

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, June 17, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Contributions to Davis surpass other candidates in sheriff's race

Debbie Hall
Staff writer

Henry County Sheriff's Maj. Wayne Davis emerged as a clear leader in campaign contributions among other candidates seeking the Henry County Sheriff's post in the November election, according to recently filed campaign finance reports.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), staff are working to integrate the new information into its database. The information below is exactly as it was filed with the State Board of Elections:

Davis
Donald "Wayne" Davis Jr. had a starting balance of \$4,295 on April 1. He collected \$31,969 during the reporting period



PHOTO BY RAY REYNOLDS

Henry County Sheriff's Maj. Wayne Davis (right) is pictured with other candidates for the sheriff's post, including Del Mills (center) and Daryl Hatcher (left).

that ended June 8, according to online information. Donations included 57 cash contributions of

more than \$100, 47 cash contributions of less than \$100, and eight in-kind contributions.

Top contributors included \$2,000 from

See **Davis**, page 6



Melissa Zehr is seeking the Henry County Commissioner of Revenue position in the November election.

Zehr joins the Commissioner race

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Melissa Zehr is the fifth person to throw her hat into Henry County's Commissioner of Revenue race, joining other contenders Adrienne Bowyer, Dallas Hairston, Tiffany Hairston, and Blake Minter.

Linda Love, who currently holds the post, decided she would not seek reelection in November.

Zehr said her decision to run has been an ongoing and ever-evolving discussion in her home

See **Zehr**, page 7

Site Collaborative to improve city parks



Graham Smith talks about the park revitalization efforts.

by **Tara Lucas**

Martinsville has hired Site Collaborative to improve local parks. The company is headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has an office in Danville.

Company representative Graham Smith attended a Martinsville City Council meeting to provide more information about the company, its projects, and its goals. The company currently has six projects underway in Danville and has been doing work there since 2010. It is working with River District Consulting, a Chatham-based company that will be facilitating community meetings to gain citizen input. Smith



Former vice mayor Jennifer Bowles addresses the council.

noted his company is responsible for having built the largest playground in Raleigh and is currently focused on 17 neighborhood parks in the Danville area.

The company plans to do a survey and assessment locally which would involve the collection of GIS maps and assessing each park site physically. Once the data is collected and the parks are assessed, six community meetings will be conducted to get residents involved. An online meeting will also be conducted after the community meetings to accommodate those who may not be able to attend the in-person meetings.

*Drew Rothrock, of Martinsville, is concerned about

See **Site**, page 8

Blake-Lewis chooses county for next step



Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis will become the new Henry County Public Schools superintendent starting July 1.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Following Dr. Sandy Strayer's last day as Henry County Public Schools Superintendent on June 30, Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis will take over the role, starting in her new position on July 1.

Blake-Lewis, 50, said she decided to take the position as she saw it as the next step in her career.

"I have been a career educator for more than 20 years in the profession, and I've basically spent my career learning and growing in the profession. I feel that the pathway to the superintendency is a journey, and you spend time

learning the roles along the way, and this was my next step," she said.

Blake-Lewis started her education career as a teacher and has served as a curriculum coach, assis-

See **Blake**, page 8

School Board recognizes "Odyssey of the Mind" participants

by **Tara Lucas**

Students from Martinsville Middle School recently participated in the Odyssey of The Mind competition. The team participated in regional and state competitions and advanced to the world finals, and placed 7th overall for their skit. They also placed 2nd in a spontaneous competition. Members of the team are Niema Merritt, Sarah Green, Veronica Johnson, Noah Wright, Cristofer Santiago, and Nykira Johnson. The students were coached by middle school teacher Greg Hackenberg.



Students that participated in Odyssey of the Mind with school board members, and teachers Greg Hackenberg and Elizabeth Lynch.

month for his achievements during the Clyde Hooker Awards celebration at Piedmont Arts. Lane is an AP English

Dual Enrollment teacher. VHSL Class 2 Outdoor Track Champion Rickyah Mitchell won the 100 Meter Dash Competition

at James Madison University. Coach Earl Dodson praised Mitchell

See **School**, page 6

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FOR MORE UPDATES





Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, took several hours off the campaign trail Saturday to enjoy the State Baseball Championship game in Salem with his family.

March, Williams spar days before primary bid

By Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd

In the waning days before a June 20 primary that pits Dels. Wren Williams and Marie March against each other in the Republican Primary for the 47th House District seat, a video raises questions related to Williams' work as an attorney at his Stuart law firm Schneider & Williams, P.C.

The video shared on social media, includes disturbing images of an infant in the hospital after alleged abuse, and the adoptive mother describing some of the abuse, the later court cases, and allegations that Williams, the current incumbent delegate in the 9th House District, represented a convicted child abuser in a Carroll County court case.

In some of the comments on the post, March, the current incumbent delegate in the 7th House District, makes similar allegations in the comments, including a photo of an unpublished appellate opinion from the Virginia Court of Appeals.

That photo, posted by March, included the comment: "more lies by the wren (sic) campaign. He represented the abusers."

However, "when you appeal a matter, you have to appeal the whole matter," Williams said. "In that hearing, I did not represent the mom."

Chris Roop, of Spencer, represented the mother, according to court documents.

Williams explained that the court had terminated the rights of both of the child's parents. In Virginia, grandparents' rights are tied to parental rights.

"If there are no more parental rights, that cuts off the grandparents' rights," he said. "I represented the grandmother," who sought visitation of the child and was not involved in the case otherwise, Williams said, adding the case was a civil matter, and held after the criminal convictions in the abuse case.

Additionally, the order published online was not written by Williams, he said, but rather by the court.

If he wins the primary and the November election, Williams, 34, said his job is to represent the people of the district and their interests.

See Spar, page 9

Ribbon cutting marks opening

A ribbon cutting was held at Angels Beauty Supply and Collectibles, a new business located at 133 E. Main St, Martinsville.

Angels Beauty Supply and Collectibles is your one stop shop for all of your hair care needs, antiques, and collectibles. Now offering curbside service, price match on all in store purchases, discounted prices for veterans, senior citizens, and licensed beauticians, and

gift card availability. Located beside Rania's Restaurant parking lot.

Hours of operation are Monday - Friday -10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday -10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The business is closed on Sundays. For more information, call (276) 632-2441 or visit <https://angelsbeautymhc.com/?fbclid=IwAR1Wx4XaElgYLbSIPjrOts1dMgtWoEbSegVdBWXX6fXCNCk4gbvPgB-2faP4>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured are Kimberly Keller-Bonacci, Uptown Entrepreneurial Development Manager, Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG), Sarah Hairston, owner, Brenell Thomas, president, M-HC Chamber of Commerce/Executive Director, Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG).

P&HCC Recognized with Southeastern Workforce Development Award

Patrick & Henry Community College was recognized this week for creative encouragement of workforce growth and development in the community. Community Colleges of Appalachia honored P&HCC with the Southeastern Workforce Development Award for its partnership in the MHC Startup and Grow programs, a collaboration between P&HCC and MHC Chamber of Commerce, at its annual conference. P&HCC partners with the Chamber to challenge business owners to develop and/or enhance a business plan that can be executed to better serve the residents of Martinsville and Henry County in a variety of ways.

"C-PEG has been offering this tremendously successful entrepreneurial boot camp with Patrick & Henry Community College for 7 years. The program would not be possible without the generosity of the Campbell Family Group, the George Lester II Fund and the Anonymous Fund through the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia. Over the years, C-PEG has obtained grant funding from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and SOVA Task Force grants. These partners have made it possible for C-PEG to meet the needs of many small businesses with the valuable training but the cash and in-kind resources to ensure these businesses succeed. The collaboration continues to strengthen our local economy through

the Startup MHC and Grow MHC programs," said Chamber president and C-PEG executive director Brenell Thomas.

In the seven years the program has operated, 322 graduates have received \$571,824 in cash and in-kind support, which has created 271 jobs.

"MHC Startup and Grow has generated nearly \$4.5 million in new capital in our community. More importantly, program graduates have an 87% 2-year success rate compared to the national average of 50% for new businesses to remain open for two years. We are especially proud that graduates represent our diverse community with nearly half representing minority groups and more than half being female - leading to an increase in female and minority owned businesses in our area as well," said P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges.

The Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA), founded in 1991, is an affiliated council of the American Association of Community Colleges. With nearly 100 members, CCA promotes the creation of relationships that result in mutual advantages among institutions, organizations and individuals engaged or interested in the educational and economic development of the Appalachian region.



P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges and P&HCC coordinator of community development programs Matthew Ratliff receive the Southeastern Workforce Development Award from CCA Board chairman Dr. Nicholas Neupauer.

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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, June 20

The Industrial Development Authority meets at 5 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Events

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.

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 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.

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

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.

Friday, July 14

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.

Composting 101with 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 brl.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.

Initial unemployment claims fall from last filing

Data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) indicates that the number of initial claims decreased in the latest filing week to 2,317, and remained at the typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019.

For the filing week ending June 3, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,317, which was a decrease of 84 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were from 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 12,685, which was 136 claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 30 percent from the 9,768 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 3, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 261,000, an increase of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the highest level for initial claims since October 30, 2021, when it was 264,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 232,000 to 233,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 219,391 in the week ending June 3, an increase of 10,535

(or 5.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 186,568 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a season-

ally unadjusted basis. Connecticut's preliminary weekly change (-2,350) was the largest decrease. New York's weekly change (-1,243) was the second largest decrease. New Jersey's preliminary

weekly change (-830) was the third largest decrease. Florida's weekly change (-631) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+10) was the 25th largest increase.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Formed by burning tobacco	37. Mock	3. Assess	28. Linear units
4. Luxury automaker	39. Immoral act	4. Prickly plants	29. Large Philippine plant
7. Religious residences	41. Early Syrian kingdom	5. Falsely assess	32. Celebration
12. Crusaders	42. Neutralizes alkalis	6. " _ the whistle"	36. Fugitives are on this
14. Puzzled	44. Loud, confused noise	7. Mama	38. Chinese tree
15. In a curt way	47. Sweet potato	8. Rocker _ Vicious	40. Not sour
18. Selling tool	48. Yemen's largest city	9. Toward	43. "Bourne" actor Matt
19. Solid material	49. Farm state	10. Prefix meaning within and southeast	44. Former OSS
20. Gold	50. Bird's beak	11. Midway between south	45. Runners run this
21. Thick piece of something	52. Measures distance	12. Cause to be embarrassed	46. Offered again
24. Pouch	53. Pacify	13. Pandemonium	51. Sanctuary
27. "Wonder Years" actor Fred	56. Spanish noble	16. Fall behind	54. Food suitable for babies
30. Strong and healthy	61. Lodging supplied for public convenience	17. Cantonese	55. Caused by a reflection of sound
31. Waste matter	63. Womanized	22. Shad	56. Mortar trough
33. Apply lightly	64. Not divisible by two	23. A way to make dark	57. Days in mid-month
34. Type of squad	65. Monetary unit	24. Specialized systems consultant	58. Exhibit the courage to do
35. Secret political faction			59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology
			60. Protects from weather
			62. Manganese

CLUES DOWN

1. Used in perfumery	25. Wings
2. Arabic man's name	26. Taxi driver

OPINION

They've lost my vote

Just recently, a federal Grand Jury handed down 37 indictments (in a row) against former President Donald Trump relating to his mishandling of government documents after his presidency. The lion's share of these indictments fall under the Espionage Act, and this situation marks the first time in history that a U.S. President has been federally indicted.

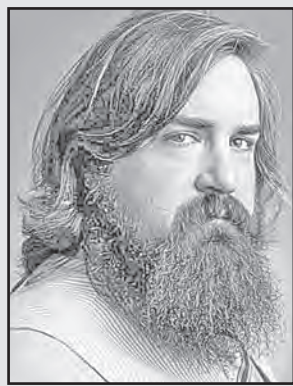
However, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham offered a stirring defense of Trump in a Sunday interview with George Stephanopoulos. Graham, who once said that "if we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed ... and we will deserve it," pointed out that former President Trump "is not a spy."

Graham magnanimously allowed that Trump did some things wrong — hey, nobody's perfect — but you know who hadn't gotten their day in court yet?

You guessed it: Hillary Clinton and Hunter Biden.

Now admittedly, Hillary Clinton received intense scrutiny for her use of an unsecured private email server, but she was never "locked up" despite that being one of Trump's campaign promises. Hunter Biden, on the other hand, may or may not have owned a laptop that may or may not have had something incriminating on it.

I have no love for Sen. Lindsey Graham, and



By Ben R. Williams

I think this is a pure and simple case of projection and whataboutism. But never let it be said that I'm a partisan hack. I'm willing to put my money where my mouth is.

And that's why I'm not voting for Hillary Clinton or Hunter Biden.

I realize that may seem extreme, but I'm sticking to my guns. When I go to the ballot box in November,

neither Hillary Clinton nor Hunter Biden will be able to count on my vote.

Please don't try to dissuade me; my mind is made up.

I'll admit, both Clinton and Hunter Biden have qualities I quite admire. I admire Clinton's ability to endure 11 hours of questioning about Benghazi without ever dropping a single expletive, much less one of the really forbidden ones. And I admire Hunter Biden's ability to be a 53 year old man who just had photos leaked of him nudely doing drugs with other naked people. As someone staring down the barrel of 40, it's comforting to know that the fun doesn't have to stop as we grow older.

Nonetheless, I'll never vote for either one.

You know what? I'll take it a step further. I hope they experience the exact same legal standards as

Donald Trump. That's right: if an impartial jury determines that either Hillary Clinton, Hunter Biden, or both are guilty of state or federal crimes, I hope they're punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Why wouldn't I hope for that? It's not like I worship Hillary Clinton and Hunter Biden. I don't own any clothing advertising my love of Hillary Clinton or Hunter Biden. I don't have Hillary Clinton or Hunter Biden flags flapping in front of the house. I don't care if they go to prison for crimes they were found guilty of by a jury of their peers.

In any case, they've both lost my vote for good. I mean, can you imagine if Hillary Clinton and Hunter Biden were convicted of some sort of espionage and I ended up supporting a traitor and a weird pervert?

That would be downright unAmerican.

News from the 9th: Thank a farmer



Morgan Griffith Representative

Loss Coverage as well as loan assistance."

When I read this, I realized that their list does not give a full picture of agriculture in Virginia and the Ninth District. Washington County wasn't included in Stacker's top 25 list when that county is well known to be a top agriculture county in the state.

According to Stacker's list, four counties in the Ninth District are included in Virginia's top 25: Wythe (#10), Bedford (#14), Franklin (#15), and Russell (#16). But, as mentioned in the article, the list above only represents the farms and farmland that participate in USDA crop insurance and, therefore, leave out a significant chunk of farmland in the state. Particularly, it

appears that it does not include land dedicated to livestock, so acres used for cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, etc. aren't included. Case in point, the report says Virginia has 3,074,491 acres of farmland. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the real number is around 7.7 million acres.

Having lived in Southwest Virginia most of my life and knowing that the agriculture profile of the region was inaccurate, I took it upon myself to do some research. The Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) gathers data every five years for their Census of Agriculture. According to the agency, it is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation.

As predicted, NASS' numbers actually look

much different than reported by Stacker.

According to their 2017 Census of Agriculture, the most recent year in which data is available, Bedford is actually #5 in top agricultural counties in Virginia with 211,087 acres of farmland, not #14. Four other Ninth District counties are included in just the top 10. Washington County is #7 with 176,344 acres; Russell County is #8 with 170,285 acres; Franklin County is #9 with 156,254 counties; and Wythe is #10 with 151,563 acres. According to NASS, the next census, the 2022 Census of Agriculture, will be published in 2024.

(I should also note, Bedford and Franklin counties are currently in the Ninth District as redistricting took place last year. In 2017, they were not a part of the Ninth.)

While the census does give people a good picture of how much of the Ninth

District is dedicated to agriculture, it's not just about acres of farmland. It is also about economic output.

Virginia's agriculture industry is the largest private industry in the Commonwealth, providing an impact of over \$82 billion to our state's economy annually and almost 381,800 jobs. It is also the largest industry in the Ninth Congressional District.

Based on the 2017 Census, the Ninth District ranks third overall in market value of agricultural products sold in the state and first in four different categories of agricultural products sold. In the crops category, the Ninth is first in 'cultivated Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops.' Grayson County produces a vast majority of the Christmas trees in the state, with more than three times the area dedicated to growing Christmas trees than the next closest county, Floyd County, which is also in

the Ninth!

In the livestock, poultry, and products category, the Ninth ranks first in 'cattle and calves.' Washington County has the most cattle and calves in the Ninth District with over 900 farms and 66,000 cattle and calves. Wythe is second with 573 farms and over 55,000 cattle and calves.

The Ninth also ranks first in 'sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk' and in 'other animals and animal products.' I look forward to seeing NASS' updated statistics to see how the agriculture profile of the Ninth District has changed.

So, the point of all this data is that if you live in the Ninth Congressional District, be sure to thank a farmer this week. Besides providing food and other necessary products, farming families are the number one economic driver in this Congressional District. Neither you nor I should ever forget it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pro March

On June 20th Virginia will hold a Republican Primary for the newly formed 47th District House of Delegates seat. I encourage all Republicans to vote for Marie March in this election. Marie is 100% Pro-life and 2nd Amendment and will vote to ensure the complete rights of the unborn and our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. She is not a pocket Republican, but a grass roots Delegate who is not beholden to RINO Republicans or big business interests. She votes for our interests. Please vote for Marie March on June 20.

Richard Telling,
Willis, Va.

Williams deserves support

Our communities in Bassett and Martinsville have been losing jobs and suffering since NAFTA passed back in the 1990s. But our new delegate, Wren Williams, is working with local leaders and businesses to bring investments and manufacturing jobs back to our area.

Wren Williams has been collaborating with local leaders to re-open the Bassett Community Center. He has worked with our county administrator, Dale Wagoner, to propose state budget amendments that would deliver funding for Henry County so we can bring in new jobs and attract more residents. Williams has also fought to get funding to build the Southern Connector, a highway that would be vital to supporting Henry-Martinsville as a business and manufacturing hub.

Our neighbors in Patrick County had their hospital shuttered in 2017 with no path to being re-opened. When we elected Wren Williams to be our delegate in 2021, all of that changed. In his first year, Williams carried and passed a bill in 2022 to extend the licensing for Patrick County's hospital. Now that hospital is on track to be re-opened soon, in large part thanks to Wren.

Wren is very responsive to our local needs. He carried and passed legislation that empowers our law enforcement to stop the catalytic converter theft rings. Wren also voted for a broadband affordability plan so we can have more state resources directed towards getting affordable, fast, reliable, and high-quality broadband everywhere in Henry County.

We are blessed to have a representative in Richmond who is working so hard for us like Wren Williams is. I hope your readers will vote for Wren so he can keep fighting for Henry County and be a voice for us at the negotiating table in Richmond. The Election is June 20th and Wren deserves our vote.

Andrew Palmer,
Collinsville

Make informed decisions

To all citizens in the HOD 47th District of Virginia, our country needs informed voters to make decisions based in truth. Before voting in this very important and consequential state primary election on June 20th and those that follow, please do your homework.

Mega MAGA Conservative Marie March from Floyd County is running against "MAGA" conservative Wren Williams from Patrick County for state delegate. There are a number of claims being made for and against each candidate. Some true and some not. Check out things that you hear and see that may influence your decision. You may have to do some digging, but please make sure the claims made are based in fact.

It is our patriotic duty as caretakers of this country to make informed choices, to show up and defend our great nation.

Marie Baron,
Floyd County

Support Williams

Two years ago, we elected conservative Republican Wren Williams to be our Delegate serving the west side of Henry County. Next Tuesday on June 20th, Williams is up for re-election and I believe he deserves our votes and support.

Just like he promised, Wren has stood strong for the 2nd Amendment. Wren voted to repeal red flag gun-control laws, he co-patroned the constitutional carry bill, and he holds an endorsement from the Virginia Citizens Defense League with a 100% pro-gun voting record. On the important issue of Life, Wren has also voted 100% to protect unborn lives and he has led the effort to block Democrat bills that would expand abortion in Virginia.

While Washington DC and Richmond have tried to push woke propaganda in our schools, Wren has faithfully defended parents' rights in the classroom and voted to protect our kids. Wren has carried and passed bills to stop the rise in crime (i.e. catalytic converter thefts), supported law enforcement, voted to secure our elections, and voted to stop the radical climate agenda that threatens our way of life. Wren and his family have lived in our community for five generations. He is one of us and he stands for our values.

Wren Williams has earned my vote on June 20th and I believe he is fully deserving of our support. I encourage your readers to go vote on June 20th to give Williams another term to keep doing a good job for us.

Mary Martin,
Spencer

Wren Williams the wrong choice on June 20th

Wren Williams has sent out mailings attempting to paint Marie March as being the exact opposite of who she really is. Marie is a true constitutional conservative, and her record in Richmond shows it. She has fought to protect life at conception, for school choice, for constitutional carry and against red flag laws in Virginia.

Wren Williams is backed by anti-Trump RINOS with plenty of funding. Marie, on the other hand, is running a true grass roots campaign backed by true conservative patriots.

As a lawyer, Wren has even fought in court to return custody to parents who severely beat their small child, breaking bones etc. This is a poor reflection on his moral character.

We deserve much better representation in Richmond than Mr. Williams can provide. On Tuesday, June 20th vote for Marie March at your regular polling place, or vote early at your county registrar's office.

R. Mcnamara,
Floyd

Endorse Marie March for Delegate

I have never met nor even talked to either candidate for delegate, but I have studied their time in the General Assembly and their backgrounds and beliefs as described in various articles over time and have two reasons for supporting Marie March for Delegate:

1. March is the stronger candidate in support of the Second Amendment and my hunting and rights related to firearm ownership. As a hunter for the last 60 years (I checked my first deer in 1963), and a Hunter Education Instructor for 28 years in Patrick and Henry Counties I realize that if we lose our right to gun ownership we become like the British-Subjects of the government-not CITIZENS!

2. In my 50+ years of voting and studying the political system in Virginia, North Carolina and the United States I have found that lawyers tend to pass laws that benefit them and often cause us as citizens to need the services of lawyers more often.

I hope you will join me in choosing Marie March in the June 20 Primary.

David Young,
Stuart

Land Transfers

The Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's Office recorded the following land transfers in May:

- AC Properties of Henry County to Jaquelin Castaneda Dorado, 0.275 acres, Collinsville District.
- Sandra J. Adams to Tressi A. Sanchez, 9.585 acres, Blackberry District.
- Tina L. Agee to Jeannine M. Viars, 0.428 acres, Collinsville District.
- Marie H. Martin Alderman to Richard Wayne Tucker, parcels, Iriswood District.
- Robert S. Allen to Crystal D. Chaney, Parcel 1, Ridgeway District; Parcel 2, district not listed.
- Arundina, LLC to Geovany R. Sermeno, lots, Reed Creek District.
- James Louis Beckner, Jr. to Tonya Barbour, lots, Collinsville District.
- BKC Properties, Inc. to James William Helms, 1.212 and 1.164 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Gladys J. Brammer to Carlos G. Martin, 1 acre, Reed Creek District.
- James C. Branscome to Brandon Stephen Barnes, 41.79 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Ann Taylor Brown to Matthew H. Wood, 24.1 acres, Horsepasture District.
- King David Bryant to Kelly W. Harris, lots, Iriswood District.
- Richard Ray Burgart to CMH Homes Inc., 3.056 acres, Blackberry District.
- Lucy Carol Byrd; Trustee to Athanasios Theodoridis, lot, Collinsville District.
- Jesse D. Cahill to David C. Haskins, 8.233 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Jaques Quashawn Clark to Antoinette Burnette, 0.820 acres, district unavailable.
- Coast to Coast Janitorial Service to Stacey M. Baker, lot, Ridgeway District.
- Harriet M. Copeland to Michael J. Hartman, lot, Martinsville District.
- Keith A. Craig to Jared D. Brown, 16.6 and 1.6 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Kenneth D. Curry, Sr. to Svastha Gharas LLC, parcel, Martinsville District.
- DSHS Properties I, LLC to Matthew Austin Shumate, lots, Reed Creek District.
- Kenneth G. Donovan to Ken's Carpet and More LLC, lot, Martinsville District.
- Robert K. Eanes to Nathaniel Vinson Greene, parcels, Iriswood District.
- Sandra K. Eanes to Sandra K. Eanes, 0.4501 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Equity Trustees LLC to Lofton Leasing LLC, lot, Iriswood District.
- Equity Trustees LLC to Flagstar Bank N A, 0.721 acres, Iriswood District.
- Equity Trustees, LLC to Deutsche Bank National Trust, lot, Reed Creek District.
- Estate of Jay W. Joplin to William Boyle, Jr., 1.1292 acres, Blackberry District.
- Family Unity Limited Partnership to Virginia Woodlands, LLC, 273.806 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Mitzi O. French to Nickholous G. Lewis to 0.705 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Frith Equipment Corporation to Jerry W. Adkins, 0.250 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Gregory S. Gilberthorp to Done Deal Homebuyers LLC, 1.0000 acre, Ridgeway

- District.
- Minh Thi Graham to Eric Lewis Haynes, 10.939 acres, Ridgeway District.
- GSMS 2021-1 Trust to Placido Lopez Cruz, lot, Blackberry District.
- Elvis D. Hairston to Gravely Rental Properties LLC, lot, Iriswood District.
- Roger L. Hall to David G. Martin, 1.217 acres, Blackberry District.
- Kenneth Thomas Hankins to Choudhery Brothers, LLC, 0.826 acres, Iriswood District.
- Merrily Wilson Harris to Dewey Nolen Kendrick, Jr., 12.25, 4.22 and 1 acre, Ridgeway District.
- Obie J. Harris to Loius Matthew Titman, 1 acre, Ridgeway District.
- Michelle M. Heath to Lawrence Jay Winikur, 1.000 acre, Horsepasture District.
- Thomas Brandon Hodges to Jesus Vega, 0.78 and 0.614, Ridgeway District.
- Homes By Amy LLC to Scott Joyce, lot, Ridgeway District.
- HSBC Bank USA to Nationwide Community Revitaliz, lot, Blackberry District.
- William L. Hylton, Jr. to Sherika M. Gilbert, lot, Collinsville District.
- Jesse D. Cahill Revocable Trust to Casey Ramsey Schroader, tracts, Horsepasture District.
- John R. Martin, Sr. Estate to Gladys Brammer, lot, Reed Creek District.
- John R. Martin, Sr Estate to Carlos G. Martin 1 acre more or less, Reed Creek District.
- Cheryl Joyce to Heather Whitt, 2.058 acres, Blackberry District.
- Yvonne Joyner to Shelor Guy Altizer, lot, Ridgeway District.
- Herman D. Kallam to Paul Richard Holt, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Carl Julius Kenyon, Jr. to Brittany Law, lots, Ridgeway District.
- Lisa Ingram Kester to C. G. Quesenberry, 0.75 acres, Blackberry District.
- Lenox Title Trustee Services to The Bank of New York Mellon, lot, Iriswood District.
- Ruth M. Light to Jason V. Peyton, lot, Blackberry District.
- Ruth M. Light to Jason V. Peyton, lot, Blackberry District.
- Margaret Mills Properties, LLC to Allen Property Management, LLC, 3.173 and 8.428 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Sandra Faye Martin to Coy L. Setliff, parcels, Blackberry District.
- Martinsville First Savings Bank to Price Rentals LLC, lot, Collinsville District.
- Barbara C. Mitchem to Jerry T. Wyatt, lot, district unavailable.
- William Russell Mizelle to David Jackson, lots, Collinsville District.
- Susan F. Nelson to Jaques Quashawn Clark, lot, district unavailable.
- Joann Tilley Norman to Andrea M. Harbour, tract, Blackberry District.
- Robert M. Nuzum to Jonathon Bruce Mobley, 10.013 acres, Iriswood District.
- Johnny R. Odell to Sabrina Haley Blackwell, lot, Martinsville District.
- Patterson Vending Services to Adam L. Foley, lots, Reed Creek District.
- Michael Penn to Scott Vernon, 4.3 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Charles R. Peters III, Ex. to Jacob Porter, 0.69 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Donald E. Pollock to Rasha S. Gaafar, lot, Collinsville District.
- Jon Clayton Puckett to Christina Marie Damron, 2.39 and 1.95 acres, and parcel, Horsepasture District.

- R.M. Anthony Terry, lot, Collinsville District.
- Construction Cor to Protégé, LLC, items, Blackberry District.
- Thomas Edward Rachner to Susan F. Nelson, lot, Iriswood District.
- Meagan N. Radford to Wayne Bunting, 5.00 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Melva M. Rawls, Jr. to Ronnie Lee Amos, parcels, Iriswood District.
- Rebecca L. Ray to Gavino Cortes, 0.367 and 0.282 acres, Collinsville District.
- Charlie Redd, Jr., to Digital Business Corp, 19.39 acres, Iriswood District.
- William F. Roberts to Dennis C. Cline, lots, Horsepasture District.
- Danny K. Robertson to Axton Solar LLC, 7.74 acres, Iriswood District.
- Sandra H. Robertson to Rosa Idalia Amaya Cantarero, lot, Collinsville District.
- Nikima S. Robinson to Jordyn K. Lawson, lot, Horsepasture District.
- Selma Long Mills Sater to William W. Hitt, tract, Iriswood District.
- Sicca, LLC to 95 Ridgecrest MHC-TRP LLC, lots, Collinsville District.
- Small Dream Holdings LLC to Joshua L. Miller, lot, no district listed.
- James L. Smith to Haley Carter Allen, 7.32 acres, Blackberry District.
- Nancy Jamison Prillam Spencer to Mark C. Tosh, parcels, Martinsville District.
- Barbara Evon Tawney to Alvin W. Foley, Jr., parcels, Ridgeway District.
- Bobby C. Taylor to Robert G. Morris, Jr., 1.423 acres, Reed Creek District.
- Larry Taylor to Done Deal Home Buyers, LLC, lot, Reed Creek District.
- Scott E. Terry to Kemper Construction Cor to Protégé, LLC, items, Blackberry District.
- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs to John Bruce Womeldorf, 2.626 acres, Iriswood District.
- Melvin C. Thomas to Buford E. Price, lot, Horsepasture District.
- Linda Faye Trent to Daniel W. Claybrook, 11.017 acres, Horsepasture District.
- Russell Franklin Turner to Victor James Foley, 0.339 and 0.687 acres, Blackberry District.
- U.S. Bank Trust National Assoc. to Fuel & Grocery, Inc, lots, Collinsville District.
- Michael E. Wagner to Jesse D. Cahill, tract, Horsepasture District.
- Dewretha S. Ward to Clifton Hill, lots, Collinsville District.
- Jonathan Charles Ward to Kenneth A. Jones, 5.137 acres, Iriswood District.
- Matthew Weiland to Maranda Weiland, lot, district unavailable.
- Paul E. White to Callie Jo Carman, 0.555 acres, Ridgeway District.
- Wilderness-Stuart, Inc., to Gatorpack Land & Timber, LLC, 111.9831 acres, Iriswood District.
- Beverly Willard to Quinlen Toney, 1.731 acres, Blackberry District.
- Sandra C. Woodall to Cameron Glenn Brummitt, 0.855 acres, Collinsville District.
- Bedford James Woodard, Executor to Robin Lee Terry, lot, Horsepasture District.
- Tracy D. Woods to Kevin Wayne Keys, 1.119 acres, Iriswood District.
- John K. Wyatt to Matthew J. Moore, 1.497 acres, Blackberry District.
- Yo Daddy's Properties, LLC to Kimberly Nicole Gorman, lots, Horsepasture District.

Legal Notices

For Subscriptions, Classifieds, and Obituaries, email Pat Delaney at submissions@theenterprise.net, or call (276) 694-3101.

There is no cost for obituaries.

Email legalads@mountainmedianews.com for information on placing a legal advertisement.

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **June 28, 2023 at 1:00 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 citizen input into the possible issuance of a Special Use Permit for the following case:

Case S-23-09 Yasmin Holland

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-902 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the use of the property as a drive-in movie theater. The property is located at 301 Koehler Rd. in the Collinsville District and shown on Tax Map 41.1(58)/2A. The property is zoned Commercial District B-1.

The application for this request 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

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE RECORD OWNER:

Deante Keen

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to and paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Deante Keen
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
64 Keep Hope Dr. - Iriswood District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 75.5(002)000B/004A
Account Number - 052840001

County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE RECORD OWNER:

Herbert Valentine

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to and paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Herbert Valentine
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
7105 Axton Rd. - Iriswood District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 75.3(004)000/005
Account Number - 227760001

County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE RECORD OWNER:

Yo Daddy's Properties, LLC

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to and paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Yo Daddy's Properties, LLC
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
34 Spruce Pine Ln. - Blackberry District
39 Spruce Pine Ln. - Blackberry District
54 Spruce Pine Ln. - Blackberry District
71 Spruce Pine Ln. - Blackberry District
88 Spruce Pine Ln. - Blackberry District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 13.9(000)000/097E
Account Number - 154670006

County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615

MINORITY OWNED AND FEMALE OWNED BUSINESS NOTICE

Henry County is preparing to carry out the Dick and Willie Trail Passage 6A completion projects, through the use of Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Funds. In the implementation of this project the following kinds of contracts will be issued and procurements made:

- Construction Contracts
- Engineering Contracts

Henry County is soliciting the participation of minority owned and female owned businesses, contractors, and suppliers in carrying out this project. Such businesses may be included on appropriate bid and procurement lists by submitting a written request within ten (10) days of this notice. Requests should state the name, address, phone number, product or service, and how the firm qualifies as a minority owned or female owned business concern.

Such requests should be addressed to:

Cindy Adams, Grant Administrator
PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078
Telephone: 276-634-4623
Voice: 1-800-828-1140; TDD: 1-800-828-1120
All above referenced procurements will be made on a competitive basis.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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Give us your view:

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

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

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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OBITUARIES

Mabel Atheline Bollings Barbour

Mabel Atheline Bollings Barbour, 93, of Martinsville, VA passed away Sunday, June 11, 2023. She was born March 11, 1930 in Franklin County, VA to the late William Maston Bollings and Sarah Edna Robertson Bollings. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Garnett Barbour; sons, Eddie Barbour and Keith Barbour; two sisters, and three brothers.

She is survived by her children, Daniel Barbour (Peggy), William "Billy" Barbour, Dianne Hall (Pete), Gary Barbour (Betty),

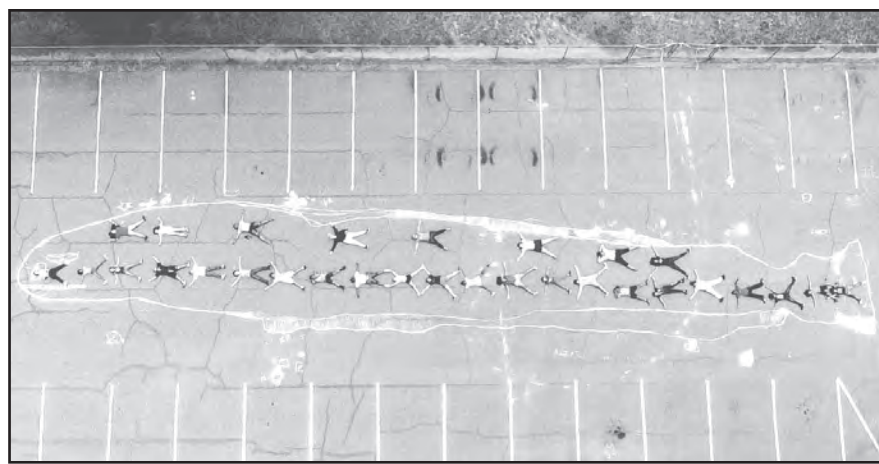


Janet Bowles (Dennis), Lloyd Barbour (Becky), Kenneth Barbour, Dean Barbour (Pansy), Linda Martin, Terry Barbour, and Sharon Wilson (Jeffrey); twenty-five grandchildren, forty-nine great-grandchildren, five

great-great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law, Faye Bollings, Brenda Bollings, and Janice Bollings.

Visitation was on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel and other times at Mabel's home. The graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023 at Mount Ivy Christian Church Cemetery, Moneta, VA with Minister David Deisher officiating.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Barbour family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.



Albert Harris students create life-size drawing

Fourth-grade students at Albert Harris Elementary who participated in a recent ocean-themed summer STEM Camp created a life-size, 100-foot-long drawing of a blue whale-- the largest known animal in

Earth's history-- in the school's parking lot.

Those fourth-grade campers were joined by a group of fifth graders and their teachers to take this aerial photo of their masterpiece using a drone.

Davis from page 1

William R. Martin, \$1,250 from Mark Davis, and \$1,000 each from Zentmeyer Chiropractic, Donald Wayne Davis Jr., Meeks Recycling & Salvage LLC, Blue Ridge Aquaculture, Gracie R. Agnew, McKinney Heating & Air Conditioning LLC, Phillips Logistics Management Corp., William D. Martin.

The top in-kind donors of more than \$100 included William D. Martin, \$1,000; Albert Lane Perry, \$750; Mitchell Turner, \$260 and Daniel L. Harold, \$240.

Davis spent a total of \$19,420, including itemized expenses totaling \$16,720 and in-kind expenses of \$2,700. Itemized expenses indicate that Davis paid \$8,415 to Print & Pack Sense LLC; \$2,623 to Piedmont Printing & Graphics, \$2,000 to Forest Park Country Club, and a total of \$2,211 to Ridgeway Signs & Trophies Inc.

Davis spent a total of \$19,420 during the period and reported a June 8 ending balance of \$16,843.

Hatcher

Daryl L. Hatcher had a zero balance on April 1. He reported collecting five cash contributions of more than \$100, one cash contribution of less than \$100, four in-kind contributions of more than \$100, and one in-kind contribution of less than \$100.

Top donors were Giles Smith, \$1,578; Daryl L. Hatcher, \$1,000, Mark D. Hatcher, \$526; Heather Ashe and Keith Bishop, with a \$105 donation each. In kind donations of more than \$100 were from Daryl L. Hatcher, including \$845, \$348, \$280, and \$240, according to the online report.

Hatcher spent \$1,799 on in-kind expenses and paid a total of \$29 in itemized expenses (\$27 and \$3, respectively) to American National Bank & Trust.

He ended the period on June 8 with a balance of \$3,285, the report showed.

Mills

Del Mills had a \$2,391 starting balance on April 1. According to the report, Mills collected \$3,638 during the reporting period, including four cash contributions of more than \$100, and one cash contribution of \$100 or less.

Top contributors were David Wright, \$1,437; Del Gregory Mills, with a total of \$1,600, and Candy Perkins, \$501, the report showed.

Mills spent a total of \$4,336 during the period. Itemized expenses include \$1,348 for "service printing," and a total of \$2,989 during the reporting period listed as "build a sign."

Mills ended the period with \$1,692 on hand, the

report indicated.

In other contests:

Commissioner of the Revenue

The four candidates in the race for the Commissioner of the Revenue post also filed reports.

Bowyer

Adrienne Bowyer reported a zero balance on May 14, with \$5,610 collected between May 16 and June 8, including five cash contributions of more than \$100, three cash contributions of less than \$100, and a loan from David Stanley Bowyer of \$3,660.

Top contributors included \$500 from Candy and Shane Perkins, \$500 from James Peters, \$250 from Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bowling, \$250 from Samuel Pearman, and \$200 from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roberts.

Bowyer reported spending a total of \$5,524 for itemized expenses that included \$5,524 to Print & Pack Sense LLC.

Bowyer's ending balance was \$85, according to the online information.

D. Hairston

Dallas Hairston reported a starting balance of \$17 on April 1, and receipts of \$5,114 through June 8, including seven cash contributions of more than \$100, 23 cash contributions of less than \$100, two in-kind contributions of more than \$100, and one in-kind contribution of less than \$100.

Top contributors included Dallas D. Hairston, a total of \$1,770; Renado Hairston, \$250; James C. Richardson Jr., \$200; Michael Palmer and Mary Ann Mason each contributed \$150, and Weldon Reynolds contributed \$101.

Dallas Hairston's itemized expenses included a total of \$1,220 to Super Cheap Signs, \$250 to Howell's Wholesale, \$162 to Transfer Express, \$153 to Banners On The Cheap, and \$128 to Sign Depot.

Dallas Hairston spent a total of \$3,820 during the reporting period, with an ending balance of \$1,311 reported.

T. Hairston

Tiffany Hairston reported a starting balance of \$18 on May 3, and receipts totaling \$3,536 during the reporting period that ended June 8.

She reported three cash contributions of more than \$100, one cash contribution of less than \$100, five in-kind contributions of more than \$100, and two in-kind contributions totaling less than \$100.

Top contributors were Tiffany Hairston, with a total of \$440, and Vesharn Scales, with \$200.

Tiffany Hairston's expenses were \$3,125 total, with itemized expenses that included a total of \$330 paid to Tiffany Hairston. In-kind expenses totaled \$2,795, according to the report.

Tiffany Hairston reported an ending balance of \$429, according to online information.

Minter

Blake Minter reported a starting balance of \$2,130 on April 1, and receipts of \$1,700 collected through June 8 from four cash contributions of more than \$100.

Blake Taylor Minter was the top contributor, with a total of \$1,700 donated.

Minter's expenses totaled \$2,651 for the period -- all for itemized expenses that included a total of \$2,569 to Brand Builders LLC, a total of \$77 to Quantum Copy LLC, and a total of \$6 to American National Bank & Trust.

Minter ended the period with a balance of \$1,179, the report showed.

Treasurer

In the contested race for Treasurer:

M. Minter

Michael Minter reported a starting balance of \$5,722 on April 1, and two cash contributions of more than \$100 during the period, with \$200 from B. Manly Boyd III and \$150 from Sharon Stork.

Total expenses were \$2,282, including \$2,279 to Brand Builders LLC and \$3 to American National Bank & Trust.

Minter ended the period with a balance of \$3,789, according to the report.

Moore

David Wayne Moore reported \$100 on April 1.

He received contributions totaling \$1,105, including two cash contributions of more than \$100 from Patsy Moore or \$175 and \$100. Minter reported 11 cash contributions of \$100 or less.

Moore spent a total of \$1,070 in itemized expenses that included \$661 to Signs on the Cheap, a total of \$305 to Banners on the Cheap, and \$104 to Rural King.

He reported an ending balance of \$134.

Incumbent Scott Grindstaff did not file a report.

School from page 1

as an athlete that is going to give 100 percent.

Martinsville High School's Career and Technical Education and Fine Arts program awarded 196 credentials among the students in the program. Those credentials were awarded to 116 students in the recent graduating class. 48 of those students had two or more credentials. The goal of the CTE program is that students would have credentials to take into their college or careers once they graduate. Students that took classes in business and entrepreneurship completed business plans, and developed and sold a product. Funds from those sales were used to create a fund called workforce development. The fund is being used for Martinsville High School students who are currently working and need to buy work-related items such as goggles or safety shoes can receive help from the fund. Five students completed the CNA program with three of them passing the state board examination and are licensed. "We are waiting on two more, they tested on June 1st," said program coordinator Shauna Hines. Amongst healthcare students, 16 students completed CPR training. Students can earn a variety of credentials through the CTE program such as workplace readiness, business communication, and sports medicine. Students can take a variety of tests for competency and earn credentials through the completion of the program and are able to add the credentials to their resume.

Clearview Early Learning Center Director, Sheilah Williams, announced the city school's participation in the summer feeding program again this summer. Meals are available Monday-Thursday at all city schools. Friday meals can be picked up on Thursday for children from ages 1-18. The students do not have to be a Martinsville City School student. Martinsville High School will be open through July 21st to provide meals. "So far we served 1751 breakfasts and lunches we served 1853," Williams said. Delivery is available on a case-by-case basis and some paperwork will have to be completed. "If someone needs home delivery, they will just have to contact us," said Williams.

City schools have participated in the Positive Behavior Intervention System program since 2013. Dr. Tammy Vaughan provided an update on the program at the recent school board meeting. The program has a division-wide team that meets and discusses attendance, discipline, and other issues. "We sit and problem solve and help meet the needs the schools have," said Vaughan. The teams are tiered, and the students come up with goals and incentives. The other teams work with behavioral intervention plans. The program added social-emotional learning (SEL) to help identify students that need support. "We have caught lots of areas where students needed that support. Every child in the division is screened three times a year because the trauma may not just happen in the beginning of the year. We are focused on gaining community partners and having more parent involvement," said Vaughan.

City Schools participate in a Triennial Wellness Assessment that is geared toward making sure that wellness is a priority in the school system. "We want to make sure we stay committed to completing some of the goals we set in place," said



Rickyah Mitchell with coach Earl Dodson and school board members.

Sheilah Williams. The schools have wellness goals and action plans toward meeting their goals. Each school in the district is assessed to see where they stand with nutrition and exercise. Schools are encouraged to not allow access to be withheld due to punishment to encourage physical activity. The fresh fruit and vegetable program will be restarted for the first time since COVID. The program will work with every school so that every section of the assessment will be 80% or higher in compliance in each school. Community partners have been added to help add health fairs and other health-related activities as a resource to the schools.

Other meeting items are as follows:

- Approved VSBA Policy Service Contract.
- Approved Federal Consolidated Application Funds.
- Approved Title III application as presented.
- Approved VPSA Resolution.
- VBSA Media Honor Roll Nomination of Monique Holland was approved.
- Superintendent Designee stand-ins Dr. Angilee Downing, Dr. Cynthia Tarpley, and Dr. Travis Clemons were approved.
- Authorization for the Superintendent to assign personnel was approved.
- Virginia High School League participation application was approved.

Opioid Abatement Authority considers award of \$23 million in grants to 76 cities and counties

The City of Martinsville and Henry County are among the 76 cities and counties recommended to receive opioid abatement funds by a committee of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA).

On June 9, the committee voted to recommend more than \$23 million in awards. If approved, it will represent the first major allocation of awards from the OAA since Virginia received its first set of national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids last year.

The payments from the various settling companies are expected to continue for at least 16 more years and will exceed \$1 billion in total funding.

Sen. Todd Pillion, chairman of the OAA, noted the Authority's board has moved quickly to make awards.

"This money is needed urgently across the state to save lives," he said. "The OAA carefully reviewed every application to make sure 100 percent of these funds are going to combat the addiction crisis that is stealing lives across Virginia."

Dr. Sarah Thomason, a clinical pharmacist who chairs the OAA's Grants Committee, said that Virginia is one of the first states to develop grant criteria for localities and to make awards based on those criteria.

"It is truly exciting to see these funds being invested at the community level in programs that are evidence-based and focused on saving lives," she said. "Many of our cities and counties have developed projects ready for initiation and we expect grants from the OAA will allow those projects to start making a difference quickly."

The proposed awards include grants to thirteen individual cities or counties and 26 grants to partnerships in which multiple cities and/or counties have committed to a regional approach. Projects vary based on the identified needs of each community, and range from expansion of medication-assisted treatment programs to recovery housing, to inpatient services.

Locally, Martinsville would serve as the fiscal agent of the \$20,000 that is earmarked to study and identify community-based options for most effective long-term use of funds for abatement in the city and county.

In 2022, Attorney General Jason Miyares announced the first round of finalized settlements worth more than \$500 million for the Commonwealth spread over the course of eighteen years, and predicted the total will increase to more than \$1 billion as additional settlements are finalized.

The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55 percent of Virginia's total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30 percent is distributed directly to cities and counties, and the remaining 15 percent to the commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions aiming for the funds to be used for opioid abatement efforts.

The full Board of Directors of the OAA will conduct a public meeting on June 23 to consider public comments before voting on the recommended grant awards. Information regarding the June 23 meeting can be found at www.voaa.us.

State report focuses on restoring excellence in education

A report released last week by state officials includes recommendations to the General Assembly and details actions already underway to restore excellence in education.

The report, titled "Recommendations of the Secretary of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to Promote Excellence and Higher Student Achievement in response to HB 938," was released last week by the Virginia Department of Education.

It identified four key areas where Virginia schools can improve and develop best-in-class practices:

- Develop a strong accreditation system: Virginia's accreditation system should communicate student achievement in school so that students, parents, teachers, and school leaders can assess student performance and provide targeted supports.
- Set proficiency standards on SOL assessments that align with excellence: Virginia must raise the expectations for our students to ensure they receive the best education and are equipped to compete with students across the country and the world.
- Promote excellence in instruction and student achievement in mathematics: The mathematic SOLs need to be reinvigorated with rigor and applicable content for the 21st century.
- Expand pathways and options for students that ensure college and career readi-

ness: Our K-12 education system should prepare every student for success in life, whether that be pursuing post-secondary education and training, joining the military, or entering the job market right out of school.

In addition, the final report focuses on recommended legislative reforms, Board of Education actions and department projects to develop a strong accreditation system, set proficiency standards on SOL assessments that align with excellence, promote excellence in instruction and student achievement in mathematics, and expand pathways and options for students that ensure college and career readiness.

"This report highlights the transformational work in progress to strengthen the transparency, rigor and multiple pathways in Virginia's K-12 education system," Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera said. "I am proud of the work we have already done to make student data accessible to teachers and families and all the great work to come in increasing the rigor of the state's math Standards of Learning and reforming the accreditation and accountability system."

"The department is committed to building a best-in-class educational system that ensures every student is prepared for post-secondary opportunities and success in life," Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons said. "I look forward to continuing

our work with parents and educators, the state Board of Education and the General Assembly to prioritize student outcomes and put the individual needs of students and families first."

Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed House Bill 938 in 2022, charging the Board of Education, the secretary of education, and the state superintendent to convene a group of stakeholders to make recommendations to the General Assembly on six goals for public education, including promoting excellence in instruction and student achievement in mathematics; expanding the Advanced Studies Diploma as an option for students in public high schools in the commonwealth; increasing the transparency of performance measures for public elementary and secondary schools in the commonwealth; ensuring that performance measures for public elementary and secondary schools prioritize the attainment of grade-level proficiency and growth during the course of a school year and from year to year in reading and mathematics for all students, especially in grades kindergarten through five; ensuring that the commonwealth's proficiency standards on Standards of Learning assessments in reading and mathematics are maintained and ensuring a strong accreditation system that promotes meaningful accountability year-over-year.

Zehr

from page 1

for many years. Her late father-in-law, Francis Zehr, served on the Henry County School Board, and her husband, Ryan Zehr, currently serves on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

"However, with the passing of Francis in the summer of last year, and my husband's decision to withdraw from politics for the foreseeable future, it felt time to step forward and see if the county was inviting a progressive step into the future," she said.

Zehr said she has more than 30 years of experience in customer service, 15 years in managerial finance, and more than four years of informational technology (IT) and analytical experience.

"I have owned my own business, had to close a business due to an economic downturn, and picked up the pieces even

after a workforce layoff. I have sat through tax audits, run tax returns, and ordered depreciation schedules," she said.

She currently runs two online businesses and is the main organizer, secretary, and manager of her family's many investments.

Zehr wants to take her years of knowledge in knowing how a business should run and apply it to the first financial component of the county's business.

"Most people in our county do not even know what the difference is between the Commissioner of the Revenue's office and the Treasurer's office, or even who heads either area. That is something that needs to change, and every ripple of change must start somewhere," she said.

Zehr believes information about the county's tax revenue needs to be something that is more easily accessible, concise, and easier to understand. She also wants to dig into the hierarchy of the office and data to find cost-effective measures to promote change and continued progress.

"Any number on a piece of paper can say anything at any given time," she said. "You can program technology to give just about any outcome that you want it at any given time."

"The first and foremost goal for our commissioner's office should be finding out how to have auditable, concise financial data that is never changing and always traceable back to the data that comes from the state," she said.

Letters

from page 4

Williams is driving force

Everyone should know the extreme urgency to vote for Wren Williams. We know Wren is a driving force, from a legislative level, to pave the way for our hospital and a force for economic development in working for future grants for the district. If we want any representation for our region, your only choice is Delegate Williams.

If Marie March is elected, she will treat our areas the same way she treated Randy Wingfield, Christiansburg Town Manager, Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County Administrator, Merissa Sachs, Christiansburg Town Council, and many others. Look at her record.

She once said, "I've never brought charges against anyone," but Christiansburg has records of countless complaints she has brought. The case with Jonathan Sweet was found to have no merit. The case she brought against Wren was dismissed. Ask yourself just how much money she has cost the taxpayers for her shenanigans and getting the government to do her dirty work for her.

She claims to be a champion of small business, but takes over \$375,000 in grants and CARES Act money for fixing up buildings for outdoor dining, then closes the business and puts them on the market for sale.

She was one of only 2 delegates to vote against HB 1446, requiring minimum staffing at nursing homes. Why? Her husband is a doctor in a nursing home, and she has received thousands of dollars in contributions from healthcare organizations. Why would she be against DMV Online Access? She was 1 of 4 votes against that bill. Why would she not support law enforcement and be 1 of only 2 people to vote against a fingerprint database? These bills were overwhelmingly supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

Delegate Williams has the endorsement of the 2nd highest Republican in the State and the Republican Speaker of the House. Oh, and did you know she voted against the Republican party 32% of the time?

She sponsored HB 1396 without understanding that it would give a 130% return to rich Northern Virginians who could afford to get tax credits greater than what they put in. Delegate Davis, Chairman of the House Education Committee said, "Seems like the drafter of this bill either doesn't know what's in it or failed 5th grade math."

Now, a smear campaign of half-truths make Delegate Williams seem he is representing a bad actor. Everyone is entitled to legal representation, but worse, this half-truth ad makes it seem he represents someone he does not.

There are videos claiming Delegate Williams has taken a fortune from special interest groups. According to VPAP.org, Mrs. March has taken 41% of her donations from "Companies who do not have registered lobbyists" and even more from lobbyists. Delegate Williams took just 3%. Mrs. March only got 19% of her donations from individuals, Delegate Williams got 66% from individuals. Vote for Wren Williams.

Bill Clark,

Stuart

Student Briefs

JMU's spring 2023 Dean's List

James Madison University announced the following students made the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester:

Christopher Hummer of Martinsville, who is majoring in Economics - BS.

Kaden Knight of Ridgeway, who is majoring in Statistics - BS.

Dylan Royal of Martinsville, who is majoring in Music - BM.

Kenya Sanchez of Ridgeway, who is majoring in Communication Studies - BS.

Dylan Shelton of Axton, who is majoring in Intelligence Analysis - BS.

Chloe Wilkes of Collinsville, who is majoring in Graphic Design - BFA.

Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899

Hollins University's 181st Commencement Ceremony

Local students to graduate during the 181st commencement ceremony on May 21 at Hollins University include:

Lindsey Bishop of Martinsville, MALS in Interdisciplinary Studies

Chanlee Luu of Martinsville, MFA in Creative Writing

Jennifer Spencer of Stanleytown, BA in Psychology.

Hudler Makes Midway University Spring 2023 Dean's List

Jessica Hudler, of Axton, has been named to the Dean's List at Midway University for the 2023 Spring Semester. To be named to the list, a student must be classified as full-time and obtain a 3.60 grade point average for the semester. There were 357 students who made the Dean's List.

Midway University is a private, co-edu-

cational institution located in Woodford County and part of the greater Lexington, Kentucky area. Founded in 1847, Midway University's total enrollment (including traditional and online undergraduate, graduate, and dual credit students) is more than 1,900 from across Kentucky, the U.S., and several countries.

Watkins named to ACU's Spring 2023 Dean's Honor Roll

Whitney Watkins, of Martinsville, was named to the Abilene Christian University Spring 2023 Dean's Honor Roll. Watkins is a sophomore majoring in Communication Disorders.

Watkins was among more than 1,200 students named to the Spring 2023 Dean's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Several students named to Emory & Henry Spring 2023 Dean's List

Martinsville-Henry County students named to the spring 2023 Dean's list at Emory & Henry College include:

Caitlin Barker of Collinsville

Madeline Bishop of Collinsville

Rachael Cardwell of Ridgeway

Maria Cheki of Martinsville

William Clark of Collinsville

Bailey Dalton of Ridgeway

Darrius Morrison of Fieldale

Tizianna Palumbo of Martinsville

Adam Varner of Bassett

Blake Wilson of Axton.

To be named to the Dean's list a student must be a full-time student and receive a 3.6 GPA for the semester.

Blake from page 1

tant principal, principal, and consultant. She most recently served as Deputy Superintendent with Stanley County Public Schools in North Carolina.

In talking with the Henry County School Board, she said she felt a strong connection with the board's vision.

"Their values align with my values in what I look for in a public education for students, and I felt very strongly that it would be a very positive partnership, and that we can do some great things for students together," she said.

In looking at the school system, Blake-Lewis said she knows there are some building projects like construction and remodeling, the division has planned.

"I want to be sure to jump in with the board and take a look at those needs," she said.

As superintendent, Blake-Lewis said she and the division will prioritize student growth and progress.

"I want to make sure that our systems and processes with the curriculum are aligned with what we know to be best practices that will promote that high student growth and student achievement," she said.

Once she gets settled into the new role and is able to meet with principals and community stakeholders, Blake-Lewis hopes they can develop some other goals together.

A strong believer in collaborative leadership, Blake-Lewis said it's not just about what she wants to see happen, but what the community and the stakeholders want to see.

"I want to make sure that I spend some time meeting with principals, and assistant principals, and hearing from them to find out from them what have been your concerns, what are you most proud of, what are some things that you would like to see some change in, and kind of get their perspective on that," she said.

Blake-Lewis wishes to connect with the community, and for the community to get to know her "so we can work together and do some great things for students."

She also believes that students always come first, even if some adults might not be comfortable.

"At the end of the day, if I know the decisions I've made and the programs and processes I've put in place are those that put children first, then that's a winning combination for me," she said.

Blake-Lewis graduated with a B.A. in middle grades education from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Pembroke, an M.A. in school administration from Fayetteville State University, and a Ph.D. from Wingate University.

She was also a North Carolina Principal Fellow and has an education specialist degree.

Blake-Lewis started her education career as a classroom teacher teaching fifth grade before she spent the bulk of her career in middle school education teaching language arts and social studies. She has served as a principal of a K-8 school and a high school.

She is married to her husband, John, an attorney in Concord, N.C. She has nine nieces and nephews. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, riding horses, and being outdoors.

Site from page 1

budget constraints and the council's decision to stop reversion efforts.

"Consultants all concurred that city expenses would increase more than city revenue," said Rothrock. He recalled the council's decision to vote in favor of reversion in 2019 and consolidating the school system. He then recalled how council members then campaigned against reversion efforts.

"Ruth Easley said that Martinsville had a surplus of revenue and did not need to go through the reversion process," Rothrock said, noting the tax and utility rate increases in spite of what was previously said. He called the current issues a "budget crisis."

"City residents can look forward to higher rates and decrease in services for years to come," he said.

*Ural Harris quoted his favorite cartoon character Foghorn Leghorn, "This just don't add up," he said, underscoring his concerns about the budget and the reversion. Harris has indicated his distaste for the proposed budget at the two previous city council meetings as well.

In other matters: Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki provided information about a Druid Hills neighborhood meeting on June 1, and an overview of a tour at a council meeting Tuesday.

The tour began from the rear of the City Municipal Building and continued through Cherry Street, Jordan Street, Boden Street, Bob Gregory Street, Brookdale Street, and continued into Druid Hills and Mulberry neighborhoods. The



Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls responded to some of Bowles' allegations.

meeting was conducted after the neighborhood tour at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. Traffic, kudzu, and loud cars were among the concerns presented.

*The council conducted a public hearing to receive names of citizens interested in appointments for two 3-year terms on the city school board. Anthony Jones is a current school board member who expressed his interest to be considered for another term via proxy. City residents Stephanie Morris Mills, Nekia Blackwell, and Emily Parker expressed interest in the vacancies. Two additional candidates sent in requests for consideration electronically. Those individuals are Cody Williams and Heather Blankenbaker. Candidates will be

interviewed on Monday, June 26 prior to the council's next meeting.

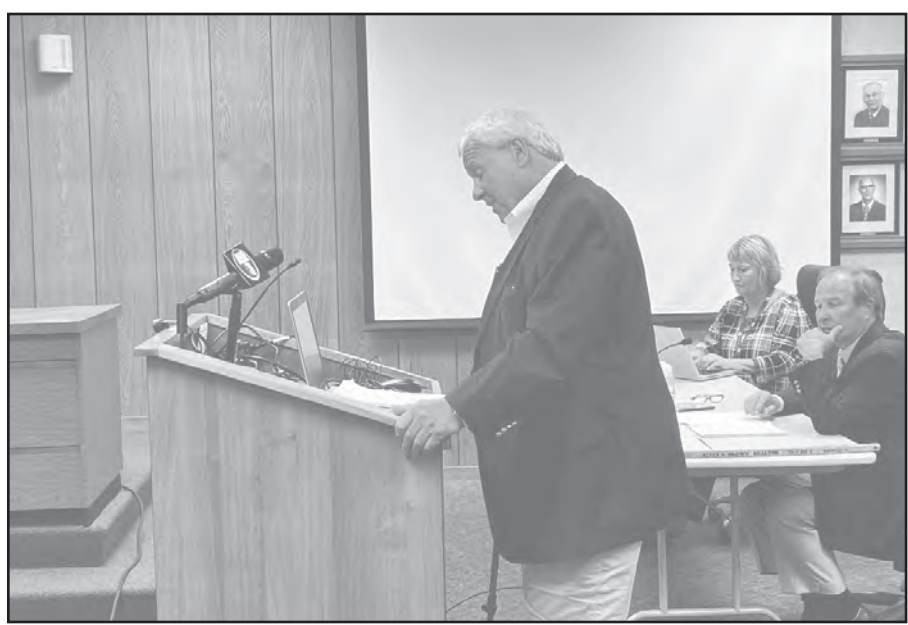
*Former Vice-Mayor Jennifer Bowles brought a concern of a downed tree in the 1600 block of Roundabout Road and the potential for it to cause an accident. Bowles also stated the council made a motion to remove her from the West Piedmont Planning District without justifiable cause. Bowles sent an email on May 25th addressing her potential removal.

"Vice-Mayor (Aaron) Rawls' motion on April 11th gave no reason whatsoever for my removal, which was clearly without cause," Bowles said, and referenced the Code of Virginia, noting personal dislike and political disagreement are not valid reasons for remov-

al. Bowles requested that the council provide a valid and provable reason and in compliance with Virginia law. Bowles said she will continue to attend and participate in West Piedmont Planning District meetings as a duly appointed member. She also alleged that Rawls gave her a cut-throat gesture while she was speaking with a commissioner, and requested a written response from the council.

"It's not personal, I don't operate like that," Rawls said.

*The council approved a resolution to apply to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Industrial Revitalization Fund. The funds will be used for the One Ellsworth project at the previous BB & T loca-



Drew Rothrock discussed budget concerns.

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Spar from page 1

"I think that a lot of the concerns are inflation, the economy, jobs, the amount of taxes that they have to pay - all of the things that really start to infringe on their ability to live and work in the area," he said.

This also includes things like gun rights, children in schools and what they learn, real estate taxes, and food costs.

"I think all of these things really start to play together in our district to cause people to have real concerns about the outlook of everyday," he said, adding he will support legislation for effective change.

"You just can't throw money at stuff and think that it's going to get better. We've seen that, we've tried that, and we've seen that doesn't work," he said.

He favors smaller government, fewer taxes, and letting people use their own resources to improve their lives and the lives of others.

"I'm not interested in different programs or anything like that in regard to some of these kitchen table issues," Williams said. "I want the free market to do what it does best, and I want the government to keep its hands off of our children, our guns, and our morals."

Williams said he learns about the issues facing the district by living in the district and listening to his constituents. It's troublesome when he hears about people having issues, especially when it comes to government agencies, but not reaching out to him or his office.

"Because a lot of times if folks will reach out, we're able to help them with things," he said.

Williams said he supports more transparency and more open government. He proposed a bill this year with regard to the parole board that brought a lot of sunlight to that process.

"That's an example of just listening to your people and trying to come up with creative solutions to help meet their needs," he said.

Williams believes the 47th district excels because of its people.

"The people are awesome. We have incredible people and the community that we live in is beautiful. I've seen people go above and beyond for others, even just strangers," he said.

He notes the district's loss of youth due to a lack of jobs and skills is its biggest struggle.

"For instance, we are lacking jobs for our young folks and we're also lacking



Del. Marie March, R-Floyd, is one of two GOP hopefuls in the June 20 primary.

what I would call reliable internet for some people to be able to work from home," he said. "They're sort of stuck in between finding a job in the area, commuting, or having to relocate."

Williams is trying to stem the flow of younger people leaving the region and attract jobs and industry to the area.

He encouraged voters to support the candidate that best represents them, and added that when it comes to conservative values and principals, he "is a proven conservative leader that grew up in the area, that understands the needs of its people, and who really shares the love and passion for this community and the southside and southwest Virginia area."

Since being elected, Williams has passed several bills in the General Assembly including a bill that makes churches and other houses of worship essential.

A graduate of Patrick County High School (PCHS), Williams has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Hampton-Sydney College and received his JD and MBA from Samford University Cumberland School of Law.

Williams has been married to his wife, Britt Schneider Williams, since 2015, and the couple have one son, Thomas Rhet Williams born on the first day of the General Assembly session in January.

In his free time Williams enjoys going home and playing with his son.

March declined multiple requests to speak with a reporter for a profile.

Historical society to host afternoon lecture

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture, "A Disappeared Creek: The Stories of Jack Fountain's Spring Branch," on Sunday, June 18, at 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Truman Adkins, Historian & Genealogist, will share his research on a stream that runs under The Village of Martinsville (Liberty Fair Mall). It bears the name of a freedman who Adkins believes was the first African American to purchase real estate in Henry County. His presentation will also include the Lester

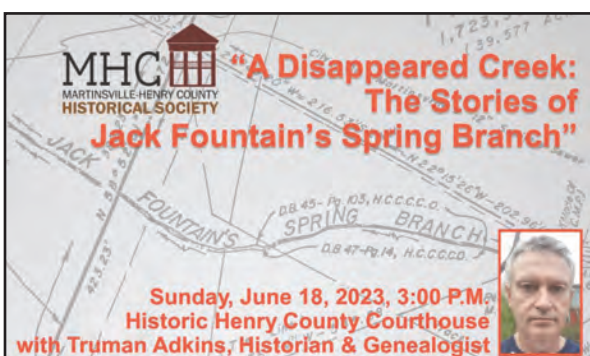
Airport, the Fair, and Liberty Fair Mall and how the land changed from a hollow to what it is today.

Admission to the Sunday Afternoon Lecture series is free, made possible by corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully hand-

icapped accessible.

The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum will be open following the presentation.

"This month's lecture is a great opportunity for all of us to learn about something that little is known," said John Phillips, president of the historical society.



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		\$ 6,500.00	11/18/20	Town Of Christiansburg/EDA Cares Act	2
Fat Back Soul Shack Christiansburg VA	CLOSED	\$ 82,831.00	1/26/21	Payroll Protection Plan-Federal	1
		\$ 73,900.00	4/8/20		1
		\$ 7,500.00	11/18/20	Town Of Christiansburg/EDA Cares Act	2
		\$ 14,501.61	12/29/20	Montgomery County - Cares Act Outdoor Dining Area	3
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1: Projectspropublica.org/coronavirus/bailouts/search 2: FOIA Request:Town of Christiansburg 3: FOIA Request: Montgomery Co., VA

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'The Infamous Weekend' to debut September 15-16 at Pop's Farm in Martinsville

Grammy-winning progressive bluegrass band The Infamous Stringdusters and non-profit Rooster Walk Inc. are teaming up this fall to create The Infamous Weekend, a two-day, family friendly "mini-fest" at Pop's Farm in Martinsville, Va.

The new event, slated for Sept. 15-16 at Pop's Farm, home of the Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, will feature four headlining sets from the 'Dusters, along with performances by 49 Winchester, Yarn, Kendall Street Company, The Sweet Lillies, The Wilson Springs Hotel, Furnace Mountain and The Jared Stout Band.

"We are so excited about The Infamous Weekend," said Johnny Buck, executive director of Rooster Walk Inc. "We've had the 'Dusters many times at our festival; they always put on a fantastic show, and they're great to work with. This is going to be an amazing, affordable, intimate experience for the fans, and there's no better venue in the Commonwealth for it than Pop's Farm."

The Stringdusters were host band of the Virginia-based Festy Experience music festival each October for many years. In addition, the Rooster Walk Reunion music festival took place at Pop's Farm in October 2021 as COVID restrictions began to be

relaxed in Virginia. Reunion was a one-time, scaled-down version of the Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, but the fans loved it.

"Ever since we put on that one Rooster Walk Reunion a couple years ago, our fans have been asking us, 'When are you going to do another fall camping event at Pop's Farm?'" said Buck. "I know the 'Dusters' fans have been asking them the same kind of thing for years now. It's really a perfect pairing, Rooster Walk and the 'Dusters. We're going to keep a small footprint on the event this fall, with plans of growing it every year going forward. It's exciting."

Fans at The Infamous Weekend will enjoy on-site camping, food, art and craft vendors, outdoor excursions and children's activities, among other attractions. The event will feature two active stages – the Lawn Stage and the Pine Grove Stage – while the entire venue will be open to camping and on-site parking.

Tickets are available through a presale now, and tickets will become available to the public starting at 10 am Friday, May 19. For more information about the event, tickets, and Pop's Farm, visit www.infamousweekend.com.



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- Offering #5 – 33.110 acres

DIRECTIONS: From Fairystone Park Hwy – Take Sunset Drive to Sharp left on Warehouse Street. Property is on both sides of road before 573 Warehouse Street. Marked by signs.

TERMS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per tract required day of sale. Close on or before August 11th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Be sure to register early to receive updates or changes to auction. Download Bidder Information Packet for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com or
Contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BooieD@yahoo.com



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