

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

(USPS-6)

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School Resource Officers, and the names of their assigned schools, are pictured. HENRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Prevention program, SROs now in Henry County schools

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

After a more than 20-year absence, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program is returning, and School Resource Officers (SROs) are assigned to all

schools in Henry County. Sheriff Wayne Davis worked with school officials to assign SROs to each county school and also to fit the D.A.R.E. program into the school year's schedule. Davis said bringing the program

back was one of his first initiatives after learning he would be sworn in as interim sheriff. "I immediately reached out to the D.A.R.E. training program

See **Prevention**, page 7

Sounds on the Square set for Sept. 1



Rachel Hunsicker sings "House of the Rising Sun."



Robert Foster sings "Drift Away."

By *Holly Kozelsky* County Historical Society's Sounds on the Square entertained the crowd with their singing for the Courthouse Karaoke program Aug. 4. The next Sounds on the Square will be on Friday, Sept. 1, from 5:30-10 p.m. Admission is free.

The 21st annual Jennifer Short Ride set for Saturday

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH, 2023

21ST ANNIVERSARY

Jennifer Short Educational Scholarship Benefit Ride

DOOR PRIZES 50/50 MEAL PROVIDED

REGISTRATION @ 10:30
KICKSTANDS UP @ 12:30

\$20 Bike/Car
\$5 Passenger
Bikes, Cars, and Trucks
All Welcomed

THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF

The 21st annual Jennifer Short Educational Scholarship Benefit Ride is set for Saturday, August 19.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The 21st annual ride to honor a Henry County girl and raise funds for a scholarship bearing her name is set for Saturday, August 19. The Jennifer Short Educational Scholarship Benefit Ride will start at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Bassett. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and kickstands go up at 12:30 p.m. Event organizer Ruth Ann Shields said the cost to enter is \$20 per bike or car and \$5 for a rider. "So, if you have someone that wants to ride with

See **Ride**, page 7

Parks Improvement Plan

Community Meetings

The City of Martinsville is taking a collaborative approach to improve its public parks and is seeking input from residents to ensure their voices are heard. As part of this initiative, a series of community meetings has been planned to shape a comprehensive parks improvement plan that reflects the desires of the City's residents.

SESSION 1
Southside Park
Aug. 24, 2023
4:30-6:30 p.m.

SESSION 2
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Aug. 24, 2023
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Martinsville

Residents invited to help shape future park improvements at community meetings

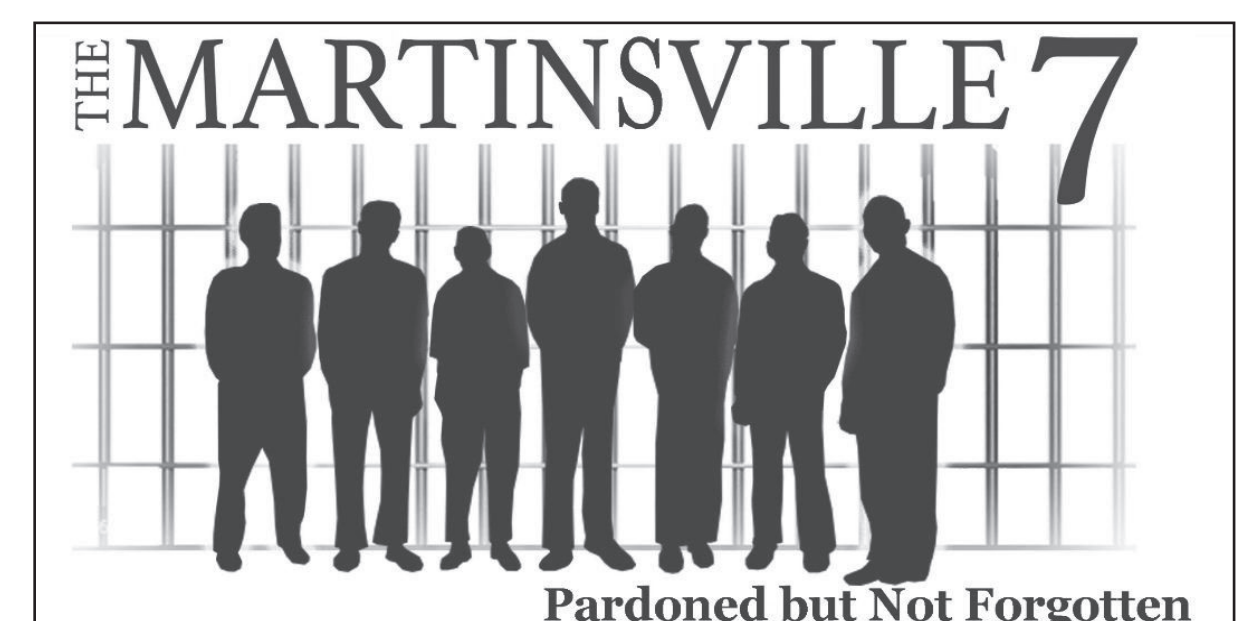
The City of Martinsville is taking a collaborative approach to improving its public parks and is seeking input from residents to ensure their voices are heard. As part of this initiative, a series of community meetings have been planned to shape a comprehensive parks improvement plan that reflects the desires of the City's residents. Collaborating with landscape architecture firm Site Collaborative and River District

See **Residents**, page 7

VISIT

HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM

FOR MORE UPDATES



The Martinsville Seven Initiative is hosting the third annual Gala: A Night to Remember on Saturday, August 26 to celebrate the pardons of the Martinsville Seven.

Gala set to honor Martinsville Seven

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

To celebrate the 2021 pardon of the Martinsville Seven, the Martinsville Seven Initiative, an organization dedicated to calling attention to systemic racism, will hold its third annual Gala: A Night to Remember, on Saturday, August 26. The event will be at 6 p.m. at the New College Institute (NCI) on Fayette Street. Faye Holland, executive director of the initia-

tive, said the incident occurred in 1949, when "seven African American men were executed for the accusation of raping a white woman. They were all executed in 1951. This was the largest mass execution in history." The men were Frank Hairston, Jr., Booker T. Millner, Howard Lee Hairston, James Luther Hairston, John Clabon Taylor, Frances DeSales Grayson, and Joe Henry Hampton.

See **Gala**, page 8



Axton man sought in shooting incident



Akeem Laquan Clark, 33, of Axton, is wanted on several charges in connection with the Aug. 11 shooting death of Antwain Hampton.

County authorities are asking for the public's help in locating an Axton man wanted on charges related to the Aug. 11 death of Antwain Royqwell-Garfield Hampton, 24, of Hampton Circle, Axton.

A friend transported Hampton, who had suffered an apparent gunshot wound, to SOVAH Health of Danville around 5:09 p.m. Hampton succumbed due to his injuries and died.

Pittsylvania County Sheriff's investigators responded to the Danville hospital, interviewed the friend, and after determining the shooting incident had occurred in Henry County, contacted the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Henry County Sheriff's deputies and investigators responded to the scene, which allegedly was 7064 Axton Road, Axton, and surrounded the home.

When deputies arrived, it was unknown whether any possible suspects still occupied the home. The Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team responded, executed a search warrant,

and found the house was not occupied.

County investigators worked through the night, processing the scene for evidence. They later determined that an altercation ensued between Hampton and another man. During that incident, authorities allege a firearm was produced, and Hampton was shot.

Warrants for second degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm after having been convicted of a felony, have been issued for Akeem Laquan Clark, 33, also of Axton.

Anyone with information regarding the incident or Clark's whereabouts 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.



P&HCC President Greg Hodges and P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood accept a donation to support Patriot Pantry from Tim Stone of the Bassett Kiwanis Club.

P&HCC's Patriot Pantry Receives Community Support

Since 2016, Patrick & Henry Community College has hosted Patriot Pantry, a food and hygiene shop for students, that is supported solely on donations. Bassett Kiwanis Club was one such recent donor, gifting the pantry funds to purchase items for the start of the fall semester.

"We so appreciate donations for our amazing students. They come in and are just so glad to have these items available to them," said College Success Program Specialist & SSDL Liaison Lisa

Coffey, who has been busy stocking the newly relocated pantry for the start of classes on August 21.

P&HCC students can shop at the pantry for food and hygiene items as well as school supplies once per month based on a points allocation system. They will now visit the pantry, previously located in the Learning Resource Center, in its new location inside of Walker Fine Arts & Student Center. There, they will find a wide variety of non-perishable food items including grab-

and-go meals, pop-top canned food items, and traditionally popular protein bars and shakes.

In the 2022-2023 school year 108 students visited the pantry in the fall and 91 students in the spring. P&HCC staff hope to encourage even more students to make use of the pantry when they're on campus this academic year.

Community members who are interested in learning more about the Pantry or in making a donation are encouraged to contact Seberina Tatum or Coffey at (276) 638-8777.

STAGS Robotics Team preps for milestone



New College Institute sponsored the last Martinsville Mustangs game of the season on Aug. 4. Helping staff NCI's display table were members of the STAGS Robotics Team, including (from left) Logan Davis, Clara Prillaman and Jeras Travis. William Hatchett was saying that the STAGS are about to have their 20th anniversary, and they're planning to make a big deal out of that milestone.



Lisa Coffey stocks the shelves of the newly relocated Pantry for student use.

Hay bale decorating contest spotlights community creativity, agriculture

Showcasing creativity and sparking conversations about agriculture are the aim of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Women's Leadership Committee's annual Hay Bale Decorating Contest.

Now in the contest's ninth year, the committee is encouraging communities and individuals to embrace their imagi-

nations and tell a story through decorative hay bale displays.

"I love to see how creative they are," said Julia Stephens, a Wythe County farmer and District 3 representative on the VFBF Women's Leadership Committee. "The displays remind the non-farming community about local farmers and promote a healthy relationship within their communities."

Entries will be accepted Sept. 1 through Nov. 15. The contest is open to anyone, including farmers markets, farm supply businesses, student groups, community associations, individuals and county Farm Bureaus.

Decorators can demonstrate their artistic ingenuity by converting round or square bales into animals, structures, shapes and farm-scapes. Items such as corn stalks, farm tools, pallets, pumpkins and other props can be used alongside bales to create various scenes.

Guidelines and an entry form are available at bit.ly/3KC08TE. Participants must include a photograph of the hay bale display with each application.

Winners will be selected and receive a cash award in the following categories: junior (8 and younger); square bale display; com-

munity spirit; and most creative. This year also will have a special themed category, "Stars of Agriculture," in which participants are invited to decorate hay bales like celebrities or agricultural figures—real or fictional.

"I anticipate the big reveal of all the entries," Stephens added. "I applaud and appreciate all the effort that goes into them."

The displays generate a lasting impression and typically are placed in visible areas near schools, outside of businesses, at county Farm Bureau offices and in people's yards.

Winners will be notified by email or phone. Photos of contest entries will be displayed at the 2023 VFBF Annual Convention in Virginia Beach in late November.

Last year's contest received 46 entries, with displays encompassing farm animals, horticulture, farm life, farm machinery and farm safety. Past winning entries featured farmers "Dancing Through the Seasons of Life"; a Halloween-themed Count Dracula proclaiming, "You can Count on Farmers"; a farm-fresh bacon and eggs breakfast noting "Page County is Fueled by Farming"; and a combine made of round and square bales.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

The Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Bay Restaurant, 530 Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville.

Events

Saturday, Aug. 19

Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In, downtown Bassett, 3 until 7 p.m. There will be a 50/50 drawing to benefit the Bassett Library Building Fund. The Boys and Girls Club will sponsor a Duck Race on the Smith River on Saturday afternoon.

Friendly Worship Center's Generation 4 Hope in Ridgeway is holding its 2023 Lock-Up, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the CB Hut, 606 Boone Road, Eden, N.C. Prisoners will be fed bread and water until bond is reached. All proceeds go to Hometown Christmas. The event includes drawings for door prizes and concessions will be available. For more information, call Robert Hilburn at (336) 255-9494 or Dawn Hilburn at (336) 255-4443.

The 7th annual Bike Ride, Car Show & Fish Fry at Mt. Nebo Holiness Church, 30598 JEB Stuart HWY, Spencer. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Ride leaves at 10 a.m. Motorcycles, Cars & Trucks are welcome. The \$20 entry fee per bike or auto includes a meal for the driver. The Car/Truck Show includes Trophies for first, second, and third place & a People's Choice award. The entry fee is \$20. Registration is from 9 to 10:30 a.m., when judging begins. Fish Fry starts at 8 a.m. and runs until. For more information, call David Hylton at (276) 692-5878.

Auditions for "Doubt, A Parable" (October performances), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., TheatreWorks Community Players. Cast members needed are Female (age 40s - early 60s), Female (age 30s), Female, African American (age 20s - 30s), Male (late 20's - 40s). There are also opportunities to learn to be a director, stage manager, or set crew. Indicate interest at twcproduction@gmail.com.

The third annual Uptown Music Fest, 6-8 p.m. at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The MWW Foundation will host the fest that features live music with performances by Matt Crowder & BDE and The Low Low Chariot and JD Sutphin back for a short time from Nashville. Food vendors will be on site. Bring your lawn chair for concert seating and let the music move your feet! Event is rain or shine. Sponsors include The Lester Group, BTW 21, Martinsville Uptown Farmers Market, Chamber's Partnership for

Economic Growth (CEG), and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Free admission for those aged 12 and under. Tickets are \$10 in advance and may be purchased at <https://www.facebook.com/uptownmusicmhc/> OR on Eventbrite.

Slick Jr. and the Reactors are among the performers during Music at the Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville (276) 734-2828. The show is 5 to 8 p.m. Bring a chair and cooler and enjoy an evening of outstanding music influences, including Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Buddy Guy, the Allman Brothers, Grateful Dead Sam Cook and Marvin Gay. No cover charge but donations appreciated. Concessions will be available.

The Smith River Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex. Ride the river, learn to fly-fish, browse vendors, and challenge yourself in the Helgramite Hustle 5K Mud Run. Join us as we celebrate the Smith River and its 45 miles of scenic beauty flowing through our community and the nearly 20 miles of shared-use trails that make up the Smith River Trail System. Admission and parking are free.

Sunday, August 20

80's Sock Hop at Spencer Penn, from 2-5 p.m. \$5 admission, free for Spencer Penn members.

Auditions for "Doubt, A Parable" (October performances), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., TheatreWorks Community Players. Cast members needed are Female (age 40s - early 60s), Female (age 30s), Female, African American (age 20s - 30s), Male (late 20's - 40s). There are also opportunities to learn to be a director, stage manager, or set crew. Indicate interest at twcproduction@gmail.com.

Tuesday, August 22-Saturday, August 26

Summer Food Series at the Library continues with Charcuterie Classes at various branches. For ages 18 and over. A nonrefundable \$5 supply fee is required. Call the branch of your local library to register.

Saturday, August 26

Bikers for Babies, MHC, registration begins at 10 a.m., kickstands up at noon. Lunch is provided for participants from 1:30 to 3, with giveaways and guest speakers. The event is to raise money and awareness for the Pregnancy Care Center of MHC, www.pregcc.com. For more information, call Patrick Rusmisl at (276) 734-9585.

Saturday, September 2

Storytime, 10 a.m. at Spencer Penn Centre. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts, and other fun activities related to Falling Leaves! Come out and join us for this free program, fit for all ages! No registration needed.

Saturday, September 9

Painting workshop at the Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville, 9:30 to 12:30, led by Award-Winning Artist, Lisa Garret. Cost is \$40 (all supplies), free light lunch call of text (276) 734-2828 to enroll. Attendance is limited. Participants will produce their own 11 x 14 painting. The class is for beginners and above, with acrylic paints and basic primary colors.

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.

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.

County schools outline free meal policy

Henry County Public Schools has set its policy for providing free meals to all students served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Each school and the central school nutrition office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

All schools in the division will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Students attending any Henry County school will be provided with a nutritious meal for breakfast and lunch each day at no charge to the house-

hold. Households will not be required to submit a meal application form to receive meals at no charge. Each household has access to a letter informing them of the program. Any questions can be directed to:

Mrs. Marci Lexa,
SNS, Director of School Nutrition Programs
Career Academy
340 Ridgedale Drive
Martinsville, VA 24112
276-638-1161
mlexa@henry.k12.va.us

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiocassette, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

See **County**, page 7

System Upgrade, Rebranding Effort Scheduled

ValleyStar is launching a new member-focused computer processing system and rebranding effort aimed at better serving members' financial needs.

The system upgrade and rebranding effort will include a series of technology improvements that will bring many benefits, such as enhanced security, streamlined daily operations, opportunities to offer more innovative products and services, and greater efficiencies that will improve convenience for members and ValleyStar employees.

In addition to the technology upgrades, ValleyStar will also undergo a rebranding effort that includes a fresh new look and logo that reflects ValleyStar's commitment to growth and innovation.

"We are excited to roll out these new changes to our members," said Mike Warrell, CEO. "These upgrades will improve our overall data securi-

ty, enhance members' banking experience, provide them with the tools they need to achieve their financial goals and allow us to be the best in service and convenience amongst our peers."

ValleyStar's commitment to enhanced security is unwavering. This system upgrade is an investment in cutting-edge solutions to ensure member information remains confidential and accounts remain protected. Our new system will bring technological advancement while guarding financial peace of mind.

The system upgrade will take place the first weekend in October. During this time, all ValleyStar branches will be closed from Saturday, September 30, to Monday, October 2.

ValleyStar is working with members to ensure a smooth transition. For more information about the upgrades and rebranding effort, visit valleystar.org/systemupgrade.

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OPINION

Consultant saves city

DUNTON, VA — Just six months ago, the city of Dunton, Va. was in shambles. Open air drug markets proliferated in the city streets. Homes were constantly robbed by heavily armed children. Cars driving slower than 20 miles per hour were in danger of having their wheels stolen.

It was a dark time for Dunton, and many area residents assumed there was no end in sight. But then the Dunton City Council did the single smartest thing that anyone can ever do:

They hired a consultant. “As a consultant, I’m not swayed by such transitory things as money,” said Nathan Matthews of Matthews Consulting. “I answer to a higher calling. And when I learned that Dunton was in trouble and willing to sign an open-ended contract with my consulting firm, I answered the call.”

The members of the city council laid out their problems, Matthews said, and he knew he had a daunting task ahead of him.

“How do you turn a city around, especially when it’s in such rough shape?” he said. “It seemed almost insurmountable. I knew I had to set to work immediately.”

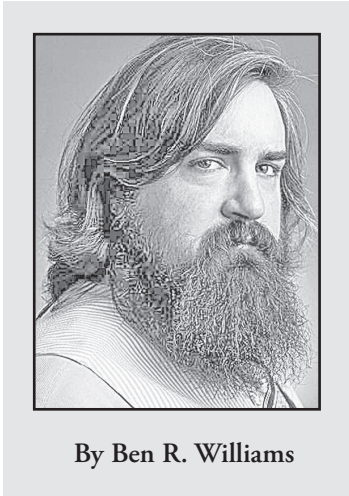
Just a few days later, inspiration struck.

“I was standing on the street corner observing a shootout between a pimp and a drug dealer,” Matthews said, “and the idea suddenly hit me: this town needs a slogan!”

Matthews returned to his hotel room armed with a notebook and a pen. After several sleepless nights, he’d created the perfect slogan:

“Dunton: A great place to live.”

“It was aspirational, you know,” Matthews said. “It’s a promise for the city to grow



By Ben R. Williams

into. And as for the phrasing, I think everyone wants to live in a community that’s a great place to live, so the branding was on-message. I sure wouldn’t want to live in a community that advertised itself as a bad place to live, I’ll tell you that.”

Dunton City Council quickly approved the new slogan and began incorporating it into their signage and tourism advertising. Matthews, however, wasn’t done yet.

“I was driving to the golf

course and I found myself at a stoplight in front of the food bank,” he said. “There were people lined up around the block, just hoping to get enough groceries to feed their families. I thought, how could this have happened? How had this city sunk so low? What’s missing here?”

And then, Matthews realized exactly what was missing.

“Within an hour, we’d signed the contract,” he said. “One month and \$40,000 later, there was the most beautiful mural you’d ever seen on the side of that food bank. It says ‘DIVERSITY’ and the words are made up of butterflies.”

But Matthews didn’t stop there. If you’ve stopped by the Dunton Administration Building on a Friday, you’ve probably noticed that it’s Silly Hat Day. If you’ve parked on the streets, you’ve probably noticed that the parking meters now require you to download an app on your phone. And if you’ve driven past the river, you’ve surely seen the rentable electric scoot-

ers floating downstream.

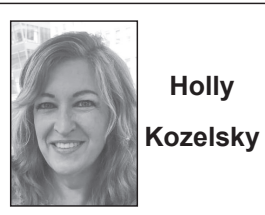
While progress has been made, Matthews admits there’s still plenty of work to do.

“I’m very happy with Dunton’s rebranding,” Matthews said. “I’m happy with the work we’ve done. While crime, poverty, and drug addiction have yet to drop in Dunton — in fact, the poverty rate has increased slightly — I’m confident that we’re just a few more murals away from an utterly transformed landscape. The next mural, which will depict the word ‘DIVERSITY’ but spelled in wildflowers, will be painted on the youth methadone clinic next month.”

Already, Matthews said, he can sense that Dunton is moving confidently into the 21st century.

“Just yesterday, I stopped at a new restaurant right in downtown Dunton,” he said. “It was lit with dim incandescent Edison bulbs, and I sat in a low-backed metal chair at the tallest, smallest table you’ve ever seen. I ordered a cheeseburger. It cost \$27 and came with six french fries.”

Cache-ing in with the oldies



Holly Kozelsky

I used to hide the Atlanta Rhythm Section records.

But to be fair, all the DJ’s at WNCA hid their favorite records so they could play them on their shifts. It’s likely that went on at other radio stations everywhere else as well.

Though by then CDs had been in use for a few years, we mostly played 45 RPM singles and songs from 33 RPM albums. We didn’t keep track of the 33s - would just play a song off one of them every now and then — but we kept the 45s in ordered rotation.

They were on three shelves right above where we sat at the microphone and control board. A piece of cardboard was kept in one of the rows. Each time we put back a stack of records that had just been played, we put the

returning stack to the left of the cardboard, and the next records would be the ones to the right. They hadn’t been played for a couple of weeks. The process avoids repetition.

Every now and then I’d find stacks of 45s in odd places — under the phone book in the drawer of a desk no one used, behind some 8-track tapes in the advertising recording room, under the extra toilet paper rolls in the bathroom cabinet. So THAT’s where “Oh What a Night” has been! I’d been missing that one. Indignantly, I’d scoop up the discovered loot and play those good songs.

One day I hit upon a great way to hide my favorite records for my shift. I did it the good old fashioned way: hidden in plain sight.

I’d gather up “Strawberry Letter 23” by Brothers Johnson, “Imaginary Liver” and “So Into You” by the Atlanta Rhythm Section and anything by Stevie Wonder —

but not all the Stevie Wonders at once, because that would start a war among DJs. I simply put them on the 45s shelf to the left of the rotation-divider piece of cardboard. Bingo! It looked like they had just been played and would not be up for another turn for a couple of more weeks.

Of course, if I came upon one of those records honestly - if it just naturally came up in rotation - I’d play it right then and there. My secret stash was created when I had privacy in the DJ booth. When I knew I’d be alone for a while, I’d go through all the shelves and pull out the winners, which would include some that had just been played.

There was one catch: Overplay might ruin the song. If you played the favorites too often and too close together, they’d lose their charm and even, in fact, start to get on your nerves. I suppose that would

See **Oldies**, page 6

News from the 9th: Not Their Problem



Morgan Griffith Representative

Many Democrat-controlled cities and states, which are not on the border, think the crisis at our southern border is not their problem.

But, over the past few months, we’ve seen a string of northern Democrat-controlled cities and states declare states of emergency and request help from the federal government due to the number of illegal immigrants living in their jurisdictions.

Massachusetts Governor Healey was the most recent official to declare a state of emergency due to an influx of immigrants to her State. According to the Governor, thousands are being housed in emergency shelters around the State (some are bona fide refugees, but many are illegal immigrants). Governor Healey said that the State’s social services are overwhelmed, and the State needs help from the federal government.

Washington, D.C., Chicago, and New York City have all declared immigration emergencies in the last year. New York State declared an emergency not long before Massachusetts.

D.C. issued a state of emergency last September. Mayor Bowser blamed Texas Governor Abbott for the emergency when he bussed immigrants who had illegally crossed into the State to the nation’s capital.

This past May, Chicago joined D.C. in declaring an emergency — by that time the number of immigrants being cared for by local and state agencies was over 8,000.

When Title 42, a public health order that allowed border patrol agents to send illegal immigrants back to their home country or the country they were most recently in, was coming to an end in May, New

York Governor Hochul declared an emergency in preparation of the coming influx.

In the past few months NYC has had difficulty housing illegal immigrants living there. News reports tell of up to 2,000 being sheltered in tents on the Randalls Island soccer fields. NYC Mayor Adams said that there are currently 57,000 immigrants sleeping in city shelters. Further, hundreds of hotel rooms are being rented for illegal immigrants by the city.

Recently, a constituent complained at a Smyth County meeting that when he went to visit his daughter in NYC, he paid for his hotel room, while illegal immigrants were getting their stay covered for free by the taxpayer.

Earlier this year when visiting the border, on my commercial flight back, there were two illegal immigrants and an ICE agent flying to the immigrants’ placement location. Who do you think is covering that cost?

That’s right, you, the taxpayer!

And yet, with all this hardship and struggle to manage the illegal immigrants living in their jurisdictions, these Democrat politicians support the flawed policies leading to these problems. Many have the attitude that it’s not a real problem until it’s their problem. But they support the lax border policies of the Biden Administration and complain when they have to deal with the real-life consequences.

And instead of supporting finishing the wall and defending our borders, these Democrat politicians are calling on the federal government to expedite work authorizations for the illegal immigrants.

When declaring a state of emergency, Governor Healey stated, “an inability for migrants to obtain work authorization from the federal government,” as one reason the crisis is so bad in her state.

She said not one word

about the wall or the southern border.

Should we reward people who intentionally break the law? I say No!

I’ve long spoken out about how detrimental the Biden Administration’s open border policies are, which have resulted in increases in human smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking, etc.

Republicans in Congress have repeatedly urged the Administration to change their ways, to close the border by resuming border wall construction and giving Border Patrol more resources to control the border.

We have also worked to hold the Administration accountable for the results of their policies.

Congress has called Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas in to testify 12 times since becoming Secretary.

And yet, our calls to follow the law and make necessary changes, fall on deaf ears.

Instead, the Administration has shifted the blame away from their flawed policies repeatedly, saying either that the Trump Administration is to blame or that somehow it is Congress’ fault.

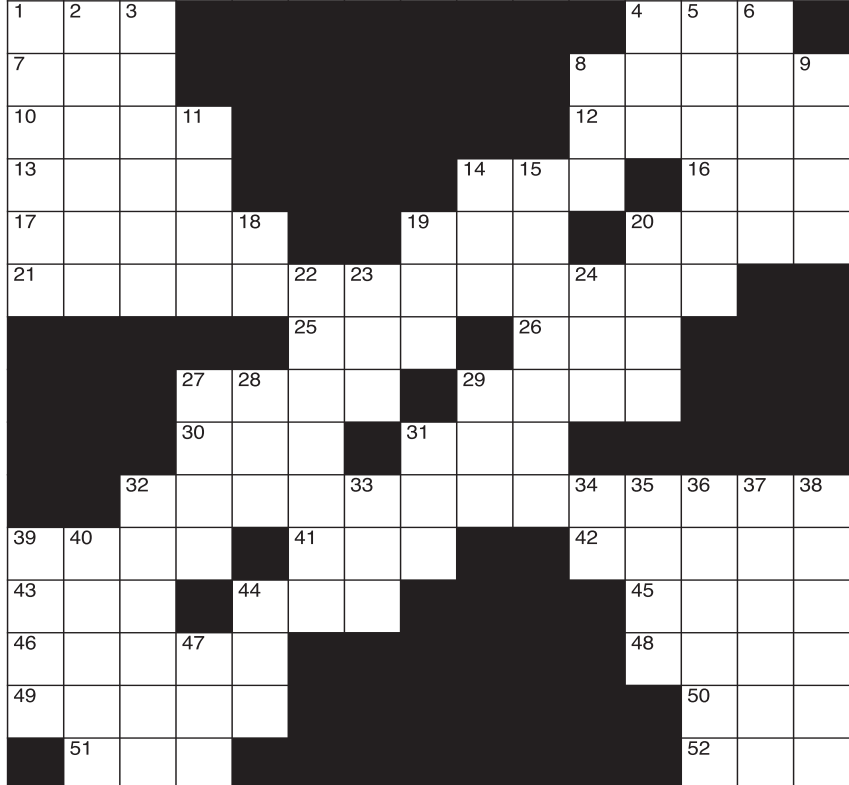
Mind you, House Republicans have already passed a border bill, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, to address the crisis at our southern border.

Not one House Democrat voted in favor of it.

It is clear, this crisis will continue until Democrats get real about the problem and support policies that actually close the border. Further, northern Democrat run cities and states must accept that the border crisis is their problem too.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Midway between east and southeast
 - Sun up in New York
 - Japanese honorific
 - Czech name for Prague
 - Ochocinco’s first name
 - Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
 - Scots word for “home”
 - Upper class young woman (abbr.)
 - Monetary unit of Albania
 - Raise
 - Drain of resources
 - Uncultured, clumsy persons
 - Hikers use them
 - Retrospective analysis (military)
 - Tibetan form of chanting
 - Influential European statesman

- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Monetary unit of Romania
- Round green vegetable
- Well acquainted with
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Basics
- “The Godfather” actress Keaton
- Snakelike fish
- Tall deciduous tree
- Russian river
- Long Balkans river
- Ancient Greek coin
- Senegal’s capital
- Unwell
- Snout
- Low bank or reef of coral

- CLUES DOWN**
- Abstain from
 - Vast desert in North Africa
 - Cover the crown of a tooth
 - A major division of geological time
 - Urban center
 - Crook
 - Parts per billion (abbr.)
 - Questions
 - A pack of 52 playing cards
 - Recording of sound
 - Pithy saying
 - Atomic #22
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Plant with ridged seedpods

- Innate
- Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)
- Soda receptacle
- Spanish stew: __ podrida
- Viet Cong offensive
- Large body of water
- Beginning military rank
- Dissimilar
- Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
- Shows who you are
- Chinese dynasty
- Type of verse
- African nation
- Quite
- Former Bucks star Michael
- Showed again
- Body part
- Steal

Weekly Publication

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Michael Showell, Publisher

Debbie Hall, Editor

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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

Student artwork to be displayed at Piedmont Arts

Artwork by students from Albert Harris Elementary School and Patrick Henry Elementary School will be on display from Oct. 3 through Oct. 21 in Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery. A reception will be held for exhibiting students and their families, Tuesday, October 10 from 4-6 p.m. at the museum. Piedmont Arts is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Piedmont Arts is known for hosting amazing and innovative exhibits. Nowhere is that truer than in the Foster Gallery. Exhibits are curated every six to eight weeks, allowing work by students from all 19 schools in Martinsville-Henry County to be displayed during the year.

Curated by Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County, the Foster Gallery is an important part of



Area art teachers pose with their students' work, on display in the Foster Gallery at Piedmont Arts.

Piedmont Arts' community programming, encouraging young people to participate in the arts and giving the public the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent in the area. Piedmont Arts

and Charity League believe that the arts are a vital part of an excellent education, and both are pleased to take an active role in arts education in the community. Piedmont Arts is a

nonprofit art museum, located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,)
a public service corporation)
organized and existing under)
Title 56 of the Code of Virginia,)
Plaintiff,)

Law No. CL23001089-00

v.)
PATRICIA WADE,)
BRUCE WADE,)
BERNARD FRANKLIN,)
CORDELIA FRANKLIN,)
JEFFREY FRANKLIN,)
REGINALD PRESTON,)
MICHAEL PRESTON,)
BRYANT PRESTON,)
SHARON TAYLOR,)
DOROTHY PENN,)
PHYLLIS PENN JONES,)
MELINDA PENN,)
DAVID DANDRIDGE,)
DEDRA DANDRIDGE,)
BRANDON DANDRIDGE,)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, HEIRS OF JAMES T.)
PRESTON,)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, HEIRS OF OSCAR)
PRESTON,)
and)
a transmission line right-of-way easement,)
comprising 1.16 acres, more or less, and a)
temporary construction easement, comprising)
0.74 acres, more or less, across a parcel land)
located in Henry County, Virginia and)
identified as Tax Map No. 51.5 (000) 000/111,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION BY PUBLICATION

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to an order entered on the 10th day of August, 2023, this notice is hereby given: In this proceeding, the petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation a right-of-way easement and temporary construction easement across a certain parcel of land situated in Henry County, Virginia, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating an electric transmission line, which is described more particularly in the Petition for Condemnation and exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, to which reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description thereof; for the right of immediate entry in accordance with Virginia Code §§ 25.1-223 and -224; and for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury to ascertain just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the petitioner.

A hearing on the petitioner's request for immediate entry onto the property for the purpose of improving the transmission line will be held on **October 19, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.** in the Circuit Court of Henry County. Any person with an interest in the property is invited to attend and participate.

At a later date, the petitioner will move the Circuit Court of Henry County to set a date for the trial of this proceeding. The purpose of the trial will be to determine just compensation for the easement to be condemned and to ascertain the damages, if any, resulting to the adjacent property as a result of the taking.

And it appearing by affidavit filed according to law that after diligent inquiry, the following owners of the property are not residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, or their names and addresses are unknown:

- PATRICIA WADE, 33 Hamilton Court, Apt. C, Stamford, CT 06902;
- BRUCE WADE, 1757 Lakota Dr., Florence, SC 29505;
- BERNARD FRANKLIN, 2104 Marbury Dr., District Heights, MD 20747;
- CORDELIA FRANKLIN, 2104 Marbury Dr., District Heights, MD, 20747;
- JEFFREY FRANKLIN, Unknown Address;
- REGINALD PRESTON, Unknown Address;
- MICHAEL PRESTON, Unknown Address;
- BRYANT PRESTON, 240 7th Ave., Apt 3D, Mount Vernon, NY 10550;
- SHARON TAYLOR, Unknown Address;
- DOROTHY PENN, Unknown Address;
- BRENDA WATFORD, 4363 Campus Hills Cir., Jacksonville, FL 32218;
- ROSA PENN, Unknown Address;
- PHYLLIS PENN JONES, Unknown Address;
- MELINDA PENN, Unknown Address;
- DAVID DANDRIDGE, Unknown Address;
- DEDRA DANDRIDGE, Unknown Address;
- BRANDON DANDRIDGE, 695 Atlantic st., Stamford, CT 06902;
- UNKNOWN OWNERS, HEIRS OF JAMES T. PRESTON;
- UNKNOWN OWNERS, HEIRS OF OSCAR PRESTON; and

it is ordered that any of the aforesaid owners and any person with an interest in the property appear within 10 days after due publication of this order in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County and do what is necessary to protect his or her interests; and it is further ordered that if any of the above named owners or any person who has an interest in the property desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury shall file his or her answer and grounds of defense, the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of his or her property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer and grounds of defense as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the owner from appearing on the date set for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury nor from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage nor from sharing in the award of just compensation according to his or her interest therein or otherwise protecting his or her rights, but such failure shall preclude such owner from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement, or otherwise.

An extract, Teste:

Matthew P. Pritts
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Matthew P. Pritts (VSB No. 34628)
E-mail: Matthew.Pritts@wrvblaw.com
Justin E. Simmons (VSB No. 77319)
E-mail: Justin.Simmons@wrvblaw.com
WOODS ROGERS VANDEVER BLACK, PLC
10 South Jefferson Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 14125
Roanoke, VA 24038-4125
Telephone: (540) 983-7619
Facsimile: (540) 983-7711
Counsel for Petitioner Appalachian Power Company

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,)
a public service corporation)
organized and existing under)
Title 56 of the Code of Virginia,)
Plaintiff,)

Law No. CL23001090-00

v.)
BERNADETTE HODGE,)
VALERIE HODGE,)
AUDREY LANEY,)
DEBORAH HINES,)
ROBERT HAIRSTON,)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, THE HEIRS OF)
DAVID NANCE,)
JAMES RANDOLPH NANCE,)
DEAN NANCE,)
KIM NANCE,)
RODERICK RUCKER,)
WAYNE RUCKER,)
LORI JEAN RUCKER,)
COLLETTE JEANINE MAHAFFEEY,)
MAXINE HAIRSTON,)
WALTER PRESTON HAIRSTON,)
CINDY BROWN,)
and)
a transmission line right-of-way easement,)
comprising 1.07 acres, more or less, and a)
temporary construction easement, comprising)
0.74 acres, more or less, across a parcel land)
located in Henry County, Virginia and)
identified as Tax Map No. 51.4 (000) 000/037,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION BY PUBLICATION

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to an order entered on the 10th day of August, 2023, this notice is hereby given: In this proceeding, the petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation a right-of-way easement and temporary construction easement across a certain parcel of land situated in Henry County, Virginia, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating an electric transmission line, which is described more particularly in the Petition for Condemnation and exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, to which reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description thereof; for the right of immediate entry in accordance with Virginia Code §§ 25.1-223 and -224; and for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury to ascertain just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the petitioner.

A hearing on the petitioner's request for immediate entry onto the property for the purpose of improving the transmission line will be held on **October 19, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Circuit Court of Henry County. Any person with an interest in the property is invited to attend and participate.

At a later date, the petitioner will move the Circuit Court of Henry County to set a date for the trial of this proceeding. The purpose of the trial will be to determine just compensation for the easement to be condemned and to ascertain the damages, if any, resulting to the adjacent property as a result of the taking.

And it appearing by affidavit filed according to law that after diligent inquiry, the following owners of the property are not residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, or their names and addresses are unknown:

- BERNADETTE HODGE, 1309 Dyre Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124;
- VALERIE HODGE, 4632 Griscom St., Philadelphia, PA 19124;
- AUDREY LANEY, 1310 Glenwood Ave., Salisbury, NC 28146;
- DEBORAH HINES, Unknown Address;
- ROBERT HAIRSTON, Unknown Address;
- UNKNOWN OWNERS, THE HEIRS OF DAVID NANCE;
- JAMES RANDOLPH NANCE, Unknown Address;
- DEAN NANCE, Unknown Address;
- KIM NANCE, Unknown Address;
- LORI JEAN RUCKER, Unknown Address;
- COLLETTE JEANINE MAHAFFEEY, 7326 Skyview Trail, Roscoe, IL 61073;
- WALTER PRESTON HAIRSTON, Unknown Address; and

it is ordered that any of the aforementioned owners and any person with an interest in the property appear within 10 days after due publication of this order in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County and do what is necessary to protect his or her interests; and it is further ordered that if any of the above named owners or any person who has an interest in the property desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury shall file his or her answer and grounds of defense, the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of his or her property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer and grounds of defense as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the owner from appearing on the date set for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury nor from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage nor from sharing in the award of just compensation according to his or her interest therein or otherwise protecting his or her rights, but such failure shall preclude such owner from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement, or otherwise.

An extract, Teste:

Matthew P. Pritts
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Matthew P. Pritts (VSB No. 34628)
E-mail: Matthew.Pritts@wrvblaw.com
Justin E. Simmons (VSB No. 77319)
E-mail: Justin.Simmons@wrvblaw.com
WOODS ROGERS VANDEVER BLACK, PLC
10 South Jefferson Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 14125
Roanoke, VA 24038-4125
Telephone: (540) 983-7619
Facsimile: (540) 983-7711
Counsel for Petitioner Appalachian Power Company

Oldies from page 4

go for the listener as well as the DJ. It's kind of like eating chocolate: The first chocolate bar is wonderful. Eating a second one after that would be an exciting clandestine treat. At your fourth candy bar every mouthful would be torture and you'd have a stomach ache.

Though that never happened with the best of the best.

And now of all the delights, Atlanta Rhythm Section is coming to the Harvester Performance Center in Rocky Mount on Sept. 22.

Not only did I buy tickets, but

I also got out my Atlanta Rhythm Section album to listen to.

Sometimes now I can't find the Atlanta Rhythm Section album at home. But it's not hidden. I know where to find it. I just go up into my teenage daughter's room.

She keeps learning about great "old" music and is delighted and impressed to find that we already have the album.

And now as soon as she discovers a cool "old" band, she knows just where to look for its record. No need to hide anymore.



Auditions for "Doubt, A Parable" set for this weekend

Auditions will be held this weekend for October performances of "Doubt, A Parable." On Saturday, Aug. 19, auditions will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and on Sunday, Aug. 20, from 2 – 4 p.m., at TheatreWorks (BlackBox Theatre), 44 Franklin St., Uptown Martinsville.

Doubt: A Parable is a 2005 play, written by John Patrick Shanley, that analyzes an instance of doubt and suspicion in a Catholic school (St. Nicholas). Set in the Bronx in 1964, the play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest, Father Flynn, and a young male student.

For a Behind the Scenes video on how to audition, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TWCPMHC/videos/228542630171655>.

Cast (in order of appearance in the play): Father Brendan Flynn, Sister Aloysius Beauvier, Sister James, Mrs. Muller

Preferred casting for play characters: Father Flynn (age late 30s but flexible with age), male

Sister Aloysius Beauvier (age 50s - 60s), female

Sister James (age 20s - 30s), female

Mrs. Muller (age late 30), female

There are also opportunities to learn to be a director, stage manager, or set crew. For more information, email twcproduction@gmail.com.

Volunteers sought for Bassett festival

Volunteers are being sought for the Bassett Community Center Family Fall Festival, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30.

"Our group is working extremely hard to re-open the Bassett Community Center as it was an iconic recreational facility in all of Henry County at one time," organizers said. The festival "is both a fundraiser and an awareness event. There is little of this type of entertainment for the family on this side of the county and beyond."

The festival will feature food, games, live music and more, as well as food and other vendors, and a cornhole tournament, register for \$10 per

team.

Musical performances will also be included, with a Willie Nelson Tribute Concert by Jimmy Wilson from 3 to 4 p.m., and again from 4 to 5 p.m. as well as a concert by the Southern Gentleman Bluegrass Band from 1 to 2 p.m.

Tickets for concerts are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

The festival will be held at 119 Blackberry Road, Bassett.

For more information, call (276) 629-6748.

Sign up to volunteer and stay up to date with the happenings on the Save the Bassett Community Center's Facebook page.

LEGAL NOTICES

**COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **August 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.

Case R-23-11 Lonnie D. Eggleston
The property is located at 3180 & 3186 Figsboro Rd, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 18.4(2)B/18. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 13-acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant plans to sell the property to a new owner that wishes to keep chickens and livestock.

Case R-23-12 Robert K. Mills
The property is located at 782 Fisher Farm Road, in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 52.7(22)/6,7. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to bring the property into zoning compliance to allow for possible expansion.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lee H. Clark, ACP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

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

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,)
a public service corporation)
organized and existing under)
Title 56 of the Code of Virginia,)
Plaintiff,)

v.) Law No. CL23001088-00
SHIRLEY M. GRAVELY,)
DAVID MARTIN,)
ANN QUARLES,)
ESTELLE PRESTON,)
PAULINE PRITCHETT,)
AVERY N. PENN,)
MARGARET CALDWELL,)
ALICE PENN,)
JAN PENN,)
JAMES ANTHONY PENN,)
JERVIS PENN,)
JEROME PENN,)
JASON PENN,)
WILLIAM JOHNSON,)
RENETTA JOHNSON,)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, THE HEIRS OF)
RUSSELL LANE,)
ANTHONY FERRELL,)
KIM PRESTON,)
ANTHONY PRESTON,)
SHIELA LONG,)
ELIJAH SMITH PRESTON,)
FASHION SMITH PRESTON,)
AMBER SMITH PRESTON,)
LESHAY SMITH PRESTON,)
ASKYA SMITH PRESTON,)
JACQUELYN JEANINE FERGUSON,)
CLARENCE O'BRIAN JACKSON,)
KATHLEEN DAVIS,)
CAROLYN PRESTON,)
DOROTHY PRESTON FERGUSON,)
EARL MCCOY PRESTON, SR.,)
and)
a transmission line right-of-way easement,)
comprising 1.71 acres, more or less, and a)
temporary construction easement, comprising)
0.80 acres, more or less, across a parcel of land)
located in Henry County, Virginia and)
identified as Tax Map No. 51.5(000)000/109)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION BY PUBLICATION

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to an order entered on the 10th day of August, 2023, this notice is hereby given:

In this proceeding, the petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation a right-of-way easement and temporary construction easement across a certain parcel of land situated in Henry County, Virginia, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating an electric transmission line, which is described more particularly in the Petition for Condemnation and exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, to which reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description thereof; for the right of immediate entry in accordance with Virginia Code §§ 25.1-223 and -224; and for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury to ascertain just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the petitioner.

A hearing on the petitioner's request for immediate entry onto the property for the purpose of improving the transmission line will be held on October 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Circuit Court of Henry County. Any person with an interest in the property is invited to attend and participate.

At a later date, the petitioner will move the Circuit Court of Henry County to set a date for the trial of this proceeding. The purpose of the trial will be to determine just compensation for the easement to be condemned and to ascertain the damages, if any, resulting to the adjacent property as a result of the taking.

And it appearing by affidavit filed according to law that after diligent inquiry, the following owners of the property are not residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia or their names and addresses are unknown:

DAVID MARTIN, 86 Tyler Drive, Willingboro, NJ 08046;
ESTELLE PRESTON, Unknown Address;
AVERY N. PENN, 607 Stonebarn Road, Towson, MD 21286;
MARGARET CALDWELL, 1091 SageCress Drive, Columbus, OH 43229;
ALICE PENN, 6726 Hawthorne Street, Hyattsville, MD 20785;
JAN PENN, Unknown Address;
JAMES ANTHONY PENN, Unknown Address;
JERVIS PENN, Unknown Address;
JEROME PENN, Unknown Address;
JASON PENN, Unknown Address;
WILLIAM JOHNSON, Unknown Address;
RENETTA JOHNSON, 4552 Wokker Drive, Lake Worth, FL 33467;
UNKNOWN OWNERS, THE HEIRS OF RUSSELL LANE;
ANTHONY FERRELL, 5709 Lansdowne Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131
KIM PRESTON, 3288 Bellerive Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147;
ANTHONY PRESTON, 3233 Bellerive Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147;
SHIELA LONG, 4274 Golden Meadows Ct., Groves City, OH 43123;
ELIJAH SMITH PRESTON, Unknown Address;
FASHION SMITH PRESTON, Unknown Address;
AMBER SMITH PRESTON, Unknown Address;
LESHAY SMITH PRESTON, Unknown Address;
ASKYA SMITH PRESTON, Unknown Address;
JACQUELYN JEANINE FERGUSON, 13509 Princess Kelly Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32225;
CLARENCE O'BRIAN JACKSON, 7621 Rainforest Dr., North Jacksonville, FL 32277;
CAROLYN PRESTON, 3801 26th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018;
DOROTHY PRESTON FERGUSON, 3840 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104;

it is ordered that any of the aforesaid owners or any person with an interest in the property appear within 10 days after due publication of this order in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County and do what is necessary to protect his or her interests; and it is further ordered that if any of the above named owners or any person who has an interest in the property desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury shall file his or her answer and grounds of defense, the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of his or her property or to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Henry County to hear the case and to proceed with the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer and grounds of defense as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the owner from appearing on the date set for the appointment of commissioners or the empanelment of a jury nor from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage nor from sharing in the award of just compensation according to his or her interest therein or otherwise protecting his or her rights, but such failure shall preclude such owner from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement, or otherwise.

An extract, Teste:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Matthew P. Pritts (VSB No. 34628)
E-mail: Matthew.Pritts@wrvblaw.com
Justin E. Simmons (VSB No. 77319)
E-mail: Justin.Simmons@wrvblaw.com
WOODS ROGERS VANDEVER BLACK, PLC
10 South Jefferson Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 14125
Roanoke, VA 24038-4125
Telephone: (540) 983-7619
Facsimile: (540) 983-7711
Counsel for Petitioner Appalachian Power Company

Come join us for a...

FALL FESTIVAL

BASSETT COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH
11 AM - 5 PM

FOOD VENDORS & MANY OTHER VARIOUS VENDORS	CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT \$10 PER TEAM	
 CONCERT 1PM-5PM 1 PM - 2 PM SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN BLUEGRASS BAND	2 PM - 3 PM WILLIE NELSON TRIBUTE (JIMMY WILSON)	
 FREE CHILDREN'S GAMES AND INFLATABLES	3 PM - 4 PM AND 4 PM - 5 PM MOWTOWN LEGACY	happy FALL

TICKETS FOR THE CONCERT ARE \$8 IN ADVANCE OR \$10 AT THE DOOR

FOOD • GAMES
LIVE MUSIC • AND MORE

119 BLACKBERRY ROAD
BASSETT, VA 24055
(276) 629-6748

Like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook!

County from page 3

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discrimi-

natory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email program.intake@usda.gov
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Ride from page 1

you, it's \$5 for them to ride," she said.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the Jennifer Short Scholarship, which raises funds to award a scholarship to students in Henry County who can't afford to go to college.

At last year's event, Shields said she met a girl who said she was one of the first recipients of the scholarship.

"She told me that it really helped her a lot because she really couldn't afford to go to college, and" that made me want to help, she said.

Shields said riders will leave from the Eagles Club parking lot and take a left to get onto Virginia Avenue. Riders will then go through Collinsville and Martinsville, traveling to the bridge near where Short's remains were found in Rockingham

County, North Carolina. The ride should take around 30 minutes and cover 25-30 miles.

Shields said a free meal will also be provided for each rider after the event.

"We're going to have Bojangles, they donated chicken for us this year. I had Woody's Supermarket and Walmart donate water, and Ridgeway Farmers' Market donated watermelons," she said.

Shields estimated that at least 100 people attended last year's event.

Shields also plans to hold other events throughout the year to raise funds for the scholarship, including a bowling event in September and a potential bake-off.

"We're thinking we're planning to do something around Christmas time, but we're not quite sure yet or 100 percent on what we're going to

do," she said.

Michael and Mary Short were found shot to death in their home on August 15, 2002. Their daughter, Jennifer, 9, was missing and presumed abducted by her parents' killer or killers. Six weeks later, remains found in Rockingham County, N.C., were determined to belong to Jennifer.

To date, the case remains open.

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

Residents from page 3

Consulting Group, the City hopes to combine their expertise alongside resident input to shape the future of the parks. Public park surveys and assessments will be conducted, as well as community meetings in different voting districts.

"Residents' insights are a crucial part of this project," Mayor LC Jones said. "We invite everyone to par-

ticipate and contribute to our shared vision."

Residents are encouraged to attend the following Community Meetings:

- Thursday, August 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Southside Park picnic shelter, 1224 Ranson Road, Martinsville, and
- Tuesday, August 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Virginia Museum of Natural History,

21 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

These informal gatherings provide an opportunity for residents to engage and share their thoughts on the future of Martinsville parks as the City aims to create a comprehensive parks plan based on community input.

For updates and more information, visit Martinsville-va.gov.

Prevention from page 1

to visit their training center, and I arranged and scheduled to train three of our deputies to graduate from the D.A.R.E. program," he said.

The intensive, two-week course required officer-teachers to be knowledgeable about such matters and show their competency as educators.

"So, they really put them through their paces over those two weeks," Davis said. The training was necessary to prepare officers to lead the classroom lessons that teach youngsters how to stay drug-free and resist peer pressure.

The D.A.R.E. program began in 1983 and quickly became the most popular drug prevention program for youth nationwide. The main curriculum involves officers providing once-a-week instruction to students for about an hour. A typical D.A.R.E. program covers a number of topics including the effects of drugs, techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illegal substances, stress management, and positive alternatives to drug use.

After a hiatus in local schools, Davis said he decided to bring the program back because he believes youngsters must be educated about the dangers of substance abuse.

"If we are not educating our chil-

dren about the dangers of substance abuse, then we're promoting the next generation of addicts," he said.

Davis said this D.A.R.E. program will be substantially different than the previous one which focused exclusively on drug and alcohol education.

"The new D.A.R.E. program begins its foundation with teaching children at the K-12 level and reinforcing how to just make good life decisions from which they can build upon," he said.

Davis said it will focus on the deputies being mentors to the students to help youngsters focus on good life decisions.

"Once we start to work on that, then we can begin to educate them on an array of topics in the D.A.R.E. program. They include not only drug and alcohol awareness, but vaping, which is an issue in our schools, online and social media safety, bullying prevention, and mental health issues for preteens and teens," he said.

Davis believes the well-rounded program goes further than just saying, "These are the dangers of drugs and alcohol. It builds upon the foundation of that encouragement and support to make good decisions in life."

The program begins this year, according to Davis, who is looking forward to the school year.

Trio charged in mid-month incident

Three people were charged in connection with an August 13 incident, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

The call was received by the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center around 8:12 p.m., with a woman reporting an intoxicated person was operating a white Dodge Charger on Dale Ave., Fieldale. According to the caller, the vehicle struck several mailboxes, and two people were in an altercation with the driver. Deputies from the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police responded to the scene, and investigators alleged the incident began as a dispute between three men.

One of the men was allegedly driving the Dodge. When the vehicle came to rest after striking a mailbox, another man allegedly fired shots at the vehicle. Two men then allegedly approached the driver who was still in the vehicle, and an altercation ensued, resulting in an assault.

The three men were charged in connection with the incident, on

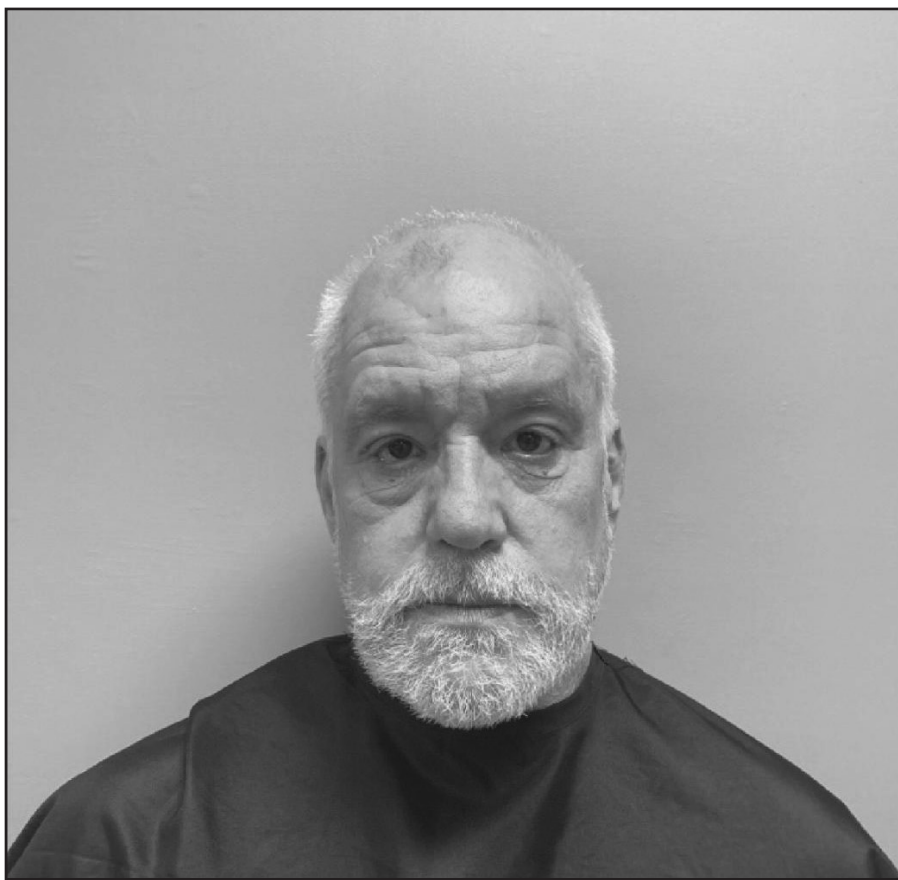
charges are:

Dempsey Fitzgerald Martin, 59, of 775 Irisburg Road, Martinsville, driving while intoxicated is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on a \$3,000 secured bond on one count of.

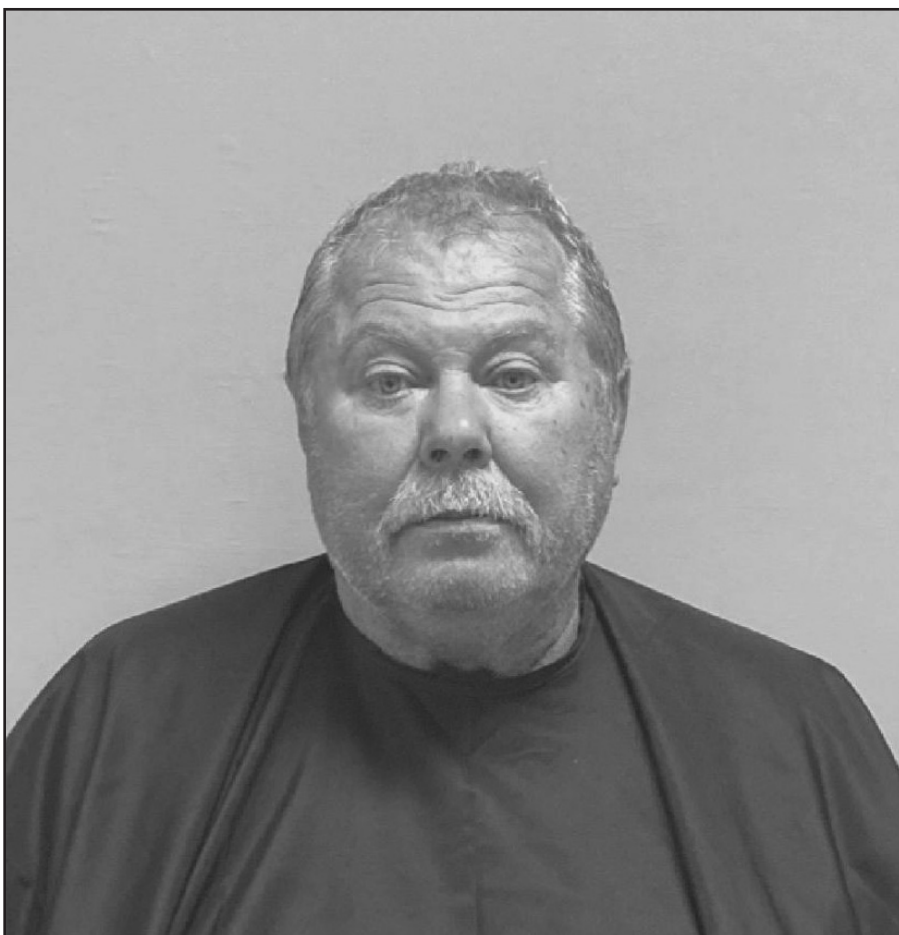
Allen Bradley Parks, 68, of 31 Dale Ave., Fieldale, was charged with shoot at an occupied vehicle and unlawful wounding. He is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center without bond.

Joe Edward Patton, 77, of 49 Chadmore Dr., Fieldale, was charged with unlawful wounding. He is currently being held at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on a \$5,000 secured bond.

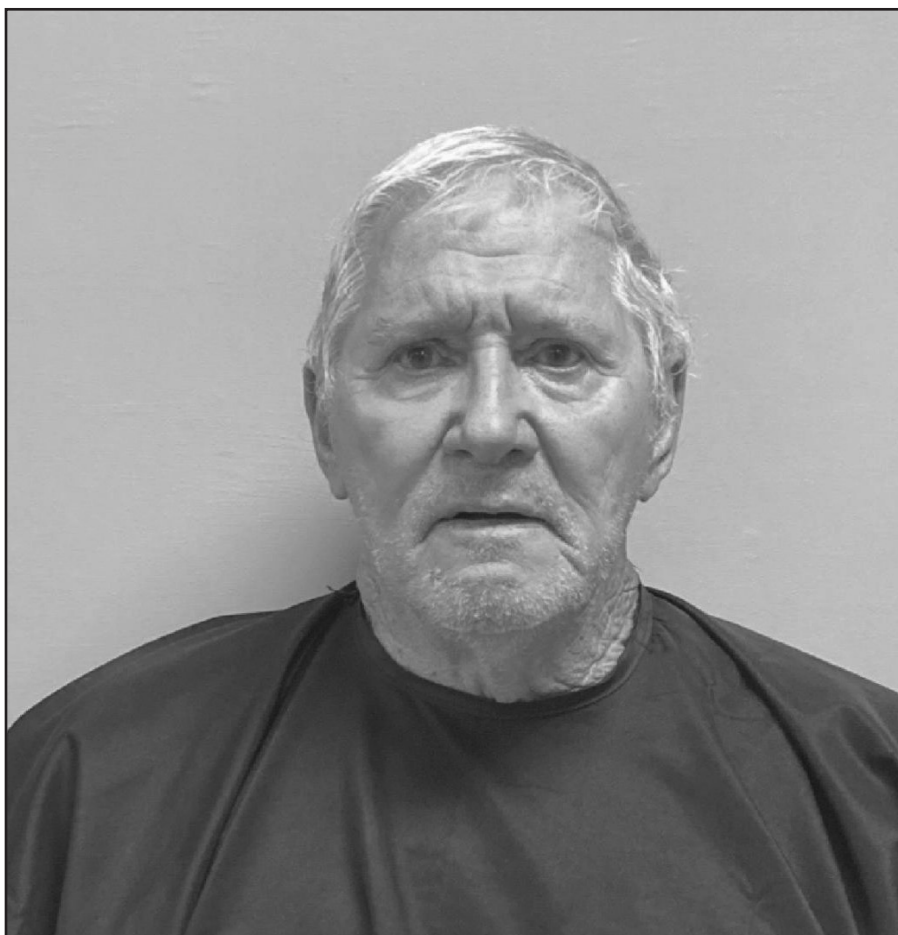
Anyone with information about incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 276-638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine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



Dempsey Fitzgerald Martin



Allen Bradley Parks



Joe Edward Patton

Gala from page 1

Holland said in Virginia, only African American men were executed for rape.

"It had never been a white person executed for that," she said.

On August 31, 2021, then-governor Ralph Northam issued a pardon for the seven men.

"Every year we have an annual gala to celebrate that" pardon, Holland said. "The whole process is to keep the Martinsville Seven in history books because up until recently, nothing had been said about this situation that occurred over 70 years ago."

Holland said the gala will also serve as a fundraiser for the organization, with proceeds going toward the seven scholarships named after the seven men.

The initiative also plans to work toward establishing a center for social justice that will hopefully work with the victim witness protection program, hold forums and workshops, and other types of com-

munity engagement.

"We've done three Martinsville Seven exhibits, and they'll be displayed at the center," she said.

Besides celebrating the pardons, Holland said there will be presentations about the initiative and an update on its current activities.

There will also be a talk by Danville-based genealogist Katrice Luck, a live band, DJ, and a catered dinner.

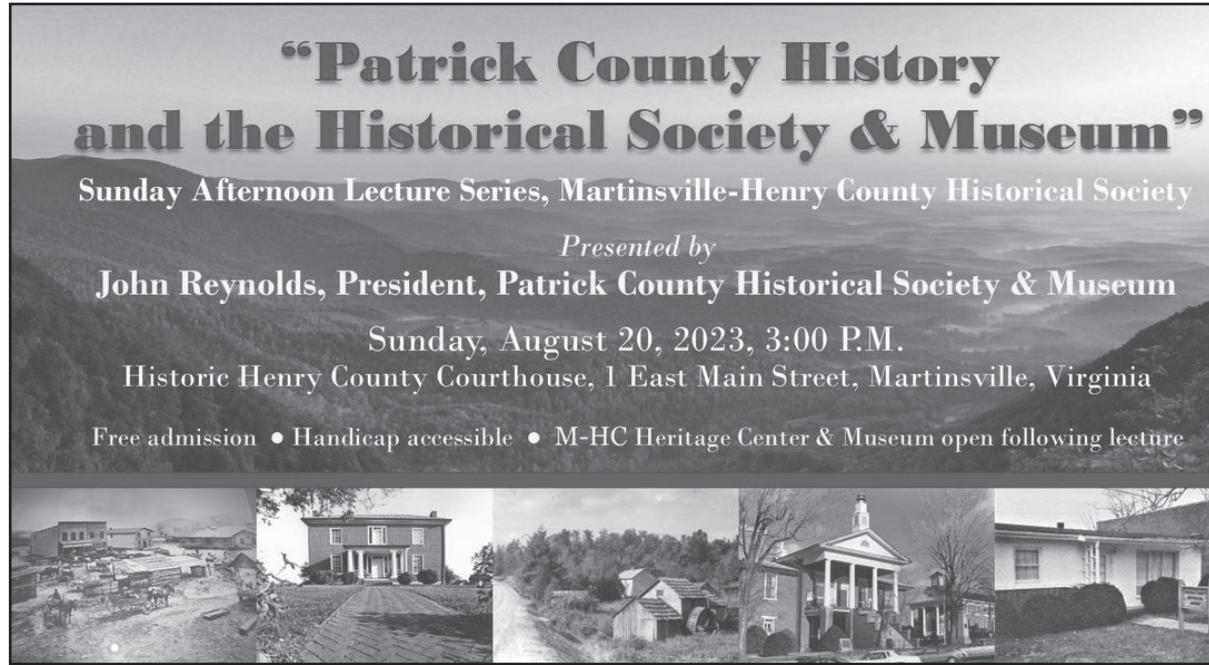
Holland said last year's gala attracted 96 people, and 111 attended the first gala.

"A lot of the family members attend. We have representatives from each of the seven families at the gala," she said.

Tickets are required to attend the gala and cost \$50 each. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

To purchase a ticket, call the initiative at (276) 806-3983 or (276) 226-4318 or via CashApp using \$Martinsville7.

For more information, visit www.martinsville7initiative.org.



Sunday Afternoon Lecture to feature Patrick County History

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will host its monthly Sunday Afternoon Lecture, "Patrick County History & the Historical Society & Museum," on Sunday, August 20, at the Historic Henry County

Courthouse at 3 p.m., presented by John Reynolds, president, Patrick County Historical Society & Museum.

Admission to the Sunday Afternoon Lecture series is free, made possible by corporate spon-

sors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The Historic Henry County Courthouse is fully handicap accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum will be open following the presentation.

Sports Schedule

Below is the schedule of high school sports for the week of Aug. 19-25.

8/21 2pm	Golf	Bassett at Halifax County (Greens Folly GC)
2pm	Golf	Magna Vista at Halifax County (Greens Folly GC)
2pm	Golf	Martinsville at Halifax County (Greens Folly GC)
7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Chatham
8/22 7pm	Volleyball	Patrick County at Bassett
8/23 7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Staunton River
7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Morehead
8/24 2pm	Golf	Bassett vs Martinsville (Forest Park CC)
2pm	Golf	Magna Vista vs Martinsville (Forest Park CC)
7pm	Volleyball	James River at Bassett
7pm	Volleyball	William Byrd at Magna Vista
7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at William Fleming
8/25 7pm	Football	Franklin County at Bassett
7pm	Football	Staunton at Magna Vista
7pm	Football	Patrick County at Martinsville

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Caroline Williams Smith

Dorothy Caroline Williams Smith, 82, passed away Friday, August 11, 2023, at Mulberry Creek Nursing and Rehab Center. Mrs. Smith was born on December 8, 1940, in Martinsville, VA, to the late Lofton Benjamin Williams and Veatrice Perdue Williams. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Burton Wayne (Shadarack) Smith.

Dorothy attended Abundant Life Fellowship Church and worked as a manager for Merita Bread Store.

Surviving is her daughter; Barbara Smith Fabinski (David) of Martinsville, son; Randy DeWayne Smith (KiKi) of Martinsville,



sisters; Bertha Williams Agee, Claudie Williams Spencer and Deane Williams Daniels, grandchildren; Jamie Haley (Christe), Jesslyne Barela (Ransom), Emily Clark (Bryan), Ashley Mena (David), Marissa Smith and Kalee Smith, great grandchildren; Chloe Thompson, Ryleigh Clark, Hayden Mena

and Jovan Huettinger, also many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, with Minister Tim Hunt officiating. The burial will be at Roselawn Burial Park, Martinsville, VA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Dyers Store Volunteer Fire Department, 3230 Chatham Road, Martinsville, Va.24112.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA is serving the Smith family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Mildred Lorene Kidd Gilley

Mildred Lorene Kidd Gilley, 91, of Martinsville, Va. passed away August 3, 2023, at the home of her daughter, Judy Johnston (Dennis). Mildred was born on June 7, 1932, to the late Robert Fulton Kidd, Sr. and Hester Kate Wilson Kidd of Axton, Va.

She was predeceased by her husband, Malley Lee Gilley; brothers, Robert Fulton Kidd, Jr.; Lewis Edward Kidd, Sr., James Otis Kidd; sisters, Erva Kidd Webb and Doris Kidd Moore.

She is survived by children Judy Gilley Johnston (Dennis),



Roger Lee Gilley and Leonard David Gilley; grandchildren, Nathaniel David Gilley, Matthew Paul Gilley, Mallory Leigh Gilley and great grandchild, Terry Andrew Gilley; sisters, Betty Ruth Nichols

and Marie Kidd Parker, both of Collinsville, Va., brothers, Douglas Stokes Kidd of Martinsville and William Wesley Kidd of Axton, Va.

A graveside service was held on Monday, August 7, 2023 at Roselawn Burial Park, officiated by Pastor David Towler.

The family would like to acknowledge Mt. Valley Hospice for their care, but especially to her special caregiver Ebony Brimmer, who was loved by Mrs. Gilley and her family.

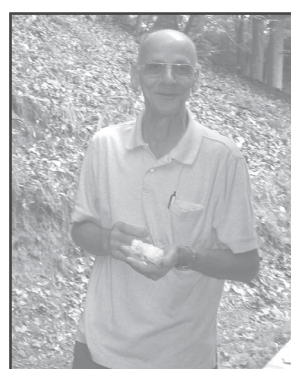
McKee-Stone Funeral Home is serving the family.

Bobby Wayne Turney

Bobby Wayne Turney, 86, of Ridgeway, Va. passed away Tuesday, August 1, 2023. He was born in Austinville, Va. June 12, 1937, to William Daniel Turney and Mary Jane Jones Turney.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte Ann Sisk Turney; grandson, Corbin Turney; siblings, Raymond Turney, Mozelle King (Luther), Mary Kathryn Dean (Boyce), Lee Turney (Ailene), Ruby Ward (Bill), Joanne Dennis (Bill), and Billy Turney (Polly).

He is survived by his son, Anthony "Tony" Turney (Karen), Darrell Turney (Lynn), Daniel "Danny" Turney (Lisa) and James Turney (Gina); grandchildren,



Ben Turney (Lori), Elizabeth Herod (Adam), Derrick Turney (Georgie), Kayla Turney, Devin Turney, Derek Moore (Leah), Tyler Turney (Nicole), and Cara Motley (Justin); nine great grandchildren and sister, Nancy Frazier (Donald).

Mr. Turney was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy in Eden, N.C. He was retired from Dupont. He loved being with his family and extended

family. He enjoyed fishing, watching NASCAR and listening to bluegrass gospel music.

A funeral was held on Friday, August 4, 2023, at the Church of God of Prophecy in Eden, officiated by Pastors Les Herod and Keith Russell. Interment was at Mt. View Cemetery 711 Church Street, Ridgeway, VA 24148.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Church of God of Prophecy, 125 Nance Street, Eden, N.C. 27288.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Crystal Coryell Gravely Helbing Austin

Crystal Coryell Gravely Helbing Austin, 77, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Monday, July 31, 2023. She was born July 4, 1946, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Glynn Lawrence Coryell and Allie Mae Heath Coryell.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Harry Clay Gravely III; her second husband, Edward J. Helbing; her son, Harry Clay Gravely IV; brothers, Glynn Heath and J. Ritchie Coryell; and sister, Patricia Vade Coryell Humphrey.

She is survived by her third husband, James "Jim" Raymond Austin; son, Glynn Coryell Gravely (Rikki Horton Gravely); daughter-in-law, Jennifer Beeler Gravely; grandchildren, Asher Glynn Gravely, Annalise Sutton Gravely, Harry Clay "Quinn" Gravely V, and Brooks Schottland Gravely, and many beloved stepchildren, nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Austin was very



active in promoting her community and civic groups. She was a member of The Garden Study Club of Martinsville, the Charity League and Piedmont Arts, which she helped to form. She had also served as Director of Development of Boys and Girls Club of Holland, Michigan.

She was also an active participant in the First United Methodist Church of Martinsville, First Baptist Church of Martinsville and Christ Episcopal Church.

A funeral was held on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Christ Episcopal Church, officiated by the

Reverend John Adams and Reverend Dr. Libby Grammer. Interment was at Oakwood Cemetery.

The family is especially grateful to the wonderful aides who helped Crystal as her health failed: Vanessa Gravely, Dorothy Hairston, Brenda Devins, Sylvia Ann Tucker, Alisha Carter and their wonderful housekeeper, Rosetta Peatross. We are also grateful for the loving care and support provided by the nurses and staff of Mountain Valley Hospice during Crystal's final days.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Multiple System Atrophy Coalition, 1660 International Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102 or at <https://www.multiplesystematrophy.org/donate-now>, or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Joan Prillaman Barnes

Joan Prillaman Barnes, 89, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Sunday, August 13, 2023. She was born October 27, 1933, to Henry Wilson Prillaman and Mamie Carter Prillaman.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Franklin R. Barnes; daughter, Deborah Joan Barnes; daughter-in-law, Brenda Barnes.

She is survived by three sons, Mitch Barnes and Danny Barnes, all of Martinsville, Jeff Barnes and wife, Teresa of Bassett; grandchildren, Scott Barnes and wife, Tamara, Amy Boyd, Magen Lindsey (Jeremy) and Haley Barnes; great-grandchildren, Katelin and Kaydla



Boyd, Brendon Barnes, Jaxon and Aiden Inman, Paisley Tyler and Wyatt Lindsey; sister, Doris Hundley (Richard) and brothers, Lowell Prillaman (Aubrey) and Curtis Prillaman (Ann).

Joan loved her family dearly and enjoyed gardening, canning and cooking for them.

She was a faithful member of McCabe

Memorial Baptist Church for over 60 years. She loved her church and church family. While able, she was very active in the church along with her husband. She taught Sunday school and was always in church whenever there was any activity there.

The funeral service was held on Friday, August 18, 2023, at McCabe Memorial Baptist Church and was officiated by Reverend G.H. Vaughn and Reverend Lewis Harris. Interment was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home in Martinsville.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Nancy Jarvis Thomas

Nancy Jarvis Thomas left this earth an angel on June 22, 2023, due to complications from a bone marrow transplant. Her health rapidly declining, Nancy's providers proposed the procedure as her only chance to achieve her singular wish – additional time with her beloved family, friends, and cherished grandsons, Jaxon and Saxon.

Nancy is preceded in death by her mother, Arbutus Mozelle Jarvis and her father, Edgar Odell Jarvis.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 53 years, Roy Thomas of Martinsville; son Jason, daughter-in-law Minerva, and grandson Jaxon; son Justin, daughter-in-law Chelsea, and grandson Saxon; sister Joan and brother-in-law Donnie; sister Susan, niece Emily, and nephew Tabor; brother Odell, niece Jessica, and nephew Jacoby.

In addition to her eternal devotion to her family and friends, Nancy possessed an infinite appetite for higher learning. Nancy graduated from Stratford College with a B.A. in Spanish and, later, as a full-time parent and teacher, pursued and achieved the near impossible, earning three (3) advanced degrees. Simultaneously enrolled in Wake Forest University and the University of Virginia, Nancy was awarded an M.A. in Liberal Studies from the former and an M.A. in Education in Curriculum & Instruction from the



latter. The University of Virginia was once again her alma mater when she earned her third advanced diploma, an Education Specialist Degree in Administration - Principalship.

Nancy's career in education began in Yanceyville, NC in 1971 but brought her back to her hometown of Danville, VA the next year. From 1976 to 1985, she took a maternity "sabbatical" and raised a family, with Jason born in 1978, and Justin in 1985. Later that same year, she began teaching in Danville again, before joining Martinsville's Carlisle School in 1987, and there spent the remainder of her career as the beloved "Señora" Thomas until her retirement in 2016. Additional administrative responsibilities at Carlisle School included Foreign Language Department Head and International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator.

Nancy's faith was resolute, evidenced by her commitment to the church, its congregation, and numerous charity organizations. As a member of First Baptist Church since moving to Martinsville in 1978,

she served on numerous committees and coordinated countless events. Each and every year, she sponsored and funded the Salvation Army food drive, Christmas project for children in need, and the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart" event, to name but a few.

Nancy was a daughter. She was a sister. She was a wife. She was a mother and a grandmother. She was a friend, an educator, an advisor, and a mentor. She was a moral compass to us all, divinely calibrated and true.

A "Celebration of Life" was held on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at First Baptist Church located at 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville, VA 24112, officiated by Reverend Dr. Libby Grammer.

"Flowers are greatly appreciated, or, memorial donations can be made to "First Baptist Church, Children's Ministry" located at 23 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. Additionally, donations can be mailed to "Good News Jail & Prison Ministry" located at P.O. Box 66, Martinsville, VA 24112."

Arrangements made and tribute hosted by Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home, 109 Broad St, Martinsville, Va.

Loved by all, Nancy is dearly missed.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Vera Ann Pruitt Bowers

Vera Ann Pruitt Bowers, 84, of Martinsville, Va. passed away Monday, August 7, 2023. She was born June 10, 1939, in Axton, Va. to Joe Pruitt and Martha Sue Stegall Harris Pruitt.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Billy Bowers II; sons, Joe Billy Bowers III and Doug Bowers; and son-in-law Tim Odell; daughters, Patricia Bowers Underwood; sisters, Mamie Sue Pruitt Case, Ruby Harris McDaniel Talley, Oretha Harris Pruitt; brothers, Joe Pruitt, Jr., Leonard, Walter, and Thomas Harris.

She is survived by her daughter of the home, Martha Bowers Odell,



daughters, Elizabeth Garman, Carolyn Bowers, Lou Bowers Slate; sons, Mike, Jimmy, Bobby and Tommy Bowers; sister, Evelyn Pruitt Burgess; brother, Bobby Gene Pruitt; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vera dearly loved her family and especially

her grandchildren. She also loved to cook and sit on her front porch. She worked as a veneer specialist for over 40 years at American of Martinsville Furniture Company. She attended Amazing Grace Church in Stoneville, N.C.

She was a long-time member of the Fieldale Ruritan Club where she received the Ruritan of the Year and Tom Downing awards.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Stegall-Harris-Pruitt family cemetery in Irisburg, Va., officiated by Reverend Sammy Caldwell.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

OBITUARIES

Roxie Ann Cook Fox

Roxie Ann Cook Fox, 89, passed away Tuesday, July 11, 2023. She was born November 19, 1933, in Crozet, Va. to Minor Cook and Zeta Lewis Cook Vess. Her stepfather, Virgil Venston Vess, Sr., helped raise her from seven months old.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather; husband, Dr. Nelson M. Fox Jr.; brothers, Minor Lynwood Cook, William "Billy" Cook, Virgil Venston Vess, Jr., Marvin Howard Vess; sisters, Edith C. Schlischer, Edna A. Humphreys and Jean V. Joachim, son-in-law, Vince Perrin; grandson, Christopher Mnich.

She is survived by her daughter, Judi Gray Fox Perrin; son, Nelson "Burr" M. Fox, III (Lori Handy Fox); daughters, Ellen Ann Fox Mnich (Phil) and Mary Katheryn Fox Freeman; brother, Robert L. Vess (Yvonne "Bunky"); sister, Laferne Harris



(Ralph); grandchildren, Mande White, LB Fox, Luke Fox and Liza Ann Fox, Michael Mnich and Marcus Mnich, Nelson Freeman, Ben Freeman, Jesse Freeman, Cecilia Freeman and Jenny Beth Freeman; great grandchildren, Jordan Elizabeth White, Emalee Virginia White, Lydia Grace Fox, Tate Freeman, Oakley Freeman, Channing Freeman, Travers Freeman, Sullivan Freeman, Ronan Freeman, Liam Freeman and Landrick Freeman.

Roxie was a pediatric nurse and a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She was a very supportive wife and dearly loved her husband and family. She was an excellent golfer but when tennis became popular, the tennis dresses were cuter than the Bermuda shorts, so she started playing tennis and became very proficient at that. She was a member of the Charity League, and she played bridge. She was a very active member of Broad Street Christian Church.

A funeral was held on Friday, July 21, 2023, at Broad Street Christian Church, officiated by Pastor Hayden Cran. Interment followed at Corinth Christian Church Cemetery, 9153 Dabneys Mill Road, (Route 604) Enfield, Virginia 23106.

Memorials may be made to the Broad Street Christian Church, 106 Broad Street, Martinsville, Va. 24112.

Arrangements are by McKee-Stone Funeral Home.

Aileen Collins

Aileen Bishop Collins of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on August 11, 2023, at the age of 88. She was born in Claudville, Virginia to the Rev. Jesse Franklin Bishop, Jr. and Mable Marie (Scott) Bishop on January 23, 1935.

Aileen attended schools in Virginia and West Virginia. She was a 1953 graduate of Big Creek High School in War, West Virginia. In 1955 she married Willie Lowell Collins, Sr. of Martinsville and settled in Ridgeway, Virginia. She worked for DuPont from 1956 to 1962. Aileen had an adventurous spirit; she visited Canada, Mexico, and all 48 states in the contiguous USA. In 2005, at the age of 70 she completed personal computer training and became a social media missionary.

Aileen was a faithful member of Wilson Street Pentecostal Holiness Church for



68 years, and a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Aileen taught Sunday school at Blue Ridge Nursing Center for 36 years and supported other church programs such as world missions, the girl's ministry and the Bible Quiz Team.

Aileen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a sister, Yvonne Bishop Green. Aileen is survived by her daughter, Stephanie C. Clark (Kenton) of Blacksburg, Virginia; her son, Willie L. Collins, Jr. (Janet) of Kernersville, NC; and six grandchildren, Benjamin T. Clark,

Virginia L. Clark (Zachary W. Tolson), Elizabeth C. Stroud (Caleb), Jonathan W. Collins, Joshua L. Collins and Victoria C. Collins. Aileen is also survived by two sisters, Margaret B. Rogers of Dublin, Virginia and Marie B. Hollingsworth of Bay Minette, Alabama; a brother, J. James Bishop (Brenda) of Oak Ridge, NC; along with many nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home in Martinsville, Virginia on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 11 a.m., preceded by visitation at 10 a.m.

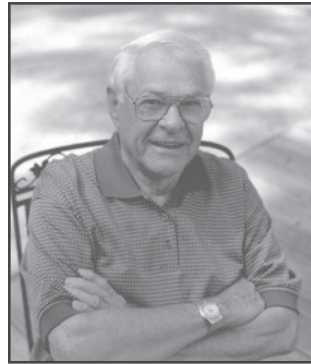
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wilson Street Pentecostal Holiness Church of Martinsville, Virginia or to the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, World Missions (<https://iphc.org/missions/>).

Dr. H. Marvin Midkiff

Thank you
for reading
the Henry
County
Enterprise!

Dr. H. Marvin Midkiff, age 97, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home is handling arrangements.



Congressional staff plan visit

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available to Patrick and Henry counties on August 23.

Staff will visit in the City of Martinsville from 10- 11:30 a.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor 55 W. Church Street, Martinsville.

They will be in Patrick County from 12:30 - 2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call offices in Christiansburg, (540) 381-5671 or Abingdon, (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

Protect yourself and your property from lightning strikes

Your odds of being struck by lightning in an 80-year lifetime are 1 in 18,864, according to the National Lightning Safety Council.

Despite those odds, there have been multiple lightning fatalities in Virginia since 2007. Most victims were young adults or children engaged in common outdoor activities.

Types of strikes vary from direct strikes to side flashes (or splashes) that occur when lightning strikes a taller object, jumping to a nearby victim, according to the NLSC. Ground-current strikes are the most widely devastating, as energy travels outward from the strike through the ground. Any people or animals outside near a lightning strike are potential victims of deadly ground current, evident in mass fatalities of livestock.

The council cautions that no place outside is safe during a thunderstorm. It recommends running to a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle quickly. Otherwise, avoid open areas, and don't be the tallest target. Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers or poles. Avoid wires or fences. Create distance from groups gathered outdoors.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, Virginia ranked in the top 10 states for homeowner insurance lightning loss claims in 2022.

"This weather peril affects most parts of Virginia, and it's also a leading fire threat," said Kimberly Loehr, co-owner of Loehr Lightning Protection Co. and member of the NLSC. "A single strike can deliver 300 million volts of electricity and

30,000 amps to unprotected homes. Compared to a household electrical current of 120 volts and 15 amps, lightning's mega electricity can pack a massive punch with devastating results."

Lightning fires can originate in enclosed spaces like the attic, basement or electrical service panels. Signs of a home strike include:

- Power outages;
- Sparks or smoldering fire;
- Acrid odor or pungent smell (ozone) similar to melting plastic;
- Physical damage to the structure or surrounding property;
- Appliances or electronics that have shut down or turned on suddenly;
- Dimming, flickering or burned-out lights; and
- Humming or buzzing sounds.

"Safety standard-compliant lightning protection systems help prevent losses," said Scott DeNoon, senior farm product and underwriting manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "It's very important that these components be properly connected."

Lightning protection that follows guidelines recommended by the Lightning Protection Institute can prevent fires.

"These systems work by providing a network of low-resistance paths to safely intercept lightning's destructive electricity and direct it to ground without impact to a structure or its occupants," Loehr added.

Your local Virginia Farm Bureau insurance agent can answer questions about residential and personal property protection coverage.

Purse for 2023 ValleyStar Credit Union 300 is Largest in Race History



This year's ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway will have the largest purse that NASCAR's biggest and most prestigious Late Model Stock Car race has ever seen, with \$125,000 to be distributed across the field of finishing drivers.

The increased sum is awarded and sponsored by a number of local businesses in the Martinsville-Henry County region, including Hitachi Energy, Danville Toyota, The Lester Group, MaxPro and B99.

"The added prize money will be distributed to finishing positions sixth on back through the field in the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, and we know raising the stakes with the largest purse in the history of the race will add an extra layer of excitement" said Clay Campbell, President of

Martinsville Speedway. "The Virginia Late Model Triple Crown finale creates an atmosphere unlike any other event we host here at Martinsville Speedway. With even more on the line during a race that is already known for fierce battles at this track, fans are sure to experience a night to remember."

The Pole Award Winner presented by Martinsville Speedway will receive \$5,000; and the lap leader at the end of both stages in the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 will each receive \$1,000 presented by Clarence's Steakhouse.

Additionally, the Sunoco/Sparks Oil Most Improved Position award winner will receive \$1,000; while the leader of each lap in the 200-lap race will receive \$25, with \$5,000 available in the laps-led bonus pool, provided by Doughton's

Racing Products.

Last year, Late Model veteran Peyton Sellers was victorious at Martinsville Speedway, winning not only the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, but also securing the coveted Virginia Late Model Triple Crown - his fourth time winning the title.

The ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway is on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 7:00 p.m., with 200 laps of tight racing around the historic half-mile, featuring a thrilling post-race fireworks show. The four 25-lap qualifying races will begin at 3 p.m. that same day.

To purchase tickets or for information on the Virginia Late Model Triple Crown Finale, or the upcoming NASCAR race weekend at Martinsville Speedway, please visit www.martinsvillespeedway.com.

Community College Chancellor Announces New Era for Education in Virginia

Virginia's Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. David Doré announced a new era for the system at the annual Chancellor's Retreat – one that prioritizes job placement beyond program completion - and an entirely new approach for community colleges to embrace technology and flexibility to serve a “new majority of learners” – including veterans, parents, and working adults.

Doré, who took over the position this spring, outlined his vision for the system during his keynote speech to the community college presidents, faculty, and others who were present at this year's event at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center on August 8. As the system's first new Chancellor in 21 years, Dr. Doré spent his first 36 days in his position visiting all 23 community colleges on his listening tour, a 3,600-mile trip that was critical to hearing the voices of students and beginning to explore how Virginia's Community Colleges will leverage innovation and best practices across the system.

“It is our time to lead the way for higher education in Virginia and in the nation. To be the standard bearer of what post-secondary education can do during these challenging and exciting times,” said Doré, naming three prominent gaps the system plans to address: educational achievement, technology, and skills.

Virginia's Community Colleges fully support Gov. Glenn Youngkin's bold vision for every high school student in Virginia to graduate with both a diploma and a meaningful postsecondary credential. Chancellor Doré says the system will be partnering with the Virginia Department of



Dr. David Doré

Education to propose legislation next year to remove barriers that hinder access to postsecondary programming and clearly define the path students will take to graduate with the skills and credentials necessary for a seamless transfer or immediate entrance to the workforce.

Dual enrollment and FastForward programs continue to grow, which Doré says is a must for community colleges. Another priority is aligning skills and training with local industry to fill high-demand jobs. Moving forward, the system will focus on expanding and strengthening partnerships and collaboration across all industry sectors and in every region of the Commonwealth.

“This shortage of working-age adults who do not possess the skills needed for jobs in our most in-demand fields, healthcare, technology, and manufacturing, is stumping economic growth and widening income gaps, and exacerbating the shortage of those with the skills needed to train new workers,” said Doré. “New technology including artificial intelligence is disrupting the

workforce, and community colleges must adapt to equip students with the skills they need for the modern world. Our instructors must leverage these tools in their learning models to remain relevant and effective.”

As part of the approach for developing the ultimate workforce pipeline, Dr. Doré is prioritizing moving at the speed of industry, launching programs at a much faster pace, and aligning Virginia's Community Colleges with the nine GO Virginia regions to efficiently scale programming at the college level to meet regional job demands.

To support these big changes, the Chancellor will be advocating for a stronger investment in the community college system. The Virginia Community College System remains the least funded of all Virginia public institutions of higher education and was among the lowest funded community colleges in the nation. These investments will go towards recruiting and retaining quality faculty and growing the system's successful workforce programs, like FastForward and G3 financial assistance.

USDA To Provide Additional Help to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk, as part of the \$3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act.

An FLP guaranteed loan borrower is distressed if they qualify under one of the options below. FLP guaranteed borrowers who qualify under multiple options will receive a payment based on the option that provides the greatest payment amount:

*Payment of any outstanding delinquency on all qualifying FLP guaranteed loans as of Oct. 18, 2022. This includes any guaranteed loan borrowers who did not receive an automatic payment in 2022 on that loan because they were not yet 60 days delinquent as of Sept. 30, 2022, as well as guaranteed borrowers that became delinquent on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan between September 30, 2022, and Oct. 18, 2022.

*Payment on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan for which a guaranteed loan borrower received a loan restructure, which modified the guaranteed loan maturity date, between March 1, 2020, and Aug. 11, 2023. The payment amount will be the lesser of the post-restructure annual installment or the amount required to pay the loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.

*Payments on certain deferred amounts on qualifying FLP guaranteed loans, not to exceed \$100,000, for guaranteed borrowers who received a deferral or another type of payment extension, for at least 45 days, between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2022, from their guaranteed lender on that qualifying guaranteed loan in response to COVID-19, disasters, or other revenue shortfalls. The Inflation Reduction Act payment amount will be the lesser of the most recent deferral or extension amount on the qualifying FLP guaranteed loan, or the amount required to pay that loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.

This assistance is only available

for FLP guaranteed loan borrowers who did not or will not receive an initial payment on the same FLP guaranteed loan under Inflation Reduction Act assistance announced in October 2022.

Distressed guaranteed borrowers qualifying for this assistance will receive a United States Department of the Treasury check that is jointly payable to the borrower and the lender. These borrowers will also receive a letter from FSA informing them of Inflation Reduction Act assistance they will receive as well as instructions to make an appointment with their lender to process the payment and apply it to their qualifying guaranteed loan accounts. Guaranteed lenders will receive an email in the coming days informing them of this assistance and any next steps. Lenders will also receive letters informing them which borrowers will receive assistance and the amount of assistance they will receive.

Any distressed guaranteed borrowers who qualify for these forms of assistance and are currently in bankruptcy will be addressed using the same case-by-case review process announced in October 2022 for complex cases.

FSA will also provide relief to qualifying FLP guaranteed loan borrowers determined to be distressed borrowers based on liability for remaining federal debt subject to debt collection and garnishment after the liquidation of their guaranteed loan account as of July 31, 2023. This will allow some borrowers to potentially return to farming. Guaranteed borrowers who qualify for this assistance will have their federal debt paid automatically by FSA and will receive a letter informing them of the payment made on their federal debt.

All letters to qualifying guaranteed loan borrowers will contain instructions for opting out of assistance if a borrower chooses to do so.

Borrowers can submit requests for extraordinary measures or cash flow-based assistance in person at their local FSA office or by sending in a direct request using the farmers.gov 22006 assistance request portals at farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance. All requests for assistance must be received by Dec. 31.

Poetic license: Local teachers delve into the creation of spoken word



Regie Cabico poses with all of the participating teachers from Bassett High School and Magna Vista High School.

Teachers from Laurel Park Middle School, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, Magna Vista High School, and Bassett High School came to Piedmont Arts for professional development sessions about creating poetry and utilizing spoken word in the classroom on Aug. 8 and 9. These educators spent their day learning how to tap into their own creativity and arrange thoughts, feelings, and emotions into spoken word poems that they then performed for a panel of judges made up of the staff of Piedmont Arts.

The workshops were led by Regie Cabico, an award-winning poet and spoken word artist currently residing in Washington D.C., and Angela Dribben, an artist, writer, and educa-

tor from the Appalachian mountains. Teachers from the four schools left energized and excited about the possibilities poetry can create for themselves and their students.

Cabico's workshop involved generating unique images and word play based on improvisation and movement exercises. This workshop included strategies to get students writing and sharing their work, including elements of performance. Dribben's workshop used methods of blackout and erasure to create poems from required reading materials. This workshop was designed to integrate reading with writing so students can find resonance in the source materials and get excited about vocabulary and comprehension.



Appalachian poet and writer Angela Dribben addresses teachers at the start of her workshop session.



Award-winning spoken word poet Regie Cabico welcomes teachers from Laurel Park Middle School and Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School.

Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre to open fall season with Steel Magnolias



The dinner theatre cast left to right Rebecca Crocker, Lana Whited, Heather Jefferson, TJ Baker, Kristina Stump, and Emily Blankenship-Tucker.

The Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre and Ferrum College Theatre Arts season will open with Steel Magnolias, by Robert Harling, on Thursday, August 24. The comedy-drama based on a real family's experiences with diabetes and kidney failure is both moving and thought-provoking.

Steel Magnolias has been performed all over the United States, England, Australia, and Canada, however, most folks remember the 1989 movie featur-

ing Dolly Parton, Julia Roberts, and Sally Field. The dinner theatre cast features veteran performers Emily Blankenship-Tucker, Rebecca Crocker, Kristina Stump and Lana Whited. Newcomer Heather Jefferson will enact the delightful role of Annelle, and TJ Baker will perform Shelby.

The performance will be staged in Sale Theatre, Scholfield Hall with luncheon and dinner options served in Franklin

Hall. The show will opens Thursday, August 24, with a luncheon at 12:15 and curtain at 2pm. Additional show dates are Saturday, August 26, with dinner beginning at 6:15 p.m. and curtain at 8, and the final performance on Sunday, August 27, with a luncheon beginning at 12:15 and the play starting at 2pm.

Crew for the show includes Rachel Blankenship-Tucker as production stage manager, Susan Blankenship as her assistant, Debra Smith as technical advisor, and Sara Bier and Ferrum College Theatre Arts students as backstage crew. Rex Stephenson will direct. Call (540) 365-4336 or visit www.ferrum.edu/play-tickets for tickets and information.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Friday, August 25th at 3 PM

Large Wooded Retreat for Sale at Auction in Martinsville VA
TBD Green Acres Circle, Martinsville, VA 24112

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out this exceptional opportunity to own a remarkable wooded retreat in Martinsville VA. This land is richly adorned with a stand of mature Virginia Pines and hardwoods, offering a great escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. This +/- 71.03 acre property provides ample space for your vision. The front portion offers level terrain, providing perfect locations for a dream home or secluded cabin. There are endless opportunities for hunting, camping, and recreation. Enjoy the wildlife and beauty provided by Tanyard Branch. Located conveniently behind the Green Acres Trailer Park, this property offers the best of both worlds with exclusion and easy access to amenities, schools, shopping, and dining options. Do not miss your opportunity to own this extraordinary property! Refer to Bidder Packet at VAAuctionPro.com for VA Forestry Stewardship Plan and Map.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on the day of sale. Close on or before October 9th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Michael Stevens at 276-952-8443 or email MichaelStevensRealtor@gmail.com.

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.



Ashley Poff Powell



Brandon Carl Powell

Henry couple charged with embezzlement

A husband and wife from the Henry area of Franklin County were arrested Wednesday, August 9 on indictments related to an alleged embezzlement from a local youth baseball organization.

Brandon Carl Powell, 42, and Ashley Poff Powell, 36, were each charged with one felony count of

embezzlement over \$1,000. Both were released on recognizance bonds.

Powell had served as the president of Franklin County Baseball, Inc., from February 2022 to early 2023.

Court dates will be set with Franklin County Circuit Court.

Franklin County reports loss of K-9 Officer

It is with immense sadness that we announce the sudden loss of K-9 Sasha, who died Aug. 9 from an unexpected medical condition while being boarded at a local veterinarian's office, according to a release from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO).

K-9 Sasha, a 5-year-old female German Shepherd, began serving Franklin County in 2018, after she was donated to the Sheriff's Office by Erich Grasso, of Grasso Dog Training and Shepherds in Shelton, Connecticut. This connection was made through a grant with K9's United, of Jacksonville, Florida.

Sasha came from a strong line of working dogs. Her father served as a patrol dog with the NYPD and her sister was a bomb detection dog with the NBA.

Sasha specialized in Narcotics Detection and Tracking. Throughout her years of service at the FCSO, she helped with numerous arrests and the seizures of thousands of dollars of narcotics. She



K-9 Sasha. End of Watch: August 9, 2023

successfully tracked and located many critically missing persons, as well as fleeing criminals.

"Sasha may have been smaller than other working dogs, but she was mighty in her impact," the release stated.

The unexpected loss has been pain-

ful for members of the FCSO, and particularly her handlers, Deputy Patterson and Deputy Alejandro.

A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date "so that we can give Sasha a proper thank you and goodbye," the release added.

