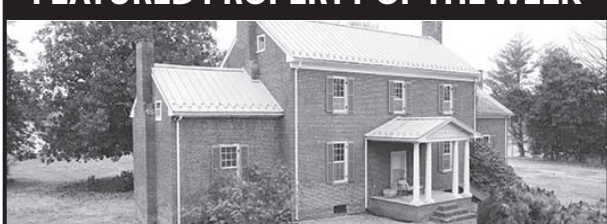
*you have a gross monthly household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program.

The income limit for this program has changed. Individuals who were not eligible in the past may be eligible now, so all are encouraged to apply.

Individuals and couples who wish to apply for checks must contact the SAAA at (276) 632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571.

Applicants must be prepared to certify total gross household income information when applying over the phone or in person on the date of application and while enrolled in the program.

FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Bassett, VA - Open House - April 15th at 11 AM

Beautiful Historic Colonial home built in 1837. Lots of original character! Features 4 BR, 1.5 BA & 4 non-conforming bedrooms. Over 2,850 sq ft of living space, not including the 2 bonus rooms on the 3rd floor. The Travelers room could make for a nice Mother-In-Law Suite. There are so many small details in the home, all the way down to the beautiful trim and chair railing. Home has propane heating and 3 original fireplaces. Located on a nice 9.27 acre lot. Includes an outbuilding and public water & sewer. \$525,000



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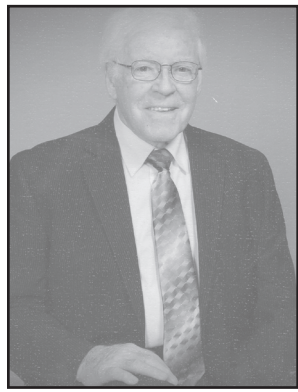
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OBITUARIES

Arthur Lee “Papa Lee” Hylton



Arthur Lee “Papa Lee” Hylton, 89, of Bassett, Va., went to his eternal home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on March 16, 2023. He was born in Stuart, Va., to the late George Cabell Hylton and Callie Rakes Hylton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Susanna Hylton; and two brothers, William Howard Hylton, and Harvey Ray Hylton.

Mr. Hylton was a longtime member of Rich Acres Baptist Church and loved nothing more than witnessing to people and leading them to the Lord. He retired from Stanley Furniture at age 60.

He is survived by his two daughters, Katherine (Kathy) Hylton Sharpe, and Carol Hylton Hancock and husband Ken, all of Bassett; two grandsons, Travis Hancock and wife Laura of Newport News, and Jordan Hancock of Fredericksburg, great-grand-daughter, Leah, of Newport

News; stepson, Johnnie Puckett of Stuart; brother, George “G.C.” Cabell Hylton and wife Margaret, of Stuart; and his four sisters, Gay Nell Floyd of Stuart, and Estelle Rakes, Virginia Sheppard, and Redith Shough and husband David, all of Patrick Springs; as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on March 20, Monday evening at Bassett Funeral Service chapel, and at other times at the home.

The funeral was at Bassett Funeral Service Chapel on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, with Pastor Gary Hughes officiating. Burial was in the Old Center Church Cemetery, with military rites by the Martinsville Henry County Honor Guard.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bassettfuneralservice.com.

Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Hylton family.

Cybersecurity Event to be Hosted by NCI, others

The New College Institute (NCI), in partnership with Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE), and Virginia Department of Education’s K-12 IT Advisory, will host a cybersecurity experiential planning event titled “Incident Response is a Team Sport.” The event is set to take place on March 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at NCI in Martinsville.

The event is targeted at K-12 leadership including IT professionals, cybersecurity experts, and educators interested in learning more about and planning for incident response and management. The event will feature presentations from experts in the field including Dr. Tara Natrass from

Dell Technologies, Dr. David Raymond from Virginia Tech Cyber Range, Philip Harmon from Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Roanoke, VA, and Sergio Orellana of BinaryLab. Topics such as threat intelligence, incident response planning, and best practices for managing cyber incidents will be addressed. The objective for the day is for schools to leave with a draft of an Incident Response Plan (IRP) if they do not already have one, or to enhance the one they already have as a result of interacting with cybersecurity and legal experts during the day.

“We are thrilled to host this event and bring together experts in the field to share their insights and expe-

riences with our attendees,” said Dr. Susheela Shanta, Coordinator of K-12 Programs & Institutional Data for NCI. “Cybersecurity threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated and widespread, and it’s more important than ever for K-12 educational institutions to have a robust incident response plan in place. Our event will provide attendees with valuable knowledge and skills to help them better manage cybersecurity incidents and protect their organizations from potential threats.”

To register for the event and view the full agenda, please visit the NCI website at <https://newcollegeinstitute.org/event/incident-response-is-a-team-sport-vste-nci-event/>.

Nursing students collect personal care items

Ferrum College Senior Nursing students identified a need within the Franklin County Public Schools not covered in the school budget – personal care items for students.

With faculty approval and support, the nursing students launched a personal care item drive to collect items for Franklin County students Wednesday, March 1, 2023, through Monday, April 3, 2023.

Items needed include bandages, body wash, combs, cotton balls, cotton tip applicators, dental floss, deodorant, hair shampoo & conditioner, hairbrushes, lotion, menstrual products, mouthwash, ponytail holders, soap, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear.

Items may be dropped off in collection boxes located at:

- Carter Bank & Trust – Boones Mill
- Carter Bank & Trust – Ferrum
- Carter Bank & Trust – Rocky Mount
- Carter Bank & Trust – Westlake
- Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital – Main Lobby
- Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital – Medical Office Building
- Ferrum College – Division of Nursing, Vaughn Chapel
- Ferrum College – Franklin Hall
- Tri-Area Community Health at Ferrum

All items will be presented to Franklin County Schools at the regular monthly meeting of the Franklin County Public Schools Board Meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The drive is conducted by senior nursing students Kavion Hayes, Jenna Lambert, Autumn Overfelt, Caitlyn Reaves, Kaetlyn Sluss, and Skyler Swaney under

the direction of Assistant Professor John Phillips.

Phillips said, “We are so proud of these students for initiating and executing action on an identified need. These seniors truly demonstrate the Ferrum College motto ‘Not Self, But Others’ and will represent Ferrum College Nursing extremely well as alumni just as they have as students. We are grateful to Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital, Carter Bank & Trust, and Tri-Area

Health Clinic for partnering with our students on this community outreach project.”

Dr. Mirra Martin, president of Ferrum College, said “Each day I see a new example of how our students and alumni are active in their communities living out our motto - ‘Not Self, But Others’, and I am pleased to see our Nursing students working in collaboration with critical community stakeholders to meet this need.”



Planning from page 1



Travis Crouch

Everything Outdoors, LLC, owned by Travis Crouch also submitted two requests for rezoning. Crouch’s first request is to rezone 1 acre or property from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1 for the purpose of constructing a billboard on the property. The property is located in the southwest corner of the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Camilla Drive in the Reed Creek District.

Crouch’s second request is to rezone 5 acres of property from

Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1, with plans to build a large storage shelter. The

property is located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Camilla Drive and Thornwood Drive in the Reed Creek

District. Both requests were approved by the commission and sent to the county for further review and action.



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

Millner from page 1

black college, profiles of key civil rights leaders, significant newspaper clippings chronicling major news and events and more," he said, noting a special effort was made to showcase Virginia history makers and high-lights.

Among the exhibit's goals are "to expose/educate, to inspire and be a catalyst for renewing critical thinking, while encouraging the community to be proactive in advancing the 'Beloved Community' and subscribing to the notion of 'Black History' education," Millner said.

While open to everyone, Millner hopes the display also attracts "parents with children. The idea is for parents to come bringing their children and youth—pull up a chair and engage the children in a 30-60 conversation--about Dr. King and his significance to their goals and aspirations; and the why and importance of Black History education. And why they both are extremely relevant for today."

For his part, Millner hopes the exhibit will serve as a staging platform for promoting the expansion concept of Black History Education throughout the year.

"Let's combine the (Dr. Martin Luther) King holiday, and say, 'it shouldn't be the start of Black History,'" Millner said, adding his proposal does not mean to detract from the efforts of Dr. King, Carter Woodson and others who helped blaze the trail, but rather to amplify those efforts.

"They are to be commended and celebrated all through the year," Millner said. "We shouldn't call the roll every year, but transition it to a year-round

Black History Education."

That would provide an opportunity to delve into deeper topics, such as "what is really the experience," its relationship with the policies, politics, and principles of America as they pertain to how Black people, those of other races and women, "were thought about," Millner said.

Also, "how did all of these Black and brown folk achieve so much when they got no support from society," Millner said. "They got nothing, and yet they rose through the field and excelled. How did that happen?"

Immediately after slavery, he said those who were considered uneducated were drawn to the field of education, realized its importance, and promoted it.

"Black colleges started in 1865 and 1867," Millner said. "And this is just three and five years out of slavery. How did that happen?"

"We should celebrate and acknowledge Black history not once a year, but all year," Millner said. "We have been living a lie as a nation. As a country, we say 'All men are created equal,' he said and noted there are still several disparities in treatment among races/genders.

"Yet we say, 'All men are created equal,'" Millner said, and asked, "how do you read that?"

The exhibit is open Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. and other times by appointment at the church, which is located at 2839 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville. Call (276) 650-8755, (276) 252-3270, or email tcmpastorms55@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a visit.



The Rev. Tyler Millner is pictured with some of the youngsters who are learning about Black History during a celebratory exhibit at Morning Star Holy Church.



One of many youngsters to visit the "Together" exhibit at Morning Star Holy Church, located at 2839 Stoney Mountain Road, Martinsville.



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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

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.com/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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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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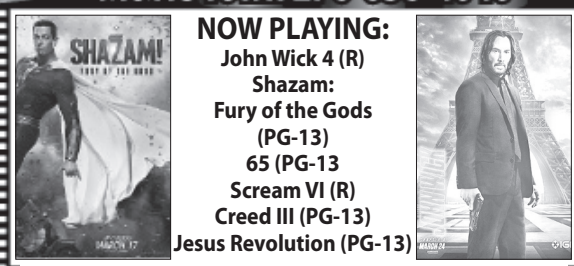
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- * Elevate from postures & honor roll of famous & unknown
- * Probe into... How did black and brown achievers excel without support and backing from the larger community?
- * What should the content of black history education be for white America?



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- Carter G. Woodson



Morning Star Holy Church

2839 Stoney Mountain Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112
morningstarholychurch@gmail.com



Rev. Tyler C. Millner Sr.
Pastor