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Saturday, May 20, 2023

(USPS-6)

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leidi Pinkston, Executive Director of Piedmont Arts, Students Ainsley Jones, Claire-Warner Coleman, and ecipients of the 2023 Clyde Hooker Awards Ceremony annual Clyde Hooker Awards. ast week.

s flanked by Natalie Hodge and Brad Draper, the Nathan Hopkins were awarded scholarships at the 21st

Draper, Hodge recipients of Clyde Hooker Awards

By Staff Reports

Annual Clyde Hooker tor of Piedmont Arts. Awards Ceremony recent-

Association.

Natalie Hodge, of are crucial to building and exceptional businesses and Rudy's Girl Media, and sustaining a thriving com- individuals involved in Draper Flowers & Gifts munity and have seen how and supporting the orgawere the 2023 recipients the arts can be transforma- nization and other arts of the Clyde Hooker tional to individuals and and cultural organizations Awards. The winners were communities," said Heidi in Martinsville-Henry announced during the 21st Pinkston, executive direc- County, Pinkston said.

The award program after J. Clyde Hooker,

ly held at Piedmont Arts was established in 2003 Jr., for his support of the by the museum's board "Both believe the arts of directors to recognize

"The award is named

arts. Forty individuals and businesses have received this prestigious award," Pinkston said.

Piedmont Arts Board member and granddaughter-in-law of Clyde Hooker, Olivia Garrett said Draper Flowers & Gifts is a model

See Draper, page 3

Flanagan will not seek another term



Field widens for Commissioner's race

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

Three new candidates have entered the race for the Henry County Commissioner of Revenue post.

The incumbent Linda Love is set to retire at the end of the year.

Adrianne Bowyer, Dallas Hairston, and Tiffany Hairston are joining Blake Minter, who previously announced his candidacy.

Bowyer, the current Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, said election to the top slot has always been a lifelong goal since she started working in the office at age 20.

Bowyer, 45, started in the office as a real estate tax clerk and has worked her way up to her current position in her 25 years in the office.

"I just thought that now was a wonderful time. My children have gotten a little older and they're a little more self-sufficient, and I just felt like now was a good time in my life to be able to step into that role," she said.

Bowyer said she wants to see the office continue to run in its current efficient direction.

"We've gone digital with a lot of our stuff. We're very efficient, and customers compliment us all the time," she said. "I would like to see it continue in that direction where we're very customer-focused and very friendly."

A self-described people-oriented person, Bowyer said she knows most of the customers by name.

"I work with most of the businesses, the restaurants, and businesses in Henry County, and so many of them do tend to ask for me. I just think I bring that customer-focused attentiveness," she said.

Dallas Hairston said he decided to seek the post because he believes he would be an asset.

The "issues that I have is the accountability of the office and the processing of things that the state requires the commissioner to process. I know there are some understaffing needs in the office, but it's kind of the thing with most government offices," he said.

Dallas Hairston, 44, currently works as the real estate assessor for Martinsville. He has served as the city's head assessor since 2020 and has worked in the city commissioner's office since 2002.

While there isn't a whole lot the commissioner can do because the processes are dictated by the

four cyber security teams from the Henry County Public Schools Career Academy competed in the 2022-2023 competition. More than 300 high schools and community colleges participated in the event. One of the teams placed 10th in the competition. All of the team members earned a \$500 scholarship to be used for Radford University's computer science and cyber security programs. Students recognized were Brooke Barber, Christian Davidson, Jaden Jones, Austin Laprade, Landon McCraw, Christian Millner, and Logan Surber.

By Tara Lucas

Terri Flanagan told her colleagues on the Henry County School Board that she will not seek another term after her term ends at the end of the year. Flanagan, of the Horsepasture District, made the announcement at a recent school board meeting.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Sandy Strayer also noted the date of her retirement is drawing closer. An educator with the division for 31 years, Stayer will officially step down in July.

She began her career in 1992 as a government teacher at Bassett High School. In 2001, she served as assistant principal of Fieldale-Collinsville High

School and Bassett High School. She was named principal of Collinsville Primary School in 2005. Strayer was appointed as superintendent of Henry County Public Schools in 2018.

"I've been here for 20 years. My husband is getting ready to retire soon, so four more years would be tough. I've enjoyed doing this position," she said.

Truancy was presented as an issue at the meeting. Student attendance is a part of accreditation and the necessary testing scores needed are hard to achieve with students not coming to school.

"Yes, our numbers are bad," Strayer said. Truancy has posed to be an issue throughout the state and

See Flanagan, page 5

Edwards seeks school board seat

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

Valeria Edwards is seeking the Horsepasture District seat on the Henry County School Board in the November election.

Edwards, 67, said she decided to run for the position as education is her greatest passion.

"I have a passion for working with young people, and I have the desire to see the best for our educators and what we can do to increase the interest in young men and young women aspiring to become educators because we need them," she said.

A former educator, Edwards retired from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools after 28 years. During her tenure, she served as a bus driver, a primary reading teacher, kindergarten teacher, and she retired as an assistant principal.

If elected, Edwards looks forward to being a team player and working with the board.

"I'm sure just looking at our county. I know there are the needs of the bus drivers, always trying to keep our teachers being fairly subsidized in terms

See Field, page 2

Valeria Edwards is seeking the Horsepasture **District seat on the Henry County School Board in** the November election.

of not only their salaries but also resources. So, anything that I can do to help in those efforts as well as programs that will help our students achieve," she said.

IFNRYCO



Six receive awards at C-PEG 2023 Start-Up celebration



County Chamber's Partnership for Economic (C-PEG) its 2023 intensive

Martinsville-Henry camp program for startups.

The cash and in-kind SWAM - \$1,600. Growth awards for 2023 total recognized \$20,000 for startup busi-Startup nesses, and this year's Martinsville-Henry award recipients are E & & Henry Community of the program which County graduates who K Caskets LLC - \$3,000; College in partner-began as a Community recently completed the Front Runner Logistics, ship Success Mindset, an LLC, - \$4,300; Gill Longwood eight-week Fitness Training, LLC - Business Development entrepreneurial boot- \$5,400; J & H Market Center,

- \$3,200; MHC Elite Henry Cheer & Dance - \$2,500; Economic Development

ponent of the program entrepreneurs, is provided by Patrick eral who are graduates with Martinsville-

County Corporation, city and The training com- county staff, and local sev-C-PEG, Business Launch Grant Small through the Virginia

See Six, page 3

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.)

Saturday May 20

The Friends of the Blue Ride Regional Library will be hosting local author Andy Miller, Saturday, May 20 at 10am, at the Martinsville branch Library's meeting room, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Andy Miller will be discussing his book, "Pamir 62 Heroes are Forever," about his time as an Army helicopter pilot in Afghanistan. Mr. Miller will have copies of his book for sale! Don't miss an opportunity to visit with a local author & military hero.

Bassett Cruise In, 3-7 p.m. at Bassett Furniture World Headquarters, Fairy Stone Park Highway, Bassett. All makes and models welcome. Free Admission. Food Court. Call (276) 629-3117 for more information.

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.

Entry opens at 10 a.m. for the Expressions Artwork exhibit at Piedmont Arts. Submissions are accepted from all artists living within a 100-mile radius of Martinsville. Artwork submitted for entry must have been completed within the last three years. Work previously exhibited in Expressions is not eligible. Up to two pieces of art may be submitted per artist. Unlike a juried exhibition, Expressions is open-entry, and all submitted works in compliance with the entry rules are accepted. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in seven categories, as well as purchase awards, the Lynwood Artists Award and Best In Show.

Tuesday, May 23-Saturday, May 27

Monet & Milkshakes Painting Class with a Frozen Dessert, free class for ages 18 and up, at 2:30 p.m. in branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library: Ridgeway, May 23; Collinsville, May 24; Bassett, May 26; Martinsville (main), May 27. Registration is required by calling the branch of interest.

Friday, June 2

Expressions Opening Reception, 5:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, June 3

Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department's Hamburger Steak Fundraiser, 4 to 7 p.m. at 3125 County Line Road, Patrick Springs. Plates include hamburger steak, slaw, baked beans, French fries, dessert and drink for \$10. Eat in or take out, call (276) 629-7677.

Storytime – Spencer-Penn Centre at 10 a.m. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts, and other fun activities related to Father's Day. Free program, fit for all ages. No registration needed.

Friday, June 9

Music Night at Spencer-Penn, with The Country Boys to play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 donation. Come enjoy some great music and dancing! Concessions will be sold.

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.

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.

Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

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.

Trail Trekkers meet as a group on Thursdays (1 p.m. Fall & Winter; 9:15 a.m. Spring & Summer) and walk along a different trail each week. Explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise. Call Henry County Parks & Recreation (HCPR) Senior Services to find out more at (276) 634-4644.

Ride and Dine Friday afternoons with members of the Henry County Bike Club. Fellow cyclists meet at the Liberty Street access point of the Dick & Willie Trail to put in some miles and refuel with lunch at a different eatery each week. For more information, call Marti at 276-358-1312. Rides are yearround but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees.

Hodges presides over first graduation in new role









Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has served in various roles during graduations. This year marked his first since his official inauguration as president. See inside and visit www.henrycountyenterprise. com for more photos.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SUMMER

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FALL Register early. Set what you want.



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Tiffany Hairston

Dallas Hairston

state, Dallas Hairston said the commissioner also answers to the taxpayers who elect them.

"But when you start to cost the taxpayers money, that's a problem. When you begin to not be able to complete those processes in a timely manner, it's a problem. I want to bring accuracy, processing, and accountability to the office," he said.

His primary goal is to be accessible and be an advocate for the taxpayers.

"You want to be accessible to them when they have questions and concerns and complaints. I want to, of course, get those processes to a place where they are being filed on time," he said.

Tiffany Hairston said she decided to enter the race because she believes her technology background and her work make her suited for the role.

"I currently work as a systems analyst for the Technology Department for the Henry County PSA (Public Safety Authority)," she said. Munis, a computer program, "is the primary system used in the commissioner's office, I am very familiar with it, and I'm very familiar with the staff."

Tiffany Hairston, 33, has worked in her current role for two years, and four years total for the county.

If elected, Tiffany Hairston



Adrianne Bowyer

said she would bring the knowledge of how to streamline processes and make the office more efficient.

"I also have a great relationship with Munis, and I know where they're headed in the future and how it integrates with the other offices," she said.

Her biggest goal is to get the department's processes up to speed and to ensure everything is sent out on time.

"Also, to get things online and make things more efficient and more accessible," Tiffany Hairston said. "We need to bring more awareness to everything that we're doing in the office, you know, be more transparent."

Draper from page 4



Brain Lane, an AP English dual enrollment instructor at Martinsville High School, is pictured with Sarah Short, Piedmont Arts' Education Coordinator.

for the community.

"Their leadership, dependability, efficiency, artistry, and countless hours devoted to Piedmont Arts are exemplary," she said.

While it has served the community for over 50 years, Garrett said the business' reach stretches across the country "from showrooms as far as Dallas, Chicago, and Boston."

Draper Flowers & Gifts was started by Doris Draper in 1966. Draper's son Brad was involved in the business from an early age and continued to help the family business throughout the years. In 1993, Draper had the privilege of working on the floral committee for President Bill Clinton's inaugural ball. Shortly after, he worked on 11 floats for the Rose Bowl.

When accepting the award on behalf of Draper Flowers & Gifts, Brad Draper thanked his family, friends, and those who support the business.

"When you have a small business, you know that without family and friends, you don't exist," he said.

Natalie Hodge is a writer, producer, owner, and founder of Rudy's Girl Media, a Martinsville-based multimedia content development company, First Vice President of the Piedmont Arts Board of Directors Shana LeGrant said.

"Although Natalie left Martinsville-Henry-County after high school when she returned to the community in 2016, she found a creative home at Piedmont Arts. In 2017, she joined the board of directors and in 2018 she danced Dancing for the Arts, not only raising funds but also community awareness of Piedmont Arts," LeGrant said.

Hodge also became board president in 2020, served as the MC for the 2022 poetry slam, and was the Small Business Chairperson from 2022-2023. "Natalie is ideally suited for this award as she has actually spent decades pursuing her love for the arts. In her professional life, Natalie creates innovative multimedia content to shed light on relevant cultural and societal themes," LeGrant said.

Hodge and Davis were recently married in the art garden in front of the little post office. Hodge credited Piedmont Arts as being much more than an inspiration for a career.

"It's been my inspiration for life," she said.

Also honored at the ceremony were Nathan Hopkins, a senior at Magna Vista High School, and Claire-Warner Coleman, also a senior at Magna Vista. The two students were awarded the Nicodemus D. Hufford scholarship, a scholarship for youth wishing to pursue the arts.

Education Coordinator Sarah Short said Hopkins was accepted into Longwood University's music program.

"Nathan is a talented trumpet player who has participated in James Madison University's (JMU) summer band camps and has been an active member of Magna Vista's concert band, jazz band, and marching band programs," she said.

Short said Coleman was accepted into the Visual Arts program at the University of Virginia (UVA).

"Claire-Warner has been an active member of the Piedmont Arts Teen Arts Council throughout high school and has volunteered to paint faces, murals, and more during her time there. She has also received awards for her work as a student in the Piedmont Arts' Expressions Gallery Exhibit," she said.

The Harold Knowlton Work Memorial Scholarship was established in 2008 for college students pursuing a degree in the arts, Short said. The scholarship is funded annually through the Work Memorial Scholarship Fund, established by Julia Ascough Work, Harold Knowlton Work's wife.

"Julia and Harold shared a lifelong

Help the arts win big at "Double Down for the Arts" fundraiser

Have a blast supporting the arts in Martinsville-Henry County at this fun "casino night" fundraiser for Piedmont Arts. This fundraiser for the museum will take place on Friday, June 23, 2023 at 7 p.m. Entertainment will include casino games, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a bar, and live music from The Bob Peckman Jazz Band out of Roanoke, Virginia. Dress will be black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 and available at PiedmontArts.org.

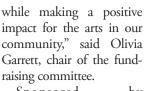
"With games, music, and fabulous food lined up, attending Double Down for the Arts is a great way to support Piedmont Arts and an even better way to spend a Friday night. I look forward to seeing everyone channeling their inner James Bond or Bond Girl

Six from page 1

Department of Housing and Community Development.

This program has since expanded from a small footprint in Uptown Martinsville to the entire City of Martinsville and Henry County thanks to generous support from the Campbell Family Group, LLC.

Partners that support this important C-PEG economic development initiative include the City of Martinsville, Henry County, Campbell Family Group, George W. Lester II Fund and The Anonymous Fund through Community the Foundation Serving Western Virginia and three-year а Tobacco grant, Region Revitalization Commission for specific industry sec-



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recent

Appalachian Power is

a sponsor of Startup

and Grow MHC, and

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business sponsor for

Chamber and C-PEG

the

graduates and awards,

this initiative has had

266 graduates, and

awarded 54 businesses

with over \$354,622 in

cash and in-kind fund-

ing. This group will

build on the accom-

plishments of Startup

and Grow MHC busi-

nesses that have created

over \$3,556,000 in new

capital investment and

created 190 new jobs

while maintaining an

87 percent success rate

in comparison to the

tors.

American

events.

With

Eyecare Center, King Kidz, American Elevator Company, Bassett Office Supply, Starling Avenue Cards and Comics, West Window Corp., and Draper Flowers & Gifts, this event is not one to miss.

A casino night fundraiser for Piedmont Arts

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville.

no cost, and any participant who opens a business will receive one-year, free а membership in the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Please contact Brenell Thomas with the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce/C-PEG at (276) 632-6401 with questions regarding participation in the next program offering.

Martinsville-Henry County Chamber's Partnership for Econmic Growth (C-PEG) is an independent, yet closely aligned, charitable affiliate of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. C-PEG is charged with funding and supporting the area's efforts to improve

14

20

38

52

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43

All participants eceive training

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

nesses.

nationwide 50 percent average for small busieconomic growth.

Hodge received her bachelor's degree from Guilford College and a master's degree from Cornell University. She has over a decade of experience working in independent film and television.

"Piedmont Arts has a very special place in my heart," said Hodge. "As a child in this community, Piedmont Arts was a passport to places unknown. Places that we can't even go by plane, places in the recesses of our imagination," she said, and recalled having many date nights at Piedmont Arts with her now husband Hasan Davis.

passion and respect for education and the arts. This memorial scholarship ensures that their legacy of learning and imagination lives on by supporting the artists of future generations," she said.

Ainsley Jones, a Bassett High School graduate and current Radford University Dance major, is one of the scholarship's recipients, Short said.

"Ainsley has dedicated her life to dance, and her instructor from Radford, Rachel Rugh, recommended Ainsley" for the scholarship. Rugh said Jones' "sense of human decency is as fully realized as her high level of dance technique."

Onyinye Ugbomah-Otunuya, a Martinsville High School student, also received the award. She is pursuing a B.A. in Graphic and Animation Design and Psychology at Longwood University.

Short said Ugbomah-Otunuya aspires to become an art therapist in the future. Janet Lewis, a member of the orga-

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() PINION

It's past time for child control

In the wake of the recent mass shootings in Texas and the anticipated future shootings in Texas, I've been hearing a lot of these bleedingheart liberal-types claiming that guns are the problem.

Let me tell you something: guns aren't the problem. A gun is just a tool, like a hammer or a shovel or a BGM-109 Tomahawk missile. Have you ever seen a gun pull its own trigger? I did once after eating this weird stamp at a party in high school, but outside of that, it never happens.

Guns aren't evil. Would I have built my entire identity and personality around something that's evil? Of course not. The guns aren't the problem here.

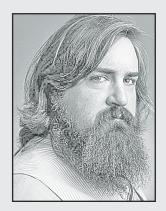
So what is the prob-

lem?

Well, consider the following hypothetical. Say a child knocks on a fellow's door because his kitten has climbed up a tree and he needs help getting it down. And say the homeowner, believing the intruder on his doorstep to be a migrant caravan, responds by kicking open the front door and unloading 10 rounds from a .50 Beowulf semi-automatic rifle capable of punching a hole in a vehicle's engine block.

Who's at fault here? As mentioned, the gun sure isn't at fault; it's nothing more than an inanimate object, and also an occasional friend and confidante on a cold and lonely night.

The



By Ben R. Williams

isn't at fault either; he's simply exercising his Second Amendment rights and defending his property.

So who exactly is at fault here?

That's right; the child.

Folks, I'll just come out and say what everyone else is afraid to say: it's high time we pass child control laws in this country.

Every time I go to homeowner the grocery store, I see chil-

dren everywhere. It's crazy how often people bring their children out in public where they could easily get in the way of my guns. And they're always unsecured, just running around like they own the place! Whether it's a restaurant, a public park, or an elementary school, you can't get away from all these children.

And isn't it crazy that there's NO regulatory body that decides whether or not you can have a child? What if someone is mentally ill and potentially dangerous? There's not a thing stopping them from legally possessing a child. Can you believe it? It doesn't make a lick of sense.

And these people who have children make them their identity and personality. Here I am, just trying to tell someone about the best concealed carry pistol for shooting a shoplifter at Wal-Mart, when suddenly they want to show me pictures of their children! Who cares, am I right? And no matter what

their children do, it's NEVER the child's fault! "Oh, my precious little angel would never do such a thing!" Well, I don't think there's anything that can be defended 100 percent of the time.

As I was saying, guns are never the problem, it's these children, and the situation is only getting worse. Just lately, I've been hearing that all these children keep having protests and walkouts at school against gun violence. They're tired of having to do active shooter drills and actively getting shot, so now they're trying to get MY guns taken away!

Folks, we need to do something about this before it's too late. These kids are getting downright militant, and if we're not careful, children will make it illegal to own guns.

Of course, I don't expect all of you to understand.

Until you've lost a gun to children, you'll just never get it.

Draper from page 3



Sarah Martin, a music teacher, and 2009 Bassett High School graduate, and Sarah Short, Education Coordinator at Piedmont Arts.

nization's scholarship committee, said the 2023 Arts in Education Awards were awarded to Brain Lane, an AP English dual enrollment instructor at Martinsville High School, and Sarah Martin, a music teacher and 2009 graduate from Bassett High School.

"Brian believes that engaging students in the arts helps them develop the skills they will need in any career they choose - communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and time management. He is also a firm believer that experiencing and participating in the arts helps everyone develop empathy and understand the world around us," she said.

Lewis said Martin started her career as the music teacher for grades 4-7 in Patrick County Public Schools in 2014 before she transitioned to Henry County Public Schools in 2016.

"She has led the elementary music programs at Axton, Campbell Court, Sanville, and Stanleytown elementary schools. Sarah has shared her love of music with hundreds of students in before-and-after-school choir programs," she said. Lewis said Martin also works closely with Piedmont Arts to create performance and workshop opportunities for her students.

Local Students Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Emily Diaz Monay, a native of Spencer, was recently initiated into the Virginia Commonwealth University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.

Bethany Mills, of Bassett, and Lauren Luther, of Ridgeway, both attend Radford University, also were inducted.

James Arnold, of Collinsville, who attends Randolph College was inducted.

The Society welcomed 1,869 new initiates from 78 universities during April 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.

Enjoy classical music and summer sunshine at The Alma Ensemble's free concert

Piedmont Arts is invit- Gravely Art Garden at 2 to create music that is

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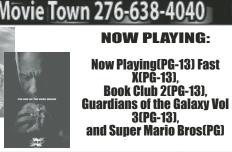
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Give us your view:

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

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



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

ing the community to p.m. This free concert is spend an afternoon in open to the public and the Lester-Gravely Art is sure to be a wonderful event. Bring a lawn Garden soaking in early summer sunshine and chair or blanket and enjoy beautiful classical music. refreshments provided by the museum. This event On Sunday, June 11, the Alma Ensemble will will also feature the official ribbon cutting for the perform in the Lester-

Piedmont Arts' Pollinator Path. In case of rain or inclement weather, the event will be held indoors at Piedmont Arts.

The Alma Ensemble was founded by flutist Sarah Wardle Jones, clarinetist Michelle Smith Johnson and pianist Erica Sipes. It was birthed from a desire

empowering and resonant. The group places a high priority on playing music by other women composers, and is named in recognition of Alma Mahler, a composer who never received the opportunities afforded to the male composers with whom she was romantically linked. Alma also means "nourishment" or "soul" which is something the ensemble endeavors to bring to every performance.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

Letters to the **Editor Guidelines**

Henry County Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Henry County Enterprise.

> Email Submissions to dhall@theenterprise.net



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SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 · HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE · PAGE 5

Quinn named to SNHU Winter 2023 President's List

Jesse Quinn of Collinsville has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

graduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's

Full-time under- List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Magna Vista athletes sign with various colleges

Magna Vista High School recently held multiple student athlete signings. For more information and photos, visit www.henrycountyenterprise.net.

WPPD awarded more than \$8 million for broadband upgrades

The West Piedmont Planning District, which serves Henry, Patrick, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties and the cities of Martinsville and Danville, was awarded a more than \$8 million grant from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI).

The award was among the more than \$59.5 million VATI grants for 14 projects serving 20 localities throughout Virginia. The VATI program provides targeted funding to extend service to areas that are presently underserved by any broadband provider.

"In today's increasingly digital world, having access to high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury, it is necessary in order to fully participate in daily life," Gov. Glenn Youngkin said when announcing the awards. "These investments will allow us to reach underserved communities, grow Virginia's economy and close the digital divide across the Commonwealth."

VATI's goal is to create strong, competitive communities throughout the Commonwealth by preparing those communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure. This year's funding leverages more than \$118.6 million in local and private sector matching funds.

"Closing the digital divide is paramount to growing Virginia's economy, supporting businesses and ensuring that all Virginians have the resources they need to thrive," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "These investments will connect over 29,400 homes, businesses and community anchors, making critical strides toward achieving universal broadband in Virginia."

The Department of Housing and Community Development administers the VATI program, which provides targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas that are currently unserved by a provider. Projects were selected through a competitive process that evaluated each project for demonstrated need and benefit for the community, applicant readiness and capacity, and the cost and leverage of the proposed project. The level of funding awarded is based on the infrastructure needs in the project area.

In this application year, VATI received 35 applications requesting more than \$300 million in funding. Since 2017, Virginia has invested more than \$798.7 million to connect over 358,000 homes, businesses and community anchors within 84 localities.

Congressional staff plan visit

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be in Henry and Patrick counties on May 24.

Henry County - 10 - 11:30 a.m., Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Patrick County - 12:30 -- 2 p.m., Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

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

Historical Society to Hold Annual Meeting, Distinguished Lecture

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting with Distinguished Lecture, "The Revolutionary War in Southside Virginia and the Race to the Dan," on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville.

President John Phillips will provide a review of the 2022-2023 year and introduce the 2023- 2024 officers and board of directors. The Distinguished Lecture will be presented by William C. "Bill" Guerrant, Jr., author, historian, and president of the Pittsylvania Historical Society. He will speak about the Revolutionary War in our community and discuss the challenges faced by families due to the collapsing economy and the risks of a Loyalist uprising.

Admission the to Annual Meeting is free, and the public is welcome, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicap accessible. The Heritage Center & Museum will be open following the event.

Phillips, Society president, said, now as a full-time farm-"Our Annual Meeting er. He graduated from the provides a great opportu- University of Virginia Law nity to learn more about School in 1985 and Asbury the Historical Society as Theological Seminary in I will briefly share our 2010. He stated in a 2019 many activities of the past, interview, "My passion is present, and future. The history. I thought it would majority of the event will be a good idea to try to be by our distinguished write something about local speaker who will discuss history." He is the author of the American Revolution Let a Pillar Arise: A Novel in our area."

White Flint Farm in Keeling, Charlie.

Historical Virginia, and lives there of the Revolutionary War, Guerrant grew up on Jim Wrenn, and Bertie &



William C. "Bill" Guerrant, Jr.

Flanagan from page 1

has been since the pandemic Continuous efforts are being made to get more students back into the classroom.



The board voted to approve the FY 2023-24 budget as presented in a previous meeting and also approved the student athletic handbook for the new school year.

Magna Vista wrestling team had students place in 1st Team District, 2nd Team District, and an honorable mention. Students recognized were Hunter Amos, Carter McCraw, Landon Moore, Josiah Via, and Jerelle Carter.

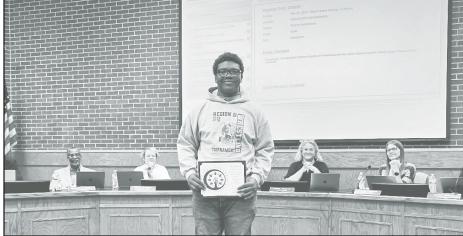
Magna Vista Basketball team player David Hairston received a regional honorable mention.

Magna Vista Girl's Basketball team received recognition for 1st Team District, 2nd Team District, 2nd Team Regional, and Honorable Mention. Students recognized were Dee Dee Giggetts, SaNai Hairston, Kaylee Hughes, Mya Moyer, and Miranda Reynolds.

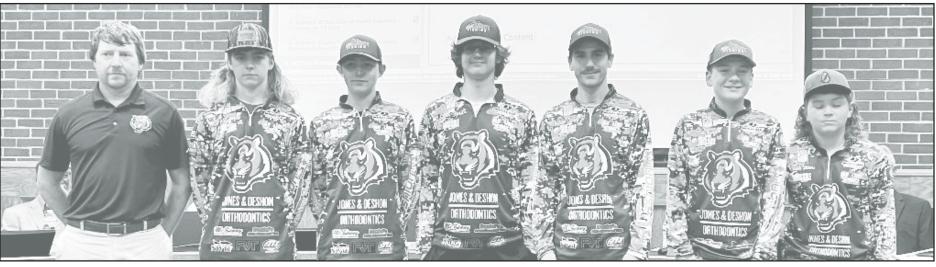
Several elementary school students were recognized in the Regional Young Writers Competition, including Allie Haygood, Donte Rivera, Kylie Smith, Mason Saddlewood, Lillie Drewry, Emily Carter, Autumn Lyons, Skylar Vernon, Mason Calloway, and Cadence Martin.



Henry County Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer (5th from right) is pictured with members of the Henry County School Board and others. Strayer will retire from the school division this year.



Jerelle Carter was among the 1st Team Regional students recognized.

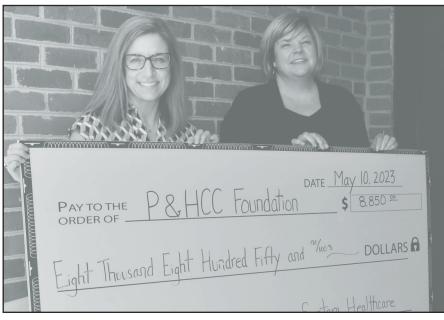


Bassett High School Fishing team state qualifiers received recognition. Students recognized were Carson Byrd, Clayton Edwards, Tate Jones, Asher Rivers, Parker Roop, William Shilling, Cole Turner, and Fisher Whitlock.

Sentara Healthcare Awards Grant to P&HCC Students

In partnership with Healthcare's Sentara Sentara Cares program, Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) has awarded Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation \$8,850 to provide emergency assistance grants to healthcare students to overcome financial hardships and excel in college. Students must be enrolled in a healthcare or healthcarerelated undergraduate or professional degree or certificate or credential program and have demonstrated financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid.

"In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, most healthcare pro- Amy Webster, P&HCC grams require additional Director of Nursing and expenses for uniforms, Allied Health. physical examinations and required immuni- ing will support prozations, drug screens, gram placed students criminal checks, and specific text- nursing program, pracbooks and resources. tical nursing program, Fees for these items can Paramedic and EMS be very costly," shared related pathways, physi-



P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood presents Amy Webster, P&HCC Director of Nursing and Allied Health, a check on behalf of Sentara Cares to support qualifying P&HCC healthcare students as they pursue degrees and certifications.

Sentara Cares fundbackground in the associate's degree

cal therapist assisting, and workforce medical certification training at P&HCC.

"We are pleased to be able to direct these funds to support the expensive textbook requirements for healthcare students. Healthcare has one of the most expensive text-

book requirements of any program we have and these funds will help ensure that students are able to continue their work to fill critical positions in our community," said P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood.

Albert Harris Elementary Principal Earns Doctorate

Renee Brown, prin- served as an elementary achieved a significant mile- and assistant principal. stone in her career. Brown policy who have a terminal degree Brown said. in their field.

А graduate Martinsville High School, Brown was raised in Brown has spent much of Martinsville by her grandher professional life with parents because her mother Martinsville City Public felt that Martinsville would Schools.

cipal of Albert Harris teacher, business and com-Elementary School, has puter technology teacher,

"Serving in each capacity has earned her Doctor of has strengthened my resolve Education and Leadership to ensure every student's studies from success by providing the Virginia Tech, joining the best instructional practices ranks of MCPS employees and support for learning,"

Originally from of Brooklyn, New York, be a better place to learn the values needed for a successful life. After graduating from the University of Virginia. shaped over many years MHS, Brown went on of serving the Martinsville to earn degrees in business administration from achievements, Dr. Brown WinstonSalem University, psychology from Radford University, and administraof AHES. Previously, she tion and supervision from



www.henrycountyenterprise.com



Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Justin Griffith.

Hazlewood to retire as petition moves forward

Taylor Boyd Staff writer

Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk Sherri Hazlewood plans to retire as a petition seeking her removal from office moves forward with a judge and a special prosecutor appointed to the case.

According to Hazelwood's criminal defense attorney Ward Armstrong, of the Armstrong Law Firm in Martinsville, Hazlewood plans to retire effective July 1.

A petition to remove Hazlewood from her role was filed in Patrick County Circuit Court on April 14.

Phillip L. Hairston, a retired judge from the 13th Judicial Circuit, will preside over the case.

Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Justin Griffith will serve as the special prosecutor.

The petition, which includes at least 545 signatures, alleges Hazlewood "has presented an unwell mental state during the 2022 year, directly affecting the office and county," and "has neglected numerous duties pertaining to the job of Clerk over the 2022 years resulting in copious orders not being filed and/or filed correctly."

The petition alleges Hazlewood has "had high absenteeism and has been out of the office for extended periods during the 2022 year. She has been negligent in her duties as Clerk and did not arrange any replacement for those duties during her incarcerations."

Virginia law states in part an elected official can be removed "for neglect of duty, misuse of office, or incompetence in the performance of duties when that neglect of duty, misuse of office, or incompetence has a material adverse effect upon the conduct of the office."

"My passion for educating and supporting all students' success has been school system," Brown said. She has been with MCPS for thirty-two years, including five as principal

Apart from her outstanding professional is an active member of the Martinsville-Henry County community. She is a member of First Baptist Church

of East Martinsville, the Winston-Salem State Alumni Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Her hobbies include reading, shopping, visiting a wide variety of restaurants, and spending quality time with friends and family, including her husband of 23 years Jeffrey Brown, daughter Savannah Brown, bonus daughter JaShanta Brown, and bonus granddaughter Eden Mims.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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The petition also cited Hazlewood's four arrests in 2022 as a reason for her removal.

Hazlewood, 54, of Claudville, was arrested on Dec. 14 with intoxication in public in Rocky Mount.

She was also charged on Nov. 5 with one count each of breaking and entering, and destruction of property to a residence in Patrick County.

On Nov. 1, Hazlewood was charged with one count each of possessing a controlled substance, and intoxication in public in Bland County.

On June 19, she was arrested in Patrick County on a charge of driving while intoxicated - first offense.

Hazelwood has not been convicted of any of the charges.

Patrick County Circuit Court Judge Marcus Brinks appointed Morgan Boothe to serve in the position in Hazlewood's absence.

Hazlewood currently remains in her elected position as clerk. She is being paid \$116,831, or a monthly salary of about \$9,700, according to records in the Patrick County administration office.

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More than 200 students participate in P&HCC's graduation ceremony



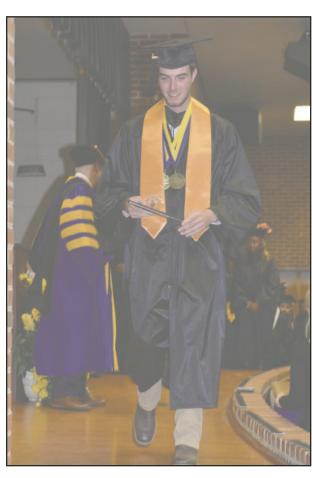
Pictured are several of the 206 students to participate in the May 13 graduation ceremony at Patrick & Henry Community College. All total, the college awarded 586 academic credentials for this academic year. Graduates represent the local community, as well as several surrounding states, and four countries across the world.

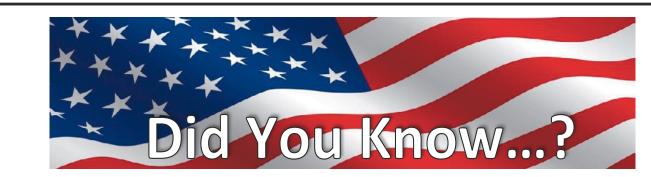
John Buck (retired P&HCC professor) was named professor emeritus as part of the ceremony. Unfortunately, his health did not allow him to attend, so his son, Johnny, donned one of his father's suits, and accepted in his stead.

This ceremony also marked the first graduation following Dr. Greg Hodges' official inauguration as president, but he has served in the role for other graduations.









IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO'S THE REAL RINO IN THE ROOM.

<u>*RINO*</u> doesn't refer to a great horned beast (Rhino) but something possibly even more dangerous... a <u>Republican In Name Only!</u>



RINO's intentionally <u>mislead voters</u> claiming to hold conservative **Republican** values while *simultaneously* embracing conflicting <u>selfish</u>, <u>unrealistic</u>, <u>liberal</u>, or even <u>frivolous</u> ideas. Thankfully their actions are reliable indicators. For example, constantly blaming everyone else for their failures, ineffectiveness, and the inability to work with others, suggests they want their actions to be somehow considered normal.

Their <u>VOTING RECORD</u> is also a good indicator of where they stand:

- Del. Marie March voted against the Republican party's majority 32% of the time in the 2022 regular session.*
- Mrs. March voted against the Republican party's majority 21% of the time in the 2023 regular session. **
- Mrs. March voted in the minority in each of the following 2022-2023 (100 member) house votes: ***
 - HB 1446 95 to 2 Minimum nursing home staffing requirements.
 - HB 1617 **85 to 7** State Gaming regulations.
 - HB 1779 **93 to 6** Nuclear Grant funding.
 - HB 2098 **91 to 7** Common interest communities right to refuse.
 - HB 2224 **95 to 3** Newborn Screening.
 - SB 1183 **96 to 2** Fingerprint database.
 - SB 1343 **95 to 4** DMV Online access.
 - SB 1350 90 to 6 Liquid Nicotine licensing.

HINT: If you often find yourself REPEATEDLY voting against your own <u>REPUBLICAN</u> party, <u>YOU'RE THE RINO</u>!

VOTE DELEGATE WREN WILLIAMS JUNE 20TH !

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