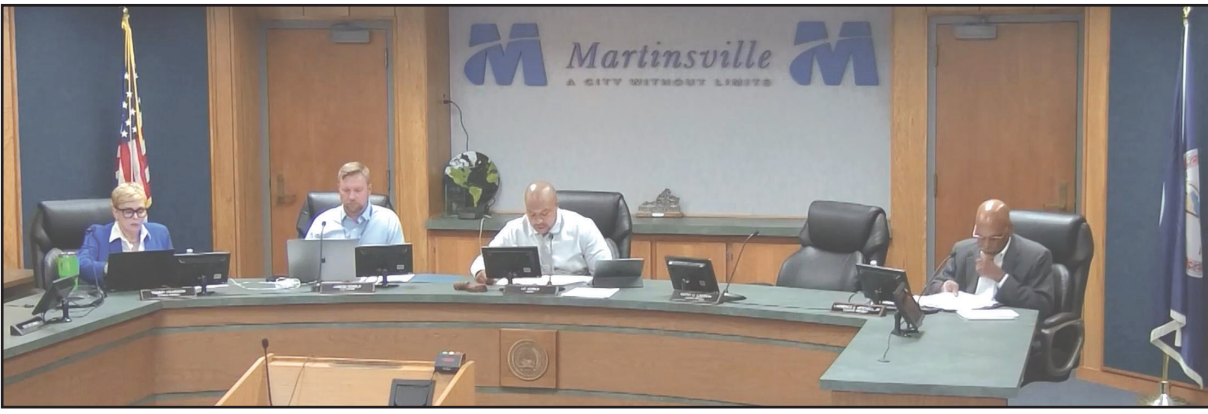


# HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 14, 2023

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Members of Martinsville City Council at a recent meeting.

## MHC Warming Center to receive funds from the city

Taylor Boyd  
Staff writer

The Martinsville City Council at its October 4 meeting approved giving \$35,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help operate the Martinsville-Henry County Warming Center.

The West Piedmont Better Housing Coalition (WPBHC) will serve as the fiscal agent for the center, which will serve as a separate project under the auspices of the WPBHC.

Barbara Seymour, chairman of the Emergency Housing & Community Support Commission, said a separate project accounting and banking will be maintained for the center.

“They will have human resource oversight for the staff, and they will manage the facility agreement

See MHC, page 8



Barbara Seymour, chairman of the Emergency Housing & Community Support Commission, said Martinsville’s \$35,000 contribution will help cover the operating expenses of the Martinsville-Henry County Warming Center.

## MHS Homecoming 2023



Martinsville High School homecoming royalty was crowned at the Sept. 22 homecoming game, but the portraits were recently received. Pictured are Queen Nayti Patel and King Trey Gravely.



Pictured in the group photo (from left) are Prince Cayden Walker, Princess Keara Carter, Queen Nayti Patel, and King Trey Gravely

## School board hears update

Staff Reports

The Martinsville City School Board recently heard an update on the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce’s Education Foundation.

At its meeting last week, the board heard from Sharon Shepherd, deputy director of the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce, and executive director of the chamber’s Education Foundation. The foundation is supported by two fundraisers annually, a Bike Ride in August and Golfing for Education in November. “And we do

See School, page 6



Several school board members and staff were presented a certificate from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA), including board chairman Yvonne Givens, vice chairman Michael Williamson, Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley, and clerk Miyana Smith for their participation in VSBA professional development activities. Givens received an Award of Achievement, Williamson was presented with an Award of Recognition, Talley received an Award of Achievement, and Smith received an Award of Honor.

## Fish Fry to be held Saturday

The American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 139 Creekside Drive, Martinsville, (adjacent to Jordan Creek Park in Fieldale Community).

This is a drive-thru event with limited opportunities for dining-in.

The menu includes:

- Fish sandwiches - \$8
- Home made Desserts - \$2
- Sodas & Water - \$1

To place orders, call (276) 224-5679 or (276) 340-5169.

The rain date for the Fish Fry is Saturday, October 21.

## Incorporating Artificial Intelligence in classrooms

Staff Reports

Members of the Henry County School Board heard the school division’s plans to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning technology into classrooms during its recent meeting.

Phyllis Meade, the division’s Curriculum Coordinator, said that most people use AI daily - when talking to Alexa, Siri, “or for navigation or when they’re using their smartwatches or even when they’re searching for answers on Google.”

She noted that AI has made “tremendous advancements in medical, entertainment, and other career sectors, and it will only continue to increase in the future. We have only begun to understand the potential of this technology to bring new, learning experiences into the classroom.”

Meade said that when AI is used appropriately, “there are some definite strengths for our classrooms and our schools. First of all, students now have access to vast amounts of information. This can be helpful when students want to research a specific topic or have questions about what they are learning.”

Secondly, students “now have access to websites that help personalize learning experiences by analyzing previous interactions and providing tailored responses and recommendations to help them learn,” Meade said. “If a student is struggling with a concept, they can ask AI and receive a response that emulates a personalized tutor.”

Plus, AI is available 24/7, “which means students can access it at any time. This can be especially helpful for students who are working on projects and assignments outside of normal school hours,” she said.

AI is also a boon for teachers, Meade said.

“Teachers are using AI to help increase student engagement and provide interactive experience,” she said. “Some teachers are using AI to cre-

ate questions and assessments to measure learning, while others use AI to level tests for students. AI can be used to help educators make learning more accessible for all students. This technology also helps educators save time and resources by automating routine tasks such as grading and data analysis.”

Daily advances in AI “open up new possibilities for students’ learning and teachers’ support,” she said.

There are also challenges, Meade added.

Although AI can provide helpful responses and recommendations, “it cannot replace the benefits of human interaction, emotional support, and the motivation that our teachers can provide,” she said.

Meade said all stakeholders “need to share in the responsibility to teach children about how the lack of a moral compass affects others so the students can identify and fully understand the limitations of Artificial Intelligence.”

Its responses “are based solely on words that it has been trained on and the algorithms that it uses, which means it may not always understand the context of a question or a prompt,” she said. “This can lead to misleading or irrelevant responses,” and students must be aware of its shortcomings and have the ability “to sort bad information from good information.”

AI can provide information and explanations, but may not effectively teach complex content or concepts, Meade said. “Responses from data are only as good as the data the AI system has been

See AI, page 2

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UPDATES



# Murder charge levied in September death

An arrest has been made in the Antoine Preston homicide that occurred September 30, in the 1400 block of Fayette Street.

Delano Tomaz Ross, age 46 of Martinsville AKA "Punkin," has been arrested for first degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, shooting from a vehicle to endanger persons, shooting into an occupied vehicle, possession of a firearm and ammunition by a violent convicted felon and

reckless handling of a firearm.

Ross was taken into custody by Martinsville Police Officers without incident on Spring Street in Martinsville. He is being held without bond.

Although an arrest has been made, police investigators continue to interview additional witnesses and collect evidence, so the case is still under investigation. If anyone has any further information regarding this crime, they are encouraged to call Sgt.



**Delano Tomaz Ross**

Durham at (276) 403-5330 or Crime Stoppers at (276) 63-CRIME (276-632-7463).

# Narcotics, other items seized Tuesday

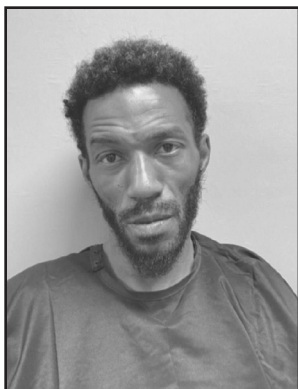
Fentanyl, marijuana, two illegally possessed firearms, ammunition, and U.S. currency were seized and one man charged after a search warrant was executed in Axton on Tuesday, October 10, according to a release from Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team executed the narcotics search warrant at 8071 Axton Road, Davis said.

Reginald Earl Tinsley, 38, of the address, is being held in the Henry

County Adult Detention Center with no bond on charges of possession of a Schedule I or II drug (Fentanyl), possession of a firearm by a violent convicted felon and possession of a firearm while in possession of a Schedule I/II substance, according to the release.

Anyone with 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



**Reginald Tinsley**

up to \$2,500 for information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determine the amount of reward paid.

# Petty to participate in 'Legendary Conversations'

The New College Institute (NCI) and the Wendell Scott Foundation will present 'Legendary Conversations,' on October 25 at 7 p.m. at the Baldwin Building on NCI's campus, 191 Fayette Street. The event will feature a unique and engaging discussion with NASCAR racing legend, Richard Petty, and Frank Scott, son of NASCAR racing legend, Wendell Scott.

Moderated by Warrick Scott, CEO/Founder of the Wendell Scott Foundation, the conversation will focus on captivating stories about Wendell Scott, breaking barriers in NASCAR, memorable races, and lessons learned from renowned motorsport icons.

Clay Campbell, president of the Martinsville Speedway, will share the Speedway's history, memorable moments, and what makes the Martinsville track legendary.

"What an awesome opportunity to get the community even more energized about Race Week. NCI is proud and excited to host Mr. Petty and Mr. Scott in Martinsville for a one-of-a-

kind evening where attendees will have the opportunity to hear stories and gain insight into the NASCAR world directly from legends in racing," said Joe Sumner, Executive Director of the New College Institute.

"We are thrilled to have Mr. Petty and Mr. Scott join us for this incredible event at Martinsville. Their presence will not only inspire racing enthusiasts but also provide a unique opportunity for attendees to learn firsthand from these legendary figures, gaining valuable insights into the NASCAR world. This event is a fantastic way to kick off Race Week and ignite the community's passion for one of Martinsville's greatest assets," the Wendell Scott Foundation said in a statement.

Food trucks, live music, and locally and nationally recognized race cars will be in the NCI parking lot and plaza starting at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. However, seating in the lecture hall is limited and registration is required to attend. For more information and to register, visit [www.newcollegenstitute.org](http://www.newcollegenstitute.org).

# Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Oct. 14-20

10/14	TBD	Cross Country	Bassett at Pole Green Park, Mechanicsville
10/17	4:30p	Boys Soccer	Carlisle at North Cross
	7pm	Volleyball	Mecklenburg County at Bassett
	7pm	Volleyball	Magna Vista at Martinsville
10/18	TBD	Cross Country	at Anglers Park, Danville
	4pm	Cross Country	vs George Washington, Dan Daniel Memorial Park
	7pm	Volleyball	Martinsville at Patrick County
10/20	4:30p	Boys Soccer	Carlisle at Blue Ridge
	7pm	Football	Magna Vista at Bassett

# AI

from page 1

trained on. So new information might not be up to date, and it would need to be vetted for accuracy by teachers.

AI relies on massive amounts of data."

One thing is for sure, "it's here," Ben Gravely, vice board chairman and of the Iriswood District, said. "Over the last several weeks, I had an opportunity to sit in on some conferences" through the NSBA (National School

Board Association) and the VSBA (Virginia School Board Association), and part of the conversation was AI and how are we going to incorporate this into our schools," Gravely said.

"Note that I said 'incorporate it' into our schools. We cannot push it aside if we want our students to be just as competitive as other students," Gravely said. "I'm glad that we are in the ballpark." While there is "still a lot of work to do

to figure this out, I'm pleased with where we are."

Teddy Martin II, chairman, and of the Reed Creek District, echoed Gravely's sentiments.

"While The Jetsons may be a cartoon, I would take their success rate" and their projections 50 years into the future "pretty well," Martin said. "Other than the flying car. Other than that, they did pretty well."

In other matters, the board:

· Heard a presentation about the use of metal detectors in middle and high schools. The detectors cost \$75,000, and Dr. Benjamin Boone, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administrative Services, said another \$5,000 would be needed for supplies. The board was scheduled to hear more information at its Oct. 6 retreat, with a final proposal to be presented at the Nov. 2 board meeting. If approved,

use of the metal detectors would begin in mid-November, to coincide with the start of winter sports.

· VSBA certificates/pens were presented to several board members, including an Award of Recognition to Champ Hardie, Cherie Whitlow, and Thomas Auker; an Award of Achievement to Gravely and Elizabeth Durden and an Award of Distinction (the highest level) to Martin.

# P&HCC's Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Program Hosts Connections Event

Patrick & Henry Community College Early Childhood Education program has earned the national Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation - the highest level of accreditation possible for early childhood programs. P&HCC's program is one of 200+ to earn the designation in 2023.

Program director Dr. Jan Harrison said, "NAEYC accreditation identifies P&HCC's Early Childhood Development program as meeting national standards for providing care and education to children, birth to age eight (or third grade). Our graduating students will bring the highest quality of standards into both private and public childcare workforce community, as well as public classrooms as licensed teachers in the state of Virginia. We are excited to provide this level of quality education for our graduating students as they transition to the childcare workforce and provide improved practices for local community programs."

NAEYC has set 10 standards for early childhood programs that can help families make the right choice when they are looking for a childcare center, preschool, or kindergarten. The standards and criteria are also the foundation of the NAEYC Accreditation system for early childhood programs. To earn accreditation, programs must meet all 10 standards: Relationships; Curriculum; Teaching; Assessment of Child Progress; Health; Staff Competencies, Preparation & Support; Families; Community Relationships; Physical Environment; and Leadership & Management.

"While many community colleges

offer early childhood education credentials, only a few of these programs are NAEYC accredited. Moreover, in order for local childcare centers to seek NAEYC accreditation, they must employ graduates from NAEYC accredited programs. This has the potential to positively impact local economic development efforts as high quality childcare for workers is always part of the recruiting equation," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges.

P&HCC's accreditation efforts were launched thanks to a generous \$100,000 donation from the Davenport Foundation. "My wife and I are pleased to support this important program at Patrick & Henry Community College. Quality early childhood education is being offered at P&HCC and will make a profound difference in the future of those enrolled," said Ben Davenport.

P&HCC's Early Childhood team will host its annual Community Connections event on Friday, October 13. Students and early childhood education community members 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 Frith Exhibit Hall from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



**Early Childhood Education students participate in a painting activity during Dr. Jan Harrison's course.**

"Our annual community connections event is focused on students who are interested in working with children or becoming licensed teachers in the state of Virginia. The event will feature our seven transfer universities, as well as

community support agencies to assist students planning to enter the childcare workforce after graduation. All students interested in early childhood education or teaching are welcome and encouraged to attend," said Harrison.

# 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.

## Events

### 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.

### Friday and Saturday, October 13 – 14

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library are hosting a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. Friday's sale, from 2-5 p.m., is "Members only" (you can join at the door). Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., is open to the public. Lots of "new to us" books in young adult, children's, cookbooks, fiction, gardening, hoodies, & many more great finds! ALL paperback books are .50¢ & ALL hardback books are \$1, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds go back into the library system. Next sale is Dec. 9.

### Saturday, October 14

American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 Fish Fry, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (rain date Saturday, October 21, 2023), 139 Creekside Drive, Martinsville, VA (adjacent to Jordan Creek Park in Fieldale Community). This is a Drive-Thru event with limited Dining-In. Fish sandwiches - \$8; Homemade Desserts - \$2; Sodas & Water - \$1. Call 276-224-5679 or 276-340-5169 to place orders.

Piedmont Arts' Arts Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Find fine art, crafts, jewelry and more creations by Southwestern Virginia artists at this first-annual outdoor art show in Piedmont Arts' Gravely-Lester Art Garden. Face painting will be provided by the Teen Arts Council. Enjoy food from several local food trucks and live music. Admission to the festival is free.

### Sunday, October 15

Deadline to submit play for One-Act Play Festival – A TheatreWorks original presentation. For questions or additional Information, email [twcpproduction@gmail.com](mailto:twcpproduction@gmail.com).

The Freemans will be singing at The People's Church of the Living God, 8065 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett, at 6 p.m. All are invited.

### Saturday, October 21

Free Community Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue, Martinsville, Virginia. Serving time is: 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., with carry out plates available after 9 a.m. if food is available.

Bassett Highway 57 Cruise-In, 3-7 p.m., Downtown Bassett. This is the Final Event of 2023. Will honor "Ole Time" modified and present day drivers and their race cars. A FREE EVENT, sponsored by the GBAC. ALL ARE INVITED.

### 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 Stanleystown. Call (276) 629.2964 or email [pastordreed81@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 (MHCCCHW) 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. MHCCCHW'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.

## National Do Not Disturb While Driving Day showcases app that limits distractions

The "do not disturb while driving" setting on your cellphone isn't just for remaining undisturbed during meetings or movies. It also can limit phone distractions behind the wheel and help make roadways safer.

Oct. 19 is the second annual National Do Not Disturb While Driving Day. To mark the occasion, the National Distracted Driving Coalition is encouraging motorists to use their phone's "do not disturb while driving" feature before getting behind the wheel.

"It's simple—we aren't good at ignoring our phones," said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. and DRIVE SMART Virginia board member. DSV is part of the National Distracted Driving Coalition.

"If it rings or chirps, we want to look at it, which takes our attention away from driving and increases the risk of a crash. Flipping on 'do not disturb while driving' will prevent those notifications and that temptation entirely. It only takes a moment of inattention to ruin your day or your life, so why risk it?"

Cellphone use and distracted driving continue to be major problems on roadways, with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identifying distracted driving as "a crisis that needs to be addressed now." According to NHTSA crash data, there were 3,522 people killed and an estimated 362,415 people injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2021.

The NHTSA also reports that reading or writing text messages while driving increases accident risk by 2,300%.

With just a few taps to activate "do not disturb while driving," the phone will block calls, texts and other notifications when a person is driving, helping them keep their eyes focused on the road. It also helps drivers adhere to Virginia law that says it's illegal to drive while holding a cellphone.

The calls and texts are temporarily blocked, but they're not ignored. Incoming calls will automatically be directed to voicemail, and the feature also can be configured to send automatic replies, letting people know you're driving.

While the "do not disturb while driving" feature is already integrated into smartphones, it's an underutilized

resource. An Insurance Institute for Highway Safety survey found that only one in five iPhone users have Apple's DNDWD feature set to turn on automatically when driving.

"We want that to change," Tenenbaum said. "We want people to take the quick and very important step of setting their phones' 'do not disturb while driving' function to automatically engage each time they hit the road. It's an easy way to help combat this problem."

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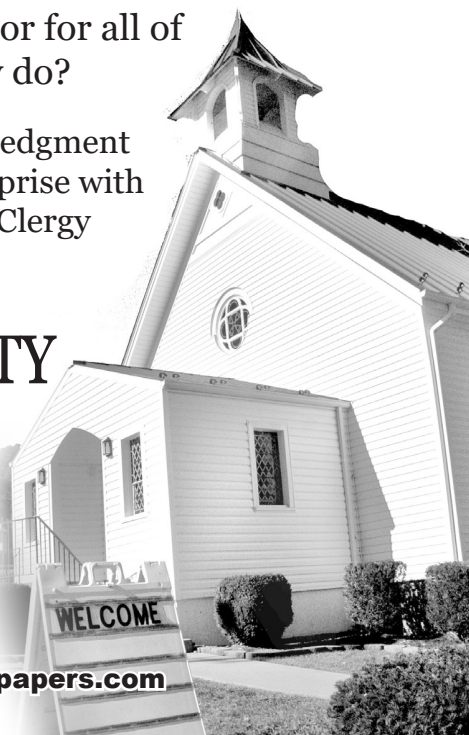
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# OPINION

## The legend of the Boohoo

My recent column about Martinsville's positive trajectory put me in a reflective mood. I found myself thinking about my time managing the Rives Theatre back in the late 2000s and some of the fascinating people I met during my time there. One figure in particular stands out, and according to a cursory Google search, I've somehow never written a column about him.

This is the story of the Boohoo.

The day I met the Boohoo was a perfectly normal day; I was sitting in the concession stand on a sunny afternoon, waiting for folks to come see the matinee. Suddenly, a small fellow burst into the theater, bypassing the ticket window and making his way straight to me. He was a Latino gentleman with a thick mustache, and he was profoundly, awe-inspiringly drunk.

"Three quarters," he said, smacking his palm on the concession stand and grinning crazily. "Three quarters."

"What?" I said.

"Three quarters!" he repeated.

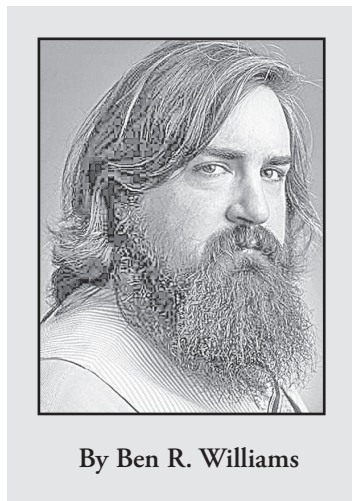
"I'm sorry, I don't have any change I can give you," I said.

"Take no @#\$\$!" the man said, and then left.

This happened multiple times over the next few weeks. The man would burst into the theater, drunkenly ask me for three quarters, and then when I told him I couldn't give him any change, he would announce to the room that he "take no @#\$\$!" and then leave.

Sometimes, the man would say other things, but there was absolutely no way of understanding anything else he said. It was tempting to think that he didn't have a great grasp of English, but based on my years of Spanish classes, I'm pretty sure he wasn't speaking Spanish, either. He was speaking the slurred tongue of the unbelievably inebriated.

Over time, my friend Greg and I christened him "The Boohoo" after a minor character from Hunter S. Thompson's "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72." The original Boohoo was a maniac that Thompson handed his press pass to and shoved onto Democratic Presidential candidate Ed Muskie's Sunshine Special train, whereupon he proceeded to sow drunken



By Ben R. Williams

mayhem.

Our own Boohoo was a similar source of chaos, but there was something oddly lovable about him. Sure, he was perpetually intoxicated and totally unintelligible, but he always seemed to be in good spirits. He would bang his way into the theater at random times, usually once every week or two, and I would always be excited to see him. It was like being visited by a strange mascot.

"Hey, it's the Boohoo!" I'd say when he stumbled through the doors. "No quarters today, buddy!"

"Ayyyy!" the Boohoo would yell. "Take no @#\$\$!" "Yeah man!" I'd holler back.

And then he would stagger off to his next destination.

The Boohoo was a thought-provoking figure. Where did he live? Did he have a job? How does a man survive in

the world when he's constantly drunk and only knows two sentences, one of which contains an expletive? His very existence defied logic and provoked deep questions, like a zen koan come to life.

Over time, the Boohoo developed an uncanny sixth sense for picking the worst possible times to show up at the Rives. On one memorable occasion, the theater had been rented out for a young lady's sweet sixteen party. As she and her schoolyard friends were milling around in the lobby before the movie, the Boohoo heaved himself through the doors.

"Ayyyyy, three quarters!" he drunkenly shrieked. "Take no @#\$\$!"

"Ha ha!" I shouted, grabbing him by the shoulders and shoving him back out the door. These girls weren't ready to learn about people like the Boohoo yet. Maybe in college.

The Boohoo's greatest appearance, however, was also his last.

The theater had been rented out that evening for a private fundraising event for Rep. Tom Perriello, one of the finest statesmen I have ever personally known. It was a fancy affair, with endlessly flowing wine and various shrimps and canapés. I had even dusted off a suit for the occasion. I was sipping my wine and talking to a dowager of some sort when I heard the front door crash open.

It was the Boohoo. Incredibly, he was wearing a tuxedo coat.

Admittedly, the tuxedo coat was pretty heavily worn and looked like it had previously belonged to one of the folks on the Titanic who didn't make it, but still, I was impressed.

"Ayyyyyy!" the Boohoo drunkenly screamed, "Take no @#\$\$! Three quarters!"

I darted towards the Boohoo with such speed that, much like Snagglepuss, I left behind a little dust cloud in the shape of my silhouette. I slung an arm around his shoulders and half-guided, half-wrestled him back outside.

The Boohoo and I stood on the stoop in front of the Rives. I glanced over my shoulder through the window and noticed that every single person in the building was watching us with utter bewilderment.

Suddenly, the Boohoo began to speak.

I could not begin to tell you anything that the Boohoo said — it was absolute gibberish — but I could tell from the tone that it was very serious gibberish. He went on and on, pausing occasionally to look at me expectantly. Tears began to fill his eyes. I could tell he was asking me a question of some kind, seeking some sort of support.

"Yeah man," I said.

See Boohoo, page 5

# Where are they when you need them



Holly Kozelsky

pairs after the laundry? - but in our abode, it's the scissors that are in short supply.

We have plenty of pairs of scissors, and they always seem to be in the way of drawers closing, or are crowding out pens in the desktop holder, until the very moment we need them.

Then they are nowhere to be seen.

Sometimes a wail of distress sounds from the other end of the house: "Where are the scissors? I need them!"

"Did you look in your room?" I respond.

Always.

Sometimes I go up and help search the kid's

room. Sometimes I strike the paired riches of finding some scissors and a nice I-told-you-so. Other times I come up empty-handed.

The search is on for standard-use scissors we use to cut paper, twine, string and the like.

It's always pretty easy to find the orange-handled pair. That's because they are so old, dull and beaten up that they don't work very well -- if at all -- but I'm always afraid to throw them out because at least they never get lost.

There are various sorts of scissors in the house, each to their purpose. There are scissors for haircuts and those little cosmetic-use scissors kept in the bathroom cabinet. There are a few pairs of

tiny craft scissors used only in small-scale sewing, embroidery, crochet or in the making of my teen daughter's woven bracelets. Sometimes the regular household scissors can be found in tangles of craft items.

In the kitchen is a great pair of KitchenAid scissors used in food preparation. There used to be an equally good pair of kitchen scissors from the old J.C. Penney Outlet, but they got taken outside and turned into gardening scissors some years ago. They still work admirably well for the abuse they've taken.

Then there are the holy grail of scissors: the fabric scissors. I have inoculated my daughter with the same fear and respect of fabric scissors

that my mother did me and my sister. They are never, ever to be touched, unless it is for cutting fabric, and then, with the appropriate reverence they are due.

Those scissors are usually where they belong, but what we're looking for is a pair of standard paper-cutting scissors.

But why don't we just buy another pair of scissors?, any logical person may ask.

It's because around once a year, somehow, the paper scissors have a magical reunion. There's a pair in the cup on the desk, and when you open the drawer, there are several pairs in there.

It happens without us noticing.

So until that happens again, we'll keep looking.



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Legacy Insurance  
3959 Virginia Avenue  
Collinsville, VA 24078

**Collinsville**  
10/18 & 10/25  
10:00 AM

Quality Inn Dutch Inn  
2360 Virginia Avenue  
Collinsville, VA 24078  
Community Meeting

**Rocky Mount**  
10/20  
10:00 AM

Franklin County Library  
355 Franklin Street  
Rocky Mount VA 24151  
Community Meeting

Get more of what matters.

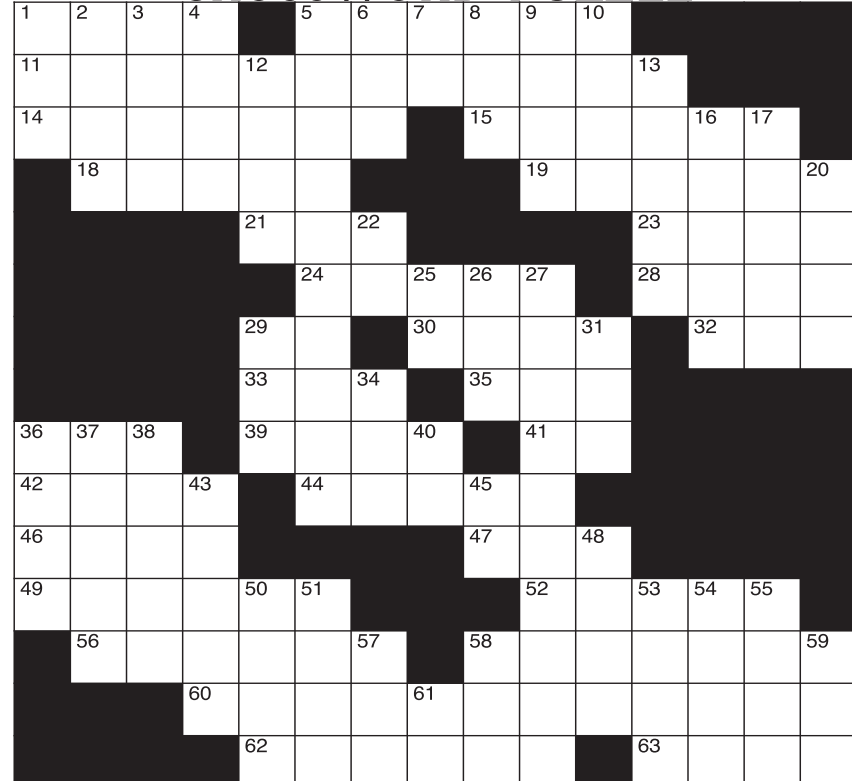
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Flat-topped hill
  - 5. Move upward
  - 11. Admiration
  - 14. It's useful for serving food
  - 15. Kidnap
  - 18. One of the Greek Muses
  - 19. A type of media
  - 21. Sunscreen rating
  - 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
  - 24. German town devastated in WW2
  - 28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
  - 29. Leave
  - 30. Forearm bone
  - 32. Very fast airplane
  - 33. Helps little firms
  - 35. Defunct economic organization
  - 36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)
  - 39. Feels ill
  - 41. Indicates position
  - 42. Beverage containers
  - 44. Assists
  - 46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
  - 47. Purpose
  - 49. Group of elected officials
  - 52. Hebrew prophet
  - 56. They help you drink
  - 58. Lawmaker
  - 60. Charitable
  - 62. Doctrines
  - 63. Footwear
  - 4. Genus of clams
  - 5. Fear of heights
  - 6. What some tell their dog
  - 7. The Golden State
  - 8. When you expect to get there
  - 9. Pointed ends
  - 10. Extinct flightless bird
  - 12. Feeds
  - 13. Nape of neck
  - 16. Descendant
  - 17. Small boats found in Turkey
  - 20. To avoid the risk of
  - 22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
  - 25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - 26. Brew
  - 27. Feeling of anxiety
  - 29. Young girls group
  - 31. Perform on stage
  - 34. White clerical vestment
  - 36. Popular musical awards show
  - 37. Bumpkins
  - 38. One who acts on another's behalf
  - 40. Direction
  - 43. Look at with fixed eyes
  - 45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
  - 48. A large number of
  - 50. Type of powder
  - 51. Large jug
  - 53. \_\_\_ Christian Anderson, children's author
  - 54. American state
  - 55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
  - 57. Witness
  - 58. Landscapers lay it
  - 59. Type of bread
  - 61. Of I

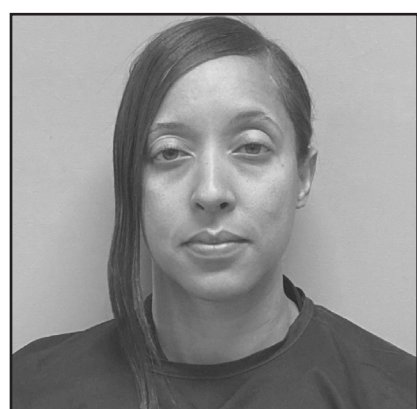
# Drug investigation yields additional charges



Endy Marie Ingram



Victoria Leigh Cox-Ingram



Charmaine Leshon Cox-Ingram



Traylon Allen Ingram

A multi-jurisdictional investigation of narcotics operations has resulted in more charges, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Since the initial operation, more search warrants and arrest warrants have been executed. Three additional search warrants were executed on the afternoon of October 3. The addresses for those locations are:

774 Hidden Valley Dr. Martinsville, Virginia

786 Hidden Valley Dr. Martinsville, Virginia

362 Sleeping Hills Farm Rd. Martinsville, Virginia

As a result, additional vehicles were seized. Also, while the search warrants were being executed, officers from the Martinsville Police Department and Henry County Sheriff's Office deputies apprehended two people who were suspects in the investigation. The last two remaining suspects turned themselves into the Henry County Sheriff's Office on October 5, Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said.

#### Those charged include

Endy Marie Ingram, 59, of 425 Tanglewood Dr., Martinsville,

money laundering and racketeering.

Victoria Leigh Ingram-Cox, 38, of 44 Windy Ct. Kernersville, N.C., money laundering and racketeering.

Charmaine Leshon Cox-Ingram, 37, 1755 Waverly Oaks Dr. Kernersville, N.C., money laundering and racketeering.

Traylon Allen Ingram, 19, 44 Windy Ct. Kernersville, North Carolina, money laundering and racketeering.

In addition to the search warrants that were executed in Virginia, as a direct result of this investigation, multiple search warrants were executed in North Carolina and Texas on October 4. A total of 14 warrants were executed, and a total of 10 people were charged.

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.

## Boohoo from page 4

He nodded and smiled, then rattled off something else I couldn't understand. Again, he looked at me expectantly, wiping away his tears.

"Yeah man," I said. "Yeah! You can do it!"

The Boohoo's eyes widened. He grinned, nodding his head.

"Yeah!" he said. "YEAH! TAKE NO @\$%!"

I clapped the Boohoo on the

back. He gave me a big hug, then turned and went sprinting down Church Street, screaming at the top of his lungs, his threadbare tuxedo coat shining and flapping under the sodium vapor lights.

I never saw the Boohoo again. I'm still not sure what I gave him permission to do.

Hopefully he didn't kill anybody.



## Martinsville Speedway announces date for 2024 ValleyStar Credit Union 300

MartinsvilleSpeedway will host the 2024 edition of NASCAR's biggest, richest and most prestigious Late Model Stock Car race, the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, on Saturday, Sept. 28, the track announced.

The famed short track will also be the setting for the finale of the Virginia Late Model Triple Crown, where one driver will be named champion under the lights of Martinsville Speedway.

"This race is so special not only to our fans, but to our entire community here in Martinsville," said Clay Campbell, President of Martinsville Speedway. "It's an event that combines tradition with pure excitement, from the intense on-track battles to the Victory Lane celebrations with the historic Grandfather clock, it's always such an unforgettable evening."

ValleyStar Credit Union and Martinsville Speedway have a long-

standing partnership, dating back to 2015 when the company was first named entitlement sponsor for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300.

"The 2023 ValleyStar Credit Union 300 was everything racing should be, from a neck and neck finish to a car giveaway and the largest purse in ValleyStar 300 history," said Mike Warrell, ValleyStar CEO. "It will be hard to beat, but we are already gearing up for an even more exciting and memorable event in 2024."

Trevor Ward reigned victorious in this year's ValleyStar Credit Union 300, not only securing the race win but also earning the title of Virginia Triple Crown champion.

Ward pulled off an impressive victory in a last-lap battle with Landon Huffman, as both cars bumped and battled to the check-

ered flag, where Ward edged out Huffman for the win after 200 laps of racing action.

Fans can see more racing action at the famed short track later this month for the penultimate race of the 2023 NASCAR season. Saturday, Oct. 28, will feature the NASCAR Xfinity Series Dead on Tools 250, followed by the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 on Sunday, Oct. 29.

The NASCAR Race weekend will also feature the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Championship in the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 200 on Thursday, Oct. 26.

For more information about the ValleyStar Credit Union 300 or to purchase tickets to the upcoming NASCAR race weekend, please visit [www.martinsvillespeedway.com](http://www.martinsvillespeedway.com). Tickets are also available for purchase via phone at 877-RACE-TIX.

## 'Venus Inferred' by Annie Waldrop, Watercolors by Z.L. Feng to be displayed at Piedmont Arts

Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits, Friday, Nov. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the museum.

Featuring work by award-winning Roanoke-based artist Annie Waldrop, "Venus Inferred" is an outcome of her decades-long quest to use bookmaking, painting, assemblage, collage and other mediums to explore femininity through themes like spirituality, Buddhism, motherhood and creativity. Waldrop's work represents the culmination of a process she likens to tending a garden or raising a child — a labor of love which has its own organic course to follow, including unpredicted detours and clearly defined destinations.

Also on display will be "Watercolors by Z.L. Feng." Z.L. Feng's watercolor portraits, landscapes and illustrations have been exhibited in juried shows around the world. An artist-signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society and the Pastel Society of America, Feng has won more than 200 national and international awards and been recognized at numerous watercolor exhibitions.

Growing up in Shanghai, China, Feng began painting at age seven and never stopped, experimenting with different mediums, including pastel, oil and egg tempera, before choosing his favorite, watercolor. Before com-

ing to the United States in 1986, Feng received his BFA from Shanghai Teacher's University and taught in its art department for four years. He completed his MFA in 1989 at Radford University and went on to teach at the university for over 30 years before retiring in 2023.

The Lynwood Artists Gallery features work by Dianne L. Greene, a portrait artist originally from Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada. Greene says that painting makes her happy and she has pursued her art as part of her lifelong journey to use her gifts and talents.

The Lynwood Artists Gallery is curated by Lynwood Artists, an orga-

nization for practicing artists in the Martinsville-Henry County area. Its members share a desire to stimulate understanding and enjoyment of fine art and the artistic process, while providing area artists with opportunities to exhibit and further develop their talents.

Exhibits are sponsored by Olivia and Pres Garrett, Charlie Knighton, Blanche and Tom Mahoney, Kim and Jason Spratley, Kerry Y. Tillery and Lynwood Artists.

The opening reception is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. RSVP required by Oct. 30 and can be made by calling the museum or online at [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

## SCC seeks comments on APCo's application to decrease its fuel factor

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is offering time for members of the public to provide comments on an application by Appalachian Power Company to decrease its fuel factor for usage on and after November 1.

Appalachian Power's application requests approval to recover the company's estimated Virginia jurisdictional fuel expenses of approximately \$433,839,311 for the November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024, fuel year, and its projected October

31, 2023, unrecovered fuel deferral balance of \$273,125,395, subject to a mitigation proposal which would spread recovery of the unrecovered fuel deferral balance over two years.

For a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month, the average weighted monthly bill would decrease by \$1.80, from \$161.77 to \$159.97, under the company's proposal. The Commission has permitted the company to place the proposal into effect on an interim

basis, subject to further modification, effective November 1, 2023.

The SCC has scheduled a public witness session to begin at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024. Public witnesses intending to provide oral testimony must pre-register with the SCC by 5 p.m. on January 10, 2024. The hearing will be webcast at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Public witnesses wishing to provide oral testimony may preregister in one of three ways:

Completing a public witness form for case

number PUR-2023-00156 on the SCC's website at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Emailing the same form (PDF version on the same website as above) to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov).

Calling the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and providing your name and the phone number you wish the Commission to call to reach you during the hearing.

A public evidentiary hearing will follow the public witness hearing at

10 a.m. on January 17, 2024, in the SCC's second-floor courtroom at 1300 East Main Street in Richmond to receive testimony and evidence from the company, any respondents and the SCC staff.

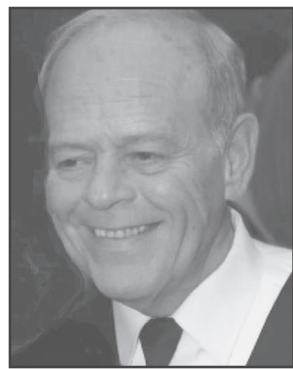
For those who prefer, there is also an opportunity to provide comments in writing on the Appalachian Power application. Written comments may be submitted through the SCC's website by January 10, 2024, at [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-)

Comments. Simply go to the SCC website, select "Cases" and then "Submit Public Comments," and scroll down to case number PUR-2023-00156. Then click SUBMIT COMMENTS.

Comments can also be submitted by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments must refer to case number PUR-2023-00156.

# OBITUARIES

## Richard Bishop



he worked at Southern Finishing and then at Servpro of Martinsville until the year of his death.

Richard spent many hours creating beautiful flower gardens, blooming baskets, and landscaping designs. He enjoyed home improvement projects and was extremely innovative. Richard happily served as our family's "armchair psychologist," guiding us through life's journeys. His happy places in addition to spending time with the kids were home and on the beaches in Jamaica. Special thanks to

Mark Sparks and James Keaton for their assistance for the duration of Richard's medical issues. Also, Geneva Winn lifted Richard's spirit with kindness and support in the final months.

Upon death, Richard's body was donated to Anatomy Gifts Registry. It was his hope that his donation would help countless people for years to come. His generosity brings much peace to his family.

"Lastly, as our love transcends death, we each can move forward with grateful hearts and admiration in celebrating our time with a most honorable man, husband, father, grandfather and best friend."

Marilynne Martin Bishop

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

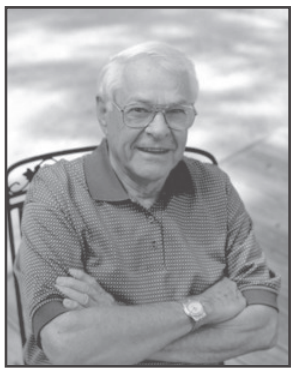
McKee-Stone Funeral Home will be handling arrangements.

"Our Last Dance"  
August 15, 1943 –  
September 16, 2023

Richard Bishop was born in Floyd, Virginia and spent most of his life in and around the Martinsville area. His wonderful parents, Arthur and Connie Bishop, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Marilynne, his daughter Misty Whiteford and grandchildren Perry and Leo of Maryland, his son Derek Bishop of New York, his son Ryan Martin, residing in Burundi, Africa his sister Becky Lewis and nephew William Lewis of North Carolina, and two additional nephews, Cliff Lester of North Carolina, and Chris Lester of Stuart.

After graduating from Drewry Mason High School, Richard attended Bluefield College. He then began a career at Dupont for 32 years concluding, as a financial analyst. The following years

## Dr. H. Marvin Midkiff



Dr. H. Marvin Midkiff, 97, of Sheraton Court, Martinsville, died early Wednesday morning, August 2, 2023, at his residence. He was born in Pittsylvania County on August 20, 1925, to Herman L. Midkiff and Ruby Barker Midkiff. He was a graduate of Dan River High School and attended William and Mary before serving in the Army during World War II. He went on to receive a DDS from Medical College of Virginia after the war and served as a dentist for the United States Air Force at Eglon Air force Base. He and his wife, Marjorie Dickie Midkiff, moved to Martinsville from Florida in 1953, where he opened his practice.

Marvin was an active member of First Baptist Church of Martinsville where he served in many capacities, including as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher. He was also active in the Virginia Dental Association and served as a board member for Patrick Henry National Bank and Carter Bank as well as at Averett University.

During World War II, Marvin served in the 42nd Infantry Division, the "Rainbow

Division," seeing combat in Europe in 1944-45 and participating in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. After the war, Marvin continued to serve as a MP in Austria, before eventually returning to Virginia.

When not serving his patients as a Family Dentist, Marvin enjoyed many different activities during his long life. He was a confident boat captain on Philpott and Smith Mountain lakes, an amateur farmer in Patrick County and the favorite person of a series of English setters, Brittany spaniels and Labradors. He was even a motorcycle enthusiast for a brief period of time. Marjorie and Marvin especially enjoyed traveling, usually in the company of their friends who were members of the Bridge Club. In addition to his parents and his

wife, he was preceded in death by a sister, Annie Kathryn Midkiff and a son, Dr. Kenneth Barker Midkiff (Robin).

He is survived by his remaining children, Dr. William M. Midkiff (Kathleen) of Chesapeake, M. Dickie Midkiff (Susan) of Richmond, and James E. Midkiff (Amy) of Keeling, a daughter-in-law, Robin Meyer (Kenneth), and seven grandchildren: Michael Midkiff (Emma), Dr. Will Midkiff (Brittany), Matthew Midkiff (Jordan), Max Midkiff (Carolyn), Caroline Midkiff, Henry Midkiff and Allison Midkiff.

A visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the First Baptist Church of Martinsville. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m., and will be officiated by Reverend Dr. Libby Grammer.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Martinsville, 23 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA. 24112.

McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Martinsville, Va. is serving the family. To express condolences online, please visit [www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com](http://www.collinsmckeestonemartinsville.com).

## School Board

from page 1

accept donations," Shepherd said.

The foundation's three primary programs are the Partnership in Excellence (or PIE) grants, the Reading for Life program, and Leadership Scholarships, which support teachers and schools, she said.

The board also heard a resolution about ways to prevent/report bullying, and to bring awareness to bullying during October, which is Bullying Prevention Month.

\*Approved Special Education Advisory Committee members.

\* Learned that the Martinsville High School Band is again selling band fruit as its fundraiser. Most of the ordering can be done online, with orders accepted through the middle of November. Fruit is expected to arrive in time for the holidays. To place an order, visit [http://www.thebulldogband.com/?fbclid=IwAR3II9NxV5OIH4r5hp6Of0lv0ogoDiqvn6f-EuF7UPjuavuiR9SgRgi\\_Ao4](http://www.thebulldogband.com/?fbclid=IwAR3II9NxV5OIH4r5hp6Of0lv0ogoDiqvn6f-EuF7UPjuavuiR9SgRgi_Ao4).

## Nomination period for 2023 Outstanding Military Veteran Award is open

Nominations are now being accepted for the Martinsville-Henry County Outstanding Military Veteran award for 2023. The award will go to the nominee judged by the selection committee to best represent what service to the country and to our community means.

The award was created in 2009 by the Henry County Board of Supervisors at the suggestion of Board member Debra Buchanan. With the support of the Martinsville City Council, the award was expanded in 2013 to allow nominations of both Martinsville and Henry County veterans.

Nomination forms are available from the Martinsville website – [www.martinsville-va.gov](http://www.martinsville-va.gov) and the county website – [www.henrycountyva.gov](http://www.henrycountyva.gov). They are also available at the City Municipal Building and the County Administrator's office. All nominations must be received at the City Manager's Office or County Administrator's Office by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2023.

The winner of the award will be announced at the Veterans Day Service to be held at the HJDB Event Center on Saturday, November 11 at 11 a.m. Previous winners include David

Kipfinger and James Rogers (2009), Olaf Hurd (2010), Donald James Myers (2011), Herbert S. Gibbs and Winford "W.C." Fowles (2012), S.T. Fulcher (2013), Robert L. Hazlett, Jr. (2014), Thomas Spencer (2015), John R. Redd (2016), Walter E. Sheppard (2017), Warren "Sonny" Richardson (2018), Charles A. Washburn (2019), David King (2020), Curtis R. Millner, Sr. (2021), and Russell Clark Stone (2022).

Questions about the "Outstanding Military Veteran" award can be directed to the City Manager's Office or the County Administrator's Office.

## Initial unemployment claims increase in September

The number of initial claims for unemployment increased in the latest filing week to 1,748 and remained at typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA).

For the filing week ending September 30, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,748, which was an increase of 331 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,595, which was 235 claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 43.9% from the 8,754 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of claimants. Of those, over half (53 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,908), administrative and support and waste management (1,712), manufacturing (1,465), and health care and social assistance (1,120). 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 30, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 207,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 204,000 to 205,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 172,775 in the week ending September 30, a decrease of 2,875 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 167,378 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 (-1,629) was the largest decrease. Alabama's preliminary weekly change (-902) was the second largest decrease. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (-617) was the third largest decrease. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (-492) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the fifth largest increase (+318).

## Breast cancer wellness symposium, fundraiser set

In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the MLC Cancer Foundation will host "A Pink Event - Wellness Symposium & Fundraiser," honoring the lives of cancer survivors. Patricia Via founded the organization in 2012 to give back to cancer patients and survivors, and promote early detection, which saves lives. Since its inception, the organization has given out almost \$100,000 in direct and indirect funds for cancer patients and to help educate the community on health and wellness.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, organizers will provide individual awards totaling \$6,000 and 15 genetic screening tests.

The event is at 3 p.m. at New College Institute, 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville. It is intended to help save lives, provide education and honor those that have succumbed to cancer. Funds raised will assist to provide mammographic breast screening and diagnostics to uninsured women, provide financial assistance to cover medical cost for treatments, cover costs for genetic

testing and provide health and wellness education.

Donations to MLC can be made before, during and after the event at [mlccancerfoundation.org/donate.html](http://mlccancerfoundation.org/donate.html).

In October, the MLC continues its CAN [Take Control And Navigate Your Health] marketing campaign on Facebook (@MLCCancerFoundation), Instagram (@MLCCancerFoundation) and Twitter (@THEMLCCF). People in the Martinsville surrounding area are encouraged to help save lives and decrease the death rate after cancer diagnosis and to increase their overall knowledge around health and wellness.

The public will continue to learn how to Turn Can't to CAN with genetic testing, hear the stories of cancer survivors and learn more about Insurance Plan Options – Learning the Ins and Outs of Insurance.

The foundation also hosts the "I CAN" panel with community members to have frank conversations about navigating your health.

Early detection saves lives and the marketing campaign will promote the benefits of health education and screenings.

The headline speaker is Ed Reynolds, who is a retired National Football League (NFL) league office executive and American football linebacker who played in the NFL for the New England Patriots and New York Giants. He shares more about his Crucial Catch, the importance of cancer screenings and how early detection saved his life.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. - Upsilon Delta Zeta Chapter will accept the MLC Cancer Foundation Community Partner Award. No attendee will leave empty handed. All attendees will take home resources to help them in their health journey. Fifteen complimentary Genetic Health Screen tests will be provided to interested attendees to better understand their genetic makeup. Three cancer patients will be awarded \$1,500 to help to cover expenses during their cancer journey. Finally, one attendee will be awarded \$1,500

toward their health and wellness journey.

In addition to the A Pink Event-Wellness Symposium & Fundraiser, additional events this month include:

Paint the Town Pink, Oct. 14 at 11 a.m., the walk begins at 11 a.m. at the empty lot across from Womack Supply and ends at the Big Chair Parking lot. Enjoy the Walk, Cruise-In, Music, Guest Speakers and free food.

Awareness Brunch, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m., Parks of Chatham, 1152 N. Main Street, Chatham, cancer survivor participants share their bond by celebrating life.

The MLC Cancer Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that offers resources and financial assistance to cancer patients to cover expenses incurred due to their diagnosis. In addition to financial support, the foundation educates people on preventative options and genetic testing benefits for the entire family. The foundation also offers personal and moral support for the patient and family. For more, visit [mlccancerfoundation.org](http://mlccancerfoundation.org).

# New AARP Scorecard ranks states in long-term care for older Americans

AARP's new Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard finds that more than three years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, care provided in the United States for older adults and people with disabilities is painfully inadequate. The report finds that major gaps persist in every state, including Virginia, especially related to support for family caregivers, worker wages, nursing home staffing, transportation and housing.

Ranking #28 in the country, Virginia has made some progress in improving care options for older adults, including providing Medicaid for low-income people with disabilities and in the supply of available assisted living facilities. However, the report shows there is still much more to be done to keep up with the rapidly changing needs of an aging population.

"Too many Virginians rely on a long-term care system that struggles--and often fails--to keep them and their loved ones healthy and safe," said AARP Virginia State Director Jim Dau. "The AARP Scorecard shows that lawmakers and industry providers have plenty of opportunities to improve care and better meet the needs of all Virginians."

Additional key findings from the report include: Family Caregiving

Dozens of states experienced declines in the number of care choices that help support families managing caregiving. For instance, 21 states, including Virginia, experienced declines of 10% or more in adult day services since 2016, and 16 states, had declines of 10% or more in access to home health aides since 2019.

Only six states provide a tax credit for family caregivers' out-of-pocket expenses. Oklahoma enacted a caregiver tax credit bill in June, after data for the Scorecard was collected. Family caregivers on average spend \$7,242 per year on out-of-pocket costs.

Only seven states have statewide laws protecting caregivers from discrimination in the workplace that ensure they are not unfairly treated due to caregiving duties outside of work.

Twelve states have enacted paid family leave laws and 18 states have paid sick day laws, which can be used for caregiving.

Home and Community-Based Services

There has been a surge in older adults receiving long-term care at home, rather than in nursing

homes and other institutions. For the first time, more than half (53%) of Medicaid LTSS spending for older people and adults with physical disabilities went to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). This is up from 37% in 2009. HCBS includes support for home health care aides, respite services, assistive technology and home modifications and other services.

The average annual per person cost of home care in 2021 was \$42,000.

Eleven states had state policies that improve presumptive eligibility for Medicaid HCBS at the time of data collection, making it possible for people to go home to receive care after being in the hospital rather than having to be admitted to a nursing home while their eligibility for Medicaid payments is being determined.

Many states have large numbers of people with low care needs living in nursing homes, indicating a lack of HCBS access and services,

Nursing Homes and Institutional Care

A major workforce crisis exists in nursing home care. Across all states, wages for direct

See AARP, page 8

# First registered EMT apprenticeship program in Virginia launched

In partnership with the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, the Danville Life Saving Crew – the primary Emergency Medical Services provider for the City of Danville – signed 13 individuals as Virginia's first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) registered apprentices during a ceremony on Oct 6. These 13 apprentices are beginning the process of obtaining their Emergency Medical Technician Certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and their Journeyworker Credential from the State Apprenticeship Agency. The EMT apprenticeship program is one year, which equates to 2,000 hours of on-the-job training.

Virginia registered apprenticeship programs require a mix of on-the-job training and related technical instruction (RTI). For this program, the RTI will be front-loaded into the first 10 weeks and provided by the Danville Area Training Center. After completing classwork and waiting for their EMT exam date, the apprentices will work as a third person on an Emergency Response Vehicle. After passing their exam, the apprentices will be certi-

fied EMT-Basics and can continue on-the-job training with increased duties alongside a mentor. The apprentices will respond to emergency calls, provide basic life support/pre-hospital services to the critically ill and injured, and transport patients to a medical facility, always working in collaboration with and under the direction of other crew members and the incident command.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) Division of Registered Apprenticeship approved the Danville Area Training Center as a private RTI provider earlier this year. The apprenticeship program was officially registered with DOLI in April.

After their one-year term, these apprentices will receive their Journeyworker Credential, a portable, nationally recognized credential from the State Apprenticeship Agency that demonstrates mastery of skills and competencies. In addition to the EMT and Journeyman certificates, participants will also earn CPR and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) certifications. After obtaining these certifications, these individuals can then serve as mentors for future EMT apprentices.

Registered apprenticeship is an occupation-specific training model designed to produce highly skilled workers to meet the demands of employers. The model includes a paid job experience for employees that includes a combination of on-the-job training and related technical instruction.

Through the Expanding Talent through Registered Apprenticeships (ExTRA) program, IALR has helped establish 18 apprenticeship programs with various companies across Southern Virginia in industries like construction, healthcare and manufacturing. Some of these companies have already hired apprentices to complete those programs, whereas others are working through logistics before beginning to hire apprentices. IALR's efforts to expand registered apprenticeship programs in Southern Virginia are supported by grants from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. These grants fund both IALR's Apprenticeship Coordinator — Natori Neal, who began work in February 2022 — and reimburse eligible RTI costs for employers establishing new registered apprenticeship programs.

IALR's apprenticeship program is part of the EmPOWER framework, an employer-driven, work-based learning system of programs that systematically connects students to careers through focus areas like career awareness, career exposure and engagement opportunities, and career experience through apprenticeships, internships and other work-based learning programs.

The Virginia Career Works West Piedmont Region is partnering to provide supportive services for apprentices in the program, including 50% wage reimbursement to DLSC for 10 weeks. They will also provide monetary incentives to apprentices for reaching certain milestones during the program.

The IALR serves as a regional catalyst for economic transformation with applied research, advanced learning, advanced manufacturing, conference center services and economic development efforts. IALR's primary service area is Southern Virginia, including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Your Community, Your Voice

Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

**HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE**  
henrycountyenterprise.com

### Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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

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

#### Give us your view:

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

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

#### HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to §15.2-1427 and §58.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on a proposed change in the County's transient occupancy tax, raising the rate from two-percent to five-percent, adding a penalty clause for past due payments of the tax, and amending County Code Sec. 8-1400 to reflect the change in the rate.

A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the County Administrator's Office on Kings Mountain Road, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia, the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on a proposed amendment to the Henry County Code (Sec. 8.500) regarding Real Estate Tax Relief for Certain Elderly, Disabled and Handicapped Persons.

A copy of the full text of the ordinance may be viewed in the County Administrator's Office on Kings Mountain Road, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### 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/El 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

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

COUNTY OF HENRY, VA

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FY24 BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Summerlin Meeting Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on a proposed amendment to the Henry County FY2023-24 Budget to appropriate a total of \$3,263,851 in grant funds received for the purchase and installation of 12 emergency generators. The appropriation exceeds 1% of the total County budget. The proposed budget amendment does not constitute an obligation on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for any items or purpose.

For more information, contact the County Administrator's Office at 276-634-4601.

American Towers LLC is proposing a 15-ft x 10-ft ground disturbance to take place inside an existing tower compound associated with the collocation of antennas at 177-ft AGL on an existing 194.7-ft (199.5-ft overall with appurtenances) AGL monopole communications tower located at 535 Horsley Road, west of a portion of Virginia Avenue, south of the census-designated place of Oak Level, in Henry County, VA; on the central portion of a 90-acre parcel of land identified Property ID: 223920001 by the Henry County Assessor's Office. The tower structure is unlit, and the tower facility will include the proposed 15-ft x 10-ft ground disturbance inside the existing tower compound, along with a 30-ft buffer surrounding the existing tower compound. American Towers LLC seeks comments from all interested persons on any potential significant impact the proposed action could have on the quality of the human environment pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1307, including potential impacts to historic or cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Interested persons may comment or raise concerns about the proposed action by submitting an e-mail to [enviro.services@americantower.com](mailto:enviro.services@americantower.com). Paper comments can be sent to: American Towers LLC, Attn: Environmental Compliance, 10 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801. Requests or comments should be limited to environmental and historic/cultural resource impact concerns and must be received within 30-days of this notice. This invitation to comment is separate from any local planning/zoning process that may apply to this project.

#### 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 have been scheduled for **October 25, 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 Variances for the following cases.

##### Case V-23-04 Double Diamond Development

A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-212 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the reduction of the parking ratio from 4.4 spaces / 1,000 sq ft of gross floor area, to 3.06 spaces / 1,000 sq ft of gross floor area. The property is located at 2876 Greensboro Road in the Ridgeway District and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 52.4(52)/4R.

##### Case V-23-05 John Edwards

A request for a Variance was received under Section 21-1104 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of an educational pavilion, to be located 36' from the center of the road, instead of the required 60'. The property is located at 4313 The Great Road in the Horsepasture District, is zoned Industrial District I-1, as shown on Tax Map 28.4(9)/A,B.

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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news and

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## Reward for Escaped Inmate Increases to \$20,000

The U.S. Marshals Service increased its crash reward for information leading to the apprehension of escaped inmate Naseem Isaiah Roulack, 21, to \$10,000, bringing the potential reward total to \$20,000.

Earlier this week, the Montgomery County, Md. Department of Police announced a reward of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the arrest of suspects, including Roulack, in a recent armed theft of an automobile.

Montgomery County police said the theft occurred on Friday, September 1 within the locality.

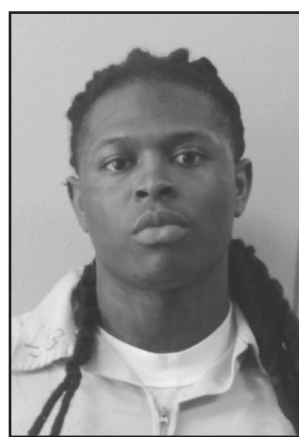
“This is a significant reward and one that we hope compels people to share additional, actionable information,” said VADOC Director Chadwick Dotson. “Bringing Roulack

back into custody is our department’s top priority and I continue to appreciate the collaboration from local, state and federal partner agencies.”

The U.S. Marshals Service has indicated that Roulack, also known as Lil Nas, should be considered armed and dangerous. The U.S. Marshals Service can be contacted at 1-877-WANTED2, or tips can be submitted via the USMS Tips app.

If you encounter Roulack, do not approach. Anyone with information is urged to contact VADOC’s fugitive line at 1-877-896-5764 and Virginia State Police by dialing #77 or 911.

Roulack is described as a Black man who is 5-feet, 8-inches tall, weighs 225 pounds and has brown eyes. Roulack has four identified tattoos, including one on his



chest that reads “Marie,” one on his left arm that reads “RIP Ish”, one on his right cheek that reads “Cut Throat” and one on his right arm that reads “Faith Is Seeing Light With Your Heart When All Your Eyes See Is Darkness.”

Roulack escaped from the supervision of two VADOC security officers at Bon Secours St. Mary’s Hospital in Henrico County at approximately 5:50 a.m. Saturday, August 12.



## Original Conestoga Wagon to Be Displayed at 50th Folklife Festival

The Blue Ridge Institute and Museum is excited to announce an original Conestoga wagon will be displayed at this year’s Folklife Festival. The antique farm equipment exhibit is one of the primary features of the festival along with traditional food preparation and farm skills such as black smithing.

“These wagons were first made by Pennsylvania Germans near the Conestoga River in the mid-1700s for

freight hauling purposes. Not many are still intact, and we are excited to have one on display during the 50th Folklife Festival,” said Bethany Worley, BRIM director.

The 50th Folklife Festival will take place on 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/>.

## Poll shows many Hispanic college students consider dropping out



Edwin J. Viera  
Virginia News Connection

A majority of Hispanic community college students tell pollsters they’ve wanted to leave school.

The Lumina Foundation-Gallup poll finds 50% of Hispanic students have struggled to stay in school. And in Virginia, 42% of Latino students left two-year programs, while 32% graduated in 2021.

Emotional stress and personal mental health were the top reasons they cited for wanting to leave.

Courtney Brown, vice president of strategic impact and planning with the Lumina Foundation, said the stigma surrounding mental health can prevent students from seeking help.

“You know, it’s not just providing those services, but it’s doing it in a safe and a confidential way, so that all students feel welcome in accessing those services,” said Brown. “Again, it’s not just having the bodies there that can provide these services, it is doing it in a student-centered way.”

A 2022 study finds Black, Asian and

Hispanic students were all less likely to use these services. In part, it’s because of disparities in accessing services, which the study finds haven’t changed in a decade.

The poll also reveals that Hispanic students are more likely to be responsible for an adult family member or friend, or to have child-care responsibilities.

Brown said campus and state-level policies could help make caregiving fit into a person’s education.

“Finding services that could help them to take care of an ailing parent, a family member or friend,” said Brown, “whether that is on campus, whether it’s a state policy or local policy that provides those services, is really essential to help these students continue on their journey toward their degree.”

AARP finds unpaid family caregivers provide more than \$14 billion in care. Virginia’s General Assembly considered a bill in 2021 to implement a tax credit for family caregivers, but it didn’t make it out of committee.

Support for this reporting was provided by Lumina Foundation.

## Online “Start Anywhere” Pre-Application for Original ID Card Launched

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has launched an online pre-application for Virginians seeking an identification card now available on DMV’s newly redesigned website, [dmv.virginia.gov](https://dmv.virginia.gov).

This application is part of DMV’s “start anywhere” services, which allow customers to begin certain applications from the comfort of their own home or on the go. The services currently available to start online are original driver’s licenses or renewals or replacements, name change, and now original IDs. Customers can also choose to upgrade their credential to a

REAL ID during any of the start anywhere driver or ID services.

With the “start anywhere” service, customers conveniently log in to their DMV account and begin their application from home. The application is electronically submitted to DMV and a customer service representative will access the pre-filled application at the time of service. This convenient process also walks customers through exactly what documents they need to bring with them so that their visit is successful.

“Our goal is simply maximizing customer experience. Having the ability to start your application online

before your trip to visit us will save you time so you can get back to your day,” said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. “If you’d like to apply for an ID or driver’s license, I recommend starting online so you know exactly what documents to bring with you when you visit us in person.”

Customers can find the pre-application for IDs on DMV’s website under “Online Services.” You must visit a DMV customer service center to complete the process. You can make an appointment, reserve your spot for same-day service or simply stop by during office hours.

## Southside farmer shares experiences as national Young Farmers & Ranchers chair

Matt Fimon is proof that an agricultural background isn’t a requirement to make his mark advocating for the industry at home and abroad. As chair of American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers, he has been traveling the U.S. to gain perspective on the diversity of domestic agriculture, while making international connections.

Fimon shared these experiences with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation board of directors in September.

He moved from urban Minneapolis to rural Southside Virginia in 2018 to start a family with his wife, Lindy Tucker Fimon, a past chair of the VFBF Young Farmers Committee. Fimon also serves on the Lunenburg County

Farm Bureau board of directors, works a day job in human resources and tends to the family’s beef cattle and hay operation.

Appointed to a two-year term on the AFBF committee and board in 2021, Fimon reflected on his unique position, and the opportunities to focus on furthering Farm Bureau’s mission. While flashy new advocacy initiatives are appealing, Fimon didn’t want to stray far from AFBF’s grassroots mission—to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans through prosperous agricultural communities.

“Let’s bring it back to the basics,” he said. “Nowadays you see young people who want purpose and value in what they bring to the table. How do we get them to be strategic members of that goal? It’s been the

most rewarding experience to bring that full circle!”

In his current role, Fimon traveled with VFBF President Wayne F. Pryor to the U.S.-Mexico border in Yuma, Arizona.

“It was eye-opening to see 15,000 people cross that border legally every day to ensure that U.S. farmers and agriculturalists have the support and labor they need to get the job done,” he recalled. “Farmers wouldn’t be able to meet the demand if workers weren’t able to cross.”

Fimon also was invited to the Japanese ambassador’s Washington, D.C., residence for Virginia-Japan night, where they discussed their strong economic relationship and the importance of agricultural trade. While there, he made friends

with Japanese young agriculturalists, and shared resources to help them expand their own programs for young farmers.

“We built relationships with Canada’s young farmers program as well,” Fimon continued. “It’s a buddy system based on commodities and networking on a semi-monthly basis, where we can offer input and support in how to continue to develop these programs.”

VFBF Women’s Leadership Committee Chair Faye Hundley thanked Fimon for bringing a Virginia perspective to his national leadership role.

“You’ve got a bigger hat to wear now,” she said. “And you’ve made a point to participate in so many opportunities that help support farmers in Virginia too.”

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

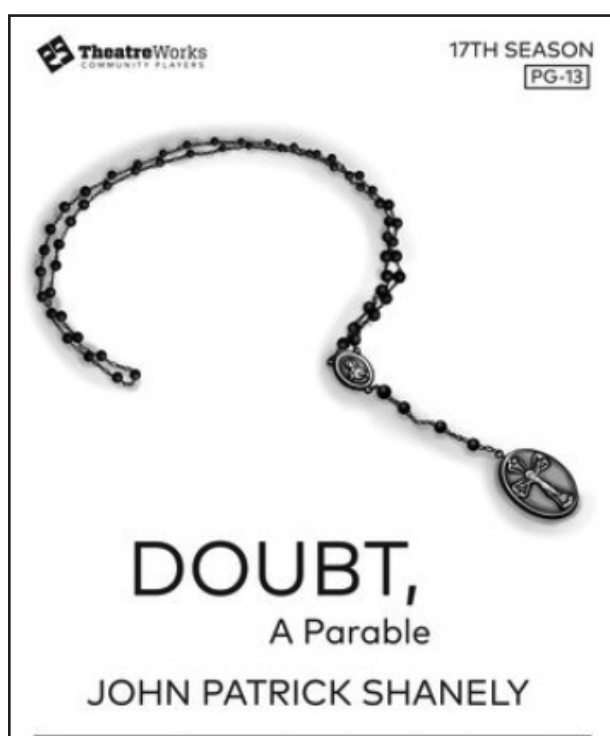
## TheatreWorks sets dates, times for upcoming performances

The performance dates and times for "Doubt, A Parable," are Oct. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. at The Black Box, 44 Franklin St. Martinsville.

The cast includes (in order of appearance): Father Flynn - CJ Bowman, Sister Aloysius - Valerie Bowling, Sister James - Elisabet Minter, and Mrs. Muller - Odesia Millner.

Directed by Joanie McPeak, the Stage Manager is Roslyn Simmons, with Lights and Sound by Mike Greco.

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.

Purchase a Friday Night UPTown Bundle and receive a \$20 voucher to redeem at Hugo's Restaurant any day after the performance (valid until 12/31/23). This is a \$40 value (\$20 Doubt, \$20 Hugo's) for only \$30.

Available only in advance online for a Friday Night performance only (Oct. 13 and Oct. 20).

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

To purchase tickets online, visit twcp.net.

## Franklin County names interim economic developer

Long-time economic developer Beth Doughty was named interim director of economic development in Franklin County. Doughty, who retired in 2021 as executive director of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, will assume the post vacated by Beth Simms, who will begin her duties as the Patrick County Administrator on Oct. 12.

"There are so many economic development initiatives underway in Franklin County that bringing on an experienced interim director who is familiar with the county is the best way to keep the ball rolling and not lose momentum," said Christopher Whitlow, county administrator in Franklin County. "We will begin a search for a permanent

director right away."

As interim director, Doughty will serve as liaison with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and Roanoke Regional Partnership, engage with existing business, facilitate business expansions and locations, coordinate development of the Summit View Business Park, and roll out new initiatives.

Doughty was with the Roanoke Regional Partnership, of which Franklin County is a member, for twenty-two years. During her tenure, she helped recruit more than \$1 billion in investment to the Roanoke region and conceived an asset-based economic development strategy focused on outdoor assets that became Roanoke Outside. She



**Beth Doughty**

also was president & CEO of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce for nine years. Doughty was president of the Virginia Economic Developers Association and received the association's Cardinal Award. She was named one of the Top 50 Economic Developers in North America three years in a row by Consultant Connect.

## Engel returns to Martinsville with his crowd-favorite lectures

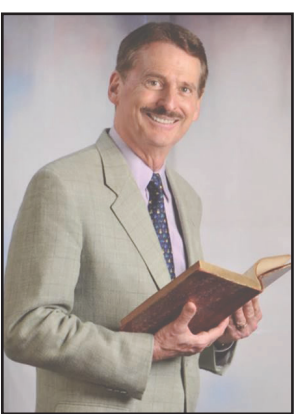
Piedmont Arts will host Dr. Elliot Engel's return to Martinsville-Henry County on Thursday, Nov. 9. Engel will present his lecture "The Cold Genius of Robert Frost" in the Piedmont Arts galleries. The lecture will be preceded by an optional catered dinner at 6 p.m. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45 for the dinner and lecture and \$20 for just the lecture. Tickets can be purchased at the museum or online at PiedmontArts.org.

Robert Frost is one of the most beloved American poets of the twentieth century — despite having a notoriously difficult personality. In this lecture, Dr. Engel reveals a wealth of fascinating details concerning Frost's extraordinary life, which shaped both his art and his relationships with his family and fellow writers. Engel analyzes many of Frost's best poems — most of them famous,

but some undeservedly obscure — lavishing particular care and close reading on 'Stopping by Woods,' which is considered by many to be Frost's most brilliant work.

Before the public event, Dr. Engel will spend the afternoon with English students at Martinsville High School presenting the lecture, "How William Became Shakespeare."

Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. Engel now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he has taught at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA he won that university's Outstanding Teacher Award. Dr. Engel has written ten books published in England, Japan, Turkey, and



**Dr. Elliot Engel**

the United States. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS television stations around the country. His articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and national magazines including Newsweek. He has lectured throughout the United States and on all the continents including Antarctica. Four plays which he has written have been produced during the last ten years. In 2009, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in England for his academic work and service in promoting Charles Dickens.



## Leave leaves on yards to aid biodiversity

*Edwin J. Viera, Virginia News Connection*

A new study finds the autumn chore of raking leaves could be a disservice to budding plant life. The National Wildlife Federation found fallen leaves can be crucial to biodiversity. Experts find keeping leaves in a yard is similar to mulching. The leaves cover roots under plants, suppress weeds, and keep the soil moist. While the group's research finds this is common knowledge, only 25% of people surveyed said they actually leave the leaves.

Holly Shimizu, a board member with the American Horticultural Society, said for a lot of people, it comes down to aesthetics.

"A lot of people, they love everything super neat and tidy, and if you're using leaves as your mulch, it's not going to have that same, like, totally tidy, neat look," she said. "It's going to be a little bit more natural looking."

But, she added the perception is

slowly changing, as more people are working with nature in their gardens. The report reflects this shift as 82% of people surveyed are open to keeping leaves where they are to benefit wildlife.

While keeping leaves has benefits, there are limits to how well this can work.

David Mizejewski, a naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation, said a portion of the yard being covered with leaves can benefit wildlife, but leaving a couple inches of leaves on a lawn will kill it. Either way, bagging leaves is not a better alternative.

"Bagging them up and sending them to the landfill actually is a really bad thing," he said. "It really contributes some really nasty greenhouse gases to the atmosphere that are a piece of climate change."

Mizejewski noted some states have taken action to keep leaves out of local landfills. The U.S. Composting Council finds 17 states have yard debris bans in place.

## The Rise of Smishing

If you have a cell phone, you've probably noticed an increase in text messages from people you don't know.

This is particularly concerning, given how effective smishing is as a scam tactic. The Federal Trade Commission reported \$330 million in losses last year to fraudulent texts. We know this is just a fraction of losses, given vast underreporting by fraud victims. With smishing scams on the rise, here's what you need to know.

Do not engage with texts from unknown people. Rather than clicking on text links, type the web

address you know to be legitimate into your browser. Alternatively, call the alleged sender at a number you know to be legitimate. Also, you can filter out junk texts by updating your phone's messaging app settings, using call-blocking services through your wireless carrier, or installing call-blocking apps.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia

Be Part of History  
American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE

MHC  
MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating October as Local History Month in Virginia

Walk-Ins Welcome • Appointments Preferred  
Schedule your appointment at:  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) • [jphillips@ferrum.edu](mailto:jphillips@ferrum.edu) • 276-806-5022

## 'Be Part of History' blood drive set

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor a "Be Part of History" Blood Drive in celebration of Local History Month in Virginia on Thursday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street.

According to the American Red Cross, blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations coming in. The Red Cross is working with hospitals around the clock to meet the blood needs of patients but cannot do it

alone. As a token of gratitude during this critical time, each donor will receive a \$15 Amazon. First-time donors, Power Red donors, and those reaching milestones are especially welcome. Schedule your appointment TODAY at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or contact John Phillips at 276-806-5022 or [jphillips@ferrum.edu](mailto:jphillips@ferrum.edu).

Phillips, historical society president and Ferrum College nursing professor, said, "Seasons may change, but the need for blood is constant. Right now, the blood supply is in

a crunch and has fallen about 25% since early August."

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society owns and operates the Historic Henry County Courthouse which houses the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Center & Museum which will be open during the blood drive. It is also open Tuesday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 P.M., due to our generous donors and corporate sponsors, Carter Bank & Trust and The Lester Group. The building and grounds are fully handicap accessible.