

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 3, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00



The three candidates for Henry County Sheriff are pictured on the first row at a Candidates Forum Tuesday.

## A trio of candidates for sheriff fielded questions at GOP forum

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Henry County Sheriff candidates addressed voters and answered questions at the Henry County-Martinsville Republican Committee's candidate forum on May 30.

The three candidates - Henry County Sheriff's Maj. Wayne Davis, who is Chief Deputy; Darryl Hatcher, and Del Mills - each gave opening and closing statements and answered six forum topics submitted by

the committee.

Candidates responded as called upon by Eric Phillips, chairman of the committee, who also served as the forum's moderator. Questions ranged from violent crime prevention to executive management experience to the new Adult Detention Center.

**Question: What will you do to curb the amount of drug-related crime, including the number of drug user overdoses in Henry County? Do you have any specifics on what you think you would**

See Trio, page 5



BY RAY REYNOLDS

Henry County Sheriff's Maj. and Chief Deputy Wayne Davis fielded questions during a debate Tuesday. Davis is the only certified law enforcement officer in the race for the Henry County Sheriff's post.

## BHS grads remember threads, fabrics woven



Graduate Jolie Elizabeth Bowyer gave the choral tribute by singing "Slipping Through My Fingers."

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

The 230 members of the Bassett High School (BHS) Class of 2023 graduated Friday, May 27.

While the past is a fabric that can never be rewoven, BHS Principal Tiffany Gravely asked the graduates how they will thread the fabric of their future.

"Part of the fabric of the past was woven for you. You entered your freshman year here in 2019 thinking it was going to be a regular school year. Unexpectedly it ended abruptly on March 13 due to a global pandemic," she said.

Despite this, she said graduation is one of the biggest milestones of the class's lives.

"You showed us you're capable of threading through some pretty dense fabric," she said.

See BHS, page 3

## MVHS Class of 2023 encouraged to remember their importance

by Tara Lucas

The Magna Vista High School graduated 237 seniors at its recent commencement. 2023 Student Class President Eric Johnson Lane presided over the ceremony. Magna Vista Choir sang the National Anthem and the Magna Vista JROTC presented colors prior to a speech by Madison Ashley titled, "Opening the Doorway."

"When we cross that stage, we will be opening that door to a future with endless possibilities," Ashley said. "Beyond these walls, we'll consistently be faced with adversity, but don't back down from these obstacles. They are your opportunities for growth. As students, we gravitate towards familiarity, but today we will be stepping towards a completely unpredictable

See MVHS, page 2



Magna Vista High School Principal Duane Whitaker addressed the Class of 2023.



Charles McKinley Edwards, the senior representative, reflected on the challenges during the pandemic and reminded the Class of 2023 that "we must continue fighting to succeed."

## Always a place for MHS grads to return

Staff Reports

Martinsville High School Principal Dr. Aji Dixon issued an open invitation to the Class of 2023 at the graduation ceremony Saturday.

"We love you. You're always ours, no matter what," Dixon told the graduates. "You can always come back to us."

Despite gray skies and a chilly wind, spirits were high as families, friends, and school faculty came together to celebrate the culmination of the class's hard work and dedication.

Dixon welcomed the graduates and guests, including all members of the city school board, several members of Martinsville City Council, including Mayor LC Jones, Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls, and school administrators.

Following a performance from the

MHS Gospel Choir, Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley approached the podium to deliver his remarks. Talley told students, "If you dream it, you can be it and you can have it... You deserve an opportunity to be great. You are great... You're never going to be second-class to anybody. You came from Martinsville." He urged the graduates to hold on to their dreams and their visions for the future.

Senior class presi-

See Always, page 3

## Class of 2023 marks Carlisle School's 50th graduating class



Chuck Cumiskey Jr. addressed Carlisle School's Class of 2023.

by Tara Lucas

Carlisle School held its first commencement in June 1974, according to Charles "Chuck" Cumiskey,

Jr., who was a member of the school's first graduating class. His father Charles J. Cumiskey, Sr., served as the first Headmaster of the school.



Cristiano Di Maro delivered the valedictory speech.

Now coming full-circle, Cumiskey was a speaker as Carlisle School's Class of 2023 took its place in history at a recent commencement ceremony.

"As a member of this inaugural graduating class back in the pre-smartphone, pre-personal computer,

See Carlisle, page 9

VISIT  
HTTP://WWW.  
HENRYCOUNTY  
ENTERPRISE.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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net).)

## 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.

## Tuesday, June 5

Registration for Summer Reading 2023 begins for All Together Now at local library branches for preschool and school aged youngsters, teens and adults. Register in person at any branch or online at <https://brrl.beanstack.org/reader365>.

## Thursday, June 8

The 2023 Summer Reading program kicks off. Enjoy Captain Jim Is Magic, presented by the Blue Ridge Library, at 11 a.m. in Stone Hall Gym, P&HCC Campus, 645 Patriot Ave., Martinsville. For more information, visit [captainjimismagic.com](http://captainjimismagic.com).

## Friday, June 9

Music Night at Spencer-Penn, with The Country Boys playing in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 donation. Concessions will be sold.

## Saturday, June 10

Yoga in the Galleries, 10:30 a.m. at Piedmont Arts with instructor Ally Snead. Bring your own mat and equipment. Suitable for all ages. Admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members and will be paid in cash to the instructor.

Alcohol Ink Painting Workshop with Melani Helms, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$40, with all supplies provided at Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to register.

Music from 5 to 8 p.m. at Imagination Lavender Farm with Dr. Jamie Woodall, David Oaks and Amy Stuart, no cover charge, donation appreciated.

## Sunday June 11

Music in the Garden featuring the Alma Ensemble, 2 p.m. at the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Free admission. The Alma Ensemble was founded by flutist Sarah Wardle Jones, clarinetist Michelle Smith Johnson and pianist Erica Sipes. Alma also means "nourishment" or "soul" which is something the ensemble endeavors to bring to every performance.

Floral Arranging with Sandi Hite at the Spencer Penn Centre. \$40 members; \$45 non-members.

## Tuesday, June 13

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

## Saturday, June 17

Busy Bee's Craft Meet, 3 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. The first of three informal circles to socialize, learn and share with fellow crafters. Bring your lap-sized handcraft, such as cross-stitch, knitting, crochet, paper crafts, hand sewing, needle felting, etc. Led by Jennifer Reis and Lara Blair. Advanced registration required. Tickets are available on the Piedmont Arts website and are free for members and \$5 for nonmembers.

## Friday, June 16

Free Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon at Imagination Lavender Farm. Right Plant, Right Place led by VA Tech Extension Agent, Melanie Barrow, Learn how to make gardening life easier by simply choosing the right plant for each spot in your garden. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to register.

## Friday, June 23

Double Down For The Arts at this fun casino night fundraiser that begins at 7 p.m. Live music, games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, photo booth and more. Black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 and are available on the Piedmont Arts website.

## Saturday, June 24

Painting Workshop led by award-winning artist Lisa Garrett, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$40, with all supplies provided at Imagination Lavender Farm. Participants will create their own 11 x 14 painting to take home. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to register.

## 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.

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](http://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.

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed after almost 3 years. Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age in-person: Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Community Storehouse, 128 E. Church St (lower level of the old Leggett Building) in Martinsville, or by phone, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Medicaid members may need to update their mailing address to renew their health insurance. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions, let you know when to expect your renewal packet and help you apply or renew. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to learn more or for an appointment.

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 year-round but are canceled if it's raining or if the temperature is below 50 degrees.

## MVHS from page 1



Tanner Austin Deshazo receives a diploma.



Anaya S. Brown waves at the crowd after receiving a diploma.

future," she said.

Ashley reminisced of fond memories that she will miss after graduation, one being a snow day out of school, and concluded her speech with, "Today we celebrate a new beginning, a new lifestyle, new friends, new opportunities."

Alexis Garten also gave a speech titled "Man in the Mirror."

"This is a moment in our lives we have been waiting on for the past four years. These past four years have shaped us into who we are today," Garten said. "Doing what you love while stepping outside of your comfort zone and being an influence to those around you is

the best thing we can do to change the world. Change starts small."

Garten encouraged her peers to change the world in college, in the military, in the workforce, and in whatever path they take by doing small things that impact those around them.

Magna Vista High School Principal Duane Whitaker left the students with some key advice in a speech that included humor.

"I have probably attended over 40 graduation ceremonies over the course of my life, I remember absolutely nothing the teachers said," Whitaker said, as laughter erupted from the crowd. "First piece

of advice, wherever you go in life, always sit in the front row. It's the best view in the house.

"Second piece of advice, whenever you get the chance to refer to yourself in the third person, seize that opportunity," he said.

"You are important, and you will always be important. Wherever life takes you, you will be important to someone," Whitaker said. "If you ever forget that, pick up the phone and call Magna Vista High School because there is someone in this building that can remind you that you are important."

For a full list of graduates, visit [www.henrycountyenterprise.net](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.net).



Magna Vista High School's graduation attracted a crowd.

# BHS

from page 1



**Bassett High School Principal Tiffany Gravely presented an honorary diploma to the family of Angelina June Morton Cobbler.**



**After 13 years, the 230 members of BHS' Class of 2023 prepared to receive their diplomas.**

Class President Trinity Rayne Gilbert said the graduating class began their high school career as a singular thread when they walked the daunting hallways of the school.

"Our thread felt frayed as we received chilling stares from upperclassmen, and we dreaded the next day of school. However, we continued to show up, and sewed the first patches of our handmade fabric," she said.

Gilbert said the class began to enjoy high school and joined the school experience before everything halted.

"The sewing machines halted, and the county announced that the rest of our first year was to be online. We entered unknown territory and sloppily finished mending the fabrics that we had carefully planned and designed," she said.

Gilbert said the class attempted to fix the imperfect stitches it wove the previous year during its sophomore year.

During their junior year, "we rushed to do all the extracurricular activities, strengthening the stitches in our friendships. Then our senior year appeared," she said.

When the senior year began, Gilbert said the fabrics were almost fully mended, but it needed to experience some key moments – both good and bad.

"These bad moments shaped our fabric in ways we cannot imagine. Some of us lost friends and went through life-altering experiences. In these moments our fabric was changing and weaving in order to prepare us for the future," she said.

Now, standing at the end of their high school career, Gilbert said the fabric is nearly fully assembled into a unique quilt.

On this foundation, "our fabrics will forever change as we go onto our future endeavors ... for our new lives," she said. "Seniors, take these customized quilts and implement them into your journeys. Use your experiences to help you in the future and continue to sew your everchanging quilt."

Class vice-president Asjah Janay Taylor said graduation marked the end to the long 13-14 years it took to get there.

"We worked hard to get to this point, but we didn't do it by ourselves. We owe

a huge step of gratitude to our teachers, administrators, coaches, staff, counselors, and parents for supporting us in more ways than it's possible to count, and for unselfishly sharing their time, knowledge, talents, and with us," she said, adding that is a gift the class won't receive again.

"So, cherish it. We've already taken the first step by making it to this ceremony today. Now it's time to take the next steps in the journey that is our lives," she said.

Class of 2023 graduate and football team member Angel David Bracamontes Martinez spoke about the threads of the graduates' futures.

"Today is a day of celebration, accomplishment, and a day of gratitude. We are here today because of the hard work, dedication, and support of so many people," he said.

Martinez said that has made a lot of differences in many students lives, and "are the threads that kept us from unraveling, stitched us together, and embroidered our lives with dreams and opportunities. These are the threads of our future."

Gravely said 60 of the graduates earned an Advanced Diploma with 20 graduates already earning an associate degree.

"For your high-achieving academics, hours of community service, and extracurricular activities, 23 of you are graduates of distinction," she said.

Thirty-six graduates have made a grade point average (GPA) of 3.8 or higher, thus earning the accolade of honor graduates.

Gravely said the class also earned nearly \$2.2 million in scholarships and financial aid.

She also presented an honorary diploma to the family of Angelina June Morton Cobbler.

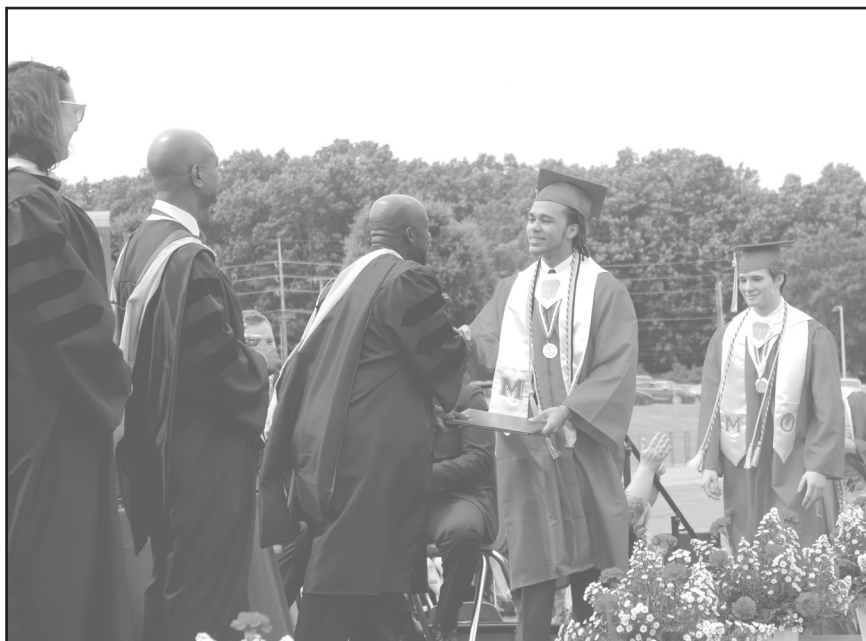
Jolie Elizabeth Bowyer gave the choral tribute by singing "Slipping Through My Fingers."

The class's gift to the school and future classes was a laser printer.

The class motto was, "The Future is a hundred thousand threads, but the past is a fabric that can never be rewoven" by Orson Scott Card. The class song was Macklemore's 2017 song, "Good Old Days" and the school colors are royal blue and orange.

# Always

from page 1



**NiJe'i Malik Cook and Zane Mills Gardner were among the Martinsville High School graduates to receive their diplomas at Saturday's commencement.**

dent Papion Jolie Ritenour Shelton then addressed her classmates.

"Though our paths may vary, and we face different challenges, let us not forget the unbreakable bond that ties us together as Bulldogs," she said. "Stay connected, support one another, and celebrate each other's victories as your own." She reminded her fellow graduates that "anything is possible as long as you believe it is."

Charles Edwards, the senior representative, also shared

remarks with his fellow students. He reflected on the challenges of being a student during the pandemic and reminded the class that "we must continue fighting to succeed. Make it to the top ... Though our paths may differ, we have one common goal, and that common goal is success."

Of the 116 graduates of the Class of 2023, nearly half (54 students) graduated with an advanced studies diploma.

Twenty-three graduated with the Governor's Seal and 25 gradu-

ated with the Board of Education Seal. Most students (114) graduated with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Seal, 17 earned the Seal for Excellence in Civics Education, and 6 graduated with the Seal of Biliteracy. Eighteen graduates are members of the National Honor Society, 16 belong to the National Beta Club, and 21 are members of the National Technical Honor Society.

For the complete list of graduates, visit [www.henrycountyenterprise.net](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.net).



**Papion Jolie Ritenour Shelton, president of the senior class, reminded fellow graduates that "anything is possible as long as you believe it is."**

## 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						
49										48					
49						50				51		52	53	54	55
56							57			58					
59											61				
62							63					64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Orator's podium
  - UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
  - Partner to "oohs"
  - African antelope
  - Indigenous Thai person
  - Monetary unit of Angola
  - Becomes less intense
  - Insurance mascot
  - Tech hub \_\_ Alto
  - Actress Tomei
  - Airborne (abbr.)
  - Type of smart watch
  - Natives
  - Incompetent person
  - Rare Hawaiian geese
  - Unspoken relationships
  - Passports and licenses are two
  - Claw
  - Status quo
  - Mimic
  - Fur-lined cloak
  - Ancient foreigner
  - In an angry way
  - Ill-intentioned
  - Monetary unit of Serbia
  - S. American plant
  - One or the other
  - An alias for Thor
  - Gratuity
  - In a painful way
  - French commune
  - Promotional materials
  - Greek city
  - Assistant
  - Confederate general
  - Former NJ governor
  - Broad volcanic crater
  - Not for
  - Blur
  - Tots
  - Acted leisurely
  - About the Alps
  - Gets out of bed
  - Town in "The Iliad"
  - Welsh given name
  - Remove salt
  - Calvary sword
  - Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
  - Keeps a house cozy
  - Ballplayer's accessory
  - Southwestern Russian city
  - Pro sports league
  - Congress investigative body (abbr.)
  - Stop standing
  - Utilize
  - Sign language
  - Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
  - Being of central importance
  - Ruin environment
  - Dessert dish
  - Sea eagles
  - Fertilized
  - Jerry's friend Benes
  - Indian river
  - Pass into a specified state or condition
  - Nocturnal rodent
  - A way to travel
  - Iron-containing compound
  - Ancient Greek City
  - NFL signal caller Matt

## 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**

Submit your community news and photos to [newsreporter@theenterprise.net](mailto:newsreporter@theenterprise.net)

# OPINION

## News from the 9th: The Spy



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

eyes. Thinking of their heroism makes me proud to be an American.

I want to thank every serviceman and woman for their service and sacrifice, and also the families and loved ones supporting our soldiers. Their sacrifice allows us to enjoy the freedoms and liberties we hold so dear.

Memorial Day also marks the unofficial start to summer. The weather is warm, schools are letting out, and baseball season is in full swing.

As a history buff, I find connections to my past all around us. In this case, I was thinking about Memorial Day and baseball and was reminded that the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is in Cooperstown, New York. Cooperstown has an interesting connection to not only our country's founding, but also American literature.

Cooperstown was named after William Cooper, who owned the land and was a county judge in the late 18th century, later elected to the New York state assembly.

His son, James Fenimore Cooper, was an American writer, famous for his novels including colonial and Native American characters. His most famous novel, *The Last of the Mohicans*, was an instant bestseller. In 1992, it was famously adopted into the award-winning movie of the same name.

But the novel I want to talk about, written five years earlier than *The Last of the Mohicans*, was Cooper's *The Spy*. Set during the American Revolution, at "The Locusts", a home in Scarsdale, New York, the novel tells the story of homeowners, the Wharton family, and other characters who seek refuge, both loyalists and revolutionaries, whose allegiances are unknown

to the family.

It is widely believed that *The Spy* was inspired by Cooper's family friend, John Jay. Jay, a Founding Father of the United States, and author of five of *The Federalist Papers*, served as the sixth President of the Continental Congress. Later he served as the first chief justice of the United States and as the second governor of New York.

He is also known as the "Founding Father of U.S. Counterintelligence." During the Revolutionary War, he played a key role directing clandestine operatives and running counterintelligence missions.

In 1776, he headed a New York state executive body called the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, recognized as the nation's first dedicated counterintelligence agency. While heading the committee investigating a loyalist plan for a surprise attack on the core of the Continental Army in New York City, he uncovered a plot against General George Washington by his bodyguards. Having allied themselves with the British, the guards hoped to capture or assassinate Washington. Fortunately for Washington, Jay and his Committee foiled their plan.

After the war, Jay traveled to Great Britain in 1794 to settle unresolved issues between Great Britain and our fledgling country. These efforts resulted in the "Jay Treaty," which averted another war with Britain. Years later, Jay co-authored the New York State Constitution.

During this Memorial Day period, we should all think of patriots from 1776 to 2023, who we owe a debt of gratitude.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov).



**Dr. John H. Hughes IV**

## IALR names Hughes new EVP of Operations

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) selected Dr. John H. Hughes IV as Executive Vice President, Operations, effective June 1. Most recently serving as the Assistant City Manager for Lynchburg, Va., Hughes brings nearly two decades of experience in government operations, administration and service. He will serve as the chief business and operations officer and will report directly to IALR President Telly D. Tucker.

"I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Hughes to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research team," said Tucker. "As we continue to position Southern Virginia as a destination where all can live and thrive, I am confident Dr. Hughes' leadership background, operations experience and creative approach to community building will help us ensure the exceptional

quality and operational excellence our communities and employees deserve."

Having previous experience with workforce training, continuing education, human services and more, Hughes is fascinated by IALR's mission to catalyze regional economic transformation.

"I am humbled and inspired to join a progressive and innovative organization focused on revolutionizing the economic landscape of Southern Virginia," Hughes said. "With its state-of-the-art facilities, innovative programs and dynamic people, IALR positively influences Southern Virginia and beyond. I look forward to contributing to that mission of continued, tangible impact."

Hughes will serve as the chief business and contractual liaison for IALR operational matters with IALR partners. One of his primary responsibilities will be leading the functions organized within IALR's business and operations departments, including Communications, Technology, Facilities and the Institute

Conference Center as well as Applied Research. Hughes will focus on aligning IALR's administrative systems, policies, structure and procedures to the organization's five-year strategic plan. He will also focus on developing leadership in a rapidly growing organization to ensure continuity and sustainability into the future.

While serving as the Assistant City Manager for Lynchburg, Hughes spearheaded a collaborative, impactful poverty-reduction effort through public-private partnerships, grants, workforce development and soft-skill development, continuing education and job placement programs – all focuses of IALR. Hughes also supervised several departments, including Human Services, the Lynchburg Public Library and Department of Parks and Recreation. Hughes previously worked as a Foster Care Social Worker and Senior Family Services Specialist before spending nearly a decade as the Children's Services Act Coordinator for the City of Lynchburg.

A native of Lynchburg, Hughes supported the local community via several volunteer and appointed boards including the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, Lynchburg Community Policing Advisory Committee, Martin Luther King Jr. Lynchburg Community Council, Hill City Youth Football & Cheerleading, Mary Bethune Academy, Southern Memorial Association (Old City Cemetery), Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, Community Criminal Justice Board, Action for Change Committee, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and the Central Virginia Continuum of Care.

Hughes has been active with professional and civic organizations including the Virginia Local Government Management Association, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators and the International City/County Management Association. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Hughes earned a Master of Business Administration in 2009 and obtained his doctorate in education from the University of Lynchburg (formerly known as Lynchburg College) in 2023. Hughes also holds two bachelor's degrees – one in social science, the other in business administration – from the University of Lynchburg.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation through applied research, advanced learning, manufacturing advancement, conference center services and economic development efforts. IALR's major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia, including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville. For more information, visit [www.ialr.org](http://www.ialr.org).

Your Community, Your Voice  
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

[henrycountyenterprise.com](http://henrycountyenterprise.com)

**Weekly Publication**  
Published Each Saturday

**Michael Showell, Publisher**

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

**Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager**  
[advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto: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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101

**Movie Town 276-638-4040**

**NOW PLAYING:**  
**Spiderman: Across the Spideverse(PG), The Boogeyman(R), The Little Mermaid(PG), Fast X(PG-13), and Guardians of the Galaxy(PG-13)**

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

**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](http://www.springlakeauctions.com).

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

*We appreciate your business!*  
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

# Trio

from page 1



**Del Mills, a former Henry County deputy, is among the field of three candidates to answer questions Tuesday.**

**do differently than the current Sheriff's Office? Are there things or programs that you think you would continue to do like the current Sheriff's Office does currently?**

*Davis*

Davis said drugs are an issue in every community across the county and the Henry County Sheriff's Office will continue to combat that issue.

"Since January of 2020, the Henry County Sheriff's Office has executed numerous search warrants on the homes of drug dealers and arrested those drug dealers and put them in prison for lengthy periods of time," he said.

Davis said those searches resulted in substantial amounts of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and fentanyl being seized and more than \$1 million in seized cash assets. In that same time period, the office also arrested more than 500 drug dealers for distribution and possession.

"Over the past few years, the newly implemented minimal mandatory sentencing for methamphetamine has helped with those offenses. But I support minimal mandatory sentencing, I believe that the sheriff needs to be willing to work with our legislators in Richmond to implement the same minimum mandatory sentences that we see for other drug-related and even greater sentences for those who chose to distribute fentanyl in our streets," he said.

Davis also believes he has a firsthand understanding of the impact that drugs have on families. His sister passed away in 2013 from a drug overdose.

"We will continue to fight hard to take drug dealers off of the street. I believe without drug dealers, we won't have drug addicts, and that's the first step," he said.

*Hatcher*

Hatcher said Henry County is one of the leading areas for drug overdoses in the entire state.

"One thing that some people may not understand is that in order to successfully combat addiction, you have to first understand what addiction is. Addiction is a medical condition, but it's a criminal condition," he said.

To combat drugs, Hatcher said the department should go after everyone, from street dealers to manufacturers to suppliers.

"We're going to petition the General Assembly and the state representatives for tougher laws to take these predators off the street who take advantage of those who are addicted. But we also have to offer some compassion, we have to enforce the law with empathy," he said.

Instead of targeting drug distribution based on the amount of drug forfeiture, Hatcher said the office should choose its targets based on

the number of dealers it can take off the street.

If elected, "we're going to go after drug houses and we're going to go after drug sales. We're going to take street dealers off the market. By eliminating them from society, those predators, we're going to make the community safer," he said.

Hatcher also said he wants to work with the Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to offer drug court for those who are eligible.

*Mills*

"Drugs in our community is a problem, it's a real issue we've got to be concerned with," Mills said.

He believes the officer should take every opportunity to go after drug dealers and drug activity.

Mills said community awareness and something as simple as a neighborhood watch association could send information to the sheriff's office.

"It's transparent and open, so you know where to allocate your resources. For example, it could be anything from a drug house to a lot of activity in a particular location as far as cars going in or out. This is information that the sheriff's office needs, that's information the community needs to be willing to give and feel that they have an ear at the office," he said.

**Question: What do you think the answer is to stop violent gun-related crime in Henry County? Do you have any specifics on what you think you would do differently than the current Sheriff's Office? Are there things or programs that you think you would continue to do like the current Sheriff's Office does currently?**

*Mills*

Mills said violent gun crime has plagued every community for years and gets publicized daily.

"There has to be laws, there are laws in place to help curb this to help keep the right people from acquiring firearms. There's a process you have to go through," he said.

Mills believes education, awareness, and teaching children early are important steps for gun safety.

"Current laws in place, I'm sure the sheriff's office has enforced them to the best of their ability. Again, I would just like to encourage awareness and education, I think that's the first step in curbing gun violence," he said.

*Davis*

Each year, Davis said the sheriff's office brings a high number of gun-related charges throughout the county.

"I agree that we have to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, but many of those laws already exist, but they're criminals for a reason because they don't obey the law," he said and noted drug courts currently exist and neighborhood watch meet-



**Darryl Hatcher, a former game warden, addressed voters during a Candidate's Forum hosted by the Henry County-Martinsville Republican Committee.**



PHOTOS BY RAY REYNOLDS

**Before the Candidate's Forum on Tuesday, the three candidates for Henry County Sheriff gathered for prayer with a local pastor.**

ings are held in interested communities.

Davis said if elected he would continue to work with legislators to address minimal mandatory sentencing because that is a big piece of the puzzle.

"When we take minimal mandatory sentencing, then we lock away these criminals for lengthy periods of time, I think it sends a message. One, it takes them off the street so they cannot re-offend anymore, and it sends a message to" others, he said.

Davis also believes the office needs to implement the tools recently received from a grant fund to bring new technologies to the county.

*Hatcher*

As a former game warden, Hatcher said he knows about 98 percent of the people he encountered on a daily basis had firearms.

"Of the 98 percent of the hundreds of thousands out there, they would never think of using a firearm in a violent fashion on a human being. You're not going to keep guns out of all criminals' hands by doing background checks," he said.

Hatcher said the sheriff's office should do saturated controls in areas of the community where more gun deaths and violence occur.

"We'll do this by using the sheriff's office, and we'll also reach out to the state police and other agen-

cies that have jurisdiction," he said.

**Question: What is your plan for the recruitment and retention of the Sheriff's Department employees in Henry County? In what ways do you plan to ensure positive morale and teamwork within the department? Do you have any specifics on what you think you would do differently than the current Sheriff's Office? Are there things or programs that you think you would continue to do like the current Sheriff's Office does currently?**

*Hatcher*

Hatcher said the department's employees are by far its greatest resource.

"It's easier to and it's better to retain employees than it is to have to recruit and train new hires. You don't know what you're getting when you hire somebody," he said.

He noted that compared to when he joined the sheriff's office about 40 years ago, there is a fraction of people applying to be a deputy.

"To retain an employee, they have to know they are appreciated, and they have to know they are being compensated fairly, and they have to have confidence in leadership. Those are the things I'm going to bring to the sheriff's office" if elected, he said.

Hatcher said he plans to give employees the opportunity for

## Historical Society to sponsor “Welcome To Summer With Forrest Taylor” as part of Sounds on the Square

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor “Welcome to Summer with Forrest Taylor” as part of Sounds on the Square on Friday, June 2, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Admission is free, and complimentary popcorn will be available. Forrest Taylor will play a wide variety of genres from country, rock, and pop with a focus on the 1990s. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beers, and Hugo’s Restaurant & Sports Bar will serve food. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Invite your friends and family for an evening of fun and entertainment.

“Sounds on the Square” is sponsored by the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and its partners – Carter Bank & Trust, Children’s

First Pediatrics, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, and Sarver Cleaning Services. The remaining Sounds on the Square season includes July 7 – “Red, White, & Brew” with the Elena Flores Duo; August 4 – “Courthouse Karaoke” with BJ’s Karaoke; September 1 – “Courthouse Crawling” with Sue Ann Ehmann; and October 6 – “Harvest Moon Ball” with the Tate Tuck Trio.

John Phillips, president of the Historical Society, said, “The weather forecast looks much better than this past weekend. Sounds on the Square can serve as a re-do for the start to summer. Forrest Taylor is a phenomenal artist and the perfect performer to help us to welcome summer together in a casual, relaxing setting. Join us in Uptown Martinsville to enjoy Sounds on the Square!”

## Bulletin moves to three-day publishing schedule

The Martinsville Bulletin’s parent company, Lee Enterprises Inc., announced Sunday that the newspaper will move to a three-day publishing schedule.

A similar announcement appeared in five other newspapers in Virginia, including the Danville Register & Bee, according to online reports.

Print editions of the Bulletin will be published on

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Additionally, delivery “will transition from being delivered by the traditional newspaper delivery carrier to mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service.”

The changes are set to begin on June 27, according to the announcement.

Daily local, national, and international news and features will be posted on the company’s digital platforms.

## Gilbert signs with Shenandoah



Jacob Gilbert, third from left, is pictured, along with his sister, Cierra Gilbert; father, James Gilbert; mother, Wendy Gilbert; back row, left to right, Assistant Coach Mikail Hairston, Principal Tiffany Gravely and Coach Matt Tuggle.



Pictured, front row, is Assistant Coach Mikail Hairston, Jacob Gilbert, Coach Matt Tuggle and teammates.

Bassett High School senior Jacob Gilbert recently signed to play baseball at Shenandoah University.

“It’s surreal because I always dreamed of signing, and going to play baseball at the next level,” he said. Gilbert considers baseball as his favorite sport to play, not-

ing that the ability to play baseball comes easier than basketball or football.

Gilbert visited the campus of Shenandoah University before making his decision to attend.

“They treated me really well; they are in the Top 10 in the nation,

so I want to go play for them,” he said. “I’m looking forward to getting out there. I’ve always just been round Henry County.”

Gilbert plans to major in Sport and Administration Management, with a minor in business or Physical Therapy.

## Bassett students commit to wrestle at P&HCC



Assistant wrestling coach Amy Fain is pictured with Michael Clark Jr., the father of Michael Clark III, and Tammy Clark, mother, at a recent signing ceremony. Those in the back row are James Gilbert, BHS wrestling coach Dylan Johnson, P&HCC Chad Lange, Principal Tiffany Gravely.

## Teachers honored at recent Big M Luncheon

by Tara Lucas

Recently Big M Trophy recipients were honored with a luncheon at the Dutch Inn for both the students and their parents. During the luncheon, students also had the opportunity to read a letter and honor their most influential teacher.

Twenty-two high school seniors received the Big M trophy. Only seniors with a cumulative scholastic average of 3.7 and above are eligible for the trophy. Eligible students must be enrolled in three or more academic subjects, one of which must be an honors course.

During the luncheon students had a meal with their parents and teachers. Afterwards the students had a chance to read a letter to their most influential teacher and present them with an award.

Demitri Blackwell recognized Katarina Childress as his most influential teacher. Blackwell talked about the struggles of getting through classes on zoom during the pandemic and how Childress helped with that process.

“She helped me get through COVID the most because every day I had her zoom and she was the highlight of my day with her radiating energy,” he said. Childress was honored by four other students during the luncheon.

Papion Shelton recognized Samantha Spencer as her most influential teacher.

“I am honored to have you have you in my life as a teacher and a friend,” Shelton said. Although her first impression of Spencer was not a good one.

“I thought you would be one of those cocky, strict teachers without even getting to know you,” she said. Shelton credits Spencer with teaching her about many life experiences and life in general.

“I love how you treat every student as if they were your child. If there were more teachers like you the teaching industry would be unstoppable,” Shelton said of Spencer.

Big M trophy recipients were Marcaisa Jenee Becker, Demitri Keyvon Blackwell, Hayden Elise Calfee, Nije’l Malik Cook, Christian Alexander Scott Eames, James Demetrius Farris Jr., Nadia Jazmin Flores, Zane Mills Gardner, Matthew Gabriel Gilbert, Trenati Cherkara Hairston, Katherine Marie Hall, Natalia Janae Martin, Eyad Abdelnaser Mohamed, Amanda Marie Mosser, Faith Elena Munoz, Joseph Hunter Nguyen, RG Vincent Olea, Ashlynn McKenzie Patten, Myia Shante Pettie, Ciara Monique Ramey, Papion Jolie Ritenour Shelton, Kayla Marie Solomon.

Honored Teachers were John Allen, Alisha Bennett, Katarina Childress, Amber Corns, Lynne Deckel, Jason Gibson, Kathy Harned, Shannon King, Elizabeth Lynch, Keri Soqui, Samantha Spencer, Tanner Sweitzer, Jenny Whittaker, Ronnie Wray.



Demitri Blackwell with Katarina Childress.



Papion Shelton with teacher Samantha Spencer.



Jake Knight, Jesus Jimenez, brother, Johnathan Jimenez (third from left) is pictured with family members and school staff at a recent ceremony during which he signed to wrestle at P&HCC this fall.

by Tara Lucas

Bassett High School students Michael Clark III and Johnathan Jimenez signed to continue their wrestling careers at Patrick and Henry Community College in the fall.

Clark didn’t start wrestling until his senior year at BHS but is excited to continue at the college level this fall.

“I’m happy to be able to do it for at least two more years,” said Clark. “I originally thought I was just going to go to college for welding and then (coach Dylan)

Johnson told me they have a wrestling program and I thought I might as well do that while I’m here.”

Clark hopes to do great things in his wrestling future, but his main goal is to have fun. He described his level of excitement on a scale of 1-10 as an 11.

Jimenez said being signed feels great.

“I get to roll around with the boys I’ve known for a while now,” he said. “I get to do something I’ve enjoyed for a long time. I appreciate my coach.”

Jimenez hopes to go up in weight class and be a national qualifier in wrestling like his brother Jesus Jimenez.

# Gilley to play for P&HCC

Recent Bassett High School (BHS) graduate, Emily Gilley, is continuing her athletic journey at Patrick & Henry Community College this fall.

“I get to go do bigger things,” Gilley said. “I get to go be around people that love the game and I’m really looking forward to it.”

Her initial reaction to being selected by the college was shock.

“It really meant a lot to me. It meant that our team was getting out and being heard about. Usually, the Bassett softball team is kind of small, and we’re finally breaking out of the shell,” said Gilley. “For somebody to hand select me and say, ‘I want you here,’ really meant a lot to

me.” Gilley is looking forward to being a part of what she calls “a really great pitching staff.”

“I get to learn from the people who are staying back like the incoming sophomores,” she said, adding that she is excited to be playing with girls from other areas such as Patrick County and Halifax, some whom she competed against in the past.

Outside of softball, Gilley hopes to pursue another passion someday.

“I think I’m most looking forward to setting myself up in the animal career field. I’ve always wanted to do that since I was really young,” she said. “I love being



**Anna Gilley, sister and Travis Gilley, father, celebrate with Emily Gilley and her mother, Melissa Gilley, after Gilley signed to play softball at P&HCC. Athletic director Jay Gilbert, P&HCC softball coach Robbi Campbell, BHS softball coaches Bill Parks and Samantha Dalton, and BHS principal Tiffany Gravely are pictured in the back row.**

around animals in general. I’ve had the opportunity to do several internships and be hands-on with animals and it really helped me to solidify my decision to go into the animal field. Being around vets and vet technicians has really helped me see from their point of view what the career field will be like.”



## Group Works to Address Opioid Crisis

As the opioid epidemic continues to take its toll, a Virginia group is working to keep people safe.

The Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition in Roanoke has been working to provide residents in Northern Virginia with training on how to use Narcan, a drug which slows and can reverse opioid overdose.

Data from the Commonwealth Fund show opioid deaths declined between 2021 and 2022, but are still above pre-pandemic levels.

Danny Clawson, executive director of the group, said new drugs on the street like xylazine can be difficult to tackle.

“The issue with xylazine is that it does not respond to the overdose reversal drug Narcan because it’s not an opioid,” Clawson explained. “Fentanyl and carfentanil are and all these other things that people talk about, those are opioids and Narcan works on the opioid receptor.”

While the coalition is still developing a protocol for people overdosing on xylazine, they’re advising volunteers to ensure the person is able to get oxy-

gen. In April, the White House’s Office of National Drug Control Policy declared fentanyl mixed with xylazine an emerging threat in the U.S.

Outside the drug landscape, Clawson noted there are other challenges for the people her group serves. Two of the biggest issues are a lack of housing and inadequate access to mental health care services.

“The vast majority of our participants that are using substances, illegal substances, are self-medicating,” Clawson pointed out. “They have complex mental health needs, and it’s just so hard to access stable, affordable mental health care that we aren’t able to connect them to the services they need.”

She added there is not enough support for them to be able to get on the right medication, which needs to be supervised by a clinician.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s mental health plan aims to develop mobile treatment and crisis response services. Additional funding will be invested to reduce barriers to recovery and reentry for people dealing with fentanyl overdoses.

## Trio from page 5

career advancement where they can move in their career choice where they wish.

“What I plan to do is offer the employees the opportunity to move up within their ranks to the senior and master levels so that” instead of going into “supervision if they don’t want to, they can continue on their track,” he said.

Hatcher said working to promote the most effective leadership and the people who are the most effective leaders will improve the department’s morale and teamwork.

*Mills*

When he joined the sheriff’s office in 1994, Mills said he considered it an honor and a privilege.

“Something that as far as retention, morale plays a key part in that. You got to have trust and support. These young officers need to know that they have your support and that they can trust you with their ideas and concerns,” he said.

Mills said it has to be a department where you create an atmosphere through training, education, and trust.

“You have to be an effective leader who listens. They have families,” and “the family must be taken into consideration, and the total welfare of the officer to meet their physical and mental needs,” he said.

To ensure positive morale, Mills believes officers have to feel like they are part of a family.

“It’s something that you got to build trust, and you go to continue through reinforcing their ideals to make them a complete officer; to feel like they have your support,” he said.

*Davis*

Compared to other localities, Davis said Henry County is doing a good job with retention. He noted that other departments in the Roanoke Valley area and the region are down more than 30 percent, while Henry County is down less than five percent.

“We’re trying to reach out to the youth in our communities to get them involved to get them to understand the positive aspects of law enforcement, and how much impact that can make on a community and the benefits of making this a career long-term,” he said.

Davis said employee morale is a daily issue, especially when those being hired know it is not a career for them.

“So, once we recruit the right people and have them in the right place then they can feel and improve each other’s morale,” he said.

**Question: What will you do to help pay back the cost of the new jail? What do you think can be done to stop drugs from entering the jail and overdoses from happening inside the jail? any specifics on what you think you would do differently than the current Sheriff’s Office? Are there things or programs that you think you would continue to do like the current Sheriff’s Office does currently?**

*Davis*

Davis said some people have alleged there are serious issues with the center, when in fact, that is not true.

“Many of the people who would make those allegations have never stepped foot inside the facility. Those who would make those allegations have never managed a facility of that size, so they have no idea,” he said.

Regarding the fiscal aspects of the center, Davis said it was merely speculation or an estimate based on the jail need study conducted by Mosely Architects.

The daily population is down in the Henry County Adult Detention Center, Davis said, “It’s down in every local jail across this Commonwealth.”

Davis said the sheriff’s department is housing inmates for the City of Martinsville and has contracted to house federal inmates. “And if they send those inmates, that contract alone will generate half a million dollars in revenue.”

Davis said every correctional facility across the nation has an issue with narcotics entering its walls.

“We have the most state-of-the-art technology at the Adult Detention Center. We have body scanners that scan 3D, yet however, we can’t detect the small organic particles in those things. So, again these are criminals, and they can conspire ways to sneak narcotics into our jails,” he said.

*Hatcher*

Instead of relying on technology, Hatcher said the center should look at what other agencies are doing to keep narcotics out of their centers and take practical approaches.

“Look at the state correctional facilities. If you work in a DOC (Department of Corrections) facility you’re searched” numerous times. “It doesn’t make a difference if you’re wearing a badge or if you’re an inmate or if you’re a contractor. You have to expand your search,” he said, adding the center should look at old-school approaches like using canine drug-sniffing dogs.

To generate revenue, Hatcher said he agrees with what the department is doing in bringing in federal inmates.

“The other thing that I would do is look at carryover funds from the budget. At the end of the year which we’re approaching, you always have money that’s left over. Any projects that you have that you weren’t able to

In recognition of National Bicycle Safety Month, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding Virginians, both bicyclists and motorists, to look out for each other on the road.

So far this year, there have been 160 bicycle-involved crashes on Virginia’s roadways, resulting in the deaths of nine bicyclists and injuries to 156 others. This is an 125% increase in bicyclist-related fatalities compared to four last year at this time.

“Cyclists are some of our most vulnerable road users. We all share the responsibility of keeping them safe,” said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. “Looking out for each other is key. Be visible and predictable as a cyclist, and respect bike lanes and pass with care as a motorist.”

- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Wear equipment to protect you and make you more visible to others.

### Tips for Motorists:

- Pass bicyclists on the road with care; allow at least three feet clearance.
- Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.
- Yield to bicyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.
- Look for bicyclists before making turns, either left or right.
- Respect designated bicycle lanes; don’t use them for parking, passing or turning.

Both cyclists and drivers should practice defensive driving by staying focused and alert to the road and all surrounding traffic. Anticipating what others may do, before they do it, allows you to better avoid a potential crash.

### Tips for Bicyclists:

- Always wear a properly fitted helmet.
- Check your bike equipment before heading out.

**Trio** from page 7

complete, I would trust the Board of Supervisors not to use that money to offset the budget," he said.

*Mills*

Mills said the center is a \$72 million state-of-the-art facility designed for the education and rehabilitation of inmates.

"As far as training inside the jail, to deter drugs and contraband coming into the jail, that comes from direct supervision. That comes from proper leadership. Veteran officers who are willing to spend time with these young officers," he said.

Mills said the jail is a training ground, and is the first experience for many officers. Regarding revenue, Mills said at some point he liked the idea of federal inmates. However, with the turnover rate he believes the center's officers need to be trained for that type of inmate.

"You can look at local jurisdictions that may need bed space and housing. Pittsylvania County, Franklin County, the City of Martinsville, those would all be options," he said.

**Question: In light of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution, if there were to be a law passed at either the state or the federal level to confiscate guns of any kind that are currently legal, would you enforce it? What will be your office's policy on how to deal with illegal aliens that have been arrested, and are you aware of how those situations are handled currently?**

*Hatcher*

As a pro-second amendment candidate in a pro-gun community, Hatcher said part of his

job as sheriff is to make sure that he reflects the values of the area he serves.

"If there's a state law passed that says we have to confiscate firearms, it would have to supersede the Constitution to make it a law. So, I would not enforce that law," he said.

Hatcher said illegal aliens arrested in the community would be handled the same as they currently are.

"They would be incarcerated in jail. We would notify immigration that they are in jail, and we would wait for their response," he said.

*Mills*

Mills said as a gun owner he is pro-second amendment.

"Unless there was an amendment to the Constitution, I don't see any reason why those weapons should be confiscated," he said.

Mills said if illegal aliens committed a crime in this jurisdiction, they are responsible for their actions.

"Immigration would be notified, and we would wait on the proper response from immigration but their debt for that crime to this jurisdiction would have to be paid," he said.

*Davis*

As another pro-gun candidate, Davis said no Henry County deputy will participate in any level of gun confiscation.

Regarding illegal aliens, Davis said the sheriff's department would arrest them as it would any other citizen.

"Should the federal government choose to deport them or prosecute them otherwise, then

See **Trio**, page 9

# Help sought to locate missing Collinsville man



Austin Lane Mabry was last seen on May 25.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office is requesting the public's assistance in locating a man missing since Thursday, May 25.

Austin Lane Mabry, 30, was reported missing on May 28, by a family member. He was last seen leaving an apartment located at 285 Spring Dr. Apt. #5, Collinsville.

Mabry is described as being 5-feet, 10-inches tall and weighing 180 pounds. He has brown hair with hazel eyes, and is possibly traveling in an older model Jeep Cherokee (square body style, unknown color).

Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or the Crimestoppers Program at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

# Three die in weekend crashes

A two-vehicle crash on Sunday, May 28, resulted in two deaths, according to a release from the Virginia State Police. The crash occurred at 4:46 p.m. on Blackberry Road, near Foley Drive in Henry County.

A 2012 Nissan Versa was traveling north on Blackberry Road, when the vehicle allegedly crossed the centerline. A 2007 Ford Focus was struck head-on.

The Nissan driver was identified as Denise Anne Cabrera-Cruz, 53, of Bassett. Cruz was not wearing her seatbelt and was transported to a local hospital, where she later died.

The passenger, an 8-year-old boy, was also transported for injuries received in the crash.

The driver of the Ford was identified as Kateland Ann McKinney, 22, also of Bassett. McKinney was not wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene.

A second crash occurred on Friday, May 26 at 1:13 p.m. on U.S. 220, just north of Virginia 641 in Henry County.

Then, a 2003 Mazda 3 was traveling south on U.S. 220, when the vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver was identified as Bruce Allen Guillams, 57, of Roanoke. Guillams was wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene.

Both crashes remain under investigation.

# VAB awards funds to Blue Ridge Airport

Projects at the Blue Ridge Regional Airport in Spencer were among those approved during last week's quarterly meeting of the Virginia Aviation Board.

Four projects will receive funding at the Blue Ridge Airport, including \$1.2 million for the first phase of a Runway Extension/Road Relocation plan; Phase 3 of the Runway Extension, which will receive \$22,222 for design; \$667,772 for Box Hangar Site Preparation (design and construction), and an increase of \$108,208.17 to relocate Virginia 698 and expand the apron.

A total of 31 projects at 21 public-use airports in the Commonwealth will receive funding. The VAB allocated \$6,514,118.21 for these important enhancements to General Aviation airports across the state.

# Youngkin issues order deploying National Guard Troops to border

Virginia National Guard Troops are being deployed to Texas, in support of Operation Lone Star, which intends to secure the border and reduce the illegal flow of fentanyl.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Directive Four on Wednesday, to deploy targeted resources in response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact Request from Texas that was issued to address the ongoing southern U.S. border crisis.

Due to continued instability along the

U.S. border with Mexico, including the increase in supply of illegal drugs and human trafficking, Texas sent a request for assistance to all states and territories through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), of which Virginia is a founding member.

On May 16, Texas requested states provide military support to assist in managing such conditions. Per Gov. Abbott's request, Virginia will be deploying 100 troops. Fentanyl and illicit drugs flowing over our border are devastating Virginia families and communities, an average

of five Virginians die per day from fentanyl.

"The ongoing border crisis facing our nation has turned every state into a border state," said Youngkin. "As leadership solutions at the federal level fall short, states are answering the call to secure our southern border, reduce the flow of fentanyl, combat human trafficking and address the humanitarian crisis. Following a briefing from Governor Abbott last week, Virginia is joining other states to deliver on his request for additional assistance. Given the intensive resource demands on Texas, the dangers posed by

the fentanyl crisis, and impact of the border crisis on criminal activity to the Commonwealth, Virginia will do its part to assist the State of Texas' efforts with the coordinated deployment of Virginia National Guard soldiers to assist in key aspects of their mission."

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith issued a statement in support of the deployment.

"Our country is currently in crisis due to the Biden Administration's inability to control our southern border. Here in Virginia, we too feel the effects of the Administration's flawed open border policies. Fentanyl smuggled over our southern border has devastated communities across the Commonwealth and continues to do so every day," Griffith, R-Salem, said.

"I applaud Governor Youngkin's decision to deploy 100 Virginia National Guard troops to Texas in an effort to secure our southern border, combat human trafficking, and stem the flow of deadly fentanyl pouring into our country," he added.

## 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

Be sure to like Henry County Enterprise on Facebook!

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

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

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!

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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

## 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



# Trio from page 8

we would support that," he said.

**Question: The Sheriff is the CEO of the Sheriff's Department that oversees a large multi-million dollar budget and supervises hundreds of employees. What in your past experiences qualifies you to oversee a budget that large and to lead that many employees?**

*Mills*

Mills said while he does not have experience with a budget of that size, but views it as the same as a household budget or the budget for the non-profit organization budget he works with.

"The same principles apply. You need to be stewards of your funding. You need to spend your funding wisely," he said.

Regarding the over 200 employees of the sheriff's office, Mills said he's coordinated volunteer services and activities for 40-60 volunteers with the non-profit.

"The sheriff is not alone in his duties. He must ensure he has good people around him to make sure things run efficiently," he said.

*Davis*

Davis said he's spent his entire career in the sheriff's office, so all of his experience stems from there.

"Fortunately, I've been part of the sheriff's administration staff for seven years. During those seven years, I've been able to see the budgeting process, participating in the budgeting process, and have a general understanding of that budget process," he said.

Before the former Chief Deputy Steve Eanes left, Davis said Eanes took the time to go through the budgeting cycle and explain the ins and outs to him.

"So, we would have a general understanding of the \$21 million budget the Henry County Sheriff's Office handles annually," he said.

Davis said he currently supervises the over 200 employees of the sheriff's office.

*Hatcher*

Hatcher said he's one of the few candidates that actually served as the CEO of a county department.

"I managed the county department and I had to prepare budgets to go through the budgeting process. A \$21 million budget, no I have not, but we're still throwing darts at that number and the budget has increased," he said.

Hatcher said one has to remember that as the department's CEO, he would be in charge of the department and preparing an accurate budget.

"But then I have to go to the Board of Supervisors. I have to sell my ideas to the Board of Supervisors and have to get their permission for the funding that it takes that I requested. So, in addition to being CEO I also have to be a salesman," he said.

# OBITUARIES

## Gary Dale Hooker

Gary Dale Hooker, 57, of Stuart, Virginia, passed away Saturday, May 27, 2023, at his residence. He was born February 20, 1966, in High Point, North Carolina to the late J.C. Hooker and Ruby Campbell Hooker. Gary loved to play the guitar. He spent his free time with his family, friends, and especially his mother.



survived by his daughters, Taylor Payne, Kellie Martin, and Jerrie Deal (Pwee); brother, Chris Hooker (Jennifer); grandchildren, Xavier Whitt, Trevor Whitt, Jazmyn Whitt, and Destiney Deal; great grandchild, Erica Payne; niece, Tiffany Bowman (Cody); nephew, Toby Hooker.

In addition to his father, he is preceded in death by his wife, Martha Fain Hooker.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m., on June 3, 2023, at State Line Primitive Baptist Church, 1334 State Line Church Rd, Westfield, N.C., 27053.

In addition to his mother, he is

## More than \$14 million available for land conservation projects

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is now accepting applications for \$14.1 million in land conservation grants.

The foundation provides grants to support conservation in the following categories: farmland preservation, forest preservation, historic preservation, natural area protection, and open spaces and parks.

cal year 2024 was approved in the state budget adopted in 2023. Of that amount, \$4 million automatically goes to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, leaving \$12 million for VLCF grants. Another \$2.1 million from previously awarded VLCF projects that came in under budget or have been withdrawn was added to that

A total of \$16 million for fis-

See **Land**, page 10

# Carlisle from page 1

basically the prehistoric days of 1974. I am deeply honored to represent my fellow alumni on this momentous occasion." Cumiskey said and commended the Carlisle Foundation for having a vision and creating an institution that is still thriving.

He also praised the graduating class for navigating school through a pandemic.

"This class has shined despite this historic adversity, and it will remain a testament to the unique circumstances that will forever shape its character," said Cumiskey.

Valedictorian Cristiano Di Maro delivered the valedictory speech, both reflecting on his years as a Carlisle student and bonding with others.

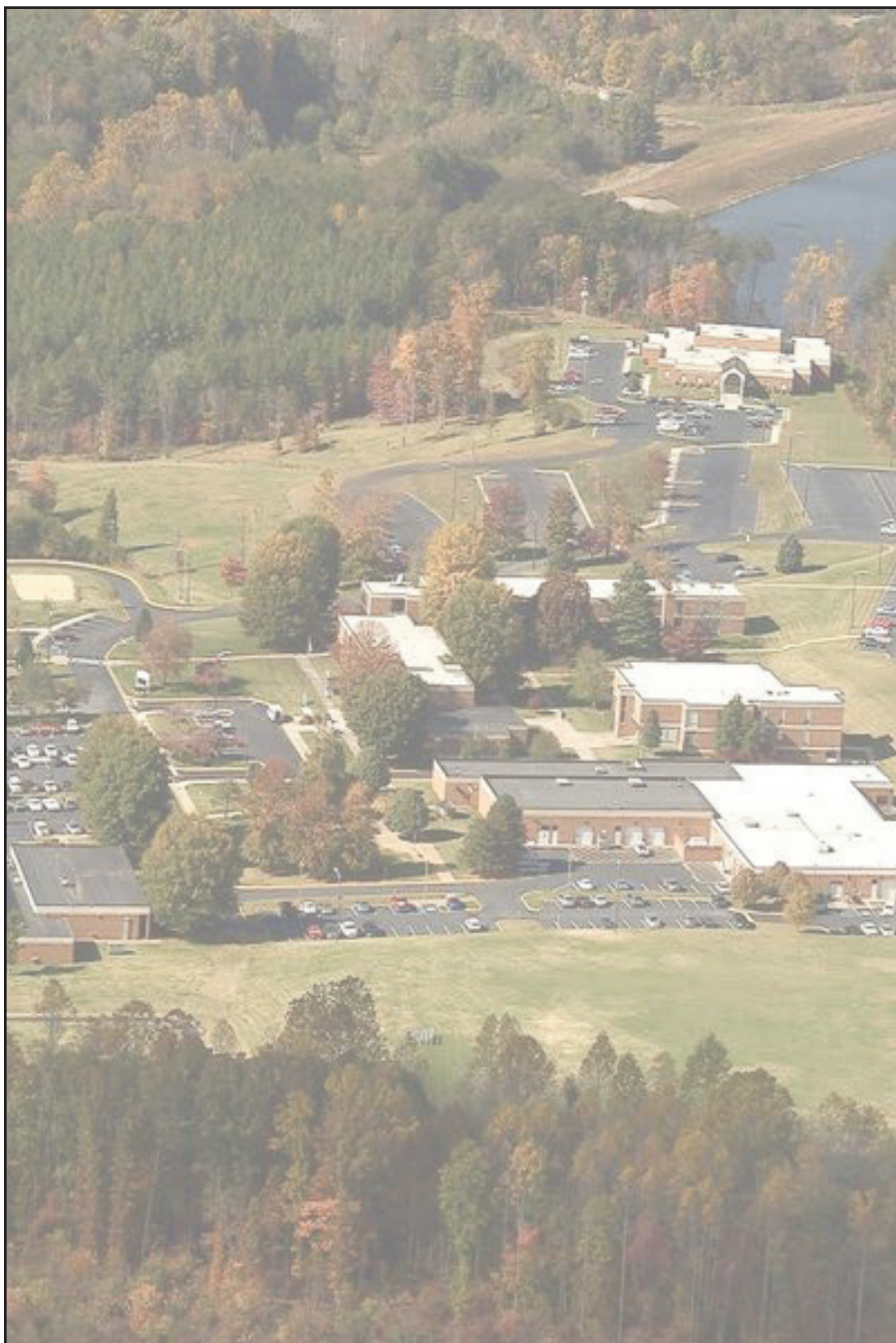
"I do see our class as a family. An oddball family definitely, but a family, nonetheless. As every family does, we've had our ups and downs, our triumphs, and defeats, those have only brought us closer together," he said. "This is both the beginning and the end. It's the end of our childhood but the beginning of the rest of our lives."



Graduates await ceremony.



Finley Brightwell receives her diploma.



## Enjoy a Saturday walk at P&HCC

The Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) June First Saturday Outing (FSO) will be a 2+ mile hike on the new trail being constructed on the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Campus. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3.

The hike will follow DRBA's Annual Celebration event at the Frith Building on campus.

This new trail has been funded by the Eco Ambassador Council (EAC), a coalition of regional businesses that collectively invest in environmental projects that make a positive impact for the communities in the Dan River Basin. The EAC members include Blair Construction,

Carter Bank & Trust, Clark Gas & Oil, Frith Construction, Hooker Furnishings, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, Lester Group, and Pickle & Ash Restaurant.

DRBA's Annual Celebration, the Ribbon Cutting and the FSO are all open to the public and free of charge.

DRBA is on MEETUP! Sign up for free and never miss a DRBA outing!

If for any reason the event needs to be cancelled, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) by Friday, June 2 to determine whether the outing will be held. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

## Blue Ridge Institute and Museum Highlights Franklin County History for New Exhibit



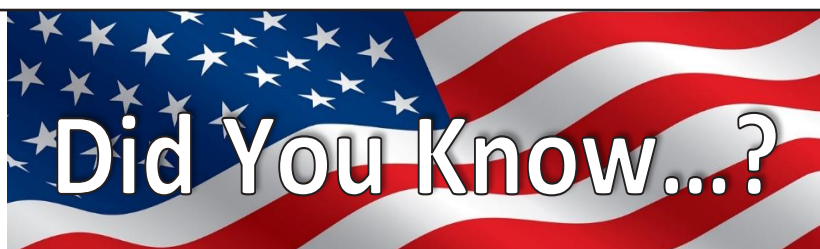
The Blue Ridge Institute & Museum (BRIM) of Ferrum College recently opened a new exhibit highlighting Franklin County history, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: The Dorothy Cundiff Collection." Museum studies students including recent graduates Caleb Bailey and Kelsey Smith played a significant role in planning and producing the exhibit.

A prominent businesswoman and local historian, Cundiff collected local photos, stories, memories, and books about Franklin County throughout her life. She also published a series of more than 40 booklets titled Yesterday and Today. The Cundiff family donated her extensive collection—including photographs, newspaper articles, bills, receipts, memos, books, pamphlets, and antiques, with subjects covered ranging from local businesses to local genealogy—to the BRIM for preservation.

"It is rare that the collections of a woman historian are gifted to museums. We are especially proud to add her work to our collections because it provides another perspective to our archives," said Ariel Dalton, curator and archivist at the BRIM.

Cundiff spent her life devoted to others, including her family and the local community at large. She was the driving force behind many community events including the Fun Festival and the annual Rocky Mount Christmas Parade. When viewing "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: The Dorothy Cundiff Collection", BRIM visitors will see her love for Franklin County and what it meant to her.

The exhibit will be on display at the BRIM through the end of June.



### Some politicians are just...

## ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE!



They make **big promises** and *claim* to be fighting for us while attacking their own party and **blaming everyone else for their own incompetence**. They simply can't get anything done for the voters. So, are they **INTENTIONALLY DECEPTIVE** or just extremely **INCOMPETENT**? Either way the results never change; voters get the **same old BULL!**

Legislators need to understand the details of their own bills. Example: in Jan. 2023, Delegate Marie March sponsored/introduced HB1396, a *generous* Education Savings Account Bill. The Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Early Childhood-Innovation Subcommittee hearing determined the following: \*

1. Per Delegate Davis: (Chairman House Education Committee); **"Seems like the drafter of this bill either doesn't know what's in it or failed 5<sup>th</sup> grade math."**

*"I think the best conservative estimates, [to fund this bill] is about **Half a BILLION Dollars a year, every year...**"* [of additional Virginia taxpayer money].

This bill would be **"a profit-making enterprise for millionaires"** [through tax credits at 130% of investment].

2. Mrs. March **failed to file a fiscal impact statement or budget amendment** making committee action impossible.
3. When questioned by Delegates Davis and Cherry about details, Mrs. March **repeatedly tried to defer basic questions** to Natassia Grover, Director of *Virginia for Educational Freedom*, Broadlands, VA (NORTHERN VIRGINIA). (Per Mrs. March, *"Natassia analyzed every single bill and made sure there's a good reason to vote for it or against it...got me thru session."*) \*\*

### Intentionally LYING or just plain INCOMPETENT?

Which is it? Or should we just ask Natassia?

Make **YOUR VOTE COUNT** on **June 20th!**

For more information or to find out how you can help PatCoVA PAC continue to deliver timely, factual information to local voters, please visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCountyPAC>.

Information sources: \* <https://virginialegislature.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> \*\* <https://www.facebook.com/mariemarchfordelagate> Feb. 24, 2023.

Paid for by PatCoVA Pac Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

## Land from page 9

amount.

The program provides 50-50 matching grants for localities and non-profit conservation entities. State agencies and federally or state-recognized Indian tribes may receive 100%.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 18.

A virtual workshop for potential applicants is scheduled for June 8 at 9:30 a.m. Details about the workshop, the grant manual and application will be posted at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/land-conservation/vlcf>.

In November 2022, the board awarded a record \$14.9 million for the fiscal year 2023 grant round to fund 40 conservation projects and protect 1,347 acres of land across the commonwealth. For the first time federally or state-recognized Indian tribes were eligible to apply. The Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia and the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe each received grant awards.

VLCF board members are appointed by the Governor, Senate and House of Delegates. The board includes the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, who serves as chair, and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. DCR provides staff support to the board.

Register  
for the Fall Semester

FIND YOURSELF HERE

Patrick & Henry  
Community College

EDUCATE YOUR MIND. FOLLOW YOUR DREAM.

FALL CLASSES BEGIN  
AUGUST 21ST

P&HCC has funding to pay for your education! See if you qualify!

WWW.PATRICKHENRY.EDU  
P&HCC IS AN EEO INSTITUTION

