

# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, September 23, 2023

(USPS-6)

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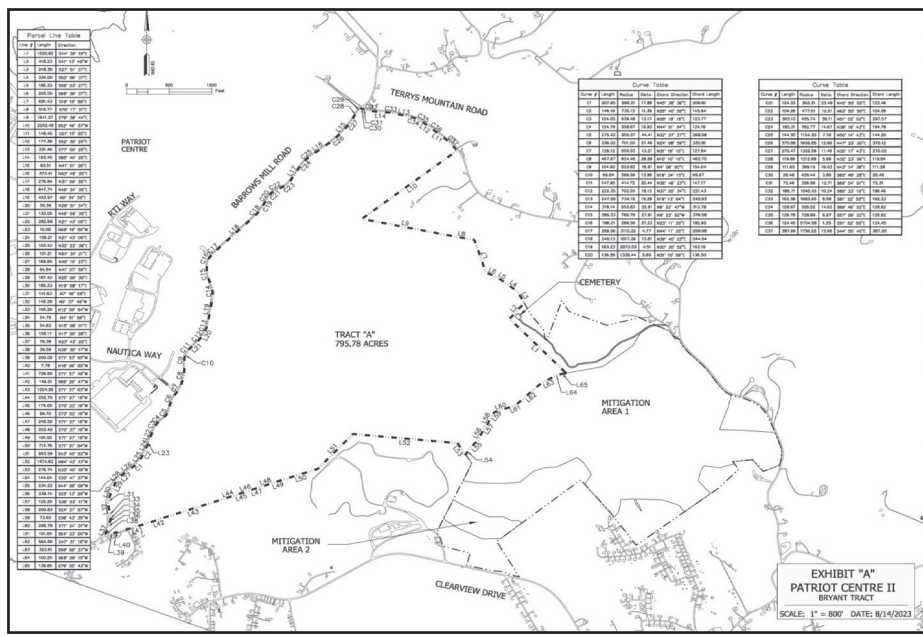
## IDA approves sale of Bryant property

By Staff Reports

The Henry County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) approved a purchase and sale agreement for the Bryant property to an undisclosed buyer at its September 13 meeting. If the sale moves forward, the buyer will pay \$10,000 per acre, or an estimated \$7.9 million, for Tract "A," which includes 795.78 acres.

The agreement, which is several pages long, includes a confidentiality clause with a Non-Disclosure Agreement, dated June 22.

At the meeting, County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the property is in the Collinsville District, near Barrows Mill Road and Nautica Way.



**A purchase and sale agreement for the estimated 790-acre Bryant property was approved by the Henry County Industrial Development Authority. The name of the potential buyer was not disclosed.**

"It's approximately 790 acres that will be sold," he said.

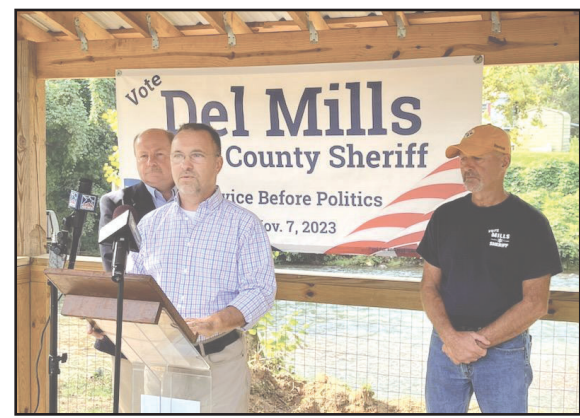
Wagoner said the potential buyer will exercise a 120-day option to do due diligence and con-

firm that they are interested in the property.

"They will post a \$100,000 deposit into the escrow, and after their 120 days have been suitable for their purpose,

then they will pay us \$10,000 an acre for the property. If it is not suitable, we will retain the \$100,000," he said.

See IDA, page 10



**Del Mills announced Wednesday that he would donate his first-year salary if elected as Henry County's Sheriff in the November election. He is flanked by Darryl Hatcher, (left), and his brother, David Mills, far right.**

## Mills to donate salary if elected

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

At a September 20 press conference, Del Mills vowed to donate his first-year salary – minus taxes and retirement – if he wins the Henry County Sheriff's election against incumbent Sheriff Wayne Davis in November.

"I'd like to offer my first-year salary back to the community" if elected. "This is an investment in our community, and by working together, we can become stronger and more unified," he said to the estimated 25 people at the event.

See Mills, page 11



**After Dudley Herndon retired, he created a world in miniature as part of a train set in his basement. Its buildings feature scenes from around Martinsville.**



**A farm is nestled in a valley surrounded by train tracks. While some men work on their chores, Little Boy Blue is asleep, the sheep he was supposed to be tending nowhere nearby.**

## Herndon recreates Martinsville life in his basement

By Holly Kozelsky

Trains blow their whistles and rumble along the tracks all around Dudley Herndon's life.

He doesn't seem to mind the noise and the movement, though.

After all, they are in the basement of his Martinsville home, part

and parcel of a world he created for himself after he retired.

The trains drive through and around a depiction of Martinsville life, with both realistic recreations of buildings and occasional comedic scenes.

A farm has a red barn with farm animals,

including cows at the hay bale, cows and pigs eating from a trough, and a pig rolling cheerfully in the mud. One cowboy is waving his lasso as he rides a cow, two men are working from a wheelbarrow, and, outside the fence, Little Boy Blue has fallen asleep instead of tending the sheep. Above the farm is Jack's leg-

endary beanstalk, leading from behind the farm up to a shelf on the wall which has a giant at his castle.

A long building partly enclosed and partly open is the terminal of Dominion Freight Lines, where Herndon worked for 30 years. Transfer-

See Herndon, page 6

## Wrestling show to benefit P&HCC's wrestling team



**James Kirk Harrell, wrestled under the characters of Jim Nelson and Boris Zhukov, a Soviet-inspired character, for the American Wrestling Association (AWA), the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), Jim Crockett Promotions, and other wrestling organizations.**

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold a Halloween Mayhem show, with the concession proceeds and a portion of ticket sales earmarked to benefit Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC's) Amateur Wrestling program.

The show is set for Saturday, October 7 at P&HCC Stone Hall Collins Gym. The doors will open at 6 p.m., with the first bell to ring at 7 p.m.

Scott Rutter, of Rutter's Martial Arts and owner of the NICW, said when the organization began holding shows in the area earlier this year, one of its goals was to do it in a way to help others.

"So, we've done two shows so far this year. We did one back in March at Stuart Elementary School. We

did one in June at the Rotary Building, and the purpose of the show was to have a good, family-friendly show, but we also gave back part of the proceeds and the concessions to help the band," he said.

When he contacted the P&HCC athletic director to talk about what he could do to help, Rutter said he was told the amateur wrestling team could benefit from the show.

See Wrestling, page 10

## Beer Fest set for September

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

The first-ever Ale on the Rail Craft Beer Festival is set for Saturday, September 30. The event will be at the Bassett Train Station Event Center from 12-7 p.m.

Festival Board member Edmund Bowman said the idea for the festival started when he and others got together with some local brewers to discuss different events that people would be interested in attending.

"Obviously, being a group of brewers, they talked about their experiences going outside of the area to different breweries or different beer fests, or such like that," he said.

Additionally, Bowman said the brewers also discussed some of the challenges they face, such as

people primarily thinking of beer distributors that one can find in stores and not just independent brewers.

"So, we wanted to make an event where it was very much locally based, very much focused on craft breweries that aren't with distributors. We wanted to bring something like that together where people can come and experience that," Bowman said.

There are currently 20 breweries confirmed to attend the festival, he said, with more potentially joining – including a winery and a cidery. He believes each brewery will have multiple options available for tasting.

There will also be



four or five local food trucks and music played throughout the event. Live bands include the Chuck Mountain Band from 12-1:30 p.m., the Andy Burnette Trio from 1:30-3 p.m., The League of Ordinary Gentlemen from 3-5 p.m., and \$5 Shake from 5-7 p.m.

Bowman said tickets are required.

"Those tickets give you, obviously, entry in, but then it gives you sample tickets so you can go around and try different beers. It will also give you a pint glass, then there will be some other vendors that we're still working on finalizing," he said.

See Beer Fest, page 10

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# Wind energy students at NCI describe the career field

It appears that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is blown away by the rapid growth of the wind energy field.

The Bureau lists cites the job outlook for Wind Turbine Technicians through 2031 as a “much faster than average” 44% growth rate, with an estimated 4,900 additional jobs to come. It lists 2021 median pay for as \$56,260.

John Hall of Vermont, Aaron Waechter of New Hampshire and Jonah Hudson of Georgia are scheduled to be deployed in mid-September to work on North America’s first full-scale commercial offshore wind project at Martha’s Vineyard, and they took their Basic Technical Training class and certifications at New College Institute Aug. 28 through Sept. 1.

They will work on the construction and installation of wind turbines at Vineyard Wind, the nation’s first utility-scale offshore wind energy project, over 15 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. The 62 turbines will produce 800 MW, enough to power 400,000 homes and businesses, according to [www.vineyard-wind.com](http://www.vineyard-wind.com).

Vineyard Wind will be the nation’s second offshore wind farm. The first is Block Island, with five turbines put in operation in 2016, according to [us.orsted.com](http://us.orsted.com).



Jonah Hudson (foreground) and Aaron Waechter work on hydraulics using a model.

The next major offshore wind energy project is Dominion’s Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW), off the shore of Virginia Beach. It has two working prototype wind turbines now, and manufacture is beginning on the 176 wind turbines that will generate 2.6 gigawatts of energy, according to [coastalvawind.com](http://coastalvawind.com).

Several other wind farms along the East Coast are in the planning stages.

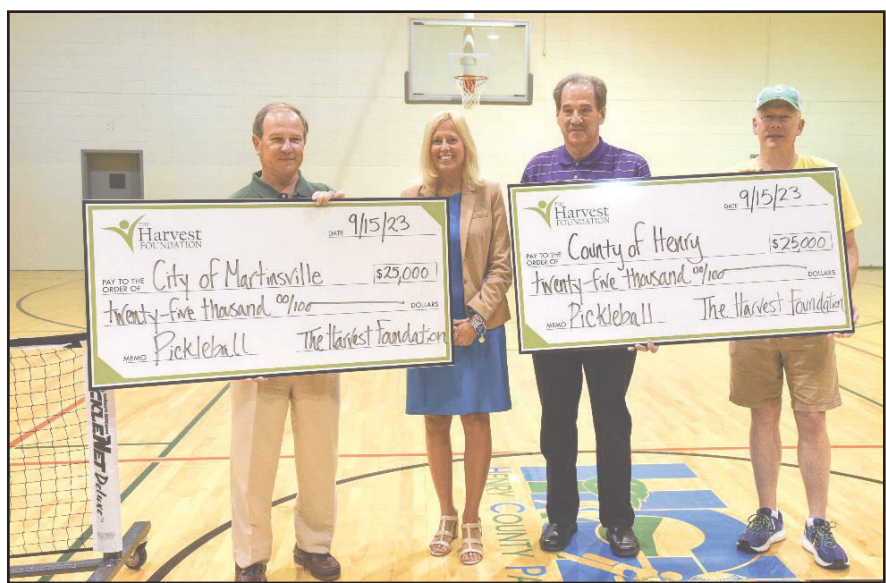
The development of offshore wind energy in the United States “is going to be a big 10 to 15 years’

worth of work,” Hudson said. “I’m trying to get on beginning of it— get all the training — get ready for more and more jobs. The more training you have, the more valuable you are.”

He said the map of planned wind energy projects shows them along the East Coast “going all the way down to Georgia. For the next 10 years we can keep on rolling.”

The U.S. Wind Turbine Database at [eersmap.usgs.gov](http://eersmap.usgs.gov) lists 72,731 tur-

See **Students**, page 10



The Harvest Foundation presents two \$25,000 PUP grants to the County of Henry and the City of Martinsville to create outdoor pickleball courts at several locations throughout the community. Pictured from left to right are former Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Dr. Sandy Strayer, program officer at The Harvest Foundation, Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation.

# Outdoor pickleball courts coming to Martinsville, Henry County

Local pickleball players will have more options to enjoy the sport in Martinsville-Henry County with support from The Harvest Foundation’s PUP Small Grants Program.

During today’s Pickleball Free-For-All event at the Henry County Recreation Center in Collinsville, representatives from The City of Martinsville and the County of Henry each received a \$25,000 PUP grant to repair and restructure outdoor tennis courts to accommodate

the pickleball sport.

“These two grants will enhance recreational offerings in our community, provide avenues for physical activity, and community engagement, in addition to representing an investment in the overall well-being of our community,” said Dr. Sandy Strayer, program officer at The Harvest Foundation. “This program exemplifies what can be achieved when we work together for a com-

See **Pickleball**, page 7

# Kiwanis invest in future farmers



The Kiwanis Club of Bassett recently donated \$600 to the Bassett High School Future Farmers of America chapter to help with club expenses.

Pictured are Bassett Kiwanis Club Secretary Jim Franklin III, (left), presenting the check to FFA President Jasmine Brown, (center), and FFA Treasurer Phaedra Keith.



John Hall (from left), Jonah Hudson and Aaron Waechter took the GWO Basic Technician Training at NCI during the last week of August and were slated to begin work in mid-September at Vineyard Wind, where installation is beginning on 62 offshore wind turbines.

**NICW PRESENTS**

HALLOWEEN MAYHEM

NICW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
NICW MID-ATLANTIC HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

**CASKET MATCH**

**THE CUBAN ASSASSIN VS THE DRAGON**  
CHAD HUDSON VS SCOTT LEE

**TITLE MATCH**

**THE HANGMAN VS THE DUSTMAN**  
LARRY COOTER VS MARK ANTHONY

**AMATEUR WRESTLING EXHIBITION**

TONY RAY VS SCOTT WEDDLE  
CHAD HUDSON VS SCOTT LEE

**TAG TEAM ELIMINATION MATCH**

YELA MAN VS Mr. Hunk

**GRUDGE MATCH**

CRASH VS LANCE  
CASSIDY VS ERINSON

ALSO APPEARING:

MARSHALL LAW, DAMIEN JAMES, ACE ENGLUND

FOR THE NICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 7, 2023

PATRICK & HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STONE HALL - COLLINS GYM

645 PATRIOT AVENUE - MARTINSVILLE, VA

DOORS OPEN 6PM - BELL TIME 7PM

TICKETS:

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10 ADVANCED \$12 AT THE DOOR

FLOOR SEATS: \$12 ADVANCED \$15 AT THE DOOR

KIDS 5 & UNDER: FREE!

TO BENEFIT THE P&HC WRESTLING TEAM

CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**SPONSORS:** RMA, UNITED STATES MARIJUANA SOCIETY, TRIESTE BROS, BRYANT RADIO, VALERO/FASMAAT, BOYCE-HOLLAND VETERINARY SERVICES, P&HC STONE HALL GYM - OFFICE 106 - PHONE 276.656.0255

VOTE ✓

GORDON METZ

REED CREEK BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PAID FOR BY GORDON METZ, FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Work Ethic
- Values
- Experience
- Leadership

“While opening businesses throughout Henry County, I have helped bring in more jobs, and worked to support local families,”



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Meetings

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.

### Tuesday, September 26

The Henry County Board of Supervisors meets at 3 and 6 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

### Thursday, October 5

The Henry County School Board's Monthly Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by closed session, on the 1st Floor, Summerlin Room, County Administration Building, Collinsville.

### Friday, October 6

Henry County School Board will hold a Special Meeting at 9 a.m., for a School Board Retreat at Chatmoss Country Club in Martinsville.

### Tuesday, October 10

Community Meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Horsepasture Ruritan Building, with Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, County Administrator Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator JR Powell, Sheriff Wayne Davis and Lista Hughes, resident engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

## Events

### 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](http://PiedmontArts.org) or at Piedmont Arts. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for six. Available at Piedmont Arts.

### Saturday, September 23

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

Join the GBAC at its Rhythms by the River Event, from 5-7 p.m. at 3525 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett. Rachel Heaster & Ernie Power will entertain with their unique style of music! Bring a chair, just in case! Food will be available for purchase. Any questions, [bcm.gbac@gmail.com](mailto:bcm.gbac@gmail.com).

Watercolor Painting Workshop led by award-winning artist, Dr. Jim McIntosh, 9:30 to 1:30 at Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. 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. at Imagination Lavender Farm, 3590 Green Hill Drive, Martinsville. 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.

### Tuesday, September 26-Saturday, September 30

Create a Welcome Gnome Wreath at the library. Held at various branches on different days. Visit the closest branch to register. A \$5 supply fee is required at registration.

### Friday, September 29-Saturday, September 30

Fieldale Recreation & Pools will have a fundraising YARD SALE from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 70 Marshall Way, Fieldale. Lots of bargains! Great Christmas gifts!

### Saturday, September 30

Bassett Community Center Festival, to help save the Bassett Community Center, will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 119 Blackberry Road, Bassett, with something for everyone from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., including free children's activities, prizes and inflatables. Food and various vendors, plus a Cornhole Tournament, with a Bassett Furniture prize awarded to the winners. Concerts that include a Legacy Motown Revue, 3-5 p.m., and a Willie Nelson Tribute (Jimmy Wilson), 1-3 p.m. will be held. Concert tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

### Friday, October 6

Bingo Fundraiser at Bassett Moose Lodge, 62 Spring Garden Lane, Bassett. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7 p.m. \$25 for 20 games plus one cover all game. Sponsored by the Martinsville Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization of women educators. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for students in the Martinsville and Henry County Schools.

### Saturday, October 7

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

### Monday, October 9

Storytime at the Pumpkin Patch, from 4 to 7 p.m., every hour on the hour, along with other fun activities when you come to purchase your Halloween pumpkin at Grace Network Pumpkin Patch in uptown Martinsville.

### Friday, October 13

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Centre, Long time favorite, Jus Cauz, will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 CASH donation. Come enjoy some great mountain music and dancing! Concessions, including our ever-popular Spencer Penn hotdogs, will be sold.

Early Childhood Community Connections Event. Elementary Education students, Early Childhood Education students, and ALL students are invited to attend the second annual Early Childhood Community Connections Event. Representatives from seven collaborative colleges, Longwood University, Old Dominion University,

Radford University, George Mason University, Bluefield University, James Madison University, and Virginia Commonwealth University will share information about their programs and the required steps students need to take to successfully transfer to their colleges and will also answer any questions students may have. The event will be held in the Frith building, room 129-Exhibit Hall, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### 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.

### ONGOING

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts Rook Music & More on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon. Play Rook, work puzzles, make a craft and listen to a mixture of bluegrass, country & gospel music by different bands each week. If you want, you can bring a snack to share. This event is free to the public. Any donations received will go to the Bassett Ruritan Club to pay for electricity etc.

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 night, September 25, and Bingo on Thursday, September 28, beginning at 7 p.m. 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](http://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.

# Searches lead to arrests, items seized

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis has a message for alleged drug dealers:

"Identifying and arresting drug dealers is a priority of mine, because these drug dealers are directly responsible for poisoning our community, our families, loved one and neighbors," he said as a Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team and Narcotic Investigators executed a search warrant at a home.

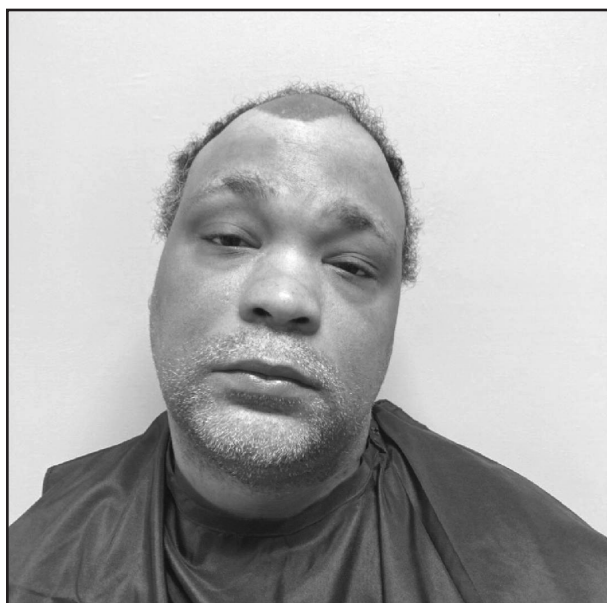
A recent search warrant was executed September 19 at 2234 The Great Road, Fieldale. The search resulted in more than 100 grams of suspected Fentanyl, over 40 grams of suspected cocaine, a firearm, and U.S. Currency being seized.

A person authorities believe to be related to the inves-

tigation was found inside the home and apprehended without incident. Another man, located inside the home when the warrant was executed, was not associated with the investigation and was subsequently released.

Bobby Ronell Helms, 44, of 2234 The Great Road, Fieldale, was charged with one count each possession with the intent to distribute Fentanyl, possession with the intent to distribute Cocaine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm while in possession of a scheduled I/II substance in connection with the incident, according to a release from Davis.

Helms was transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where he is being held



**Bobby Ronell Helms**

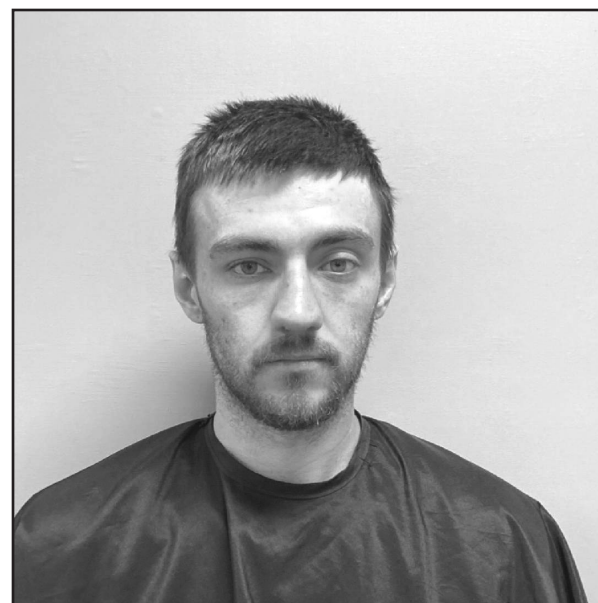
with no bond.

Another search warrant, executed on September 13 at 304 Merriman Road, Fieldale, also netted an arrest and suspected Fentanyl seized.

Kevin Duane Webster Jr., 30, of 304 Merriman Road, Fieldale, was not in the home during the search, but was located

the next day, allegedly "hiding inside an RV" on Crestview Road in Bassett, the release stated.

Webster was charged with one count each of possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance with intent to distribute, and possession of ammunition for a firearm after having been convicted



**Kevin Duane Webster Jr.**

of a felony in connection with the incident.

He was transported to the Henry County Adult Detention Center, where he is being held on a \$4,000 secured 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.



## OPINION

## Hobson's choice

Let's talk about Tim Gurner.

That name might not ring a bell, but you're probably familiar with his work. Gurner, a multimillionaire Australian real estate mogul, was the one who suggested back in 2017 that the reason young people can't afford to buy homes is because they spend too much money on coffee and avocado toast. It was a comment so insultingly stupid and tone deaf that it became a meme for an entire generation.

Now Tim Gurner is back in the news, and he's more punchable than ever.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Gurner was speaking at the Property Summit of the Australian Financial Review when he explained the central problem caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

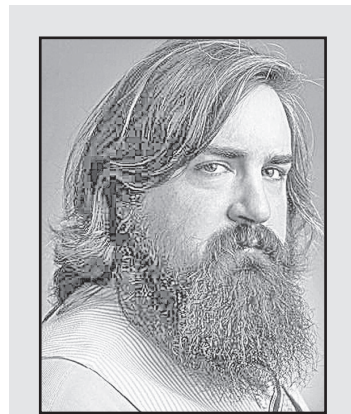
Was it all the death? No, not at all! Please allow me to quote Mr. Gurner at length:

"I think the problem that we've had is that ... people decided that they didn't really want to work so much anymore during COVID," Gurner said, "and that has had a massive issue on productivity. Tradies (building trades workers) have definitely pulled back on productivity. They have been paid a lot to do not too much in the last few years, and we need to see that change.

"We need to see unemployment rise. Unemployment has to jump 40 to 50 percent in my view. We need to see pain in the economy. We need to remind people that they work for the employer, not the other way around. There's been a systematic change where employees feel the employer is extremely lucky to have them as opposed to the other way around. It's a dynamic that has to change. We've got to kill that attitude, and that has to come through hurting the economy, which is what the whole global ... the world is trying to do. The governments around the world are trying to increase unemployment to get that to some sort of normality, and we're seeing that. ... There (are) massive layoffs going off. ... We're starting to see less arrogance in the employment market and that has to continue because that will cascade across the cost balance."

You, the reader, are fortunate that you get to read these words instead of watching them tumble from the impossibly smug face of Tim Gurner, who of course has slicked back hair. I won't mince words: while watching the video in order to transcribe Gurner's quotes, I began to fantasize about the satisfying thud of a falling guillotine blade.

In the world of fic-



By Ben R. Williams

tion, Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is considered the gold standard example of a cruel, out-of-touch rich guy. In what's probably Scrooge's worst moment, he asks someone why the poor don't simply go to the workhouses, only to be told that "many would rather die" than live in a Victorian-era workhouse.

"If they would rather die they had better do it and decrease the surplus population," Scrooge replies. It's a cartoonishly cruel quote, and it serves to make the reader pretty jazzed about seeing this horrible man get tormented by ghosts for the rest of the book.

However, I'd argue that Tim Gurner is worse than Scrooge. He doesn't want the poor to die; he wants them to become a serf class, enslaved by their poverty and forced to build the buildings that he can sell to other wealthy

elites. To quote a more recent literary character, sometimes dead is better.

After Gurner's comments made the rounds in the media and politicians, labor unions, and members of the public began to voice the opinion that he was a worse person than three Hitlers combined, Gurner issued an apology. My assumption is that after much self-reflection and soul-searching, Gurner realized that he did not want to get beaten to death by a tradie.

"At the AFR Property Summit this week I made some remarks about unemployment and productivity in Australia that I deeply regret and were wrong," Gurner said. "There are clearly important conversations to have in this environment of high inflation, pricing pressures on housing and rentals due to a lack of supply, and other cost of living issues. My comments were deeply insensitive to employees, tradies, and families across Australia who are affected by these cost-of-living pressures and job losses. I want to be clear: I do appreciate that when someone loses their job it has a profound impact on them and their families and I sincerely regret that my words did not convey empathy for those in that situation."

I think I speak for all of us when I say that Tim Gurner can take his little apology, fold it five ways, and jam it up his Land Down Under. He doesn't mean a word of it. He just panicked when he realized that a wide audience

caught him saying the quiet part out loud.

As much as I hate Gurner, I really ought to be thanking him. He's one of the few ultra-rich capitalists willing to say what the rest of them are thinking.

Make no mistake, Gurner isn't alone in his desire to see the working class transformed into serfs. It's the end goal for most billionaires.

If you're a hollowed-out husk of a human being totally incapable of empathy and only interested in seeing your portfolio increase, slavery is a great system. Sure, it destroys people's lives and robs them of their very humanity, but once you get past that, it's far and away the most cheap and efficient way to build a labor base. But even Tim Gurner knows that you can't go to the Property Summit and tell a crowd of people that we need to bring back chattel slavery.

Instead, you advocate for creating a system where a labor class is forced into such fear and crushing poverty that they end up working for slave wages. It's a classic example of a Hobson's choice: you can either make pennies building my skyscraper, or you can starve to death in a ditch. That really isn't a choice at all.

I expect that since his words went viral, Tim Gurner has had a whole lot of sleepless nights filled with existential dread. At long last, there's at least one thing that can connect him with the working class.

## News from the 9th:

## More Audits Coming from the IRS



Morgan Griffith  
Representative

Even the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognizes that more audits are coming. They admitted as much on September 8, 2023.

Since taking office more than two years ago, President Biden, his Administration, and Democrats in Congress have made it

their mission to supercharge the IRS.

Last year, Democrats in Congress passed the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act" (IRA), which allocated \$80 billion dollars in mandatory funding to the agency (the IRS previously requested this funding in conjunction with President Biden's first budget proposal). More than half of that funding was specifically intended to hire 87,000 new IRS agents.

Republicans in Congress, including

myself, as well as many Americans around the country, have raised concerns about this new funding and the hiring of so many new IRS agents, fearing that the agency will use these funds to target low- and middle-income families and small businesses.

Unlike wealthy people and big businesses, average American families and small businesses cannot afford lawyers to deal with an intrusive IRS. They likely file their

See 9th, page 5

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ranked Choice Voting

I just turned 30, and I've already had four colonoscopies in my life. I have ulcerative colitis, something more and more people have now than days gone by. Wonder why? I receive very strong medicine every eight weeks. "Could cleaning up my diet help?" I've asked. Every gastroenterologist has told me, "That doesn't really matter. It is what it is." Now, we all know better than that. Those same physicians promote the classic American food pyramid! But, I digest, I mean digress.

Anyhow, I recently had a hiccup with my insurance which meant my eight-week appointment would be postponed until it was fixed. Well, my insurance was straightened out, but my eight-week appointment was postponed again. "What now?" Well, my physician then had to "prior authorize" the same medicine that had already been "prior authorized" and he was out of the clinic for days.

Do you know I don't even know my physician's name? Someone says, "That's your problem." Well, he's a new-to-me physician: they assigned me to him after my old G.I. died. Do you know that I did not even know my G.I. had died until a year after the fact? Last year on the phone with a nurse I pieced it together that my doctor had died, and I hesitantly asked, "Did Dr. '\_\_\_' die?" and she answered, "Oh no, did you not get a letter?" No, I did not get a letter, and now I don't know my new physician's name. I doubt he knows my name.

My story isn't unusual. Loads of Americans could say, "Amen!" Don't get me

wrong, my medicine has helped my condition, however I don't like the idea that I'm just supposed to be on it for an undisclosed amount of time. I thank God for modern medicine, but I do question the modern diet.

Again, don't get me wrong; physicians are quitting as they're overworked. We say, "There ought to be a cap on patients per physician." Well, get ready to drive however far to find one who hasn't met his cap. Someone says, "Well, they make enough money." I think we all know money does very little for stress. I say, "pray for patients, not patience, but also pray for physicians."

You know who else is overlooked? The average church-goer. There are congregations throughout the nation whose one-man-pastor will fail to name every member in the congregation. If he does not know their name, how can he know their problems? How can he help their problems if he does not know them?

Physicians and pastors are the same: they can only care for so many people. Which is why the New Testament calls for a plurality of pastors for every one congregation (see Acts 14:23, 20:17, and James 5:14). Read Exodus 18:17-18 and see that even Moses was told that a one-man-pastor-system was "not good."

Pastors and physicians: one helps your inner man, the other your outer (2Cor. 4:16). In both instances you determine what each has to work with.

Caleb Robertson,  
Martinsville

## Physicians &amp; Pastors

In 2023, Henry County voters have the very fortunate dilemma of having multiple election races on the ballot that have 3 or more candidates seeking local office. The only issue is that the more candidates you have, the greater the chance for a single candidate to be elected by a minority share of voters. This is a case for ranked choice voting.

Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank the candidates in order of their preference. It works like this: Instead of voting for only one candidate, voters rank the candidates — first, second, third, etc. If no one wins more than 50 percent of the first-choice vote, the lowest-scoring candidate's votes are distributed to those voters' second choice. Then the same with the next lowest-scoring candidate, until someone secures a majority of votes.

It offers more of an approval voting method instead of incentivizing voting for the lesser of so many evils. Ranked choice voting also eliminates the idea of perceived less popular candidates "stealing" votes from perceived favorites in a race with 3 or more candidates. It also encourages voters to educate themselves on all the candidates instead of focusing on 1 single candidate. Candidates will also be less likely to participate in negative campaigning, lest they alienate another candidate's supporters.

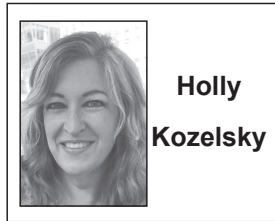
Ranked choice voting is offered in many states. Maine and Alaska even use it to determine the presidential candidate that carries their state. Ranked Choice Voting in Virginia was passed by the General Assembly in 2020. It allows each locality to make the choice to move to ranked choice voting for local offices.

The local Henry County Commissioner of Revenue race has 5 people running for 1 seat. It is mathematically possible for the winner of that race to be elected with around 20-21% of the votes under the current system. Do we really want to elect candidates that only have close to 1 in 5 voters' support?

If you want to make sure we elect the best candidate that the majority of Henry County residents' support, please let your district board of supervisor know you support ranked choice voting.

Eric Bowling,  
Axton

## Unearthing everyday life



Holly Kozelsky

An archaeologist learns about the past by digging down through layers of artifacts left behind and interpreting them to learn about people's lives long ago.

Think of the exploration of the Philpott site by Richard Gravely and the Patrick-Henry Archeological Society of Virginia from 1965-1976, which unearthed a late prehistoric village in Henry County.

And it can be very recent history, such as a step-by-step recollection of what we did over the last few days, as we tackle the mountain of dirty dishes in the sink, and the shameful spill-over on the counter.

Usually, we keep on top of the dishes, but every now and then the dishes and the laundry are sacrificed to life in the fast lane.

I don't mean the kind of fast lane that society generally thinks of, especially when it comes to movies and such — jetting around

the world, high-powered career, getting an evening gown fitted for a fancy charity ball.

I mean life in a standard family's fast lane, where sometimes you just have so much to do and so many places you have to go to that home is nothing but a stop on the way to feed the pets, drop off these bags and pick up those bags, and at some point, return to go to sleep until the alarm blares early in the morning.

First, there's work and school all day. Then there's music lessons, dance classes, trip to the dentist, a broken part of the chicken coop to fix, a church event, a community event.

You're only home for 40 minutes or so before you have to turn around and leave, so you rush through a fast and easy meal, then dump the dishes in the sink. It's easy to think you'll do them as soon as you get home, but once you get home, you run past them unseeing as you put in a load of laundry and change the litter box right before bed.

Thus, I was faced on Saturday evening with a kitchen in disarray. We had just gotten home from a day-long community service project. Not only

did I not want to make supper in that clutter, but heck — the pots and pans I needed to make it with were somewhere in that mess!

It's when I remove the dishes from the sink so I can rinse it out and fill it with detergent and water that I feel like an archaeologist uncovering the past.

On top are the bowls and pot from that morning's breakfast. Oatmeal.

Set them on the counter and reach in for the next layer — pans and dishes from the sopes we had the night before.

Moving those aside reveals the remnants from Thursday's supper, corn and squash and okra all from the garden. That was a good night.

With immense relief I see the last item in the bottom of the sink, bowls and beaters and the spatula from when my daughter made cannolis. For a moment I stare in wonder: How in the world had we managed a luxury such as cannolis when we've been so busy all week rushing in and out the door?

Some diaries are permanent, in bound-book form.

Some are temporary, such as what we come across when we finally get around to doing the chores.



## Family Fall Festival set for Sept. 30

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Bassett Community Center's Family Fall Festival is set for Saturday, September 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Linda Crabtree, President of the center's Board of Trustees, said this is the first time the festival has been held.

"We wanted to just get community impact so that they know that we're trying to do this. We have a project to renovate the swimming pool and building and get the building up to date," she said.

Crabtree said the group thought this would be a good way to do that and have a fun day for the community to enjoy.

"We invite everyone to come and participate and have a good day," she said.

The festival's main attraction is the concert set to be held from 1-5 p.m. in the center's gymnasium.

The Southern Gentlemen, a bluegrass band, will perform from 1-2 p.m., and Jimmy Wilson, a Willie Nelson Tribute, will take the stage from 2-3 p.m.

Motown Legacy, the festival's headlining act, will then perform from 3-5 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$12 at the gate, and can be purchased by using Zelle.

There will also be a cornhole tournament. The cost to participate is \$10 per team. Food vendors, free children's games, carnival rides for small children, and bouncy houses will also be onsite.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/SavetheBassettCommunityCenter, or call (276) 629-6748.

## Human remains found last week in Ridgeway

A preliminary investigation of human remains found on September 14 near the intersection of Horsepasture Price and Wagon Trail roads in Ridgeway indicates no signs of foul play, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

Deputies responded to the scene shortly after the 4:27 p.m. call, and found a deceased man who was later identified as Raymond Alley Jr., 28, of Boones Mill, Virginia.

The remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for

the Western District of Virginia for an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).

## JMU lists local summer 2023 graduate school graduates

The following students graduated with graduate degrees during the August 2023 commencement exercises at James Madison University:

Jessica Clervo, of Martinsville, graduated with a degree in Education - MEd.

Bailey Sharp, of Collinsville, graduated with a degree in General Psychology - BS.

## Martinsville man held in Patrick with no bond

A Martinsville man has been arrested on felony charges of malicious wounding and robbery, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Darryle Theodore Hand, Jr., 48, of Hundley Street, was arrested in Bassett during the early morning hours of September 16. Patrick deputies were assisted in Hand's arrest by the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

The incident occurred on September 15 at a residence on Egg Farm Road in Patrick County.

Kenneth Maple, of Navy Lane, Martinsville, was allegedly assaulted and items were taken from him, Smith said in a release. Maple sus-

tained severe facial and head injuries as result of the assault and was subsequently flown to Carillion Hospital in Roanoke where he is listed in serious condition.

After the alleged assault, a man allegedly left the scene, driven away by an unknown man.

Hand is now being held without bail in the Patrick County Jail.

The sheriff's office is seeking information on the identity of the unknown individual. Anyone with information is urged to contact Sheriff Smith confidentially at (276) 692-7012 or Investigator Jason Kruse at (276) 692-5123.

## City one of two localities to receive a Main Street Grant

Main Street (MUMS) funding of \$1 million was awarded to two projects – one in Martinsville and the other in Lynchburg. When announcing the grants, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said the projects will transform the former Woolworth's building in Martinsville and the former A&P grocery store in Lynchburg into commercial and residential spaces.

The City of Martinsville, through a private developer, will use its \$500,000 in grant funds to help renovate the former Woolworth's building, located at 16-18 East Church Street. Built in the 1920s, the building has been vacant since 1996. It will provide additional housing units and retail spaces to the Uptown Martinsville district when renovations are complete. The project will include six apart-

ments, as well as 4,000 square feet of retail space and 600 square feet of office space.

"Downtowns are the heart and soul of so many communities across the Commonwealth, and through these investments, we will transform derelict structures into vibrant businesses and create new housing opportunities," said Youngkin. "Strong infrastructure is key to any successful economic strategy, and this program is designed to keep those downtown districts thriving and catalyze both economic development and community pride."

MUMS is a new pilot program created as a joint effort with the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) and Virginia Main Street (VMS) programs, both administered through the Virginia Department

of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support the revitalization of vacant or underutilized downtown spaces to create opportunities for commercial development and housing units in communities that are active participants in VMS. Awards are available up to \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of mixed-use buildings that must include the creation or preservation of housing units and can be provided as either grants or loans.

MUMS funding leverages local and private resources to achieve market-driven redevelopment of structures, creating a catalyst for long-term employment opportunities, on-going physical and economic revitalization and housing units in communities.

For more information on MUMS, visit [dhcd.virginia.gov/irf](http://dhcd.virginia.gov/irf).

## 9th

from page 4

taxes themselves and now the agency will have tens of thousands of new agents breathing down their necks.

When allocating the new money to the IRS, Democrats claimed that the agency would be targeting wealthy taxpayers and large corporations who they said are cheating on their taxes, and that families, people, and small businesses making under \$400,000 wouldn't see an increase in audits.

I, like many, have found this claim to be dubious.

When Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was called before House Ways and Means Committee in March, she testified that, "IRA resources will not be used to increase the share of households and small businesses earning less than \$400,000 that are audited, relative to historic levels."

I'd like to note, while some small businesses may gross more than \$400,000 a year, most of these mom-and-pop shops only take home a small fraction of their gross income.

Secretary Yellen certainly chose her words carefully that day.

If you listen closely, I believe you will hear that she gives the IRS two outs if they raise audit rates, by both saying the share won't change relative to other groups being audited,

and that it would be compared to historic levels which means rates can depend on certain years.

More recently, on September 8, the IRS put out a statement saying that they were putting in place additional "safeguards" to ensure taxpayers making less than \$400,000 wouldn't face more audits.

But why are new "safeguards" being put in place now if the agency does not expect to increase audits on average American families and small businesses?

Hmmm...

Even more concerning, since the passage of the IRA, the IRS has not submitted to Congress a detailed plan on how they will use the \$80 billion in new funding.

Instead, the agency has sent Congress a series of lackluster outlines of their activities, raising even more questions about how Americans' tax dollars will be spent.

But wait, it gets worse! The IRS wants even more money.

The agency asked Congress for another \$43 billion, of which \$29.1 billion would be used to 'continue IRA funded enforcement and compliance initiatives.'

What are these enforcement and compliance initiatives? We still don't know.

And don't forget about how Democrats changed the minimum threshold for reporting money transfers made on third-party settlement organizations to \$600, essentially giving the IRS and Big Tech a mandate to scrutinize individuals, small business owners, and just about anyone who uses money transfer apps.

Payments made on apps like Venmo, PayPal, and Square between roommates or friends will be reviewable by the IRS next year.

This new requirement

would also affect individuals hoping to unload their used goods or sell their handmade works on online platforms like eBay, Etsy, and Poshmark.

If you want to sell your used stereo equipment or sell a handmade quilt, why does the IRS need to know?

There should be a threshold, but \$600 a year? I think not. (It's currently \$20,000.) I guess to Democrats if you "Venmo" more than \$600 a year, you are either wealthy or a big business.

Republicans are committed to finding ways to prevent average Americans and businesses from being burdened by a

behemoth IRS. Only the Sheriff of Nottingham could like this policy.

Unlike the villain in the Robin Hood legend, in January the first piece of legislation we passed with our new Republican majority was to rescind this new Democrat-driven \$80 billion in funding for

the IRS.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, my Washington office at (202) 225-3861, or via email at [www.morgan-griffith.house.gov](mailto:www.morgan-griffith.house.gov).

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# Herndon from page 2



Dudley and Doris Herndon met at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Axton, and Dudley Herndon's model of that church is the most detailed of all his model buildings.



Jack's beanstalk grows up from a corner of the farmland to the castle of the Giant way up high.



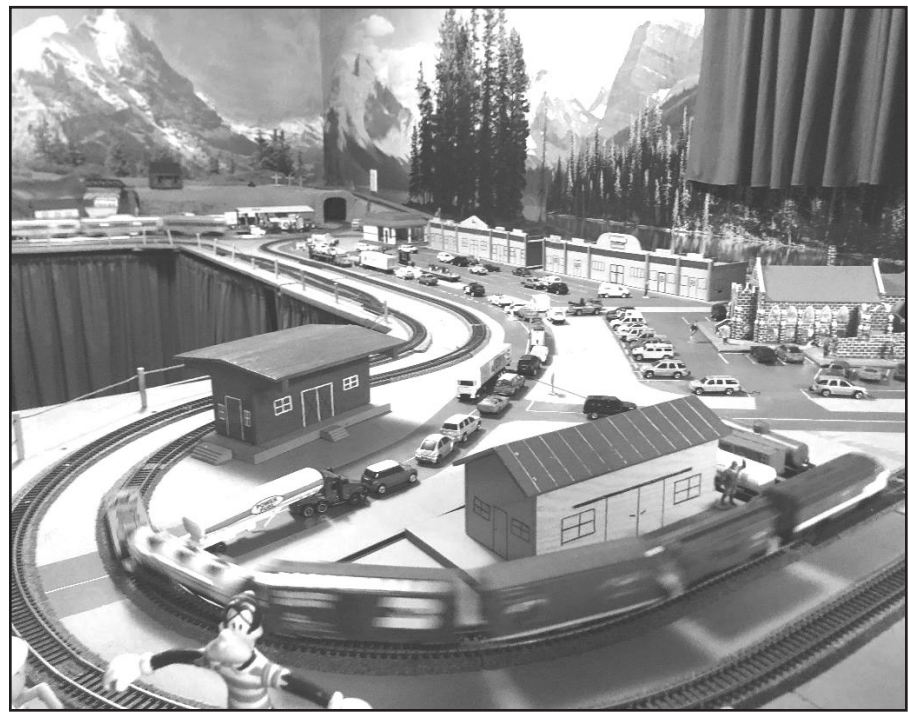
Dudley Herndon worked for 33 years at Old Dominion Freight Line, and before that was a milkman. Both are depicted in his train set scenes.



When this red and white building is finished, it will have a "McDudley's" sign on it, jokes its creator, Dudley Herndon.



Dump trucks and other construction vehicles back up to bins in a portion of the train set scenery.



Trains rumble around the tracks in Dudley Herndon's train set.

trailer trucks are parked around it, as well as the vehicles of the workers. Little figures of men walk about and carry loads.

Near it are milk trucks, a nod to his earlier career as a milkman.

There are a couple of buildings under con-

struction, with construction vehicles and a crane parked behind them. One has a tile floor, white walls with a red horizontal strip, and

a bright red roof. Inside, you can see a counter and tables. That's going to be "McDudley's," he quipped.

There's a construction zone, where a section of a road is being paved. A road-work sign and orange cones block the work area as a man spreads asphalt, with an asphalt roller, a dump truck, and a cement truck at the edge. More construction vehicles and dump trucks are parked a distance away, backed up to stores of gravel, cement, and mulch.

Herndon's pride and joy is the rendition of Mt. Vernon Baptist

Church, the church in Axton where he and his wife, Doris, met and attended faithfully. It has the original old-fashioned brick sanctuary and the new fellowship hall wing built in the 1990s. Cars are parked in the lot, and people are walking in and out of the church and shaking hands. When asked which one he was, he said, "I'm inside."

The Herndons raised three sons, John Dudley Herndon Jr., Allen "Al" Michael Herndon, and Bobby Dean Herndon ("Termite" from his wrestling days at Martinsville High

School). Dudley Herndon moved to Martinsville at the age of 17, when he worked at a bakery washing pots and pans. "I soon got a promotion to drive the bread truck," selling to stores, he said.

He was drafted into the army, where he served in France just after the war. His wife joined him there. There they made lifelong friends, a couple from Pennsylvania.

When the Herndons returned from France, Dudley Herndon drove a milk truck, and his wife took care of the children. After years as a milkman, he worked at Old Dominion Freight Lines for 33 years.

"I started making the trains when I retired," he said.

"I worked on them until my wife almost got a divorce, and I quit," he laughed. "She said I had to help her some, and so I agreed with her, and I started helping her more.

To make amends, he used the jigsaw to cut out the phrase "I love you." It still stands on the casing above the kitchen doorway.

Visit <http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com> for a video of Herndon's trains in action.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. One of the four Vedas</p> <p>5. Part of (abbr.)</p> <p>8. At the peak</p> <p>12. African antelope</p> <p>14. Expression of satisfaction</p> <p>15. Yankees' ace</p> <p>16. Belittled</p> <p>18. A baglike structure</p> <p>19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder</p> <p>20. Actress Tomei</p> <p>21. Explosive</p> <p>22. Formal for "on"</p> <p>23. Cruelties</p> <p>26. Country singer Brad</p> <p>30. Make very happy</p> <p>31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal</p> <p>32. Albanian currency</p> <p>33. Subatomic particle</p> <p>34. Type of salt</p> <p>39. 007's creator</p> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>42. Emerging</p> <p>44. Railroad flare</p> <p>46. Observed</p> <p>47. Capable of reproduction</p> <p>49. Indicates adjacent to</p> <p>50. Legendary Notre Dame coach</p> <p>51. Not wide</p> <p>56. An embarrassing mistake</p> <p>57. Pearl Jam's debut album</p> <p>58. Denotes passerine birds</p> <p>59. Stumble</p> <p>60. Midway between east and southeast</p> <p>61. W. Indian trees</p> <p>62. You</p> <p>63. Pigpen</p> <p>64. Be aware of</p> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Crease</p> <p>2. "Honey" actress Jessica</p> <p>3. Broad volcanic crater</p> <p>4. Product safety watchdog</p> <p>5. Southern Colombian city</p> <p>6. Part of a church</p> <p>7. Perceptible by touch</p> <p>8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges</p> <p>9. Hairpiece</p> <p>10. Variety acts</p> <p>11. "Mystic River" actor Sean</p> <p>13. Remove salt</p> <p>17. Went out with</p> <p>24. Type of bread</p> <p>25. Popular Eagles song</p> <p>26. Philosophy degree</p> <p>27. Yes vote</p> <p>28. Passports and licenses are two</p> <p>29. No seats available</p> | <p>35. Pounds per square inch</p> <p>36. A way to launch an attack on</p> <p>37. The lowest cardinal number</p> <p>38. Popular Miller beer</p> <p>40. Pokes holes in</p> <p>41. Closest to</p> <p>42. Folk singer DiFranco</p> <p>43. Rivne's former name</p> <p>44. Flat ruler</p> <p>45. Lacking the means to do something</p> <p>47. Cockatoo</p> <p>48. Dred Scott decision deliverer</p> <p>49. Explosion exclamation</p> <p>52. Canadian flyers</p> <p>53. Houston university</p> <p>54. At some prior time</p> <p>55. Red, swollen mark</p> |
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## More than \$100 million available for flood preparedness grants and loans

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, wrote to President Biden, urging the Administration to boost the federal government's tech workforce to address the challenges of rapidly advancing AI, building on previous government initiatives to draw in engineers, product managers, and other digital policy experts to revamp the

government's approach to technology. In his letter, Warner stressed the need for a similar arrangement specifically targeting AI.

"It is clear to me that we will not be able to meet the need in this rapidly advancing field without a diverse and representative group of talented minds," Warner wrote. "These individuals should possess technical knowledge, but also a keen under-

standing of the social impact of AI."

He continued, "Your administration has taken a number of practical and important steps to advance the safe deployment of AI technologies. To supplement these efforts, I urge you to use your existing authority to bring the best and brightest minds to the table to help our nation grapple with the wide-ranging impact that

AI will have on our society. I look forward to working with you on this endeavor."

Warner, a former tech entrepreneur, has been a leading voice in the Senate calling for increased efforts into appropriately regulating and addressing the threats of AI, while still harnessing its full potential. Sen. Warner engaged directly with AI companies to push for responsible development and deploy-

ment. Last month, he sent a series of letters to major AI companies urging them to take additional action to promote safety and prevent malicious misuse of their products. In April, Sen. Warner 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 month to raise concerns about their testing of new AI technology in 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.

## New hotel human trafficking course helps 'lift up the standards'

**Kaitlyn McMahon**  
*Capital News Service*

Virginia hotel employees are being trained how to recognize and report the signs of human trafficking in an effort to reduce the number of victims.

The 30-minute, online training program officially launched this year. Current employees had to complete the course by the end of June. The General Assembly passed and funded a bill last year allowing the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to create the online course.

Del. Shelly A. Simonds, D-Newport News, sponsored the measure.

The course is free to employees and must be completed after six months of employment and every two years. There are over 115,000 hotel employees that would be required to take the course, according to figures provided by the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

The VDCJS was "fully dedicated to this issue," Simonds said.

State leaders budgeted nearly \$466,000 in the biennial budget for the state agency to provide the online course. The training is necessary because sex and labor trafficking occur frequently in hotels, according to Simonds.

"Law enforcement can only do so

much, they need citizens to be involved and knowing the signs that human trafficking might be going on," Simonds said.

Virginia hotels supported the training. Hotel brands like Hilton and Marriott even had their own online course before it was mandated, according to Simonds.

Brands without their own training must complete the state-required course.

"Now this law requires that everyone does it, including smaller operators, smaller motel chains," Simonds said. "I think it's really going to lift up the standards for everyone."

The Virginia Department of Health enforces hotel employees to have their human trafficking training certificate on file, according to Simonds. This certification is transferable to other Virginia hotel chains.

"There's a lot of support across Virginia for cracking down on human trafficking," Simonds said. "And whether it be from the hotel industry, tourism industry, the legislature, the Virginia State Police — we're all working together to find solutions."

Human trafficking affects at least 150 to 300 victims per year in Virginia, according to the Human Trafficking Courts' website.

Specific data is unknown due to underreporting from survivors. In 2019, 370 victims were identified in Virginia by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. This number does not represent the full scope of victims due to potential lack of knowledge surrounding trafficking or resources such as the National Hotline, according to the organization's website.

Tommy Herbert is the director of government affairs for Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, a trade organization that works to inform its members of law requirements and available training. Its website provides legislative information, bill tracking and multiple training programs.

The organization does not perform the training, but offers training resources to companies and their employees, according to Herbert.

"VRLTA looks forward to a future of advocating on behalf of Virginia's restaurant, travel, and hotel lodging industries as well as working with Virginia government stakeholders to enhance Virginia tourism," Herbert stated.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin, in an executive order on his first day in office, pledged his administration's commitment to help combat human trafficking

and provide support to survivors.

State Attorney General Jason Miyares led a two-day Virginia human trafficking Call to Action summit in Richmond at the end of August. The summit covered trends and solutions to the state's human trafficking problem, according to a statement from his office.

Miyares works with local, state, and federal entities to prosecute traffickers and support victims, according to his spokeswoman Chloe Smith.

Miyares supported state legislation that also required first-year public university students to complete an online human trafficking training course during their school's orientation, according to Smith.

The attorney general also helped prosecute four individuals last month connected to a large-scale human trafficking ring which operated out of a Williamsburg laundry facility. Over 100 survivors were reported in connection to the ring, according to Smith.

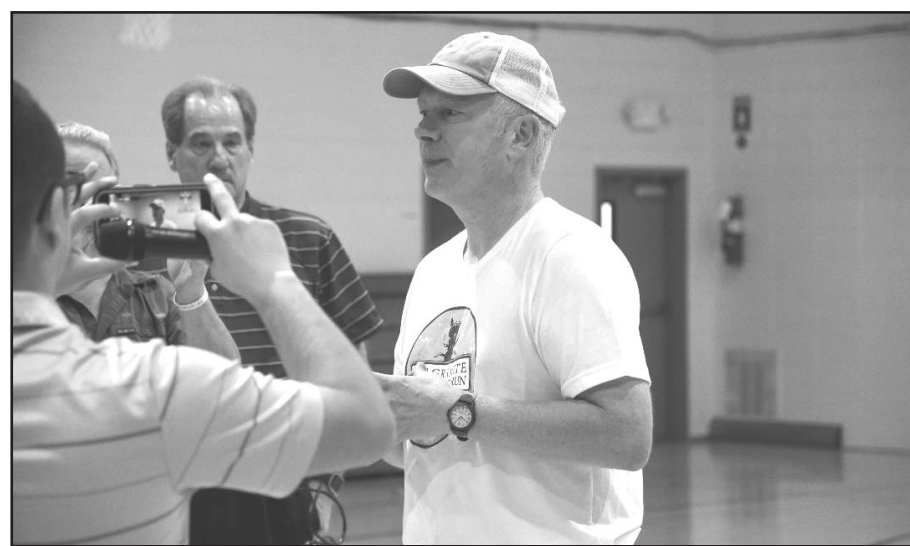
*Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.*

## Pickleball

from page 2



**Around 30 community members celebrated the sport of Pickleball during Friday's grant announcement at the Henry County Recreation Center.**



**Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation, speaks to the crowd during Friday's Pickleball Free-For-All grant announcement, held at the Henry County Recreation Center.**

mon goal. I look forward to seeing you all on the courts."

In Martinsville, the two lower tennis courts at Martinsville High School (351 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville) and the Spruce Street tennis courts (1850 Spruce St, Martinsville) will undergo repairs for cracks, recoating, and re-stripping for tennis and pickleball.

"With pickleball rapidly gaining popularity, we're thrilled to provide our residents with courts where they can enjoy the game and lead an active lifestyle," said Martinsville Mayor L.C. Jones.

Retired City Manager Leon Towarnicki recognized that pickleball has been an issue for residents for a while, according to Glen Adams, interim city manager for Martinsville.

"He (Towarnicki) knew funding was short, so as a last good deed, he applied for a grant on the way out the door," Adams said. "This grant is another example of the Harvest Foundation's support in our efforts to improve Martinsville, making it an even better place for both work and play."

In Henry County, four tennis courts at Jaycee Park (475 Parkwood Ct, Collinsville) will receive repairs for cracks, new paint lines, and equipment for pickleball.

"We are ecstatic to have a dedicated pickleball court in Henry County," said Roger Adams, Director of Henry County Parks & Recreation. "The growth of this sport is tremendous and we've seen the demand for an outdoor venue continue to increase. It will make for a fantastic addition to Jaycee Park."

Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, added, "Our partnership



**Community members play exhibition matches during Friday's Pickleball Free-For-All event at the Henry County Recreation Center.**

with the Harvest Foundation continues to pay dividends for our residents. Recreational amenities continue to be a vital part of our broader economic development initiative as we invest in these types of place-making efforts which make our community more appealing for families."

Pickleball is a racket or paddle sport played both indoors and outdoors by single or double teams. Joel Pritchard, a former congressman and lieutenant governor of Washington state, with a couple of his friends, created the game and rules, according to The Seattle Times. Named the official sport of Washington in 2021, pickleball is enjoyed internationally, both by casual and professional players.



**Former Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki speaks to the crowd during Friday's Pickleball Free-For-All grant announcement, held at the Henry County Recreation Center.**

Submit your community news and photos to [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)



# OBITUARIES

## Betty Jean Moran Bowman Vrotney

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my mother, Betty Jean Moran Bowman Vrotney. She was born in Woolwine on April 11, 1939, to Aubrey Moran and Lela Pratt Moran. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers Curtis Moran and Glen Moran.

Betty Jean graduated from Bassett High School in 1957 and was a women's basketball star with a 21-point average. She worked for Bassett-Walker as a secretary and at Vanity Fair as a salesperson in the West District. Later in life, she worked for McDonald's in Bassett and Martinsville as



a greeter. She loved meeting new people and talking with them.

She enjoyed many activities in her life, such as bowling, as shown by the many trophies she won, skiing, and riding horses. She loved the great outdoors, as she was found working in the yard no matter what the weather. She was a

true North Carolina Tar Heels fan. Her favorite activity was sitting on the back porch while swinging, talking to family and friends, and watching the squirrels play. She will be sadly missed by the many people who knew her.

She is survived by one daughter, Diane Bowman Ingram; a special companion, Maurice Arrington; a special cat named Maxie of the home; a sister, Opalene Maxey; and loving in-laws, Boonie Nannie Mae, Margaret, Wade, and Sissy of the Bowman Family. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews of the Bowman and Moran families.

## Mary Frances Potter

Mary Frances Potter of Stanleytown, Va. passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2023 after a long illness. She was born in Ferrum, Va. on January 23, 1943 to James Lauren Carter and Ella Reavie Carter.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Zack Wilson Chitwood and her second husband, Richard James Potter.

She is survived by her children, Stephen Rhett Chitwood, Reavie Katrina Amos and Christopher Bruce Chitwood; brothers, Abram Vanus Carter of Rocky Mount, Va. and George Isaac Carter of Charlotte



Hall, Maryland; sisters, Alice Ann Townsend of Orlando, Florida and Elizabeth Rebecca Carter of Sanford, Florida; Frances worked at Pannill Knitting Co., and Sara Lee from age 18 to age 63. After her retirement she worked as a CNA in nursing homes for approximately 10 years. She later became a home caregiver for her

mother and her husband for over 3 years.

She sacrificed so much for others, especially her husband, mother and father and her children. There are many others who would say she was their angel. She was a very loving and caring person.

A visitation was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at McKee-Stone Funeral Home. The funeral was officiated by Reverend Dr. J.D. Harmon, with interment at Roselawn Burial Park.

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

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## Emmett Leon Lawson

Emmett Leon Lawson, 82, of Ridgeway, Va. passed away on Monday, September 18, 2023. He was born in Patrick County April 22, 1941 to the late Thomas Johnson Lawson and Mattie Stovall Lawson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters Carrie Rakes, Elva Hazelwood, Mary Holt, Opal Turner, Jewitt Bullins and Virginia Lawson; and his brothers Hanson Lawson, Clarence Lawson and Bennie Lawson.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janice Marie Burney Lawson of Ridgeway,



VA, his daughter Emily Nelson (Erik) of Fairfax Station, VA, and his son Thomas Lawson (Heather) of Clover, SC. His grandchildren, Elizabeth Nelson, Catherine Nelson, Katie Lawson and Simon Lawson.

Mr. Lawson retired from Dupont as a Lab

Technician.

A visitation will be held from 5:00-8:00pm on Friday, September 22, 2023 at Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, VA. A funeral service will be held at 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Living Waters Outreach Ministry, 6500 Greensboro Road, Ridgeway, VA and will be officiated by Pastors Bud Sedwick and Curtis Stump. Interment will follow at Mountain View Cemetery.

Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonebasett.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonebasett.com).

## Brenda Baynes Briggs

Brenda Baynes Briggs, 72, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 17, 2023. She was born on March 1, 1951, in Eden, NC to the late Gene Thomas Baynes and the late Pauline Lemons Baynes.

She graduated from Morehead High School in 1969 and went on to work in textiles. After getting married and starting her family, she began work with the Martinsville City Schools where she retired after 28 years of service. She was deeply devoted to her family, especially her daughter and granddaughter. She loved the Lord with all of her heart, and she shared her faith through her words, actions, attitude, and genuine love for others. She was a member of Axton Baptist Church.



Brenda is survived by her daughter, Shannon Barker; son-in-law, Jonathan Barker; granddaughter, Hannah Barker; grand puppy, Bella; sister-in-law, Brenda Sessor (husband, Lee, and son, Austin); brother-in-law, Darryl Donovan; sister, Phyllis Brown; brother, Michael Baynes; and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her very best friend and special "family," Vivian Freeman.

In addition to her parents, she was

preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Kenneth Briggs, and her brothers, Tim Baynes and Frank Baynes.

A visitation for Brenda was held at Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home on Thursday, September 21, 2023, with the funeral, officiated by Pastor Tim Wood, held at 11:30 a.m. Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery in Ridgeway.

Brenda was a long-time supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation in her memory to St. Jude.

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

To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## John Roger Abbott

John Roger Abbott passed away peacefully September 18, 2023 at Spring Arbor Living in Greensboro, N.C. John was born on July 9, 1938 in Burlington, Indiana to the late John Edward and Florence Stanley Abbott. In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Phyllis C. Abbott. He is survived by his children Anita Philpott (David) of Greensboro, NC; John R. Abbott, Jr. (Jennifer) of Mobile, AL; and Whitney Seate (Rob) of Charlotte, NC, and five grandchildren: Stuart Philpott, Kaity Abbott, Trent Philpott, Beau Seate, and Carter Seate. Also surviving are his brother James E. Abbott (Betsy) and sister Dianne Mathis (Barry) and special in-laws Maxine Gayle and Robert Perkins along with beloved nieces and nephews.

John graduated from Georgia Military College in 1958 and from University of Georgia School of Pharmacy in 1960. His first pharmacy job took him to Patterson's Drug Store in Lynchburg, Virginia where he met the love of his life, Phyllis Carwile, on



a blind date. They married in 1962 and John was transferred to Martinsville where he remained a trusted pharmacist for Revco and CVS for over 50 years.

An active member of First Baptist Church of Martinsville for over 60 years, John sang in the Sanctuary Choir, taught Sunday School, and served as Deacon, where he had numerous terms including Deacon Chair. John was also an active member of the Martinsville community where he served as President of the Lions Club and President of the American Cancer Society.

In his retirement, John enjoyed golfing, traveling with friends and spending time with his family.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the staff

at Spring Arbor Living of Greensboro for their loving care of John and to the wonderful team from AuthoraCare Collective and their Hospice care.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at First Baptist Church of Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave., Martinsville, VA. Burial was at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Rustburg, Va. The family received friends one hour prior to the service in the parlor at First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of John to First Baptist Church, 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville, VA 24112 or to Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Attention: Cemetery Fund, 2604 Winfall Rd., Rustburg, VA 24588.

The service was live streamed and recorded at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hL4nRdSG9uGQdJjF-hVg>

Online condolences at [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

# City schools reaccredited for 2023-24 school year

Martinsville City Public Schools will continue to be accredited for the 2023-2024 school year, according to data released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on Thursday. All Martinsville schools have been accredited since 2018.

Three of four schools in the division have received triennial accreditation status due to consistent past high performance, while one school was Accredited with Conditions. Clearview Early Learning Center does not qualify for accreditation by VDOE.

Accreditation is determined by several school quality indicators based on state and federal benchmarks. These indicators are a measure of proficiency and growth in math, English, and science. They also account for achievement gaps in English and math, chronic absenteeism, and, at the high school level, graduation and completion rates, dropout rates, and college, career, and civic readiness.

To achieve accredited status, a school must attain Level One or Level Two on each of its school quality indicators or must be in a triennial accreditation period. Schools with one or more school quality indicators at Level Three are

accredited with conditions.

While MCPS is seeing some of the same trends in academic performance being reported across the state, in other areas the district is surpassing state averages and pass rates.

"Martinsville students have continued to make steady progress in all areas since we returned from remote learning and our students get closer each year to reaching pre-pandemic levels of achievement," said MCPS Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing. "For example, Martinsville High School has surpassed its pre-pandemic pass rates in reading and is approaching its pre-pandemic pass rate in math as well."

Downing said she was also pleased with the district's science data, particularly since the 2022-2023 school year was the first year fully implementing the state's new science curriculum.

"Usually, when you see a new test, you see drops in scores," Downing explained. "Overall, Martinsville students have either maintained or improved on their science scores."

Martinsville is also seeing continued improvement in the area of chronic absenteeism.

"We saw significant drops in our rates of chronic absenteeism for 2022-2023, which

speaks to the great work our schools are doing," Downing said. "Our district is taking a root cause approach to student absence, taking a look at causes and barriers and helping connect families with the resources and supports they need to ensure our students are attending school."

Last year, Martinsville Middle School principal Ama Waller was recognized by the VDOE for her leadership in the field of chronic absenteeism.

"I am proud of the success that our students and staff achieved last year," Downing said. "Closing the learning gaps from pandemic-related school closures requires continuous work, and our families and staff have put in the effort. Martinsville City Public Schools will continue our work to ensure our students receive the quality education they need for their success and the growth of our community."

"I am very pleased with the hard work demonstrated by our students, parents, teachers and staff," Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley said. "This is our seventh year of consecutive school accreditation and three out of four of our eligible schools have achieved triennial success. This is great news for our families and community."



# Congressional staff plan visit

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on Sept. 27. Staff will be in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room - Board of Supervisors Meeting Chambers from 10 - 11:30 a.m. The building is located at 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Staff will be in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room from 12:30 - 2 p.m. The building is located at 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

# Entries Sought For 2023 Veterans Day Student Essay Contest

The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond is seeking entries for its Virginia War Memorial 2023 Veterans Day Student Essay Contest. The annual competition is open to all Virginia middle and high school age public, private, and home-schooled students. One winner will be selected from among all middle school entries (grades 6-8) and one from high school entries (grades 9-12).

The essay topic for the 2023 contest is "A Virginian Who Served in The Military During the Korean War Era Who Inspires Me." Students may consider a member of their family, or any Virginian who served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, anywhere in the world, during the Korean War Era (1950 - 1953) as their subject.

The two students who write the winning essays will each receive a prize package courtesy of McDonald's Restaurants of Richmond and Hampton Roads. The student winners will also be invited to come to Richmond to read aloud their essays and partici-

pate in the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond on Friday, November 10, 2023. Essays should be 500-750 words in length and utilize interviews and primary sources whenever possible. Students are encouraged to contact Sylvia Marshall, Virginia War Memorial archivist (Sylvia.Marshall@vawarmemorial.org) for additional resources regarding Virginia's Korean War Era veterans if they wish. Entries will be judged on clarity of thought, adherence to the contest theme and guidelines, proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Detailed information regarding rules, guidelines and how to enter are available online at <https://vawarmemorial.org/learn/contests-scholarships/essay/>.

All entries must be submitted to the Virginia War Memorial website by 11:59 p.m., Sunday, October 15, 2023. For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Coon, Assistant Director of Education, at [crystal.coon@vawarmemorial.org](mailto:crystal.coon@vawarmemorial.org) or at 804-786-2060.

# Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Sept. 25-30

9/25	7pm	Volleyball	Chatham at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at William Byrd
9/26	TBD	Golf	Bassett at Regional Tournament (Draper Valley GC)
	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Patrick County
	7pm	Volleyball	Halifax at Magna Vista
	7pm	Volleyball	Tunstall at Martinsville
9/27	5pm	Cross Country	Bassett at Mecklenburg County
	5pm	Cross Country	Magna Vista at Mecklenburg County
	5pm	Cross Country	Martinsville at Mecklenburg County
	7pm	Volleyball	Mecklenburg County at Martinsville
9/28	7pm	Volleyball	George Washington at Bassett
	7pm	Football	Bassett at Mecklenburg County
9/29	6pm	Boys Soccer	Carlisle at Hargrave Military Academy
	7pm	Football	Magna Vista at George Washington
	7pm	Football	Martinsville at Tunstall

# Initial claims for unemployment insurance decrease

The number of initial claims decreased in the latest filing week to 2,118 and remained at typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending September 9, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,118, which was a decrease of 450 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,027, which was 65 claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 26.5% from the 10,296 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-four percent of claimants. Of those, over half (52 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,958), administrative and support and waste management (1,822), manufacturing (1,432), and health care and social assistance (1,187). 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 September 9, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 220,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 216,000 to 217,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 174,499 in the week ending September 9, a decrease of 16,854 (or -8.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 152,144 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 (-3,527) was the largest decrease. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (-3,302) was the second largest decrease. New York's preliminary weekly change (-2,959) was the third largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-1,443) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (-619) was the eighth largest decrease.

# LEGAL NOTICES

**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, RIDGEWAY, 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

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL23000534-00  
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

KELLY MARTIN v. JACOB PAUL VILT  
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The object of this suit is to:  
OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII  
It is ORDERED that JACOB PAUL VILT appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before November 10, 2023.  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
COUNTY OF HENRY,  
COOPERATIVE MARKETING ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 58.1-4034(G)(2), Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments on a proposed ordinance to allow a cooperative marketing arrangement between the Martinsville Speedway and Virginia sports betting permit holders. Any marketing activities must be conducted in compliance with state law, the existing zoning and other site plan authorizations permitted for the Martinsville Speedway site. A copy of the proposed ordinance authorizing the cooperative marketing relationship may be obtained by contacting the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

**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](mailto:SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov)  
EEO/AA Employer

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

**ABC NOTICE**  
MAA VEDAI 5 LLC trading as MAA Vedai 5 LLC, 8432 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett, Henry, VA 24055.  
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a retail license for beer & wine off-premises.  
Haresh Kumar Chaudhari and Mukesh Bhai Patel, members  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or (800) 552-3200.

**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

**COUNTY OF HENRY**  
**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **September 27, 2023 at 1:00 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 citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permit and Variances for the following cases.

**Case S-23-10 CF VA Solar #111, LLC / Pivot Energy**  
A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-1801 through 211808; and 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The property is located on the east side of River Rd., approximately 0.4 mile south of 3359 River Rd., in the Horsepasture District. The property is zoned as Agricultural District A-1, as shown on part of Tax Map 40.6/110. The proposal is to develop a 5MW solar facility on 18-acres of a 275-acre parent tract.

**Case S-23-11 CF VA Solar #106, LLC / Pivot Energy**  
A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-1801 through 211808; and 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a Large Scale Solar Energy Facility. The property is located beyond the south end of River Rd., in the Horsepasture District, and is zoned as Agricultural District A-1. The Tax Map is 41.4/54. The proposal is to develop a 5MW solar facility on 22-acres of a 440-acre parent tract.

**Case S-23-12 Phillip L. and Terri D. Johnson**  
A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the use of the property as an event center. The site is located at 1380 River Rd. The driveway is just north west of its intersection with Shadyview Ln. The property is in the Horsepasture District, zoned as Agricultural District A-1, and shown on Tax Map 28.7/85C.

**Case S-23-13 Room to Bloom Child Care, LLC / Raegan Lane**  
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-302 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a Family Day Care Home to accommodate up to 12 children. The property is located at 1811 Penn Store Rd. in the Horsepasture District, and is zoned Agricultural District A-1 as shown on Tax Map 57.9/34.

**Case V-23-02 Rebecca Peters**  
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-306 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for an addition to a residence to extend to within 7.5' of the side property line instead of the required 15'. The residence is located at 45 Wind Dancer Ln., in the Ridgeway District and is zoned Agricultural District A-1, as shown on Tax Map 52.6(45)/5A.

**Case V-23-03 Shawn A. Foley**  
A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-601 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a swimming pool that will be located closer to the road than the main structure on the property. The property is located at 10 Woodberry Road in the Blackberry District and is zoned Suburban Residential District S-R, as shown on Tax Map 25.3/290C.

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

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

**HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE**  
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**Give us your view:**  
The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net) and/or call (276) 694-3101







# Mills

from page 1

The salary is currently \$136,820 – most of which is paid by the State Compensation Board, Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said.

As in most cases, the county supplements that total. In this case, Henry County contributes \$23,147, according to Brandon Martin, the county's communications officer. Martin added that amount includes the county's share for benefits and retirement.

As a man of Christian values and faith, Mills said the first 10 percent of his salary would be distributed to his church, Bassett Church of the Brethren. The other 90 percent would be shared with local charities and services.

"I'll list a few, and I don't want to be inclusive - adding and expanding to existing childcare, local food pantries such as the one you have here in Henry County, emergency services such as our fire and rescue, drug and alcohol treatment for those in our community with the need, mental health services, and elder care services," he said.

Mills currently operates the Henry County Food Pantry located in the former Bassett Printing building.

Mills said his brother, David Mills, who would be named jail administrator, also plans to donate his first-year salary to the community.

The annual pay for that position is \$86,707, Davis said.

"Our taxes and our retirement will come out of it, but our take-home pay is going to go back to the community," Mills said.

Daryl Hatcher, who will serve as Mills' chief deputy if Mills is elected, did not comment. Del Mills fielded a question about Hatcher donating his salary. Mills said that he and David had committed to donating their take-home pay.

Del Mills believes community input is going to be crucial in where this funding can go to meet the community's needs.

"All or some will not see the correlation between each of these services and law enforcement. I want you to understand they are needed in our community, and our community is the core of the department," he said.

By making this investment, Del Mills said he wants to encourage the community to work together to overcome obstacles and encourage everyone to give up their time, talents, and resources to make the community stronger.

"I want to be clear; this is an investment in our community. We're passionate about our community, we want to help our community, and I want to encourage each and every one of you to give back," Mills said.

"I work to serve this community and make it a better place to live, work, and raise our families. I have a young family, including an 8-year-old son to support," Davis said. "My family and I live in a modest 900-square-foot home, and unfortunately, I don't have the financial means to work for free."

He speculated the Mills brothers "have other



**Del Mills and Darryl Hatcher at Wednesday's announcement.**



**David Mills (at podium) said he decided to donate his first-year salary to give back to the community, just like his brother, Del. Darryl Hatcher is pictured to the left.**



**About 25 people turned out Wednesday to an announcement by Del Mills.**

means of income and they don't need a salary to sustain their family. In fact, both of them stand to have substantial financial gains simply by being elected because their retirement accounts" would "greatly increase."

That is because the amount retirees earn is based on their highest salary for three years, Davis said and added that he and his wife invest in the community in other ways.

"We pay tithes and offerings to the church we have been members of for nearly a decade. We help to support a local childcare facility," and regularly support fundraising efforts by volunteer fire, EMS, and civic organizations, Davis said.

"We are in discussions of ways to support drug rehabilitation efforts in this community" because drug use has "personally affected our family," he added.

# Students

from page 2

bines in the nation. Only those seven of Block Island and CVOW are offshore — so far.

All three men work in the energy field, but Hall is the only one who has worked on wind turbines before. In 2005-06 he helped put up 400 towers in upstate New York by the Canadian border.

## Working off and living on a ship

At Vineyard Winds, Hall and Hudson will be paired as a work team, Hall said.

The three already are employed by Global Wind Services, which is paying for their training and accommodations. Waechter will work on a ship, and Hall and Hudson will work on land doing prewiring of the structures. The duo also will fill in offshore as needed.

"We'll be the relief pitchers," joked Hall. "Ground support."

Multiple contractors will work on different aspects of the turbines, Hudson said.

Those who build the turbines in the ocean will be based on a ship. A helicopter will bring them to the ship, where they will live for those three weeks at a time, working in 12-hour shifts.

In Virginia, "offshore wind turbine technicians supporting CVOW will live on a Service Operations Vessel – two weeks on, two weeks off," wrote Jeremy Slayton, spokesperson for Dominion Energy,

by email.

"That's typical of the type of work that I do," Waechter said.

## Energy Workers

Wind energy "is growing fast," Hudson said. "They're hiring people. ... There are a lot of these projects going in. It seems to be a lot of opportunity," and pay is good.

Hudson is from Metter, Georgia, near Savannah — "Everything's better in Metter," he quipped. He will fly back to Georgia during each of his three weeks off work.

"The time off, three weeks, is what got me interested," he said.

Plus, "there aren't a lot of high-paying jobs in the South." The choice is to "be gone and make a lot of money for your family, or stay home and not so much."

This deployment will be his first time working on wind energy, though he's no stranger to clean energy — he has worked in solar before.

Not only is the installation and use of wind turbines important, but also the construction, Hudson said: "We're hoping to keep the work here. Previous projects were all built by Norwegians."

## Training

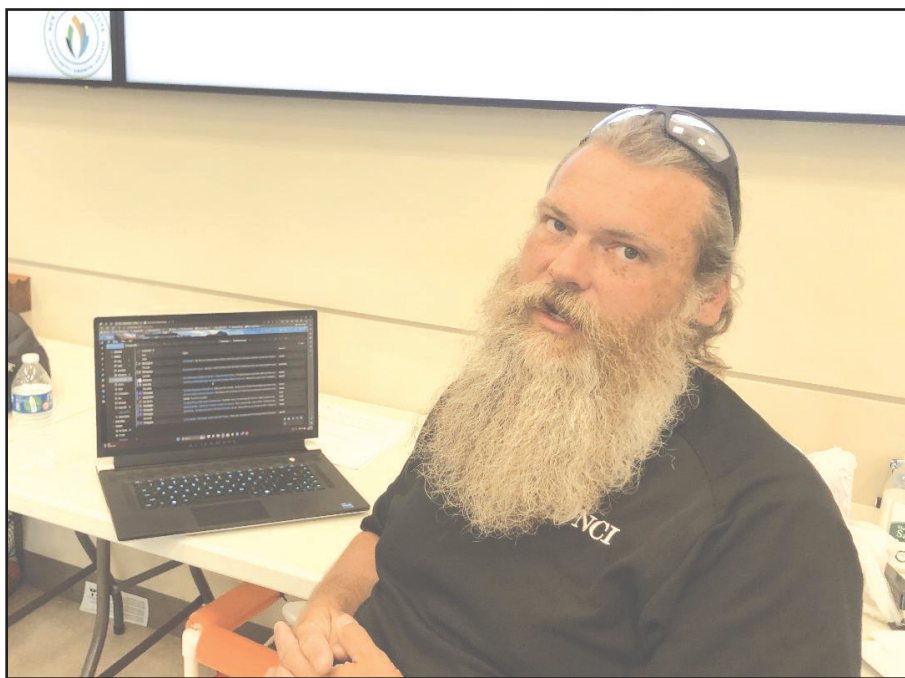
NCI's classes are certified by the Global Wind Organisation (GWO), a non-profit body founded and owned by globally leading wind turbine manufacturers and owners/operators to set

industry-wide safety standards.

Hudson said the trio has done their basic GWO training, Sea Survival, Basic Safety Training and Advanced Rescue Training, and now are in the Basic Technician Training. Next, they'll have to work on some online modules and "some stuff through G.E. Other than that, everything else is done." They started their training at the beginning of August.

During a Thursday class at NCI the students worked on a hydraulics model. Hall explained: Fluid gets pumped through a controller to work a motor at the end of the line. "The fluid does the heavy work," he said. "It saves our back. What the human body cannot do the hydraulic can."

Waechter said before the BTT training at NCI,



**NCI Director of Technical & Industrial Programs Clifford House talks about training for Global Wind Organisation certification.**

the trio took training at in institution in Texas. The Texas classes were held outdoors, and the weather was hot and miserable 110 degrees. They were appreciative of the

comfort of NCI's indoor, air-conditioned environment.

Hudson added about the equipment in NCI's High Bay area: "The stuff you have back here

is world class. World class top-of-the-line equipment. You guys are stacked. There's a lot more tools I'd love to have more time to play with."



**Jonah Hudson (foreground) and Aaron Waechter work on hydraulics using a model.**



# Virginia State Parks celebrate National Public Lands Day, provide free parking Sept. 23



**Volunteering with Virginia State Parks**

State parks across Virginia will celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands on Sept. 23.

NPLD, now in its 30th year, highlights the vital impact of public lands on our well-being, from the air we breathe to the spaces we inhabit, and it brings together thousands of volunteers across the country, fostering community, teamwork and the enjoyment of public lands for education and recreation.

In Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state's lead natural resource conservation agency, manages nearly 130,000 acres of land, including nearly 80,000 acres of public land across 41 state parks.

"Since 1936, Virginia State Parks have provided citizens a fun, safe place to connect with nature, learn and participate in outdoor recreation," said DCR Director Matt Wells. "For National Public Lands Day, we invite Virginians to support their state parks by volunteering to help restore, improve and protect the lands they cherish, preserving them for future generations to enjoy."

There's a state park within an hour's drive of every Virginian, and each park depends heavily on volunteers for everything from trail maintenance to interpretative programs. In 2022 alone, volunteers across the state donated 210,693 hours of service, equivalent to 101 full-time employees.

"Our skilled and passionate volunteers play a vital role in our mission to protect, conserve and enhance our natural resources," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "Without them, the parks that millions of visitors have come to love would not be the same."

One of those parks is Mason Neck, located in Northern Virginia. Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience Jamie Leeuwrik said their highly dedicated volunteer base has helped the park's staff provide excellent service and opportuni-

ties for the public.

"From our volunteer paddle guides leading kayak trips to the Fairfax Master Naturalists revitalizing pollinator gardens, there has been a significant impact made by our volunteers," said Leeuwrik. "The Friends of Mason Neck State Park have also been instrumental in numerous projects over the decades, including our work toward improving accessibility in the park, establishing the pollinator gardens and helping to organize the annual Eagle Festival."

Established and new volunteers are invited to Virginia State Parks for NPLD. They can choose from more than 30 NPLD events, including invasive species removal, shoreline cleanup, habitat restoration and environmental education activities.

"National Public Lands Day is a reminder that the preservation of our natural treasures depends on the dedication of volunteers," said Katie Gibson, chief ranger of visitor experience at Douthat State Park, in Millboro, Virginia. "Their efforts embody the spirit of unity and stewardship that ensure the beauty, diversity and wonder of these spaces remain accessible and protected for generations to come."

For the complete list of NPLD events, click here. Volunteers should dress for the weather and the project and bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Standard parking fees, such as trail-head parking, will be waived at most state parks for NPLD. The parking fee at Grayson Highlands and the admission fees for Natural Bridge and Southwest Virginia Museum will not be waived. To learn more, go to [www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov/parking-fees).

NPLD also coincides with Bike Your Park Day. Visitors and volunteers are encouraged to bring their bikes to their park on Sept. 23. For more information about biking at Virginia State Parks, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/biking>.

# Employment Scams Haven't Gone Away

When it comes to the labor market, the supply of jobs is outpacing demand but that doesn't mean that employment scams have gone away. Just because there are more job openings than job seekers doesn't mean that criminals have closed up shop. With many Americans looking for a side hustle to help make ends meet or an opportunity to make more money or work remotely, there are still enough potential victims to fuel these schemes.

Here's what you need to know to avoid employment scams. Beware of any job that offers a large income with little to no training or experience. Business offers that are guaranteed to "pay off

quickly" or "double your investment" are also highly suspicious. Lastly, avoid any job offer which requires you to pay in advance for certification, training or materials.

Many of these employment scams are advertised as "work from home" which is particularly dangerous with so many people looking for these opportunities. Before accepting any work from home position, do your homework and ensure that the company you are agreeing to work for is indeed a legitimate one.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

# Monogram Foods awards VMNH \$5,000 grant



**The VMNH education team stands in front of the museum. (From left to right - VMNH Educator Terri Tatum, VMNH Education and Public Programs Manager Christy Deatherage, and VMNH Educator Jordan Brim)**

The Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation has awarded the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) a grant of \$5,000 in support of the museum's 2023-2024 VMNH Science Outreach Initiative, a year-long science outreach program designed to provide STEM-based education programming to students in Martinsville and Henry County, as well as families throughout the region.

"The Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation has been a long-time supporter of

the museum's education programming and we're excited to have its support again for this school year," said VMNH Deputy Director Ryan Barber. "With the Foundation's latest support, the museum will be better positioned to offer need-based, education program scholarships to local public schools, as well as a more robust offering of STEM-based programming during the museum's public science festivals."

Through this grant, the museum will establish education scholarships for kindergarten through 5th grade students in Martinsville City and Henry County public schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

"Thanks to the Foundation's support, the museum's STEM-based education programs are now more accessible to students throughout Martinsville and Henry County," said VMNH Education Manager Christy Deatherage. "The scholarships allow for school groups to visit the museum and experience in-depth, interpre-

tive tours of the museum's exhibits, as well as participate in standards-based, education programs that focus on a wide variety of topics, such as natural history, science, technology, engineering and math."

Beyond establishing education scholarships, the grant will also help the museum facilitate STEM-based programming during the 2024 lineup of its family-oriented science festivals, which draw crowds from throughout Virginia and North Carolina.

"The museum's science festivals continue to grow in popularity and scope," said Barber. "With this grant, we are better positioned to ensure that these festivals not only provide a high-level of entertainment value, but an equally high-level of educational benefit."

Teachers and administrators who are interested in applying for scholarships can contact the museum at [discover@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:discover@vmnh.virginia.gov).

To learn more about the museum's education programs and public events, visit [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net).

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

**FREE TO ALL CITY OF MARTINSVILLE AND HENRY COUNTY RESIDENTS**  
(Not available to Commercial Businesses)

**ITEMS TO BRING**

Solvents (mineral spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone, etc.)  
Paints (oil base, polyurethane, tung oil, deck or oil base stains, etc.)  
Fuels (gasoline, #2 fuel, kerosene, diesel fuel, small engine fuel, etc.)  
Automobile Fluids (motor oil, transmission fluids, antifreeze, etc.)  
Lead acid batteries, computer equipment, cell phones, ink cartridges, paper (8.5 x 11, 4 boxes max)

**ITEMS NOT TO BRING**

Smoke detectors, compressed gas cylinders, explosives, radioactive materials, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, drain cleaners, tires, light bulbs, TVs

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

9 am - 12 Noon (Will be held rain or shine)

LOCATION: BASSETT SERVICE CENTER

2285 Fairystone Park Highway  
Bassett, Virginia 24055

FREE CONCERT

KYIV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS PRESENTS

## Hope For Ukraine TOUR

WITH CONDUCTOR VIKTORIA KONCHAKOVSKA

Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 7pm

First United Methodist Church

146 E. Main St, Martinsville, VA 24112

A Love Offering will be collected.  
Nursery provided.