

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, September 2, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00



Gov. Glenn Youngkin and Maciej Migalski, president of Press Glass Inc., exchanged gifts.



Mark Heath, president and CEO of the EDC, addressed the crowd attending Wednesday's announcement that Press Glass Inc., in Ridgeway, will invest \$155.2 million to expand in Henry County.

Retired, current city employees seek judgment

By Staff Reports

Public officials are among the 40 current and retired city workers named in a lawsuit that alleges the City of Martinsville breached a 2010 settlement agreement to pay health insurance premiums.

Those identified in the filing include retired Martinsville Police Chief Eddie Cassady, retired Martinsville Fire Marshall Ted Anderson, and Ruth Easley, Commissioner of the Revenue, as well as a host of other current/retired employees.

The suit is seeking a declaratory judgment, financial compensation for any difference in retirees' benefits and the benefits received by cur-

rently active employees, costs and attorney's fees and other relief the court deems necessary.

Filed Aug. 18 in Martinsville Circuit Court by attorney James W. Haskins, of the Martinsville-based Young, Haskins, Mann, Gregory & Wall, P.C., the lawsuit alleges that as an inducement to employment, the city promised to pay health insurance premiums while those listed in the filing were actively employed.

Furthermore, upon retirement, the city would continue to pay health insurance premiums until the retiree reached age 65.

In its summary of facts, the 14-page

See City, page 2

Announcement represents 'promise to build a better future'

By Staff Reports

State and local representatives and others gathered Wednesday along with officials from Press Glass Inc., the largest independent glass fabricator in Europe, to hear an announcement that the company will invest \$155.2 million to expand at the Commonwealth Crossing Industrial Park in Henry County.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin said the company will construct a 360,000-square-foot addition to its existing facility to expand its U.S. presence and manufacture

glass for the commercial construction industry. The project will create 335 new jobs.

"With this expansion, Press Glass will make the largest single capital investment by a business in Henry County's history," said Youngkin. "The addition of 335 new jobs, more than doubling the company's headcount, helps this region continue its economic rebound and demonstrates the resurgence of manufacturing that is happening across the Commonwealth."

See Announcement, page 5

Deputies "violated multiple policies" according to internal review

By Staff Reports

The four Henry County deputies placed on administrative leave without pay in July were terminated last week, at the conclusion of an internal investigation.

Sheriff Wayne Davis said in a release that the internal investigation "found that all four deputies violated multiple agency policies."

Their posts were terminated effective Aug. 25, according to the release.

On July 7, Davis held a press conference about a "concerning use of force incident" that he said had taken place at the Henry County Adult Detention Center on July 1.

Then, a man was arrested for being drunk

in public and brought into the jail, Davis has said.

The man was "intoxicated and very uncooperative," Davis has said, adding the man refused to change into a jail-issued uniform.

"That situation ultimately escalated and resulted in Henry County deputies using force on the subject," Davis has said. "As a result, the subject (man) was injured."

After the incident, Davis contacted the Virginia State Police and requested an investigation into the incident. At the time, he also placed the four deputies involved in the incident on administrative leave without pay pending the outcome of the investigation, and announced an internal review would be conducted.

The incident has been referred to a special pros-



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis is pictured at a July 7 news conference.

ecutor to determine what, if any, criminal charges are applicable, Davis said in the release.

Due to personnel and confidentiality issues, the deputies involved in the

incident have not been named.

Nearly 100 new deputies were hired to help staff the \$73 million 400-bed jail that opened in March 2022.

Schools outline political activity policy in email to candidates



The photo is from Del Mills' social media post about tailgating last Friday. It was cropped due to the ages of some of those pictured.

By Staff Reports

Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis on Monday emailed a copy of the county division's policy regarding political activity to all candidates in the November election after learning that a candidate had set up a tent in a school parking lot during a game last week.

Del Mills, who is seeking the Henry County Sheriff's post in November against Sheriff Wayne Davis, said he was tailgating at the Bassett High School football game with his family, broth-

er, and a few friends.

Teddy Martin, chairman of the Henry County School Board, on Saturday said he learned about the activ-

See Schools, page 3

Warner visits local areas on a swing through Southside



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner visited the Martinsville Speedway last Thursday, and addressed those attending, as well as Clay Campbell, president of the Martinsville Speedway.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

During his four-day swing through Southside and Southwest Virginia, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandria, made stops in Henry and Patrick counties to meet residents and community leaders.

At his stop at Mabry Mill, Warner offered an update on the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act and its impact on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



"We know how important the parkway is, not just to most of us here local at least, or Patrick or Floyd County, but it's over a billion dollars in economic impact that I don't think I fully realized," Warner said, adding visitors entering his front office are greeted by a six-foot-tall picture of the mill.

Warner said the Blue Ridge Parkway is visited by more Americans than Yosemite National Park, the Grand

See Warner, page 7

VISIT
HTTP://WWW.
HENRYCOUNTY
ENTERPRISE.COM
FOR MORE
UPDATES





Elementary school celebrates Sensory Garden

Albert Harris Elementary School (AHES) celebrated its new sensory garden with a ribbon cutting last week. The garden was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia and installed as part of AHES' Green Schoolyard initiative—a partnership between the school and the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA).

"A sensory garden is a garden that stimulates all five senses," said Krista Hodges, education outreach manager for the DRBA, during Wednesday morning's ceremony. She pointed out that the AHES garden includes wind chimes for students to hear, herbs and vegetables students can taste, a rock garden and sandbox they can touch, a bird feeder to attract birds for students to see, and beautiful flowers for them to smell.

First and second grade students at AHES

helped to plant the garden and decorate the rocks in the rock garden. Students will also help maintain the garden.

"Our sensory garden was created to provide a unique learning environment for our students," said AHES STEM teacher Laurie Witt, who has helped champion the Green Schoolyard initiative. "Teachers and counselors can use the garden while teaching Virginia social and emotional learning standards. The garden also correlates with many of the standards that are set out by the VDOE (Virginia Department of

Education) for science."

"It can be used by children of all educational abilities," said Hodges, explaining that calming colors were deliberately chosen when designing the garden. "I guarantee if you spend five minutes in this garden, you will feel the calming effect ... We hope that students and teachers will enjoy this garden for many years to come."

"Thank you for making Albert Harris a wonderful place to learn," said MCPS Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. "Thank you for meeting the needs of all of our students."



60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



Clifford T. & Louise (Nelson) Stone, of Bassett, recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on August 17, 1963, at Whites Chapel Baptist Church in Ridgeway by the Rev. Jimmy Dillon. The couple was honored with a family gathering at the home of their son and daughter-in-law (Tim & Denise Stone).

City from page 1

lawsuit states the city offered the incentive package to prospective employees for more than 40 years. The city made good on that offer until July 1, 2002, when it began paying only a portion of health insurance premiums for its retired employees.

That led to the retirees paying the remaining amount each month for their health insurance premiums, and the monthly amounts retired employees were required to pay steadily increased over the years, until each retiree paid \$172.63 per month from July 2008 through July 2009, the filing alleges.

From July 1, 2002, to April 1, 2010, the city's failure to make good on its promise and pay retiree health insurance premiums resulted in the retirees collectively paying an estimated \$465,000 in health insurance premiums, the document states.

In 2010, a majority of the affected retirees sought legal counsel to enforce their employment agreement and recover the amounts they were forced to pay for their health insurance premiums, according to the filing.

However, before litigation began, the city and the retirees/employees agreed to mediate the issue. That occurred on April 19, 2010, and resulted in a Settlement Agreement, which specified in part, that the city would pay 100 percent of retirees' health insurance premiums for July, August, September and October 2010, and pay the retirees \$15,000, plus mediation costs, the filing states.

The agreement was endorsed and approved by then-Mayor Kathy Lawson, as well as then-City

See **City**, page 9

Dance Espanol empowers students through dance and language arts

Two area elementary schools performed dance pieces choreographed by Pedro Szalay, the artistic director of Southwest Virginia Ballet on Aug. 25. In a long-standing partnership with Piedmont Arts, students performed for audiences made up of their classmates, teachers, and families.

The participants, all fourth graders from Campbell Court Elementary School and Meadow View Elementary School, spent this week working with Szalay on physical movement and spatial awareness, building healthy relationships with their bodies and minds, learning to respect themselves and others, and Spanish vocabulary. Szalay

has been teaching this weeklong workshop in Martinsville and Henry County schools for over 17 years.

With 41 participants from Campbell Court Elementary School and 103 from Meadow View Elementary, students took to the dance floor early Friday morning. Excitement and pride were high as the students, led by Szalay and accompanied by Ashley Cundiff on piano, sang songs in Spanish and ran through the dance they spent all week learning. Their daily 45-minute sessions were designed to teach discipline, dedication, and self-awareness through dance.



Pedro Szalay, artistic director of Southwest Virginia Ballet, leads students at Campbell Court Elementary School through a mindfulness exercise.



Fourth graders from Campbell Court Elementary School performing an original dance piece they had created over the span of a week.



Pedro Szalay rehearses a dance piece with the Meadow View Elementary School fourth graders.



Piedmont Arts' Education Coordinator, Christiana Jarrett, addresses the crowd of families, classmates, and teachers at Meadow View Elementary School.



All of the participants at Meadow View Elementary School pose with Pedro Szalay, artistic director of Southwest Virginia Ballet.



Pedro Szalay poses with the students, teachers, and accompanist at Campbell Court Elementary School.

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.

Thursday, September 7

The Henry County School Board's monthly meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the 1st Floor Summerlin Room, Henry County Administration Building, Collinsville. The meeting will be followed by closed session.

Monday, September 18

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Academic & Student Affairs Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 124 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board Legislative Committee will meet at 11 in Room 133 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the Board will not receive public comment.

Events

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!

Schools

from page 1

ity via a telephone call and later saw Mills' post on social media.

In the post, Mills wrote, "Friday Night Football is back!! Little tailgating and helping to keep fans hydrated. Remember to support your local schools and sports programs. Was a fun evening. Thanks to everyone who stopped by. The support is amazing."

While candidates and/or their supporters may attend school functions wearing a T-shirt or cap, Martin said candidates "are not supposed to set up a booth or actively campaign. We've always had that policy. We can't exactly have everybody (candidate) set up a tent."

Additionally, "if you let one do it, you've got to let them all do it," Martin said.

Martin said in the event a principal receives a request from a candidate wishing to actively campaign, they must consult with the superintendent.

Mills said he did not get permission to tailgate at the game, and he wasn't near the admissions gate for the game.

Regardless, "I did get an email from the

school superintendent that wasn't permissible after the game, we don't intend to do that anymore. We were just tailgating in the parking lot," he said.

The email states in part, "Employees of the Henry County School Board are encouraged to exercise all of their rights as citizens, including involvement in political activities, and to engage in citizenship activities, to set examples by registering to vote, and to participate in elections and carrying out other duties of responsible citizenship. No employee of the Board, however, shall use his/her position within the school system to further a political cause, nor shall any employees of the Board attempt to indoctrinate students or to use the classroom as a forum to promote any candidate or issue."

"The School Board acknowledges the right

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.

Friday, September 15

MHC is for Book Lovers Trivia and Dinner with Authors/Silent Auction, from 6-8 p.m. at the Spencer-Penn Centre, \$30 adults/\$20 children. Limited seating.

Saturday, September 16

The Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In will sponsor a Classic Car Ride starting at Cross Point Church to Bassett.

Registration starts at 1 p.m., with participants to leave the Church at 2 p.m. Proceeds from the \$10 per vehicle fee will be divided between the Henry County Sheriff's Office, the Martinsville Sheriff's Office and the City of Martinsville Police Department for their benevolence funds. A PRE REGISTRATION FORM is available at bassetthighway57cruisein.com.

MHC is for Book Lovers Bookfest at the Spencer-Penn Centre, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TheatreWorks Community Players Open Mic Poetry Night, 6-8 p.m. at the Blackbox Theatre, 44 Franklin St., Martinsville. Tickets are \$5 night of show. To sign up as a participant and for more details, visit www.twcp.net.

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.

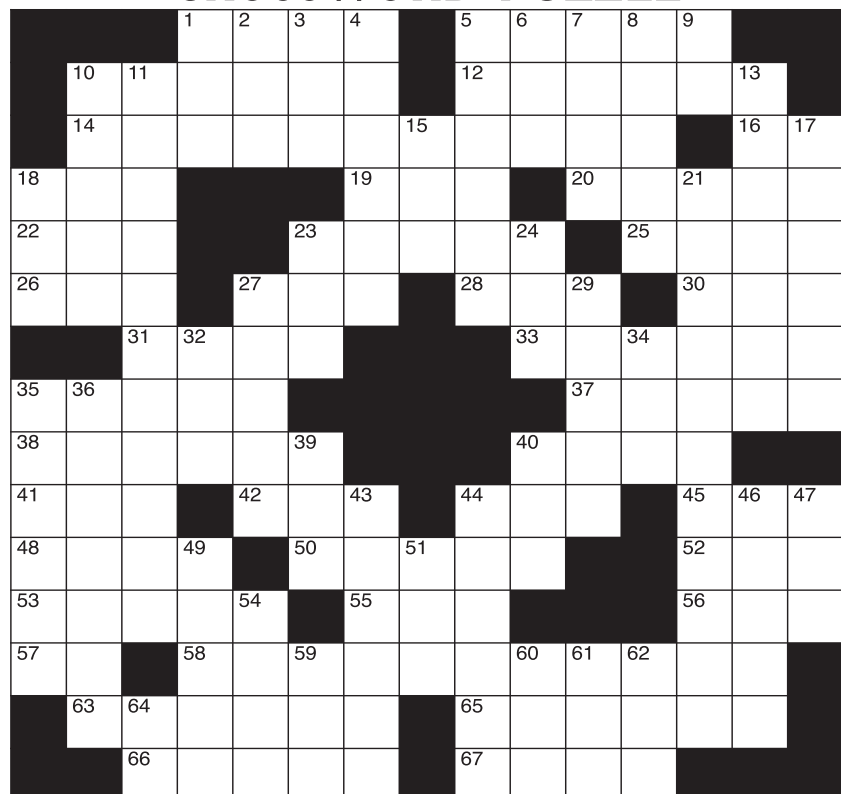
Book Bingo on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Martinsville Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Call (276) 403-5430 to register.

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.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Currency of Guinea</p> <p>5. Avert something bad</p> <p>10. Sounds</p> <p>12. Immediate dangers</p> <p>14. Legendary Tar Heels coach</p> <p>16. Californium</p> <p>18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)</p> <p>19. Coastal Scottish town</p> <p>20. Triangular lower back bones</p> <p>22. Trouble</p> <p>23. A way to smile</p> <p>25. Something that is not what it seems</p> <p>26. Of she</p> <p>27. Temporary living quarters</p> <p>28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal</p> <p>30. Indicates near</p> <p>31. Spiritual leader</p> <p>33. Soup dish</p> <p>35. Philippine island</p> <p>37. No longer fashionable</p> <p>38. Peaks</p> <p>40. Alabama football team</p> <p>41. ___ King Cole</p> <p>42. Digital audiotape</p> <p>44. Open trough</p> <p>45. The woman</p> <p>48. Cools down</p> <p>50. Turkic language</p> <p>52. Body part</p> <p>53. Pulse steadily</p> <p>55. Embedded computer hardware company</p> <p>56. Indicates shape</p> <p>57. Thou (plural)</p> <p>58. Odd and remarkable</p> <p>63. An evening party</p> <p>65. National capital of Zambia</p> <p>66. Tantalizes</p> <p>67. Dark brown or black</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Not naturally outgoing</p> <p>2. Exclamation of pain</p> <p>3. Polynesian garland of flowers</p> <p>4. Surrounded by water</p> <p>5. Church towers</p> <p>6. Hot beverage</p> <p>7. Body parts</p> <p>8. Travel documents</p> <p>9. Railway</p> <p>10. Gradually wear away</p> <p>11. Measuring instrument</p> <p>13. Minor dust-ups</p> <p>15. Strongly alkaline solution</p> <p>17. Extreme scarcity of food</p> <p>18. Dash</p> <p>21. Philly culinary specialty</p> <p>23. Popular lager ___ Adams</p> <p>24. Snitch</p> <p>27. Trimmed</p> <p>29. Greek god of desire</p> <p>32. Take to the limit</p> <p>34. Cool!</p> <p>35. Sound mental health</p> <p>36. Native American group</p> <p>39. Test for high schoolers</p> <p>40. Rocky peak</p> <p>43. Preferences</p> <p>44. Bother</p> <p>46. Call attention to (slang)</p> <p>47. Snake-like fish</p> <p>49. Bulgarian capital</p> <p>51. Don't know when yet</p> <p>54. Italian Seaport</p> <p>59. Brooklyn hoopster</p> <p>60. Where to bathe</p> <p>61. Equal, prefix</p> <p>62. Beverage container</p> <p>64. Denotes openness</p> |
|--|---|

Movie Town 276-638-4040

NOW PLAYING:

The Equalizer 3(R), Gran Turismo(PG-13), Strays(R), Blue Beetle(PG-13), Barbie(PG-13), and Meg 2:The Trench

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

JOIN US

WEEKLY SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE
10:30AM

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel
NEVER MISS A SERVICE

NEW DAY CHURCH
MHC

705 LIBERTY ST MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

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

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Sept. 2-9:

9/5	2pm	Golf	Basset / Magna Vista / Martinsville (at Beaver Hills GC)
	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at George Washington
	7pm	Volleyball	Dan River at Martinsville
	TBA	Soccer	Westover Christian Academy at Carlisle
9/6	5pm	Cross Country	Magna Vista / Martinsville (at Magna Vista)
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Chatham
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Mecklenburg County
9/7	2pm	Golf	Bassett at Dan River (Goodyear GC)
	2pm	Golf	Magna Vista at Franklin County (Cooper Cove GC)
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	George Washington at Martinsville
9/8	4:30pm	Girls Tennis	Miller School of Albemarle at Carlisle
	5pm	Soccer	Covenant at Carlisle
	7pm	Football	Bassett at Dan River
	7pm	Football	Martinsville at Chatham
9/9	10:30am (girls)	Cross Country	Bassett / Magna Vista at Cave Spring (Green Hill Park)
	11:15am (boys)	Cross Country	Bassett / Magna Vista at Cave Spring (Green Hill Park)

Veterans' Appreciation Picnic set

The 2nd annual Veterans' Appreciation Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 9th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jack Dalton Park, Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

All veterans and their families are invited to enjoy FREE hotdogs, chips, drinks and deserts.

Representatives from the following will be there:

- Marine Corps League
 - Disabled American Veterans
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - American Legion
 - M/HC Veterans Honor Guard
- Contact: Water Sheppard (276) 634-7077 or weshepp@comcast.net.

Courthouse Crawling set for Friday

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor "Courthouse Crawling with Sue Ann Ehmann," a line dancing event as part of Sounds on the Square on Friday, September 1, at 7 p.m., on the Plaza of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

Admission is free. Ehmann, line dance extraordinaire, will lead the crowd of all levels, from beginner to expert. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., special line dancing DJ Mary Kaye Johnson will provide music. Also, Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will serve craft beer and wine in collectable event cups. Ella's Eats will sell Southern comfort food, and Bahama Sno-Shack will sell frozen treats.

John Phillips, Historical Society President, said, "Sounds on the Square revives the historical significance of courthouses serving as places to gather socially, and folks will not be able to remain in their seats for Courthouse Crawling. The Historical Society proudly offers this community outreach series free of charge as a means of sharing a local landmark, the Historic Henry County Courthouse, while bringing together friends and neighbors from near and far."

Country line dancing appears to have originated in Europe and arrived in the United States with the settlers who immigrated to America. It evolved from the English country dances, or contra dances, that were danced in the New England states in the early 1800s. Today's country line dancing was probably born in Nashville, Tennessee, when the song "Achy Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus became a huge hit in 1992, and country line dancing was catapulted into the mainstream.

Ehmann graduated from Patrick County High School and studied communications at the University of Miami. She began dancing in 1990 with the Carolina Shag. She moved into line dancing, and since 2005, has been teaching line dance classes on a regular basis in Virginia and North Carolina. She attends workshops frequently to remain current. Her choreographed dances have won at JG Marathon, an annual

international event. She has been featured in Linedancer Magazine. Ehmann and her husband, Ron Brammer, reside in the Stella community.

In a recent interview, Ehmann said, "Line dancing is a whole other world. New dances are written every single day." She said line dancing has many benefits for her and is a dance that people of any age can learn. It improves balance and stability, is great exercise, and is thought by scientists to be beneficial to people with Parkinson's symptoms and in staving off Alzheimer's Disease, she added.

"Sounds on the Square" is coordinated by the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and sponsored by Carter Bank & Trust, Children First Pediatrics, Hooker Furnishings, The Lester Group, and Sarver Cleaning Services. The Historic Henry County Courthouse and Plaza are fully handicap accessible. The Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum will be open during the event.



2023 Sounds on the Square
Heritage Center & Museum
2023 Uptown First Friday Series • 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.
April 7 - "Opening Night" with The League of Ordinary Gentlemen
May 5 - "Open Mic by Dennis & Kat" with Above the Fray
June 2 - "Welcome to Summer" with Forrest Taylor
July 7 - "Red, White, & Brew" with Elena Flores Duo
August 4 - "Courthouse Karaoke" with BJ's Karaoke
September 1 - "Courthouse Crawling" with Sue Ann Ehmann
October 6 - "Harvest Moon Ball" with Tula Truck Trio

Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia
Free admission • Food & beverages available • Bring a lawn chair • All ages welcome

Carter Bank & Trust | **HOOKER FURNISHINGS** | **Children First Pediatrics** | **The Lester Group** | **Sarver Cleaning Services**

"For much of our history, the courtroom has served not just as a local center of the law and government, but as a meeting ground, cultural hub, and social gathering place."
-Former U. S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., 1995

"COURTHOUSE CRAWLING"

LINE DANCE

Line Dancing with **SUE ANN EHMANN**

Music by special line dancing DJ Mary Kaye Johnson
Free admission • All levels & ages welcome

Friday, September 1, 2023, 5:30 - 10:00 P.M.
Historic Henry County Courthouse Plaza
1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia

Beer by Scuffle Hill Brewing Company
Southern comfort food by Ella's Eats
Frozen treats by Bahama Sno-Shack

Griffith participates in educational program



Rep. Morgan Griffith is pictured with Brian Williams, program manager with of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), at a trout release Wednesday.



Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, released Brook Trout into the Smith River with homeschooled students from the Martinsville-Henry County area.



Griffith examined small crayfish with students during the release held in Fieldale by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH).

PHVFD crew teaches fire safety



Chaplain James Clifton and Marshall, the dog, from the Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department (PHVFD) recently visited Rutters Martial Arts in Bassett to educate the 3 to 5 year old Little Dragons on Fire Safety.

The firefighters taught various safety rules, such as staying away from things that can burn you, learning sounds of smoke alarms, checking smoke alarms monthly, making a family escape plan, stop, drop and roll, and others.

Chaplain Clifton also demonstrated how his fire safety gear works, and told to students about the importance of not being scared if they come across a fire or fighter in gear. He also explained how fire crews help them if they are ever in need. Students also toured a fire truck.

World Champion and Martial Arts Hall of Famer Scott Rutter has Martial arts locations in Bassett, Floyd and Stuart, with programs ages 3 to 5 Lil Dragons teaching life skills along with Martial arts skills as well as programs such as Taekwondo, Shotokan Karate and Krav Maga for ages 6 to adult, with a focus on building confidence, discipline, social skills in a family friendly environment.



Announcement from page 1

Maciej Migalski, president of Press Glass North America, described the event as a “great moment, great occasion as we gather here to announce a new chapter in growth and innovation. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to share an exciting development that will not only shape the future of our company but will also contribute to the prosperity of the local community.”

Construction of the expansion will begin in the first quarter of 2024, he said, adding he anticipates opening the additional capacity by the end of 2025.

“We will not only provide individuals with jobs, (but) we will also create an environment that will allow them to grow ... and to develop their potential as we understand that our employees are our most valuable asset,” Migalski said.

“Our customers have trusted us and recognized the highest quality of our products, therefore our decision to expand the Ridgeway facility was a natural step to expand our product offering and strengthen our position in the U.S. market,” Migalski said. “After the expansion, our location will be one of the largest glass fabrication facilities in this country and with automation and state-of-

the-art technology, we hope it will allow us to redefine industry standards.”

He said the support from the state and local entities allowed the company to take this “bold step” forward.

“Today’s event is not only about our announcement, it represents a promise to build a better future together with our employees, together with our community, together with our partners, we hope to create a legacy of growth, innovation and shared success,” Migalski said.

Calling the event an “historic announcement,” Youngkin said the Commonwealth is “absolutely roaring” with announcements of economic development projects, “and it’s so much fun to see it happen.”

The Commonwealth has shifted into this high gear because of all of you,” an extraordinary workforce, great employers, and other factors, Youngkin said, and because “we in fact are seeing all the values that we hold dear take hold in the Commonwealth.”

Youngkin said 220,000 people “are working today ... that weren’t (working) 19 months ago. We went from near the bottom of job growth to Number 4 in the nation, and that’s why an announcement

like we have today leads to this acceleration. It is an acceleration because we can find a whole new gear. I’m so excited to see us shift into overdrive.”

Kate Keller, president of the Harvest Foundation, announced a commitment of \$2 million from the Harvest Opportunity Fund to aid the project and “expand the amount of jobs we have here” at Press Glass.

“Press Glass’ decision to expand its manufacturing facility in Commonwealth Crossing speaks not only to the strength of Press Glass’ position in their industry but also to the decision local (elected) officials made 15 years ago to invest in a modern industrial park that would be attractive to growth companies like Press Glass,” said James McClain, chairman of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp (EDC). “The EDC is grateful to Press Glass for their continued confidence and investment in Martinsville-Henry County.”

“The decision of Press Glass to invest and grow in our county is a resounding vote of confidence in our talented workforce, robust infrastructure, and supportive manufacturing environment,” Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of

Supervisors, said. “Not only does this expansion bring prosperity to our local economy, it also reflects the potential and attractiveness of our community for global business.”

Mark Heath, president and CEO of the EDC, said the difficult part was getting the company to locate to Henry County the first time.

“To get them to decide to come here rather than North Carolina. We’ve worked with them for four years now, and we have a great relationship,” he said.

As the business grew in North America and realized it needed more space, Heath thought of the Henry County site

first.

“So, we’ve been meeting with them for the better part of the year talking about this process and what they would go through to get financing in place, we had to put together an incentive package. It was really more than anything else our project to lose quite honestly,” he said.

Heath said the real secret sauce was that Press Glass likes the area and its labor force and labor draw. The land the site sits on was also already graded, so the company didn’t have to go to another location looking for land for the expansion.

“It just made it easy for them. We eliminated a lot of the obstacles and roadblocks that you would

normally have. So, it’s a collaboration, but it came together pretty well,” he said.

Dels. Danny Marshall and Wren Williams also attended the event. Del. Les Adams was unable to attend, but sent a representative in his stead.

Headquartered in Konopiska, Poland, Press Glass was founded in 1991 and has 15 factories in Europe and the U.S. As the largest independent flat glass processing operation in Europe, the company processes glass for fabricators of windows and doors, facades, and interior glass constructions. The company opened its Henry County facility in 2020 and employs more than 300 people.



Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, said Press Glass’ decision to invest is a vote of confidence to the community.

OPINION

On turbulent priests

In the mid-1100s, a dispute erupted between King Henry II of England and Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The dispute concerned the rights of the crown versus the rights of the church, which was the sort of thing that popped up a whole lot back then (and I suppose still does).

In 1170, Henry II was informed that Becket had excommunicated from the church several bishops who had supported the crown. Furious, Henry II reportedly said, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?"

This comment wasn't quite an order, but nonetheless, it inspired four of Henry II's knights to make a trip to Canterbury and hack the Archbishop to death with their swords.

Today, the "turbulent priest" quote is often used as a shorthand for a leader's wish being taken by his subordinates as a command. There's another term for this phenomenon that you might have heard:

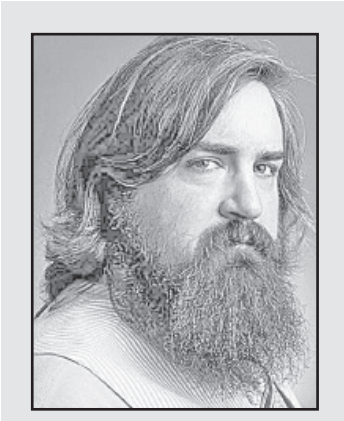
Stochastic terrorism. Stochastic terrorism is basically terrorism by proxy. Essentially, the idea is that an

individual or group demonizes another individual or group in the public eye. Eventually, this incites someone to carry out a terrorist attack on the demonized party. There's no way of predicting when it will happen or who will be the attacker. To use a fictional example, if the President announces tomorrow that the sole cause of inflation is a guy named Bob Cumberland up in Canarsie, Bob would be wise to skip town and go into hiding.

But we don't need to use a fictional example; there are plenty of real ones.

This past Saturday, a man drove up to Edward Waters University in Jacksonville, Florida, a historically black school with about 1,000 students. A security guard spotted him acting odd and asked him his identity; he refused to comply, and was seen putting on a bulletproof vest and mask before speeding away.

He drove directly to a Dollar General in New Town, a predominantly black neighborhood in Jacksonville, and shot and killed three people before killing himself. All three of his victims were black, and it's



By Ben R. Williams

been reported that he ordered several white shoppers to exit the store during his spree.

There's absolutely no question that this was a racially motivated incident. During the attack, the shooter texted his father (he lived at home) and asked him to break into his room and check his computer. There, his father found his son's manifesto, which largely focused on his hatred of black people.

The next evening, about 200 people showed up at a vigil for the shooting victims just a block away from the Dollar General. And do you know who had the absolute audacity to arrive on the scene to make a few remarks?

Florida Governor and Presidential hopeful Ron

DeSantis.

Yes, Ron DeSantis, the man who has made banning diversity programs in schools a building block of his Presidential campaign. Ron DeSantis, who has legislated that Florida schools cannot teach their students the racist parts of history, which is most of it. Ron DeSantis, who said that enslaved black people benefitted from learning valuable skills. Ron DeSantis, who loosened Florida's gun laws. This is the guy who felt he could contribute something of value after a man committed a racially motivated shooting spree.

Upon approaching the podium to speak at the vigil, DeSantis was booed and heckled, with people yelling things like "you're not welcome here" and "your policies caused this."

For what it's worth, I don't think that DeSantis is a racist. I think he's a craven opportunist who believed that acting like a hate-filled racist would help him win the presidency. Wherever he got that idea will remain a mystery for the ages.

But you know who does think DeSantis is a racist? Racists.

Back in June, in the midst of DeSantis' extraordinarily ill-advised attack on Disney World after Disney criticized

Florida's draconian "Don't Say Gay" bill, a group of protesters showed up at the theme park carrying Nazi flags and signs supporting DeSantis. It's safe to say that the White Supremacist Voting Bloc thinks Ron's on their side.

Fortunately for DeSantis, while he was getting booed at the vigil, Jacksonville councilwoman Ju'Coby Pittman stepped in and asked the crowd to be respectful.

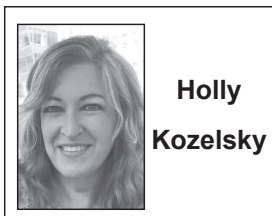
"Put parties aside," she said "A bullet don't know a party."

With all due respect to the councilwoman, she should have let them boo.

Time and time again, we see politicians vilifying certain groups of people, and then, inevitably, some angry dispossessed man takes a gun and kills a bunch of members of that group. Every time, we're all expected to pretend that the shooter was just a totally insane lone wolf acting on mysterious reasons and not the target audience of a demagogue who listened to every word of every campaign speech and decided to rid the politician of his turbulent priests.

Ron DeSantis may be a yawning black hole of naked political ambition and is probably devoid of the capacity for shame, but that doesn't mean we all shouldn't at least try.

Passwords, sign ins and websites



Holly Kozelsky

Hello! This is hollyk, or is it dysterstorehome, or catlover1234?

Oh sheesh, it is so hard to keep up with account sign-ins, and on top of that, we have to remember passwords, too!

It used to be easier, back in the day when your password could just be "password," or something like "password1234" if you were clever.

And talk about the good old days of internet sign-ins, back then there were only a couple of things you had to sign in for anyway – email, and maybe Myspace or eBay or a class registration.

Now, you have to sign in for everything. We have a zillion different sign-ins, and each with their own passwords.

It's easier to have the same password, or at least a few password options, but now the websites have rules that make that difficult.

Not only do most of them no longer allow the word "password" to be used as your password (not that I'm advocating that – these days internet crime and fraud are a real threat, so your passwords really do have to be careful and clever and unique), but they require various combinations of other things to go with the letters. When you set up a new password, you type in "Password1," and they respond that

your password must include a special character as well. Another site, you proactively type in "Password#" and they respond that you cannot use symbols, just letters and numbers only. Or you can use % but not &.

Adding fuel to the fire, a lot of sites also require you to change your password every month or two. That's a lot to keep up with.

To make matters worse, you are advised to keep a list of passwords so you can keep them all straight. But you also are warned never to keep a list of passwords, because then people can steal your passwords and get into your accounts.

I got stumped once when I called a company and the man asked for my password. I told him I didn't remember it. He said he could reset the password if I correctly answered all my security questions first. That sounded easy.

"What is the name of your favorite pet?" he asked.

I gave the dog's name. "That's not it."

I went through the cats one by one, and each failed.

Eventually it came out that it was the name of my parrot. I felt guilty for ranking the parrot and some of the cats low on the list, and he probably thought I was a weird old cat lady.

I finally gave up on my regular harangue of the internet company. That company has never sent me a regular bill, but one day early on, I got a late notice with a

high charge. Come to find out it doesn't send bills but rather expects you to handle your bills online.

I don't trust the internet company, because you hear so much about extremely poor customer service and rates hiked and people being unable to get any answers and so forth, so didn't make an online account. I did, however, write down the account number that showed on my late bill. Each time I send a payment, I write on a scrap piece of paper my account number, name and address and the message, "This company never sends a bill. Here is the payment. Please send a regular bill."

I only ever hear from that company every couple of years when I get a late notice in the mail, after my rate has gone up without my knowing.

I stopped sending that note about them not sending bills when I realized it probably was just opened and promptly thrown away by some young adult who dismissed me as some out-of-touch old woman.

My dental office sends reminder notices by email. I appreciate that. What I don't like is that they have a website they want you to sign into to confirm an appointment. I've never done that – not another sign-in and password!

This time, the email about my appointment seemed even more serious about my signing in to a website to confirm or change my appointment. I have to reschedule that appointment, but I'm still determined not to sign into another danged website to do so.

I sent a reply to that email, never expecting a response because I figured it was just an automatic no-reply account.

Much to my pleasant surprise, a couple of hours later I received a reply saying they'd reschedule for me.

It was from a real person. At least for now.

News from the 9th: Casework



Morgan Griffith Representative

One role I have as a Member of Congress is to serve as a liaison for constituents with the federal government, including providing help with problems related to the federal government.

To help me serve you, I have a team of people in the district who specialize in assisting constituents, overlapping with my D.C. staff who coordinate on a variety of requests.

My casework team can intercede on a constituent's behalf to answer questions and find solutions.

The district staff is based in my one of my two Ninth District offices, located in Abingdon and Christiansburg and are at multiple locations around the district.

Given the district is larger than the land mass of nine separate states, and to make it easier for you, we have traveling staff office hours, where someone from the Griffith office team is in every county and city at least once a month.

You can conveniently find the location and timing of our traveling staff office hours on my website. I encourage constituents to reach out to my staff via email, phone, through our website, or by scheduling appointments.

My team and I can assist on a variety of issues, whether it be claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, problems receiving Social Security benefits, or tax related issues with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

We were recently contacted by a constituent regarding the IRS' refusal to waive penalties and interest fees for her mom who had missed the filing dead-

line due to dementia. My team worked with the Taxpayer Advocate Service, who asked the IRS to drop the penalties due to the mom's dementia. The IRS agreed to do so.

We also help constituents request or renew passports, asking for the expedited processing of these documents, or deal with issues involving travel visas.

A woman and her son were about to board a plane to Italy when she realized her son's passport expired in four months (six months is needed to travel). The airline changed her flight and sent her to get help from the passport agency office, but the agency wouldn't help because they didn't have an appointment. After our team made a few phone calls, we were able to get them into the agency and the son was able to get an extension on his passport.

We are still seeing delays with passport processing, which first arose during the pandemic, so please reach out as early as you can for help.

Additionally, my staff can help navigate the process of applying for grants from the federal government or with requests pending with the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the U.S. Postal Service, etc.

We also help students seeking a nomination from me to the U.S. Service Academies. Each year, I host an in-person Service Academy Day where students and parents can learn more about their options.

Please know that Members of Congress and our staff are generally not permitted to get involved in legal matters, override decisions made by a federal agency, or force an agency to expedite a case. We will do what we can to encourage an agency to consider a case and to advocate for a decision

for the constituent.

When you reach out to my office for assistance, we will need your written authorization so we may comply with privacy requirements. Our privacy consent form can be found on my website, or you may contact us by phone or mail to obtain the form.

When returning this form to my team, do not forget to include any pertinent information and claim numbers that might be needed.

If you come to Washington, D.C., my office is available to answer questions or inquiries regarding your trip. We are able to set up tours at the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, Bureau of Printing & Engraving, Library of Congress, and so on.

While White House tours are very limited, we can try to assist with getting you White House tour tickets. We encourage you to submit your request as early as possible.

Constituents can also reach out to our office to purchase American flags—including ones flown over the Capitol. In addition, an American flag for burial purposes may be obtained from my office for a veteran's casket at no charge if you have a completed VA27-2008 form.

No matter the federal issue, please reach out to my office. It is my honor and privilege to serve you and assist in your interactions with the federal government. My team and I will do whatever we can to help.

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

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

21 BTW
Your Neighborhood NetworkThe Southside's
#1 Local TV Station

Warner

from page 1

Canyon, the Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park combined.

He also acknowledged the work of Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, at the state level.

"I'm big on bipartisan, but you think it's hard to get Republicans and Democrats to work together? Getting this funding, figuring out the battle between the park people, and the land and water conservation people, and the Bureau of Public Land people, that was real politics," he said, as many in the crowd chuckled.

When the Restore Our Parks Act was passed, Warner said there was about an \$11 billion backlog on national park maintenance for roads and historic sites. The backlog went up to \$13 billion.

Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-TN, Rob Portman R-OH, Angus King, I-ME, and Warner worked on the Act.

"It took us a couple of years. It was always broad-based support, but it was a question of are we just going to do the parks, or are we going to end up doing a Land and Water Conservation Fund - a permanent set of funding," he said.

Warner said the sausage-making of how the bill got passed included blood, sweat, and toil.

"We got a five-year stream. We're not going to get all the backlog, because obviously each year the backlog goes up, but we're going to get about \$6.5 billion, and it was kind of the art of compromise," he said. "The art of sausage-making."

The infrastructure bill, which finally has enough money for every community to have full, high speed affordable broadband, was also a topic of discussion.

"I know there's sometimes a challenge to get the fiber through the park service. I think we may work on a plan on how

we can speed that up, because my belief is Virginia is further along than almost any state," Warner said. "We have \$700,000 from the previous governor and we just got \$1.4 billion" for the projects, he said.

Warner said if there isn't broadband to every community at 98 percent penetration by 2025, it's because someone screwed up along the way on execution, not due to a lack of funding.

"I want to make sure that all of the Board of Supervisor members who are here can take all of the appropriate kudos when they can make sure that everybody in their community is connected," he said.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, Warner said he believes everyone realized that the idea that one must go to the Burger King parking lot to get a signal or broadband is not a practical long-term solution.

He said he was told during a conservation meeting with Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout that even getting people to come work at the park service is difficult.

"Something that I remember when I was a kid was one of the most competitive jobs around," Warner said. "Hopefully, as we do all this restoration, we'll be able to encourage more folks to join us. This is a great career, and it's another version of public service."

Swartout said the Blue Ridge Parkway was created to do was spur economic development in the Southern Appalachian communities it serves.

"We have more than 300 utility crossings on the parkway right now and in many cases, these are old crossings that are now being updated with fiber and new technology. We're really looking forward

to being a part of getting communities connected, because that's really part of what the park service mission was anyway," she said.

With the money the state has in the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program, Warner said there should be enough funds for about 98 percent of households to have broadband access.

"There'll always be someone that lives so far down the road they may not get to in the next two years. What I worry about is if other rural counties are getting big grants and" other counties aren't, "I'm happy to meet with them because the money's there," he said.

Warner said once the fiber wires are there, it becomes cheaper to put in a cell phone tower.

"We need fiber. There'll be some spots where 5G coverage will be an answer, but the main thing needs to be fiber," he said.

At his stop in Martinsville, Warner said the Martinsville Speedway generates a ton of resources for the community, including \$170 million, 3,000 jobs, and 350,000 sports fans coming to the community.

Warner said when he was governor, the vocational education initiative started at the racetrack.

"I think it was with Hermie Sadler, we started the Race to the GED program. We advertised it all over Virginia, and what we said, 'any kid in Virginia, we're not going to lower our standards, but you've got to have a career path and it doesn't have to be college,'" he said.

The program guaranteed an industry certification, and if one couldn't get enough of that training in high school, it'd give up to a year of free of community

college to finish getting that industry certification, he said.

"It would pay itself back in three years. We went from 6,000 kids to 11,000 kids on that effort on getting industry certifications," he said.

The program was not continued by his successors, but Warner said he believes the program should be brought back before the state starts thinking about free four-year college.

Old school thinking about education needs to be changed, like schools being compensated based on "butts in a seat on a semester-wide basis," he said.

"If you get a Pell grant, you ought to be able to use your Pell grant for an industry certification, not simply go to college," Warner said.

For more than 40 years, Warner said the country's talked about the need to have improvements in infrastructure.

"A little over a year ago, we passed the biggest infrastructure bill since President Eisenhower invested" in the interstate, he said, adding this means additional resources for roads, bridges, airports, water and sewer, and most importantly broadband.

"We've got to get better connected. It shouldn't matter where you live in the twenty-first century, you ought to be able to do your job anywhere, and I think post-COVID we also realized that highspeed affordable broadband is not just a nice thing to have, it's an absolute essentially economic requirement," he said.

Warner said having affordable broadband doesn't guarantee a community will be successful, but not having it means there's really no chance to attract better jobs and keep young people in the area.

Library at Ferrum College Creates An Escape Room For Students

Ferrum College's Stanley Library will feature a Murder Mystery Escape Room through the end of September. The library added this new resource for learning last semester and will continue to reinvent the concept throughout this academic year.

The idea came to be when library staff members were thinking of new outreach events for students. "We wanted to play with Valentine's Day and see about creating something that the English courses would be interested in using. Our first escape room was the Victorian Love Letters, and that really set the stage for the ones that followed. Two were completely virtual games: Banned Books and Misinformation, and two were physical games that also had virtual counterparts: Leave No Trace and Murder

Mystery," said Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, Rachel Walton.

While trying to solve the mystery of the escape room, it is important for students to practice teamwork. "No matter what escape room we are doing, none of them can be completed without teamwork and creative thinking," Walton said.

Each escape room also has defined goals and outcomes.

"This one focuses particularly on promoting deeper learning of critical thinking skills, knowing and learning how our escape room works, collaborating with faculty to create an exciting experience for students in the library, and just to have fun. We encourage professors to participate alongside their students," Walton said.

The themes of the room will change, and the next concept is already in the works. "Our escape rooms are almost always

converted into virtual games once we take them down. The Murder Mystery virtual edition is currently under construction. We love changing rooms and designing new games. Sometimes, our escape rooms are requested; recreation leadership and ecotourism requested a Leave No Trace room, but largely we find inspiration in what's going on around campus, or just from talking to one another," she says.

This year, Library

Assistant Danny Adams and Assistant Professor of English John Carey will help write future escape rooms with the goal of exploring outside partnerships. Depending on what partnerships develop, they will guide the style, games, and ideas that go into a new escape room.

Virtual and previous escape rooms are added to the College LibGuides and can be viewed at <https://libguides.ferrum.edu/>.



Student Briefs

McAdams enrolls at James Madison University
Patrick Springs resident, Whitney McAdams, has enrolled at James Madison University for the fall 2023 semester. McAdams has selected Health Sciences - BS as a major.

JUM welcomes class of 2027
James Madison University welcomed the class of 2027 to campus this month. The incoming freshman class represents an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 35 states, the District of Columbia and 12 countries around the world.

The incoming class includes:
Addison Belongia of Collinsville, who plans to major in Media Arts and Design - BA.

Ian Betton of Martinsville, who plans to major in Engineering - BS.

Ryan Lane of Ridgeway, who plans to major in Exploratory.

Grant Mayes of Martinsville, who plans to major in Finance - BBA.

Dayton Royster of Ridgeway, who plans to major in Marketing - BBA.

Summer Stone of Ridgeway, who plans to major in Biology - BS.

Be sure to like the
Henry County Enterprise
on Facebook

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area
HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
henrycountyenterprise.com
Weekly Publication
Published Each Saturday
Michael Showell, Publisher
Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101
Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129
Give us your view:
The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.
If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

LEGAL NOTICES

**COUNTY OF HENRY
REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **September 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.
The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **September 26, 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 hearings.
Case R-23-13 Kirk B. and Jenny M. Spitzer
The property is located in the north east corner of the intersection of Chatham Rd and Sharon Dr, in the Iriswood District. The property is part of Tax Map number is 22.2/51. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5 acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to construct an approximately 10,000 sq ft building to locate their contracting business.
Case R-23-14 William S. May, III
The property is located on the north side of Stones Dairy Rd, approximately 0.2 miles north west of its intersection with Blackberry Rd and across from address 3327 Blackberry Rd, in the Blackberry District. The property is shown on Tax Map number is 25.9(10)B/28-47. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.5-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The rezoning would allow the potential for placement of double wide manufactured homes, on a permanent masonry foundation.
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, AICP
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

**VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT
SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**
The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.
Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).
Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.
Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

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

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

OBITUARIES

Early “Joe” Josiah Wood, Jr

Early “Joe” Josiah Wood, Jr. passed away on Thursday, August 24, 2023. Joe was born in Martinsville, VA on April 16, 1947. He was the son of the late Early Josiah Wood, Sr. and the late Virginia Barnes Wood.



He is survived by his wife, Jane Dickerson Wood of Martinsville, VA, his sons, John Philip Wood (Brittany) of Garner, NC and David Josiah Wood of Fieldale, VA, his daughter, Emily Jane Wood Sumner (Shaun) of Raleigh, NC, his sisters, Debra (Debby) Wood Watlington (Clay) and Ellen Lou Wood of Martinsville, Va., his grandsons, Tatum James Wood, Titus John Wood, and Trenton Jack Wood of Garner, NC and his granddaughter, Scarlet Jane Sumner of Raleigh, NC. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Gwen Dickerson Hedgepeth of Raleigh, NC, nieces, nephews,

and cousins.

Joe was a graduate of Drewrey Mason High School and Mars Hill University. He received his Master of Education from the University of Virginia. Joe spent his career with the Henry County Public School System, most notably as Principal of Sanville Elementary School, Figsboro Elementary School, and Ridgeway Elementary School. Joe was dedicated above all to his family and community. He was a lifetime member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. He loved fishing, playing

golf, and more than anything his family. Honorary Pallbearers were Gene Stowe, Tommy Fain, Pete Pearman, Jerry Wood, Jimmy Wood, Kenny Wood, Johnny Wood, Richard Wood, and Clay Watlington. Memorials may be made in lieu of flowers to Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

A memorial service was held at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 27, 2023. A visitation was held Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home in Martinsville, Virginia.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. served the family. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckee-stonemartinsville.com.

Murder charge issued in stabbing death

Andrew “Drew” Russell Tabor, 41, was charged with first degree murder in connection with the Wednesday stabbing death of his mother, Susan Ackermann Tabor. She was 67.

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith and Commonwealth’s Attorney Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt announced the charge in a release late Wednesday.

Smith alleged that Drew Tabor showed up on the property of Stuart Elementary School at approximately 3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. School staff immediately notified the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to work at the school.

Sheriff’s Deputy Dan Gray confronted Drew Tabor outside of the school, Smith said. Other safety measures were quickly taken by school staff to protect the children, who were still at the school.

The school, according to Smith, is approximately 600 feet south of the home at 306 Staples Ave., Stuart, where both Susan and Drew Tabor lived.

Smith said Gray reported that Drew Tabor was not armed when he came

onto the school property. Information obtained by Gray during the initial encounter with Drew Tabor led other responding deputies to the discovery of Susan Tabor’s body at the home.

Patrick County Sheriff’s investigators are being assisted by crime scene personnel with the Virginia State Police.

The investigation is continuing, and Susan Tabor’s body will be transported to the Medical Examiner’s office in Roanoke for autopsy.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Patrick County Sheriff’s Lt. Steve Austin or Smith at (276) 694-3161.



Warner calls on AI companies to ramp up security

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, urged several artificial intelligence (AI) companies to take additional action to promote safety and prevent malicious misuse of their products. In a series of letters last week, Warner applauded certain companies for publicly joining voluntary commitments proposed by the Biden administration, but encouraged them to broaden their efforts, and called on companies that have not taken this public step to commit to making their products more secure.

As AI is rolled out more broadly, researchers have repeatedly demonstrated a number of concerning, exploitable weaknesses in prominent products, including abilities to generate credible-seeming misinformation, develop malware, and craft sophisticated phishing techniques. In July, the Biden administration announced that several AI companies had agreed to a series of voluntary commitments that would promote greater security and transparency. However, the commitments were not fully comprehensive in scope or in participation, with many companies not publicly participating and several exploitable aspects of the technology left untouched by the commitments.

In a series of letters sent Thursday, Warner pushed directly on companies that did not participate, including Apple, Midjourney, Mistral AI, Databricks, Scale AI, and Stability AI, requesting a response detailing the steps they plan to take to increase the security of their products and prioritize transparency. Sen. Warner additionally sent letters to companies that were involved in the Biden administration’s commitments, including Amazon, Anthropic, Google, Inflection AI, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI, asking that they extend commitments to less capable models and also develop consumer-facing commitments – such as development and monitoring practices – to prevent the most serious forms of misuse.

“While representing an important improvement upon the status quo, the voluntary commitments announced in July can be bolstered in key ways through additional commitments,” Warner wrote.

He also called specific attention to the urgent need for all AI companies to make additional commitments to safeguard against a few highly sensitive potential misuses, including non-consensual intimate image generation (including child sexual abuse material), social-scoring, real-time facial recognition, and proliferation activity in the context of malicious cyber activity or the production of biological or chemical agents.

The letters follow up on Warner’s previous efforts to engage directly with AI companies to push for responsible development and deployment. In April, Warner directly called on AI CEOs to develop practices that would ensure that their products and systems are secure. In July, he also pushed on the Biden administration to keep working with AI companies to expand the scope of the voluntary commitments.

Additionally, Warner wrote to Google last week to raise concerns about their testing of new AI technology in real medical settings. Separately, he urged the CEOs of several AI companies to address a concerning report that generative chatbots were producing instructions on how to exacerbate an eating disorder. Additionally, he has introduced several pieces of legislation aimed at making tech safer and more humane, including the RESTRICT Act, which would comprehensively address the ongoing threat posed by technology from foreign adversaries; the SAFE TECH Act, which would reform Section 230 and allow social media companies to be held accountable for enabling cyber-stalking, online harassment, and discrimination on social media platforms; and the Honest Ads Act, which would require online political advertisements to adhere to the same disclaimer requirements as TV, radio, and print ads.

Collinsville man dies in Franklin County crash

A single-vehicle crash that occurred Sunday, Aug. 27, at 10 p.m. on Goose Dam Road, one quarter mile south of Sontag Road in Franklin County remains under investigation by the Virginia State Police.

A 1995 Ford Explorer was traveling on Goose Dam Road, when the vehicle ran off the left side of

the roadway and struck a fence, according to a release from state authorities.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Skyler Evan Rorrer, 24, of Collinsville, Va. Mr. Rorrer was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene, the release stated. The passengers in the vehicle were treated and released with minor injuries.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988 Carpentry/ Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County-References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net.

Be sure to like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

SERVICES

Custom spreading of agricultural lime available. Also have hay for sale in 4x4 & 4x5 net-wrapped rolls. Call for information and pricing 276-694-7443 or 276-692-5475.

YARD SALE

Huge Yard Sale
132 Diamond Dr. Bassett Va. Rain or Shine. Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 9:00-6:00. Antique and vintage items, fishing, pocket knives, pocket watches, Pyrex, jewelry, household and lots of misc.

FOR SALE

TWO (2) BURIAL PLOTS IN PATRICK MEMORIAL GARDEN. LOCATION: LEFT CENTER MAIN SECTION. INCLUDES TWO \$1300 VAULTS, CURRENT MEMORIAL GARDENS SALE PRICE, \$4400 – MY PRICE NEGOTIABLE. MSG / CALL - 276-693-0229

See how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work. Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.

ADVERTISE!



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

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

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

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

We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

		S	Y	L	I		S	T	A	V	E
E	C	H	O	E	S	P	E	R	I	L	S
R	O	Y	W	I	L	L	A	M	S	C	F
D	O	L		A	Y	R	S	A	C	R	A
A	D	O		S	N	E	E	R	S	H	A
H	E	R	P	A	D	S	A	C	E	P	I
		I	M	A	M		T	U	R	E	E
S	A	M	A	R			P	A	S	S	E
A	P	E	X	E	S		T	I	D	E	
N	A	T	D	A	T	H	O	D	S	H	E
T	I	C	E	S	T	A	T	A	R	T	O
T	H	R	O	B	S	B	S		E	L	L
Y	E	F	A	N	T	A	S	T	I	C	A
S	O	I	R	E	E	L	U	S	A	K	A
B	A	I	T	S		E	B	O	N		

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

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

Growth + Restoration Campaign reaches \$1 million goal Piedmont Arts honors donors with reception

In celebration of the Growth + Restoration Campaign reaching its \$1 million goal, Piedmont Arts honored campaign donors with a reception at the museum on Aug. 23.

Piedmont Arts Board President Dr. Shana LeGrant, Executive Director Heidi Pinkston and Immediate Past President Guy Stanley spoke to the crowd of more than 100 guests about the importance of their contributions to the campaign.

Pinkston said the museum's journey from a grassroots group of local artists to the accredited museum it is today reflects the true essence of community collaboration. "It is [community] support that fuels the growth of Piedmont Arts and ensures its relevance for tomorrow's artists, youth, and art enthusiasts. We are not merely securing the future, we are safeguarding a vibrant artistic legacy that will enrich lives and elevate our community for years to come."

The Growth + Restoration Campaign was spearheaded in 2020 by the late Dr. Barry Dorsey, then a member of the Piedmont Arts Board, to raise funds to secure the museum's future as an arts and cultural leader in the region. The museum was also in desperate need of funds to address many structural chal-

lenges, including a leaky roof, peeling paint, and an outdated HVAC system.

"We were on ladders daily, changing bulbs and addressing Band-Aid fixes," said Pinkston. "These struggles, while we remained burdened by debt, limited our ability to channel resources where they were most needed."

With Dorsey's guidance Pinkston formed a committee to oversee the campaign, appointing Dorsey co-chair along with Smith Chaney, Marty Gardner and Guy Stanley. Other committee members include Manly Boyd, Jill Dickens, Cindy Edgerton, Olivia Garrett, Natalie Hodge, Caleb Moore and Jennifer Reis; and staff members Pam Allen and Bernadette Moore.

"We embraced the uniqueness of our community," said Pinkston. "And we worked hard to keep every dollar within our community as an emblem of our commitment to nurture and uplift our shared home."

Since the campaign was initiated, Piedmont Arts has completed many projects using campaign funds. Outside, the leaky roof was replaced, the parking lot was resurfaced, the building was painted, new LED safety lights were installed around the exterior, and ground was broken



Piedmont Arts' Finance Director Pam Allen (left) converses with good friends Rhonda Edwards and Brad Draper.

on a new pavilion in early August. Inside, damaged floors were replaced, new appliances were purchased for the catering kitchen, all lights—including specialty lighting in the galleries—were replaced with LEDs, and new first-aid equipment was purchased to help keep visitors safe. In the next phase of the campaign, the museum plans to install solar panels to reduce energy costs and its carbon footprint.

Pinkston stated that during the campaign, she and her staff were also able to retire the museum's long-term

debt through careful management and stewardship, without using any campaign or endowment funds, making campaign contributions even more impactful.

In closing, Pinkston reminded guests that the museum's achievements are not merely measured in dollars and cents. "They are measured in lives touched, expanded horizons, and kindled dreams. [Piedmont Arts'] success is a testimony to the unbeatable spirit of a community united by a shared belief in the power of art to shape our world."

Gas Prices Ease Ahead of Labor Day, But Unexpected Surge Remains Possible

Drivers this holiday weekend expected to pay similar prices to Labor Day 2022; bumps may lie ahead.

GasBuddy, a PDI company and the leading fuel savings platform saving North American drivers the most money on fuel, released its annual Labor Day travel forecast, predicting the average price of gas in the U.S. on Labor Day weekend will fall gently to \$3.75 per gallon, virtually identical to what motorists experienced for Labor Day weekend last year. Gasoline demand may also rise to 9.2 million barrels for the week ahead of Labor Day as motorists begin pre-filling their tanks, making it potentially the weekend with the strongest demand of the summer driving season, behind that of July 4th.

Gas prices have remained relatively quiet this summer, but began spiking in late July and August as Saudi Arabia and Russia cut production, pushing oil prices higher. Record temperatures in the South also caused unexpected refinery disruptions, contributing to a nearly 35-cent jump. While gas prices have started to ease as the summer winds down, there still could be one last hurrah at the pump before things cool off this fall.

"Oil prices have eased slightly on concerns over China's struggling economy, and as oil production increases in the U.S. to nearly pre-Covid levels. However, with the tropics becoming more active in recent weeks, there remain threats to gas prices for the next few weeks," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "If we can escape further unexpected oil production cuts and outages due to hurricanes, we may avoid an unexpected surge in gas prices, with the downturn accelerating as we get into late-September and stations transition back to cheaper gasoline. We could see a national average of \$3.25/gal by the end of the year if all goes well."

Gas stations will be allowed to start the transition back to winter blend gas on September 16, which should help alleviate inflated prices for some drivers around the U.S. due to lower cost. For Americans hitting the road one last time for the summer, GasBuddy reminds travelers to be wary of crossing state lines, where gas prices often become much more volatile. Shopping around before crossing state lines can save motorists 25-50 cents per gallon in some situations.

City from page 1

Manager Clarence Monday and then-City Attorney Eric Monday.

The city also agreed to pass an ordinance, thus making parts of the agreement a law, stating that "the city not treat retirees as a separate class for purposes of health insurance premium ratings. The city may continue to use a blended rate for establishing premium amounts," the filing stated.

The ordinance codifying the agreement was passed on June 22, 2010, and on July 13, 2010, Clarence Monday, in his capacity as city manager, briefed Martinsville City Council on the ordinance, stating in part that "employees were commonly told that a benefit of coming to work for and continuing to work for the city was the city would pay their health insurance upon retirement," the document states.

In a 2000 review, to protect taxpayers as the city faced economic challenges, Clarence Monday said the city administration "enacted a policy to reduce the amount paid for a portion of health insurance for its retirees. In reality, a lack of clarification resulted as to specific execution of this policy."

Noting "the gap widened between what the city paid for its retirees' health insurance as compared to active employees," Clarence Monday said, "the disparity escalated," and retirees who worked under the city manager's jurisdiction sought legal counsel.

"The city faced a real potential for expensive and lengthy litigation," Clarence Monday said, noting those involved decided on mediation "to identify an optimal outcome."

With adoption of the ordinance, Clarence Monday noted the city was in compliance with policy, and "retirees are treated with the respect and appreciation they deserve for their public service, the solution is cheaper than risks faced by the city if this had went to litigation," and the taxpayer was "protected with a clear-cut phase-out policy moving forward."

On July 10, 2013, Clarence Monday clarified to council members that "city retirees will be treated the same as active city employees so there is not confusion."

The court filing notes that the city initially complied with the terms of the agreement and ordinance, but "within several years ... began to violate" the terms of each, it alleges.

Noted is an examination of the city's Administrative Policies and Procedures Manuals, Revised Feb. 1, 2010, and Aug. 1, 2022. The section "clearly shows" the city "had no intention of complying" with the agreement or the subsequent ordinance passed by the city on June 22, 2010 "and the defendant would continue to treat retirees ... as a separate class for the purpose of health insurance premium ratings and health insurance premium payments," the court document states.

On or about Nov. 1, 2021, Lawson, in her position as Mayor, acknowledged the city was not adhering to its ordinance, the filing noted.



Executive Director Heidi Pinkston addresses the audience at Piedmont Arts' Growth + Restoration donor reception.



Employees of Carter Bank & Trust enjoyed the festivities at the donor reception.



The joy and excitement were palpable at the Growth + Restoration Campaign donor reception. From left: Dru Ingram, Don Lampe, Shane Pinkston, Lucy Coleman, and Shana LeGrant.

Library receives donation for expansion project

Woodmen Life, a life insurance agency in Martinsville, donated \$500 to the Bassett branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library (BRRL) on Aug. 16.

Lewis and Betty "Boots" Turner, co-chairs of the Project Steering Committee, said the donation will be used to help with the Bassett Library expansion project.

"We have a \$2.25 million project which includes renovations of the existing facility and adds to it some 4,000 square feet of space for the library," he said.

The expansion will increase the library from 6,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet.

Betty Turner said construction on the project cannot start until all funds needed for the project are in hand.

Lewis Turner believes the necessary funds will be acquired in about two years.

So far, the organization has raised \$450,000.

"That's on the support from foundations that we will be apply-



The Bassett Library received a \$500 donation from Woodmen Life on Aug. 16. Pictured from left to right are Scott Koebel, Ann Yale, Betty Turner, Betty Wall, Beth Hale, and Vickie Coblentz.

ing to as well as donations from people in the community and people who have an interest in Bassett," he said.

Lewis Turner said Koebel, a recruiting sales manager with Woodmen Life, was interested in supporting the community and community activities.

"Mr. Koebel's child

comes to the library with his homeschooling group, and he knew about the library through his child," Betty Turner said.

Those wishing to donate can send cash or a check for the Bassett Library Expansion Project Fund at 3969 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, VA 24055.



Lohr to kick off CEA Summit

Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr will lead the opening morning keynote address for the 2nd annual edition of the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Summit East, September 19-20, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) Institute Conference Center in Danville, VA.

Secretary Lohr's presentation sets the stage for two days of education and networking built around the summit's goal

of bringing CEA business and academic community members together to boost growth opportunities for the entire sector.

The CEA Summit East is co-hosted by Indoor Ag-Con, the largest vertical farming | CEA gathering, and the CEA Innovation Center – a partnership between the IALR and Virginia Tech's School of Plant and Environmental Sciences and the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Virtual Information Sessions for MS in Athletic Coaching Program Set

On September 12, Ferrum College will host two virtual information sessions for their Master of Science in Athletic Coaching program.

The Master of Science in Athletic Coaching is 100% online and can be completed in one year. The curriculum is designed to develop and prepare coaches to assist student-athletes in the successful attainment of the well-being of mind, body, and spirit that catalyzes athletic performance.

Grounded in current research and framed with leadership, communication, and exercise science principles; this program gives coaches

the advanced tools needed to truly understand the athlete and what can contribute to successful individual performance and ultimately successful team and community experiences.

Applicants can choose to attend the 12:30 p.m. session or the 7:30

p.m. session on several dates from September to December. Enrollment for Spring 2024 is now open.

For more information regarding virtual sessions, visit <https://www.ferrum.edu/graduate-and-professional-studies/graduate-programs/>.



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



THE HARVEST FOUNDATION PRESENTS

PICKLEBALL

FREE-FOR-ALL

ALL AGES & SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

● **FRIDAY, SEPT. 15TH** ●

10 AM - 12 PM

● **HENRY COUNTY RECREATION CENTER** ●

395 W. JOHN REDD BLVD

PRIOR TO THE EVENT, THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE & COUNTY OF HENRY.