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Saturday, April 22, 2023

(USPS-6)

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PSA spending plan maintains current rate structure, addresses future water supply

By Staff Reports

The approximately \$15 million spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year presented to the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board on April 17 includes a recommendation to finance the annual debt service and operating costs to guarantee water gallons per day (MGD) from Philpott Lake as part of a study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

"It is important that we act to secure these rights for water withdrawals so that we can meet the future demands for clean drinking water Wagoner, general manag-

"This forward-thinking plan will pay dividends as we continue to attract new industries and residents to Henry County."

The projected cost to guarantee rights for 3MGD is \$873,000 which can be financed with the USACE. Annual operating costs associated with the project would amount to \$85,000.

Overall, the proposed rights for three million FY24 budget increased by \$3,051,429 from the current fiscal year. It includes approximately \$5 million for capital improvements and debt service.

> include any rate adjust- continue working with a track loader for inframents, which makes it the the county to implement structure maintenance, tenth year in a row with- the results of a pay and sewer inflow, and infiltraout an increase.

in our community," Dale set to receive a five per- year. cent pay increase starting



Dale Wagoner, general manager of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA), presented his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 to the PSA Board of Directors.

The proposal doesn't mendation that the PSA system rehabilitation, classification study con- tion, and a preliminary PSA employees are ducted within the last engineering report to

er of the PSA, said when July 1 if the proposal is proposed budget would Drive, Spruce Street, and making the presentation. approved. Also included address a number of capi- Mt. Olivet Road.

in the plan is a recom- tal items, including water consider extending water Funds included in the lines along Old Liberty

Hodges inaugurated as president at P&HCC





Gracie Agnew was the Keynote Speaker when Dr. Greg Dr. Greg Hodges was sworn in by Dr. David Doré,



Trey Lopez, of Vespar Energy, was among those to address the Henry County Board of Supervisors Monday.

Residents support solar farm

By Tara Lucas

A majority of those who spoke at a public hearing Monday favored a proposed agreement between Henry County and Axton Solar to construct a 435-acre solar farm, with only three telling the Henry County Board of Supervisors they oppose the project.

Tammy Witt said she lives on Climax Road, in the middle of a large solar project.

"We feel solar and alternative energy can be a good and positive solution if done properly," Witt said. "We are surrounded on all four sides with nothing but solar panels. Solar panels are everywhere and it's like living in a fishbowl," she said. Witt said the solar

project near her home is not complete after four years. She described several issues, such as constant construction 5 to 7 days a week, dust and dirt, excessive traffic, and noise. She also attributed lower property values to the construction of the solar farm.

"Please get all the true facts before making a decision on this matter," she urged.

Chris Robertson, who lives in the Iriswood District, considers the solar farm to be a huge blessing to him and his family.

"I'm happy for each and every one of my neighbors who is prospering in this

See Solar, page 5

Concerns linger in aftermath of hail storm

hodges was otticially inaugurated as president ot Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

By Tara Lucas

Dr. Greg Hodges was officially inaugurated as president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) on Friday. Hodges serves as the fourth president of the institution.

Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), conducted the ceremony with Hodges' family, friends, and colleagues in atten- tered Greg Hodges, I dance.

for president," Doré said of Hodges.

Chancellor of the virginia Community College System (VCCS).

Carlisle Head of School Gracie Agnew served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Agnew is one of Hodges' former teachers.

"When I first encounwould have described him 'What an ideal choice as zealous, inspired, driven, and passionate about learning," Agnew said.

According to Agnew, Hodges set a goal to be Valedictorian of his graduating class at Drewry Mason High School and achieved that goal. He credited Agnew for teaching him more about himself, life, and the life-

See **Hodges**, page 7

VCCS Chancellor David Doré Visits P&HCC

By Staff Reports

& Patrick Henry Community College welcomed Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) Chancellor, Dr. David Doré, to campus on Thursday, April 14 as part of his statewide listening tour.

During his visit, Doré met with a variety of P&HCC stakeholders to answer questions and share his philosophy for the future of Virginia's community colleges. Emphasizing the priority of assuring every Virginian a job that pays well and adapting to the needs of the community to do so, Doré said, "Our learners need to understand the financial benefits of the learning pathways before them. Good financial literacy and educating parents on the income potential their children have is critical. Community colleges should not be the second choice -

it's the smart choice." Staff and students at P&HCC's Manufacturing & Engineering Technology (MET) Complex shared the real-world work they are doing to prepare for jobs of the future in automation, instrumentation, mechatronics, engineering, and motor control.

"I was most attracted to the Virginia Community College System because of the kinds of innovative programs available. There are some, but there aren't a whole lot of colleges across the country modeling where we need to move in the future. This institution (P&HCC) is really poised well with the work that you've been doing to continue to do that work. In the community college world, a lot of institutions are just beginning to start some of these programs, and you have the outcomes and data to show tremendous work," Doré said.

In addition to visiting with P&HCC staff & stu-



P&HCC Vice President for Workforce, Economic, and Community Development Rhonda Hodges shares a cell phone production system housed at the MET with Dr. Doré.

dents, community members, and local education partners at P&HCC, Dore participated in the presidential inauguration ceremony honoring P&HCC's fourth president, Dr. Greg Hodges, on Friday.

Doré assumed the role

of Chancellor on April 1. He comes to Virginia following service as president of campuses and executive vice chancellor for student experience and workforce development at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona.

By Staff Reports

Authorities continue to receive reports from concerned residents after an April 4 hail storm caused damage to homes in several local communities.

Henry County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Wayne Davis said the storm damage prompted "a large influx of out-of-town contractors" visiting neighborhoods. "It has been an ongoing problem since the hail storm."

Davis said some try to take advantage of affected homeowners by asking for up-front payments but not making the repairs, price gouging, charging for unnecessary repairs, and doing poor-quality work. They also allegedly may disappearleaving the property owner victimized a second time.

Other issues have surfaced as well. For example, a contractor from North Carolina may be licensed in that state but not in Virginia.

Even if a contractor has a license to operate in Virginia, "most from out-of-town don't have a business license to operate" in the county, Davis said.

Additionally, authorities received a report on April 18 that

"an out of state contractor was putting up signs at the intersection" of Farmingdale Drive without the necessary permission or consent, Davis said.

To prevent many of the issues, Davis recommends making sure contractors have the proper licensing, including a Virginia contractor's license and a Henry County Business License.

Davis recommended residents ask to see permits/licenses and/or proof of insurance coverage before hiring a contractor.

"I would still ask for all of that even if they are local," Davis said.

Also, ensure contractors obtain the necessary permits to do the job. Get estimates from multiple contractors and your insurance company, the

See **Concerns**, page 3





OMMUNITY 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.)

Events

Friday and Saturday, April 21-22

Rattlesnakes, copperheads, pythons, turtles and a spectacular lineup of additional live reptiles are set to take the spotlight during Reptile Festival 2023 at the Virginia Museum of Natural History from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to www.visitmartinsville.com/ blog/reptile-festival-2023-at-virginiamuseum.

Saturday, April 22

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

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

Tuesday, April 25-Saturday, April 29

Tulips & Teapots. Learn to embellish a ceramic teapot with paint and transform it into a planter. April 25 at 2:30 p.m., Ridgeway Branch Library; April 26 at 2:30, Collinsville Branch Library; April 27 at 3:30 p.m. at the Patrick County Branch Library; April 28 at 2:30 at Bassett Branch Library and April 29 at 2:30 at the main Martinsville Branch Library. The classes are free for ages up to 18.

Tuesday, April 25

Chix with Stix, 10:30 a.m., Piedmont Arts. Knitters are invited to work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. Free to members. \$5 for non-members (pay at the door). Advanced registration required.

Friday-Saturday, April 28-29

TheatreWorks Community Players will present The Play That Goes Wrong at 7 p.m. in the Blackbox Theatre 44 Franklin St, Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 online at www.twcp. net or at the door for each show. Contact info@twcp.net.

Sunday, April 30

TheatreWorks Community Players will present The Play That Goes Wrong at 2 p.m. in the Blackbox Theatre 44 Franklin St, Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 online at www.twcp. net or at the door for each show. Contact info@twcp.net.

Monday, May 1

Bingo at Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A L Philpott Highway, Ridgeway. Doors open at 5 p.m., with concessions available. Games start at 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, May 5-6

TheatreWorks Community Players will present The Play That Goes Wrong at 7 p.m. in the Blackbox Theatre 44 Franklin St, Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 online at www.twcp. net or at the door for each show.

Contact info@twcp.net. Fridav. Mav 5

Look & Learn Makeup Master Class with Angel Moyer, professional makeup artist and owner of Angel Face Beauty Company, Collinsville Library, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. To register or for more information, call (276) 647-1112.

Sunday, May 7

Theatre Works Community Players will present The Play That Goes Wrong at 2 p.m. in the Blackbox Theatre 44 Franklin St, Martinsville. Tickets are \$15 online at www.twcp. net or at the door for each show. Contact info@twcp.net.

Sunday, May 13

Mother's Day Tea, 1 p.m. at Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. Enjoy a traditional British tea with the special ladies in your life under our outdoor shelter for \$30. To register call or text (276) 734-2828.

Saturday May 20

Butterfly Painting Workshop with Award Winning Artist - Lisa Garrett, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville, To register call or text (276) 734-2828. Limited Seating - \$40 includes supplies and a light lunch.

ONGOING

Free 'Shred Days' set for April, hosted by ValleyStar Credit Union. April 29, The Home Depot,

Danville, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 19, Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, 1 to 6 p.m.

May 20, ValleyStar Collinsville branch, Collinsville, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 3, ValleyStar Roanoke branch, Roanoke/Rocky Mount, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RSVP for reminders as the date(s)

approaches, or for more information, visit ValleyStar Credit Union's Facebook.

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.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers "notouch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No signup fees, no premiums, no deductibles. 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. 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.

Martinsville/Henry County to Advance Policies Supporting Racial Healing and Public Health

States that has been selected to participate in focused efforts to advance local-level policies supporting racial healing and public health. Through the Healing Through Policy: Pathways to Racial Justice initiative, the community will participate in a highly acclaimed Community of Practice program and will receive counsel from experts and peer support from other localities that share these aims. The goal is to collectively advance the widespread adoption and implementa-

fifteen cities and coun- have shown positive Executive Director Gail ties across the United impact on health and C. Christopher, DN.

Martinsville is one of tion of policies that munities," said NCHE More than 250 states, Through cities, and counties have de Beaumont improve health out-Health Equity suffered through decades Martinsville/Henry County formed an collaborative increasingly recogniz- for this purpose more than a year ago. Bonnie



equity.

Healing Policy supports cities, issued declarations procounties, and states claiming racism a pubin moving from com- lic health crisis. This mitment to action for is a step in the right health, racial equi- direction. But now, pubty, and justice, and lic officials, the private is an initiative of the sector, and communi-American Public Health ties must work together Association (APHA), to eliminate racism and the Foundation, and the comes, especially for National Collaborative people of color who have for (NCHE), in collabora- of health inequities." tion with Results for America (RFA).

"American society is equity ing the impact of racism on the health of individuals and com-

See Martinsville, page 3



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Concerns from page 1

release added.

Davis also recommends rejecting any offer that seems too good to be true, making sure the contract details all work to be performed, including costs, projected completion date, and how to negotiate changes and settle disputes.

Get agreements in writing. Read the contract carefully, and if you don't understand every word, take it to an expert. Never sign a contract with blank spaces to be filled in. Don't sign completion papers or make final payments until the work is done correctly.

Don't wire money or use reloadable debit or gift cards. There is no legitimate reason to use this form of payment. Don't offer personal financial information over the phone. Know who you are dealing with and always ask for identification.

To check licensure and endorsements, visit https://www.dpor.virginia. gov/LicenseLookup.

Home owners also are advised to verify insurance. Contractors should have disability and workers' compensation insurance. If they don't, you may be liable for accidents on your property.

To determine whether a contractor is insured through the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, use the search tool located at https://www. ewccv.com/cvs/search?ref=https:// workcomp.virginia.gov/.

Authorities also recommend using the Better Business Bureau, www.bbb. org, and internet search engines to check businesses. Fraudulent firms change names frequently, so search the web for their address and phone number, and include terms like "review," "scam," and "complaint."

Planning Commission approves rezoning applications



Cyana Bulgin.

By Tara Lucas

The Henry County last week to hear two rezoning requests.

with Thirty-Six Fifty One, LLC, requested property Fontaine Drive and Textile Drive in Ridgeway to be rezoned. The property is approval. currently zoned as commer-

lutely valid.

"I commend him for pro-Planning Commission met posing this project and for Reno's rezoning request. where it is being proposed. I think there is a market for Bulgin requested the rezon-John Reno, an engineer this type of use here," Clark ing of a lot located on the said. He hopes that some east side of Meadowood Trail businesses will take advan- near Hodges Farm Road in located on the corner of tage of the spaces once con- Horsepasture. Bulgin's origistructed.

Clark

cial, and Reno sought to worked with his employer on rezone it to limited industrial similar projects in other loca- mother own the lot. Due to to construct warehouse shell tions such as Natural Bridge deed restrictions and covbuildings to be used for stor- and Augusta County and enant, the area is restricted to

Director Lee Clark expressed had them full. We would that Reno's concept is abso- love to try it here," Reno said

The board approved

Area resident Cyana nal request was to rezone it recommended from suburban residential to rural residential to place a Reno said that he has manufactured home.

Bulgin's father and grandthe placement of single wide "We made six of these homes. Bulgin amended her units in Augusta County, request, and the rezoning



Pictured from left is Christian Ramirez, brother; Bonifacio Ramirez, father; Carlos Ramirez; Maria Mendoza, mother; Valeria Ramirez, sister.

Ramirez signs with P&HCC

Magna Vista High School student Carlos Ramirez signed to play soccer at Patrick and Henry Community College.

"It's an amazing feeling and I never thought I'd be in this position," Ramirez said of the signing.

Ramirez chose P&HCC because he knows some of the soccer players there

and recognizes their commitment to their team and sport.

"I know how they will help me grow and I want to go there to grow," he said.

Ramirez also believes being close to family will be beneficial. "I want to thank my family for always being supportive and coming to my games."



Carlos Ramirez with members of the Magna Vista High School Soccer Team.

Martinsville from page 2

Favero, Prevention Program Manager working with the Equity Collaborative, said. "The vision of its members is very much in keeping with the goals of the Healing Through Policy program. "Participation in this prestigious program will enable our community to do this in ways we haven't even thought of," Favero said. "This is a big deal for our community!"

in the Martinsville/ Henry County Equity Collaborative, we recently concluded used to identify inequi-Nancy Bell, Population Health Manager for the West Piedmont Health District. Healing Through Policy identifies a suite of local-level policies and practices that have been successfully

implemented in at least one jurisdiction, show promise in improving health and racial equia community needs ty, and meaningfully assessment. Data from engage those who are the assessment will be impacted. Based on the Truth, Racial Healing, ties as we strategize how and Transformation to solve them," added frameworkTM, the policies and practices span five domains: narrative change, racial healing and relationship building, separation, law, and economy.

age. Reno plans to construct had success. four 4,000-square-foot warehouse units.

County

Planning and within three months we was approved.

"Working with"The ability to shape

See Martinsville, page 5



John Reno, an engineer with Thirty-Six Fifty One, LLC.

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() PINION

From the office of Sen. **Commodore Bellflower**

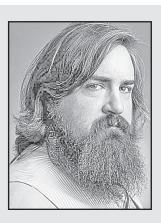
office of The Sen. Commodore Bellflower strongly condemns the rumors being spread about him, especially those shared by members of his own party. Sen. Bellflower's critics claim that the Senator is experiencing age-related mental decline and no longer has the capacity to perform the duties of his job. This is merely another example of the ageism that plagues our modern society and shows the disappointing lack of respect

afforded to our seniors. Sen. Bellflower's critics highlight that he has missed dozens of Senate votes and, due to a recent convalescence, has been absent from the Judiciary Committee, thereby preventing the President from appointing nominees. The lack of respect shown to the Senator is truly galling. Is a man not allowed to heal after breaking his hip in seventeen places?

In a recent statement, Sen. Bellflower condemned these vicious rumors as "flamwash."

"These new young politicians claim I've lost my marbles," the esteemed Senator said, "but they're the ones who can't place their Tom bowlers and croton alleys. They're as unseasoned as Ida McKinley's Swiss steak."

This, of course, is not the first time that Sen. Bellflower has faced age-related discrimination. He was nearly kicked out of Roosevelt's Rough Riders for being too old to enlist, but his bravery at San Juan Hill proved



By Ben R. Williams

his value to our nation and helped turn the tides of the

Spanish-American War. "It's despicable the way these hoop snakes treat a veteran," the Senator commented, punctuating his point by spitting a wad of tobacco into a brass spittoon. "It's the worst case I've ever seen of men turning against one of their confederates, and I personally watched Stonewall Jackson catch three friendly bullets at Chancellorsville."

"They'd do well to remember that a hog what eats fast don't eat long," Sen. Bellflower added.

Despite calls for his resignation, Sen. Bellflower has made clear that he has no intention to resign from either the Judiciary Committee or the office of Senator.

"This country needs a steady hand on the tiller," he remarked. "People are concerned about the real issues. Are my war bonds losing value? Can we maintain trade with Siam? What are the Prussians planning? These are issues Î'm planning to discuss with that new President of ours, Mr. O'Biden. He seems reasonable for an Irishman."

Sen. Bellflower wishes to assure his constituents that not only will he not be resigning, he's also not slowing down; in fact, he recently drafted a new piece of legislation.

"The Puzzle-Stealing Nurse Accountability Act is very close to my heart," Sen. Bellflower said. "Far too many puzzles get stolen every year by nurses who want those sweet, sweet puzzles for themselves. It's high time someone stood up to those dizzy dames. And don't get me started on those thieving candy stripers."

But Sen. Bellflower isn't stopping there. The sprightly supercentenarian announced that you're never too old to change with the times, and he plans to support his party's more progressive legislation.

"Sure, sure, I'm progressive," Sen. Bellflower said. "It's the 21st century. I think it's high time women were allowed to own property, and I don't care if I'm labeled a bleeding-heart liberal for saying it."

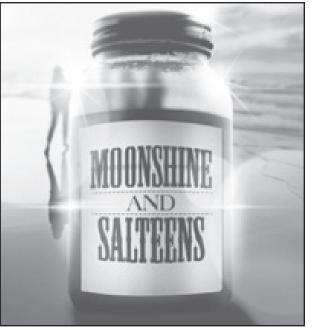
When re-elected in 2024, Sen. Bellflower will be proud to serve as our nation's secondoldest Senator following the late Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Strickland to discuss Moonshine and Salteens

Another installment of Bassett Historical Center Presents will be held on Tuesday, May 9 when author

Brenda Strickland shares her story about how her first fiction book, Moonshine and Salteens, came to be.

Moonshine and Salteens, a mystery with history, is the exciting tale of a group of retirees on a weekend seaside getaway



sion to find a murderer.

account of Shirley Dalton, become embroiled in a a retired educator who murder mystery. lives in a town known for making good moonshine. Dalton becomes friends with other retirees—Jackie, Kea, Lucy, and Robertaand they decide to name themselves "the Salteens" since they enjoy visiting salt caves and the beach. Although the ladies are all headed back to their rent-

who embark on a salty mis- seeking adventure in their third act of life, none has The book is a fictional a clue they are about to

> After the Salteens head to Seaside Beach for a weekend getaway, Dalton unwittingly unearths a human hand while settling in for an afternoon on the beach. Obviously shaken, she and the other retirees summoned the police and al. Fueled by an insatiable need to know more, Dalton convinced her friends to extend their stay and help her investigate. But when good sense falls by the seaside and their moonshine antics become the talk of the tourist town, only time will tell if the women can solve a string of grisly murders or if they will go down in history as just a group of retirees full of shenanigans. Strickland is a former resident of Henry County and a retired educator, having once taught in both public school divisions in the City of Martinsville and Henry County. She holds many educational degrees and has authored nine nonfiction teacher resource books. She will have copies of her book for sale during the program which begins at 10 a.m. in the Bassett Historical Center's Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. The program is free and open to the public.



Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate Joseph Martin

Hosted by the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will sponsor an event to commemorate the life and work of General Joseph Martin on Saturday, April 29, at 1 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street. U. S. Congressman Griffith Morgan (R-VA) will serve as the Distinguished Speaker. There is no cost to attend. The SAR Honor Guard, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, and visiting chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters the of American Revolution will participate.

oring Martin, donated He lived in Henry

The Martinsville- tral and from siding with Henry County Heritage the British troops dur-Center & Museum, ing those crucial battles. located within the Historians agree that the Historic Henry County settlers' success at these Courthouse, will be two battles signaled the open prior to and fol- turning of the tide of the lowing the ceremony. A Revolutionary War in granite monument hon- favor of the Americans.

by his descendants in County, Virginia, at his 2008, is located on the plantation, Belmont, lawn. The building and on Leatherwood Creek, grounds are fully hand- not far from his friend Governor Patrick Henry. Joseph Martin, Jr. The City of Martinsville, (1740-1808) was a Virginia, was named in brigadier general in his honor during his life-Compatriot Jarred Chapter Marlowe, stated, "While men such as Washington, Lafayette, averting Indian attacks and Jefferson come to on the Scotch-Irish mind as key figures of the Revolutionary War, American settlers who by no means are they the helped win the battles only ones who deserve of Kings Mountain credit. Please join us as a community to recognize also helping to keep the a man whose deeds are often overshadowed by his compatriots. General Joseph Martin had an extraordinary life spent as a diplomat, general, stateman, explorer, founding father of our great nation, and one of Henry County's most influential residents." The Sons of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and teaching American history to future generations. Follow the event at https:// www.facebook.com/ events/548904837227450.

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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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

icap accessible.

the Virginia militia time. during the American Revolutionary War. His frontier diplomacy with President, the Cherokee people is credited with not only American and English and Cowpens but with Indians' position neu-

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Public Notice ISSUANCE OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR A PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE VIRGINIA WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING FUND

Public Notice No.: WSL-017-20

First Publication Date: 04/15/23

The Virginia Department of Health has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a waterworks project proposed to be funded through the Virginia Water Supply Revolving Fund. The FONSI is supported by a Statement of Environmental Review (SER). The applicant is Henry County Public Service Authority (HCPSA)

The project would increase the scope of the Preston Road Water Extensions Project (funded through the Virginia Water Supply Revolving Fund) to install approximately 4,200 linear feet of 6-inch and smaller water line and related improvements, making public water service available to approximately 30 potential customers on Honeysuckle Road and Station Drive. The proposed water lines will be installed within existing public road rights-of-way.

A review of the Environmental Assessment conducted on this project indicates that either significant environmental impacts would not result from the proposed project or significant environmental impacts have been eliminated by making changes in the project. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Virginia Department of Health has assessed the potential environmental effects on the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The basis for this determination was made after the applicant contacted ten federal and state agencies. This determination was made after reviewing the environmental clearance letters from each agency, the Environmental Assessment, the public comments, and conducting an Environmental Review site visit. In order to avoid or minimize any adverse environmental impact, the Virginia Department of Health will require that HCPSA ensure construction is carried out in strict accordance with all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations. Prior to implementing construction, all applicable permits and approvals must be obtained.

Persons may comment in writing to the Department on the proposed decision within 30 days from the first publication date. Comments shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and shall contain a complete, concise statement of the factual basis for the comments. Only those comments received within this period will be considered by the Department. All pertinent information, including the FONSI, the SER, the Environmental Assessment and the sup-

port documentation is on file and may be inspected and arrangements made for copying at the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water, Lexington Field Office, 131 Walker Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450; phone (540) 463-0406. For additional information, please contact Tamara Anderson, Project Manager at (804) 370-2439.

Following the comment period, the Department will make its final determination. All comments should be addressed to:

Kelly Ward, Program Director Financial and Construction Assistance Programs Virginia Department of Health - Office of Drinking Water 109 Governor Street, Room 633, Richmond, VA 23219

Martinsville from page 3

policy is a powerful tool to reduce health inequities," said APHA Executive Director Georges C. Benjamin, MD. "Acknowledging that these injustices exist is the first step. We now need to move from recognition to action by implementing policies that will make a difference in the lives of our community members for generations."

honored to be supporting these communities as they learn from one other and work together to address centuries of racist policy, heal from these injustices, and thrive."

"Policies such as right to counsel for tenants facing eviction help ensure more residents have stable, affordable homes, which is critical for their health and well-being," said RFA Executive Vice President Chief Impact and Officer Lisa Morrison Butler. "We look forward to working with local leaders to show how the use of data and evidence can help them move from commitment to action in addressing systemic health and racial inequities, and creating thriving communities of opportunity for all."

"Healing Through Policy is a testament to the power of community and action at the local level in creating equitable and just futures for all people," said de Beaumont Foundation President and CEO Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH. "We are honored to be supporting

these communities as they learn from one other and work together to address centuries of racist policy, heal from these injustices, and thrive."

"Policies such as right to counsel for tenants facing eviction help ensure more residents have stable, affordable homes, which is critical for their health and well-being," said RFA Executive Vice President and Chief Impact Officer Lisa Morrison Butler. "We look forward to working with local leaders to show how the use of data and evidence can help them move from commitment to action in addressing systemic health and racial inequities, and creating thriving communities of opportunity for all."

More than 30 inducted as hiatus ends

After a five-year hiatus, as of April 10, Radford University again has a circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK). During a ceremony in the Bonnie Auditorium at the Hurlburt Student Center on campus, 31 students were inducted into the revitalized student organization.

Inductees include Lauren Elizabeth Luther of Ridgeway and Bethany C Mills of Bassett.

Dr. Jean Mistele, director of the Citizen Leader Program and professor in the mathematics and statistics department led efforts to restart the ODK circle at Radford University (RU). Her efforts were supported by team members Dr. Timothy Reed, vice president of membership and operations at ODK headquarters, Dr. Pamela Frasier, professor in the health and human performance department, Dr. Chapman Rackaway, chair and professor in the political science department, and Jacob May, Circle assistant and undergraduate student at Radford University.

Mistele, Frasier and Rackaway were also inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa per national requirements. Mistele serves as Circle coordinator, and Frasier and Rackaway serve as faculty advisors.

The unique mission of ODK is to recognize and encourage collaboration among collegiate leaders. It seeks to identify, celebrate, and engage collegiate and

community leaders from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations. Members enjoy scholarship opportunities, leadership development programs, access to a national network, and more.

The eligibility requirements for ODK include:

-Two semesters (one year) as a full-time student at Radford University.

-Sophomore, junior, or senior standing.

-A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 (sophomores), 3.5 (juniors), or 3.6 (seniors).

-Exemplary character as evident by the submission of a resume and character references.

-Achievement of special distinction in leadership.

Tammy Witt likened living in the midst of a solar farm to "living in a fishbowl."

because it's so wonderful," he said. Robertson says he is thankful for the project and the revenue that it will bring to the county. "Today I'm here to speak in favor" of the project, Robertson said.

Mary Thompson, who lives on Mountain Valley Road, said she is not pleased at the prospect.

"Things will disappear and become under solar panels," she said of her neighborhood. Thompson pointed out issues she had with the solar siting agreement.

"I don't feel like the solar siting agreement is fully protective of our residents," Thompson said, and added there were no maps and certain details haven't been clearly explained.

Mary Ann Davis, of the Iriswood District, has a farm that will be a part of the solar project. "This has been a Godsend," Davis said. She expressed a need for alternative forms of energy due to coal depletion. "Please approve the site agreement, I think it's a great information.

thing," Davis said.

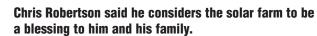
Trey Lopez of Vespar Energy, who is developing the project, explained that the funds that will be paid to the county can be used for a variety of purposes.

Much of the funds from the project will be delivered to the county before the solar project becomes operational, Lopez said.

"The estimated tax revenue is estimated to be nearly 19 million," Lopez said. "That's new revenue that Henry County taxpayers can count on for the next 35 to 40 years."

Heather Carter, of Axton, offered her support for the project.

Carter said she heard many horror stories circulating



"I've seen a map, I've been out there and walked through with them exactly where it's going to be," Carter said. She credits Lopez and his team for taking all of the residents' concerns into consideration. "They tried to work with us every way they could. That said a lot to me. They weren't just here for a dollar," Carter said, adding that solar is the future.

Board member Garrett Dillard said the project is an economic opportunity for Henry County.

"It's about the money. That's why we recruit industries," Dillard said. "We have to not make that a negative but look at the positive side of that."

Dillard said he felt that it was his job to support the residents in decision-making with the solar farm. He hopes that his colleagues will join him when it's time to vote on the matter.

Heather Carter said she supports Axton Solar's project. The company, she said, isn't "just here for a dollar."

Solar from page 1

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

The Southside's Local TV Station about the project and initially opposed the project.

However, she worked with Vespar Energy and with Lopez's team to get more information and glean valuable



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COUNTY OF HENRY **REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for May 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on May 23, 2023 at 6:00 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 input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing. Case R-23-09 T'Mesha Penn

The property is located on the east side of Chestnut Knob Rd, across from 1210 and 1220 Chestnut Knob Rd, in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 51.7/113A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.62-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct a large, private use storage building on the property.

The application for this 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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MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY MAY 26 | 5:30 PM

The Inspirations Chuck Wagon Gang Gospel Harmony Boys

SATURDAY MAY 27 | 5:30 PM

Ivan Parker The Harvesters Quartet The Churchmen

VIRGINIA

SUNDAY MAY 28 | 10:30 AM Music by The Beachy Family Message by Curt Ashley

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1 | 5:30 PM

Kelly Ratcliff The Churchmen The Perrys with Tony Wolf

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2 | 5:30 PM

The Singing Cookes The Harvesters Quartet The Martins with Mickey Bell

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3 | 10:30 AM

Music by The Singing Cookes Message by Ricky Rogers

SATURDAY MAY 6 | 7PM HANNAH KERR

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Transportation & Safety Committee on task

By Tara Lucas

The City of Martinsville's Transportation and Safety Committee is at work to make city streets safer for drivers and pedestrians. The committee is to be connected with city residents and investigate traffic related complaints from the public, such as issues with streets, stop lights, or other safety matters. The committee then reports the issue to public works, the city manager, and city council.

"We really are an

advisory board to the council," said committee co-chairman Michael Sanguedolce. "Every suggestion or complaint, we will follow up on."

The committee meets monthly and recently started a Transportation and Safety Facebook page. Area residents can join the page and post issues and concerns on the Facebook page for review by the committee. "That's a place where they can post their views and opinions. We want to keep it as friendly and informative as we can,"

Sanguedolce said. The committee focused on issues inside the city limits, but county residents are welcome to submit issues to the board or to be an active member of the committee. The committee currently has 6 members, with room for an additional three members.

"We hope in the future to have a student from the high school to give a brand new driver perspective," Sanguedolce said.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, they can get an application from the city manager or find additional information online at www.martinsville-va.gov.

www.henrycountyenterprise.com



NASCAR driver Rajah Caruth (seated, center), Wendell Scott Foundation CEO Warrick Scott (seated, far left), and Wendell Scott Foundation Executive Director Chinique Scott (seated, far right) visited Martinsville High School on Friday to speak with high school and middle school students.

High School Sports schedule

is

Following is a list of the sporting events scheduled in Martinsville and Henry County for the week of April 24-29:

4/24 4:30pm **Girls** Tennis 4:30pm **Girls** Tennis 4:30pm **Girls** Tennis 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis **Boys** Tennis 4:30pm 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis 4:30pm Girls Soccer Softball 5pm Baseball 5pm 5:30pm Baseball 5:30pm Girls Soccer Softball 6pm 4/25 4:30pm Golf Baseball 5pm 5pm Baseball 5:30pm Girls Soccer Boys Soccer 7pm Girls Soccer 7pm Boys Soccer 7pm TBA Girls Soccer 4/26 4:30pm **Girls** Tennis 4:30pm **Girls** Tennis 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis 5pm Softball Baseball 6pm Girls Soccer 7pm 4/27 4:30pm Baseball Baseball 5pm 5pm Softball Girls Soccer 7pm Boys Soccer 7pm 4/28 4:30pm **Boys** Tennis Baseball 5pm Martinsville @ Magna Vista 6pm Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Magna Vista @ Martinsville 7pm

Patrick County @ Bassett Magna Vista @ Halifax County George Washington @ Martinsville Carlisle @ Virginia Episcopal School Bassett @ Patrick County Halifax County @ Magna Vista Martinsville @ George Washington Virginia Episcopal School @ Carlisle Dan River @ Bassett Martinsville @ Dan River Magna Vista @ Chatham Martinsville @ Dan River Magna Vista @ Chatham Carlisle @ North Cross Bassett @ Martinsville George Washington @ Magna Vista Magna Vista @ George Washington Bassett @ Martinsville Martinsville @ Bassett Magna Vista @ George Washington Carlisle @ Dayspring Christian Academy Bassett @ Martinsville Patrick County @ Magna Vista Martinsville @ Bassett Patrick County @ Magna Vista Gretna @ Magna Vista Carlisle @ McMichael William Byrd @ Bassett Carlisle @ Roanoke Catholic Mecklenburg County @ Bassett Mecklenburg County @ Bassett Bassett @ Mecklenburg County Mecklenburg County @ Bassett Carlisle @ Blue Ridge Martinsville @ Magna Vista

NASCAR driver visited Martinsville High School

Raja Caruth, driver of the #24 Wendell Scott Foundation Chevrolet Silverado RST for GMS Racing in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, visited Martinsville High School last Friday to speak with high school and middle school students

He was joined by Warrick Scott, grandson of racing legend and Danville native Wendell Scott, who was one of the first African American team owners and drivers in NASCAR and the first African American to win a Grand National Series race.

"He is to NASCAR what Jackie Robinson was to baseball," MHS Principal Dr. Aji Dixon told students as he introduced the special program. "During those times, he had to go through a great ordeal to be able to do what he loved to do, and he broke some barriers."

Scott, who serves as the CEO of the Wendell Foundation, Scott explained to students that the foundation was created to honor his grandfather's legacy and bring hope and heroism to underserved communities. Caruth engaged in a conversation with the students, answering questions on topics ranging from his favorite racetrack to what car he drives when he isn't racing and even included a discussion of Lightning McQueen, a character from the Pixar film Cars.

Caruth said McQueen inspired him to go into racing.

He also discussed the importance of going outside of your comfort zone to achieve success.

"I'm a very reserved person," he admitted. "So, it was an adjustment for me because you have to put your name out there and work with social media and go to events, sell your story."

Caruth emphasized that the advice he was giving could help students succeed with whatever goals they choose to pursue, even outside of NASCAR.

"If you want this, then you've got to do whatever it takes," Caruth said. "The early mornings, the late nights, and everything in between, you have to put that toward the goal that you have set out."

Congressional staff to visit



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs DCR is EEO Apply online or at the park office 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171 276-930-2424

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

ADVERTISE!

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be in the City of Martinsville and Patrick County on April 26.

Staff will be in Martinsville from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church Street.

They will be in Stuart from 12:30 2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

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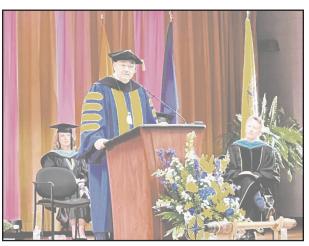




Submit your community news and photos to dhall@ theenterprise.net

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Hodges from page 1



Dr. Greg Hodges addressed those in attendance

changing power of knowl- Arts, Science, and Business speech.

Agnew Hodges as someone who reaccreditation. had an unquenchable thirst for learning.

ready to learn," Agnew him as someone who has dent at P&HCC for years.

Hodges began his career transitioning to a full-time field of early childhood Leadership ously served as the Vice Education from Trident father "did it." President of Academic and Student Success Services, as well as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Effectiveness, and Campus Life, and Executive Director of the P&HCC Foundation. Hodges also previously held several positions, including Dean of Academic Success and College Transfer, the Dean of Developmental Education and Transitional Programs, the Assistant Dean of

edge than any textbook Technology, as well as the during his valedictory Coordinator of P&HCC's Quality Enhancement

higher education, Hodges "Greg came into my was an elementary school tion's history reveals that classroom poised and teacher. Heholds a Bachelor Patrick & Henry enjoys a of Arts in Education and rich reputation, locally and said of Hodges and praised Theater & Speech from nationally," Hodges said of The College of William the community college's been preparing himself to and Mary, a Master of performance. take on the role of presi- Arts in Biblical Studies from Bethany Theological Hodges, said his father Seminary, a Master of Arts at P&HCC as an adjunct in Educational Leadership being a man who will carry faculty member before and Supervision from the the torch of opportunity University of Phoenix, and and give light to as many faculty member in the a Doctorate in Educational souls as he can." and

University. Additionally, Hodges also serves as the senior pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Stanleytown, Virginia.

"Is it the honor of my lifetime to serve as the fourth president of Patrick and Henry Community College," said Hodges. "I believe what makes our college so special comes down to three simple things: our purpose, our people, and our performance'

Hodges, who is a firstgeneration college student, spoke of providing hope to students as being a key component in P&HCC's described Plan (QEP) for SACSCOC purpose and touts the people of P&HCC as changing Before his career in the lives of the students.

"A review of our institu-

Hodges' son, James "has dedicated his life to

As the ceremony ended, education. He has previ- Administration for Higher James Hodges added his



James Hodges, the son of Dr. Greg Hodges, gave closing remarks at the ceremony Friday.



Project Hope 2022 - Project Hope 2022 grant recipients (pictured from left) include Chris Powell, operations project manager at Philpott Lake, Clifford Stone, treasurer of Greater Bassett Area Community (GBAC), GBAC President John Thomas "Smokey" Pegram, Pastor CJ Martin of House of Purpose Ministries, GBAC Coordinator Ruby Davis, Joyce Staples, chair of the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) board of directors, Heidi Pinkston, executive director of Piedmont Arts, and Lauren Ellis, programs and public relations coordinator at Piedmont Arts.

Area residents encouraged to attend community listening sessions

The Harvest Foundation is hosting a series of Community Listening Sessions to hear directly from Martinsville-Henry County residents about potential projects and programs that can build hope in their neighborhoods

Harvest will host meetings from 6-8 p.m. at three locations across the city and county on Monday, April 24 at Laurel Park Middle School (280 Laurel Park Ave., Martinsville, Va. 24112); Tuesday, April 25 at Bassett High School (85 Riverside Drive, Bassett, Va. 24055); and Thursday, April 27 at Martinsville High School (351 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville, Va. 24112).

Pre-registration is not required. All meetings will include light refreshments, dinner vouchers for local restaurants and door prizes.

"Project Hope empowers individuals and grassroots organizations to address needs within their communities through creativity, collaboration and volunteerism," said India Brown, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. "The goal is to spark positive change and build hope throughout Martinsville-Henry County."

Each listening session will be a safe space for collaborative, facilitated discussions led by Julie Walters Steele, director of Reynolds Homestead, and Sarah Wray, community engagement, partnerships, and programs manager at Reynolds Homestead. They both are credentialed facilitators trained through the AIR Shift program.

Participants are encouraged to brainstorm potential ideas that they can use to create their own proposals for Project Hope. In addition to the Community Listening Sessions, capacity building and technical assistance will be provided to each applicant if they choose to submit a proposal.

Initially launched as a celebration of The Harvest Foundation's 20th Anniversary in 2022, Project Hope awarded five grants totaling \$44,525 in its first year. This year, a committee of 13 local hope builders will consider and allocate funding for all submitted Project Hope proposals.

Follow us on Facebook or visit theharvestfoundation.org/project-hope to find out more about Project Hope 2023.

What will bring hope to your neighborhood?

Bring your ideas to an upcoming **Community Listening Session!**

Session #1: Monday, April 24, 6-8 p.m. Laurel Park Middle School 280 Laurel Park Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112



Session #2: Tuesday, April 25, 6-8 p.m. Bassett High School 85 Riverside Drive, Bassett, VA 24055

Session #3: Thursday, April 27, 6-8 p.m. Martinsville High School 351 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville, VA 24112

This is **your** community. Share your **HOPE**.

All meetings will include light refreshments, dinner vouchers to local restaurants, and door prizes! We're excited to meet you there!



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The Foster Gallery, decked out in local students' art work.

A gallery of art by elementary school students on display at Piedmont Arts

Artwork Stanleytown, Drewry and Elementary to the public Tuesday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

by stu- amazing and innovative Piedmont Arts' com-Axton, truer than in the Foster encouraging young peo-Piedmont Arts is open played during the year.

Curated by Charity vital part of an excellent through Saturday from League of Martinsville education, and both are and Henry County, pleased to take an active Piedmont Arts is the Foster Gallery is role in arts education in

dents from Sanville, exhibits. Nowhere is that munity programming, Mason, Gallery. Exhibits are ple to participate in the Meadowview curated every six to eight arts and giving the public Schools weeks, allowing work the opportunity to expeis on display through by students from all 19 rience the wealth of tal-May 5 in Piedmont schools in Martinsville- ent in the area. Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery. Henry County to be dis- Arts and Charity League believe that the arts are a



Kamdon Gravely of the fourth grade created this mixed media piece.

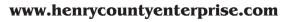
known for hosting an important part of the community.



A turtle created by 3rd grader Adalyn Robertson is on This wintery scene was created by a Nylla Hunnicuttdisplay in the Foster Gallery.



Dehart, a fourth grader from Sanville Elementary.



Creativity and fun abound at Piedmont Arts' 2023 summer camps

If you are looking for a For grades 3-5, camp meets fun and exciting creative outlet for your children this summer, look no further than Piedmont Arts' summer day camps. With three sessions running in June for grades K-5, there is something exciting for everyone to try and avenues for all kinds of self-expression. Camp choices this year include the beloved Art Camp and the inaugural Curtains Up! Theatre Camp. Each camp is \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members, with a special discount for students taking both Art Camp and Theatre Camp on the week of June 12.

In Art Camp, 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. For grades K-2, class meets daily June 5 - 9 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

daily June 12-16 from 9 a.m. to noon. Advanced registration is required.

At the museum's firstever 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. Camp meets daily June 12-16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Advanced registration is required.

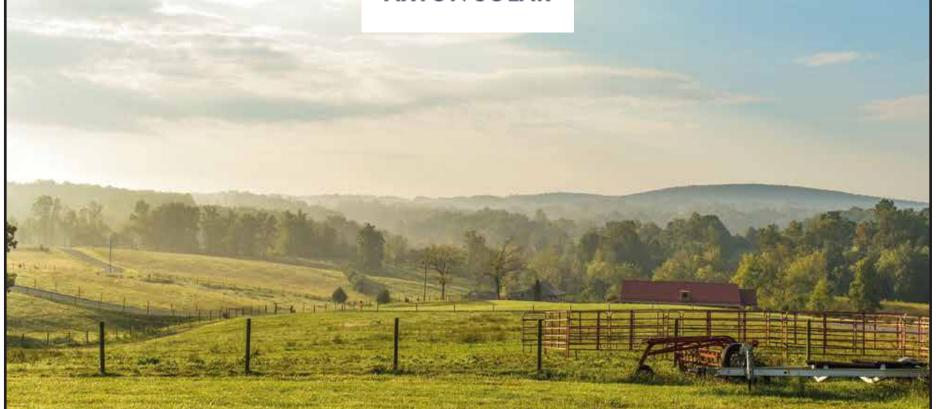
For more information and registration forms, visit www.piedmontarts.org.

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



Campers get messy and have fun at last year's art camp hosted by Piedmont Arts.





Your Community, Your Solar Project

Thank you Henry County residents for providing feedback on our project. We have made changes and believe Axton Solar is now a better project thanks to your input.

Visit our website www.axtonsolarva.com to learn more or follow us on Facebook @AxtonSolarVA