

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, April 29, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

Children of all ages flocked to the VMNH's Reptile Festival



All manner of creatures visited the Reptile Festival in Martinsville, awing youngsters and adults alike.



An American Alligator wore a pirate's hat to the festival.



PHOTOS BY PAT DELANEY

A snake slithered up a child's shoulder to make a home in her hair during the Reptile Festival last Friday and Saturday at the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Council hears proposed budget at a recent meeting



Council member Tammy Pearson and City Manager Leon Towarnicki with Arbor Day Proclamation.



Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper is presented with a proclamation for National Correctional Officers Week by council member Lawrence Mitchell.

By Tara Lucas

Martinsville City Council members heard a proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year at a meeting Tuesday. In presenting the \$109,892,325 proposed

budget, City Manager Leon Towarnicki noted it represents an increase of \$4,047,643 over the current budget.

The general fund revenue for FY 24 is projected to be \$33,856,203 from sources that include taxes, fees, recovered costs,

grants, and state funding. The total represents a 10.9 percent increase as a result of increases in property taxes, local taxes, recovered costs, shared expenses, and other state reimbursements.

An 8 percent electric rate increase is proposed

to take effect on July 1.

The electric budget for FY24 is \$24,189,063 and the purchased power item is \$17,500,000 and represents 72.3 percent of the electric budget.

The city anticipates an

See Council, page 7



Genie Elgin offers art classes at the RiverWalk Mini Mall at least twice a month.

Elgin shares her love of art through classes

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Genie Elgin shares her love of painting and artwork through classes held at the RiverWalk Mini Mall in Bassett.

"It just seems like when you share your art with people, they have two reactions. You get a lot of 'Oh can you make me one' or 'Can you show me how to do that,'" she said.

Elgin said she always tried to show and help those in her family with their artwork.

"My mom is a quilter, so if she needs a certain shape, I'll show her how to draw it. I've always been a teacher of it at heart I guess you'd say," she said.

Before she retired from her position at a post office, Elgin began sharing her artwork online, and on social media sites like Facebook and received some commissions for her paintings.

To really focus on her art, Elgin took an early out offer in 2018 from the United States Postal System (USPS). She retired from her position in March and got her business license in May to sell and teach art.

"That just got all the wheels in motion," she said.

Elgin said her painting classes are basically like a party.

"I try to just make it

plain and simple. Some of the things I do are classes where I teach, and" some are people coming together to paint, she said, adding that her classes are fun.

"It's to serve them (patrons) and it's therapeutic," she said. "It just provides a place to be creative. A lot of people just need a push to start, and once you get them started and get them going, they'll mostly be doing their own style."

Elgin said she's happy when people don't follow her precisely through a painting.

"I want them to venture out and take it where they want it to go," Elgin said, adding that she believes people attend her classes for the experience, memories, and entertainment.

"They get to take it home and they have something that they can remember" the experience, she said.

She strives to have students paint artwork they

See Elgin, page 4

County strikes down a solar siting agreement

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Henry County Board of Supervisors struck down a motion to approve a siting agreement with Vesper Energy for the construction of a 435-acre solar farm in the Axton area.

Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, made a motion to approve the agreement.

Ryan Zehr, of the Ridgeway District, seconded the motion that a majority of the board voted against.

Many of those in the majority 4 to 2 vote cited the county's ordinance which states, in part, that no more than 2.5 percent of land within a five-mile radius can be used for solar energy.



The Henry County Board of Supervisors voted against a motion to approve a siting agreement with Vesper Energy for the construction of a 435-acre solar farm in the Axton area in a 4-2 vote.

Vesper's proposed project, Axton Solar, would be 93 acres above the 2.5 percent limit.

Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, was among those to oppose the agreement.

"Our ordinance says that 2.5 percent in a five-mile radius," Slaughter said. "You either follow the ordinances or you don't follow them."

Slaughter said he is also concerned that allowing one project to not follow

the ordinance would set a precedent for future projects to ask for an exception to the rules.

Had that been the case, "we're going to just have to say, 'yeah, we done it

See County, page 3

Bowling Memorial Bike Ride set for Saturday

By Staff Reports

Motorcyclists from across the country will gather in Patrick County on Saturday, April 29 for the 19th annual Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial Bike Ride. The memorial ride is both a way for fellow veterans and servicemen to remember fallen Marine Jonathan Williams Bowling and a chance to continue his legacy of giving back to the community.

Bowling was a police officer, firefighter, elder at his church, and a corporal in the United States Marines. During deployment in Iraq in 2005, he made the ultimate sacrifice. Because Bowling was also an avid biker, the Chapter 11 Red Knights Motorcycle Club instituted an annual bike ride to honor his memory.

The event to honor his legacy begins at 10 a.m.

at Patrick County High School (215 Cougar Lane) in Stuart, Virginia and features live music, food, and door prizes. The ride begins at noon. Registration is \$15 per vehicle, and each entrant has a chance to win prizes.

Trophies are awarded to the participant who travels the farthest. All proceeds from the ride will go toward the Corp. Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial Scholarship, which was

established to honor his legacy and provide a Patrick County student with funding to attend Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

"The ongoing passion of the motorcyclists who participate in the event to honor Corporal Jonathan Bowling is a testament to the life he lived," said Tiffani Underwood, Director of P&HCC's Foundation.

See Bike Ride, page 2

VISIT 
[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
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.)

Events

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.

Saturday, April 29

Tulips & Teapots. Learn to embellish a ceramic teapot with paint and transform it into a planter, 2:30 p.m., main Martinsville Branch Library. The class is free for ages up to 18.

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, May 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.

Saturday, May 6

Storytime at the Spencer Penn Centre, 10 a.m. The free program is fit for all ages. Registration is not needed.

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.

Sunday, May 7

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.

Friday, May 12

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Centre, with the Slate Mountain Ramblers playing in Alumni Hall. The gate opens at 5 p.m. Music begins at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 donation. Concessions will be sold.

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.

Monday, May 15

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 124 in the Frith Economic Development Center. While this is a public meeting, public comments will not be accepted.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board Academic & Student Affairs Committee will meet at 11:30 in room 215 in the Frith Economic Development Center. While this is a public meeting, public comments will not be accepted.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board Executive Committee will meet at 11:45 in room 145 in the Frith Economic Development Center. While this is a public meeting, public comments will not be accepted.

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

Saturdays, April 29-November 18

Martinsville Uptown Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon, with the freshest fruits and veggies, homemade snacks, locally raised beef, and more. July

5-September 27, the market is open Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to noon.

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 brll.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 "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up 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.

Bullard posthumously honored for tireless dedication

Beatrice (Bea) Martin Bullard was honored by Woodmen of the World at the Fieldale Pools on Friday, April 21, what would have been her 95th birthday.

In recognition of Bea's tireless dedication to her community of Fieldale, the local chapter of Woodmen of the World donated a flag and flagpole that was installed last year at the Fieldale Pools. The flagpole was dedicated on Friday with Scott Koebel, Woodman of the World representative and Andrew Kahle, Recreation Center and Pools representative making remarks. The Fieldale Heritage Committee members provided refreshments.

The ceremony was attended by Bea's children, Meryl, Keith and his wife Donna, Cheryl and her husband Bill, and her grandchildren, J.P., Casey, and Jeremiah. Also in attendance were members of the Fieldale Heritage Group, Recreation Center and Pools group, and community members.

It is a fitting tribute that the pools were chosen as the site for the flagpole

in Bea's memory given her extensive involvement in the Fieldale Heritage group and the group's purchase of the former Community Center property. The Heritage Committee was instrumental in the fundraising efforts undertaken to renovate and reopen the pools. The flag and flagpole will serve as a reminder of Bea's love for Fieldale and its people and her passion and unwavering efforts to preserve the community of Fieldale and its history for future generations.

The pools will be opening on Memorial Day, May 29. Pool hours for 2023 are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., weather permitting. Summer memberships can be purchased ranging from \$200 to \$350 depending on the number in your household or you can pay by the day - Monday through Saturday is \$10, and \$5 on Sunday. For more information contact Fieldalerecandpooldirector@gmail.com.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SUMMER AND FALL SEMESTERS

SUMMER
Catch up.
Get ahead.
Classes begin May 23!

FALL
Register early.
Get what you want.

Educate your mind.
Follow your dream.

P&HCC is an EEO institution.

Bike Ride from page 1

"Through the Bowling Memorial Scholarship, the legacy that is so intertwined with Jonathan's life can be carried forward by Patrick County students who also have the desire to dedicate their lives to serving others. P&HCC is honored to partner with the Bowling family to preserve Corporal Bowling's memory in this way."

Each year, the Corp. Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial fund provides money for two Patrick County students to attend P&HCC. Students with a desire to enter into a public service career are given priority.

To learn more, visit www.cpljonathanbowling.us.

CPL JONATHAN W. BOWLING

19th ANNUAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

MOTORCYCLE RIDE

04/29/2023

2302 E. Brook Station Parkway
Martinsville, VA 26105
Tel: 888-832-7827 or 770-447-0644
Fax: 770-342-3829
Web Page: www.automaticcontrols.com

2155 E. Highway 211
Martinsville, VA 26105
Tel: 770-342-3829

AAW
American Association of Woodmen
215 E. Church St.
Martinsville, VA 26105
Tel: 770-342-3829

Music & Registration: 10 a.m. Ride: Noon

Patrick County High School
215 College Lane, Stuart, VA 24171

Sponsored by the Paul Fugitt Foundation

WWW.CPLJONATHANBOWLING.US

County from page 1

for them, and we're going to have to do it for you," he said.

Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, said he voted against the motion for the same reason.

"The principle is if you give here, you're going to have to give somebody else, and that's just a problem. Pandora's Box is opened and once you open that box up, it's like a virus and it spreads," he said.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, said if the county has an ordinance in place, it's there for a reason.

"We just can't change that ordinance or deviate from that ordinance every time we decide we just want to," she said. "If we have an ordinance in place, then we need to follow that ordinance unless we vote

to change that ordinance. That siting agreement deviated from that with the additional acreage."

Jim Adams, chairman and of the Blackberry District, said comments from his constituents influenced his decision to oppose the motion.

"A good number are concerned that there's an explosion of this happening too quickly, and they think the process is moving too fast," he said.

Adams said he expects that the board may revisit the issue and ensure the county has ordinances in place to protect against an explosion of growth.

Dillard and Zehr said they supported the project for a number of reasons.

"For the county, you get \$1.25 million upfront," Dillard said of the financial

incentive. "There are some citizens that stood to benefit, and people buy land with the intent to invest, and this was an opportunity for an investment."

Noting that there are occasions where the board scrambles to find funds for projects, Dillard said the project represented "an opportunity to have those extra funds coming in."

Because of the location of the proposed project, part of the five-mile radius would extend into Pittsylvania County, resulting in a less than five-mile radius being included in Henry County.

"In essence, they're already cut short with the amount of acreage that they could use," Dillard said. "If it had been a full five-mile radius, then that 93 acres

See County, page 5



Board of Supervisors members Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, presented a proclamation naming May 14-May 20 as National Peace Officers Memorial Week in Henry County to Wayne Davis, chief deputy of Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Community College Philanthropists Honored with 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy



At the MET (first row, left to right), ValleyStar Board member James Rorrer, ValleyStar Board member Betty Jo Ray, ValleyStar Senior Executive Assistant Christy Nester, ValleyStar Board member Steve Isley; (second row left to right), ValleyStar CEO Mike Warrell, ValleyStar Board member Terry Young, ValleyStar Executive Vice President Kevin Laine.



Celebration (first row left to right), VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré, P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood, ValleyStar Senior Executive Assistant Christy Nester, ValleyStar Board member Betty Jo Ray, ValleyStar Board member James Rorrer, ValleyStar Board member Steve Isley, ValleyStar Board member Tyell Banks, Mrs. Renee Hodges, PH&CC President Dr. Greg Hodges; (second row left to right), Valley Star Executive Vice President Kevin Laine, ValleyStar CEO Mike Warrell, ValleyStar Vice President of Data Jordan Weatherholtz.

ValleyStar Credit Union of Martinsville has received the 17th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. ValleyStar was nominated for the award by Patrick & Henry Community College.

More than two dozen individuals, families, and organizations have earned the 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony in Richmond on Tuesday, April 18. New VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré was the keynote speaker.

"It is a privilege and an honor to be in the company of such an esteemed group of philanthropists," Doré said. "Were it not for your generosity, some of our students would have to put their hopes and dreams on hold, while others might have to abandon them altogether. Thanks to you, however, our students will be able to work in an environment that is relatively free of the kind of financial pressures that can paralyze or even derail their forward progress, and for that, we are extremely grateful."

The annual event, hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), honors leading philanthropists from each of

Virginia's 23 community colleges as well as the statewide foundation. Recipients are nominated for their outstanding commitment to the growth and development of Virginia's community colleges and their respective foundations.

This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has collectively contributed \$14 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

Regarding ValleyStar's support of P&HCC, Dr. Greg Hodges said, "The association between ValleyStar and P&HCC began in 1992. Since that time, they have provided more than \$100,000 in gifts to support academic and workforce students, the annual operational expenses of the Motorsports program, and our COVID 19 Student Emergency Fund. Additionally, they regularly answer the call to serve as a corporate sponsor for a multitude of college events."

For more than 30 years, ValleyStar Credit Union has partnered with Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation to support students, programs and events at Patrick & Henry Community College. What started in 1992 with a single donation in support of the scholarship program, grew into

a true corporate partnership including donations, sponsorships and ValleyStar senior leadership also serves on the P&HCC Foundation Board.

In 2001, they established the ValleyStar Credit Union Annual Scholarship Fund to support students studying business and finance. Since its inception, more than 30 students have benefited from this scholarship. Additionally, In 2015, ValleyStar began supporting the Motorsports program at P&HCC, which allows the program to race their late-model car in local races at Martinsville

Speedway while continuing to provide hands-on training opportunities for students. And in 2020, when the COVID-19 Pandemic struck, ValleyStar was one of the first corporate entities to step up and support the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for P&HCC students.

"ValleyStar Credit Union has shown time and time again just how committed they are to supporting the students, programs and events at Patrick & Henry Community College," said P&HCC Foundation executive director Tiffani Underwood.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18								
19					20			21					
				22			23						
		24	25				26			27	28		
29	30						31			32		33	
34					35	36				37			
38				39						40			
	41		42					43	44				
			45				46						
	47	48					49				50	51	52
53						54			55	56			
57									58				
59						60			61				

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. North American people
 - 6. Chinese surname
 - 10. Fit in at the last minute
 - 14. "Very" in musical terminology
 - 15. Underwater displays
 - 17. Crosby's bandmates
 - 19. Belong to he
 - 20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)
 - 21. Sequences of alternating turns
 - 22. Genus of grasses
 - 23. Satisfy
 - 24. Petty quarrel
 - 26. Made level
 - 29. Ruler of Iran
 - 31. Historical region of Syria
 - 32. Food suitable for babies
 - 34. Something to lend
 - 35. Zone of oceanic trenches
 - 37. Philippine island
 - 38. Domesticated animal
 - 39. Plant of the lily family
 - 40. Blush green
 - 41. ___ Tomei, actress
 - 43. Without (French)
 - 45. Lilly and Manning are two
 - 46. Apply pressure to
 - 47. Divide in half
 - 49. Bad deed
 - 50. Don't know when yet
 - 53. Hollywood's greatest honor
 - 57. Aiming to exhort
 - 58. Faked
 - 59. A way to pierce
 - 60. Midway between north-east and east
 - 61. Points
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Chop up
 - 2. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 3. Egyptian goddess
 - 4. Split pulses
 - 5. Afflict
 - 6. Type of area rug
 - 7. Tide
 - 8. Affirmative
 - 9. Sudden change
 - 10. One picked
 - 11. Debauched man
 - 12. Stiff bristles
 - 13. Famous arena
 - 16. Established rules and methods
 - 18. Injection
 - 22. Father
 - 23. Protein-rich liquids
 - 24. He delivers gifts
 - 25. Advanced degree
 - 27. Fencing swords
 - 28. Chinese mountain range
 - 29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
 - 30. Precursor to hemoglobin
 - 31. Much ___ about nothing
 - 33. Compound fabric (abbr.)
 - 35. A way to act slowly on
 - 36. Ottoman military commanders
 - 37. Popular kids' network
 - 39. Hard compound
 - 42. Sympathize with
 - 43. Northeast college
 - 44. Blood group
 - 46. Frosted
 - 47. Turn away
 - 48. Benefit
 - 49. Dry or withered
 - 50. Bangladeshi monetary unit
 - 51. Reproduced
 - 52. Contributes
 - 53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
 - 54. Wear
 - 55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)
 - 56. Very small

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

WE OFFER FLEXIBLE ADVERTISING PACKAGES, IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101

OPINION

Who will replace Tucker Carlson?

It's official: Tucker Carlson, host of Tucker Carlson Tonight and man who constantly looks like he's trying to determine whether there's a gas leak in his house, has been unceremoniously fired from Fox News.

Many questions remain. Did Carlson leave voluntarily because he was tired of lying to the American people every night and wanted to spend more time lying to his family?

No. Was he fired because his lies about Dominion Voting Systems helped trigger a defamation suit that cost Fox News \$787.5 million dollars, underlining the fact that billionaire ghoul Rupert Murdoch doesn't care about red or blue, just green?

Yes, it's this one. And so, after giving it some more thought, I guess only one question remains:

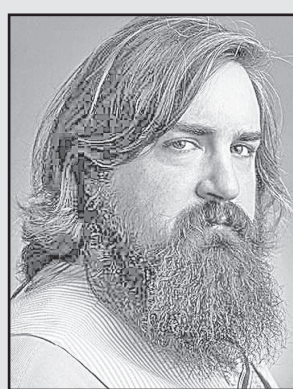
who will be brought in to fill Tucker Carlson's Sperry boat shoes?

As it happens, I went to the Fox News yard sale last weekend and spent 37 cents on a box containing Shepard Smith's battered dignity and Greta Van Susteren's original face. It was only when I got the box home that I discovered it also contained a secret folder, the contents of which I will share today.

Below are Fox News' top picks for Tucker Carlson's Great Replacement:

1. Father Charles Coughlin

PROS: Who better to replace Tucker Carlson than the man who wrote his playbook? Father Charles Coughlin has extensive experience in radio and his charisma should easily transfer to television. While his Catholicism may turn off some Fox News viewers, his anti-semitism and



By Ben R. Williams

full-throated support for fascism will bring them right back.

CONS: His radio program was banned by Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 after he offered his support for policies in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Also, he's been dead since 1979 and would be 132 years old if he were still alive.

2. Joseph Goebbels

PROS: When it comes to spreading nationalist propaganda, it's hard to beat Joseph Goebbels. While much

of his experience was in radio and film, there's little doubt he would dominate prime-time television.

CONS: He only ran the Propaganda Ministry for 12 years, meaning his experience pales in comparison to Carlson's. Also, he killed himself in 1945.

3. Mr. Peanut

PROS: With his top hat, monocle, and spats, Mr. Peanut embodies the out-of-touch elitism that viewers loved when tuning in to watch Tucker Carlson. Additionally, Mr. Peanut is willing to sell out his own species to pad his wallet, which ethically aligns him with the overall theme of Carlson's program.

CONS: Fictional, and possibly dead based on those confusing commercials from a few years back.

4. Alex Jones

PROS: While he lacks the thin veneer of respectability that Tucker Carlson brought to the table, Alex Jones offers remarkably similar content. His loud, gravelly voice commands

attention, and viewers will want to tune in every night to see if this is finally the episode where his heart explodes on live television.

CONS: Jones is somehow an even bigger legal liability than Carlson, and he isn't vocal enough on the topic of attractive candy mascots.

5. Uncle Ricky

PROS: Uncle Ricky has been the Tucker Carlson of family get-togethers for the better part of eight years and has memorized all of Carlson's most popular talking points. In fact, he's incapable of discussing anything else.

CONS: It will be difficult for Uncle Ricky to generate new content since he can only repeat what he's heard from Carlson. Also, unlike Carlson, he actually believes this stuff and could present a COVID risk to the office.

6. Don Lemon

PROS: Suddenly available and probably affordable.

CONS: No one cares about Don Lemon.

Outdoor Classroom Along Smith River Sponsored by Eastman

Just in time for Earth Day, DRBA is announcing plans for an outdoor classroom to be built this summer along the Smith River in Henry County, Virginia. The outdoor classroom is sponsored by Eastman Performance Films located in Fieldale, Virginia. The outdoor classroom will be called the Eastman Smith River Eco-Learning Station.

Beginning in 2018, the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and Eastman partnered together to design the Eco-Learning Station at the Great Road River Access. This exciting project was expected to be completed in two phases and would provide a learning site for hundreds of regional students to experience environmental education outside of their normal classroom setting that will help them to excel in STEAM and drive community environmental initiatives.

"We are excited to sponsor this wonderful learning environment for our local schools and community," said Kristoff Lievens, Eastman Performance Films site leader. "Teaching our children about the importance of the environment and conservation is essential and we look forward to the many opportunities this new outdoor classroom will bring to our area."

Phase I of the plans included a

ground level boardwalk and educational signage. The boardwalk was completed in 2019. Phase II is to be completed by fall 2023 and will include pavilion design, construction and materials, along with interpretive signage.

Located near a flood plain, the pavilion will be open-air concept with a roof. Educational signage selected with input from local teachers will include the Smith River Ecosystem, Water Cycle, Life of the River, and the Importance of Riparian Buffers. Potential accessories include tables and/or benches.

"DRBA hosts hundreds of students annually at the Great Road River Access through the Trout in the Classroom program," says Krista Hodges, Education Outreach Manager. "Students release trout fingerlings every spring into the Smith River while learning about the importance of water quality, river ecology, conservation and the life cycle of the trout through this hands-on environmental education program. We look forward to working with students from around the basin at the new outdoor classroom."

The pavilion will primarily be used for educational purposes and open for local teachers and schools in Martinsville/Henry County to use on a first come, first serve basis.



Conceptual rendering of proposed Eastman Smith River Eco-Learning Station to be completed by fall 2023.

In addition to an outdoor learning space for regional students, the site will also provide outdoor space for visitors and a site for Citizen Water Quality Monitoring of the river.

The outdoor classroom project includes matching funds through the Virginia Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program.

The Great Road River Access is owned and maintained by Henry County Parks and Recreation.

The Dan River Basin Association is an environmental non-profit that

protects the region's natural assets such as the Dan River and its tributaries. DRBA is working to promote tourism as well as healthy lifestyles. DRBA assists localities in creating community parks, trails and access to local rivers and streams. Our mission is to protect and promote the Dan River Basin through recreation, education and stewardship.

Visit www.danriver.org to learn more about protecting and conserving our local natural resources and how you can get involved in your community.

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area
HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Debbie Hall, *Editor*
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Manager*
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

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

Elgin from page 1



Students in Genie Elgin's classes often display their completed projects in their homes.

are proud of and can hang on their walls.

"You don't have to be great at painting, but you'll definitely want to learn something and be inspired," she said, adding that often, her students are ready to come back for another class. Elgin plans to hold

one to two classes each month. If she needs a bigger space for her classes, the mall can accommodate her request.

"Plus, they have this big, huge deck by the river, so when the weather gets warmer it's covered and screened in," she said. "That will be

really cool to sit on the deck and paint."

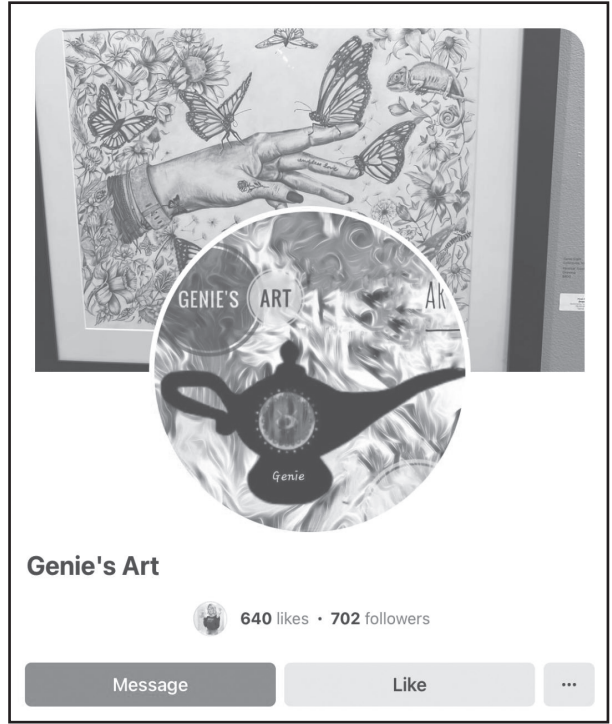
Elgin previously taught at Piedmont Arts and led classes at all the libraries in the Blue Ridge Regional Library system.

Classes are \$25 per class per person. The canvas size depends on

the focus of the project.

Those interested in attending a class can contact her at (276) 224-0029 or email geniee@rocketmail.com.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/GeniesArt or www.geniesart.com.



For more information about the art classes, go to Facebook.com/GeniesArt or www.geniesart.com.

County from page 1

wouldn't have even been an issue."

Zehr said he believes the private landowners have the right to do what they want with their private land.

He noted the county negotiated a siting agreement with the company, "and we were aware that it could potentially go over 2.5 percent, which is above what the ordinance allows. We knew that when we finalized the siting agreement and presented it to them, so I think we did our due diligence and got the best of it we could."

Noting that farming is the only other use for the land, Zehr said "if the landowner doesn't want to

farm, then give them some peace of mind so they can use the land as they'd like. If they want to throw up some solar farms, it's up to the landowner.

"Who am I to say they can't do that with their own land," he asked rhetorically.

In other matters, the board:

*Approved its \$196,623,925 budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The total is an increase of \$6.7 million, or 3.5 percent when compared to the current spending plan.

The board also set its real estate tax rate at 0.55 cents per \$100 of assessed value, and its machinery and tools tax at \$1.55 per

\$100 assessed value.

The personal property tax was set at \$1.55 per \$100 assessed value including motor vehicles. The motor vehicle license fee will be a flat rate with \$20.75 for cars and \$12 for motorcycles and trailers.

The budget for Henry County Schools also was adopted with categorical expenses subject to available state, federal, and local funds.

*Approved the items of consent.

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

*Heard an update from Mark Heath, president, and CEO of the Martinsville-

Henry County Economic Development Corp.

*Approved a proclamation naming May 14-May 20 as National Peace Officers Memorial Week in Henry County.

*Heard an update on general highway matters from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes.

*Approved the transfer of \$1,074,000 in FY23 funds, and an appropriation of FY22 school carryover funds to purchase capital items.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$25,965 received from grant funds to pay for replacing ballistic vests in the Henry

County Sheriff's Office.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$16,067 in grant funds to be used for deputy overtime, workforce recruitment/retention, training and education of inmates and staff, and other purposes covered in the grant guidelines.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$37,000 from State Asset Forfeiture funds to pay for defensive tactics and fitness equipment.

*Awarded a \$378,519 contract to Timmons Group for engineering and design services related to the reconstruction and upgrade of Reservoir Road.

*Approved the appropriation of \$25,000 from

the Harvest Foundation for the S.E.E.D. Beautification program.

*Approved a request to rezone approximately 2.7 acres in the Ridgeway District to Limited Industrial District (I-2) for the construction of four warehouse units.

* Approved a request to rezone a lot in the Horsepasture District to Mixed Residential District (M-R) to place a doublewide manufactured home on the property.

*Reappointed Donna Stone to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board for a three-year term.

Preschool in the Galleries inspires artists, nature lovers

Preschool in the Galleries took place at Piedmont Arts when classes from Campbell Court Preschool and First Baptist Church Early Learning Center dropped by the museum for fun, art, and educational enrichment. Both classes spent the morning exploring the Discovery Room, planting native wildflowers on the Pollinator Path, and blowing bubbles. One of the classes ended with a picnic lunch and time to play in the Art Garden.

A series of programs for pre-K students, Preschool in the Galleries is designed to foster a love of the performing and visual arts at a young age. Performances are free to students and schools and frequently feature performers from Carlisle School's ZipZapZop Theatre Co., Martinsville High School Jazz Band and Stanleytown Elementary Children's Choir, among others. Events are scheduled regularly. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

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



Seeds were prepped to plant outdoors on the educational plot of the Pollinator Path.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Markers and fairy wings are just some of the fun things to explore in the Discovery Room, which is free to the public.



A day at Preschool in the Galleries began with learning how to plant seeds, which involved digging in soil.



The event included time to create in the Discovery Room, which is full of dress up clothes and arts and craft supplies for kids of all ages.

Resolution
Henry County Board of Supervisors
April is Fair Housing Month

WHEREAS, the month of April is Fair and Affordable Housing Month in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Virginia Fair Housing Law provide for fair housing to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, familial status, or disability; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County Board of Supervisors is committed to the development of decent, affordable housing for all citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 25th of April 2023 the Henry County Board of Supervisors supports the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Virginia Fair Housing Law and does hereby proclaim April as "Fair Housing Month."

Movie Town 276-638-4040

NOW PLAYING:
The Covenant(R)
Evil Dead Rise(R)
Super Mario Bros(PG)
Renfield(R)
Dungeons & Dragons(PG-13)
John Wick 4(R)

<http://www.movietowntheatre.com>
or call for showtimes (276) 632-7400

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

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

21 BTW
Your Neighborhood Network

The Southside's
 #1 Local TV Station

SPRINGLAKE STOCKYARD

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

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

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

*Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net
 See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com*

OBITUARIES

James Edwin “Eddie” Bourne

James Edwin “Eddie” Bourne, 78, of Martinsville, VA passed away peacefully on Friday, April 21, 2023, at his home. He was born on July 19, 1944, in Elk Creek, VA to the late Sam Bourne and Ruby Hall Bourne. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Janet Tolley; brother, Dean Bourne; and brother-in-law, Bruce Fulcher.



ters-in-law, Elva Bourne and Sharon Fulcher; brother, Arnold Bourne (Shelia); niece, Genia Stansell; nephews, Tony Tolley, Mike Tolley, Matthew Fulcher, and Jonathan Fulcher.

The funeral service was held at Norris Funeral Services on Monday, April 24, 2023, with Pastor David McEntire officiating. The burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to Fieldale United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 218, Fieldale, VA 24089.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville Chapel are serving the Bourne family. Online condolences can be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Mr. Bourne served in The United States Army and was a member of Fieldale United Methodist Church. He was a graduate of Fries High School, Fries, VA, and a corvette enthusiast.

He is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Myra Fulcher Bourne; sis-

Jimmy Donald Chambers

Jimmy Donald Chambers, 82, of Collinsville, VA passed away Friday, April 21, 2023, at home. He was born May 1, 1940, in Ft Payne, Alabama to the late James W. and Lois K. Ridgway Chambers. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Ann Rich Chambers, daughter, Lynn Chambers Riddle, and brothers, Willard, Billy, and Mickey Chambers.



that truly embraced the many friends he cultivated through the years.

He is survived by his daughter, Sona Chambers of Santa Rosa Beach, FL; granddaughter, Heather Riddle McLeod (Shane); and “great-grandboys,” Cole McLeod and Colin McLeod of Buies Creek, NC; and sister, Barbara Culbreth.

A funeral service was held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel with Minister Tim Wood officiating. The burial was on Tuesday, April 24, 2023, at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA are serving the Chambers family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Mr. Chambers was of the Baptist faith and retired from Clayton Homes as a General Manager. Jimmy was very positive with a bright outlook on life. He was a very hard worker, starting at the age of 9, with a paper route and milk delivery. An avid golfer, sportsman, and Duke basketball fan

Warren named to P&HCC Board

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board welcomed its newest member, Mr. William Stuart “Stu” Warren.

Mr. Warren served as a pilot in the US Air Force prior to working as a pilot and instructor for FedEx until his retirement in 2020. He and his wife, Susan, own Tackfully Teamed Riding Academy, providing therapeutic horseback riding for people with disabilities.

Mr. Warren also serves the community as the president of Bassett Kiwanis Club and member of the Chatmoss Country Club board. The Warrens have three adult sons and are members of Stone Memorial Christian Church.



William Stuart “Stu” Warren was appointed the Patrick & Henry Community College Board.

Stu Warren was appointed by Henry County to fill the spot of Mrs. Monica Hatchett. Her term would

have expired in 2024. Mr. Warren will be eligible for his first full four-year term in 2024.

Axton native Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Dorian Green, a native of Axton, was recently initiated into the Hampden-Sydney College Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The society welcomed 787 new initiates from 32 universities during March 2023.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914.

Juvenile to be charged in connection with incident at Dollar General

A person sought in connection with an arson and vandalism investigation voluntarily surrendered to authorities and charges are pending.

The person is a juvenile, and as such, the name will not be released.

The incident began on Thursday, April 20, at 7:20 p.m., when the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Communications Center received a call from a Dollar General store

manager regarding an alleged arson and vandalism that occurred in the store located on 6260 A L Philpott Hwy.

Fire crews were not dispatched to the scene because the fire had been extinguished.

Henry County Fire Marshal Lisa Garrett and a Henry County Sheriff’s investigator responded to the scene and discovered that someone had entered the store, picked up a lighter and proceeded to

set fire to numerous items near the front register.

The Fire Marshal’s Office has obtained photos of that person and a woman believed to be a traveling companion. Both left the scene in a white Honda Accord.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Fire Marshal’s Office at (276) 634-4668 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to get the word out to potential hires.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse
Phone: 276-930-1703
Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net
Website: Woodwrx.net.

Merritt's Lawn Care Service
Providing mowing, mulching, shrub trimming and much more for Stuart and surrounding areas. For more information, call 276-692-8431.

Thomas Land Solutions LLC
Forestry mulching, overgrowth property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

FOR SALE

GE Electric Range, 30", white, ceramic top, clean, everything works. \$200.00 firm.
Call 276-629-7722

Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information to advertise with a classified ad.

HELP WANTED

Experienced Mechanic
40 hrs. Monday-Friday
Patrick Springs area
Call Duncan Speed Shop
276-694-4133

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring
Multiple Seasonal Positions!
Beach Maintenance Ranger
Beach Ranger (Lifeguard)
Boathouse Ranger
Food Service Ranger
Interpretive Assistant
Maintenance Ranger

Call 276-694-3101 to find out more information about advertising in the Classifieds!

HELP WANTED

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 With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

JOIN US

WEEKLY SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE
10:30AM

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel
NEVER MISS A SERVICE

NEW DAY CHURCH
MHC
705 LIBERTY ST MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

H	A	I	D	A	A	N	Y	U	C	R	A	M
A	S	S	A	I	D	E	E	P	S	H	O	W
S	T	I	L	L	S	N	A	S	H	Y	O	U
H	I	S	H	E	P	E	S	S	E	S		
			P	O	A	S	A	T	E			
			S	P	A	T				E	V	E
S	H	A	H		A	R	A	M		P	A	P
H	A	N	D		H	A	D	A	L		C	E
P	E	T		S	E	G	O			T	E	A
			M	A	R	I	S	A		S	A	N
			E	L	I	S		R	U	B		
S	P	L	I	T		S	I	N		T	B	A
T	H	E	A	C	A	D	E	M		A	A	R
H	O	R	T	A	T	O	R			D	E	K
P	O	K	E		E	N	E			H	E	A

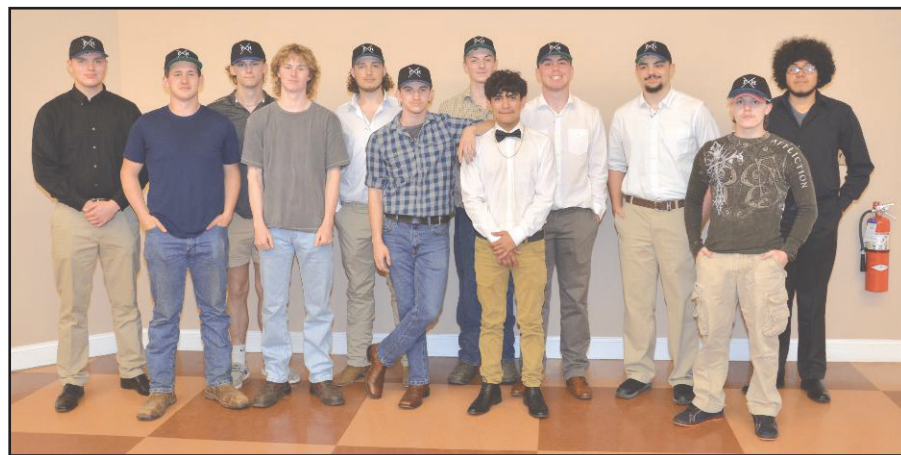
Submit your community news and photos to dhall@theenterprise.net

ADVERTISE!

High School Sports schedule

The following is a list of the sporting events scheduled in Martinsville and Henry County for the week of May 1-6.

5/1	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Carroll County @ Magna Vista
	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Martinsville @ Halifax County
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Magna Vista @ Carroll County
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Halifax County @ Martinsville
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Hargrave Military Academy @ Carlisle
	4:30pm	Girls Soccer	Carlisle @ North Cross
	4:30pm	Baseball	North Cross @ Carlisle
	5pm	Baseball	Dan River @ Martinsville
	6pm	Softball	Dan River @ Martinsville
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Bassett @ William Byrd
5/2	4:30pm	Girls Soccer	New Covenant @ Carlisle
	4:30pm	Baseball	Eastern Mennonite @ Carlisle
	5pm	Baseball	Tunstall @ Bassett
	5pm	Baseball	Magna Vista @ Mecklenburg County
	5pm	Baseball	Martinsville @ Halifax County
	5pm	Softball	Tunstall @ Bassett
	5pm	Softball	Magna Vista @ Mecklenburg County
	6pm	Girls Soccer	Bassett @ Tunstall
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Mecklenburg County @ Magna Vista
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Tunstall @ Bassett
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Magna Vista @ Mecklenburg County
	7:15pm	Girls Soccer	Halifax County @ Martinsville
	7:15pm	Boys Soccer	Martinsville @ Halifax
5/3	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Bassett @ Halifax County
	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	George Washington @ Magna Vista
	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Patrick County @ Martinsville
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Halifax County @ Bassett
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Magna Vista @ George Washington
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Patrick County @ Martinsville
	4:30pm	Softball	Bassett @ Halifax County
5/4	4:30pm	Girls Soccer	Westover Christian Academy @ Carlisle
	5pm	Baseball	Bassett @ Halifax County
	5pm	Baseball	Wesleyan Christian Academy @ Carlisle
	5pm	Softball	Halifax County @ Bassett
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Halifax County @ Bassett
5/5	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Magna Vista @ Bassett
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Bassett @ Magna Vista
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis	Carlisle @ Miller School of Albemarle
	4:30pm	Golf	Carlisle @ North Cross
	5pm	Baseball	Magna Vista @ Tunstall
	5pm	Baseball	Patrick County @ Martinsville
	5pm	Softball	Magna Vista @ Tunstall
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Bassett @ Halifax County
	7pm	Girls Soccer	Tunstall @ Magna Vista
	7pm	Boys Soccer	Magna Vista @ Tunstall
	7:15pm	Girls Soccer	Martinsville @ Patrick County
	7:15pm	Boys Soccer	Patrick County @ Martinsville
	8pm	Track	Bassett @ Charlottesville
5/6	10am	Softball	Patrick County @ Magna Vista
	2pm	Softball	Mecklenburg County @ Magna Vista
	2pm	Baseball	Highland vs Carlisle (at North Cross)



Patrick County are (first row, left to right) Tristian Hardy, Isaac Atchley, William Creston McAlister, Osiel Gutierrez-Vargas, Andrew Rakes; (second row, left to right) Samuel Hubbard, Tyler Stowe-Holt, Xavien Taylor, Christian Fain, George Stovall, Isaac Wood, Paulo Hernandez.

Thirty-one local students sign on 10th annual NC3 National Signing Day

Patrick & Henry Community College hosted the 10th annual National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) National CTE Letter of Intent signing day on Thursday, April 20.

Nineteen students from Henry County Public Schools and Martinsville City Public Schools signed letters of intent at P&HCC's MET Complex on Thursday morning. These students will go on to pursue additional training and careers in the fields of CADD, Industrial Electronics Technology, Motorsports Technology, Power Line Service, Residential/Commercial/Industrial Electricity, and Welding.

Twelve students from Patrick County Public Schools signed letters of intent at

P&HCC's Patrick County site. These students will go on to pursue additional training and careers in the fields of Industrial Electronics Technology and Welding.

Prior to signing their letters of intent, students heard words of motivation and encouragement from Brandon Johnson, HCPS coach and assistant principal (MET location) and Sean Adkins, Patrick County director of economic development (PC site). NC3 representative Jeramiah Pauly and P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges congratulated students on their commitment to the future.

Regional employers were available at both events to discuss career opportunities with their companies.



Pictured from Henry County are (first row, left to right) Hunter Spencer, Isaac McKissick, Ja'Qwan Thomas, Jose Sanchez, Nolbert Luviano-Bustos, Hunter Amos, Chris Compton, Hunter Brown; (second row, left to right) Braydon Pruitt, Russell Daniel, Jr., Holden Draper, Deshawn Watkins, Alex McIntosh, Lane Deatherage, Jonathan Jimenez-Chavez.

Council

from page 1

additional electric rate increase in January 2024.

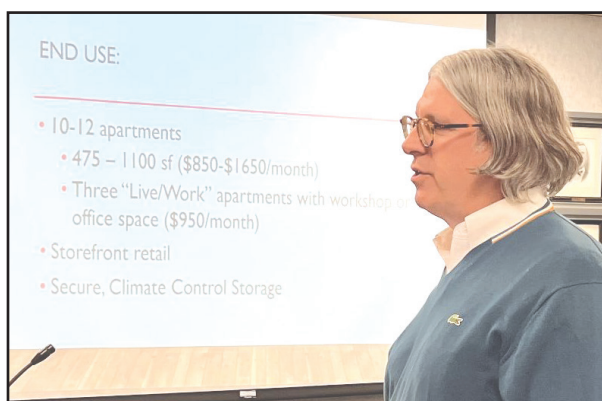
It has received \$15,463,451 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds - some of which have been committed for specific purposes.

In other matters, the council:

*Heard from representatives from the Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness, which ensures that everyone in the community has access to healthcare regardless of their insurance status as their primary focus.

The coalition operates two federally qualified health centers: Bassett Family Practice and Ridgeway Family Health. The coalition is also responsible for the Community Dental Clinic in Uptown Martinsville. Representatives noted they are available to visit civic groups/church events to provide a health fair, if interested. Anyone interested may call Ridgeway Family Health at (276) 956-2233 and ask for Chasity Gravely to coordinate the visit.

*Heard from Jeff Sadler, owner of the former McCollum-Ferrell building in Uptown Martinsville, who is requesting classification of the property as mixed use to add roughly 10-12 apartments along with retail space. He expects the units to be between 475-1,100 square feet, with rents from \$850-1,650 per month. Three of the units would be "live/work" apartments and include a workshop or office space. Sadler is seeking a grant from the Virginia Department of



Jeff Sadler discussed a project in the former McCollum Ferrell building.

Housing and Community Development for gap financing to fund the renovation project and approval of a resolution to proceed. Upon approval, Sadler said he believes the project could be completed within nine months.

Council members supported the project but were not ready to approve the resolution.

"I want to see that building back in use, but I would love some time to read through the paperwork," Vice-Mayor Aaron Rawls said.

The issue will be taken up at the next council meeting.

*Discussed some concerns following a neighborhood tour of Northside on Monday that was followed by a meeting at Chatham Heights Baptist Church. There, a resident noted that there was an issue with trash along Clearview Drive, possibly due to uncovered transport vehicles. Another resident noted an issue of individuals not using the sidewalk on Chatham Heights, which poses a hazard to both drivers and pedestrians. Junk cars and four-wheelers were other issues.

*Hannah Powell of Martinsville's Community Development Office, recently worked with Darden Business School students at the University of Virginia on current financing options in Martinsville. The team gathered both quantitative and qualitative data over a period of months. A survey was conducted online, and a public meeting was held on March 30, she said.

*Recognized the week of May 7-13 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Martinsville; April 28 was recognized as Arbor Day.

*Learned that a number of fire hydrants that were noted as not operational have been repaired and returned to service.

*Heard that on May 4, a grand opening for the Center of Housing Education will be held. The center is located at 51 East Church Street, in the Chief Tassel Building. The agency represents an expansion from Danville. The organization helps individuals with financial literacy, preparation to purchase a home, and a down payment assistance program.



Pictured from Martinsville are (left to right) Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley, Avontaye McKenzie, Marcel Breedlove Jr., Jakel Brim, Jayden Fitzgerald, MHS principal Aji Dixon.

Radio Operators Support Concurrent Events

The Southwest Virginia Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) amateur radio volunteers continued their community support for 2023 by responding to concurrent regional events. These exercises help ham radio operators prepare their equipment and skills for actual regional emergency responses. Many past natural disasters have knocked out cell phone service, demonstrating the need for ham radio services on site.

The longer event was the No Frills Horse Ride sponsored by the Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization, Inc. conducted in Star Tannery, Virginia on April 14 and 15. AUXCOMM Event Coordinator Frank Howard lead the 10th annual return to this event with six ham operators from Dugspur, Fairlawn, Galax, Pulaski, Woodlawn and Wytheville. Over 100 horse and rider teams



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK HOWARD

Group photo of SW Virginia AUXCOMM No Frills Horse Ride ham operators, (L) to (R) Beverley Tipton, Frank Howard, Taylor Sigler, David Todd and Roger Bell.

were tracked on multiple trails ranging from 10 to 55 miles long. Event leaders said without ham radio operators, team safety and coordination tracking the riders simply wouldn't be possible. With the multiple events on the large courses, they noted the importance of radio communications to track a horse and rider team that continued through a check point, unchecked. The horse and rider were OK and continued their course.

The second event was the combined New River Trail 25K and 50K Marathons along the New River and Chestnut Creek in the New River Trail State Park held

on 15 April. AUXCOMM Event Coordinator Josh Greer drew amateur radio operators from Sparta, NC, Galax, Groundhog Mountain and Max Meadows. The marathons hosted 156 runners that raced through four Aid Stations. Again, the value of volunteer communications was demonstrated in real time when one runner ran beyond the course route. Event authorities were notified immediately, and a plan was formulated to find the lone runner who eventually returned unharmed to complete the marathon.



The cast and crew thanked members of the audience as they exited the theatre.

Treasure Island plays to sold-out crowds at Ferrum College

By Pat Delaney

“It was tremendous”, is how Director Emily Blankenship-Tucker described the week-end performances of Treasure Island presented by Ferrum College Theatre Arts.

Featuring a cast of thirty-five performers, which included Ferrum College students, community members and youngsters from local schools, Treasure Island played four sold-out performances on April 20-23. The audience enjoyed an adaptation by R. Rex Stephenson

that told the story with rousing musical numbers, of how Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his novel, Treasure Island. Emily Blankenship-Tucker directed and composed the musical score.

The audience enjoyed the play’s combination of music and humor, reacting with loud cheers and applause for the entire cast as they closed out the show with the final musical number. As the audience left the theatre, they were greeted by the cast and crew who lined up outside to thank everyone for coming. It also became a chance for the audience to let the

cast and crew know how much they enjoyed the show and their performances.

Treasure Island was the culmination of weeks of rehearsals and hard work by the performers and stage crew, during which the various groups of performers, young and old, came together to put on the play.

“This was an amazing time for the kids,” said the parent of a young actress. “Getting to spend time with the adult and college performers was such a positive experience. They were so amazing with the kids, and it showed in how great they

did when it was show-time. They won’t ever forget the time they spent working on and performing the show.”

Treasure Island also marked the first performances in the newly renamed Rex Stephenson Theatre.

“He’s dedicated his life and career to this theatre, and he’s taught us all so much,” said Emily Blankenship Tucker. “We all know how to do this and know how to create theatre that is engaging and exciting for audiences because of the lessons we learned from Rex, and we’re proud to carry on that tradition.”



The theatre was renamed in honor of Rex Stephenson for his dedication to the theatre arts program at Ferrum College.



The cast of Treasure Island closed out the show with a rousing musical number.

Radio

from page 7



Father-daughter ham operator team David and Brandy Pucket await runners during the NRT marathons.

Duties for operators at both events included carefully logging and reporting all participants along the courses and passing information from check points to event leaders. The data logs are paramount for competitor safety, ensuring every rider, horse and marathon runner is accounted for, and any safety concerns can be addressed to multiple stations via radio. Altogether AUXCOMM volunteers provided over 150 volunteer hours. Both event organizers invited the teams back next year, and commented on the professionalism that each ham radio operator displayed.

AUXCOMM volunteers are amateur, or ‘ham’ radio operators, licensed by the FCC. The word ‘amateur’ in their title means operators are federally licensed but legally cannot take pay for services, which include communication support during natural disasters for emergency management teams, and supporting public safety and community events. The Southwest Virginia Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) team aligns with and supports Region 4 of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The AUXCOMM team works closely with the Briarpatch Amateur Radio Service Club in Galax, and includes members from SW Virginia and NW North Carolina.

Visit www.briarpatcharc.com and sw-va-auxcomm.org for AUXCOMM and Briarpatch radio club meeting times, on the air nets, current activities and our schedule of upcoming events including our ARRL Field Day in June.



PHOTOS BY RANDY LILLY

Josh Greer (R) and another ham operator work Net Control for dual NRT marathons.



AXTON SOLAR

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