

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, July 1, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

Perry looks to the future as he retires as sheriff

By Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd

The Henry County Board of Supervisors presented a resolution honoring the service of Sheriff Lane Perry at its June 27 meeting for his 30 years of dedicated service to the county.

Perry, who will retire on June 30, has served in several roles, including correctional officer, patrol, investigator, and captain. He has served as sheriff since 2006.

Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District, read a resolution that was later approved by the board in honor of Perry's tenure.

"Whereas the health and safety of all our residents is important to the happiness, prosperity, and wellbeing of our families and communities, and whereas



Debra Buchanan and Garrett Dillard, members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, presented a resolution to Sheriff Lane Perry (center) honoring his service to the county.

law enforcement officers serve as pillars of the community, upholding a democratic structure that shelters the helpless and renders justice to those that seek to harm them," she read. Noting that county

officers are committed to the highest standard of professionalism and serve the public, Buchanan said "One such officer, Sheriff Lane Perry, has served our community for more than 30 years."

Initially hired to work in the jail, Buchanan said Perry "has served in a variety of capacities, from patrol to investigation to vice." In each role, he served

See Perry, page 7



PHOTO BY PAT DELANEY

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry addressed those attending a swearing-in ceremony for incoming sheriff Wayne Davis.

Davis vows to begin each day on bended knee

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

Wayne Davis, who took the oath of office Monday in preparation for becoming the next sheriff of Henry County, beginning at midnight Saturday, July 1, said he "will begin every day serving this community from bended knee."

His term commences as the term of long-time Sheriff Lane Perry ends at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 30. Perry, who retired after serving as sheriff for nearly 17 of his 30 years in law enforcement, was also honored. (See related story)

After asking Perry to stand, Henry County Sheriff's Lt. Col. Eric Hairston said, "Thank you, sheriff, for your dedicated service to the citizens of our beloved community. You have served Henry County with ethics, integrity, valor, and professionalism for more than 30 years. You have successfully led this honorable office of sheriff for nearly

See Davis, page 5

Tax increases approved in Martinsville

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Members of the Martinsville City Council approved an increase in the city's cigarette tax and transient lodging tax at a June 27 meeting. Both changes will go into effect Friday, September 1.

The cigarette tax will increase from \$0.30 per pack to \$0.40 per pack.

City Manager Leon Towarnicki said there were some comments made during the budget discussion about the \$.40 cents, and if the city could go higher.

"We cannot, \$.40 is the statute, \$.02 per cigarette so 20 cigarettes in a pack is \$0.40. There are other communities that are higher, but they were grandfathered in," he said.

The transient lodging tax will increase from 2 percent to 7 percent.

Vice-mayor Aaron Rawls explained visitors to the city pay that tax when they stay at a hotel or other accommodations.

"What we did as council is kind of look at other areas which are active in the tourism space and their rate. We were very, very low," he said.

Rawls said the council also noticed that there is a lot of tourism in Martinsville.

"We're looking at 90 percent in some of our hotels.

See Tax, page 3



Brad Kinkema, director of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, gave an update on the group's facility and design project.

School budget in the county decreases



Dr. David Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administrative Services, addressed the Henry County School Board.

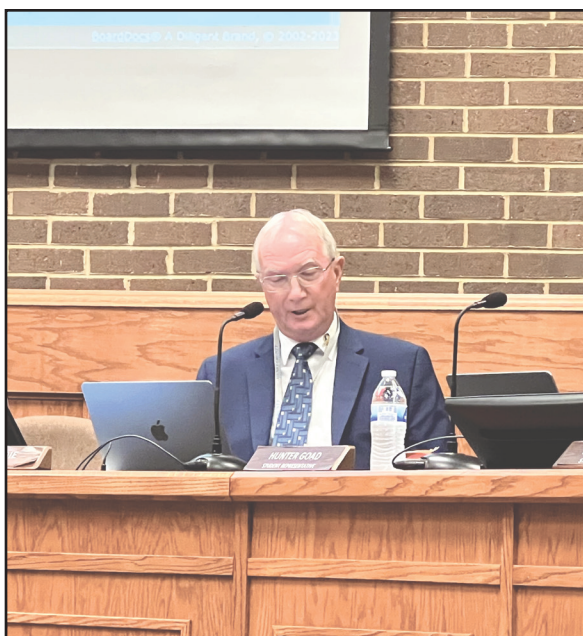
by Tara Lucas

The Henry County School Board recently held a meeting to close out the current fiscal year. The new FY24 budget has less state funding than the previous year's budget.

Dr. David Scott,

Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administrative Services, presented an item for reconciliation from the budget that was passed in March and the skinny budget that was passed by the General Assembly in June.

"What we're looking



Champ Hardie, of the Ridgeway District, recognized Dr. Sandy Strayer in advance of her July 1 retirement.

at is a reconciliation of a reduction of \$1,666,062 that will come out of the state revenue. We have adjusted our expenditure categories accordingly," Scott said. "We have our general budget for FY24 coming in at \$101,018,350 which includes \$19,348,187 of

local funding."

Teddy Martin, the chairman of the Reed Creek District, indicated that a "more robust budget" might pass and that the matter would be revisited at a later date. The decrease in funding

See Budget, page 3

Pay lags for county, law enforcement staff

By Staff Reports

A comprehensive classification and compensation study of the county and sheriff's office employees showed that salaries are, on average, 1.3 percent above market minimums and 5.6 percent below market midpoints.

Kristen Gilley, a senior consultant for Evergreen Solutions – the company conducting the study, attended the Henry County Board of Supervisors' June meeting to present the results of the study.

Results indicated that starting salaries in the county are competitive, but those with more years of service still lag behind their peers in surrounding localities.

This combination of comparatively high starting pay, and lower tenured pay results is referred to as salary compression. Approximately 81.9 percent of county employees are below the midpoint.

Data was collected from 21 peers, including 10 localities, nine school districts, and two service authorities.

Evergreen proposed two separate salary plans for the county and sheriff's office. The county plan would consist of 31 grades with 30 steps, while the sheriff's office plan has the same number of steps but is broken down into 20 grades instead.

With the data in

hand, the board now can work to address employee compensation, which was the top concern to emerge from this year's annual planning session.

The next step in the process is for the board to decide how to implement the results of the pay study.

In other matters, the board:

*Honored Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry with a resolution for his more than 30 years of service. Perry retired on June 30. (See related stories)

*Approved a resolution to support the Virginia American 250 Commission.

*Approved a resolution in support of the issuance of bonds by the Town of Timberville's Economic Development Authority (EDA) referencing the Sunnyside Presbyterian Home / King's Grant Retirement

See Pay, page 6

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.)

Meetings

Tuesday, July 11

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

Wednesday July 12

The Henry County Planning Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Monday, July 17

The Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. in the fourth-floor conference room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Tuesday, July 25

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

Events

Saturday, July 1

Storytime at Spencer Penn, 10 a.m. Monthly program includes special readers, crafts, and other fun activities! Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages. No registration needed.

Saturday, July 8

The 9th Annual Brenda Riggins Memorial Christmas in July Blood Drive with the American Red Cross will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stanleytown Elementary School Gymnasium, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments have priority. You may schedule an appointment by contacting the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org, Sponsor Code: Brenda, or in the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Spend the evening with Martinsville native, and now Philadelphia-based musician, Mandy Shearer & Friends with Roanoke's Ben "Jamin" Trout, Mark Henderson on drums and Soul Sista Tina Marie from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Imagination Lavender Farm 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. No Cover Charge (donation appreciated) Bring a chair, cooler with your choice of beverage. For more information, call (276) 734-2828. Las Tapatias Taco Food Truck on premises.

Sunday, July 9 - Friday, July 14

Twists & Turns Vacation Bible School at Fort Trial Baptist Church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown. 2 to 5 years, 6:15 to 8 p.m.; completed K-12th grade, 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.; adults, 7 p.m. Online registration, <https://www.forttrialbaptist.com/events/>. For transportation, call the church office at (276) 629-2964.

Tuesday, July 11

Building the Foundation for Your New Business, presented by the Longwood Small Business Development Center via Zoom, 9-10 a.m. Sign up at <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=91430009>.

Friday, July 14

Henry County Parks & Recreation hosts Movie in the Park at Jack Dalton Park, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, with DC League of Super Pets. Music & games start at 7:30 p.m. Movie starts at 8:55 p.m. Drinks, candy, and snacks available for purchase.

Music Night at Spencer Penn with Galax Fiddlers Convention two time winners, Alum Ridge Boys and Ashlee, to perform in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions will be sold.

Franks + Dranks, 6 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. The cook out-themed summer party, with music by Jake Earles, yard games, food by Hylton's Wood-cooking Grill and a cash bar. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. No outside franks or dranks allowed. In case of rain, Franks + Dranks will be held at Piedmont Arts.

The Longwood Small Business Development Center hosts Marketing on a Budget via Zoom, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Register at <https://clients.virginiasbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=91430008>.

Composting 101 with VT Horticulture Extension Agent, Melanie Barrow, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn how to compost properly, the proper balance of materials, aerobic conditions, and the microorganisms that break down scraps with little to no odor. This presentation will give you the knowledge and tools needed to compost in your own backyard. Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to reserve your spot.

Saturday, July 15

Bassett Cruise In, 3 to 7 p.m., Bassett Furniture World Headquarters, Fairy Stone Park Highway, Bassett. For more information, visit <http://www.bassettcruisein.com/>.

Tuesday, July 18

The Bassett Historical Center will present The Life of Patrick Henry, Virginia's First Governor at 10:30 a.m. in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room. The program is free and open to the public.

Art Camp, 10 a.m. to noon, Henry County Rec Center, 395 John Redd Blvd., Collinsville. Children will participate in still life drawings, paintings, cartoons, abstract paintings and other forms of art. Pre-registration is required and limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$35. Call (276) 634-4640 for more information.

Friday, July 21

A Golf Camp will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex Driving Range, 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton. The camp is designed for golfers who want to learn the fundamentals of golf and work on their game. The fee is \$15. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Call (276) 634-4640.

ONGOING

Saturdays through 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.

Tuesdays in September

A series of four genealogy classes will be offered at the Bassett Historical Center on Tuesdays in September (5, 12, 19, 26), from 10 a.m. until noon. Classes are free and open to the public, but there will be a limit of 12 participants. Call (276) 629-9191 to register.

Zumba is held Tuesdays and Thursdays at Spencer Penn, beginning at 5:45 p.m. Join Body by Jenise for a great, fun workout. The drop-in price is \$8.

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.

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed. 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. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate is available to help. 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.

Expansion at Monogram Foods expected to add 156 jobs

Monogram Foods worked with CEI Capital Management LLC (CCML) to secure an \$8 million in New Markets Tax Credit financing to buy new equipment and expand its Martinsville manufacturing plant, the company reported in a release.

CEI Media Representative Christen Graham said the expansion will help improve production capacity by 80 percent to meet the increased consumer demands for the company's line of ready-to-eat snacks including jerky and meat sticks.

The company expects to add 156 jobs to the already existing 530-employee base. This will secure it as the second-largest private employer in Henry County.

"Monogram Foods is committed to creating good jobs at all levels, and across all demographics. This investment allows them to maintain a high standard for job quality in the region and support the sustainability of an organization that is vital to the local community," CCML chief executive officer Traci Vaine said.

Graham said as the company readied to expand the snacks' production, expansion expenses also sharply escalated, with rising interest rates among the factors increasing the cost of capital.

"The \$8 million NMTC financing is an instrumental part of the funding proposition for the project and bolsters Monogram's ability to fund more equipment and expansion potential this year, during a challenging economic

and interest rate environment," he said.

Headquartered in Memphis, Monogram Foods manufactures top-quality and innovative food products at 13 sites in seven states, selling to private-label and food service customers. The facility in Martinsville manufactures jerky and meat sticks which have grown so quickly in popularity among consumers recently that demand began to outpace production.

As the company readied to expand the snacks' production, expansion expenses also sharply escalated, with rising interest rates among the factors increasing the cost of capital. The \$8 million New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing is an instrumental part of the funding for the project and bolsters Monogram's ability to fund more equipment and expansion potential this year, during a challenging economic and interest rate environment.

CCML invests in rural manufacturing projects that revitalize core industries or support emerging sectors. The investment in Monogram Food aligns with CCML's focus to bring critically needed private investment to deeply distressed rural areas, where access to capital is limited or non-existent.

Dudley Venture Valley National Bank provided the New Market Tax Credits equity and CCML was joined by co-allocates Stonehenge Community Development, LLC and The Community Business Investment Fund. Hope Community Capital served as investment consultant to CCML

Fieldale man held with no bond on drug-related charges

Michael Aundrea Hairston, 39, of 188 George Hairston Road, Fieldale, is being held with no bond on several drug-related charges after Henry County Sheriff's investigators executed a search warrant at the home on Wednesday, June 21.

When deputies entered the home, a person allegedly was armed with a semi-automatic pistol and was taken into custody without incident. Authorities seized what is believed to be fentanyl during the investigation, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Hairston was charged with possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl after having a prior conviction; possession of a firearm after being convicted of a felony and possession of a firearm while knowingly being in possession of a Schedule I/II Controlled substance.

He is being held in the Henry County



Adult Detention Center without bond at 8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

The matter remains under investigation, and additional charges are anticipated, according to the release.

Anyone with information about narcotic trafficking operations is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-

Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of 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.

Lions Club installs officers

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club installed officers at its June 13 meeting held at Hugo's in Uptown Martinsville.



The current Zone Chairman, Cave Spring Lions Club President Kay Patrick, receives a certificate from incoming 2023-2024 MHC Lions Club President Jim Clark.



Kay Patrick (center) with incoming officers Vice President Woods Carter, Zone Chairman Teddy Martin, President Jim Clark, Treasurer Eddie Fields, and Secretary Cliff Rood.

Remains found in crawlspace

On June 23, at approximately 3:05 p.m., the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center received a call to report possible human remains in a home's crawl space area. Deputies responded to the house located on John Redd Blvd., Collinsville. Upon arrival, they discovered the remains inside an exterior-covered crawl space entry.

The body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Western District of Virginia for identification and an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

Student Briefs

Emory & Henry College Awards Day Recipients

Emory & Henry College congratulates students awarded as part of the College's awards day.

- Will Clark, of Collinsville;
- Blake Wilson, of Axton;
- Tizianna Palumbo, of Martinsville;
- Madeline Bishop, of Collinsville.

Blake Wilson of Axton.

Adkins of Spencer makes Dean's List at RIT

Rachel Adkins of Spencer was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 academic year. Adkins is in the computer engineering program.

Emory & Henry College announces spring graduates

The following local residents graduated from Emory & Henry College in the Spring 2023:

- Madeline Bishop of Collinsville.
- William Clark of Collinsville.
- Tizianna Palumbo of Martinsville.

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Budget

from page 1

was announced after the board approved an increase in salary for employees.

"With this adjustment are we still maintaining that 7% that we agreed upon previously," asked Vice-Chairman Ben Gravely.

"We've always prioritized the safety of our schools and employee compensation, and we've secured for those in this budget," Scott said in response.

Also, during the meeting, board member Champ Hardie recognized Dr. Sandy Strayer on her retirement. "I know over the last several weeks many people have congratulated Dr. Sandy Strayer," Hardie said. "Let me say first through your determination and willpower, you have made the climb step-to-step from teacher until you have reached the highest position in Henry County Public Schools as division superintendent."

Hardie called Strayer the best superintendent in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The meeting marked Strayer's last as superintendent.

Tax

from page 1

Spillover going as far as Rocky Mount," he said. "Of course, we have people doing things in Martinsville and staying in Danville. So that was a pretty easy thing, I think, for us to turn the knob on to capture revenue like other areas are doing."

Mayor LC Jones said the transient lodging tax is not a tax that will particularly affect the city residents.

"This is something that we do have a lot of tourism here, so it is something that is an opportunity to take advantage of," he said.

Kathy Lawson said those who travel and stay in larger cities will pay a larger transient lodging fee.

"This is a small rate," she said.

When he was going through the reading, Rawls said he tried to pick the lowest ones he could find to share with the council.

"Seven was it. Danville was eight percent, plus a fixed dollar fee on every stay. So, this is a thing that we hope that tourism bucks come from outside our community (it) was kind of the point of having tourism," he said.

In other matters, the council:

*Heard from Brad Kinkema, director of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, about the facility and design project.

Kinkema said the project has been in the works since 2018 and is currently in the listening session phase.

"We were able to secure the property at Memorial (Boulevard) and Fayette (Street) in an auction last November. So, where the Family Dollar is now is where this property is," he said.

Kinkema said the new YMCA will include an outside splash pad, indoor pool, outdoor sports court area, an astroturf area, community room, fitness center, wellness center, and child watch area.

"We also incorporated the Early Learning Center because we know that preschool and daycare are very important. We have one right now, but this would hold over nine kids. It would also include infants and toddlers, so it would serve a great purpose for economic development if people have someplace to put their kids," he said.

Kinkema said one thing that came up during the listening sessions is how affordable the center will be.

"We don't plan to go up on our rates because of the new facility. Between now and when we finish it the rates will be the same – probably not because you can't buy a loaf of bread for what you could two years ago," he said.

Kinkema said the organization plans to have more members to pay for the operations of the new facility.

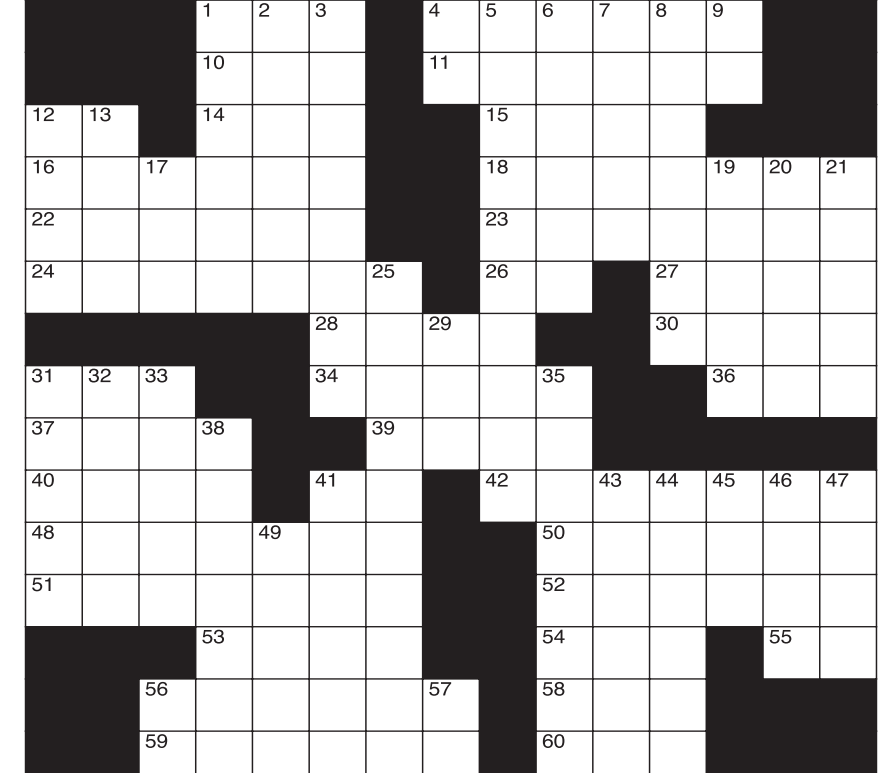
"One of the things we find is that the Y doesn't turn people away due to the inability to pay. So, if somebody comes into the Y and says, 'I can't afford your

See Tax, page 6



The Martinsville City Council approved increases in the city's cigarette tax and transient lodging tax. The increases go into effect on Friday, September 1.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basics 4. In a new way 10. ___ Paulo, city 11. Jailhouse 12. Expresses surprise 14. Trigraph 15. A small stream 16. Dissimilar 18. Promote 22. Gives a boost 23. Lawmaker 24. Orthodox Jews 26. Actor Harris 27. Wild cherry 28. Participate in democracy 30. Opposite of begins 31. A Brit's mother 34. Set of moral principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Very fast airplane 37. Czech river 39. Private school in New York 40. Israeli dance 41. Electron volt 42. Adjusting 48. Duct by the bladder 50. Small burger 51. Begin again 52. Unstuck 53. Jai ___ sport 54. Get free of 55. For instance 56. Hotel chain 58. A team's best pitcher 59. Extracts from various sources 60. Indefinite period of time | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Francis of ___ 2. Supported 3. Unleashed in working 4. It cools your home 5. Predicting 6. Irritated 7. Popular talk show host 8. Fabric edge 9. A resource for employees 12. Broadway's Jackman 13. Small water buffalo 17. City of Angels: ___ Angeles 19. Asteroids 20. Tailless amphibians 21. German expressionist painter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. What drives you 29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group 31. Gold coin used in British India 32. Have deep affection for 33. Ponds 35. Breaks between words 38. Hairstyle 41. Print errors 43. Family of iron alloys 44. Sidelined in bed 45. Many couples say it 46. Brazilian hoopster 47. Allman Brothers late frontman 49. German city 56. One hundred grams (abbr.) 57. One billionth of a second (abbr.) |
|---|---|---|---|

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101



OPINION

An open letter from the FBI

I do not regret writing my last column. I do somewhat regret that it ran on the exact same day we all found out the submarine imploded.

In case you missed it, my last column was a satirical piece inspired by Ray Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder" in which three billionaires become lost in the past after paying big bucks to hunt Tyrannosaurs and the CEO of Time Safari Inc. insists to the public that the situation is both unpreventable and not at all funny. It was, of course, inspired by the OceanGate tourist submarine disaster, which ultimately claimed the lives of all five people on board.

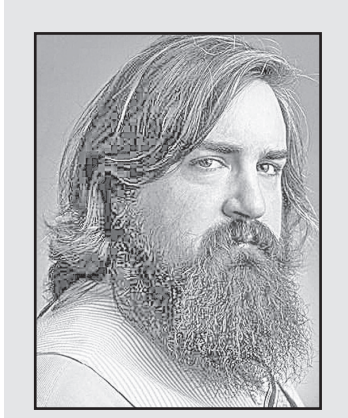
A handful of my regular readers didn't find that column very funny, or even found it to be tasteless and cruel. I won't argue with that; it's a fair reaction. But this story, I think, is one worth lingering on for one more column. I believe that the OceanGate story represents a watershed moment in our public discourse surrounding billionaires.

Since the Titan submersible first lost contact with the surface, I have observed two different views emerge on social media. The first view is that

this disaster is so insane as to be comical. The Titan looked like something cobbled together in a backyard, not a sophisticated deep-sea submersible. Stockton Rush, the founder and CEO of OceanGate who was among the five who died, had bragged in the past about cutting corners to circumvent "unnecessary" safety regulations and showed off the modified aftermarket PlayStation controller used to pilot the sub. The situation was patently absurd.

Of course, the camp that views this disaster as comical also highlights that three of the five people aboard the sub were enormously wealthy; one of the victims was a "space tourist," while another is listed on Wikipedia as one of the wealthiest people in Pakistan.

The second view I have seen on social media is that making light of this disaster is nothing short of monstrous. These are, after all, actual people who lost their lives, people who left behind mourning loved ones. To make light of their suffering — especially during that window of time before it was known the sub imploded and it was thought they were trapped on the ocean floor and running out of air — is



By Ben R. Williams

cruel and horrific.

While I tend to fall more in line with the first camp, I certainly can't argue with the second. But I think I can explain why the first camp feels the way it does.

Put simply, America is on the cusp of class warfare.

The aforementioned Pakistani billionaire — who, tragically, brought his 19-year-old son along on the sub despite the son reportedly not wanting to go — spent half a million dollars on his two tickets. Half a million dollars to descend to a site where thousands of people died and take a selfie with a porthole in the background.

I make a comfortable living. If I somehow didn't spend a single cent of my paycheck, AND I somehow received that paycheck without any tax being taken out of it, it would take me more than a decade

to earn half a million dollars.

Nearly everybody is struggling right now to some degree, especially folks my age and younger. You can't go to the grocery store without spending a fortune. You can't buy a house. You can't afford a new car, or even a half-way decent used one. It has become preposterously expensive to simply exist.

When the average person is one medical emergency away from bankruptcy, it's hard to have much sympathy for a billionaire, much less a billionaire who used his absurd wealth to put himself in the very situation that claimed his life.

Again, a spot on this submersible cost \$250,000 per person. For most people, myself included, that is an inconceivable, life-changing amount of money. That is an amount of money that can solve most problems and open most doors. That is an amount of money that would provide the vast majority of people with a sense of ease and comfort that they have never before known. And these folks were spending it so they could go take a selfie in front of a tiny window looking out on a mass graveyard.

To be clear, we're not talking today about folks who are simply wealthy. No one is raging about people who make a couple hundred thousand a year. No one is coming for folks who have a few

million in the bank. We're talking about billionaires, the top one percent of folks who hold nearly 40 percent of our nation's wealth.

As the gap has widened between our poorest and our richest, more and more people seem to be aware that it's impossible for a billionaire to accrue their wealth humanely. Every day, new horror stories emerge about the conditions at Jeff Bezos' Amazon warehouses. Elon Musk wouldn't have been able to blow \$44 billion on Twitter if he hadn't been the recipient of generational wealth from an Apartheid-era emerald mine. Even Bill Gates, a man who has settled into the role of benevolent philanthropist and is despised by conspiracy theorists because of it, built Microsoft through the use of mercenary business tactics; the company was quite nearly broken up for being an illegal monopoly.

Is it wrong to make light of the situation when a tragedy befalls a billionaire? Maybe so. But it's hard to have sympathy for folks who would bury you or me alive if there was a slight chance it would increase their portfolio value.

The good news is, no matter what jokes were made at the expense of the billionaires aboard the OceanGate sub, they never saw a single one.

Hopefully, however, other billionaires did.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for solar project

I am writing to express my enthusiasm for Pivot Energy's proposed shared solar projects in Henry County. As Director of Community Outreach at Energy Right, a Virginia-based non-profit promoting energy development aligned with conservative values, I attended the recent community meeting where the significant benefits of these projects were unveiled.

Pivot Energy aims to develop two five-megawatt shared solar projects on River Road in Fieldale, offering cleaner energy and a substantial economic boost to the county. These projects could generate an astounding \$800,000 in county tax revenue

over their lifetime, offsetting potential tax increases and supporting essential community services.

Moreover, the projects are expected to create around 60 local construction jobs and provide 33 scholarships for Solar Workforce Training in collaboration with New College Institute and Southside Virginia Community College. This initiative empowers our local community with the skills needed for the growing renewable energy sector, ensuring a sustainable future.

Environmental impact is a key consideration, and the shared solar installations will be thoughtfully designed with

existing natural vegetation to minimize watershed impacts. They will operate quietly, without any odor, blending harmoniously with the surroundings and preserving our cherished natural beauty.

Energy Right proudly supports these projects, exemplifying our mission of responsible energy development. We are committed to promoting the benefits of solar projects developed in line with conservative values and property rights. Let's embrace a cleaner, brighter, and economically prosperous future for Henry County.

Jacob Carasella,
Williamsburg

News from the 9th: Legislation on the House Floor



Morgan Griffith
Representative

On any given week here in the House of Representatives, I vote on a wide variety of legislation that affects Virginians in different ways. This past week (June 20th) was no exception. Below is a breakdown of just a portion of the bills I

voted on. The CHOICE Arrangement Act The Custom Health Option and Individual Care Expense (CHOICE) Arrangements Act, which I voted in favor of, codifies a 2019 Trump Administration rule allowing small businesses to reimburse employees for buying their own health insurance on the individual market through health See 9th, page 6

Legal Notices

COUNTY OF HENRY PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204/2205 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Henry County Comprehensive Plan and to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. Following are the specifics of the public hearings. The Commission will take comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Henry County Comprehensive Plan to amend Chapter 3: Community Facilities, Services and Utilities, Subsection I, to add language addressing Renewable Energy. The Commission will also take comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance Section 21-224: Location, appearance, and operational requirements, to add language addressing Project Area Limit. The full text of these proposed amendments may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lee H. Clark, AICP Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors. The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **July 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing. **Case R-23-10 Homestead Mulch & More, LLC / Zachary S. Hawks** The property is located on the south east corner of Virginia Avenue and Murry Hill Lane, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.5(40)/A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.36-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to locate his commercial landscaping sales establishment on this property. The application for this requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lee H. Clark, ACP Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Made for such a time

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

Some situations begin ominously and end worse, while others go on to a good resolution. The latter is an example of Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry's tenure — at least from my perspective.

Sheriff Perry came along during a bleak chapter in the county's history. His appointment was in the immediate aftermath of a federal investigation into the sheriff's office. Hinting at it recently, Perry referred to it as a 'cloud,' but it seemed more like a pervasive and dank fog to me.

Sandwiched in between covering cases in federal court, I also covered the early days of Sheriff Perry's tenure.

Initially, the office building was off-limits to any local officer — Perry included. It was still under the control of federal and state investigators. Perry, his administrative staff, and other officers met in the Mobile Command Center.

While there for interviews, I recall many of the officers went about their duties quietly, with heads down.

They were the officers who followed Perry's lead and ultimately went on to pick up the pieces, rising above the verbal assaults on their respective characters, their integrity and their reputations. They continued showing up to work, every shift and every day they were scheduled — each with the goal of protecting and serving the community they loved.

Often, Perry must have felt that he was captive in the front seat of a roller coaster that had jumped its rails and was barreling out of control. At times, he may have flinched, but he didn't bail. His steady persistence no doubt convinced other officers to do the same.

Wayne Davis is 'the new sheriff in town,' as of midnight July 1. The office is in a much better place now than it was when Lane Perry's tenure began nearly 17 years ago.

Perry was made for such a time. He served with distinction, valor, courage, dedication, commitment, integrity, and, perhaps most of all, humility and grace.

"I give God all the glory, and all the credit to the men and women in this office," he has said on multiple occasions.

As he retires, we lend our voices to the masses of those expressing appreciation and gratitude to him for his service. Whether Lane Perry needed the job is irrelevant; this county sure needed him.

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

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher

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

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

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

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

Davis from page 1

17 years. Under your administration, this office has made great strides in staying current” with the trends of “modern-day law enforcement while providing a good quality of service to our citizens.”

Hairston noted that Perry has been “more than fair to your employees as you have weighed what is fair to the office and the citizens. We thank you ... for not only being a good sheriff but also for being a wonderful friend to many of us. God bless you and may heaven continue to smile down on you and your family in retirement.”

Perry said many don’t understand the dangers that confront law enforcement officers.

“We have to stay united together and work together. It has been an honor to work with you. It’s been a privilege,” he said to the officers in his command.

“I basically walked in the midst of you and enjoyed working with you, and” tried to make the “job as easy as I could. I did try to extend grace because I see the potential in people and officers. I see potential growth (and know) that in a few years, I’m going to be walking around as a citizen and you’re going to be the ones filling these roles,” Perry said.

“Your growth is needed here. Thirty years ... that’s a long time. Now is your time,” he said. “We did overcome a cloud, answered a ton of dangerous calls, dealt with dangerous circumstances inside the old jail, the new jail, the new dangers we face with drugs, mental illness, homelessness. A lot of people don’t realize you encounter dangerous situations daily,” regardless of job title or responsibility.

“In these last few years, you never missed a beat, (not) through COVID, the protests, when we started building the Adult Detention Center, then hiring for the Adult Detention Center,” Perry said. “We are everyone else’s equal that wears a badge, but this office is had a tremendous amount of responsibility in its last few years and while we met the service to the citizens the way we did and handled every matter, you also did it while carrying one of the highest solution rates in the region. “You are to be commended for your work.

“I ask you serve this administration the way you’ve done to me I’ve enjoyed y’all,” Perry said to a standing ovation.

Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, Rockingham County, N.C. Sheriff Sam Page and Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith each expressed gratitude to Perry and pledged to continue working closely with Davis.

Henry County Circuit Court Clerk Jennifer Ashworth administered the oath of office to Davis.

After thanking his family, friends, and guests, Davis said “I’ve worked 23 years to build a relationship with most of the” officers in attendance. “They’re not just coworkers. I consider many of them friends.



Henry County Circuit Court Clerk Jennifer Ashworth, right, administered the oath of office to Wayne Davis at a swearing in ceremony Monday.

“As we gather here today, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention that the Wintergreen, Virginia community is burying one of its finest,” Davis said and noted that last week, Wintergreen Police Officer Mark “Chris” Wagner II “made the ultimate sacrifice when he was shot and killed in the line of duty. His funeral is going on as we speak.”

The death is “a stark reminder to us of the dangerous nature of this profession and each of your commitment to this community,” Davis said and vowed to “work diligently every day to ensure that these deputies get the highest level of training and receive the best equipment possible so that they may return home safely to their families at the end of every shift. We’re blessed to have a great group of men and women, both sworn and civilian. These deputies and support staff are part of my family, and I will treat them as such.

“As sheriff, I’ve vowed to take care of each of them, because if we don’t take care of them, how will they take care of our community and each of you,” Davis asked. “There’s a heavy burden placed upon your loved ones as they too experienced the shift work, the long hours, the fatigue, and traumas associated with the careers that you have chosen, and I would like to commend the families for their daily sacrifice, as my wife

and son know” all too well.

In closing, Davis said he “will serve every member of this community, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation. My team and I, I’m proud to say, we’ll serve you with honor, integrity, courage, distinction, and sacrifice.” Serving “as your next sheriff is truly my privilege.”

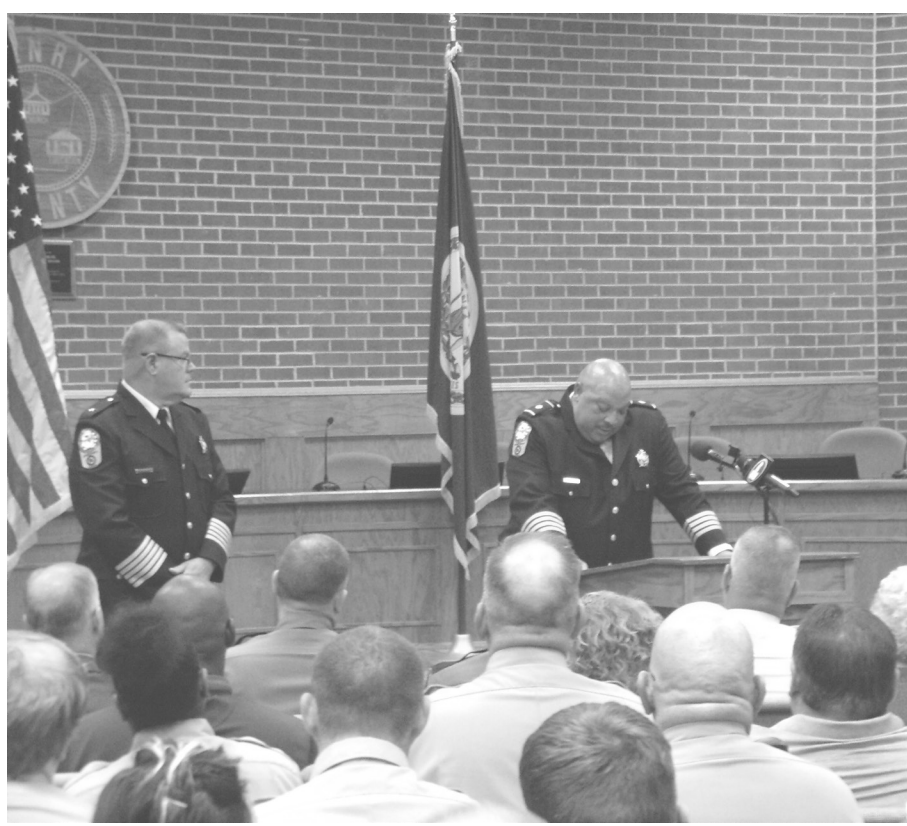
As the ceremony got underway, Henry County Sheriff’s Maj. Danny Harold led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Henry County Commonwealth’s Attorney Andrew Nester was responsible for the opening prayer.

Hairston welcomed guests that included County Administrator Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator JR Powell, Board of Supervisor members Debra Buchanan and Garrett Dillard, Ashworth, and Matt Tatum, director of public safety.

In addition to Draper, Smith, and Page, Chad Rhodes, Deputy Chief of the Martinsville Police Department along with captains Sandy Hines and Jim Minter, as well as representatives from the Virginia State Police and the North Carolina Highway Patrol, and several officials from Rockingham County, North Carolina, were among those at the ceremony.



Wayne Davis bows his head during a moment of silence for a Wintergreen Va. Police Officer killed in the line of duty last week. Davis’ tenure as Henry County Sheriff officially begins at midnight on Saturday, July 1.



Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry stands as Lt. Col. Eric Hairston discusses Perry’s tenure and character.



Incoming Sheriff Wayne Davis and retiring Sheriff Lane Perry bow as Commonwealth’s Attorney Andrew Nester (not pictured) holds the opening prayer of a swearing in ceremony.



Lt. Col. Eric Hairston welcomed visitors to the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY PAT DELANEY

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

9th

from page 4

reimbursement arrangements, as well as providing tax-advantaged funds for qualified medical expenses.

The bill also expands Association Health Plans by allowing those who are self-employed to come together to create a buying pool for health insurance. This is beneficial for certain sectors, with sole practitioners, who need more health care options and flexibility.

One such sector are REALTORS® who usually work for a brokerage but are almost always legally considered self-employed. When the Trump Administration instituted this change in 2019, REALTORS®, among others, saw premium reductions of over 50 percent.

Unfortunately, Democrats in the House are against this flexible health care proposal. No Democrat voted for the bill.

Further, the Biden Administration has worked to prevent these health plans from being used. I believe they want more individuals in the flawed health insurance exchange, Obamacare.

The Administration has even gone so far as to have taken action to stop Virginia from enforcing a state law allowing these same kind of health insurance benefits. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a letter to Governor Youngkin in May saying CMS would step in to enforce "specified federal market reforms" if Virginia continued to fail to do so.

If CMS were to do this, it would prevent individuals, like REALTORS®, from joining together to buy health insurance, which helps to lower their premiums and costs.

Other groups that could benefit include accounts, lawyers, and insurance agents in small firms.

The CHOICE Arrangements Act also allows for groups to band together across state lines to purchase health coverage. This is great for folks in the Ninth District who live close to the state line (Bristol, Bluefield, Martinsville, and Galax).

Eliminating a Tax on Those with Good Credit

In the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis, government-sponsored mortgage insurers (like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) began charging a one-time fee as a risk-based pricing tool to encourage responsible lending. Earlier this year, the Biden

Administration's Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) created a new rule updating how the fee was set, based on a borrower's credit score.

Much to the shock of most everyone, the new fee structure penalized those people with good credit and rewarded those people with not-so-good credit. Borrowers with good credit scores would be charged higher fees, while those with not-so-good credit scores would have their fees lowered.

With this new rule, the Biden Administration expects those with higher credit to subsidize those who are a riskier bet.

How does that make sense? Why would we punish people for working hard to improve their credit score?

In response to this new rule, House Republicans brought H.R. 3564, the Middle-Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023, to the floor. This bill, which I voted for, eliminates this new tax on homebuyers with good credit, ensuring that the Administration cannot force Americans to subsidize risky loans. Also, 14 Democrats crossed the aisle and voted for it.

Censuring Adam Schiff

Additionally, I and other House Republicans voted to censure Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), the former Chairman of the Intel Committee. While Chairman, Rep. Schiff falsely claimed for years that he had proof of Russia colluding with former President Trump. He used his power as the Chairman to weaponize the Intel Committee, lying to the rest of Congress and the American public about what he knew. Schiff's censuring follows Speaker Kevin McCarthy's removal of Schiff from the Intel Committee in January.

Now House Republicans have held Rep. Schiff accountable for years of lying. And with this censure comes a House Ethics investigation into Schiff's actions.

As seen above, the House covered a wide breath of subjects on the House floor. And this is only a few from the entire week, along with hearings and meetings.

Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India addressed Members of Congress at a Joint Meeting of Congress.

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

Tax

from page 3

family rate of \$60 a month,' we offer financial assistance all day long. We don't turn them away and say you can't become a member, it's not an exclusive club at all," he said.

He noted 53 percent of the 3,200 members have their memberships paid through a third party. Twelve percent, or 294, receive financial assistance, eight percent are partially or fully paid by an employee, and 29 percent pay the regular rate.

*Appointed Lucy Trudeau to the Arts and Cultural Committee for a three-year term ending March 31, 2026.

*Approved the May and June meeting minutes.

*Recognized city employees who were eligible for service awards for the period of April 1- June 30.

*Heard an update from Natalie Hodge about Virginia Career Works.

*Heard an update on the expenditure of funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Pay

from page 1

Community.

*Heard a monthly report on delinquent tax collection efforts by Treasurer Scott Grindstaff.

*Heard an update on the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce from Chamber President Brenell Thomas.

*Heard a presentation on the comprehensive classification and compensation study from Evergreen Solutions, LLC Senior Consultant Kristen Gilley.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$80,000 and awarded a contract to Hurt & Proffitt, Inc., to complete the preliminary engineering report for phase 7 of the Dick & Willie Passage.

*Awarded a \$57,516 contract to Trane U.S. Inc., for maintenance services on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems at County facilities.

*Awarded a contract to J.L. Culpepper & Company, Inc., to provide food at the Adult Detention Center.

• Approved an additional appropriation of \$594,180 to cover shortfalls for the Sheriff's

Office related to inmate housing revenue and to cover various budget expenditure overages.

*Approved a change order in the amount of \$57,230 to Aviat Networks for improvements to the emergency communications system microwave components.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$2,382 from state asset forfeiture funds to buy two printers and software for the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$56,457.67 and awarded a contract to Mobile Communications America to complete required updates to call handling in preparation for Next Generation 911 implementation by the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center.

*Awarded a contract to Clearwater Mitigation IV, LLC, not to exceed \$3,162,150 for compensatory stream mitigation credits, with an initial payment of \$158,000 due at contract signing.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$78,068 from state asset forfeiture funds to

purchase equipment and uniforms, and provide for the training and travel for School Resource Officers.

*Approved an additional appropriation of \$361,000 from a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice and awarded contracts to Flock Safety and Town Police Supply to purchase portable stationary cameras to be placed at major intersections and to purchase ballistic shields for the Sheriff's Office.

*Appropriated \$84,000 in grant funds, received from the Harvest Foundation, to provide incentives to JRS Realty in relation to the Fieldale School Apartments project.

*Appropriated \$6,798, from its 2023 contingency funds, to provide onsite training for new and upcoming leaders in the organization through a partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College.

Tommy Slaughter, of the Reed Creek District, and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, did not attend the meeting.

Movie Town 276-638-4040



NOW PLAYING:
 Now Playing: **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny(PG-13), Ruby Gillman Teenage Kraken(PG), No Hard Feelings(R), Elemental(PG), and Spiderman: Across the Spideverse(PG)**
 Upcoming: **7/4 - Sound of Freedom(PG-13)**

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



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.

DANNY'S LANDSCAPING AND LAWN CARE - driveway scraping, bush hogging, light backhoe, debris removal, mowing, mulching, plowing. Insured, free estimates. Call (276) 694-6236 or (276) 693-8987

Thomas Land Solutions LLC
 Forestry mulching, overgrown 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 the

Henry County Enterprise

on Facebook

HELP WANTED

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

EXTRA! EXTRA! Love writing? Love Henry County & Martinsville?
 The Henry County Enterprise is growing, and we are looking for freelance writers/photographers to help tell the stories in

HELP WANTED

Martinsville and Henry County. Email your resume to dhall@theenterprise.net, or call us at (276) 694-3101 for more information.

Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week. Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net to get the word out to potential hires.

ADVERTISE!



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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

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

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

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

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

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

Salem attorney reprimanded

Effective June 21, 2023, the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board issued a public reprimand to John Michael Loeschen for violating professional rules that govern meritorious claims and contentions and dealing with unrepresented persons. This was an agreed disposition of misconduct charges. Loeschen is an attorney in Salem, Va.

Correction

More than 450 meals were served by an estimated 42 volunteers during the last community Thanksgiving dinner held before the pandemic, Gordon Metz said. The information in last week's story was incorrect.

Initial unemployment claims decrease

The number of initial claims decreased in the latest filing week to 2,486 and remained at the typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending June 17, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,486, which was a decrease of 656 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were from manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management, professional, scientific, and technical services, accommodation and food services, and health care and social assistance. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,107, which was 319 claims higher than the previous week and an increase of 35.8% from the 9,653 continued claims from the comparable week last year.

Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending June 17, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 264,000, unchanged from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 262,000 to 264,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 250,037 in the week ending June 17, a decrease of 1,347 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 206,272 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-2,417) was the largest decrease. Indiana was tied with Missouri for the second largest weekly change (-1,983). South Carolina's preliminary weekly change (-1,783) was the third largest decrease. Ohio's weekly change (-1,583) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-354) was the fourteenth largest decrease.

Rain last week canceled outdoor plans



The beach at Fairy Stone State Park was deserted much of last week, with few venturing out to enjoy the liquid sunshine.

PHOTO BY PAT DELANEY

Perry

from page 1

with the utmost character, representing the values of respect, honor, and duty ... of the office.

"Throughout his service to Henry County, Sheriff Perry has remained an advocate for his officers and has sought to enhance their careers by securing funds for new equipment and by facilitating new training opportunities," she said.

Buchanan said Perry also balanced the need for a strong sense of justice in the community with the desire to successfully reintegrate inmates into society with the push for the new Adult Detention Center.

"The good Lord's blessed me. I've been blessed with my wonderful wife and two outstanding daughters. They've been right beside me," Perry said.

"I've been blessed with some awesome coworkers," he said, as his voice wavered with emotion.

After the board meeting, Perry said that although Henry County is large enough to command certain amenities, "it's small enough that you still get to know a lot of people across the county."

It is through conversations with some of those people that Perry said learned he had a positive impact on many of those he met during his more than 30-year career.

"I've had people that I've arrested before come up and thank me for how I've treated them," Perry said. "I had a man that at one time" had legal issues, Perry said, adding that person "actually told me afterward that he was being a better dad" due to the intervention.

"When people come back up to you when you've had to stop something that they were doing that was hurting their lives or someone else's,

and then they come back and tell you how their life is turned around," Perry said that is a signal that his work has been a success.

"I've seen and had a few some of the youth that I've talked to, and then also the coworkers the last few weeks with the retirement, coming up and" saying, "you did this," and it helped, Perry said, adding he will cherish those exchanges.

"It really meant a lot. Those types of conversations have been really good."

Going forward, "I wish the best for the county, and the office, and in exiting, I tried to set it up so that it continues with integrity and professionalism. No one wants to see their work go backward. That's the reason I'm leaving the way I am and hoping it can continue and that services can continue, and hopefully even see the things that can be improved," he said.

He credits the staff and officers in his department with its success.

A chronicle of "the last several years of our lives, the officers and the work that was done" included not only "the normal things that are happening in the community - which go from dangerous situations to minor situations, but then also, we never missed a beat through COVID. We actually had some increase in some of the violence through that time frame," Perry said.

"We spent a lot of time planning the Adult Detention Center, then coming into COVID, the protests, building the Adult Detention Center, and then the hiring, so the last five years not only has it been normal work, but it's almost been like pulling a double load of work, and through that, the men and women never missed a beat. We carried a



Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry accepted a resolution for his service to a standing ovation of those attending the Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday.

high solution rate, we achieved all of our goals to meet those obstacles, and I'm very proud of what's been accomplished," Perry said. "As I always say, I give all the credit to the men and women in the office and all the glory to God."

If he has an enduring legacy, Perry said he hopes it will be that he cared about people, listened to people, and upheld "righteousness without any question of its integrity."

His short and long-term goals in "this next portion of my life, I want to spend more time with my family. I have an awesome family that has stuck

by me and also had to bear some of the hurts of and burdens of this job," Perry said. "It's time I spend more time with them and enjoy it."

But old habits aren't easily broken. Although Perry has dedicated much of his time and energy in service to the community, he pledged to continue if needed, by helping Davis "in any way I can, and as long as needed."

In terms of another career, Perry, 54, said he is leaving his future in God's hands.

"This is a faith step. This is all faith," he said. "I'll just wait. Whatever the Lord leads me to do, I will do."

Fielder named Bulldogs' head football coach



Joe Fielder was named the new head coach for the Martinsville Bulldogs football team.

Fielder spent the last year as head coach at Chatham High School. In just one year as head coach for the Chatham program, he doubled the number of students participating in football, restarted the JV program which had been dormant since 2019, helped the team to its best statistical team scoring defense since 2007, and led the Cavaliers to a 5-5 record.

"We are excited about the wealth of knowledge and expertise Coach Fielder brings to Martinsville High School," said MHS Principal Dr. Aji Dixon. "I look forward to Coach Fielder using his experience as a football coach to motivate and inspire our students to be the best that they can be on the field and, more importantly, in the classroom."

Fielder's career in coaching began when he was still a student at Ferrum College. While he was earning his degree in physical education, Fielder worked as a student assistant coach for the Ferrum football team.

"I was able to learn a lot about the ins and outs of running a program, from building a coaching staff to organizing a program overall, and what recruiting looks like from a college perspective," Fielder said.

After graduating from Ferrum, Fielder joined the staff at Magna Vista High School as a defensive coordinator. During his 14 seasons at MVHS, he coached the 2015 and 2019 Piedmont District defensive players of the year and the team won consecutive state titles (2014 and 2015), five consecutive district titles, and made playoff appearances each year from 2009 onward.

It was during his time at Magna Vista

that Fielder said he became familiar with the Martinsville Bulldog football program.

"The community support here is great and they have high expectations of the program," he said. "This is a place that wants to be successful and has had a lot of success in the past. There is a lot of pride here and a lot of tradition overall and I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to be a part of it."

Fielder hopes to continue to build on the success the Bulldogs enjoyed under coach Bobby Martin.

"I look forward to building on that success and working to make Martinsville a contender in the district, region, and state levels. I want to keep that pride going."

Building relationships is an essential part of Fielder's approach to coaching.

"I enjoy working with our players and coaches and building those relationships," he said. "I think it is important to lead our players to not just becoming good players on the field, but to become good people off it. I think football teaches a lot of valuable life lessons and seeing our players learn and grow and become great young men in society is really important to me. There is comradery in football that you really won't find in other places."

Of course, life isn't all about football for Fielder. When he isn't teaching or coaching, Fielder enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, fishing, playing golf, and camping.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Fielder into our Bulldog family," said City Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. "He brings a wealth of rebuilding experience to our program. I feel that he will greatly impact our student-athletes in a positive way."

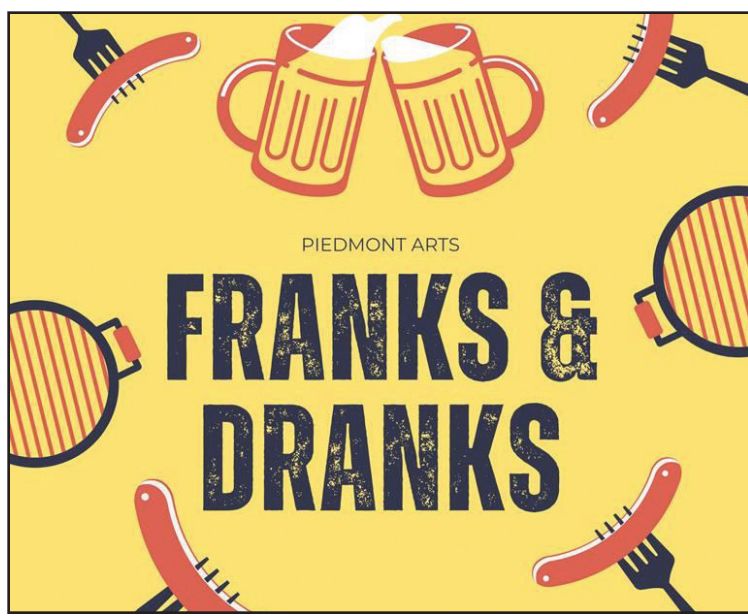
Franks + Dranks brings live music, cookout to Art Garden

Franks + Dranks, Piedmont Arts' annual summer concert and cookout, will take place Friday, July 14, 6 p.m., in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden.

Enjoy hot dogs and fixings from Hylton's Wood-Cooking Grill, a cash bar and live music by Jake Earles. Earles is a singer and guitar player from Axton, Va. He spent 20 years living in Nashville, Tn. — playing everywhere from honky tonks to the Grand Ole Opry — and has toured the country with acts like Tim McGraw. Earles brings a mix of country, Americana, folk and soul to the stage.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. In case of rain, Franks + Dranks will be held at Piedmont Arts.

Admission is \$20 per person, food included. Tickets are on sale now at Piedmont Arts and PiedmontArts.org.



Piedmont Arts will host its annual cookout in the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden on July 14.

Piedmont Arts Awarded \$1,000 Green Grant

Piedmont Arts is all abuzz with a \$1,000 Green Grant for their Community Beautification plans, as part of our 13th annual Green Grants Program.

Located in the heart of Martinsville's Arts and Cultural District in Southwest Virginia, Piedmont Arts is an award-winning art museum that curates thought-provoking exhibitions by international, national and regional artists. The museum also offers performing arts, from concerts to plays to children's performances, and art classes for all ages. Educational programming is offered for students of all ages, including in gallery classes, as well as organizing events for in-school outreach. Piedmont Arts is the hub for arts of all varieties and arts education in Martinsville and Henry County.

Funds provided by the Green Grants award will be used to purchase bee hives, beekeeping supplies, and bees for the Art Garden and attached pollinator garden trail.

The beekeeping program will take place along the pollinator path, which is located on an area of unused land that runs from the museum's parking lot to the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden. The pathway is made of ADA-compliant crush-and-run gravel to create an accessible and beautiful space that will function as a trail and community garden. Martinsville is a Bee City, meaning the city is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of native pollinators. The pathway will be lined with garden plots and raised beds that can be adopted by the community that will be filled with native and noninvasive pollinator plants.

The garden will have a compost station and educational signage posted throughout so that even people who do not want to plant and maintain a garden can still learn from the pollinator. Piedmont Arts is working to create



opportunities for local artists to paint signage, birdhouses, and other structures so the garden path will be filled with compelling and beautiful artwork.

The bees and butterflies will thank you by pollinating the flowers and gardens that you're planting!

COME WORK WITH US
 COMPETITIVE PAY | HEALTH INSURANCE | 401K
 CONSTRUCTION
 FARMING
 GROUNDSKEEPING & MORE
CARROLLWOODFARMS.COM

kokosing

JOIN OUR TEAM AT LOVER'S LEAP

SIGNING BONUS
 UP TO \$1,000!
 TOTAL BONUS:
 \$1,000 WITH
 \$250 @ 30 days +
 \$750 @ 90 days
 ★★★★★

2-YEAR PROJECT FOR THE WIDENING OF ROUTE 58 IN STUART, VA

OPEN POSITIONS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT:

- Heavy Equipment Operators-Excavators, Dozers (GPS/Fine Grade), and Loaders
- Driller Operators
- Off-Road Truck Drivers
- Mechanics- Heavy Equipment & Preventative Maintenance

If interested, please visit www.kokosing.biz/careers OR visit our office at 19383 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Stuart, VA 24171

Scan the QR code to the left to visit our careers page.

"TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD IT ALL."