

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, September 30, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Carver Road residents detail community concerns



Several people who live in the vicinity of Carver Road attended a Board of Supervisors meeting to share their concerns.

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

A resident who lives on Carver Road detailed community concerns at the September 26 Henry County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Van Drewery recalled that he and other community members

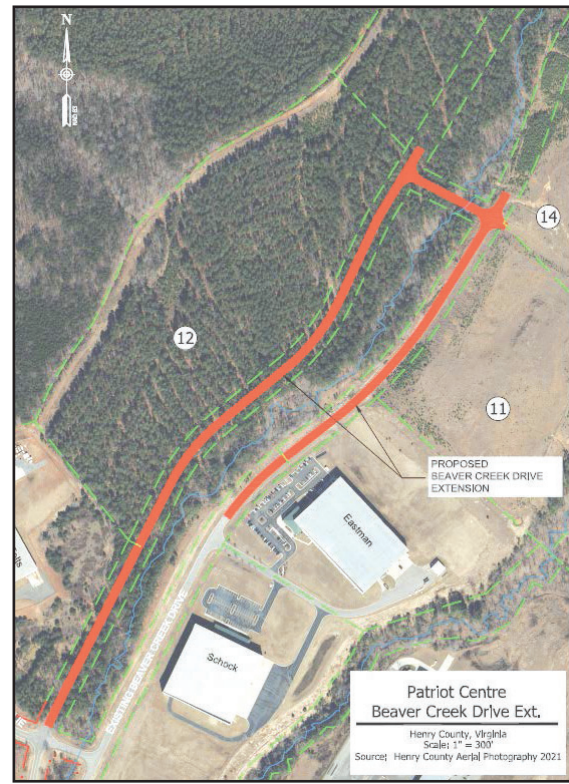
attended a February board meeting to air their concerns and issues with Teal Jones Pine Products, a company located in the area.

“We presented those issues to the board, hoping that some resolution would come from some of those issues,” Drewery said. “We have been working with the administration, but we still have

a lot of concerns that are not just associated with the lumber yard, but the Carver community in general.”

The primary concern is the safety of Carver Road as there’s a lot of traffic because of the logging and gravel trucks, school buses,

See **Residents**, page 9



Beaver Creek Drive Extension Map.

Board lays groundwork for future economic development

A seemingly minor action taken by the Henry County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday could have major implications for the county’s future economic development efforts.

The board unanimously approved a resolution affirming its commitment to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) that it will fund its local share of costs related to the preliminary engineering and construction work required for the Beaver Creek Drive Extension Project.

Currently, the county is seeking various funding sources to serve as a local match for an expected grant from the federal government that would greenlight the project.

“This is a project that has been on our radar for quite some time,” said County Administrator Dale Wagoner. “The extension will provide access to Lots 11 through 14 which

See **Board**, page 3

Grace Network’s Pumpkin Patch ready for customers

Holly Kozelsky

Earlier this week, a team of volunteers worked in assembly line fashion to unload pumpkins for fall décor projects, nesting them in Grace Network’s Pumpkin Patch, which is located in a lot near First Baptist Church, 23 Starling Ave., Martinsville.

The pumpkin sale is Grace Network’s annual fundraising event, with proceeds invested in Martinsville and Henry County. Prices See **Grace**, page 9



Kenny Smith (from left) and Jacob Overstreet and Sarah Biswell of Wills on Wheels, mobile estate planners based in Martinsville, carry boxes from the unloading of pumpkins, as Grace Network Executive Director Tracy Hinchcliff waves a greeting from behind.



This is the Mullen family’s first time helping set up the Pumpkin Patch and, they said, they’ll be back to do it again: (from left) Emily Mullen, Sharon Mullen, and Westley Mullen. “I love pumpkins,” said Westley, so he was interested in participating.



New College Institute Joe Sumner and Director of Safety Marshall Thomas prepare to set down a couple of the final pumpkins unloaded.

Garcia hopes to oust Kaine in Senate bid

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Eddie Garcia’s belief in a better tomorrow prompted him to challenge the status quo and take on incumbent Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Richmond, in the November election. A self-described conservative Republican, Garcia considers faith, family, and community a priority.

“I believe that America’s best days are ahead of it if we have leaders who are focused on working people across the nation, and specifically across Virginia,” he said during a stop last week in Patrick County.

To be successful and



Eddie Garcia hopes to oust incumbent U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine in November.

Ferrell-Benavides to take helm of city

By Staff Reports

The Martinsville City Council selected Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides as the new City Manager. At its meeting on Tuesday, September 26, the council unanimously approved an employment agreement with Ferrell-Benavides.

Most recently the City Manager of Duncanville, Texas, Ferrell-Benavides previously served as City Manager in Petersburg, Virginia, and Glenn Heights, Texas. She succeeds Leon Towarnicki, who retired in August after forty-one total years of service to the City, including the last ten years as the City Manager.

“We are excited to welcome Ms. Aretha Ferrell-Benavides to our community. Aretha brings a plethora of experience in local government, economic development, and city leadership. The council was impressed by her many achievements in the City of Petersburg Virginia and with her proven track record we are certain that she will be a valuable asset to the City of Martinsville,” Mayor L.C. Jones said.

A national search



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides was selected as Martinsville’s new City Manager.

was conducted for the new city manager, with the city assisted by The Berkley Group, of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Berkley Group received applications and conducted initial interviews with the most qualified candidates,

See **Ferrell**, page 6

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UPDATES



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See **Garcia**, page 6



Mark Nizer's spectacular 4D performance will be hosted by Piedmont Arts.

Art and science blend to spectacular degrees in Mark Nizer performance

Piedmont Arts will host Mark Nizer at the Martinsville High School Auditorium for a public performance on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. He will be performing his 4D one-man show, which blends comedy, juggling, music, and 3D technology. This show is fun for the whole family. General admission tickets are \$20 and student (K-12) tickets are \$5. Tickets are on sale now at PiedmontArts.org and

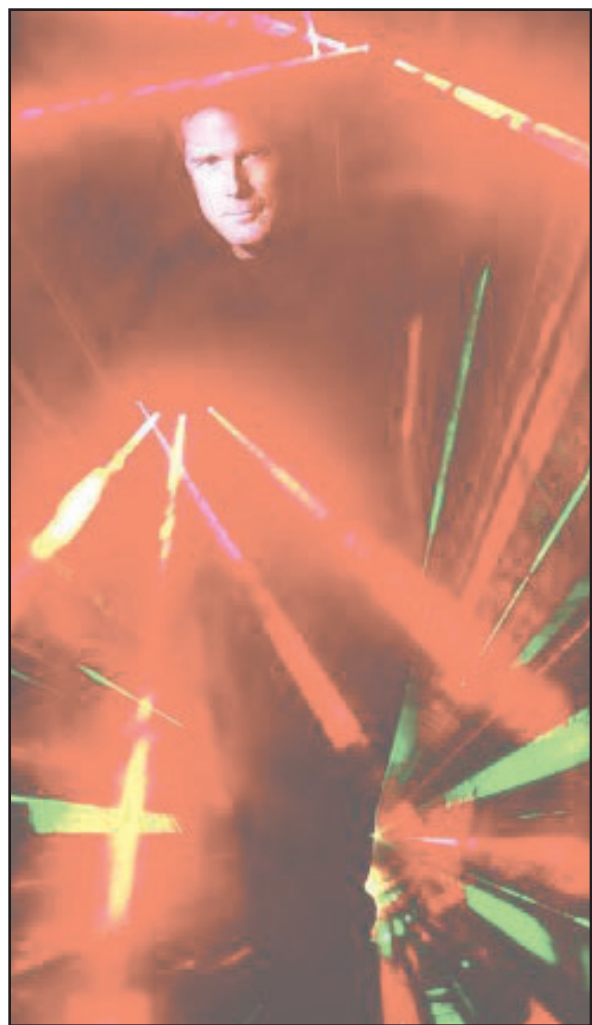
at the museum. Every ticket purchase comes with a pair of 4D glasses that will make the performance come to life in new and exciting ways.

Mark Nizer is one of the greatest entertainment comedians and jugglers performing today. His wild exploits have landed him on MTV, HBO's Just for Laughs, Arsenio Hall, Bob Hope and Other Young Comedians, Comic Strip Live and LA Law. He has opened

for Jerry Seinfeld, Bob Hope, George Burns, John Byner, Gladys Knight, The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Ray Charles, and Barry Manilow. The late Bob Hope said, "He just keeps getting better and I didn't think that was possible."

Making the impossible possible and the improbable probable, Mark Nizer has taken his one-man show to a variety of venues around the world, including The Improv, The Comedy Store, Walt Disney World, thousands of college campuses, and all major cruise lines. He has also performed in thousands of corporate events, civic centers, festivals and performing arts centers including the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Nizer will also be in residency with local schools the week of the public performance. His Sciencespllosion show will be performed to audiences at Laurel Park Middle School, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, and bussed in groups to the Martinsville High School Auditorium. This educational program is designed to spark children's curiosities about science and how it can be used to understand and improve our world.



Mark Nizer has performed his outrageous comedy and expert juggling all over the world.

City's parks improvement survey closing on October 1

Since August, the City of Martinsville has taken a collaborative approach to improve its public parks, seeking input from residents to ensure their voices are heard. The city's online survey will be closing on Sunday, October 1st, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

With a commitment to delivering major park upgrades, the City allocated \$500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2022 for park upgrades. Partnering with the West Piedmont

Planning District Commission, the City secured a \$40,000 grant from the USDA Rural Development Office, supplemented by a \$10,000 local match, to initiate the parks improvement plan.

"Residents' insights are a crucial part of this project," said Mayor LC Jones. "We invite everyone to participate and contribute to our shared vision."

The survey can be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MVILLEPARK2023>.

Blue Jeans & Bling set for Oct. 7

Blue Jeans & Bling
 Saturday, October 7, 2023
 6:00 P.M. • Dinner Served at 6:30 P.M.
 Historic Henry County Courthouse Plaza

Dinner by Hugo's Restaurant & Sports Bar
 Silent Auction • Music by Will Zimmer

Tickets: \$40/person or \$300/table of 8
 Heritage Center & Museum, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville
 276-403-5361 • mhchistorysociety@gmail.com

MHC MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Carter Bank & Trust

Join the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society for its annual and largest fundraiser, Blue Jeans & Bling, on Saturday, October 7, on the beautiful Historic Henry County Courthouse Plaza. Wear your most comfortable blue jeans and your most shiny bling while eating delicious dinner prepared by Hugo's Restaurant & Sports Bar, listening to music by Will Zimmer, and bidding on fabulous items donated by local businesses and individuals at our silent auction.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of eight. Each ticket includes two beverages of wine or beer. Cash bar available. The bar and silent auction will open at 6 p.m., with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may

be purchased from any board member, at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum Tuesdays-Fridays 1-4 p.m., by calling (276) 403-5361, by emailing mhchistorysociety@gmail.com, or by contacting Ann Martin, chairman, at (276) 340-9638.

Proceeds of the event will allow us to continue offering our monthly lecture series and Founders' Day, welcoming classroom and home school field trips, and maintaining the Historic Henry County Courthouse along with our corporate partners, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group.

Blue Jeans & Bling 2023 is being held in October in celebration of October as Local History Month in Virginia.

Athletes are Buddying Up for Breakfast

Patrick & Henry Community College student athletes are making early morning visits to Stanleytown Elementary School this fall as part of their Breakfast Buddies program. In its second year, the program is an outreach effort to support students at the local elementary school and encourage them to work toward their goals.

"Breakfast Buddies is a great opportunity for our student athletes to give back to the community they go to school in, while also making a huge impact on the kids they're interacting with. The premise of this program is to build relationships and to show up. Our hope is that P&H students will quickly see

the power of their consistent presence in the classrooms and understand the bigger picture," said P&HCC's Assistant Athletic Director Ruthanne Duffy.

Student athletes from P&HCC's 20 teams visit Stanleytown Elementary Monday through Friday from 7:30-8:05. They spend time with elementary partners discussing math problems, sharing breakfast, and developing relationships with students through conversation.

"We started Breakfast Buddies with the understanding that we were out here to be a positive influence and have realized that these elementary students are making just as big of an impact on us each morning," said Duffy.



Student athletes help their elementary buddies with morning work and preparation for the school day during arrival and breakfast time at Stanleytown Elementary School.



NWC PRESENTS HALLOWEEN MAYHEM

NWC WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
CASKET MATCH
 THE CUBAN ASSASSIN VS THE DRAGON SCOTT LEE

NWC MID-ATLANTIC HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLE MATCH
 THE HANGMAN LARRY COOTER VS THE DUSTMAN MARK ANTHONY

AMATEUR WRESTLING EXHIBITION
 TONY RAY VS SCOTT WEDDLE
 CHAD HUDSON VS WENTWORTH LEE

TAG TEAM ELIMINATION MATCH
 YELA MARK VS John Hamilton

GRUDGE MATCH
 CRASHY CASSIDY VS LANCE GRINSON

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FOR THE NWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
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TICKETS:
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 P&HCC STONE HALL GYM - OFFICE 106 - PHONE 276.656.0255

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

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

Thursday, 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 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. For more information, visit Facebook @savethebassettcommunitycenter or <https://bassettcommunitycenter.ticketspice.com/bassett-community-center-family-festival>.

J&D Ministries Inc., & One Accord Baptist Church will host a free Community Fish Fry at 600 Commonwealth Blvd., Martinsville, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Board

from page 1

represents the next phase of development for the industrial park."

Wagoner said that both Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandria, and Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, plan on including funds for the project in the upcoming federal spending bill.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$4.3 million which has represented a significant hurdle in past county budgets. But with federal support and additional funding partners, the county will be able to press forward on its goal of long-term sustainable growth by diversifying its manufacturing sector.

The design for the project calls for the construction of two new lanes on Beaver Creek Drive that will connect to the next crossover and then back to the existing westbound lanes of the street. The extension will be approximately one mile.

It is estimated that the park's expansion will open up another 200 acres. The next phase of the project would provide access to Lot 16 of the industrial park and connect to Barrow Mills Road.

In other matters, the board:

- Awarded a \$94,000 contract to Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund to buy 0.94 advance non-tidal wetland credits related to the development of Lot #2 of Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$25,000 received as a "Pick up the Pace" grant from the Harvest Foundation to convert at least two tennis courts to dual-purpose tennis/pickleball courts at Jaycee Park.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$11,222 received from the Virginia State Police Help Eliminate Auto Theft grant program. The Sheriff's Office will use the funds to purchase multiple camera systems to help

locate stolen vehicles and investigate other criminal activities.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$241,275 received from the Virginia Department of Education to bolster the school's fresh fruit and vegetable program at its elementary schools.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$107,977 from interest income on the construction of the Adult Detention Center (ADC) to pay the arbitrage rebate to the Internal Revenue Service.

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$497,670 from the Federal Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds, and interest income from the ADC construction account, to initiate recommendations from the county's

compensation and classification study.

- Held a public hearing and approved an ordinance to allow the Martinsville Speedway to enter into a cooperative marketing agreement with Virginia sports betting platform permit holders.

- Held a public hearing and approved a request to rezone approximately 5 acres in the Iriswood District from Agricultural District (A-1) to Commercial District (B-1). The applicant wishes to construct an approximately

all racers.

Tuesday, October 24

The Bassett Historical Center will host April 1865: Danville, Martinsville, and the End of the Civil War, at 10:30 a.m., as local historian Jarred Marlowe takes a look at the last week of the Civil War and the roles that both Danville and Martinsville played in the final few days of the war. The program is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room.

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.

Registration is underway for UPWARD Basketball and Cheerleading, for youngsters 5 years old through 5th grade, \$65 each at Fort Trial Baptist Church in Stanleytown. Call (276) 629.2964 or email pastordreed81@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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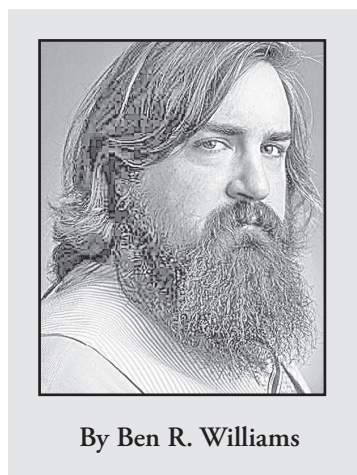
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OPINION

An open letter from the American Association of Medical Examiners



By Ben R. Williams

My name is Larry Jarvis, and I'm the newly elected President of the American Association of Medical Examiners (AAME). I've been a medical examiner for over thirty years, and in that time, I have noticed a growing and distressing trend.

There seems to be a sense, shared primarily among members of law enforcement, that medical examiners are unprofessional. While the AAME has some understanding of how this misconception has evolved, nothing could be further from the truth.

Here are the facts. Being a medical examiner is an extremely demanding job that requires us to spend long hours working in the morgue. Given the nature of the work, there is

no set schedule; if a suspicious death occurs at 3 a.m., then that is when we are summoned to the "office" to examine the body and attempt to determine the cause of death. It is generally a thankless task, not to mention an occasionally exhausting one.

Given the long and unusual hours, it then follows that medical examiners seldom have the luxury of designated breaks for lunch or dinner; it is more often a "catch as catch can" scenario. Medical examiners also seldom have the opportunity to leave the morgue to purchase food, and as a result, many of us bring simple meals from home.

Bearing this information in

mind, it should be no surprise that when detectives visit the morgue during the course of an investigation, they frequently find us eating large sandwiches while conducting an autopsy.

We get it; this may seem unprofessional, and may even seem to suggest to the viewer that our years of working with dead bodies have made us jaded in such a way that what would be disgusting to the average person is normal to us.

However, it is simply a matter of practicality. Frequently, our time is so limited that when we need both hands free, we will even set our comically large sandwiches down on the examining table right next to the body of the deceased, or in some cases, even on top of the body.

We, the members of the AAME, wish to let the public know that our universal propensity for eating massive, Dagwood Bumstead-style sandwiches while conducting autopsies should not be taken as a lack of professionalism.

Indeed, we believe that the detectives who so often invade our morgues in the middle of autopsies are the ones behaving unprofessionally.

Did you know there's such a thing as an "autopsy report?" It's a report that we file once the autopsy is concluded. It has all of our findings neatly laid out. Why, then, is it that grizzled detectives and FBI agents so often feel the need to barge into the morgue while

we're in the middle of the autopsy and trying to eat dinner? Just because a serial killer is on the loose or an X-File is occurring, that does not entitle you to interrupt our work.

Worse still is when the grizzled detective brings a green, wet-behind-the-ears detective with him, who usually takes one look at us eating our sandwiches and makes a comical expression of disgust, and then steps outside to be sick. How do you think that makes us feel? Again, all of this could be prevented if people were simply willing to wait for our reports, which are consistently filed in a timely fashion.

At the very least, we ask that when a pair of detectives enter our morgue, they refrain from finishing each other's sentences and then cracking a joke at the end. If a man has had the misfortune to be decapitated, it's simply disrespectful to have some slick detective say that he "quit while he was ahead." Frankly, it's enough to make me choke on my sandwich.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Consistency is key

If you read Shakespeare you'll find not everyone in the king's court meant business. Shakespeare's King Lear is a story of an aged king with his troublesome children and a court jester simply called the "Fool". Such sounds like our current administration, but who's our jester? Well, the person dressing for that role is Pennsylvania Senator, John Fetterman.

I've seen loads of comments complaining about Senator Chuck Shumer's decision to lift the Senate dress code. While I am a millennial I am obviously, to those who know me, conservative and straitlaced. Before marrying my wife, I joked to her that I wore a necktie to bed. That being said: I think those complaining about the lax dress code are being hypocritical.

The citizens complaining about the senate dress code are the same ones who say schools should not have dress codes. "They're kids: let them wear what they want." Such a statement depreciates children. Children, students, are nothing short of "professionals in training."

What, who, is a professional? Someone with multiple college degrees? Someone who works in an office? Someone who wears a lab coat and goggles? No. Merriam Webster's defines "professional" secondly as one participating in a field for gain or livelihood, but the primary definition is "exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace."

I like a professional electrician, meaning a man that doesn't use a string of profanities in front of my son while working in our home. I like a professional plumber, meaning a man who does not, stereotypi-

cally, show his backside to my wife while working in our home. I like a professional mechanic, meaning a man who does not smoke cigarettes inside of my car while working in it. No matter your occupation, be a professional. How one dresses is, in fact, a facet of their professionalism.

Comments like, "Such dress is disrespectful to the political office" or "It's disrespectful to the constituents" are, again, hypocritical. Have you seen how these citizens dress for "church"? Would a strapless miniskirt for women, or cargo shorts and an NFL t-shirt for men be appropriate on the senate floor? If not, then how are either appropriate in a worship assembly?

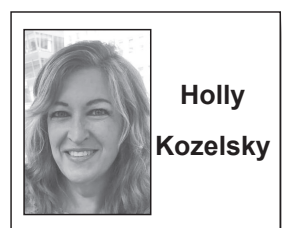
Though unbeknownst to many this principle is in the Bible. In Genesis 41:14 Joseph shaves and changes his clothes before approaching Pharaoh, and in Malachi 1:8 God's prophet essentially asks, "If it's not acceptable to your governor how do you think it's acceptable to God?" We need to clean up!

Someone says, "I thought 1Samuel 16:7 said God doesn't look on the outward appearance." Why then did Paul write about "modest apparel" in 1Timothy 2:9-10? My pajamas are appropriate for the bedroom, but not the grocery store. Things I might wear to the grocery store might not be appropriate in a worship assembly.

If you don't believe in the Bible, then just quote Mark Twain: "Clothes make the man..." Who said, "Dress for the job you want, not the one you have"? Maybe it was Shakespeare.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

A fond farewell to summer



Holly Kozelsky

Where to start?

I decided to start in that really messy area way out there by the road. Since it can't be seen from the house, I don't even notice it anymore, other than averting my eyes from it when I drive home and turn the corner.

I used to be motivated by a self-imposed deadline: A lot of ladies I know -- some from Garden Club -- pass by my house on the way to Monday ceramics classes with Carolyn Jackson. I'd hustle to get the area by the road mown and weeded by Sunday so that when they passed my yard on Monday it would look good.

I forgot about that this year, though (or was it last year)?

Then this year my daughter's school bus picked her up and dropped her off at that front yard rather than the side that's closer to the house. I didn't want her to be embarrassed by a mess, so that's where I started.

When we moved here, my stepfather, who knew how I loved to plant things here and there, took a long look up and down the roadside and said to my stepmother, "They ain't gonna see nothing of her but butt and elbows."

Though he used a less newspaper-friendly word than "butt," and even though she's a prim and proper lady who never cusses, she laughed in

agreement.

I think of that every time I'm working out by the road, so every time I hear a car approach, I turn around so they see my frontside, though that practice slows down my efficiency considerably.

Now the countdown is in earnest: How many more times of mowing before we can stop; how many more weekends that aren't tied up with weddings and cookouts and community events that we can dedicate to doing yard work; how many more evenings after work could we reasonably expect to accomplish anything while working around supper, chores and driving around for kids' extracurricular activities -- before the time change (which is Nov. 5).

Then we hit a time when it is so cold and miserable outside that no matter what the yard looks like, we ain't going out there for nothing.

Winter will bring a couple of months of freedom, and of promises we'll grass over some of the garden beds, do a better job of mulching others and not get in over our heads again.

But, sure enough, once again we'll have spring fever. It carries us along so buoyantly that we prepare and nurture every garden bed. Surely this euphoria will last forever.

Until, once again, it doesn't.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Fall down, 5. Gas usage measurement, 8. Golf score, 11. A superior grade of black tea, 13. Wrath, 14. Eating house, 15. Delay leaving a place, 16. People now inhabiting Myanmar, 17. Canadian flyers, 18. Walks back and forth, 20. Frequently, 21. Humans have two, 22. Surrounds with armed forces, 25. Made proper, 30. Medical buildings, 31. Patty Hearst's captors, 32. Hits with a drop shot, 33. Italy's PM 1919-20, 38. Promotions, 41. En __: incidentally, 43. Queens baseball team, 45. Commoner, 47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.), 49. Payroll firm, 50. Broadway actress, 55. Skipper butterflies, 56. Hint, 57. Daniel __, French composer, 59. English children's author Blyton, 60. Midway between east and southeast, 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation, 62. Patriotic women's group, 63. The woman, 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant, CLUES DOWN: 1. Parts per thousand (abbr.), 2. Jump, 3. Eaten as a vegetable, 4. Residual paresis after anesthesia, 5. Brunchtime staple, 6. Makes money off of, 7. Refined, 8. Nocturnal S. American rodents, 9. From a distance, 10. Officials, 12. It helps you see, 14. Central Canadian indigenous person, 19. Invests in little enterprises, 23. They help in tough situations, 24. Industrial port in Poland, 25. Type of screen, 26. Peyton's little brother, 27. Alcoholic beverage, 28. Newspapers need it, 29. Herbal tea, 34. Distinctive practice, 35. Exercise system __-bo, 36. Explosive, 37. Belonging to a thing, 39. Presidential candidates engage in them, 40. Of the Swedes, 41. Meadow-grass, 42. "Rule, Britannia" composer, 44. Hooray!, 45. Greek city, 46. One way to do it by example, 47. Limited, 48. "Game of Thrones" actress, 51. Swiss river, 52. Drought-resistant plant, 53. A French abbot, 54. One point east of northeast, 58. Get free of

Martinsville residents wins ValleyStar Credit Union's car giveaway

Elivia Rigney, of Martinsville, is the proud new owner of a 2023 Toyota Camry, courtesy of ValleyStar Credit Union's "Scan Me, Win Me" car giveaway.

The car giveaway, which ran from August 4 to September 17, offered participants the chance to win a state-of-the-art Toyota Camry simply by scanning a QR code and entering the sweepstakes. Thousands of people across the region participated, making it one of our most successful giveaways to date.

Rigney was overjoyed when her key started

the car at the ValleyStar 300. Her family was there to support her and were thrilled for her as well. The prize, a 2023 Toyota Camry, is known for its cutting-edge features, exceptional performance, and sleek design. It's the perfect vehicle for Elivia to enjoy the open road in style and comfort.

"We are delighted to have Elivia as our winner," said Mike Warrell, ValleyStar CEO. "Our goal has always been to provide incredible opportunities and experiences to our communities, and this giveaway was successful in doing

that. We look forward to continuing to bring excitement and joy to our members and the communities we serve through future promotions and giveaways."

ValleyStar would like to congratulate Elivia Rigney once again for winning the car giveaway and thank all participants and our supporters, Martinsville Speedway and Nelson Automotive Group, for making this giveaway a resounding success. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates on future giveaways and exciting promotions.

Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan Gains Federal Approval

The federal government has approved Virginia's application to change the essential health benefits (EHB) benchmark plan for Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans offered in the Commonwealth in the individual and small-group markets beginning January 1, 2025. The EHB benchmark plan sets the required benefits that must be provided by comprehensive fully insured individual and small-group health insurance coverage issued in Virginia. This is the first time changes have been made to Virginia's EHB benchmark plan since 2017.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency primarily responsible for ACA oversight, approved Virginia's application in late August.

The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) submitted the application pursuant to legislation passed by the 2023 Virginia General Assembly directing the Bureau to select a new EHB benchmark plan for plan year 2025.

In addition to the legislation regarding the 2025 EHB benchmark plan, the 2023 General Assembly passed legislation that establishes a new formalized process for future review and updates to Virginia's EHB benchmark plan.

"We are pleased to announce CMS's approval of these benefits for the 2025 EHB benchmark plan as specified by the Virginia General Assembly," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White. "We look forward to our continuing future review of potential health benefit options to present to legislators for possible inclusion in the EHB benchmark plan for individuals and small groups who purchase fully insured health coverage in Virginia."

Among the changes that have been made to Virginia's EHB benchmark plan for qualifying health plans that begin January 1, 2025, are the following:

- Coverage for enhanced prosthetic devices and components – the new EHB benchmark plan redefines medically necessary prosthetics to include myoelectric, biomechanical or microprocessor-controlled prosthetic devices; and

- Formula and enteral nutrition products for inherited metabolic disorders as medicine – the new EHB benchmark plan requires coverage of orally administered, medically necessary formula and removes the requirement that medically necessary medical formula provide more than 51% of caloric needs.

Benefit changes to Virginia's EHB benchmark plans do not apply to grandfathered plans or large-group plans, such as plans offered through large employers (51 or more employees).

A state's EHB benchmark plan must include coverage for the following:

- *Ambulatory patient services
- *Emergency services
- *Hospitalization
- *Maternity and newborn care
- *Mental health and substance use disorder services
- *Prescription drugs
- *Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices
- *Laboratory services
- *Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
- *Pediatric services, including oral and vision care

For questions or to learn more about Virginia's 2025 EHB benchmark plan, contact the Bureau of Insurance by telephone at 804-371-9741 in Richmond or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560, by email at BureauofInsurance@scv.virginia.gov, or visit its website at [Virginia SCC - Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan](http://VirginiaSCC-EssentialHealthBenefitsBenchmarkPlan.com).

Trevor Ward Clocks Biggest Win of Career in ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway



For Trevor Ward, patience was key as he waited until the final stage of the race to make his move to win the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 at Martinsville Speedway after Mother Nature delayed NASCAR's biggest and richest Late Model Stock Car race to Sunday.

Ward also pulled off a come-from-behind victory in the Virginia Triple Crown points to earn the \$7,000 bonus. Ward entered tonight's race third in points, after finishing third at South Boston Speedway and seventh at Langley Speedway. His win allowed him to put together an average finish of 3.67 at the trio of tracks, while Brenden "Butterbean" Queen finished 10th in the race and second in the Triple Crown with an average finish of 4.33. Peyton Sellers was third with an average finish of 9.67.

"It's awesome and we put in the work to do it this year. It's the first time I've even run for it," Ward said of winning the Virginia Triple Crown. "It's just amazing, I love that they do the Triple Crown deal and put this gig together. It makes a lot of people race harder and it makes you look forward to the races that are coming up."

One of the fastest cars all weekend had trouble early in the race, as Ryan Millington came to a stop in turn four when the power steering belt broke on his No. 15C only 28 laps into the race. He had been running fifth at the time after leading wire-to-wire to win his qualifying race earlier in the day.

2016 race winner Mike Looney spun 37 laps in and collected a handful of cars in turn four, bringing out a red flag to clean up the incident. Looney ultimately went behind the wall less than 60 laps into the race.

At the halfway break, pole sitter Bobby McCarty remained on point, winning the \$1,000 bonus awarded at Lap 100 by Clarence's Steakhouse. Carson Kvapil was second, Ward was third, Landon Huffman was in fourth and Doug Barnes Jr. wrapped up the top five.

Kvapil and McCarty battled for the lead at the start of the second half of the race, with Kvapil taking the lead from McCarty after just a pair of laps. McCarty then quickly slipped back to fourth, in what may have been the start of bigger trouble brewing for the favorite.

With 55 laps to go, McCarty went up in smoke and came to a stop in turn four, bringing out a caution and eliminating him from the running for his first ValleyStar Credit Union 300 win.

"Just had a motor go, just unfortunate," McCarty

said after exiting the race. "I don't know if it started at the halfway break, just felt like I was driving through mud."

But Ward continued to lurk near the front of the field for the entire race, and as a series of unfortunate circumstances took out top contenders and set up late-race restarts, he capitalized on a perfectly set-up car to hold off Landon Huffman in a fierce battle through the final laps.

After the caution for McCarty's blown engine set up a close battle at the front with 35 to go, Ward started to pressure Kvapil, with Sellers right on his bumper in third. By the final break with 25 to go, Huffman had joined the picture and was right next to Sellers as the caution flag flew for the break.

Kvapil captured the \$1,000 bonus for leading at lap 175, and led the field back to green for the final 25-lap segment.

A fierce battle between Sellers, Ward, Huffman and Kvapil ensued and Sellers initially held the advantage. But he wasn't able to get away, as Ward continued to poke his nose inside Sellers – finally taking the lead and pulling away with less than 20 laps remaining in the race.

A late caution bunched the leaders back up and set up the key restart with seven laps to go. Ward took the inside and Sellers restarted outside of him with Kvapil behind him in row two. Sellers and Ward came together as they came to the start/finish line, which sent Sellers backwards on the outside. He recovered to land in fourth as everything sorted out on the track.

Huffman shuffled through on the inside to take the lead, but Ward stayed right on his bumper. As they came to the line with two laps to go, Ward was ahead of Huffman on the inside. The pair came together as they got to the white flag, but both maintained control, leaning on each other through the final lap when Ward edged out Huffman for the checkered flag.

"I didn't know it was going to boil down to the last 25 laps and what it was we needed to do, but all in all, I knew it was going to take a good driving car to do it tonight," said Ward, who collected his first Martinsville Grandfather clock with the win. "A lot of times these cars, they get in heat cycles, and they'll go haywire then you'll burn the tires up, but this car never changed all night. I can't thank everyone enough for what they've done for me."

Earlier in the afternoon, the qualifying races that set the field for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 brought the heat, as there were no drivers locked in

for the main event leading in.

McCarty led the field to green in the first qualifying race after setting the fastest lap in Friday's qualifying session, and ultimately took the checkered in the race. Defending race winner Sellers and 2023 South Boston Speedway track champion Carter Langley both advanced out of the opening qualifying race.

Huffman was on point for the start of the second race, and in a race that saw six cautions, finished second to Barnes to advance. Looney finished third to advance.

Meanwhile, newly crowned NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series national champion Connor Hall nearly saw his ValleyStar Credit Union 300 chances vanish when he tangled with Magnum Tate going into turn one on a late-race restart, losing the driver's side door panel from his car. But he bounced back to finish 10th and advance to the main event.

Kvapil started on pole for the third qualifying race, with Queen alongside him – and the pair finished one-two.

The 2023 ARCA Menards Series East champion William Sawalich was solidly inside the top 10 with three laps to go when he wrecked in Turn 3, with Kyle Dudley. The damage bent up his hood and the team couldn't rebound. He finished 14th and failed to make the main race.

The fourth and final heat race spelled trouble for 2021 race winner Landon Pembleton, who faced some difficulties a mere four laps into the final qualifying race. The team ultimately couldn't recover from the damage to advance, finishing 14th in the final qualifying race.

Next up at Martinsville Speedway will be the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season finale on Thursday, Oct. 26, and penultimate races of the Xfinity Series in the Dead On Tools 250 on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. and the Cup Series in the Xfinity 500 on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 2:00 p.m. In an intense short track battle that can only happen at Martinsville, the Dead On Tools 250 and Xfinity 500 will set the field for the respective series for the NASCAR Championships the following week at Phoenix Raceway.

Tickets to the NASCAR Playoff weekend and the Valley Start Credit Union 300 are available for purchase via phone at 877-RACE-TIX or online at martinsvillespeedway.com.

Garcia from page 1

reverse some of the economic problems across the U.S. and Virginia, Garcia believes the government needs to concentrate on rural America and blue-collar workers of all backgrounds and persuasions.

“We got to bring jobs and opportunities back to smaller towns to start to rebuild them, and hopefully when we do that, there’ll be less of an inflow into some of these overpopulated population centers like Northern Virginia,” he said.

There, Garcia said the number of people and workers makes it difficult to find housing and jobs that support the expensive cost of living prevalent in the area.

“So, we’re kind of in a bad scenario on both sides,” he said. “I think to reverse that, we got to have a blue-collar agenda outside of the population center. We got to focus on rural America and rural Virginia.”

Garcia said he talks about jobs and opportunities more than anything else because he thinks if the United States is strong domestically, it can be strong internationally.

“I think America’s struggling right now internationally because we’re so weak domestically,” he said. “We’ve got to reengineer the outsourcing, and offshoring that we’ve seen take place over the last 30 years.”

To do that, Garcia said the U.S. needs to grow job sectors it can lean on in a future economy, such as robotics, cyber security, industry, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

A sensible energy policy will lessen or end the country’s current dependency on foreign powers for oil and other energy sources, Garcia said.

“I believe we need a lower 48-state nuclear energy program that connects all lower 48-states,” he said of the program that would “drive down the cost of energy overall, employ people in

the next 30 years because it’s going to build out. I think that’s how we start to reengineer what’s been hollowed out for 30 years.”

While it may take “30 years to bring back, you got to start now,” he said, adding he doesn’t think anyone in D.C. is focusing on solutions.

Education

Garcia is running on a national school-choice voucher program.

“I think that the purpose of education is for the betterment of the child, and right now there’s a lot of money that comes from the federal government that gets split off in a variety of places before it gets to the education of that child,” he said.

Through the school voucher program, Garcia wants to give a voucher, money for a child, directly to the parents so they can decide what they want to do.

“If they want to homeschool their kid, they can cash in that voucher and homeschool their kid,” he said.

For example, Garcia said he and his wife homeschooled their two daughters for two years. At the same time, the Arlington Public School District received nearly \$20,000 per child per year.

“So, \$ 40,000-year number one, and \$ 40,000-year number two,” he said. “We didn’t get a tax break, we didn’t get a deduction, we didn’t qualify for any programs, we had to pay for all the curriculum and all the supplies from our own pocket. Meanwhile, the \$40,000 still went to the public school system.”

Garcia said those funds could help a parent who earns about \$40,000 a year in a regular job and is sending her two children to a failing public school.

“She could be able to stay, homeschool her kids, collect the same

amount of money, and actually spend time and educate her kids; raise her kids,” he said.

As a family and faith conservative, Garcia said families should be encouraged to spend as much time with their children as possible “as that’s how children learn the best.”

If families don’t want to homeschool their children, Garcia said the vouchers can subsidize private schools, charter schools, and other alternative school types.

With this program, Garcia said class sizes in public schools will be reduced because fewer children would attend public schools. This will allow for more adult supervision, more quality learning, and fewer distractions for those remaining students.

Term-Limits

Garcia said incumbents win nearly 90 percent of all elections, partially because they spend their entire time in public office raising money. Others spend time working for their families and futures.

He believes setting and enforcing term limits would level the playing field in campaign finances and fundraising by allowing voters to elect people who represent them, their values, and their interests.

“I will fight for term limits and provide an opportunity for regular people to represent the working class of this nation,” he said.

Affordable Housing

Garcia said he will do three things to help solve the affordable housing crisis, first by expanding the low-income tax credit for affordable housing, which doesn’t punish recipients from seeking higher incomes and better employment as other programs do.

“Second, I will introduce a bill that takes \$2 billion of the near-

ly \$4 billion currently designated for Community Development Block grants in the Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill and require that that money be spent specifically on affordable housing developments, all across the nation,” he said.

Finally, with the creation of this new fund, Garcia would stipulate that the funds be released only if the state and local government can fast-track affordable housing developments within a 24-month time frame, he said.

Garcia said housing development projects currently take an estimated five years between submission and the actual breaking of ground.

“My plan reduces that length of time and increases housing availability. It brings more homes to the market and affordable housing to workers who can’t afford to live in the cities that they work in. This is how we solve problems,” he said.

Garcia, an Army veteran who served for 22 years, completed six combat deployments, three in Iraq and three in Afghanistan. He was also a member of the special operations community for 14 years, where he commanded paratroopers in the 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Following his active-duty service, Garcia spent five years serving as a national security advisor and legislative liaison where he worked with policy experts, legislators, and the Pentagon to pass legislation on national security, the welfare of veterans, and Gold Star families.

Garcia has a B.A. in Business Administration and an M.A. in Information Technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He also has an M.A. in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Ferrell from page 1



Martinsville Police Chief Robert Fincher presented information about a proposed city ordinance regarding camera speed monitoring and enforcement in school zones.



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR BOYD

Some Martinsville City Council members are pictured at Tuesday's meeting.

and assisted in selecting finalists for interviews with the Council.

The council expressed their appreciation for the services of Interim City Manager Glen Adams, as they completed the search for a new city manager.

Ferrell-Benavides received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University and an MPA from Howard University. She completed the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia, the Inter-governmental Executive Development Program at Harold Washington College, and the Executive Leadership Institute through the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. Ms. Ferrell-Benavides is a member of the International City and County Management Association (ICMA), the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

“The City Council has a great vision for the community that is focused on good government and enhancing the quality of life for residents,” Ferrell-Benavides said. “I particularly look forward to working with local and regional partners on important revitalization and economic development projects. I appreciate the confidence that the Council has shown in me. I am looking forward to getting settled in the city and getting to know and serve the employees and citizens of Martinsville,” she continued.

Ferrell-Benavides will assume her duties as Martinsville City Manager in early October.

In other matters, the council:

*Adopted a proposed ordinance regarding camera speed monitoring and enforcement in school zones. Martinsville City Chief of Police Robert Fincher said there would be two cameras, one for each lane of traffic.

The fine for speeding would be \$100 and citations would be mailed to offenders. The tickets will not go against drivers on their driving record and can be fought in court.

“The layout of our schools has made traditional speed enforcement efforts difficult, if not somewhat dangerous in certain areas,” Fincher said. “Some of the areas we can do more traditional methods of the police car running radar, but some of them such as like in front of the middle school, in front of the high school, at Patrick Henry (Patrick & Henry Community College), and directly in front of Albert Harris (Elementary School), it becomes dangerous.”

Fincher said chasing after a speeder makes the police do what the department doesn’t want others to do – speed through a school zone.

“But two, if we run into a situation where someone is wanted or that they have other intentions, the last thing we want to do is have disasters happen in front of the school kids,” he said.

Fincher said localities that have enacted a similar

ordinance and use it have experienced a 94 percent reduction in violators.

*Appointed Martha Gretchen Wickliffe Citizens Advisory Board.

*Approved the meeting minutes.

*Recognized city employees who are eligible for service awards for July 1-September 31, 2023, for their years of service to the city.

*Read a proclamation naming April 19 to April 22, 2024, as Earth Day weekend.

*Scheduled a public hearing for Oct. 24, 2023, to consider setting a public hearing regarding the city’s possible participation in the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) program.

*Approved the Industrial Revitalization Funds resolution for One Ellsworth, for mixed-use housing and commercial spaces.

*Heard an update on services and programs from the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

*Heard information relating to the Alliance for National and Community Resilience (ANCR).

*Tabled approving a resolution to appoint and provide correct terms of office for Directors of the Industrial Development Authority until the Oct. 24 meeting.

*Approved the Housing Development Consultant Agreement.

*Heard from Fincher on projects that would help transportation and other public works projects.

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Henry County Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor’s discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Henry County Enterprise.

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

Fieldale man Indicted in alleged real estate scam

A federal grand jury in Roanoke returned an indictment last week charging a Fieldale man with engaging in a fraud scheme in connection with a residential real estate transaction valued at more than \$1.3 million.

An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

According to court documents, Herman Lee Estes Jr., 40, who was on federal pretrial supervision due to an illegal firearms charge, contacted a real estate agent on January 17, 2023, inquiring about purchasing a Roanoke County property then listed at \$1.2 million, according to allegations.

Estes allegedly falsely represented to the agent that he was due a tax refund of \$18 million, which would soon be transferred to his estate as part of a trust.

On January 25, he pleaded guilty to federal firearms charge and remained on pretrial release pending sentencing.

In March 2023, Estes allegedly again contacted the real estate agent, falsely stating that his tax refund had cleared, and he was ready to move forward with the purchase of the property. At Estes's direction, the real estate agent prepared a cash offer for the property in the amount of \$1.3 million.

To prove he had funds available, Estes is alleged to have provided a letter, dated March 29, which indicated he had been approved for a private real estate loan in the amount of \$1,315,000. In addition, he allegedly provided the real estate agent a phone number for a person he represented to be the manager of his purported trust. The real estate agent contacted this individual, who falsely claimed to be Estes's trust manager and then approved the cash offer. The contract was ratified, and the parties proceeded to closing.

On April 10, 2023, Estes is alleged to have provided the settlement company a 62-page 'extension of credit' document, which he falsely represented to be trust documents, as part of his closing procedures. Estes stated that he did not deal with public banks but rather dealt 'directly with the Federal Reserve Bank'.

Documents allege that Estes paid for the property with a fraudulent cashier's check, with a routing number purported to be drawn from the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, in the amount of \$1,307,199.43. He allegedly shipped the check via FedEx on April 12, 2023.

On April 13, 2023, the fraudulent check was deposited by a settlement company into its account at American National Bank and Trust. Closing for the sale occurred the following day, the deed was recorded with the Circuit Court of Roanoke County, and Estes took possession of the property.

On April 17, 2023, the purported cashier's check was returned by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and marked fraudulent.

Estes is charged with one count of bank fraud, one count of wire fraud, and one count of mail fraud, and with committing each of these offenses while on federal pretrial release. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh of the Western District of Virginia made the announcement.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which handled the previous federal firearms investigation, is investigating this case, with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service. The Federal Reserve Board, Office of Inspector General, and the Roanoke County Police Department have also assisted in the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristin B. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

Grant to help with supplies for community spay/neuter surgeries

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA announced that Banfield Foundation is supporting its 2024 community spay/neuter initiative "Critters Without Litters." As part of the agency's 50th anniversary plans, it will subsidize the spay/neuter of 500 animals during 2024 for low-income residents of Martinsville and Henry County.

The \$10,000 grant will be used to purchase some of the necessary supplies for each spay or neuter procedure. Low-income community residents will only have to pay \$20 per surgery, with the remaining costs covered by the Critters Without Litters campaign. Every animal spayed or neutered by the SPCA receives a rabies vaccine and a microchip.

"Almost 90% of our clients qualify for low-income pricing and depend on us for spay/neuter services. It is our goal to help encourage the health and well-being of beloved pets within the community whose families may not be able to afford standard costs but dearly love their animals," said Catherine Gupton, executive director of the SPCA.

To learn more about Martinsville-Henry County SPCA or Banfield Foundations, visit www.spcamhc.org and BanfieldFoundation.org.

The program is funded through pesticide product registration fees collected by VDACS.

The following is a list of the 2023 collection sites and schedule. All locations are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Drop sites, dates of Pesticide Collection Program

Farmers, pesticide dealers, pest control firms, certified applicators, homeowners and golf course operators are encouraged to participate in the 2023 Virginia Pesticide Collection Program. The program collects unwanted, outdated or banned pesticides, at no cost to eligible participants, and disposes of them in a safe manner.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of Pesticide Services, with participation from Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, oversee the program, which has collected and destroyed more than 1.8 million pounds of outdated and unwanted pesticides since its inception.

County Agriculture Marketing Center, 1001 Farmway Ln., Scottsburg, Va.
Oct. 5 - Piedmont Farmers Cooperative (Formerly known as Southern States Chatham Co-op), 485 Tightsqueeze Industrial Road, Chatham, Va.
Oct. 11 - National Guard Armory, 315 Commonwealth Blvd. W., Martinsville, Va.

Oct. 3 - Nutrien Ag (Fertilizer Warehouse), 204 South Lunenburg Ave., South Hill, Va.
Oct. 4 - Halifax

Performances set for Doubt, A Parable

The performance dates for Theatreworks Community Players version of "Doubt, A Parable," are Oct. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7 p.m., and Oct. 15, 22 at 2 p.m.

The 2005 play, written by John Patrick Shanley, analyzes an instance of doubt and suspicion in a Catholic school (St.

Nicholas). Set in the Bronx in 1964, the play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest, Father Flynn, and a young male student.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. A Friday Night UPTown Bundle is \$30, and

includes a \$20 voucher to redeem at Hugo's Restaurant any day after the performance (valid until 12/31/23). This is a \$40 value. Available only in advance online for a Friday Night performance only (Oct. 13 and Oct. 20).

Visit <https://theatreworks-community-players-inc-334885-square.site/> for tickets.

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Oct. 1-7:

10/3	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Magna Vista
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at George Washington (Bonner M.S.)
10/4	5pm	Cross Country	Magna Vista at George Washington (Dan Daniel Memorial Park)
	5pm	Cross Country	Martinsville at George Washington (Dan Daniel Memorial Park)
10/5	4:15p	Cross Country	Bassett at Abingdon (Sugar Hollow Park)
	7pm	Volleyball	Bassett at Martinsville
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Tunstall
10/6	7pm	Football	Tunstall at Bassett
	7pm	Football	Magna Vista at Gretna
	7pm	Football	George Washinton at Martinsville
10/7	TBA	Cross Country	Bassett at Hagan Stone Park
	1:30p	Boys Soccer	Carlisle at Hargrave Military Academy

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

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://p1ow4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

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 **October 11, 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 the applications to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **October 24, 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-23-15 Willie Jeff and Janet C. Evans
The property is located at 544 Valley Dr, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 39.2(7)/11F. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5.6-acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to continue to keep chickens on the property.

Case R-23-16 Kevin D. and Brenda C. Cochran
The property is located at immediately west and south of 2955 Dillons Fork Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 39.2/69B. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 12.5-acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to market the property to potentially be used for agricultural purposes.

Case R-23-17 Charles M., Patricia Turner and others
The property is located at 4990 Stones Dairy Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 25.5/261B. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3.42-acres from Mixed Residential District M-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to build accessory structure(s) on the property larger than what is allowed under the Mixed Residential zoning.

Case R-23-18 Leobardo Ramirez and Daisy Ramirez /EI Escondite
The property is located at 34 Tower Rd, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 16.8(22)/3E. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.79-acres from Industrial District I-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to establish a restaurant in the existing building.

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

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

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

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

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

Look out for others during Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month

As Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month approaches, every road user should be mindful of an alarming uptick in nationwide fatalities involving walkers and bikers.

Transportation planners and officials learned more details at September's DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit in Blacksburg. Virginia Farm Bureau was among the event's sponsors.

Senior transportation planner Michael Farrell is bicycle and pedestrian coordinator for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Street Smart program. He promotes safety campaigns in the densely populated D.C. region, which includes several Northern Virginia counties.

Pedestrian fatalities have risen post-COVID 19, hitting a 40-year high in 2021 across the U.S. Then, drivers struck and killed 3,434 pedestrians in just the first six months of 2022, up 5% from the same period in 2021.

"Our own region is no exception," Farrell said. "We had an increase of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities in 2022 that was 37% over 2021, which basically wipes out 20 years' worth of progress reducing these fatalities."

DSV's 2022 annual report showed 171 pedestrians and 11 bicyclists were killed on Virginia roadways. Additionally, 529 cyclists and 1,390 pedestrians were injured.

Regional police departments increased enforcement last spring, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who break traffic safety laws. Fines range from

\$40 to \$500.

One resounding message for non-motorists—be safe, be seen. Bike lights help.

"And wear something reflective, especially in the fall, because that's when we have the most pedestrian crashes, in October and November, when the weather is better for walking," Farrell explained.

The following are safety tips from BeStreetSmart.net:

When driving:

*Avoid distractions, and stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

*Be cautious when passing buses or stopped vehicles.

*When turning, yield to walkers and cyclists, and look for bikes before opening your door.

*Be especially careful if you drive a large vehicle with blind spots.

When walking:

*Cross the street at the corner, and use marked crosswalks when available.

*Use the push-buttons, and wait for the crossing signal. Look left, right and left again before crossing.

*Be aware of blind spots around trucks and buses.

*Avoid using your cell phone while crossing the street.

When biking:

*Never ride against traffic. Stay in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars.

*Use hand signals to communicate with motorists.

*Wear a helmet, and use lights at night and when visibility is poor.

Grace

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range from \$4-\$45, depending on size (diameter).

The pumpkin patch is open 7 days a week through October 31. The hours are Monday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.



Grace Network Executive Director Tracy Hinchcliff (left) and board members Larissa Rash (right) and Mary Nester post the Pumpkin Patch sign.



Along with traditional jack-o-lantern pumpkins, a variety of other kinds are available. Grace Network board member Larissa Rash (from left), who works at Fidelity Bank, shows a swan gourd; Executive Director Tracy Hinchcliff shows an elf house pumpkin; Taylor Hodges of Fidelity Bank shows a gizmo pumpkin; and Grace Network board vice president Mary Nester shows wing gourds.



Local trustees worked from inside the pumpkin delivery truck, handing pumpkins down to other people, and once the truck was emptied of pumpkins they took out the hay.

Celebrity Impostor Scams

This October is National Cyber Security month and AARP is focused on shining a light on the most prevalent online scams including celebrity impostors. Stars like Bruce Springsteen, Trace Adkins and Oprah Winfrey are among thousands of celebrities whose personas have been used by scammers online to solicit money from fans.

These days, celebrities share career news, personal views, even travel videos on social media and interact with fans in comment threads. Criminal scammers take advantage of that by trying to convince fans that they have special direct access to that celebrity online. The way it works is a fan will get a direct message out of the blue from a favorite musician,

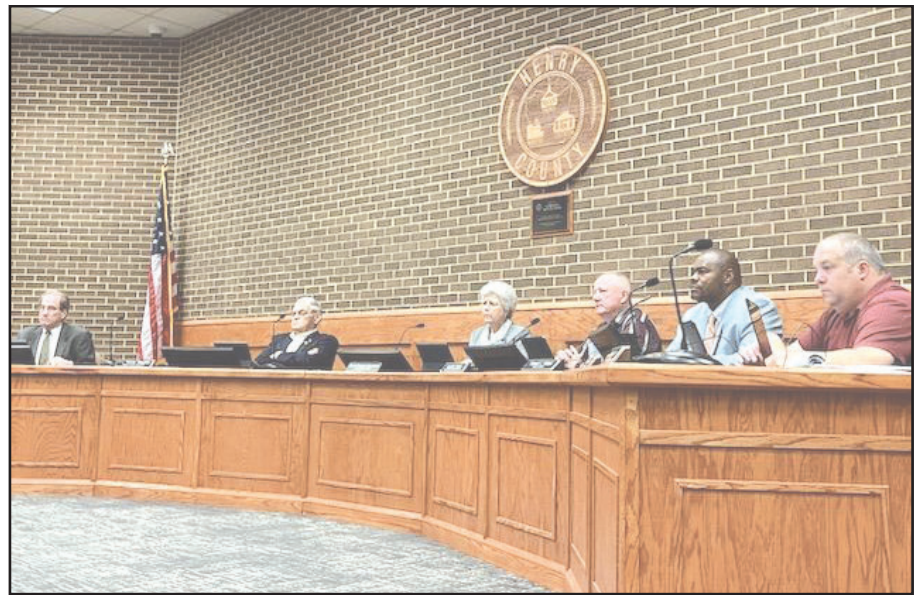
actor or athlete. They will send out tens of thousands of these messages knowing that while most people will be skeptical — it only takes one person who is excited to make money.

While the ask might vary between money for charity or an investment opportunity or limited access event and even love, it is always a scam. Remember, never share your personal information with or send money to someone you don't know and have only communicated with online, no matter how supposedly famous they are.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Residents

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Members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors listen as Van Drewery lists a number of concerns among residents in his community.

work, and parents transporting their children to and from school.

The traffic is to the "extent that Carver Road is a traffic jam at certain times during the day," Drewery said and added that the logging trucks take a lot of time entering and exiting the company.

"Sometimes, because of the way they enter the property, some motorists are even going past the trucks, crossing over the double yellow lines. That's an awful safety hazard, and we need someone to take a look at this," he said.

At a community meeting at the Carver Road Ruritan Building in April, Drewery said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) indicated that it would do a type of traffic study.

Drewery wonders if VDOT completed that study and what criteria it used to determine whether a traffic signal is needed at the intersection of Carver Road and U.S. 58.

"We think that more traffic control is needed at the intersection," he said.

Regarding VDOT, Drewery said another issue is the shoulders being unsafe for pedestrians to walk on.

"What has been VDOT's schedule for mowing? I've only seen them one time there this year. We have people walk along the road, we have people in wheelchairs, and they cannot move because of the high weeds on the shoulders of the road," he said.

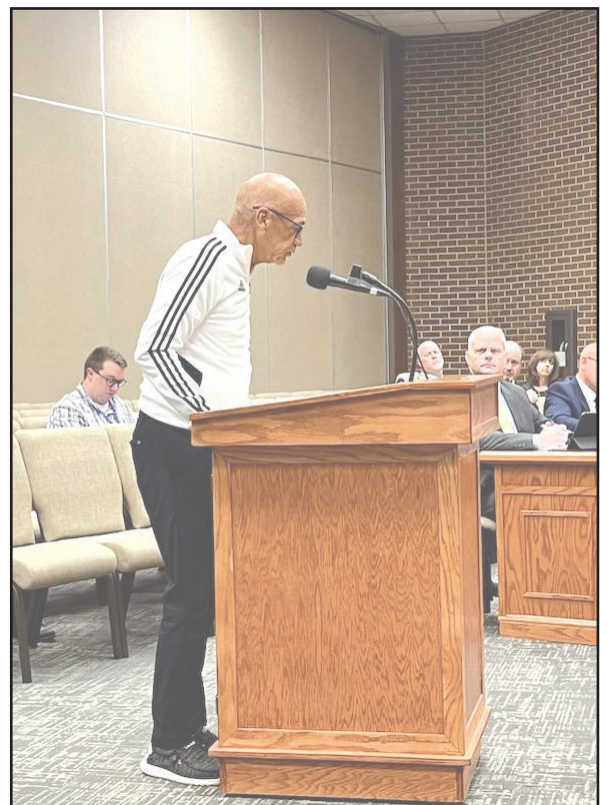
Another question from residents is what efforts have the Virginia State Police taken to decrease speeding on Carver Road?

"It is obvious speeders are causing unsafe conditions on Carver Road," Drewery said.

Also in April, Drewery said residents expressed concern about the zoning status of a piece of property Teal Jones owns that may be zoned residential but is used for other purposes.

"So, we would like to know the status of that," he said.

Drewery also wants to know if there's been any follow-up to what Teal Jones said it would do to improve and address the



Van Drewery, of the Carver Road community, which is situated in the Horsepasture District, detailed a host of issues in his community.

concerns raised by the community.

"We know that our supervisor (Debra Buchanan) and Mr. Powell (Deputy County Administrator JR Powell)" met with representatives from the company, Drewery said. "I think they committed to doing certain things to improve the appearance of the property. We'd like to know what the status of that is."

"Has the board and administration looked at other possible solutions that they could suggest to Teal Jones to improve the safety and health of residents living in close proximity to their business," Drewery asked, noting those issues are again surfacing due to continued dust, mud, and tree bark on the road.

At the community meeting, Drewery said County Attorney George Lyle advised residents that they should contact the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Lyle "wrote a letter and DEQ contacted me, and they've been to Teal Jones on four or five different instances, and they cited them for fugitive dust. Yet the dust still exists," Drewery said.

Overall, Drewery said he wants to know what the board and admin-

istration are doing to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the Carver community and ensure residents are not being put in jeopardy.

"You may ask us, 'What have you done, or what has the community done,'" he said. "We've done a lot of things. You asked us to be patient, and we've been very patient."

Drewery said the community has talked to the Henry County Sheriff's Department, and he recently talked to the Teal Jones plant manager and the human resources manager on a Zoom call about possible improvements to the existing situation at the lumber yard.

"I told them that the bark was still in the road," Drewery said, adding he was told "That's a law enforcement issue." Additionally, Drewery said he was told "it's the law office's responsibility to make sure that the logging trucks are not depositing bark on the road," and that law enforcement "should be issuing them tickets."

Drewery said Carver Road residents are requesting law enforcement officers to do their job.

"Issue the tickets," he said.

Guitar Maker to Perform at 50th Blue Ridge Folklife Festival

Wayne Henderson, a guitar maker, will be performing at this year's 50th Folklife Festival.

Though he is a native of Virginia, Henderson has played countless performances in Western North Carolina, been a member of Western North Carolina bands, and influenced many regional musicians, through both his music and craft. He developed a unique style of using a thumb pick and fingerpicks, making his playing sound like flatpicking, with fast, accurate, and clean notes.

For nearly 50 years, Henderson



Wayne Henderson

has also been making and repairing acoustic guitars.

The 50th Folklife Festival will be held

October 28 at the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum at Ferrum College. To purchase festival tickets and

learn more about the festival visit the event page at <https://blueridgeinstitute.org/blue-ridge-folklife-festival/>.



P&HCC Named a 2023 Great College to Work

Patrick & Henry Community College is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program.

The results, released Monday in a special insert of The Chronicle of Higher Education, are based on a survey of 194 colleges and universities. In all, 72 of those institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Patrick & Henry Community College included among the small universities with 500 to 2,999 students.

"Patrick & Henry Community College is a great college to work for because we are on a mission to empower our students and their families to achieve economic success. We do this by providing education and training that leads to high demand jobs with wages that can support a family. In other words, we don't just award degrees, we award "J-O-B" degrees - credentials that open the door to real, tangible career opportunities in our community," said President Greg Hodges.

Patrick & Henry Community College won honors in 6 categories this year: Job Satisfaction & Support, Professional Development, Compensation & Benefits, Mission & Pride, Faculty Experience, and Confidence in Senior Leadership.

Patrick & Henry Community College was also named to the Great Colleges Honor Roll, a status granted to only 42 colleges each

year who are highlighted most across the recognition categories.

"This is a very satisfying affirmation of Patrick & Henry Community College, but our real goal is not recognition - it's being a community that values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense everyone at P&HCC helps to make this a great place to work," said Hodges.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institution questionnaire that captures employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more information and to view all current and previous recognized institutions, visit the Great Colleges program website at GreatCollegesProgram.com and GreatCollegesList.com.

ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results. Pictured are P&HCC employees Gary Dove (Chief of Campus Police), Steve Aaron (Payroll & Leave Specialist), Julie Meador (Associate Professor of Administrative Support Technology & Legal Assisting), and Chloe Mayhew (Coordinator of Dual Enrollment) celebrate the Great College to Work For distinction.

August Economic Indicators Signal Continued Labor Market Strength

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced an increase of just over 7,300 more employed Virginians in August, bringing the total to 226,954 more Virginians employed since January 2022. The labor force participation rate held steady at 66.7 percent, maintaining the highest rate since November 2012. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS," or the "household survey"), the labor force in Virginia increased this month by 3,966 to 4,601,469, the largest number of workers since counting began in 1976.

"Our commonsense agenda continues to deliver results for families and local businesses across the Commonwealth, and Virginians are showing confidence by entering the labor force and achieving record highs," said Youngkin. "Virginians continue to fill the good-paying jobs available across the Commonwealth, and companies in Virginia are expanding and investing in our local communities. Together, we can accelerate this progress and move Virginia to new heights."

The labor force participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population aged 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work, remained unchanged at 66.7 percent in August, continuing the highest labor force participation rate experienced in Virginia since November 2012.

According to BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS," or "the household survey"), Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August remained unchanged at 2.5 percent, which is 0.3 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. The labor force increased by 3,966 to 4,601,469 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,382 to 112,959. The number of employed residents increased by 7,348 to 4,488,510 and Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.3 percentage points

below the national rate, which increased by 0.3 percentage points to 3.8 percent.

"The Commonwealth continued to add employment in August," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "We are maintaining the momentum in Virginia by providing resources for our employers and workers like universal licensing recognition (ULR), and the formation of the new Department of Workforce Development and Advancement will assist this progress in the future."

"Nearly 227,000 more Virginians are employed in the Commonwealth since January 2022, making Virginia a national growth leader," said Secretary of Commerce Caren Merrick. "As a resource for this expanding job market, we remain committed to providing a range of services and manufacturing opportunities for businesses and workers."

BLS publishes an additional employment figure from its Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey"). The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under which the employer pays unemployment insurance. The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. Establishment survey data reflects changes for updated seasonal adjustment factors, and industry classification conversions (NAICS), as part of the annual benchmarking process.

The household survey only distinguishes between whether a person is employed or unemployed, whereas CES counts each employee that is on an employer's payroll. CES excludes business owners, self-employed persons, unpaid volunteers and private household workers, and those on unpaid leave or not working because of a labor dispute.

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.