

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, September 9, 2023

(USPS-6)

www.henrycountyenterprise.com • \$1.00

Drug Court program celebrates first graduate



Martinsville Circuit Court Chief Judge G. Carter Greer (right) presents Jessica Dudley with her graduate certificate from Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court.

Jessica Dudley, the first graduate of Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court (PADTC), is approaching 400 days free of substance abuse.

"I came into the program at my lowest," Dudley said. "I had decided the world would be better off without me... I'm proud of

the woman I've become thanks to my support system. They picked me up, encouraged me... I will be forever grateful. It's a daily battle but worth it."

The PADTC team celebrated its inaugural graduation on Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Henry County Courthouse. Martinsville

Circuit Court Chief Judge G. Carter Greer presides over the drug court and welcomed the program's keynote speaker, the Honorable Joel C. Cunningham, a retired judge who oversees the Halifax County Adult Drug Treatment

See Drug, page 3



Mary Martin, a candidate for the Henry County School Board At Large Member seat, outlined her platform at a recent press conference.

Support for teachers, safety top Martin's platform

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

In her bid for office, Mary Martin said she is focused on school safety, creating a new watchdog post, serving as a voice for teachers, and a host of other goals.

Martin, who will face incumbent Cherie

Joyce Whitlow for the at-large seat on the Henry County School Board in November, outlined her platform at an August 31 press conference.

One of the first issues Martin said she would address within the school division is school safety.

See Support, page 7

A new trail opens at Philpott Lake



A ribbon cutting was held on Friday, September 1 to celebrate the opening of the 0.4-mile Greater Bassett Area Community (GBAC) Spillway Overlook Trail at Philpott Lake.

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the Greater Bassett Area Community (GBAC) Spillway Overlook Trail at Philpott Lake.

This new 0.4-mile pedestrian trail begins near the Philpott Lake Visitors Center and allows visitors to walk through the Philpott Dam Spillway.

Chris Powell, Philpott Lake Operations Project Manager, said when the park first started the project, it knew it had the perfect

location, but didn't know how to get there.

"With the help of Harvest (Foundation) we stumbled upon their Project Hope grant and got \$10,000 to make this trail actually happen. We're excited about that, and we're thankful for our partners at GBAC, they were our fiscal sponsors," he said.

Brian Stewart, a biologist, said the trail ends at the new overlook of the Dam Spillway.

"That's what this trail actually

started with was an idea of 'wow, this would be a beautiful spot, and how can we get people here,' he said.

Stewart said grant funds helped cover the cost of trail signage, blazing, trail structures, and materials in areas where they were needed.

"It definitely helped out a ton getting that money from the Harvest Foundation and working with GBAC to expend those funds. It's been a great project, and we appreciate the help we got," he said.

MVHS grad immerses herself in culture while pursuing a degree in France



Moriah Hairston poses for a photo in the city of Menton, France.

By Holly Kozelsky

Moriah Hairston, of Martinsville, recently completed her final shift as a cashier in Food Lion, and on Monday began the first week of her second year of classes in a master's degree program in France.

The 2017 graduate of Magna Vista High School (MVHS) studies cognitive science at the Université Côte d'Azur with intentions to continue on to medical school in France. She is the daughter of Eric and Amy Hairston and Tina Hairston, all of Martinsville.

Moriah Hairston's direction and goals were sparked by two key experiences in her life: a high school trip to France, and her grandmother's journey with dementia.

Her grandmother, the late Lois Hairston, had always been a smart woman, she said.

"She always had something to say, but as time went on, she began talking less and less. With her last few years of living, I know personally, and from watching Amy taking care of her, it can really take a toll

See Grad, page 6

Bassett Heritage Festival set for Saturday

The annual Bassett Heritage Festival gets underway on Saturday, September 9 in Uptown Bassett.

The family-friendly fest begins at 8 a.m. with a Pancake Breakfast by the Stanleytown Ruritan Club, situated at the side of Wells Fargo Bank.

At 8:30 a.m., vendors will be followed by the Opening Ceremony in

front of Bassett Office Supply at 8:45 a.m.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., enjoy entertainment by The Southern Gentlemen and Kelly Ratcliff, and get your space early for the parade on Main Street at 2 p.m.

The festival ends at 5 p.m.

The Stanleytown Ruritan Club sponsors the festival. Tony Wright is the event chairman.



Bassett Heritage Festival




Saturday, September 9
Uptown Bassett




Schedule of Events:
 8:00 AM—Stanleytown Ruritan Pancake Breakfast (side of Wells Fargo Bank)
 8:30 AM—Vendors—Kids Carnival
 8:45 AM—Opening Ceremony (front of Bassett Office)
 10:00 AM—1:00 PM—Entertainment by The Southern Gentlemen & Kelly Ratcliff
 2:00 PM—Parade Begins on Main Street
 5:00 PM—End of Festival

The Stanleytown Ruritan Club Sponsored this Event
Tony Wright, Event Chairman

VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)
FOR MORE UPDATES



Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Sept. 11-15:

9/11	2pm	Golf	Bassett at Oak Hill CC, Eden, NC
	2pm	Golf	Magna Vista at Oak Hill CC, Eden, NC
	2pm	Golf	Martinsville at Oak Hill CC, Eden, NC
	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Staunton River
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Gretna
	7pm	Volleyball	Patrick County at Martinsville
9/12	5pm	Boys Soccer	Eastern Mennonite at Carlisle
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	Tunstall at Magna Vista
9/13	2pm	Golf	Bassett at Mecklenburg County (Kinderton CC)
	2pm	Golf	Magna Vista at Mecklenburg County (Kinderton CC)
	5pm	Cross Country	Bassett at Tunstall
	5pm	Cross Country	Magna Vista at Tunstall
	5pm	Cross Country	Martinsville at Tunstall
9/14	2pm	Golf	Bassett at Patrick County (Olde Mill CC)
	7pm	Volleyball	Tunstall at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	Mecklenburg County at Magna Vista
	7pm	Volleyball	Halifax at Martinsville
9/15	4pm	Girls Tennis	Carlisle at Covenant (Charlottesville)
	4:30p	Boys Soccer	Miller School of Albemarle at Carlisle
	7pm	Football	William Byrd at Bassett
	7pm	Football	Magna Vista at Franklin County
	7pm	Football	Martinsville at Dan River

MHC After 3's 21st Century Learning Community Learning Centers Grants Increased

Patrick & Henry Community College announced MHC After 3 has been awarded new 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grants totaling \$927,675, an increase over the previous grant of \$692,143, to support after school programming for middle and high school students in our community for 2023-2024.

MHC After 3 works to ensure the holistic development of youth, build capacity of youth development professionals, and meet the out of school time needs of families in Martinsville and Henry County. P&HCC's MHC After 3 after-school and summer programs at area middle and high schools are located at Bassett High School, Magna Vista High School, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, Laurel Park Middle School and Martinsville High School. MHC After 3 typically serves 600 students in the community annually with an average of 310 students participating at least one day each week.

The Department of Education asserts "21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) program supports the creation of opportunities for academic enrichment during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and mathematics; offers students enrichment activities that comple-

ment regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children." In order to meet these goals, MHC After 3 offers daily free access to high quality after-school enrichment, tutoring, career & college exploration, health and wellness, arts, and athletics programs at respective schools and in the community.

The increased funding opportunities the additional grant funds provide will increase students' college and career exploration opportunities, volunteer and service learning opportunities to increase youth leadership in community building and activism, and expand interest-based clubs and organizations that are student organized and led with professional mentors to guide the work of the clubs. These grants also greatly increase funding for after-school tutoring with teachers at the respective schools, aligning with MHC After 3's belief in the power of caring adult mentors to help a student realize and reach his or her potential.

"The opportunities for learning in after-school settings are incredibly valuable. Programs like MHC After 3 not only give students a safe and caring place to belong between the time the bell rings and their parents get home from work, but also provide students with caring mentors to believe in their potential, caring teachers to increase their understanding or to connect the concept from school

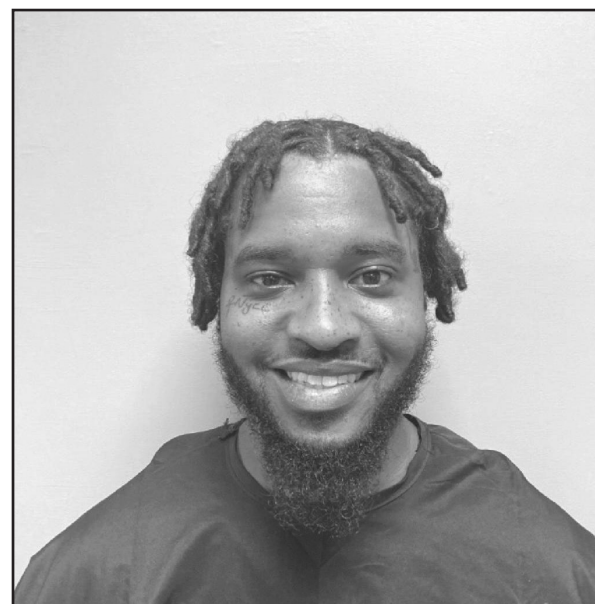
to college, career, and beyond. After-school programs are often the very place where a student finds her best friend, voice to sing, or write, or advocate for others. After-school is a place where students discover their talents, their interests, and path to individual success," said Shanna Francisco-King, P&HCC's director of pre-college programs.

MHC After 3 began in 2006 from a partnership of community organizations chiefly concerned with youth priorities in the community. The Harvest Foundation invested in the community with one grant, shared by several organizations, to build an after-school system that leveraged resources (human and capital) to work together to meet the most pressing needs of youth in the community and to empower families to support children through the teen years. In 2007, the organization received funding from the Department of Education for our first 21 Century Community Learning Centers Grant. Seventeen years later, MHC After 3 partners continue to work collaboratively to empower a community of teens to be successful students and contributing citizens.

Families interested in enrolling their students in MHC After 3 are encouraged to contact Annette Bolio at 276-656-5489 or abolio@patrickhenry.edu.

Students in the program this summer made a video that can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/M5j56s0gslk>.

First degree murder charge levied in stabbing death



Kenneth Austin Tatum

A Martinsville man was charged with first degree murder in connection with an incident in the Scrub Board Laundry Mat located at 2034 Rives Road, Ridgeway.

The Martinsville-Henry County 911 Communication Center received a call at 1:13 a.m. on September 3 to report a man had been stabbed. Deputies responding to the scene found the man lying on the floor with an apparent stab wound to his neck. Henry County Public Safety also responded and provided life-saving measures.

The man, identified as William Clay Rumley, 47, of Dye Plant Road, Martinsville, succumbed to his injuries.

Investigators learned that another man had entered the laundry mat and started a conversation with a woman who was already inside. The two did not know each other. The man then tried to talk the woman into giving her phone to him, a release from the sheriff's office stated.

Rumley, who has been hailed as a Good Samaritan by Sheriff Wayne Davis, got between the man and woman to prevent the second man from getting the woman's phone. The man then got upset with Rumley, and the two argued, according to the release.

A knife was produced, and Rumley was stabbed in the neck, the release stated.

The man allegedly then fled the property on foot. A description was developed from the security cameras located inside the building. He was also injured and bleeding heavily.

The injured man traveled to Fairy Street, in Martinsville, and allegedly was involved in a domestic altercation. The Martinsville Police Department responded to that call, and upon arrival, located the man, who was still bleeding heavily.

Responding officers recognized him as the suspect from the homicide on Rives Road, and officers took him into custody without incident.

Kenneth Austin Tatum, 30, 900 Rives Road, Martinsville, was charged with first degree murder and transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where he is held without bond.

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

P&HCC, SME partner to address workforce shortage, skills gap crisis



SME, the national nonprofit committed to accelerating new manufacturing technology adoption and building North America's manufacturing talent and capabilities, announced a new initiative involving a partnership with community and technical colleges to address the urgency of revitalizing manufacturing's industrial base, growing the industry's talent pipeline, and enhancing the skills and productivity of manufacturing workers.

The Manufacturing Imperative – Workforce Pipeline Challenge (MI-WPC) launches this fall and combines the industry and workforce expertise of SME with the educational programs and innovations

of a select group of US community and technical colleges, including Patrick & Henry Community College. The initiative builds awareness of careers in manufacturing, optimizes workforce systems and accelerates the education and skill development needed to place individuals in jobs making family-sustaining wages.

"I am pleased to celebrate SME's newest initiative, the Manufacturing Imperative – Workforce Pipeline Challenge to help address the national workforce crisis facing our manufacturing sector," said US Department of Education Assistant Secretary Amy Lloyd. "We appreciate SME's leadership and willing-

ness to bring together the national voice of manufacturers alongside our nation's community and technical colleges to address local and regional labor market needs and support efforts to invest in American and prepare youth and adults for good jobs."

Through the Workforce Pipeline Challenge, SME will work with schools to conduct a labor analysis of the local, regional, and state landscape; develop and expand sector strategies to attract new populations – particularly those under-served and under-represented in the workforce; and implement new programs, cur-

See **Shortage**, page 6

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.

Monday, September 11

The Martinsville City School Board meets at 6 p.m. at the Central Office, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville.

Wednesday, September 13

Henry County Planning Commission meets at 5 p.m., with public hearings set to begin at 6 p.m., in the Summerlin Meeting Room, Henry County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville.

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 9

The Bassett Heritage Festival will be held in Uptown Bassett.

The 2nd annual Veterans'

Appreciation Day Picnic will be held 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 desserts.

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 bassethighway57cruisein.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.

Friday, September 22

Savory September. Buon Appetito! The event begins at 6:30 p.m., and will include cuisine provided by local chefs,

a 50/50 raffle, and live music. Tickets for admission are \$50 and available for purchase at PiedmontArts.org or at Piedmont Arts. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for six. Available at Piedmont Arts.

Saturday, September 23

Latino Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Complex on Irisburg Road, Axton.

Watercolor Painting Workshop led by award-winning artist, Dr. Jim McIntosh, 9:30 to 1:30. Cost \$40 Limited Slots – (supplies included). Free light lunch. Call or text (276) 734-2828 to reserve your space.

An evening of Music with seasoned musicians Riggs Roberson & Griffin Haley, 5 to 8 p.m. Bring a chair and cooler of your favorite beverage and enjoy an evening of great music. No admission (donations appreciated). Food is available from Brenda's Catering (ribs, BBQ and all the fixings).

The Library of Virginia On The Go will visit the Martinsville Main Library from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with activities that include exploration of genealogy resources, discussion of regional and family history, oral history recordings and special guest Fran Snead, director of the Bassett Historical Center.

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.

TheatreWorks to receive a percentage of all sales from "The Giving Tap" (special brew) at Mountain Valley Brewing this month. In addition, TheatreWorks is hosting Trivia on Monday nights (September 18 & 25) and Bingo on Thursday nights (September 14 & 28) at the brewery, beginning at 7 p.m. each evening at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton.

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

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

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

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.

Drug

from page 1

Court.

"The majority of our graduates are doing well in recovery with jobs — they're taking care of themselves and their families, and this is why we work so hard," Cunningham said. "Our criminal justice system recognized that we have to do business a little differently. The research has shown that (prolonged incarceration) doesn't make that much of a difference... But when we do what we're supposed to be doing, we make things better."

Halifax County sees around a 70 percent success rate with its program, according to Cunningham. He said PADTC can expect to see similar results.

"(Drug court participants) are people who are incredibly strong to get to where they are," Cunningham said. "Somehow, they find the courage to fight and not give up, and it's hard... When drug court teams are successful, we spare families with individuals suffering from painful drug abuse conditions... We bring moms and dads back. We help to restore the family unit."

Cunningham congratulated Dudley on her success and reiterated the key to maintaining success comes from utilizing the tools learned from drug court.

"When you see a person like Jessica transition from an unhealthy life to a hopeful and purposeful life... It's a great feeling. Our role

is helping people get out of dangerous situations into a healthy lifestyle."

PADTC applied to the Virginia Supreme Court in April 2021 and received startup funds from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia - Martinsville to begin operations. Kelly Koebel, senior assistant director of clinical services at Piedmont Community Services, said although referrals started off slow, they have picked up at a steady pace.

"We are fortunate with Harvest (Foundation) funding to have full-time staff dedicated to the program, and we've opened up participation to individuals with city charges," Koebel said. "All of us (the drug court team) have the best interests at heart for the individuals. (Team members) are people who care deeply about the community and the people we serve. Jessica will always be our first, and we hope to have many more graduates that come through."

Koebel also mentioned drug court was the dream of the late Jim Tobin, who retired as director of Piedmont Community Services in 2016. She said Tobin would be very excited to see this program become a reality in Martinsville-Henry County.

Upon receiving her graduation certificate from Quincy Gravely, justice support supervisor at Piedmont Community Services,



The Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court team with graduate Jessica Dudley.

and Judge Greer, Dudley thanked her treatment team, Piedmont Community Services, Pathways to Recovery Center, Community Recovery Program, and her family, who supported her during her treatment.

Gravely said Dudley stayed the course and gave it her all, even receiving peer support training and Narcan training, and is well on her way to becoming a peer support specialist. Gravely stressed the importance of all members on the drug court treatment team, including the nurse practitioners who support all participants.

Dudley also had a special thank you for Viola Rich, a peer recovery specialist at Community Recovery Program. She said Rich served as a mentor and role model



Jessica Dudley (third from left) is pictured with her family and Viola Rich (right), a peer support specialist at Community Recovery Program.

throughout her path to recovery.

The Piedmont Adult Drug Treatment Court is a rigorous program for individuals with pending drug or drug-related charges. The program

is a minimum of 12 months, with extended stays considered based on the participant's progress. Following successful completion, the judge can rule in three ways: dismissal of the original

charge; reduction of the original charge to a lesser charge with no active jail time to serve; or a suspended sentence.

Visit piedmontcsb.org or call (276) 632-7128 to learn more.

OPINION

The new golden age of democracy

Ladies and gentlemen, I don't mean to oversell this column, but I have come up with the greatest idea to benefit our democracy since the late great Bob Saget allowed average Americans to vote on which video of a guy getting hit in the groin was the funniest.

It all started while I was thinking about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, something I do with increasing frequency and vitriol just lately.

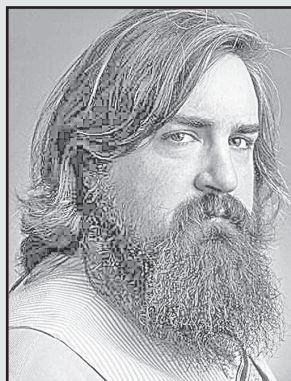
Over the last year, it's been reported that Justice Thomas has been receiving lavish gifts from wealthy "friends" for decades. Friends like billionaire real estate mogul Harlan Crow, a major conservative donor who has provided Thomas with a large number of gifts that Thomas repeatedly failed to disclose. To provide just a few examples, Crow has provided Thomas with flights on private jets, trips on his superyacht, free stays at private resorts, and even gifted him a \$19,000 Bible formerly owned by Frederick Douglass, a man who, were he alive today, would likely beat Clarence Thomas to death with his

bare hands and then deliver an inspiring speech about the experience.

Thomas would have us all believe that these gifts from Crow are just kindnesses from a dear old friend who has in no way been courting Thomas since he got onto the bench, and that the fact that Thomas consistently votes in ways that make Crow very happy is purely incidental.

Clarence Thomas is hardly unique, however. Ever since the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission case (which Thomas cast the deciding vote on, which is surely a coincidence) it's easier than ever for wealthy donors and corporations to put their thumbs on the scale in federal, state, and even local elections and coerce politicians into voting to support their interests.

The situation might seem hopeless for little folks like you and me, but all is not lost. You see, I have observed something about our jurists and elected officials, and it can be summarized in two words. The first word is "cheap." The second word isn't printable in a newspaper, but I'll give you a hint:



By Ben R. Williams

there's a best little house of them in Texas.

Yes, our elected officials can be bought and paid for with a surprisingly small amount of money. To pick a random example, Texas Senator and world's largest invertebrate Ted Cruz is an outspoken critic of gun control, voting regularly against any and all common sense gun law reforms. And over the course of his career, do you know how much money he's received from the National Rifle Association?

\$176,274.

To me, \$176,274 is an inconceivable amount of money. In the grand scheme of things, however, it's nothing. Do you know how much it costs to open a McDonald's? I looked it up; it costs between \$1.4 and \$2.5 million, depending on

the location and the size of the restaurant. If you wanted to open a McDonald's, it would cost you, at minimum, eight times what it costs to pay Ted Cruz to fight gun reform. Suddenly, politicians seem pretty affordable!

With all of this in mind, I proudly present my handy guide to a new system I have invented that will allow average Americans to steer this country back on the right track.

I call this plan "Taxes II: The Legend of Curly's Gold."

Step One: Create some kind of tech corporation that makes a lot of big, vague promises about changing the way America does business. We will need an angel investor to pay the rent on the office building, but that will be the only major expense because this company will accomplish nothing of value except release the occasional statement talking about quantum computing and "the internet of things."

Step Two: This vague tech corporation will then fund a political think tank. I propose the name "United Private Individuals Gifting Servants," or UPIGS for short. It's important to note that these first two steps merely serve to give this plan the thinnest veneer of legitimacy, just like a real corporate political donor.

Step Three: The sole purpose of UPIGS is to run

a website that lets every American citizen vote on topics they would like to see our elected officials support. If a topic gets enough votes, UPIGS then creates a GoFundMe page.

Step Four: Everyone who wants to can donate as much as they want to that GoFundMe page. For example, if UPIGS creates a page asking for support for universal healthcare, anyone who supports universal healthcare can throw some money at the cause. If half of all Americans threw a single dollar in the pot, that would add up to about \$166 million, enough money to guarantee a basic human right or build 118 McDonald's.

Step Five: Once the GoFundMe ends, UPIGS will construct a giant wooden slop trough in the halls of Congress or within the Supreme Court, depending on the nature of the situation. The amount of money raised by the GoFundMe will be converted into small bills and dumped into the trough. A message will be etched onto the trough for the benefit of our elected officials, something like, "Vote to support universal health care! Eat up, UPIGS."

Step Six: America enters a new golden age, democracy reigns supreme, and Clarence Thomas buys the Elephant Man's skeleton or whatever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This past weekend my wife, baby, and I loaded in my parents' van to go to the Hillsville flee market. It's always been a bit of a family tradition. I always make it a point to eat Chinese food, and get a "Mennonite donut" from the Auntie Ruth's truck. I have no clue what my wife looks for when we go, but I keep an eye out for antique presidential pins.

We'd always go to the gun show; they used to have more sales behind the VFW, but I guess recent gun laws put a stop to that (which I believe to be an infringement on our Second Amendment rights). I always make it a point to find Deborah Buchanan's booth. This year I just bought a pocket-knife, my wife bought a toddler-sized rocking chair, and my parents just went to push the baby stroller.

We didn't go last year because my son was only two months old, and nobody went in 2020 because of the Covid shutdown. My wife and I went in 2021 when they were supposed to be "back

from Covid. The word I used in 2021 was, "depressed." It was the lowest attendance I can ever remember with fewer vendors to match.

Here's my real reason for writing this: there's talk of a second wave of Covid coming that could lead to more shutdowns. Larger cities are encouraging masks again along with a renewed push for getting vaccinated. Citizens are grumbling.

As I've heard some of the grumbling I decided it must be said: if you don't show up to patronize events, like Hillsville, when everything is open then don't grumble when everything shuts down. If you are not stimulating the economy while it's open then you are a part of the problem in your own way.

When I was a kid my Grandparents really believed in moving money around locally: my "Pappy" was a booster for the local high school sports program, attending every game and always buying concessions. My grandparents shopped

local grocery stores, feed stores, and locally owned restaurants. They viewed themselves as doing well, and wanted to help others.

I didn't just get a pocketknife at Hillsville I got lemonade and paid for parking; it took gas to get there. My point is businesses rely on little transactions as much as large ones. You may not be their biggest customer, but you can be a customer nonetheless and stimulate our economy.

Finally I really want to say this. If you're not consistently worshipping the Lord in His church then don't complain about the declining morals of this country. Don't complain about illiteracy and ignorance if you're not giving Bibles away, which is classic literature. Don't judge people for immorality if you've got your fair share of it (Romans 2:1-24). It's the same principle as the economy: don't complain if you aren't participating.

We live in a community, meaning we need each other, but to work with each other we must learn to behave.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

The Grandma Glow fades too quickly



Holly Kozelsky

Who is that child in the kitchen with Grandma?

She looks like my daughter.

She sounds like my daughter.

But no, she's someone else entirely.

Grandma's granddaughter helps cook the meals. Those two putter about together in the kitchen, studying recipes, measuring ingredients, carrying out the preparation together step by step. Pleasant, gentle muffled sounds of their conversation drift into the next room.

Grandma's granddaughter sets the table with precision before the meal and is the first to collect the used plates from the table after the meal has been finished.

Grandma's granddaughter washes the dishes, puts them away and tidies and wipes down all the surfaces before leaving the kitchen.

Oh how impressed I am at each family visit by Grandma's dotting and responsible

granddaughter. Oh how I wish that that girl would be my right hand man at dinner times at our house.

At our house, I have a classic teenager. After dinner, she's tired. She's exhausted. She has to practice guitar. She has a lot of homework to do. She's been up since 6 a.m. and needs some time to herself for once today to guard her mental wellbeing. She has a stomach ache. She has a headache. I just don't understand.

On occasion, such as Tuesdays with the 3-hour dance class, I do excuse her from doing dishes. Otherwise, we begin a period of negotiation. It's a long process which generally involves her taking a 20-minute rest to collect herself before coming back downstairs armed for the job with her phone and earphones.

However, that nightly routine always goes quite smoothly in the weeks after a visit with the grandparents. That's due to the phenomenon I call "The Grandma Glow."

I'm not ashamed to throw Grandma's name around liberally.

After my child claims she's finished with the kitchen, I go in and check.

"Is that how Grandma would leave it?"

She perks up, alert and sprung for action. She's inspired. Suddenly, she notices this container left out on the counter, that spoon by the stove and the crumbs on the floor. She takes care of it immediately.

I get those great results for about two weeks.

Then The Grandma Glow fades little by little. I don't mean that in the sense of her feelings about her grandmother — because she knows that woman hung the moon — just in the sense of how useful her recent time with Grandma is for our present needs of a clean kitchen.

I start having to get specific.

"Is that how Grandma would leave it?"

"It looks fine to me." "Would Grandma leave that glop of food on the counter and the little pieces of food in the sink strainer?"

She goes into action.

By now, it's been a month since the visit with Grandma. Our conversations are more direct:

"You missed a spot over there."

"Ugh," she grunts, with an eye roll as she picks up the sponge.

So we're back to the September, October and most-of-November slump of supervised kitchen duties and heavy reinforcement.

But I'm not worried.

We'll be seeing Grandma again for Thanksgiving, at which point The Grandma Glow will be renewed, and I'll have another month or so of clear sailing in our own kitchen at home once again.

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

henrycounty

enterprise.com

**SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
JOURNALISM**

**WE OFFER FLEXIBLE
ADVERTISING PACKAGES,
IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.**

*SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS
OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!*

**CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101
OR (276) 693-3713.**

JOIN US

WEEKLY SUNDAY

**MORNING SERVICE
10:30AM**

Subscribe to our

You Tube Channel

NEVER MISS A SERVICE

**ND NEW DAY
CHURCH**
MHC

705 LIBERTY ST MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

OBITUARIES

Mildred Spencer Gusler



Mildred Spencer Gusler, age 97, of Martinsville, Va. passed away on August 28, 2023. She was born on August 19, 1926, in Franklin County, Va. to the late Thomas Albert and Betty Spencer.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, George W. Gusler and her sister, Alice Shorter.

Mildred leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and devotion. Mildred will be deeply missed by her son, Donnie W. Gusler (Marsha); her four grandchildren, Lisa Ann Shelton, Alysia Nicole Spencer (Keith Sink), Brandy Nicole Deatherage (Chad) and Kenny Wayne Gusler (Nacole); 10 great grandchildren, Edward Michael Shelton, Jordan Briann Shelton, Cameron David Spencer, Alexis Nicole Spencer, Nicholas Tyler Rea, Kyleigh Lene Gusler, Nathaniel Chase Gusler, Easton Linc Ferguson, Keelan Reece Goolsby, Journey Grace Roberts; her great-great-granddaughter, Riley Saige Akers; and special caregiver Bonnie Pendleton.

Mildred attended Henry High School and

furthered her education at Ferrum College. She valued education and believed in the importance of lifelong learning.

Mildred was a beloved member of her community and will be remembered for her warm and loving nature. She was cherished by all who knew her. Mildred had a zest for life and enjoyed traveling, walking and gardening. Above all, she cherished the time spent with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In her professional life, Mildred dedicated 20 years of service to the old Martinsville General Hospital and Memorial Hospital. She began as a secretary and later transitioned to bookkeeping and general office work. Her commitment and hard work were greatly appreciated by her colleagues and the

hospital staff.

Mildred was a member of the United Methodist Church. She found solace and strength in her faith throughout her life.

When she wasn't working or spending time with her loved ones, Mildred enjoyed working with flowers and taking leisurely walks. These simple pleasures brought her joy and allowed her to appreciate the beauty of the world around her.

The family and friends of Mildred Gusler gathered to honor her life and share memories on Friday, September 1, 2023 at McKee-Stone Funeral Home. Visitation started at 11 a.m. The funeral, held at noon, was officiated by Pastor Chris Bennett, with interment at Roselawn Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of your choice in memory of Mildred.

May her soul rest in peace and may her memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who knew her.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family. To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeestonemartinsville.com.

Russell Edward Haley



Russell Edward Haley, age 75, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away on Friday, September 1, 2023.

He had a lot of identifiers over the years. Russell. Badge # 116. Dad. Pappy. And, most enduringly and inexplicably, Pete. No matter what you called him, you could always call him a friend. It was a common occurrence to be out with him in Martinsville and hear someone call out a greeting to him. When you asked who the person was, Dad would say "Oh I locked him up years ago." That was my dad. He passed away on Friday, September 1.

Pete Haley was born in 1947 in Martinsville, then proceeded to live all 75 (almost 76)

years of his life within a few hundred feet of his childhood home. After a few forays into other work, he found his calling as a police officer for Martinsville PD, serving for over 20 years and retiring as a patrol sergeant. But the PD wasn't just a career, it also provided the introduction to the love of his life, Martha. She passed in 2020 and he had been patiently waiting ever since to see

her again. What a joyous reunion that was.

He is survived by his son, Jonathan, his daughter-in-law Mandy, and the two joys of his life: grandsons Nino and Drew. He is also survived by his brother, Wilbur Haley, Jr. (Audrey), and sister Robin Nickerson (Frank). He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur, Sr., and Doris, and his beloved wife Martha.

Services were held at Chatham Heights Baptist Church on Tuesday, September 5. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Chatham Heights Baptist Church.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. served the family.

June Elizabeth Burnette



June Elizabeth Burnette, Age 90 of Ridgeway, VA passed away on Monday, September 4, 2023, at her residence after a decline in health. Mrs. Burnette was born on June 19, 1933, in Carroll County, VA to the late Oscar Edwards and the late Beatrice Bowman Edwards Goad.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Lindell (L.E.) Burnette; one sister, Dorothy Lawson; brothers, Leonard, Ray, Walter, Berle and Guy Edwards.

Mrs. Burnette is

survived by her son, Barry Burnette (Sandy); grandchildren, Travis Burnette (Hailey), Allison Burnette and Bailey Burnette; brothers, Wayne and Glen Edwards; several nieces and nephews.

She retired from Hardee's Restaurant. A graveside service

was held on Friday, September 8, 2023, at Roselawn Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Ridgeway Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 611, Ridgeway, VA 24148.

The family extends their sincere appreciation to Dr. Mahoney, Lisa Morrison and Mountain Valley Hospice for the care and attention they provided to Mrs. Burnette.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. served the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeestonemartinsville.com.

Initial unemployment claims increase

The number of initial claims increased in the latest filing week to 2,777 and remained at typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending August 26, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,777, which was an increase of 466 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,258, which was 457 claims lower than the previous week and a decrease of 1.7% from the 13,486 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Ninety-three percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry, of those reported over half (58 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,983), administrative and support and waste management (1,865), health care and social assistance (1,196), manufacturing (1,113), and retail trade (985). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers

represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending August 26, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 228,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 230,000 to 232,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 192,467 in the week ending August 26, a decrease of 6,970 (or -3.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 173,867 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (-4,695) was the largest decrease. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (-1,712) was the second largest decrease. Hawaii's preliminary weekly change (-1,305) was the third largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-729) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+596) was the fourth largest increase.

Geraldine Gusler Lawless



Geraldine Gusler Lawless, age 97, passed away September 1, 2023. Born to the late Walter Bunyon Gusler and the late Eva Agee Gusler, she spent her childhood and teenage years in the Woolwine area of Patrick County before moving to Collinsville, Virginia.

She graduated from Stuart High School and was a member of Fieldale United Methodist Church. Her work career included employment with Fieldcrest Mills, Appalachian Power Company, and 1st

National Bank/Crestar Bank.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Lawless; sister, Edith Gusler Jones; and brother, Leon B. Gusler.

Surviving is her son, Ralph Michael Lawless

(Debbie); daughter, Elizabeth "Beth" Lawless-Coale (Donny); sister, Evadell Gusler Rogers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Thursday, September 7, at Sycamore Baptist Church cemetery in Woolwine. The family requests memorial donations be made to Fieldale United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 218, Fieldale, VA 24089, or a charity of choice.

Collins Funeral Home in Bassett, Va. is in charge of arrangements for the Lawless family.

LEGAL NOTICES

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://p1ow4va.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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL23001171-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Rd., 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112

HERMILIA GARCIA HERNANDEZ v. DANIEL A JIMENEZ RODRIGUEZ
299 GARRETT ROAD,
RIDGEGWAY, VA 24148

The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII
It is ORDERED that DANIEL A. JIMENEZ RODRIGUEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before October 27, 2023 at 10:45 a.m.
August 21, 2023

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

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Areas

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication
Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher
Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Wendi Craig, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(276) 340-2445

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

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://p1ow4va.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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL23001171-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
HENRY CIRCUIT COURT
3160 Kings Mountain Rd., 3rd Floor, Martinsville, VA 24112

HERMILIA GARCIA HERNANDEZ v. DANIEL A JIMENEZ RODRIGUEZ
299 GARRETT ROAD,
RIDGEGWAY, VA 24148

The object of this suit is to:
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII
It is ORDERED that DANIEL A. JIMENEZ RODRIGUEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before October 27, 2023 at 10:45 a.m.
August 21, 2023

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

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

Danville Man Sentenced to Eight Years for Child Porn Possession

A Danville man, who used the online messaging application Kik to communicate and share child abuse images with an undercover law enforcement officer, was recently sentenced to 102 months in federal prison.

William Allen Wolf, 46, pled guilty in November 2022 to possession with intent to view a visual depiction of a minor under 12 years of age engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

According to court documents, in December 2021, a law enforcement officer acting in an undercover capacity entered a public group on Kik Messenger where users were known to regularly share information and images of child abuse, and Wolf was already a member. The undercover officer purported to have two prepubescent daughters.

On December 6, 2022, Wolf initiated a Kik conversation with the undercover officer telling him that he was a member of the group because he enjoyed training children for sexual activity. Wolf then sent the undercover officer a video depicting an adult male engaged in sexual activity with a pre-

pubescent female under 12 years of age. Wolf continued to send the undercover officer additional videos during the course of their online conversations.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh and Stanley M. Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Richmond Division, made the announcement.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Baudinet prosecuted the case.

The case is brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identity and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

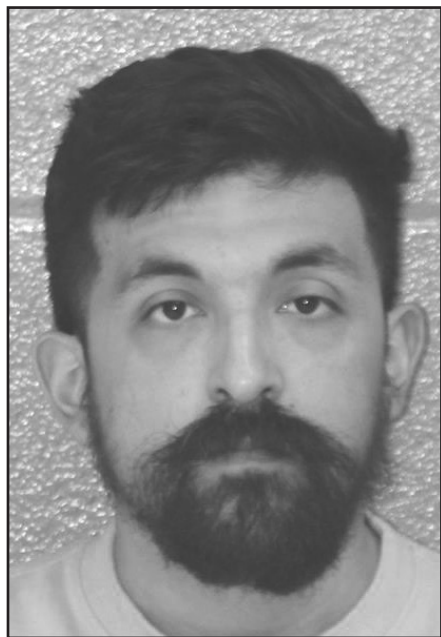
Charges issued in missing juvenile case

The Martinsville Police Department received a report on Monday, September 4, regarding a 16-year-old female who had run away from home. According to the report, the juvenile was last seen in the vicinity of Mulberry Road and Meadowview Lane.

Officers learned that the juvenile had been in contact with a 31-year-old man, who allegedly had traveled to the Martinsville area to pick up the juvenile.

The juvenile and the man were located in Charlotte, North Carolina by the United States Marshals Service on Tuesday, September 5.

Cody Lee Lopez, 31, of Houston, Texas was charged with abduction and computer solicitation of a minor in connection with the incident. He is being held in North Carolina awaiting extradition to Virginia.



Cody Lee Lopez

This case is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call Lt. Jim Lovell at (276) 403-5320.

Virginia's Broadband Plans Released

Governor Glenn Youngkin recently announced that Virginia's plans for closing the digital divide were released. The plans outline the strategy for connecting Virginians to high-speed, affordable broadband and will allow Virginia to access its \$1.48 billion federal allocation to deploy high-speed internet networks to areas without broadband.

"In today's increasingly digital world, having access to high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury, it is necessary in order to fully participate in daily life," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "I'm proud to share that the Commonwealth is the first in the nation to release these plans and to strategize the effective utilization of these funds, ensuring that all Virginians are connected through broadband."

The 5-Year Plan and Volume 2 of the Initial Proposal outlines Virginia's plans for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program under the federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act. These funds will be prioritized to reach the estimated 160,000 remaining unserved homes, businesses and community anchors in the Commonwealth that are not yet in a broadband deployment project area.

The BEAD program is a \$42.45 billion nationwide program to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs. The Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) will

administer the Commonwealth's \$1.48 billion BEAD allocation to build upon the work of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) to reach the remaining unserved regions of the Commonwealth. Once funding for universal broadband access is delivered, DHCD will focus on leveraging these investments through promoting affordability and improving adoption of this critical service.

"Broadband is as critical today as electricity was in the last century, and this administration is committed to ensuring that no communities are at risk of being left behind," said DHCD Director and Chief Broadband Advisor Bryan Horn. "Virginia and the VATI program continue to be a national model for bridging the digital divide, and we will continue working to ensure that broadband in Virginia works for all Virginians."

DHCD is accepting public comment through Sept. 19 for Volume 2 of the BEAD Initial Proposal.

Since 2017, Virginia has allocated over \$935 million in state and federal funding to extend broadband infrastructure to over 388,000 locations in 80 cities and counties across the Commonwealth. These investments have leveraged an additional \$1.1 billion in matching funds from local governments and internet service providers.

For more information about Virginia's broadband efforts and to submit comments on Volume 2, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/vati.

Early morning search results in arrest

Investigators with the Henry County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at 4925 Daniels Creek Road, Collinsville, at 8:04 a.m. on August 31.

During this investigation, suspected fentanyl and cocaine were seized, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff's Capt. T. W. Compton. A man allegedly related to the investigation was found at the front door of the residence where he was apprehended without incident. A woman was inside of the home as the search warrant was executed. She was not associated with the investigation and was subsequently released.

Tony Cecil Ashby, 52, of 4925 Daniels Creek Rd. Collinsville, Virginia was charged with one count each possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl, 3rd offense and posses-



Tony Cecil Ashby

sion with the intent to distribute cocaine, 3rd offense.

Ashby was transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center and received a \$5,000 secure bond.

Anyone having information about narcotic trafficking operations 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 of 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.

Manufacturing Partnership in Martinsville to receive federal funds

U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine announced \$1,000,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for the A.L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP), also known as GENEDGE Alliance, in Martinsville.

This funding will help GENEDGE support small and medium-sized medical device manufacturers across Virginia in their efforts to strengthen medical supply chain resiliency and improve product quality by providing the manufacturers increased access to specialized expertise and resources. Specifically, with this funding, GENEDGE will assist the businesses in increas-

ing sales, creating jobs, training more experts in the medical device manufacturing process, reducing risks in the process, providing educational resources, and growing our manufacturing industry.

"Virginians rely on their medical devices every day, and supporting our medical manufacturing industry is critical to ensure patients and providers can access the products they need," said Kaine, D-Richmond, and Warner, D-Alexandria. "The pandemic highlighted the importance of ensuring our domestic medical supply chains are strong to improve public health, lower costs, and reduce our reliance on other nations. This funding will strengthen

our efforts to do just that. We're glad these federal dollars will help GENEDGE support small and medium-sized manufacturers across Virginia by training workers, creating jobs, reducing risks in the manufacturing process, and improving the quality of medical devices."

GENEDGE is a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network. In Fiscal Year 2022, the MEP National Network generated \$35.80 in new sales growth for manufacturers for every one dollar received in federal funding, which is up \$9.60 from Fiscal Year 2021. Last year, Warner and Kaine announced over \$2 million in federal funding for GENEDGE.

Board of Education approves 2023 Math Standards of Learning

Last week, the State Board of Education unanimously approved new Mathematics Standards of Learning that will raise the floor and remove the ceiling for student performance and achievement. The 2023 Math Standards are informed by best practices and aligned with the needs of the world beyond K-12 education. The revisions were part of the seven-year cycle for review of the Standards of Learning, and the new standards will be implemented in schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

"Virginia students deserve to be held to high expectations," said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera. "These updated math standards embody high expectations and provide the North Star in our efforts to re-orient our education system to be one grounded in

excellence."

"The 2023 Math Standards represent a key improvement to focus on mastery of foundational skills, rigorous content development, and personalized pathways that meet every student where they are and take them where they want to go" said Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The 2023 Math Standards will ensure Virginia's students master mathematics skills before moving on to a new concept or course. Students will also have the freedom to pursue different math courses based on their interests. Following the successful completion of Algebra, students can meet the necessary math credits with traditional high school math pathways, college credit bearing courses such as AP, or through dual enrollment or

concurrent courses at a community college or university. Students will learn how to effectively integrate technology and math skills and simulate real-world scenarios that integrates the application of mathematical reasoning and critical thinking.

The VDOE staff will provide ongoing technical assistance and support to teachers, administrators, and instructional personnel across the Commonwealth to ensure a smooth and successful transition to these new standards.

The 2023 Math Standards of Learning as adopted today by the board are available on the VDOE website. Under the implementation timeline approved by the board, all math instruction and state assessments will be based on the 2023 standards beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

Fall into a new passion: art classes at Piedmont Arts

The weather will soon be crisp and cool and Piedmont Arts has plentiful opportunities to learn a new creative skill to carry you through winter. Classes at Piedmont Arts span numerous mediums with talented and dedicated teachers. Sign-ups can be taken at PiedmontArts.org and at the museum. Classes all take place in the Piedmont Arts classroom unless otherwise specified.

A new offering, Piedmont Arts will be hosting a Senior Studio on Tuesday afternoons through the end of Sept. at 1 p.m. Seniors are invited to craft and create together in the Piedmont Arts classroom. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating artwork. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members.

Busy Bee's Craft Meet will take place on Sat. Sept. 2, Oct. 7, and Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. in the classroom. An informal circle to socialize, learn and share with fellow crafters. Bring your lap-sized hand-craft, such as cross-stitch, knitting, crochet, paper

crafts, hand sewing, needle felting, etc. Free to members and \$5 for non-members.

Bob Ross Painting Class with certified instructor Naomi Hodge-Muse will meet once a month on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Learn Bob Ross' famous painting technique. Students should bring a roll of paper towels, all other supplies provided. Advanced registration is required. Participants on Sept. 7 will learn to paint "Night Light," Oct. 5 will be painting "Wetland," and Nov. 2 will be painting "Soft Mountain Glow." The cost of this class is \$75 for members and \$85 for nonmembers.

Chix with Stix will meet two times a month on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Dates include Sept. 12 and 26, Oct. 10 and 24, and Nov. 14 and 28. Knitters are invited to work together in the Piedmont Arts classroom on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Sessions are self-guided and provide a space to socialize while creating. Bring your own supplies. Free to members and \$5 for non-members.

On Sept. 30 at 10

a.m. in the Art Garden, watercolor artist Jim McIntosh, PhD, will be teaching Introduction to Plein Air Painting. McIntosh will provide a 30-minute demo on how to be active during the painting process. He will then lead students in starting in a project, from concept to sketching to beginning a painting. Registration is not required. Bring your own supplies. This class is free and open to the public.

Yoga in the Galleries will take place with instructor Ally Snead on Sat. Oct. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will enjoy a relaxing yoga session surrounded by the art work in the galleries. Bring your own mat and equipment. Classes are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Payments are cash only and will be made to the instructor.

Piedmont Arts is a nonprofit art museum in Martinsville. It is 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.

Advance tickets now on sale for the county fair

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The third annual Henry County Fair is set to be held Wednesday, September 20 to Saturday, September 23 at the Martinsville Speedway, outside of turn four.

The hours are from 5-10 p.m. on September 20 and 21, from 5-11 p.m. on September 22, and from 12-11 p.m. on September 23.

Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks & Recreation – which oversees and coordinates the fair – said he anticipates around 8,000 people will attend the event over its four days because it has become popular with residents and visitors alike.

"The ValleyStar Credit Union Late Model Race is that weekend" on Saturday night, "so a lot of folks will come to the fair and then go to the race," he said.

Adams said there will be around 25 rides for all age groups, along with games, and food.

The fair also will include a large animal exhibit complete with a camel and a zeedonk, or a zebra and donkey mix, and the 4-H Agricultural Contest.

"We're just excited about it. We're expecting a big crowd and just a lot of fun," he said.

Live music is also on tap each night.

"Wednesday night is B99 night, and we have Carrie Brockwell, she was on American Idol last year. Thursday night is going to be the ultimate Eagles tribute band, On the Border," Adams said.

Friday night will be Spirit FM night, when Colton Dixon, another American Idol alum, will take the stage. Dixon finished seventh in the eleventh season of the show.

"We're not having a concert because of the race, but we are having fireworks Saturday night. It will be about 11 p.m., whenever the race ends," he said.

Adams said there will also be two ground shows held every night of the fair.

"They're really, really nice. We're having the Pompeyo Family Dog Show, they were on America's Got Talent, and then we have a brand-new Space Adventures Thrill Show that will be there," he said.

Gate admission is \$5, which includes access to the shows, concerts, and exhibits.

Ride wristbands are \$35 at the fair and \$30 in advance as an admission and unlimited ride combo ticket. Advance tickets are available at www.innovativeticketing.com. Search for Henry County Fair 2023. The advance tickets will be on sale until 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 20.

Flora of Virginia app launched

The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project (the Flora) has launched a new guide to the Natural Communities of Virginia in the Flora of the Virginia smartphone App. The classification system developed by Vegetation Ecologists with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program (Natural Heritage), provides a framework to describe natural communities. It gives context to the importance of protecting certain habitats and species and will guide efforts to restore landscapes to functioning ecosystems that support native flora and fauna.

"The integration of Natural Communities into the App was the Flora's primary objective for 2023," said Flora of Virginia Project Foundation board president Caitie Cyrus. "Board members Andrea Weeks (George Mason University) and Joey Thompson (Natural Heritage) worked diligently to drive the project, and we could not have completed the work without the guidance of Natural Heritage, our longtime partners and collaborators."

The new guide:
- Describes in detail the 80 Natural Community groups;
- Includes over 1,000

new captioned photos;
- Illustrates the diverse and unique habitats where our native flora grow and why certain species are always found together;
- Provides range maps detailing where these groups are most likely found; and,
- Includes abbreviated lists of species frequently found in each community group.

Purchase the Flora App for iOS and Android at <https://floraofvirginia.org/flora-app/>. Learn more about Natural Heritage's Natural Communities classification system at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-communities/>.

Harvest Foundation among those to receive grant funds

The Harvest Foundation in Martinsville is among the agencies to receive a portion of \$2,910,500 in Virginia Main Street (VMS), Community Business Launch (CBL) and Virginia Business District Resurgence (VBDRG) grants.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the round of grants Tuesday would fund 45 projects across the Commonwealth, including \$50,000 for A Foundation for the Martinsville Minority Business Consortium. The funded projects will revitalize historic commercial districts, expand small businesses and bolster the local economies.

"Virginia is open for business, and my administration recognizes the importance of building strong entrepreneurial ecosystems and investing in our historic downtowns to make Virginia the best place to do business in the nation," said Youngkin. "These investments will ensure that, as we grow Virginia's economy, we are supporting our local economies and creating strategic economic opportunities while preserving the unique character of these communities across the Commonwealth."

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers all four programs, and the funding is utilized to support small business creation and expansion, as well as the revitalization of historic downtown and Virginia Main Street districts. CBL projects train entrepreneurs and

small-business owners on business planning practices, culminating in a group of finalists pitching their ideas to a panel of judges with winners receiving grant funding and support services from the community to kick-start their new venture.

VMS Downtown Investment Grants support Advancing Virginia Main Street communities and can be used to fund complete projects, provide seed funding for new projects or provide gap financing that allows a project to become fully funded. VMS Community Vitality Grants assist organizations and communities in achieving their downtown revitalization goals and are available to all active Exploring Main Street and Mobilizing Main Street communities and organizations. VBDRG projects support Virginia-based community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to build their capacity and increase economic activity in distressed communities throughout the Commonwealth.

In total, the 45 projects will support 647 businesses, create or expand 53 businesses, train 140 entrepreneurs, provide 112 façade and downtown improvement projects and leverage more than \$980,000 in private investment.

To learn more about Community Business Launch, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/cbl. To learn more about Virginia Main Street, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/vms.

Grad

from page 6

a fitted top" for the same type of outing that she'd be comfortable wearing sweatpants and a T-shirt to in Martinsville.

"They have more of an awareness of just not being sloppy when going out," she said. "I don't think sweatpants and a T-shirt are sloppy," but the French would.

LANGUAGES

Hairston said she has not experienced the haughtiness French people are known for in America, but that's probably because she makes

an effort with the language – she has seen other Americans who don't put in an effort to speak basic courteous French be slighted.

"From the very beginning, even when my French was a bit limited, I would always say 'Hello' and apologize that 'My French isn't great, but we're going to try, but if not, we're going to switch to English'" if the other speaker would be willing or able to. "That has helped me not to have many issues or attitudes coming from them.

"I had other friends who didn't speak French and would get those attitudes," but that's not surprising if the visitor to the country has not made an effort to learn some of the language. "It's just little things. They don't expect you to be fluent, but it's respectful to know those little phrases."

In France, it's common to hear different languages spoken and it's common for Europeans to speak more than one language. "I admire that. I love that, and I wish we had more people here

in the U.S. who would like to do that and would take pride in speaking more languages."

When students are in high school, she advised, they should listen to the different languages that are offered in classes and "choose the best one for you. Take it seriously."

FOOD

In France, the quality of food is better, she said – not the seasonings, but the ingredients such as meats, fruits, and vegetables.

She is a fan of the pizza

and pasta there, but she misses some American foods.

"My Southern sides are going to show," she laughed: She has been missing chitterlings, a standard on the holiday table back home. She also misses hibachi grills and Japanese foods which, she said, are probably available, but she just hasn't found them yet.

OPPORTUNITIES

Hairston lives in France during the school year and returns for the summers and when her

grandmother passed away. This summer she worked at Food Lion.

She advises other parents to "encourage your children to go out and experience things. If it wasn't for my dad and Amy" and that high school trip to France, "I wouldn't have been interested. If there's an opportunity to take your kids, take them so they can see other places, so they can experience other people and cultures."

Anyone who is inter-

See Grad, page 10



Bobbitt named to P&HCC Board

Dayna Bobbitt is Patrick & Henry Community College Board's newest member.

Bobbitt serves as Patrick County's Commonwealth's Attorney, and has been an adjunct professor in the Legal Assisting/Paralegal program at P&HCC.

She is a member of the Virginia State Bar, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, Patrick County Bar Association, Patrick County Elder Abuse

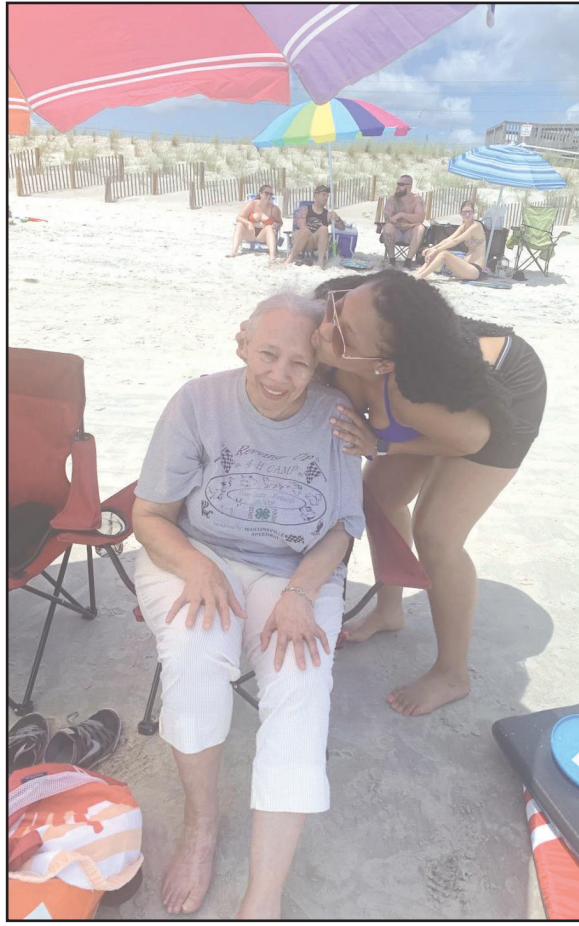
Team, Sexual Assault Response Team, Child Abuse Review Team, and Special Victim's Unit.

Bobbitt also serves the community as the president of Stuart Rotary Club, a member of Sycamore Baptist Church and a volunteer for the Community Backpack Program at Blue Ridge Elementary School.

She was appointed by Patrick County to represent the locality on P&HCC's board for a four-year term.



Grad from page 9



Moriah Hairston kisses her grandmother Lois Hairston. The experiences her grandmother and the family caretakers went through when her grandmother had dementia inspired Moriah to her studies of cognitive science.

ested in living and working or studying abroad should look into social media groups, such as Facebook, where information and tips are shared. "Once you start," it's easy to find more and more help, she said.

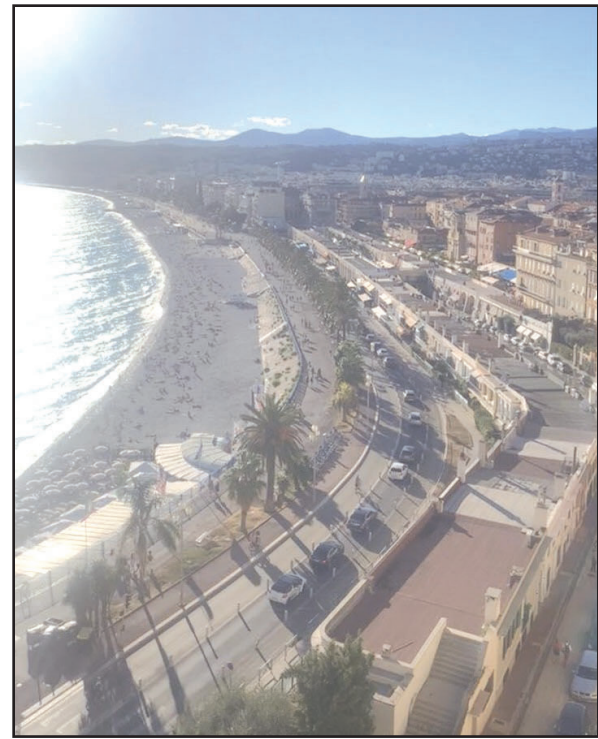
The website www.campusfrance.org was of great help to her, she said. It gives information on programs and has part of the application process as well as advisors who help make sure everything is in order. Once a program is chosen, "they test you to make sure you are capable and prepared. Once that happens, you get papers and documents and start the application process of receiving a visa."

Getting the visa was the most stressful part of the process, she said. Though the closest French embassy is in Washington D.C., the wait for an appointment would have taken too long, so instead she got her visa at the embassy in Miami.

She knows her parents miss her, but "they know this is my dream. This is one of the things I've been most sure about doing in life, and where I want to be, and they support it all the way."



Martinsville native Moriah Hairston, who is pursuing a master's degree in cognitive science from Université Côte d'Azur, walks down the Promenade des Anglais to do some studying on the beach.



In her downtime, Moriah Hairston enjoys the view.

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.

