

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, July 8, 2023

(USPS-6)

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A view of the renovations to Hooker Field. Pictured is the area behind home plate, including the larger press box, concessions, new restrooms, and covered seating.

## Renovation project at Hooker Field nears completion

by Pat Delaney

Work on the nearly \$3 million renovation project at Hooker Field is nearing completion. Once finished, the fan experience will be noticeably improved.

Martinsville City Manager Leon

Towarnicki said feedback from fans was the impetus for the improvements.

“The concession facilities and amenities, restrooms, things like that were really outdated,” said Towarnicki. “A lot of the complaints that we’ve heard about the facilities, particularly

when you have large crowds there, it’s just a lack of restroom facilities.

“We really knew we had to do that and expand the concession space and the restrooms and that was what kind of drove the project,” he said.

The new restrooms

“are going to be much larger and nicer. All the restroom fixtures, the sinks and everything will be touchless fixtures in there, so that’ll certainly be very nice,” said Towarnicki.

The new concessions

See **Renovation**, page 7

## Strayer steps down as superintendent



Sandy Strayer

FILE PHOTO

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

After decades with the Henry County Public School system and five years in her current post, Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Sandy Strayer retired on July 1, and two days later, started her new job as the Harvest Foundation’s new health and education program officer.

Strayer worked in the school division for 31 years.

“I’m always telling my people that are apprehensive about making a change. Change is hard for people, (and) that they need to think about the impact they could have on people,” Strayer said.

But she was convinced it was time for a new leader to do things better, “but also, this is a change for me

See **Strayer**, page 5

## ‘Persistent volunteer shortage’ behind Axton squad’s decision to cease operations

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

An inadequate number of volunteers prompted a decision by the Axton Life Saving Crew’s (ALSC) Board of Directors to cease operations, after more than 30 years of service to the community.

“We’ve always looked to serve the community to the best of our ability – the residents of Axton deserve nothing less. Without an adequate number of volunteers, we fear that we will no longer be able to maintain that standard of excellence,” Janice Agnew, board chairman, said.

The persistent shortage of volunteer members left the agency unable to sustain its provision of EMS contributed to the decision.

“For that reason, we believe it is time to consolidate our resources and support the Henry County Department of Public Safety and other

volunteer rescue squads as they prepare to assume this essential responsibility,” she said.

“The volunteers at ALSC are commended for their steadfast dedication over the last 30 years,” said Matt Tatum, director of the Henry County Department of Public Safety. “The ALSC board has historically relied on the county’s career staff and remaining volunteer rescue squads to assist them when they were not able to respond, and they can trust that we will continue to carry on their mission and ensure that the residents of Axton still receive that high level of care.”

Currently, Tatum said the county has enough staff in place to cover the Axton area.

“Obviously, we would love to have additional staffing, but we’ve been answering an overwhelming majority of their calls for quite some time now. It will have very minimal impact from what

See **Persistent**, page 6

## Deep understanding spurs opposition to GOP incumbents



Patty Quesenberry, a well-known social services counselor from Floyd County, is standing for election in November to be Virginia state delegate from District 47.

by Judy Ferring

or federal levels.

A mother-daughter duo who are Democratic candidates to represent this corner of southwest Virginia, introduced themselves to a small gathering of Patrick County voters last week. Win or lose, they may already be making history.

Patty Quesenberry will face GOP state delegate incumbent Wren Williams while her daughter, Deborah “Renie” Gates, will challenge GOP state senate incumbent Bill Stanley in November.

They’ve looked it up; the two women have found no other mother-daughter candidacies in U.S. History, at the state

But it is their deep understanding of the challenges faced by the region’s residents that is the real issue. Both live in Floyd County. Their experiences have

See **Deep**, page 2

## Hometown Hustle’s second season highlights local businesses

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

Local businesses were featured in the second season of “Hometown Hustle,” a web series that highlights the entrepreneurial spirit of local small businesses in Southwest Virginia.

Episodes focused on the Collinsville Scuffle Hill Brewing Company, Martinsville’s Ground Floor, Meadows of Dan’s High Country Lavender Farm & Shop, Poor Farmers Market, and Concord Corner Store, and other businesses in nine other localities.

Natalie Hodge, owner of Rudy’s Girl Media and the series creator and host, said the first of the 10, 22-minute episodes was released on April 4.



Hometown Hustle visited High Country Lavender Farm & Shop, and owner Sandra Sarlinga in Meadows of Dan in the 7th episode of the second season.

“We started filming last July,” she recalled. “July 31 was actually our first-day filming. But of course, with the production process, we started having conversations with people and the development components of Season 2 at the top of 2022.”

The series’ first season premiered on Rudy’s Girl YouTube channel in 2021, with six 10-minute episodes.

For the second season, Hodge said she wanted to make sure there was a diverse array of businesses and business owners.

“We wanted to make

sure we had a business that was in the trade area, we wanted to have an agritourism business. So, we had some folks we wanted to target generally,” she said.

After creating that

See **Hometown**, page 6

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**FOR MORE UPDATES**



# Vaughan was honored for 25 years with F.C.

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Karen Vaughan, a lifetime member of the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, received an award for her 25 years of service with the squad as part of Fire and Rescue Day on June 24.

She was officially presented with the award on June 28.

"It was a big honor. I really appreciate it," Vaughan said and explained that she decided to volunteer because she really wanted to be able to help people.

"I'm a people person, so being able to help the citizens in my community has always been a priority," she said.

Throughout her tenure with the squad, Vaughan said the amount of people she's been able to help has stood out the most for her.

"They find a way to come back and thank you," she said.

Vaughan said several things have changed dramatically since she started with the squad in 1997.

"When I first started, everything was on paper. You had carbon-copied patient reports, and now, of course, as technology has grown, everything is on computers. So,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Karen Vaughan received an award for her 25 years of service with the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad.**

that's a big transition, going from paper to computers," she said.

Vaughan added the required skill sets have also changed because more protocols have been added and different levels assigned to training. She previously received an intermediate Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider certification with the squad.

Though she also works in the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center as a dispatcher and shift supervisor, Vaughan said the two don't really interfere with one another.

"We have set shifts here at the 911 center. We work 12-hour shifts. Then Fieldale-Collinsville is strictly volunteer," she said.

However, she believes her volunteer work helps her with her day job.

"We do here at the 911 center what is called EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatching), and being a lifetime member of the rescue squad, and knowing the medical terms and what people are actually talking about when they call, it does help a lot while at work because you're familiar and you kind of know it" the health circumstances a caller may be facing, she said.

Because of her job, family, and continuing education, Vaughan has been unable to run calls as in the past.

"I haven't been as active lately," she said. "I have a family now and was going through college for my master's degree. I had to take a little step back, but I am a lifetime member there. Life has kind of pulled me away from that some."



## Dino Festival set for July 21 – 22 at VMNH

It's a 2-day dinosaur extravaganza, featuring life size-cast skeletons of some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils, dino-themed activities and crafts, the opportunity to interact with expert paleontologists, and the chance to experience museum's newest special exhibit Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas.

The Dino Festival take place at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) on Friday, July

21 and Saturday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Admission rates apply.

Life-size cast skeletons and skulls will be featured.

### Triceratops

A large, plant-eating dinosaur distinguishable by its large frill and three horns that lived during the Late Cretaceous period, from approximately 68 to 66 million years ago

See **Dino**, page 5

## Garden Club of Virginia's Restoration Committee visits Martinsville



**Ryan Karroll, Arborist, presented landscaping education to members of the Restoration Committee, including Martinsville's Debbie Lewis (second from left), Garden Club of Virginia president.**

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society hosted the Restoration Committee of the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) on Tuesday, June 27, at the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

The visit included a property tour and landscaping workshop with Bartlett Tree Experts. The committee, consisting of 15 members from across the Commonwealth, oversees management of the proceeds from Historic Garden Week in Virginia and serves as a liaison to the restoration properties throughout Virginia. Since the first restoration in 1929 at Kenmore in Fredericksburg, the GCV has used proceeds from its signature event to restore and preserve a vital segment of Virginia's landscape with nearly 50 projects completed to date, including the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Founded in 1920, the GCV is an active association of 47 local clubs with more than 3,300 civic and community leaders. The GCV leads the challenge to protect and conserve Virginia's natural beauty, to restore and preserve Virginia's historic gardens and landscapes, and to provide educational opportunities in support of these challenges. Martinsville's own Debbie Lewis, member of the Garden

See **Garden**, page 5

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## Deep from page 1



**Deborah "Renie" Gates is running for the state senate seat representing District 7. The Floyd County farmer and speech therapist is the daughter of Patty Quesenberry.**

given them insight into working class and rural life throughout southwest Virginia.

As a single mother, Quesenberry "sent myself to college." In 1997, the same year her daughter graduated from Floyd County High School, she graduated from Radford University with a BGS (Bachelor of General Stud-ies) degree. She had long been a community volunteer, active in the local elementary school PTA, 4-H, and the Floyd County Rescue Squad. With her degree in hand, Quesenberry dived into professional human services.

See **Deep**, page 4

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Event information/calendar items must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the desired publication date. Email to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net).)

## Meetings

### Tuesday, July 11

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

### Wednesday July 12

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

### Thursday, July 13

The Henry County School Board School Board's monthly meeting begins at 9 a.m. followed by closed session, 1st Floor, Summerlin Room, Henry County Administration Building, Collinsville.

### Monday, July 17

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

### Tuesday, July 18-Saturday, July 22

DIY Edible Bouquet will be made at various branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Learn to DIY a sweet edible bouquet with fresh fruit. \$5 supply fee for this installment of the Summer Fun Food Series. Classes start at 2:30 p.m. Register at the following branches: Ridgeway (276) 956-1828; Collinsville, (276) 647-1112; Patrick County, (276) 694-3352; Bassett, (276) 629-2426; Martinsville, (276) 403-5430.

### Thursday, July 20

Make Some Noise: After Hours Open Mic Series, 7 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Grab the mic and express yourself through music, poetry, comedy or spoken word. Performers should sign up for a five-minute (max) spot upon arrival. Free to performers and audience. There will be a cash bar available. July's open mic night will be hosted by Natalie Hodge.

### Tuesday, July 25

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

## Events

### Saturday, July 8

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

Spend the evening with Martinsville native, and now Philadelphia-based musician, Mandy Shearer & Friends with Roanoke's Ben "Jamin" Trout, Mark Henderson on drums and Soul Sista Tina

Marie from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Imagination Lavender Farm 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. No Cover Charge (donation appreciated) Bring a chair, cooler with your choice of beverage. For more information, call (276) 734-2828. Las Tapatias Taco Food Truck on premises.

### Tuesday, July 11

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

### Friday, July 14

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday, July 15

Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In, 3 to 7 p.m., Bassett Furniture World Headquarters, Fairy Stone Park Highway, Bassett. Event includes a 50/50 drawing to benefit the Bassett Library Building Fund. More than 375 classic cars were at the June event. For more information, visit <http://www.bassettcruisein.com/>.

### Tuesday, July 18

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

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

### Friday, July 21

## Upcoming Vacation Bible Schools

### Sunday, July 9 - Friday, July 14

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

### Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14

Keepers of the Kingdom Vacation Bible School at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 18075 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Ridgeway. Register now to get a free T-shirt by visiting online at [hbcridgeway.myanswers.com](http://hbcridgeway.myanswers.com). For more information, visit [hbcridgeway.org](http://hbcridgeway.org).

### Friday, July 21 - Sunday, July 23

Vacation Bible School with FBC & Chatham Heights Baptist Church at sister church, Chatham Heights Baptist Church. Children up through sixth grade will have times of learning, play, and spiritual growth. Meals and snacks will be provided. Bible school schedule os Friday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Sunday, 6 p.m. Rally for the kids followed by a Pool Party at the Elks Lodge.

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

## ONGOING

Saturdays through November 18  
Martinsville Uptown Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon, with the freshest fruits and veggies, homemade snacks, locally raised beef, and more. July 5-September 27, the market is open Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to noon.

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

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit [brrl.lib.va.us](http://brrl.lib.va.us).

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at 1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville. Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other

community efforts.

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

Medicaid eligibility renewals have resumed. Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness (MHCCHW) offers Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age in-person: Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Community Storehouse, 128 E. Church St (lower level of the old Leggett Building) in Martinsville, or by phone, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate is available to help. Call or text Ann Walker at (276) 732-0509 to learn more or for an appointment.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Call (276) 647-9585.

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

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| CLUES ACROSS                              | 38. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet     | 67. Closes again                  | 27. Calendar month           |
| 1. Plant of the mint family               | 40. Notes to be sung                  | 69. Verses                        | 30. Cena and Lennon are two  |
| 7. Hand tool                              | 41. Women's garment                   | 70. Come into view                | 32. Monetary unit of Serbia  |
| 13. Made of the color of gold             | 43. Coarsely ground corn              | CLUES DOWN                        | 35. First time on the market |
| 14. A volume of several novels            | 44. One point south of due east       | 1. Short stick used as a weapon   | 37. Georgia rockers          |
| 16. Type of degree                        | 45. A way to deplete                  | 2. An alternative                 | 38. Free from contamination  |
| 17. Good job!                             | 47. Rough, prickly covering of a seed | 3. Laws                           | 39. Coastal region of Canada |
| 19. Seventh tone in major scale           | 48. LA hoopster, but not a Laker      | 4. Sense organs                   | 42. Clothing retailer        |
| 20. Fevers                                | 51. Hindquarters                      | 5. One from Utah                  | 43. It rises and sets        |
| 22. One's mother                          | 53. Franz van ____, German diplomat   | 6. Mariner                        | 46. Fathers                  |
| 23. Fertile desert spots                  | 55. Liquid body substances            | 7. People in charge of cattle     | 47. Stain with mud           |
| 25. Large integers                        | 56. Rhythmic patterns                 | 8. Health insurance organization  | 49. Suitable for crops       |
| 26. Plate for Eucharist                   | 58. A beaver might build one          | 9. Ornamental box                 | 50. Feels concern for        |
| 28. Tennis matches have them              | 59. Police officer's tool             | 10. Forest-dwelling deer          | 52. Orange-brown             |
| 29. Peyton's little brother               | 61. Pinwheel                          | 11. One quintillion bytes (abbr.) | 54. Buddy                    |
| 30. Monetary unit of N. Korea             | 64. Exist                             | 12. Atomic #71                    | 55. Late sportscaster Craig  |
| 31. Head movement                         | 65. Ornamental molding                | 13. Become less intense           | 57. Used to align parts      |
| 33. Twelve                                |                                       | 15. Cowards                       | 59. Wake up                  |
| 34. Renaissance musical instrument        |                                       | 18. Body ornament (slang)         | 62. Solid water              |
| 36. Behavior showing high moral standards |                                       | 21. Applicable to all cases       | 63. Semiprecious stone       |
|   |                                       | 24. Multiplied by 6               | 66. Atomic #45               |
|   |                                       | 26. Afghanistan monetary unit     | 68. Top lawyer               |

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## OPINION

## A YouTube apology video

Hello everyone. I'm afraid I'm not playing a character today; this is serious business. I humbly ask you to please smash that like button.

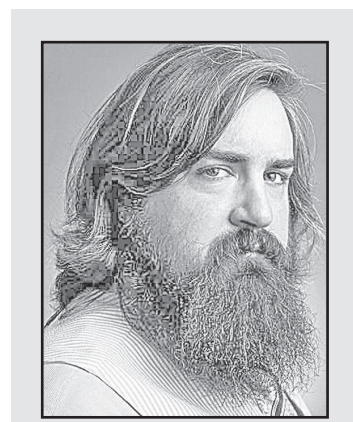
Since 2008, I've been entertaining you and your children with my antics. I've played so many characters over the years, from Dr. Hamburger, to Jimmy the Fartin' Certified Public Accountant, to Arrrrr Budd Dwyer the Press Conference Pirate.

But I think we can all agree that America's favorite character has been Gooby Goober, the peanut butter-obsessed manchild who loves nothing more than talking about nonsense in a high-pitched voice, close-ups, unboxing toys, and you, the viewer.

Lately, however, Gooby Goober's heart hasn't been in it when he unboxes tubs of slime and dumps them all over his house. Smearing a jar of Skippy all over his face hasn't brought him the same joy it used to. And, to be frank, you the viewer bear some responsibility for this.

All of these baseless accusations against me are beginning to take a toll, both on my mental health and my subscription numbers. I guess people just want to believe the worst about others whether it's true or not. It breaks my heart.

First things first, when I launched Gooby Goober's Zoo Dooders, all I wanted was to give children the opportunity to spend their parents' money



By Ben R. Williams

on cute little digital animals that they could watch romp and play on their tablets. It was perfectly innocent. How was I supposed to know that the developer was actually running a sprawling NFT scam? I'm not a cryptocurrency expert, except maybe when I'm playing my character Crypto Kevin. I promised to refund all \$3.7 million that kids spent on their Zoo Dooders, and I'm tired of

you people asking where your money is every few months. These things take time. Don't you trust me?

I'm also tired of all of the rumors about Gooby Goober's Person Unboxing video. I'll admit, it was a lapse of judgment on my part, but after doing so many toy unboxing videos over the years and then just happening to be at a cemetery while a closed casket service was happening ... well, you can see how the idea came about, and I had to follow my muse. But the idea that I was found guilty of felony corpse defilement is nothing more than a vicious rumor. The charge was ultimately dropped.

Finally, I'd like to address the simply outrageous rumors and accusations that have surfaced since those vultures at 60 Minutes did their little exposé. Just for the record, all of their claims are untrue. I am NOT affiliated with the Thuggee assassin cult, and children who

attend my concerts are NOT kidnapped and forced to toil in diamond mines beneath Pankot Palace. Anyone who spreads this rumor is nothing more than a liar who deserves to be obliterated by the Goddess Kali.

Look, I'm just a regular guy who's trying to entertain children by making silly faces, talking in an annoying voice, and editing videos that don't have a single clip longer than 1.5 seconds. Am I perfect? No, but who is? My critics claim that I'm some sort of narcissistic monster who only cares about my image and making piles upon piles of money by pandering to an audience of undiscerning children. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Anyway, I'm going to wrap up this apology video because it just hit ten minutes which means YouTube will let me monetize it. Tune in tomorrow for my reaction to my apology video.

News from the 9th:  
Born on the Fourth of JulyMorgan Griffith  
Representative

This time of year often reminds me of a great American: George M. Cohan, an actor, playwright, composer, director, and performer who is most famous today for his patriotic songs and contributions to musical theater.

George was born the day before Independence Day on July 3rd (though he and his family always insisted that he had been born on the Fourth of July) in Providence, Rhode Island, to Irish American parents who were traveling vaudeville performers.

By age nine, George became a member of his parents' traveling act and by age 13, wrote songs and lyrics for the act. When he began directing The Four Cohans (his older sister being the fourth member) in his late teens, it is reported the family was such an attraction that they were earning up to \$1,000 a week. That

would be in excess of \$30,000 a week today.

Not long after, George turned his sights on Broadway. By 1904, George had a hit on his hands with the musical Little Johnny Jones, about the life of an American jockey who rides a horse named Yankee Doodle in the English Derby. One of the play's song, "The Yankee Doodle Boy," also known as "(I'm a) Yankee Doodle Dandy," is one of Cohan's most famous. Most recall the lyrics:

I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy,

A Yankee Doodle, do or die;

A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam,

Born on the Fourth of July.

In 2004, the American Film Institute raked the song at No. 71 on its 100 Years...100 Songs list.

The play also included the popular song "Give My

Regards to Broadway," which has since been recorded by many artists, including Patti LuPone, Judy Garland, and Bing Crosby. The song's most famous lyrics include:

Give my regards to Broadway, remember me to Herald Square,

Tell all the gang at Forty-Second Street, that I will soon be there;

Whisper of how I'm yearning to mingle with the old time throng;

Give my regards to old Broadway and say that I'll be there ere long.

Two years later, in 1906, George wrote and produced the musical George Washington, Jr., in which he marched up and down the stage with an American flag singing his song "You're a Grand Ole Flag."

"You're a Grand Ole Flag" has since become one of the most popular marching band songs of all time and became the first song from a musical to sell over a million copies of sheet music.

Years later, when

the United States was fighting in World War I, Cohan was inspired to write the song "Over There," by a bugle call.

Over there, over there, Send the word, send the word over there

That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming

The drums rum-tum-tumming everywhere.

The patriotic song was a signal that the U.S. had decided they would be involved in world affairs. "Over There" became hugely popular during both World War I and II.

George received a Congressional Gold Medal from President Franklin D. Roosevelt for the song, the first person in any artistic field to be selected for the honor by Congress.

George passed away in 1942, the same year Yankee Doodle Dandy, a musical biopic about his life, would come out. Actor James Cagney starred as Cohan in the biopic and went on to

win an Oscar for Best Actor for the role. A few years later, in 1968, the musical George M!, based on Cohan's life, became a hit on Broadway.

In all, he created and produced over 50 Broadway shows and wrote over 300 songs during his life. George's statue, the only public statue of a theater performer in all of Manhattan, has stood for decades at the center of Times Square

His many patriotic songs will, no doubt, be played this Independence Day, as we celebrate the birth of this great nation. If you are unfamiliar with George Cohan's work, I highly suggest you take time to listen to a few of his songs this Fourth of July.

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

## Deep from page 2

Over nearly three decades, she has been a coordinator of homeless intervention programs; a certified housing counselor; served on the boards of the Community Housing Partners Corporation and the Virginia Association of Housing Counselors; been a foster care worker in the Department of Social Services and a mental health counselor including intensive home-based service.

"I've seen first-hand how so many people struggle to get food, pay their overdue electric bills, and face the fear of eviction, or the fear of losing their homes," said Quesenberry. "I've seen how important the need is in Southwest Virginia not just to have affordable housing, but safe housing. I've seen how many families in our region have been torn apart because of the substance abuse disorder crises and the unavailability of adequate resources for support and assistance. I understand first-hand how difficult it is in Southwest Virginia to find good therapists, the ability to receive and afford medications, find counselors without a long waiting list, etc.

"It only takes one crisis in a family's life to push them over the edge when they are living paycheck to paycheck," she said.

As her mother built expertise in families and individuals in crisis, Gates attended New River Community College and then Radford University, where she ultimately was awarded a master's degree in speech therapy. She too has pursued a career in hands-on community service, albeit a slightly different path. Nevertheless, she says, "I, too, have seen the lack of resources for people in our region to receive the same quality of care in the more populated areas of Virginia."

Speech therapy has surprisingly wide applications. "I have been employed as a speech therapist at public schools, at a local hospital, as an inpatient and outpatient clinician with home health, and at a skilled nursing home, long-term care, and memory facilities," recounts Gates. "My favorite population to serve were the older citizens and I still have a soft spot for that particular group of people."

Currently, Gates owns and operates a small farm where she focuses on home-schooling her two children (the reason is another, illuminating, discus-

See Deep, page 7

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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](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101

## COUNTY OF HENRY

## PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204/2205 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make recommendations on the proposed amendments to the Henry County Comprehensive Plan and to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

The Commission will take comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Henry County Comprehensive Plan to amend Chapter 3: Community Facilities, Services and Utilities, Subsection I, to add language addressing Renewable Energy.

The Commission will also take comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance Section 21-224: Location, appearance, and operational requirements, to add language addressing Project Area Limit.

The full text of these proposed amendments may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

## Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held before the Martinsville Architectural Review Board on July 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the City of Martinsville Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112, for those parties in interest to the following request(s):

- 1) APPLICATION for CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS - Application of JRS Realty Partners, LLC, Applicant and Owner, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow for the display of signage on business property located within the Martinsville Historic District. The property is located at 62 Fayette Street, currently zoned C-UB, Uptown Business District, and will operate as a mixed-use development. The building is approximately 11,411 square feet and was constructed in 1954. Changes or additions of signage to buildings within the Historic District require review by the Architectural Review Board and the granting of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Any comments or questions can be directed to Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist, at (276) 403-5156 or [hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us](mailto:hpowell@ci.martinsville.va.us).

Notice Submitted By:  
Hannah L. Powell  
Community Development Specialist

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

# Historical Society to sponsor “Red, White & Brew”

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor “Red, White, & Brew with Elena Flores Duo” as part of Sounds on the Square on Friday, July 7, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Admission is free. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beer and wine in a non-disposable, collectable event cup, and Palumbo’s will sell food. Wear your most patriotic attire as we observe America’s 247th birthday. Sparklers will be provided for a special expression and group song of American pride. Bring a blanket or lawn chair – holiday decorations welcome.

Originally from Stafford, Virginia, Elena Flores is a singer/songwriter and performing artist residing in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her



**The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor “Red, White, & Brew with Elena Flores Duo” on Friday, July 7.**

artistic approach is shaped from a diverse and dynamic musical background as well as years of formal training. She has a love for emotive melodies and honest expressions, and catches refrains that stem from musical influences like The Beatles, The Supremes, and Queen. She strives for vocal versatility and honest performance as she seeks to touch the hearts of others through music. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in vocal performance.

John Phillips, Historical Society President, said, “We should all agree that Independence Day is worth celebrating more than just one day. Wear your best patriotic colors and join us as we come together as a community to celebrate our nation’s birth. Join us for a relaxing evening and let Palumbo’s cook your supper, Scuffle Hill quench your thirst, and Elena provide your entertainment.”

“Sounds on the Square” is coordinated

by the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, Children First Pediatrics, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, and Sarver Cleaning Services. Enjoyed by patrons of all ages, generations, and cultures, the remaining schedule includes August 4, September 1, and October 6. The Historic Henry County Courthouse and Plaza are fully handicap accessible.

## Strayer

from page 1

where I can meet a different group of people and have an impact in a different way,” she said.

Strayer said her father is also turning 85 years old in September and is completely blind.

“It’s hard. As a superintendent, I believe you need to be at all those evening events so that you know what’s happening and interact with people, and it’s hard to do those things with my father and the way he is,” she said.

Strayer attended school in Henry County and returned as a student teacher in 1991 at Bassett High School. She was hired there the following year, starting in August 1992. Strayer served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of instruction, assistant superintendent for instruction, assistant superintendent for operations administrative services, and superintendent.

“I love this place,” she said of the school division. “It’s hard. There’s been a lot of tears shed the last couple of months.”

Her husband has a saying that Strayer said she often repeats: “Life’s all about relationships and how you treat people. And I have been blessed with having so many people come into my life through my different jobs at the school system and forged a lot of lifelong friendships. This school system has given me so many opportunities and experiences,” she said.

Strayer believes her greatest accomplishment as superintendent was forging relationships with others. A firm believer in a person’s civic duty, Strayer thinks one of the problems in society is people who don’t feel they have a voice or don’t think they can say things.

“I think I have spent the last five years trying to encourage people that are in the trenches. Like, sometimes people that are above don’t know exactly

what the problems are, but if people speak up and say, ‘here’s an issue or here’s something that’s not right,’ then we can affect change,” she said.

Strayer is also proud of her efforts to make the school’s salary scale equitable, instilling high expectations for academic achievement and behavior in everyone, and ensuring that everyone knows the division cares about the students.

“It’s not just that we have them from eight in the morning till three in the afternoon. We truly care about these students and” want them to “be able to look back and say, ‘Henry County schools helped me,’” she said.

Strayer said the bonds she developed with others, coworkers and students, are among her best memories of her time with the school division.

“I have so many students, they’ve included me in their lives. The last few months they’ve been ‘Oh, I can’t believe you’re leaving, you made such a difference in our lives,’” she said, tearing up.

Former students who have gone into education have reached out to her, including one she hadn’t heard from since 1995, as well as parents of those she taught.

“So, I would say that overall, it’s the relationships that when people have reached back out and said, ‘you made a difference because you took the time to listen and to encourage me to do my best or to try harder,’” she said.

Strayer said she feels blessed to have the opportunities, experiences, and the trust of the community.

“I look forward to continuing to work with our community, to let people know what a great community Martinsville-Henry County is and all the things that our community has to offer, and just try to keep enriching the community,” she said.

## Garden

from page 2

Study Club, serves as the 2022-2024 state president. Danville’s Kris Carbone, member of the Garden Club of Danville, serves as the state first vice president and Restoration Committee liaison for the Historical Society.

The Historical Society coordinated welcome bags for the visit. The following organizations contributed items: Bassett Historical Center, Carter Bank & Trust, Fayette Area Historical Initiative, The Harvest Foundation, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, Martinsville-Henry County SPCA, Patrick & Henry Community College, Sarver Cleaning Services, and Tourism Office of Martinsville & Henry County.

John Phillips, Historical Society president, stated, “The Historical Society was proud and humbled to host the Garden Club of Virginia. The GCV and its local clubs are significant to communities across the Commonwealth. Historic Garden Week may be for only a few days, but the lasting impression exists for many, many years.

“Our Historic Henry County Courthouse was



**Ryan Karroll, Arborist, and Rob Allen, Assistant Division Manager, both of Bartlett Tree Experts, presented landscaping education to members of the Garden Club of Virginia, including Danville’s Kris Carbone (fourth from left), Garden Club of Virginia first vice president.**



**Members of the Garden Club of Virginia’s Restoration Committee toured the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.**

fortunate to be the benefactor in 2015. The Historical Society enjoys our continuing, collaborative relationship.” Lewis responded, “What a fabulous meeting in Martinsville! I cannot thank you enough for host-

ing the GCV Restoration Committee at the Historic Henry County Courthouse. “The set-up was perfect, and the gifts from local organizations and businesses were lovely. How thoughtful of you to provide that special

touch for our guests from around Virginia. They loved their visit and had such kind words about our community. Again, thank you for your gracious hospitality and commitment to our treasured historic property.”

## Deep

from page 4

sion), gardening, and all aspects of farming. “I am very interested in promoting agro-tourism in our region of Southwest Virginia. I want to promote a better understanding to visitors from more urban areas of what the day-to-day life of being a farmer is like, and the hard work that goes into it.”

Her vision of what’s needed in southwest Virginia goes much further than garden and pasture. “We need better roads and infrastructure – that includes broadband. We need better access to health care.

“We need to have more regulations to stop utility companies from exorbitant increases,” she said. To prove their seriousness about facing that need, Gates and her mother have refused to accept donations from AEP or Dominion Power, even though it’s available.

“Rural folks need working-class rural representation. We need to have more legislation and funds that will benefit the people in our region,” Gates concluded. “Far too often our voices are not heard and people in power ignore us and our needs.”

“These two women are truly candidates of the people -- not well-to-do lawyers who do not

See Deep, page 7

## Dino

from page 2

### Stegosaurus

A large, plant-eating dinosaur distinguishable by two rows of bony plates on its back. It lived during the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago

### Acrocanthosaurus

A massive, carnivorous theropod dinosaur that existed in what is now North America during the Early Cretaceous period, from approximately 125 million to 100 million years ago

### Allosaurus

A large, carnivorous theropod dinosaur of the Late Jurassic period, from approximately 155 to 150 million years ago

### Platecarpus Tympaniticus

A 17 foot long cast skeleton of a massive sea-going reptile that lived 81 to 84 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This animal, a species of mosasaur, once swam in waters that covered what is now the central United States!

### Tyrannosaurus rex (skull)

One of the most iconic dinosaurs of all time, T. rex was a large carnivorous dinosaur that lived in what is now western North America approximately 68 to 66 million years ago

### Dromaeosaurus (skull)

A medium-sized carnivorous dinosaur and a very close relative of the famous Velociraptor that lived in what is now the western United States and Alberta, Canada during the Late Cretaceous from approximately 77 to 74 million years ago

### Albertosaurus (skull)

A genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaurs that lived in western North America during the Late Cretaceous Period, from approximately 70 million years ago

### Edmontosaurus (skull)

A genus of duck-billed dinosaur that lived in western North America during the Cretaceous Period approximately 73 to 66 million years ago.

### Dunkleosteus (skull)

An armored fish from a group of fish called placoderms that lived approximately 360 to 380 million years ago.

### Tylosaurus (skull)

A gigantic, sea-going relative of lizards, Tylosaurus was one of the biggest ocean predators ever to live. With a skull almost six feet long, a body over forty feet, and a mouth full of pointed teeth, it could pretty much eat whatever it wanted, from fish to other giant lizards.

Dinosaur Fossils Galore will be among the exhibits.

See original dinosaur bones from the collections of VMNH! Since the 1990s, VMNH research teams have been digging for 150-million-year-old dinosaur bones in Wyoming. Over that time, they’ve collected parts of long-necked sauropods, the plated Stegosaurus, and the predatory giant Allosaurus! Dino Tracks!

Dinosaur footprints have been found in the hundreds across Virginia, from the far north to the southern border near Danville. See original tracks of three-toed carnivorous dinosaurs—over 200 million years old-- from across the Commonwealth.

Festivities Abound, with face painting, balloon animals, food trucks, and a host of dino-themed children’s activities and crafts will take place both days of the event. Stop by the Museum Store to browse the special collection of dino-themed items for sale or capture a memory of your adventure at the Dino Fest Photo Booth.

Experience the museum’s newest special exhibit Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas.

Using a combination of major fossil finds, captivating computer simulations, and provocative models, Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas introduces a dynamic vision of dinosaurs and the scientists who study them. The exhibit examines, in great detail, recent scientific sleuthing and the array of investigative tools—

See Dino, page 6

# Hometown from page 1



Natalie Hodge talked with Felecia Shelor, of Poor Farmer's Market and Concord Corner Store, about her businesses.



Natalie Hodge geared up to learn how to weld while with Chris Lawless of Lawless Welding & Fabrication, Inc.

list of the different types of businesses, Hodge said the company started to reach out to chambers of commerce, economic development directors, and businesses directly through social media to get them to apply to be on the show.

"Then after they submitted a letter of interest or a quick form of interest, then we dug a little deeper and asked some more questions of those businesses that fell into kind of the categories that we wanted to feature," she said.

Rise Collaborative, an entrepreneurial ecosystem development group for GO Virginia Region 3, was an early major sponsor for the second season, Hodge said of the economic development initiative that represents several different cities and

counties in the Southside area of Virginia.

Keeping to the agency's footprint, Hodge said businesses included a range from "as far west as Patrick County, and as east as Brunswick (County). Then our northernmost community is Prince Edward (County), and we have all points in between," she said.

When filming, Hodge and her team spent about a half day with each business. She said they got to know the entrepreneurs before moving into filming because of the application process and constant contact to discuss what each wanted the world to see about their respective businesses.

Filming includes a tour of the businesses, several interview sections, and then a hands-on experience of what it's like to work at the businesses,



The second season of the web series Hometown Hustle features businesses in 11 different counties in Southwest Virginia.

Hodge said.

"That's really an important part of the production because we want people to see what it's like to actually walk in that entrepreneur's shoes to see some of the tasks that they have to handle on a day-to-day basis, and

to demystify some of the processes of entrepreneurship and whatever that individual businesses owner is trying to do with their business," she said.

Of the numerous businesses featured in

See Hometown, page 7

# Persistent from page 1

we've seen recently," he said.

The biggest impact will be the county's efficiency in responding to calls.

"Obviously, the more people you get helping to provide services, the more efficiently you can operate, and the volunteers are extremely crucial to the success of our system," Tatum said.

"With that volunteer organization closing, the biggest negative impact is there's a chance response to calls for service in the Axton area will come from another area of the county, which could cause a delayed response and response time," he said.

However, "for the

most part, we've still been able to maintain a pretty good response time for the area because we have career staffing that has been able to pick up the calls when Axton has not been able to do so," he said.

The ALSC was established in 1992 by a group of volunteers driven by the desire to serve the Axton community, Henry County, and certain areas of Pittsylvania County through emergency medical services (EMS).

The annual funds the squad received from the county for its EMS operations will be divided amongst the other rescue squads and fire departments.

# Dino from page 5

from bioengineering computer software to CT scans—used by modern scientists to reinterpret many of the most persistent and puzzling mysteries of dinosaurs: what they looked like, how they behaved, and how they moved. It also explores the complex and hotly debated theories of why—or even whether—they became extinct.

*Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.

The event includes on-site food options. Admission prices are \$10/Ages 18-59; \$5/

Ages 3-17; \$5/Seniors 60+.

Admission is FREE for children under 3; FREE for VMNH Members; FREE for members of ASTC Passport participating institutions; FREE for EBT card holders who present their EBT card and official photo ID.

Group rates are accepted.

\*\*Admission is available at the door. Paying attendees on Friday will be allowed to experience the event again on Saturday at no additional charge. All Dino Festival offerings and information listed is subject to change.\*\*

\*\*\*\*This year's event will take place indoors and outdoors. Parking for this event will take place off-site and free of charge. Additional parking information, including a list of suggested parking lots and a parking map, will be posted in the days leading up to the festival.\*\*\*\*

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

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# Va. DWR accepting applications for conservation officers

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is taking applications for the 13th Conservation Police training academy through July 24. Conservation Police Officers (CPOs) are the heart of the Agency. On any given day, CPOs are outdoors protecting the citizens of Virginia, including hunters, anglers, boaters, paddlecraft users, wildlife watchers, or just people enjoying a day outside. Our CPOs aren't just committed to wildlife and fisheries, they're committed to caring for the entire Commonwealth. While the days can be long, they are filled with patrolling any of our waters, grabbing an ATV to track sick or injured wildlife, helping biologists retrieve a baby bear cub from a tree, monitoring our Wildlife Management Areas, or assisting another agency with one of our K9s. For more information, visit [https://dwr.virginia.gov/conservation-police/recruiting/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nftf&utm\\_content=nftf\\_cpo\\_june2023](https://dwr.virginia.gov/conservation-police/recruiting/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nftf&utm_content=nftf_cpo_june2023)

## Deep from page 5

have a clue about what an everyday working person, a retiree, a pregnant woman, a child or adult who might be a little different from the white male stereotype, or someone with a disability might face day to day," said John Reynolds, chairman of Patrick County's Democratic Committee. Quesenberry and Gates plan to return to Stuart on July 27, at the picnic shelter in DeHart Park just above the swimming pool, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be a picnic-style event with individuals bringing food and beverage (non-

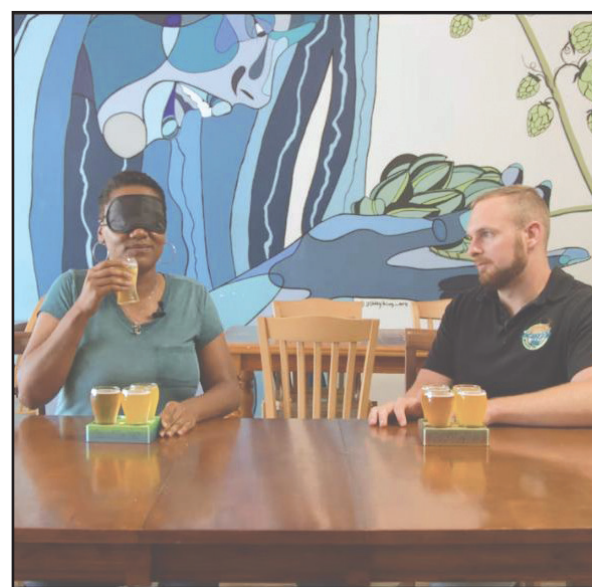
alcoholic). It would also be a good time to ask Gates why her children are homeschooled and to explore their positions on gun ownership, women's rights, and campaign finance reform. Under recent redistricting, House District 47, where Quesenberry will challenge Williams, now includes all of Patrick, Floyd, and Carroll counties plus parts of Henry County. Senate District 7, where Gates will face off against Stanley, covers all or portions of Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, and Patrick counties.



# Charges filed in connection with stabbing incident

Christopher Claude Hill, 40, of 440 Green Acres Circle, Martinsville, is being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond in connection with an alleged stabbing incident on June 27, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office. The Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center received a call around 10:09 p.m. to report an individual had been stabbed at 270 Green Acres Circle, Martinsville. Deputies responding to the scene located the victim, Robert Essington III, 26, in the yard. Essington suffered lacerations to his arm and face, and was treated for his injuries at the scene by EMS personnel. During the investigation, authorities learned that Hill had arrived at the residence and allegedly began arguing with Essington's girlfriend. Essington attempted to defuse the situation. At some point during the argument, a knife allegedly was produced, and Essington was injured. Hill was apprehended at his residence without incident, and charged with malicious wounding, the release stated. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

# Hometown from page 6



Hodge did a blind taste test with beers at Scuffle Hill Brewing Company in Collinsville.

the season, Hodge said she had the most intense experience at Lawless Welding & Fabrication, Inc. because she actually put on all the gear and went through a welding tutorial. "I have the deepest level of appreciation for people who go into welding, because it's an art form, it's tough work. It's hot in all of that equipment and gear, and it is something that is so absolutely necessary for us to have awesome tradespeople and welders to be in our community," she said. Hodge added she would give the experience with Lawless Welding a gold star. Her time with Poor Farmers Market and owner Felecia Shelor earned Hodge's award for the most heartwarming story. "Because she (Shelor) is this amazing businesswoman who developed her business selling produce on the side of the road into being a force in that community. She not only has a couple of businesses in that space, but she also supports other businesses," Hodge said. Hodge said she enjoyed being around Shelor and her family when filming that episode. "That was super inspiring for me and the whole team," she said. Hodge's company is currently having soft conversations about what it wants the third season to look like. Entrepreneurs interested in having their businesses featured on the web series may contact Hodge's team at [info@rudysgirl.com](mailto:info@rudysgirl.com) or [Facebook.com/HometownHustle](https://www.facebook.com/HometownHustle). For more information, go to [hometownhustle.tv](https://www.hometownhustle.tv).

# Renovation from page 1

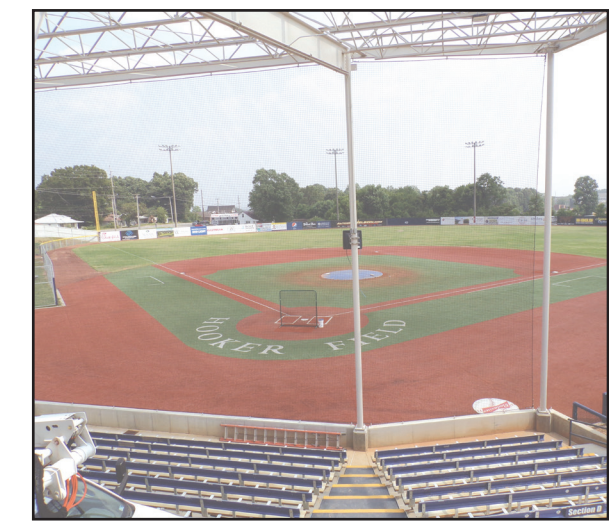
sions stand will include plenty of space for grills and fryers, allowing for a wider selection of food and drinks for fans. Office space, a press box, a broadcasting booth, and two suites will be on the second floor. Both suites are available for rent and are suitable for groups of 12-15 people. Each will have its own restroom, an outdoor balcony, and amazing views of the field. For the fans in the stands, the newly covered seating will offer a more comfortable experience, sheltered from the sun and rain.

The covered seating also will have potential benefits beyond the fans' comfort, and even baseball. "We've always been told by the Coastal Plain League at whatever point the city gets covered seating in our facility, that we could potentially be in line to host the All-Star event or games. That would be a big event for the community," said Towarnicki. "You can also consider having other activities out there other than just baseball games. With covered seating you might possibly have some type of music

activity that can take advantage of covered seating," he said. Martinsville Mustangs General Manager Connor Akeman said he feels Hooker Field will be among the best in the Coastal Plain League and will rival many Single-A stadiums when the renovation project is completed. Towarnicki agrees. "It's going to be a big improvement for the community," said Towarnicki. "We think it's going to bolster the attendance at the games, which is going to be good for the city and for the community."



The new press box will include two suites with outdoor balconies.



The view from one of the second-floor suites.



Upgraded concession areas will offer more variety for hungry and thirsty fans.



The suites will have space for 12 to 15 people to enjoy the game.



The larger concessions stand will include a wider selection of food and drinks.

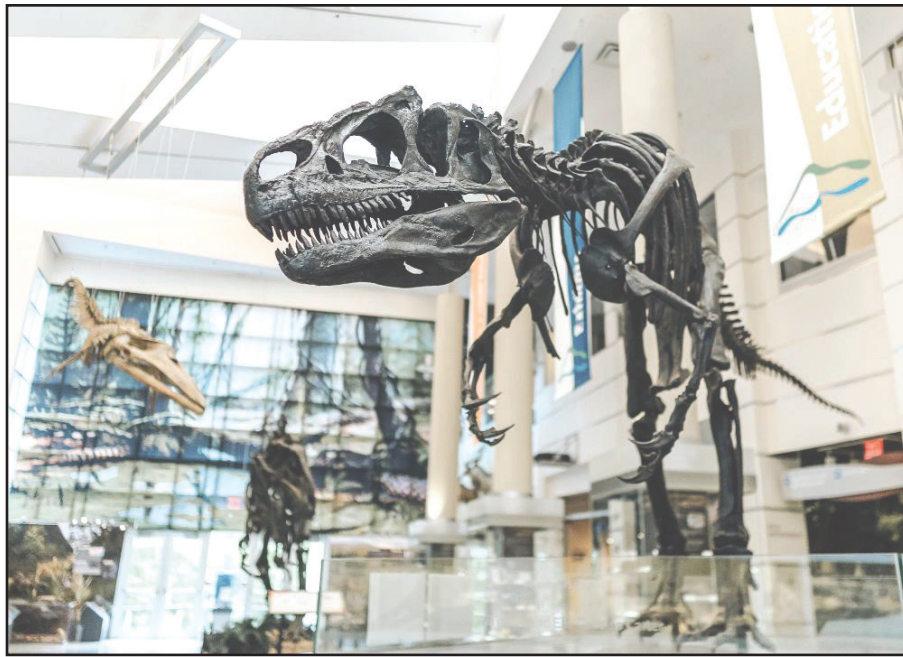


Soon the seating atop both dugouts will be covered.

# EBT cardholders continue to enjoy free admission to the VMNH



Acrocanthosaurus inside the Harvest Foundation Hall of Ancient Life



Allosaurus inside the Harvest Foundation Hall of Ancient Life

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders will continue to receive free admission to the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) thanks to the renewal of a successful partnership between the museum and Martinsville-based Hooker Furnishings. The partnership allows for the museum to waive all admission fees for visitors who present their EBT card at the VMNH box office now through Spring 2024 as part of the Museums for All initiative led by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Prior to the partnership, EBT cardholders received reduced museum admission fees of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child.

“Since Hooker Furnishings began supporting the museum’s participation in the Museums for All initiative in March 2021, over 3,000 EBT cardholders and their immediate family members have been able to take advantage of free admission to VMNH,” said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. “It’s an ideal partnership that plays a pivotal role in the museum’s efforts to become more accessible for all visitors of all ages.”

To receive free admission, EBT cardholders from any state must simply present their EBT card and accompanying identification at the museum box office upon arrival. Free admission will be granted to the cardholder and the cardholder’s immediate family members living within the same household, with a limit of 5 individuals total.

Hooker Furnishings’ support of VMNH dates back to June 1995, when the company became a corporate member of the museum. Since then, the company has supported the museum in various ways, ranging from providing in-kind luxury furniture items for the VMNH Foundation’s “Grapes and Grains” silent auction fundraiser, to providing a

\$100,000 gift for the development of the museum’s Hooker Furniture Theater, which debuted in Spring 2007 and has since been transformed to become the Hooker Furniture Discovery Reef, a hands-on, interactive play and discovery area for children.

“Hooker Furnishings is proud to continue a partnership with VMNH that began over 25 years ago,” said Jeremy R. Hoff, Chief Executive Officer. “This partnership is an integral part of our Environmental, Social and Governance (‘ESG’) efforts. We believe helping to educate the next generation is an important part of our environmental stewardship responsibilities and VMNH is the perfect vehicle to do that through its research and interpretation of our natural history. Additionally, helping to remove barriers to STEM-based educational opportunities to underserved populations is a critical step forward socially,” Hoff concluded.

Hooker Furnishings is in the process of adopting a broader set of policies and practices addressing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and ethics and governance that it believes will create long-term value for its shareholders, while investing in its associates and communities and positively impacting the environment. The Company is actively working to expand and refine its ESG initiatives based on current best practices, shareholder expectations and regulatory developments.

In addition to the support of Hooker Furnishings, the museum’s participation in the Museums for All initiative is supported by community partner Carter Bank & Trust.

“VMNH’s participation in the Museums for All initiative is an inspiring success story of corporations, businesses and government entities jointly supporting a program that aims to help make museums accessi-

ble to everyone,” said Barber. “We’re not only incredibly thankful for the support of Hooker Furnishings and Carter Bank & Trust, but we’re truly proud of our continued partnerships with these two entities.”

“At Carter Bank we want to provide opportunities for people and businesses to prosper, which is why we’ve long supported the Virginia Museum of Natural History,” Bank President Brad Langs said. “We’re fortunate to have the museum here in Martinsville and want to ensure economic factors don’t prohibit anyone from being able to visit and enjoy the benefits.”

Currently, the museum is open to visitors Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m. The museum is open on Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend and closed all other Sundays.

Regular museum admission is \$10 for ages 18-59 and \$5 for children and youth ages 3-17, seniors 60+, and college students. VMNH Members and children under 3 receive free admission.

For more information about the museum, visit [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net).

The museum’s current special exhibit is Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas, which will be exhibited through January 20. The exhibit reveals a vivid picture of what living, breathing dinosaurs were really like by exploring how current thinking about dinosaur biology has changed over the past two decades. The exhibition is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.

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