

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, July 15, 2023

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Members of the Industrial Development Authority, Henry County Board of Supervisors and Martinsville City Council discussed revenue-sharing agreements Tuesday at The Harvest Foundation headquarters.

Revised revenue sharing agreement inked Tuesday

by Holly Kozelsky

The Henry County Board of Supervisors, the Martinsville City Council and the county's Industrial Development Authority (IDA) approved a revised revenue-sharing agreement on the Commonwealth

Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) during a joint meeting held at the Harvest Foundation on July 11. The atmosphere at the meeting was jovial as county and city officials met around a long table, with other participants, including Harvest staff and board members, and observers seated around

the edges of the room. Among those gathered at the meeting table were County Administrator Dale Wagoner, outgoing Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki, who is due to retire at the end of this month, and Glen Adams of the Berkley Group, who will serve

as interim city manager starting Aug. 1. Wagoner explained that in 2007, the county, city and IDA entered into a revenue-sharing agreement "to facilitate the joint development of an expansion of the county's Patriot Centre and new industrial park located on 220 South.

See Revised, page 7

Hatcher withdraws from sheriff's race and endorses Mills

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Daryl Hatcher officially withdrew from the Henry County Sheriff's race on Wednesday, July 12.

In a social media post, Hatcher said he and candidate Del Mills decided to combine their efforts to win the election in November against Sheriff Wayne Davis.

When campaigning, Mills wrote in a social media post that many voters expressed a desire for change, and noted displeasure with the way now retired Henry County sheriff Lane Perry stepped down.

Perry's term would have ended at the end of the year. His retirement was effective June 30.

Davis' term began on July 1.

"Both of our campaigns have focused on bringing change to the Henry County Sheriff's Office. We share a common goal, so it makes sense to combine our efforts. If we continue to campaign and run separate races for sheriff it only splits the vote in November and reduces our chances of success," Mills wrote in the post.

Hatcher wrote that he and Mills put their egos aside and strategically looked at their strengths.

"We are putting service before politics. Based on what we found, we know our best strategy moving forward will be for Del Mills to remain the sheriff's candidate, with me agreeing to serve as chief deputy," he said in the post.

"Combining our efforts and forming a team that is solely focused on improving public safety is the core of this agreement. Everyone wants to live in a safer community, to have safe schools for our children, eliminating drug abuse, and a sheriff's office that is responsive, and responsible, to the public," Mills wrote online.

In a Wednesday response, Davis said, "the announcement that Hatcher will withdraw from the Henry County Sheriff's race to support Mills doesn't change anything about my campaign. My campaign to be elected Sheriff in November has never been about any specific challenger. The foundation of my campaign focuses on two things, my continuing dedication to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens we serve daily and my training and experience. These facts remain the same regardless of the challenger.

"I would remind the community that my administrative team and I are all certified by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (D.C.J.S.); my challenger cannot say that. Why is this important? Modern law enforcement and corrections changes daily; being certified by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services ensures you maintain regular training and are up to date with current laws and best practices," Davis said.

The Sheriff of Henry County is elected to lead 212

See Hatcher, page 2



Just one week into his service as sheriff of Henry County, Wayne Davis held a press conference to talk about "a concerning use-of-force incident" which took place in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.



Sheriff's Office employees lined the back wall of the conference room as the press conference was being held.

Review, investigation launched after 'concerning use of force' incident

by Holly Kozelsky

Four Henry County deputies have been suspended without pay from their duties at the Henry County Adult Detention Center following what Sheriff Wayne Davis called "a concerning use-of-force incident" which resulted in injuries to an inmate.

The Virginia State Police are investigating the incident, and the sheriff's office also is conducting an internal review, Davis said.

On July 1, a man was arrested for being drunk in public and brought into the jail, Davis said during a July 7 press conference at the sheriff's office. When he got into the jail, "he was intoxicated and very uncooperative."

Shortly after the man was brought into the jail, he refused to change into his jail-issued uniform, Davis said. "That situation ultimately escalated and resulted in Henry County deputies using force on the subject.

See Review, page 5

Wagoner reflects on his first year in the county's top slot

by Holly Kozelsky

At 7 or 7:30 on a weekday morning, Dale Wagoner walks past vibrant enlarged photographs on canvas of popular features of Henry County, on his way to his office.

"I'm blessed to be part of the county team," said the Henry County administrator who is just celebrating his first year in that role, after a 41-year career with the county.

He came to the county in 1992, between his junior and senior years at Ferrum College, as an intern for the Public Safety department. A full-



A display in the conference room of the county administration's area of the Henry County Administration Building displays mementos and symbols such as a football and helmet signed by members of the state championship Magna Vista High School teams; a can of water manufactured by Crown Holdings; and flags from the six nations represented by industries in Henry County: Great Britain (from left), Israel, Germany, United States, Canada and Poland.

time job opened up, so he applied and became the EMS coordinator for rescue squads. That led to a hectic year of both

working and going to school full time: "It was tough," he said.

He also earned a Master of Public

Administration degree from Virginia Tech in 2002 and has completed several programs in

See Wagoner, page 5

Interim City Manager named

Glen Adams was named the Interim City Manager for the City of Martinsville. Current City Manager Leon Towarnicki's retirement will take effect on August 1.

Adams, contracted by the Berkley Group, will serve as a bridge between City Managers while the nationwide search for a permanent replacement is underway.

With a commitment to Martinsville and its citizens, Adams expressed his enthusiasm for being part of the selection process to identify the ideal candidate who will continue the city's progress.

"I am deeply honored to contribute to the City of Martinsville and its remarkable community, as I serve my role in the process to select the best person to move the City forward," said Adams.

Adams brings more than 25 years of military experience and nearly 20 years of non-

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UPDATES



Sounds on the Square



During July's Sounds of the Square at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum, sponsored by the MHC Historical Society, Elena "Elena M" Flores sang, and Jefferson Dalby played keyboard and other instruments. The next Sounds on the Square will be "Courthouse Karaoke" with BJ's Karaoke on Aug. 4; "Courthouse Crawling," line dancing with instructor Sue Ann Ehmann and DJ Mary Kaye Johnson on Sept. 1; and "Harvest Moon Ball" with Tate Tuck Trio on Oct. 6. Each event is held from 5:30-10 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. Admission is free; bring lawn chairs, though chairs and tables also will be available.



Marian Myers (left) and Tara Compton have a chat during Sounds on the Square, where the audience assembled on the brick-paved patio and lawn.



Linda Adams (center), a member of First United Methodist Church in Martinsville, is the lead volunteer for several ministries at her church, including responding to CarePortal requests. Also pictured are Sheryl Agee (right), senior operating officer at The Harvest Foundation, and April Evans (left), assistant director of services at Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.

Partnership works to engage local faith community serving families in need

The Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services harnesses the power of the faith-based community through a web-based platform called CarePortal. A typical request made through the CarePortal may look like this:

"A grandmother has assumed custody of her 5 (five) grandchildren to keep them out of foster care. The children's ages are 11, 10, 8, 2, and 9 months. A need has arisen for a bed for the three oldest children. The grandmother has requested a queen bed."

CarePortal helps the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services (DSS) preserve families and keep children safe in their homes, which is the ultimate goal, according to April Evans, assistant director

See **Partnership**, page 6

Hatcher

from page 1

sworn deputies and 24 civilian support staff. Each of those deputies is required by law to be certified by D.C.J.S. In order to effectively lead those deputies, the sheriff's office "needs a Sheriff who is also certified. I am not only certified by D.C.J.S. but also one of only 29 Sheriffs in Virginia ever to become certified by the Virginia Sheriff's Institute," Davis wrote in his response.

Davis and his team have worked to assign a School Resource Officer (SRO) to every county school "and brought the D.A.R.E. program back to Henry County students for the first time in over 20 years. We pledge to bring the Henry County Sheriff's Office to the forefront of technology to fight crime better and serve our citizens," Davis wrote.

"As the Sheriff of Henry County, I will continue to promote public safety and operate a safe and humane correctional facility. I will continually promote transparency, high expectations and a clear mission for the sheriff's office. I will work hard to keep Henry County safe by making public safety my number one priority. Utilizing our county budget experience, funds requested by the sheriff's office will promote our values and yield results to enhance the safety and security of the community and minimize costs," Davis wrote. "My team and I will meet the county's needs and reach our goals of exemplary law enforcement and correctional services for Henry County."

Veteran honors others with garden display



Army veteran Doug Coates and Marine Corps veteran Bobby Parsons stand with the Marine Corps flag Coates gave to Parsons.



Douglas M. Coates



Army veteran Doug Coates (left) and Marine Corps veteran Bobby Parsons salute the Marine Corps flag which Coates had given to Parsons.



Douglas M. Coates, who served in the military for 12 years, has begun displaying an exhibit to honor veterans and the military in his front yard on Mt. Olivet Road, near the Chatham Road intersection.

by Holly Kozelsky

Douglas M. Coates appreciates veterans, and a garden display honoring them makes sure they know it.

Coates, who works in maintenance construction, is an Ohio native who most recently lived on Goblintown Road in Fairstone before he moved into the home of his fiancé, Pam Seager, on Mt. Olivet Road where it meets Chatham Road (Route 57), in March.

He served 12 years in the army, where "I tore my knee out, and I tore my shoulder out," he said. However, his patriotism began well before his career in the military. When he was a child, he helped his

hometown's local VFW put out flags on holidays.

Coates served in the Army from 1981-85, and the National Guard from 1986-87. Then he was back in the Army from 1987-94.

"I was all around it but never went" to war, he said. Places he has been stationed include Korea, Panama and Alaska.

Four years ago, he created the design of a silhouette of a soldier crouched down with a rifle at a cross. Frank Woods of Calloway made it for him. That silhouette is in the background of the memorial display which also features more than a dozen small American flags, a large American flag and the flags of the Army,



Since moving to Mt. Olivet Road in March, army veteran Doug Coates has put up a patriotic yard display for Memorial Day and Independence Day, and plans more for future holidays.

Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy.

No, the Marine Corps flag is not missing — it hangs at the home of veteran Bobby Parsons.

Coates is a member of AMVETS 35, and when a waitress told him that her father, Parsons, was a Marine and had been wanting a Marine Corps flag, Coates gave him his flag. He plans to get a replacement for it to be used in subsequent displays.

Seager's father was in the Army Air Corps, so a flag representing that will be added in the future as well, he added.

Coates had erected military flag displays at his home in Fairy Stone, but Goblintown Road doesn't get much traf-

fic, he said; he is happy that more people can see it now on Mt. Olivet Road.

He first put up the display on Mt. Olivet Road around Memorial Day weekend. The display was up again for the week surrounding Independence Day. Next, he'll put it up for Labor Day and then Veteran's Day. Those displays will be enhanced further with pictures of his father and Seager's father.

The display is not restricted to just holidays.

It probably also will be up for the weekend of the big Ohio State — Michigan game, he added with a grin. He roots for Ohio State, and Seager, a Michigan native, will be rooting for Michigan.

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

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

Friday, July 14

Movie in the Park at Jack Dalton Park, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, with "DC League of Super Pets." Krypto the Super-Dog and Superman are inseparable best friends, sharing the same superpowers and fighting crime side by side in Metropolis. Featuring Dwayne Johnson, Keanu Reeves, Kevin Hart, the movie is shown next to the picnic shelter at Jack Dalton Park. Admission is free. Music and games will start at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 9 p.m. Candy, snacks, water, soda and other items will be available for purchase. If the parking lot in Jack Dalton Park is full, you can park in the administration building parking lot and access the park using the steps behind the administration building. Contact Henry County Parks and Recreation at (276) 634-4640 for additional information or questions.

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/>.

Monday, July 17

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the board will not receive public comment.

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

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.

Saturday, July 29-Sunday, July 30
The Patrick & Henry Men's Basketball team will be hosting their second camp of the year from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. each day. The camp is open to boys and girls aged 8-12. Previous camps have been fun filled events with the right mix of skill training and fun games for children interested in basketball. Don't miss out, register now. The \$40 cost covers both days of the camp (no deposit required). To register, contact Coach Mayshack at cmayshack@patrickhenry.edu.

ONGOING Saturdays through November 18

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

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

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

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

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

Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11

a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

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

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

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

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

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

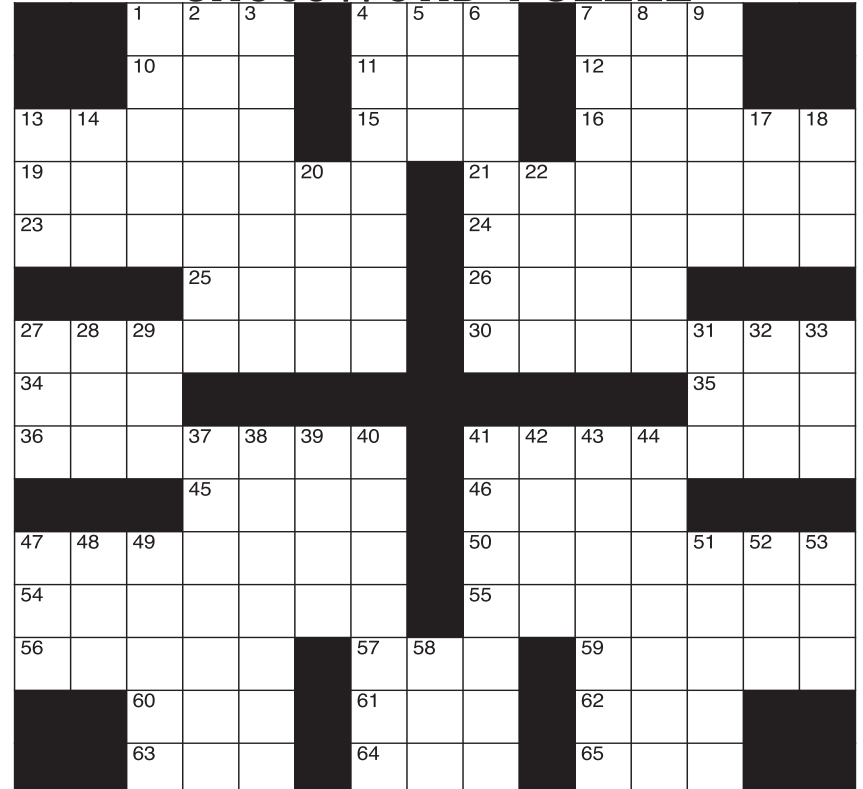
Keepers of the Kingdom Vacation Bible School at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 18075 A.L. Philpott Hwy.,

Ridgeway. Register now to get a free T-shirt by visiting online at hbcridgeway.myanswers.com. For more information, visit 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 on 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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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|--|--|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Sr. enlisted Army member
4. Payroll firm
7. Monetary unit of Macao
10. Cooking vessel
11. Cow sound
12. Hairpiece
13. Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
15. Mother
16. Remove from record
19. Foolish
21. Mailman
23. Unit of data size
24. Stirred
25. Deceptive movement
26. We all have one
27. Direct from pasture beef animal
30. A person's own self
34. Helps little firms
35. Deep, red-brown sea beam</p> | <p>36. Tumbler
41. A short section of a musical composition
45. Young woman (French)
46. Wings
47. Wine bottles
50. Thin layers of rock
54. Opposite to
55. American state
56. Uncertainty about something
57. Basics
59. Indian seaport
60. Owed as a debt
61. Buffer solution
62. Unit of work or energy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. One point south of due east
65. Born of</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Small stem bearing leaves
2. Female Bacchanalians
3. Mediterranean city
4. Measures electric current
5. Arrived extinct
6. Edible butterflyfish
7. Causing wonder or astonishment
8. Behaviors showing high moral standards
9. Ancient Irish alphabets
13. Footballer Newton
14. Utilize
17. Sum of absolute errors
18. Opposite of the beginning
20. Shoe company
22. Algerian port city
27. Girls organization (abbr.)
28. Type of cell (abbr.)
29. Swiss river
31. When you hope to get there</p> | <p>32. Fall behind
33. Expresses distaste, disapproval
37. Volume containing several novels
38. Less sharp
39. Food for the poor
40. Having made a valid will
41. Royal estates
42. Relating to wings
43. Japanese three-stringed lute
44. Taking something through force
47. Angry
48. Before the present
49. Showy ornaments
51. Norway
52. Comedienne Gasteyer
53. Consume
58. Founder of Babism</p> |
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OPINION

Regarding climate change

Back during my former career as a full-time journalist at the Martinsville Bulletin, I wrote a column about climate change.

As I recall, the column was about how I was a climate change skeptic back when I was in high school, but over time, I realized that my skepticism was fueled not by doubt but rather by the paralyzing fear of the inconceivable, existential threat posed by climate change.

The day after the column ran, I arrived to work and one of my colleagues flagged me down. With a knowing grin, she told me that a reader had left a book for me.

The book was published by The Heritage Foundation, and it was all about how climate change is a myth cooked up by scientists out to get some easy money. There was a sticky note on the front of the book informing me that I “just might learn something.”

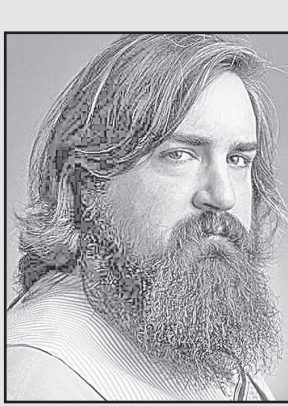
And indeed, I did learn something that day. I looked up The Heritage Foundation and learned that they're a right-wing think tank that digs up scien-

tists willing to swear on a stack of Bibles that horses should be allowed to vote just so long as their checks clear.

The thing about climate change denialism is that every argument presented by deniers withers under the slightest application of critical thinking. My favorite argument is that we cannot trust the scientists who are warning us about climate change because they're all getting paid off under the table, but we CAN trust those honest, straight-shooting scientists in the employ of the oil industry who swear that man-made climate change is a great big hoax.

If you can't trust an oil baron, who can you trust?

I know scientists. I'm friends with scientists. Rest assured, scientists who work in the public sector — the kind of scientists studying climate change with a critical eye — are in little danger of losing their bejeweled golden crowns at the Ferrari dealership. They're doing honest work because they're passionate about it, not because they're looking to make a fat paycheck.



By Ben R. Williams

And that's the exact reason their warnings should be terrifying: they have no agenda beyond the truth.

It's only mid-July, but 2023 is already shaping up to be the hottest year on record, and likely the hottest year within the last 100,000 years. The southwestern U.S. is currently in the grip of a lengthy triple-digit heat wave that shows no sign of letting up any time soon. In Mexico, more than 100 people died between March and June solely from heat.

When it comes to climate change, this summer feels different. For most of my life, climate change has been an abstract threat, something that we would have to figure out how to deal with in twenty or thirty years. It was a prob-

lem that would start somewhere else, somewhere over in the eastern hemisphere, and we would all sit back and shake our heads sadly as poor people far away had to suffer through it.

I'll give the climate change deniers this: the scientists WERE wrong after all, just not in the way the deniers thought. They were too optimistic in their projections and expected us to have more time to deal with the fallout. Instead, we here in America are already getting to experience climate change firsthand, and it's going to get worse before it gets better.

What's that worse going to look like? If you're looking for a profoundly depressing conversation starter, I'll be happy to share the theories I've heard. There will probably be some cascading loss of biodiversity as many animals can't cope with a changing climate and will become extinct. There will be famines as crops can't grow properly (the Texas corn crop this summer is already struggling). Famines will lead to wars for resources. Millions will die from the heat.

After all that, it'll probably get really bad.

Despite all evidence to the contrary, I try not to be defeatist about climate change. There are concrete steps that we as a civilization can take to miti-

gate the damage. We can use solar panels and wind turbines to generate clean energy. We can stop clearcutting forests. We can find ways to manufacture materials and products in a less wasteful manner. We can embrace electric vehicles. Just getting rid of cruise ships alone would make an enormous impact.

The question is, how bad does it have to get before the people demand these changes?

I enjoy a loud, dumb Roland Emmerich disaster movie from time to time. It's fun to watch “Independence Day,” or “2012,” or “The Day After Tomorrow,” or, to a much lesser extent, 1998's “Godzilla.” These are movies where the Earth faces an enormous destructive threat and people of all nations and beliefs put aside their differences to come together and solve the problem.

Roland Emmerich's movies don't make money quite like they used to, and I think climate change is part of the reason why. How can you believe that people will come together to tackle an existential threat when we're literally facing one now and half the people deny it's even a problem?

It's just a little too far-fetched, even for a guy who made a movie about the moon falling out of the sky.

News from the 9th: The Supreme Court



Morgan Griffith Representative

released a series of decisions in cases they have been considering since last October. In the event that you missed them, I will discuss five decisions below that are of particular interest.

Throughout June, the Supreme Court

Working on the

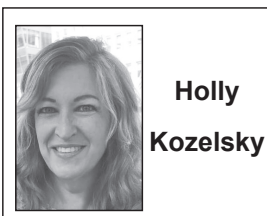
Sabbath

In *Groff v. DeJoy*, the Supreme Court was tasked with considering religious liberty and employment accommodations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Gerald E. Groff sued his employer, the U.S. Postal Service, after he was disciplined for refusing to work on Sunday, based on his evangelical beliefs. In a 9-0 decision, the Court ruled in Groff's favor, stating that an employer must accommodate an employee's religious beliefs unless it can show that doing so would “result in substantial increased costs in relation to the conduct of” the employer's business.

The ruling in this case is a win for the First Amendment. Our country was founded on the principle of religious freedom, and it is important we uphold this belief. Particularly as Virginians, where the first statute of

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Time and Transitions



Holly Kozelsky

When you're a kid, you take summer vacations for granted (even despite yearning for them throughout the school year, especially in spring, as the day of freedom grows closer and closer).

When you're all grown up, having to go to work day after day with never an end in sight is a shocking surprise.

You know it's coming, but that first summer of adulthood, when everyone younger than you has the summer off but you're still trudging to the office or factory or shop, comes as a real

surprise and lays over you like a heavy burden.

I was in my last job for 18 years, and that was a job with very few days off, let alone vacations. In fact, we even worked holidays. So now that I am a free agent, unemployed and unencumbered, I thank my lucky stars that this time of freedom has come during the summer. Finally, the freedom of a kid once again!

So now I have the whole summer ahead of me, plus a month of freedom on top of that behind me. And what do I do to fill the time?

Why, what I was doing when I was working of course! But on a much smaller scale.

The last two decades of my life have been in newspaper, so when I was looking for something fun to do, I went no further than to ask Henry County

Enterprise Debbie Hall if I could write a few articles for her. She graciously agreed.

The difference now is that I can do what I like for a couple of hours a day (if that, even) instead of just constantly, like I was doing before. It keeps me involved in the community, talking with people, learning from them, and continuing to engage with people I've enjoyed interacting with in the past, plus meeting interesting new folks.

That light schedule leaves me with plenty of time to do what I've always known in my heart of hearts that I always would do if I weren't working so much, which is to have the house perfectly

See Time, page 6

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

The Southside's #1 Local TV Station

LEGAL NOTICES

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

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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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CJ23000017-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Rd., 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services v. Donald Martin

The object of this suit is to:
Terminate all residual parental rights to daughter McKenzie Rose Rector. It is ORDERED that Donald Martin appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

July 11, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
COUNTY OF HENRY, VA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FY24 BUDGET

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed amendment to the Henry County FY2023-24 Budget as necessary to appropriate a total of \$28,237,705 in grant funds received for the development of Lot #2 at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. The appropriation exceeds 1% of the total County budget. The proposed budget amendment does not constitute an obligation on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for any items or purpose. For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

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):

- 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.
Notice Submitted By:
Hannah L. Powell
Community Development Specialist

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204/2205 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings have been scheduled for **July 25, 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 Board may take action to adopt proposed amendments to the Henry County Comprehensive Plan and to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

The Board 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.

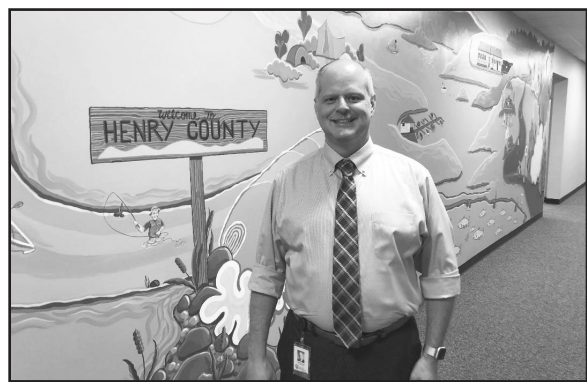
The Board will also take comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Henry County Zoning Ordinance Section 21-224: Location, appearance, and operational requirements, to add language addressing Project Area Limit.

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

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Wagoner

from page 1



When Dale Wagoner became deputy county administrator for Henry County in 2012, he had the walls of the administration's office area decorated with scenes from across Henry County. This mural was painted by Adrienne Anderson.



When Dale Wagoner became deputy county administrator about a decade ago, he had photographs of features of Henry County printed onto large canvases which were displayed around the county administration's office area.



Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner has just completed his first year in that role, and 41 years overall with the county. He started in Public Safety in 1992.

public affairs and is a credentialed manager by the International City/County Management Association.

Wagoner has had several positions in the Public Safety department – EMS coordinator, deputy director and then director. He also held a few other roles with the county, such as serving a few months as the Human Resources director and “helped with some IT stuff,” before being appointed deputy county administrator.

Wagoner calls himself fortunate to have started his career under Benny Summerlin, who became the county's first Public Safety director in 1985 and eventually county administrator.

“He meant a lot to me,” Wagoner said. “He was my mentor. He took me under his wing. He was a good person.”

Summerlin died in 2012 while still in office, and Tim Hall was appointed as his replacement. Wagoner followed Hall in the role after Hall's retirement last year.

When Wagoner started as county administrator on July 1, 2022, “I was very intentional with meeting with every department manager,” working on strength-

ening relationships, he said.

At the same time, “the board directed us to do a pay and compensation study, challenging employees to really step up.”

He said his management style “depends on the situation – participative, servant mentality. Sometimes you have to take it in a different direction depending on the scenario.

“I don't mind making a decision and moving on. I trust my team and value their opinions and thoughts,” he said. It's important to “treat everyone with respect,” whether or not you agree with their positions.

Unless he's in a meeting, he keeps his office door open for staff to feel welcome to drop in to talk with him, he said.

BROADBAND

Wagoner is a life member of the Bassett Rescue Squad, which he joined when he was 16.

“I always say the rescue squad was my hobby and I went to college for computers, then switched them around,” he said.

“I was a little computer nerd in high school,” and his undergraduate degree is in computer science. And though his career started off with

focus on rescue squads, now it's technology which takes a lot of his attention, thanks to bringing broadband internet to Henry County.

“For many years we were in a unique situation for a rural county,” he said. Though some of the county has no internet service whatsoever, other areas have good service. That put the county “at a disadvantage when we would apply for a lot of grant funding. For several years we got overlooked, because they would say that more than half the county has good internet.

“We finally overcame that” with a West Piedmont Planning District grant for \$33 million to bring broadband to the areas that don't have sufficient internet service.

In fact, a major hurdle for that process was overcome on July 5, when the State Corporation Commission (SCC) approved Appalachian Power Corporation, a subsidiary of Appalachian Electric Power, to install fiber on poles.

Once that is done, Riverstreet Networks, a private cooperative company from North Carolina, would connect internet lines to houses and businesses.

He described three methods of delivering internet service: The slowest method is through copper cables. Coax cables “can carry a lot of data.” Broadband uses fiber optic technology, which carries data over transparent glass fibers – “the fast method of moving through light waves instead of soundwave.” People with broadband service “will have the fastest, most reliable speeds.”

Broadband internet will come to the county in phases. Phase I is for “anyone that has no connectivity whatsoever,” Wagoner said. That includes parts of Horsepasture, such as along George Taylor Road, and some areas in Axton, northwest Bassett, Henry and Oak Level.

Phase II would bring



Groupings of photographs on canvas in the administration area highlight features of Henry County. This collection shows scenes from the Smith River Sports Complex.



The dramatic picture of the helicopter at sunset (left) was taken by Assistant Fire Marshal Kiah Cooper. The picture next to it shows a scene from Hardide Coatings, in the Bowles Industrial Park.



This can of water shows the logo of Crown Holdings, the company which made the largest single investment in Henry County. It opened in Commonwealth Crossing in 2022.

Review

from page 1

As a result, the subject was injured.”

The man, whose name was not revealed, was brought to the Sovah Health hospital in Martinsville, where he was treated for injuries and released, Davis said.

Davis said that as soon as he reviewed the incident he contacted the Virginia State Police to request an independent review of what happened.

“We have turned over everything to the Virginia State Police and they have begun their investigation,” he said.

He is also working with Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester on the matter, he said, gesturing toward Nester, who was seated against a wall at the front of the conference room but did not speak.

Additionally, the sheriff's office “is conducting a full internal review of this situation.”

The incident occurred just 24 hours after Davis was sworn in as sheriff of Henry County. He had been the second in command and was appointed to fill the remainder of Sheriff Lane Perry's term after Perry's retirement on June 30. Davis is now a candidate for the November election to the office for the next full 4-year term, against Del Mills and Daryl Hatcher.

“When I was sworn in as sheriff just days ago, I made a commitment to this community to be trans-

parent in our process,” Davis said. “And I also promised that I would hold accountable any deputy who failed the community's trust.”

The suspension without pay is pending the outcome of the investigation, Davis said.

The \$73 million 400-bed jail was opened March 2022. Almost 100 new deputies were hired to help staff the jail. About 30 percent of the new employees are under the age of 21, he estimated.

“When we undertook the project to get the new adult detention center off the ground, it was unprecedented to hire just shy of 100 new employees at one time,” Davis said. “In today's workforce, it's difficult to get qualified employees, much less that many at one time, and some of the things that occurred was the minimum hiring age was reduced from 21 to 19 years of age, but I will say, effective today, we will take the minimum hiring age back to 21 years old.”

That is one of perhaps other potential changes to how the jail would be operated.

“Previous to this incident, my team and I identified areas that might need to be improved upon, and we have a list of those we are working on; but unfortunately, as I said, this took place 24 hours into being sheriff, so, it takes time to get new strategies and new things into place,” he said.

The man was arrested on July 1 and the incident

It has been for some time.”

The county is significantly bolstered by the recent \$22.2 million grant to do the earthwork on Lot 2 of Commonwealth Crossing, he said.

That was the second-highest amount given to any locality in Virginia – less than \$3 million behind what Chesterfield County, which has a population of 370,700 received. Henry County's population is 50,250.

The team working on that grant proposal “put together a very solid package,” he said. “It was an extensive process.” That included on-

site assessments by the secretary of commerce and trade and a consulting firm.

A local funding match is required with this grant, and the county is “working on other avenues ... to minimize the impact on the local taxpayer. We are taking every effort we can to find outside money. Hopefully good news on where we will fill that gap” will be announced on Tuesday.

Lot 2 “will give us a pad-ready site to market to prospective industry,” he said. “It will be the only site in Virginia with over 100 acres with all utilities in place and rail access. ... Since

See Wagoner, page 7

occurred shortly after midnight on July 2. Davis said he learned about it on July 6, the day before the press conference. Part of the internal affairs review is to determine why it took so long for the sheriff to learn of it, he said.

“Unfortunately, these incidents take place from time to time across this entire country, and no chief and no sheriff can be there with their officers 24 hours a day to oversee every process,” Davis said.



Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester was present during the press conference but did not speak, other than once indicating to Davis that he should not answer a question about the nature of injuries an inmate sustained while in jail.

Crime Briefs

Investigators look into dual shooting incidents

The Henry County Sheriff's Office is investigating shooting incidents that occurred in the late afternoon on July 10. At approximately 4:06 p.m., the Martinsville/Henry County 911 Communication Center received a call that a man was suffering from an apparent gunshot wound at Roberts Bestway, 1706 Dillons Fork Road, Fieldale.

When deputies arrived at that scene, they found Joshua Terrance Canty with a gunshot wound to his leg. Canty, 33, 485 George Bateman Dr., Ridgeway, explained that he had gotten into an altercation with another man at 2234 John Baker Road, Fieldale. The two began to argue and Canty alleged he was shot in the leg.

When deputies responded to that location, they found a second man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds to his torso and neck. He was identified as George Robert Stephens, 38, 1608 Rivermont Heights, Martinsville.

Both men were airlifted to a nearby hospital in Virginia.

Canty is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries; Stephens is currently listed as stable, but in critical condition. The relationship between the two and the cause of the altercation is currently

unknown, according to authorities who alleged that neither has cooperated with the investigation.

This investigation is ongoing, anyone having information regarding 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.

City police probe shooting death

Private citizens transported Nyjeon Dameae Brandon, 20, of Martinsville, to the SOVAH Health Martinsville Emergency Room with gunshot wounds at 2:25 a.m. on July 9.

Brandon died shortly after his arrival as a result of those injuries, according to a release from Martinsville.

The investigation showed the shooting took place while Brandon was a passenger in a vehicle that was traveling in the 300 block of Commonwealth Boulevard. The investigation is in its early stages as detectives collect evidence and track down leads received from the public.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Martinsville City Police Lt. Jim Lovell at (276) 403-5301 or Crime Stoppers at (276) 632-7463.

Wagoner

from page 1

we've announced that, the interest from large job creators" has been on the increase.

The site should be completed by the end of 2024, he said.

ECONOMIC REBOUND

The coming of Lot 2 "all plays into the success of what we've accomplished in Commonwealth Crossing," he said.

Though there were some naysayers at first, that industrial park has proven successful, with Press Glass, and then the "largest capital investment at once," Crown Holdings. Commonwealth Crossing "created economic opportunity for our residents and creates a solid tax base," he said.

What is coming to fruition now had its start many years ago, thanks to Summerlin's initiative and "the foresight of the Board of Supervisors" to "spend some money" to prepare the sites, he said.

Other strong industries include Eastman, "one of the largest producers in the world of performance window film;" Monogram, the country's largest producer of snack foods; and Star Springs Industry, which produces specialty products for Volvo trucks.

The days of heavy reliance on just one or two fields, such as furniture, are gone, he said. Instead, the county is intentionally "going after industries in diverse sectors," with hundreds rather than thousands of employees. That way, if an industry or field fails, "it's less impactful on our community."

Unemployment is hovering around 3% and wages are higher now, he said.

The county will keep its push on economic development to keep unemployment low and encourage people to move back to the area, he said.

THE BASICS

"The biggest responsibilities of local government" are education and public safety, which encompasses law enforcement, Wagoner said. "That's what government does. That's our main purpose.

"These things are still going."

Though construction on the new Adult Detention Center was completed before Wagoner was the county administrator, "we closed out the paperwork" during his time, he said. "We were under budget and on time and received full reim-

bursement we were expecting from the commonwealth on that."

His role also includes overseeing staffing. There was "a lot of transition" in county administration last year," he said, but "the public never saw it. We never missed a beat ... and I commend the county staff for that."

There were about 40 vacancies in county government, "and some were key positions," such as the IT director, community development specialist and deputy county administrator. Now "we have good people in those positions doing a great job."

WATER

Wagoner also is the general manager of the Public Service Authority.

In the past year, the county worked out a deal with the Army Corps of Engineers "to ensure water supply coming out of Philpott [Lake] for the next 50 years. That puts us in a very unique position of guaranteed water resources."

PSA also is expanding water service to areas such as Preston and along Route 57 and Stoney Mountain Road in Leatherwood and Axton. A new water tank on Elf Trail in Bassett will ensure enough pressure for "water supply into the southern side of the county well into the future."

LOOKING AHEAD

"I was hired by the Board of Supervisors, and I'm pleased by the Board of Supervisors and their guidance" and looks forward to many more years in his role, he said.

The impact of much of what he is working on now will not be felt "until 25 years from now," he said.

This year, the county will be updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which has not been updated since 1995, he said. That "will direct a future code of action."

The county also will do an industrial park study to help determine "25 years from now where we're going to put jobs in Henry County."

"Those are the big things that may not necessarily be sexy, not splashy," but will have a lasting positive impact, he said.

"In 1995, the county had the foresight to purchase the Patriot Centre, and in 2007, Commonwealth Crossing." And now it's time to lay the groundwork for the next.

Revised

from page 1

The city and the county are responsible for all the expenses related to the development of the parks, and both localities will benefit from the taxes generated by the parks. The IDA would own the land.

"During our recent efforts to secure grant funding for additional grading at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, it was requested that the agreements be split into two separate agreements since the development at Commonwealth Crossing was moving much faster than that at the Bryant property," Wagoner said.

"Additionally, it was noted, during the effort to secure grant funding, that there was not a sustainability plan to ensure adequate funding to be available for future development" or marketing the sites, Wagoner said.

Officials agreed to the revisions, the first of which will split the original agreement into two separate agreements for the CCBC and the land adjacent to the Patriot Centre, commonly referred to as the Bryant Property. The second revision directs a portion of the tax revenue generated from Lot #2 of CCBC to the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) for future marketing, recruitment, and

development activities.

"The actions that we have taken today are proof that our two localities can work together to accomplish our common goals," said Adams. "Economic development remains a top priority for the Board of Supervisors, as I'm sure it is for city council. By approving these changes to our existing revenue-sharing agreements, we are reaffirming our belief in collaboration and positioning our economic development efforts for success in the years to come."

"This is a great example of the city and county working cooperatively together for the betterment of our community," Towarnick said. "The revenue-related funding agreement will help with anticipated grading costs of Tract 2 at CCBC and helps to provide sustainable funding for the EDC for years to come."

Now that the revisions have been approved, the agreement will be forwarded to the Commission on Local Government for its review and issuance of findings of fact.

A \$6 million grant from The Harvest Foundation was also announced Tuesday, just after the revised agreement was signed. Grant funds will assist with the development of Lot 2 in Commonwealth Crossing.

"Economic develop-

ment remains a top priority for the Board of Supervisors, as I'm sure it is for city council. With help from community partners like The Harvest Foundation, we are accomplishing that goal," Adams said.

"While administrative functions, like those taken today, aren't as flashy as a groundbreaking ceremony, they are nonetheless just as important and symbolic of the tremendous amount of effort that goes into attracting new industries, which sometimes goes unnoticed," Adams said.

He compared economic development efforts to a race: "Acts like these today create the momentum that will eventually carry us through the finish line. Our foot is on the gas pedal and the checkered flag is in sight."

"It is truly a blessing to have all of us in the same room at the same time, smiling and laughing," said Jones. "This is something we've all envisioned for a long time. To see it happen is truly historic. We're ready to support you and Harvest."

Tract 2 of Commonwealth Crossing is on track to be Virginia's only 150-acre industrial site (on a total land tract of 200 acres) with rail service and full utilities: water, sewer, electric, natural gas and fiber internet.

The Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre covers 726 acres altogether. Crown Holdings, Press Glass and the 26,000-square-foot Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training, and the unoccupied Tract 3 covers 100 acres.

Tract 2 is being developed with a \$22 million grant from Virginia's Business Ready Site Program and additional support from local municipalities and now, Harvest's \$6 million grant.



The Harvest Foundation presented a \$6 million check to contribute toward the development of Lot 2 in the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. From left, Martinsville Mayor LC Jones, Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams, Harvest President Kate Keller, Henry County Industrial Development Authority Chairman Len Dillon and Joe Bryant, vice chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.



From left, Len Dillon, chairman of the Henry County Industrial Development Authority, and Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and Martinsville Mayor L.C. Jones inked a revised agreement on revenue sharing during a joint meeting Tuesday.

Harvest's ceremonial check presentation was held in the hall right after the meeting.

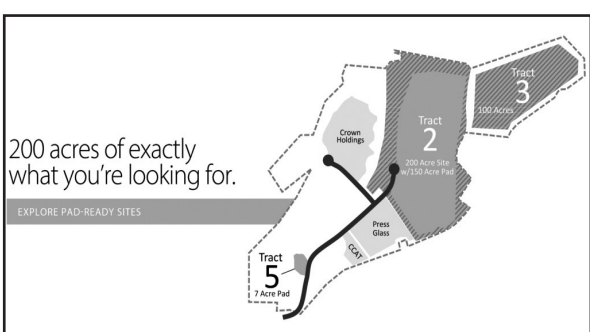
"Economic development has been a cornerstone of The Harvest Foundation's strategic plan," said Harvest Executive Director Kate Keller. "We have been really focused on bringing livable wages,

jobs to this community and increasing our tax rates, and we've done that in partnership with both the city and the county over the years" as well as the EDC.

"This investment is to bring more opportunities to our community ... and to help us be competitive in a

global market." That brings Harvest's total investment into Commonwealth Crossing to more than \$16 million, she said.

"Today's meeting was all about partnership and about us working together as a community so that we can make an investment in our future," she said.



MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

Tract 2 of Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre is being developed into a 150-acre pad on a 200-acre site. So far 57 acres have been graded.

Partnership from page 6



Linda Adams (center), a member of First United Methodist Church in Martinsville, is the lead volunteer for several ministries at her church, including responding to CarePortal requests. Also pictured are Sheryl Agee (right), senior operating officer at The Harvest Foundation, and April Evans (left), assistant director of services at Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services. The group is pictured in the storage area of the First United Methodist Uptown Ministry Center, which is primarily used to store donated furniture items.

Local churches play a significant role in CarePortal's success in Martinsville-Henry County. Linda Adams, a member of First United Methodist Church in Martinsville, is the lead volunteer for several ministries at her church, including CarePortal. She said they do it all for the children.

"We don't want children to go hungry, and we want children to have a safe place to sleep that's not on the floor," Adams said. "We help children to keep them out of foster homes and with their

families, if at all possible. We praise God that we're able to help the children."

Henry-Martinsville DSS launched CarePortal in 2022, serving 58 children with an economic impact of \$25,404 since that time. There are seven churches currently participating in the program. Adams said her church has filled around 18 requests, mostly providing twin beds and other furniture, in addition to dishes, silverware, towels, sheets, and various household items.

"As a tool, CarePortal provides a direct link

between families in crisis and the faith-based community," said Amy Rice, director of the Henry-Martinsville DSS. "In one year, local churches provided \$40,000 in tangible, basic items such as beds or highchairs to promote child safety and well-being. For families who are often at their most vulnerable, the support from the faith-based community nurtures feelings of social well-being rather than isolation. That intangible gift of human connection provides an immeasurable benefit to our community. We are honored to receive the PUP grant to continue the CarePortal success in Henry County and Martinsville City."

There is no cost to sign up as a provider to serve Martinsville-Henry County families through CarePortal. Call (276) 656-4300 to learn more.

Double Down fundraiser hit the jackpot for the arts

Piedmont Arts hosted its Double Down for the Arts Fundraiser on Friday, June 23. This fundraiser, a black-tie optional casino night, featured catering by Angela's Creative Catering and live music by The Bob Peckman Jazz Band out of Roanoke, Virginia. Additional entertainment included a blinking lights Heads or Tails game with a 50/50 prize and blackjack, poker, and roulette tables.

With Olivia Garrett chairing the committee who made this event possible, Double Down for the Arts proved to be a huge success that was enjoyed by all. The outpouring of support from the committee, volunteers, and attendees proved that the arts have a home in Martinsville and Henry County and will continue to for years to come.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.



Dr. Shana LeGrant, Lucy Coleman, and Pam Allen were all smiles at the Double Down for the Arts fundraiser.



Piedmont Arts Executive Director Heidi Pinkston poses with her husband, Shane Pinkston, a volunteer dealer.



Attendees of the Double Down for the Arts fundraiser went all-in on supporting the arts.



Everyone had a ball playing roulette at Piedmont Arts.

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