

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 21, 2023

(USPS-6)

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Kim Jackson (right), a representative of Creedle, Jones & Associates, P.C., discusses the results of the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) fiscal year 2023 audit with the organization's Board of Directors.

PSA sees gains in tough financial environment

The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) improved its net position and cash flow from the previous fiscal year, according to an audit conducted by Creedle, Jones & Associates, P.C.

Kim Jackson, a representative of the firm, delivered the results of the fiscal year (FY) 2023 audit to the PSA Board

of Directors during its October regular meeting.

The net position of the PSA increased by \$451,861 during FY23. Jackson explained that net position refers to an entity's assets in excess of its debt to creditors. Finances for the PSA were

See PSA, page 5

Weekend performances slated for TheatreWorks' "Doubt: A Parable"



Joanie McPeak (from left) is the director of "Doubt: A Parable." The actors are Elisabet Minter as Sister James, Valerie Bowling as Sister Aloysius, CJ Bowman as Father Flynn, and Odesia Millner as Mrs. Muller.

By Holly Kozelsky

TheatreWorks Community Players' "Doubt: A Parable" will run this weekend, after opening Oct. 13, in the Black Box Theatre at 44 Franklin St.,

Martinsville.

"Doubt, A Parable," written in 2004 by John Patrick Shanley, is set in 1964 in a Catholic school in the Bronx. During that time of political and social change, a progressive young priest's conduct

raises the suspicions of the old-fashioned school administrator Sister Aloysius, whose tough exterior covers a core of concern and care. Naïve young teacher-nun Sister James also is trou-

See TheatreWorks, page 6

Marshall honored at private GOP event Tuesday

Staff Reports

Candidates for local and state offices and city and county officials were among those paying homage Tuesday to Del. Danny Marshall for his 22 years of service to Martinsville and Henry County.

Beginning in January, Marshall's service area will include areas in Pittsylvania and Halifax counties and the City of Danville as a result of redistricting.

Because he was battling pneumonia, Marshall, R-Danville, attended the event via Zoom.

Marshall was presented with a proclamation from the

See Marshall, page 5



PHOTO BY MARY MARTIN

A majority of Martinsville City Council members attended Tuesday's event. Pictured from left are Mayor LC Jones, Kathy Lawson and her husband Ralph Lawson, Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls with guest, and Tammy Pearson. Council member Lawrence Mitchell did not attend.



Lodge with linens

Windy Ridge, a new venue to serve wedding needs

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

Nestled on a 42-acre property in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Windy Ridge Event Center is a new wedding venue for those in Martinsville and Henry County and surrounding areas such as Patrick County, Salem,

Christiansburg, and Radford.

The center's grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, October 21.

"We are offering a grand opening special of a \$2,000 discount to couples who tour and book their wedding for the spring of 2024 (March 20-June 20)," said Jeanette

See Windy Ridge, page 12

The Kennel, a new café, opens at Martinsville Middle School

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

"When you need a break, The Kennel is always awake" is the motto of The Kennel, a café operated by Martinsville High School (MHS) students at Martinsville Middle School.

The Kennel, which caters to teachers, officially opened on Thursday, October 12 as part of the entrepreneurial program through MHS Career & Technical Education (CTE).

Martinsville High School senior Monica Watkins said she and her fellow students were excited to open the café

and serve the teachers who served them while they were in middle school.

"It is always a pleasure to see our teachers. We are glad to sit here and be hosts for a space where teachers can relax and rewind when they are having a hard day," she said.

Watkins said the café is open all day, with the students running it switching off between class periods. She works there during the last period of the day.

"We are getting the credit that we" could have gotten from a normal internship. "So, we get this on our resume," she said.

Fellow senior Robert

Davis said students also gain the experience of running their own businesses.

"We have to keep up with everything: Inventory, counting the drawer," he said.

Davis said students

had the option to sign up for the first semester, second semester, or both, with most of them choosing to work at both semesters.

Watkins decided to do it for the first semester, but "depending on

how I really feel about it at the end of this semester, I will probably pick next semester as well," she said.

Several of the students, including Watkins and Davis, joined the program

because they aspire to become entrepreneurs in the future and wanted business experience.

Shauna Hines, Martinsville City Public Schools Coordinator

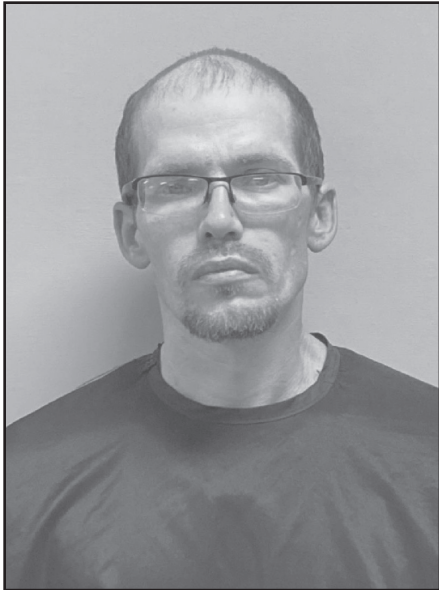
See Kennel, page 11



The Kennel, a café at Martinsville Middle School, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting on October 12.

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UPDATES**





Michael Wayne Upchurch



Leslie Rose Upchurch

Search warrant executed in Bassett, two charged

The Henry County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team executed a narcotics search warrant at 16 Clarence Martin Road, Bassett, on October 6, and seized suspected Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, an illegally possessed firearm, and ammunition.

Michael Wayne Upchurch, 35, of the home, was charged with possession with intent to distribute Fentanyl, possession with intent to distribute Methamphetamine, pos-

session with intent to distribute weapon of terrorism (Fentanyl), possession of a firearm by violent felon and possession of ammunition by felon.

He is being held in the Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Leslie Rose Upchurch, 35, of the home also was arrested on outstanding warrants, felony revocation of suspended sentence, bail/piece release. She too is being held with no bond in the Henry

County Adult Detention Center.

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 a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information provided determines the amount of reward paid.

New College Institute to host Longwood University @ NCI Night

Longwood University admissions staff will be onsite at New College Institute (NCI) on Monday, October 23, from 3 – 7 p.m. to meet with prospective students. The admissions staff will be set up in NCI's Baldwin building lobby, located at 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville.

Longwood @ NCI is a semi-annual event. Longwood staff and institutional office personnel travel to NCI from Farmville to meet with students in Martinsville. In addition to admissions staff, the bookstore, library, Office of Teacher Preparation (OTP), Ace the Test, and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will also have staff onsite to meet with current Longwood education students to ensure they receive the same opportunities and support as on-campus students.

"Having Longwood University faculty onsite at NCI is a great asset for this community, but having the opportunity for these Martinsville students to meet with the on-

campus staff is an added bonus that shows Longwood's dedication to this program and partnership with NCI," stated NCI Executive Director Joe Sumner.

New College Institute currently partners with Longwood University to provide bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Longwood University's education programs are designed to allow students with an associate degree to complete their bachelor's degree with the convenience of hybrid classes offered at night and the benefit of practicum placements in three different local school systems. Students nearing the end of their associate degree program are encouraged to apply now.

For more information regarding Longwood @ NCI, please contact Longwood University Elementary Education Faculty and Program Director, Dr. Pamela Randall, at randallpp@longwood.edu or 276-403-5626.

Kiwanis Pancake Day a success

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Martinsville Kiwanis Club celebrated its 70th annual Pancake Day on Thursday, Oct. 12.

Sam Nichols, the group's "unappointed chairman of Pancake Day," said nearly 3,000 people were served during the 'all you can eat' event that went from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We serve over 1,000 pounds of sausage; we serve over 1,000 pounds of pancake mix. We serve 165 12-packs of soft drink, probably 200-350 half-pints of milk," he said.

Nichols said the event funds the group, with \$13,000 to \$15,000 raised.

"All of our money that we make in the spring and the fall goes into kids' programs that we help fund. Nothing to individuals, or anything like that, just to groups," he said.

Funds will go towards the Boys & Girls Club, United Way, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Boy Scouts of America, Smith River Sports Complex, RoosterWalk, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), the Henry County Food Bank, and other organizations.

The organization also funds two \$1,000 scholarships annually to stu-

dents at local schools.

"We ask them to do an essay, and we give them a topic, and then we have a committee that sees who's the best two," he said.

Nichols said the Kiwanis Club has volunteers help for the event, and partnered with P&HCC which provided student volunteers.

"The baseball team came last night and helped us set up, and the basketball team and someone else from P&HCC is coming this evening to help us take down," he said, adding that like a circus, "we set up the night before, and the next night we tear it down and gone."

Nichols said the group recently purchased new stainless-steel tables for the welding and fabrication department at P&HCC, where students "modified them, put wheels on them. That made it so we could level them, and put them together. So, when we get through in the evening, we can just basically leave the grills right on there and run it right up into a trailer and away we go."

For more information, go to www.Facebook.com/KiwanisClubofMartinsville,VA or email info@kiwanismhc.org. Those interested in joining the club may pick up an application at Martinsville Family Dentistry.



The Martinsville Kiwanis Club's 70th annual Pancake Day was held October 12.



Volunteers helped make pancakes during the event.



Dozens of people enjoyed the 'all you can eat' fare at the annual Pancake Day.



More than three dozen people stood in line to get Kiwanis Club pancakes during its fundraiser.




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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meetings

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

Tuesday, October 24

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its regular monthly meeting at 3 p.m. in the Summerlin Room of the Henry County Administration Building.

Thursday, November 2

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

Events

Saturday, October 21

Altrusa of Martinsville and Henry County will be hosting the District Two Area III Workshop at the Virginia Museum of Natural History at 9 a.m.

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.

Sunday, October 22

Fall Festival, Fort Trial Baptist Church, 3-5 p.m., with candy, games, food and giveaways, at the church, 170 Oak Level Road, Stanleytown.

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.

Wednesday, October 25

Legendary Conversations with Richard Petty & Frank Scott, 7 p.m. Food trucks starting at 5, live music and race cars - at the Baldwin Building (NCI).

Saturday, October 28

Books & Treats, a trunk or treat event, 5-7 p.m. at the Martinsville Main Library Branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, with an interactive Halloween Storytime Schedule. Walk the Trail of Treats and visit the Spooky Garden. Books and treats will be available while supplies last.

Trucks and Treats with treats, prizes and games, 6 p.m., Marshall Way in Fieldale, sponsored by the Fieldale Volunteer Fire Company.

Tuesday, October 31

Uptown Trick-or-Treat, 4-6 p.m. Participating businesses include Barking Beauties LLC, Charity League of MHC, Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home, Food Lion-Greensboro Road, Just Breathe Yoga & BodyWorks, Teen Arts Council-Piedmont Arts. Park in the Broad Street Parking Lot and follow the loop of businesses down Church Street and back up Main Street.

Friday, November 3 - Saturday, November 4
Yard sale 8 to 1 at Fieldale Recreation Center, 7 Marshall Way, Fieldale. Cash only. Lots of bargains and great Christmas gifts.

Saturdays through November 18

Martinsville Uptown Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon, with the freshest fruits and veggies, homemade snacks, locally raised beef, and more. July 5-September 27, the market is open Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to noon.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOC officers were asleep during escape

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) administrative investigation into the escape of inmate Naseem Isaiah Roulack, 21, also known as Lil Nas, is now complete.

Facts gathered by the VADOC's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) found that the two Corrections Officers tasked with supervising Roulack at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital in Henrico County admitted to being asleep when Roulack escaped from his hospital room at approximately 5:50 a.m. Saturday, August 12.

The two officers chose to resign from the VADOC in lieu of termination. The officers officially left employment with the VADOC on August 23.

SIU special agents also found that Roulack

was wearing flex cuffs (cuffs made of nylon) on both his wrists and legs at the time of his escape. Roulack had been wearing flex cuffs on his wrists and metal cuffs on his legs as of August 8, but the metal leg cuffs were replaced with flex cuffs due to the hospital's request to conduct magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) tests. The metal cuffs should have been reapplied following the procedure and with a doctor's consent.

"I thank the Special Investigations Unit for their thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Roulack's escape," said VADOC Director Chadwick Dotson. "The Department will learn from these findings to ensure that we are providing the most effective incarceration, which leads to lasting

public safety for the Commonwealth."

The criminal investigation into Roulack's escape continues. The VADOC is collaborating with local, state and federal partner agencies to bring Roulack back into custody.

The reward for information leading to Roulack's apprehension has increased to a potential total of \$20,000 (\$10,000 from the U.S. Marshals Service and \$10,000 from the Montgomery County, MD Department of Police related to an

armed carjacking in which Roulack is a suspect).

The U.S. Marshals Service has indicated that Roulack 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, a Black man, has brown eyes, and is 5-feet, 8-inches tall. He weighs 225 pounds and 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."

"Our top priority at the Virginia Department of Corrections remains bringing Roulack back into custody," Dotson said. "We ask anyone who has information to please contact us or other appropriate authorities."

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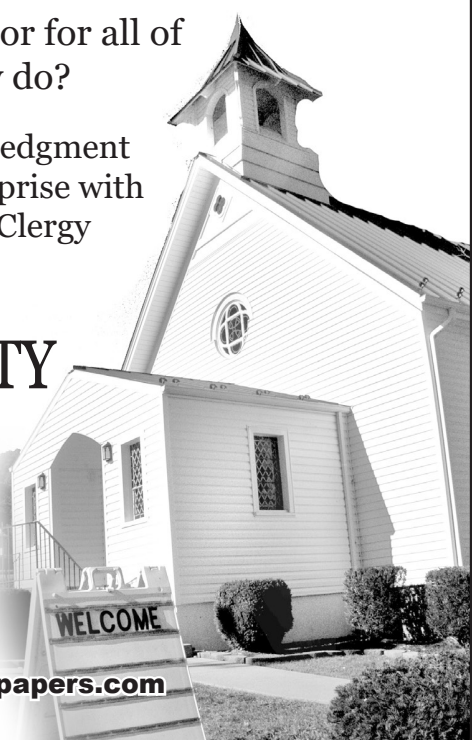
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OPINION

Regarding inflated tires

In what's about to be a very on-the-nose story about inflation, I had to buy some tires last week.

I try to put decent all-season tires on my Toyota SUV. Nothing fancy, and nothing with a prominent name brand, but decent middle-of-the-pack tires that can get me up my dirt road when it's washed out or covered in snow.

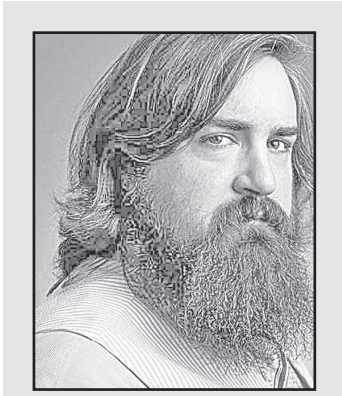
The last time I put new tires on my vehicle was in 2020; the brand I settled on came to \$800 for four new tires. That seemed fairly reasonable to me, and they served me well, so when I went to the tire shop last week, I told them I wanted to order four new tires of the exact same brand and model.

The total came to \$1,100. I looked it up, and that increase wasn't the tire shop gouging me on parts; the price they quoted me was exactly what I would have paid myself if I'd bought the tires from the cheapest online source I could find. The tire shop's profit margin has to be tiny.

I did a little research and found a fascinating website that tells you, on average, how much prices in various categories have increased over time versus how much they SHOULD have increased given the average yearly inflation rate. For example, based on the average rate of inflation, the price of food and beverages should have risen 6.23% between 2020 and 2023. Instead, it's gone up 19.89%, which should be no surprise to anyone who's visited the grocery store lately.

The cost of housing should have risen 5.45% in that same timeframe; instead, it's gone up 17.24%. Medical care costs have risen 5.66% when they should have risen 1.85%. And most jarringly, given the average rate of inflation, transportation costs should have risen 9.87%; instead, they have risen a whopping 32.63%.

That transportation figure is right in line with the cost of my new tires, which rose in price by 37.5% in just a few short years. Anyone who's considered buying a



By Ben R. Williams

new car just lately has seen how absurd the prices have become. When Toyota revealed their redesigned Land Cruiser that's coming in 2024, I fell in love, but I had to laugh when Car and Driver referred to it as "affordable." Maybe compared to previous models, but it's a sad state of affairs when a \$55,000 vehicle is considered "affordable," and that's probably going to be the base price for the entry-level model that no dealerships will actually have on the lot.

Admittedly, there are some legitimate reasons that prices of goods rose during the pandemic. Many industries are still experiencing supply chain issues, and a lot of companies have had to raise

their wages to attract and maintain good talent.

However, by all accounts, a lot of these inflated prices were supposed to subside once the worst of the pandemic had ended. And why didn't they?

Because people kept buying stuff.

If companies were making record profits during the pandemic, why would they want to stop? What would their investors say? In a capitalist society, the single worst sin you can commit is to allow a number on a spreadsheet to shrink between quarters.

Consumers, meanwhile, are over a barrel. I didn't decide to buy four new tires as a nice little treat for myself; I did it because my old ones are nearly shot and I have a strong desire to drive to work and participate in society.

The other day I noticed a big crack in the screen of my phone that I've been refusing to upgrade for the last five years. Once it gets bad enough, I'll end up buying a new phone — not because I'm excited to have the newest technology, but because every facet of our modern lives revolves around the use of a smartphone. I have no choice.

The prices of luxury goods are going up as well, but that's what luxury goods tend

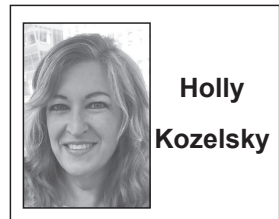
to do. The problem is with rising prices of goods that we all need to exist in the world, the things that nobody budgets for because you never know when you'll need them. Things like tires, cell phones, new roofs, the pipes under your house, or a heat pump.

When these things fail — and they do more often than they used to due to planned obsolescence — you can't just decide that you're not going to drive anymore, or use water, or heat your home in the winter.

I'm fortunate that my tires going up in price is merely an inconvenience, not an emergency. However, that certainly isn't the case for everybody. Corporate greedflation is forcing many people to buy necessary items by putting them on credit cards or taking out loans. Companies are crowding to investors and board members that profits are up while failing to mention that they're holding the customers at gunpoint.

I'm no economist, and I have no idea what it's going to look like when the bills finally come due and the whole system comes crashing down. All I know is that perpetual motion machines violate the laws of thermodynamics and the profits can't keep rising forever.

Guilt or innocence — you decide



Holly Kozelsky

At the end of the show, my daughter and her friend ran up to the actors and asked, "Which was it? Was he guilty or not?"

You've got to work it out yourself, CJ Bowman told her. He's the actor who plays Father Flynn. That's the whole point of the play, he pointed out — as indicated by its name, "Doubt: A Parable."

We saw TheatreWorks Community Players' "Doubt" Saturday night, and if you haven't seen it yet, you still have a chance — It will be on at 7

tonight (Friday, Oct. 20) and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are at www.twcp.net. The play is in the Black Box Theatre at 44 Franklin St., Martinsville, and Joanie McPeak is its masterful director.

Father Flynn is an unconventional priest in this 1960s Catholic school. His sermons include contemporane-

ous topics, such a political unrest in the wake of President Kennedy assassination. He coaches the boys in basketball and has an approachable, informal rapport with his students.

The show is a roller-coaster of thought. One

moment you're entirely sure Father Flynn is guilty of seducing 12-year-old Donald, as the nuns think he is, and you're caught in the turmoil of how the nuns can stop his wrongdoings in their 1960s world where men are in charge

and protect each other by giving little to no credence to women. The next, you see the situation between the student and priest in a whole new light, as Father Flynn gives his explanation of

See **Decide**, page 5



The cast of TheatreWorks' "Doubt: A Parable" take applause at the end of a recent performance: Elisabet Minter (from left) as Sister James, Valerie Bowling as Sister Aloysius, CJ Boman as Father Flynn and Odesia Millner as Mrs. Muller.



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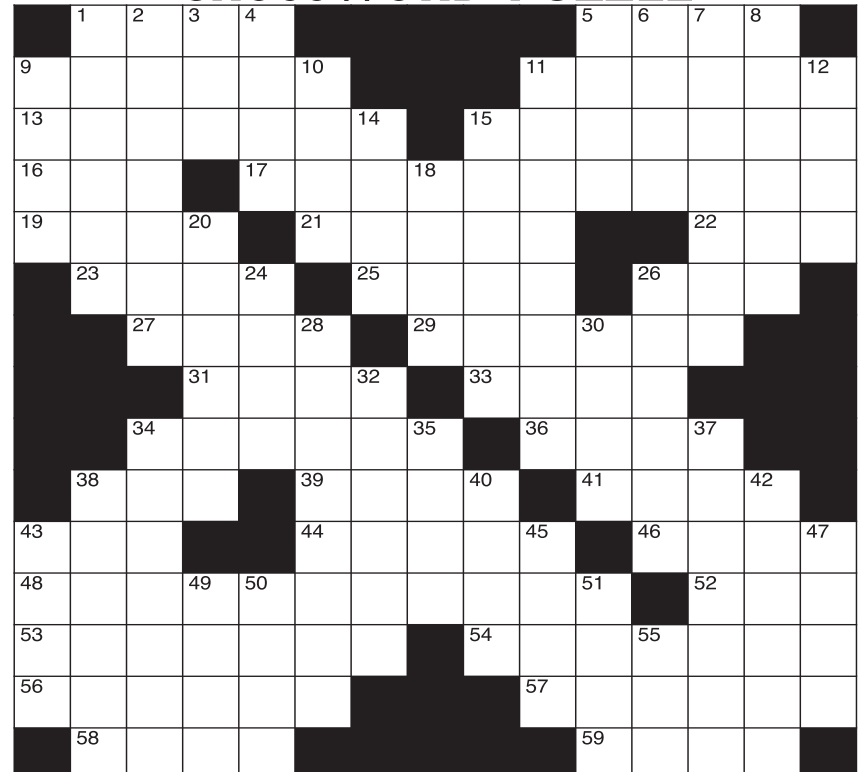
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to communicate
- 5. Historic city
- 9. Not the same
- 11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
- 13. One hurt the Titanic
- 15. Fine dense cloth
- 16. Architectural structure
- 17. Where Serena works
- 19. Stringed instrument
- 21. Estimate
- 22. Where sailors work
- 23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
- 25. Popular slow cooked dish
- 26. Twisted Sister's Snider
- 27. "Office Space" actor Stephen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Triangular bone in lower back
- 2. Building toy
- 3. Pointed end of a pen
- 4. Insect repellent
- 5. College army
- 6. Highly spiced stew
- 7. Exploited
- 8. Main course
- 9. A bottle that contains a drug
- 10. The most worthless part
- 11. Everyone needs one nowadays
- 12. Japanese wooden shoe
- 14. Antelopes
- 15. A way to cut
- 18. Brooklyn hoopsters

CLUES ACROSS

- 29. Put the ball in the net
- 31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
- 33. High school math subject
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Rhode Island rebellion
- 38. A pea is one type
- 39. You can put it on something
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Inanely foolish
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. "Dennis" is one
- 57. Soothes
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

- 20. Gradually receded
- 24. Ripped open
- 26. College grads get one
- 28. Amino acid
- 30. Unruly gathering
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Resembling pigs
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Some build hills
- 49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unwell

PSA

from page 1

buoyed by increases in non-operating revenues, such as interest income and gains on the sale of assets. The authority also received capital contributions in the form of grants amounting to \$721,967 during the year.

Another positive indicator for the PSA was the increase in cash flow for FY23. During the year, the authority improved its cash flow by slightly more than \$1 million. Cash resources in the form of operating and investing activities generated a positive cash flow.

“Increasing both our cash flow and net position is quite the accomplishment given the current environment of high inflation,” said PSA General Manager Dale Wagoner. “It is even more impressive knowing that we have been able to do this while providing for our employees and without increasing our rates on

customers in 10 years.”

The audit also had positive indicators for any future PSA activities. Specifically, the authority’s debt service coverage has drastically increased over the past 10 years. Debt service coverage is used to gauge an entity’s ability to repay its debts, including any bonds, loans or lines of credit. Since FY14, the PSA’s debt service coverage ratio has increased from 2.77 to 14.14.

In other matters, the board:

- Approved the carryover of \$12,654,828 from the prior budget year to the current budget year for items encumbered during FY23 but not yet completed.

- Received monthly reports on finance, construction, maintenance, engineering, safety, treatment and regulatory compliance.

Marshall

from page 1



PHOTO BY MARY MARTIN

Del. Les Adams and Gordon Metz, a candidate for the Reed Creek District, were among those attending an event to honor Del. Danny Marshall.

county.

Marshall’s long-time aide, Mary Franklin, who attended in his stead, was also honored for her service.

The event was not publicized.

The Henry County-Martinsville Republican Committee hosted the dinner event at the New College Institute.

Eric Phillips, chairman of the GOP committee, said “We didn’t invite any press purposefully,” in part because Marshall shies away from accolades and because the event “really wasn’t a political rally.”

He noted that many of the candidates seeking office locally run as Independent candidates, unattached to either party.

Dels. Les Adams, R-Chatham, and Wren Williams, R-Stuart, were among those attending the event, as was former congressman Virgil H. Goode.

Candidates for local office included Mary Martin, who is seeking the at-large seat on the Henry County School Board and Sheriff Wayne Davis; Gordon Metz and Pam Cobbler, the two candidates for the Reed Creek District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors; Stephanie Brinegar, who is seeking the Horsepasture District seat on the Henry County School Board, incumbent Henry County Treasurer Scott Grundstaff, and others.

Two members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors attended the event – Jim Adams and Debra Buchanan, along with several members of Martinsville City Council, including Mayor LC Jones, Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls, Kathy Lawson, and Tammy Pearson.

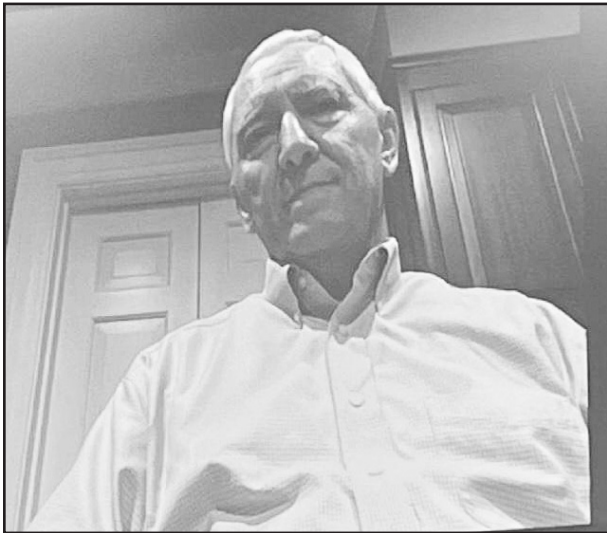


PHOTO BY RAY REYNOLDS

Del. Danny Marshall was honored for his service during a private GOP event Tuesday. Marshall is battling pneumonia and was unable to attend the event in person.



PHOTO BY RAY REYNOLDS

Mary Franklin, Marshall’s long-time aide, was honored at the event. Pictured with Franklin are Debra Buchanan and Jim Adams, of the Henry County Board of Supervisors.



PHOTO BY MARY MARTIN

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones is pictured with Mary Martin, a candidate for the At-Large seat on the Henry County School Board.

Investigation of crash continues

The Virginia State Police are continuing the investigation of a two-vehicle crash that resulted in a fatality. The crash occurred Tuesday, Oct 3, at 11:30 p.m. on U.S. 220, one tenth of a mile north of Virginia 641 in Henry County.

A 2010 Taotao Express Scooter was traveling north in the south-

bound lanes of U.S. 220, when the Scooter allegedly struck a 2018 Nissan Sentra head-on.

Alexander Rudd, 77, of Greensboro, N.C., was driving the scooter. He was transported to Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

State authorities were notified of Rudd’s death on October 13. No charges are pending.

Bassett woman held with no bond



Crystal Annette Williams

On October 6, while conducting a traffic stop at the intersection of Virginia Ave. and Daniels Creek Road, deputies noticed a woman was operating a green Chevrolet Camaro, which was unrelated to the initial traffic stop. At that time, the operator had outstanding warrants issued by the Martinsville City Police Department for failure to appear.

Upon approaching the vehicle and issuing commands for the woman to remove the keys from the ignition, she and other passengers failed to comply with the deputies’ instructions. This led to a pursuit on Daniels Creek Road. Despite their efforts, deputies lost sight of the vehicle in the 3000 Block of Daniels Creek Road.

Soon after, multiple calls were received by the Martinsville-Henry

County 911 Center, with reported sightings of the Chevrolet Camaro on Milton Lee Drive, Collinsville. Eyewitnesses indicated that several individuals fled from the vehicle, with one allegedly carrying an assault-style rifle. The Sheriff’s Office deployed both Drone and K9 units to conduct an extensive search, but the woman and her associates evaded capture that day.

The next day, October 7, deputies focused their search on Milton Lee Drive, Collinsville, acting on credible tips from citizens. The woman was reportedly sighted walking with a firearm in that area. Deputies located and apprehended Crystal Annette Williams, 32, at 28 Milton Lee Drive, Collinsville, without incident. Following her arrest, she was turned over to the Martinsville City Police Department

for the processing of their outstanding warrants.

The Henry County Sheriff’s Office has charged Williams, of 2560 Blackberry Road, Bassett, with felony eluding. She is currently being held without bond in the Martinsville City Jail.

The Sheriff’s Office extends its gratitude to the community for its vigilant assistance and continued support.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for vital information related to crimes. The nature of the crime and the relevance of the information provided will determine the exact reward amount.

Decide

from page 4

what is going on – it seems that, after all, he really is just helping the boy, who is ostracized in the school as the only Black student.

Whether or not Father Flynn did what the nuns think he did was the kids’ big question, and that would have been my big question as well – and certainly, it had me all twisted up – but I couldn’t keep my eyes off the stern but deeply caring Sister Aloysius. Who in the world was that actress portraying her?

After years of seeing most TheatreWorks and Patriot Players shows, I’m well familiar with the regular actors and actresses and singers. This seemed to be a new one, though when I had looked at the cast posters when we went in, they were mostly of people who have acted before – Elisabet Minter, who plays Sister James, and CJ Bowman, who plays Father Flynn, and whoever was Sister Aloysius, who for the life of me I couldn’t remember while watching the show. This show does have a newcomer, Odesia Millner, but she’d be up on the stage later as Mrs. Muller.

At the intermission I quickly opened the playbook and looked for that actress. It was Valerie Bowling! I’ve known her for years, having seen her both on and off stage, but I sure didn’t know her on the stage that Saturday night.

So the second half of the show I spent analyzing Sister Aloysius constantly, trying to catch a glimpse of Valerie inside. The character was so different from the actress, in both

looks and movement, that I still had a hard time recognizing her.

I was touched by Sister James’ new-teacher enthusiasm for her craft and her students. I was perplexed by Father Flynn, who sometimes had me seeing him as a dedicated priest and teacher who knows how to reach children but at other times had me questioning his motives. I was in awe of Mrs. Muller’s grace and elegance and her do-what-it-takes fight to help make a way in the world for her son, who had a lot going against him, none of it his fault.

Is it a case of a clergyman taking advantage of a vulnerable young boy?

Or does the priest go out of his way to guide and protect a child who needs that protection, only to be unjustly accused of unspeakable wrongdoing?

The characters struggle with understanding what is happening, with the ultimate goal of protecting the boy – but all have different ideas of what that protection entails.

As the play’s author, John Patrick Shanley, put it in 2005 in his forward to the play: “Doubt requires more courage than conviction does, and more energy; because conviction is a resting place and doubt I infinite – it is a passionate exercise. You may come out of my play uncertain. You may want to be sure. Look down on that feeling. We’ve got to learn to live with a full measure of uncertainty. There is no last word. That’s the silence under the chatter of our time.”

There are three more performances of this show; don’t miss it.

VMNH to host Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival Saturday, October 28



Museum scientists will be showing off a wide variety of scientific specimens at this year's event.

Bonez & Booz, one of the region's premier Halloween and Fall Festivals, is set to return to the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMMH) in Martinsville on Saturday, October 28, from 4 to 10 p.m. The event offers attendees a full lineup of live entertainment and interactive activities, including fire performances, magic shows, stilt walkers, carnival games, costume contests, food trucks, a beer garden, and more.

"Last year's inaugural Bonez & Booz proved to be an absolute hit for thousands of visitors and we're excited to offer it again this year to everyone looking for an extremely festive, fun, and safe Halloween experience," said VMNH Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix-Wirt. "All of the crowd-favorite performers from last year's event are set to return, including the amazing fire performers from Imagine Circus out of Raleigh, North Carolina."

The event, which primarily takes place outdoors, will feature a wide variety of stage shows, including fire performances and magic shows throughout the evening.

"We want to make sure we have live entertainment taking place throughout the evening and that the quality of the performances is top quality," said Hendrix-Wirt. "In addition to the fire performances, this year's event will bring back the talented illusionist Nelson Oliver and stilt-walkers from both Imagine Circus and Miss Kitty's Society for Wayward Cosmonauts."

Beyond live entertainment, the

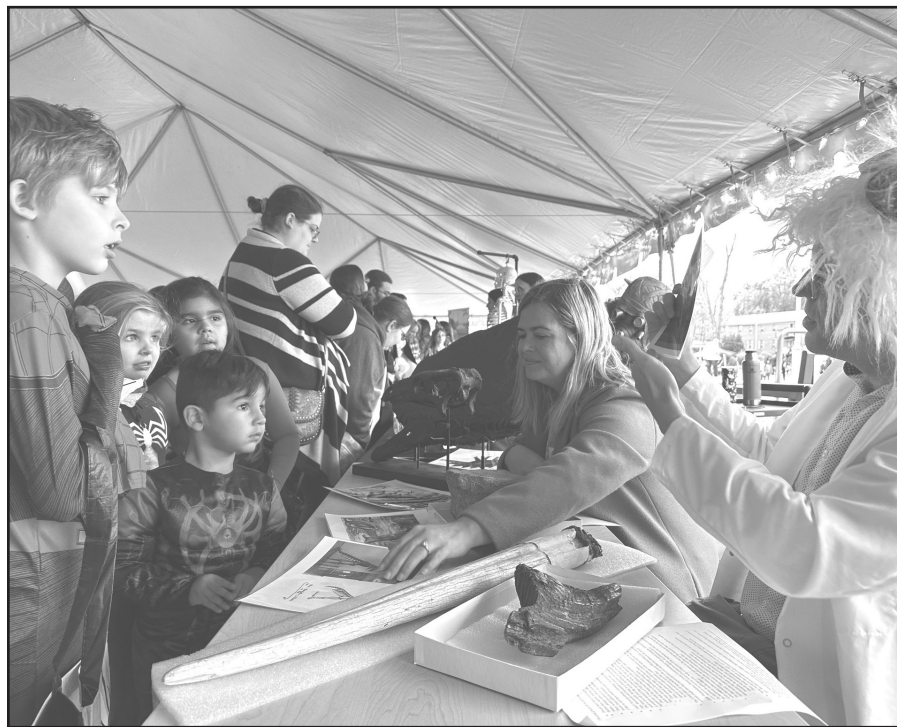
event will feature numerous interactive activities, such as carnival games, costume contests, face painting, balloon art, caricature art, and even a Halloween photo booth. The museum will also open its exhibit galleries for a unique scavenger hunt experience.

"Because this event takes place during the evening and most of the activities will occur outside, we're going to be able to open up the museum's exhibit galleries for scavenger hunts that visitors can complete at their own pace," said Hendrix-Wirt. "The galleries will be thematically lit and staged to provide visitors with a one-of-a-kind exhibit experience we don't offer at any other time of the year. The scavenger hunt is purely optional, and visitors can choose to tour the exhibits at their own pace without participating in the hunt, if they'd like."

As with all museum events, science will play a significant role during Bonez & Booz.

"The museum has a holding of over 10 million scientific specimens and a large variety of those could be described as strange, spooky, or even harrowing," said Hendrix-Wirt. "Bonez & Booz gives VMNH scientists a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the museum's most bizarre specimens."

Bonez & Booz will also offer a large variety of food and drink options, including a beer garden and the Bonez & Booz Food Truck Alley, which will feature numerous food choices, such as barbecue, hot dogs, sandwiches, sausages, cotton candy, candy apples,



On-stage fire performances were a crowd favorite at last year's event.

and more. Food trucks scheduled to be on-site include Buckin' Good Eats & Lemonade, Palumbo's, Daddy Q's BBQ, River City Eats, Kona Ice, and Bahama Sno-shack.

Admission to Bonez & Booz is \$10 per adult and \$5 for ages 3-17. Admission is free for children under 3, museum members, and members of museums and science centers that participate in the ASTC Passport program.

The museum also participates in the Museums for All initiative, offering discounted admission to EBT cardholders. Through this program and additional funding provided by Hooker Furnishings and Carter Bank & Trust, visitors who present their EBT card and accompanying ID at the gate will receive free admission to

Bonez & Booz. Free admission applies to the cardholder and up to 5 immediate family members living within the same household.

Bonez & Booz is sponsored by, Bassett Furniture Industries, Boxley Materials Company, Carter Bank & Trust, SOVAH Health, and The Helen S. & Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust.

Parking at this event will be available off-site. The museum will be closed to visitors during its normal operating hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on Saturday, October 28 in preparation for the event. All costumes must be family friendly. The museum is a tobacco and vape-free campus.

For more information about Bonez & Booz, visit www.vmnh.net/events/bonez-and-booz.

TheatreWorks

from page 1

bled by doubts she has about the priest, doubts which are mostly solidified after conversations with Sister Aloysius.

Valerie Bowling, a TheatreWorks regular, plays the part of Sister Aloysius. Father Flynn is played by CJ Bowman in his first time on the stage in about a decade; he last was in TheatreWorks' "A Christmas Carol."

Elisabet Minter, another TheatreWorks veteran, portrays Sister James, who struggles with how to interpret her observations on the relationship between Father Flynn and student Donald Muller.

But first, the two nuns, products of different generations, also struggle with each other. Sister Aloysius is old school: She bemoans the use of those new-fangled ballpoint pens, which cause students to rush sloppily in their writing when they should be writing slowly and deliberately with fountain pens instead. With that staid attitude, she bristles at Sister James' crazy ideas that students should enjoy learning and be motivated by a passion for it.

Yet the two nuns who normally butt heads join together in their efforts to come to the bottom of the situation between the priest and the boy, and they are united in



Mrs. Muller (Odesia Millner), the mother of the only Black student at a Catholic school in the 1960s Bronx, talks with the school's administrator.

lack of support for their cause – the church and schools were ruled by men who would give little to no credence to women and, in fact, might fire or otherwise cause trouble for the women would come to them for help in the matter.

In her efforts to protect the student, Sister Aloysius speaks with the boy's mother, Mrs. Muller, who enters her office with grace and dignity but then shows a fierce and strong yet unexpected defense of her son. Odesia Millner portrays the elegant and firm

Mrs. Muller.

Though the whole play centers around the 12-year-old Donald, that character is not played on stage; he is only spoken of.

Despite the seriousness of the topic, this drama does have several moments of comedy.

Joanie McPeak is the director.

"Doubt: A Parable" will be presented tonight at 7 p.m. (Friday) and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$20 in advance online (www.twcp.net) and \$25 at the door.



Sister Aloysius (Valerie Bowling) and Sister James analyze their suspicions about Father Flynn.



Father Flynn (CJ Bowman) delivers a sermon.

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 certified 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 appren-

tices.

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

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

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

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. 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
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

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

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Pursuant to Section 30-140 of the Code of Virginia as amended, authorities such as the Henry County Public Service Authority are required to present a summary statement of financial position. The following schedule is a summary of the Henry County Public Service Authority’s Statement of Net Position for 2023 and 2022:

	2023	2022	\$ Change	% Change
Assets				
Current assets	\$ 25,123,372	\$ 23,975,074	\$ 1,148,298	4.79%
Net capital assets	73,861,902	74,142,353	(280,451)	-0.38%
Other noncurrent assets	7,440,415	7,534,632	(94,217)	-1.25%
Total Assets	106,425,689	105,652,059	773,630	0.73%
Deferred Outflows of Resources	582,523	815,355	(232,832)	-28.56%
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 107,008,212	\$ 106,467,414	\$ 540,798	0.51%
Liabilities				
Current liabilities	3,548,580	3,615,426	(66,846)	-1.85%
Long-term liabilities	28,782,992	27,290,491	1,492,501	5.47%
Total Liabilities	32,331,572	30,905,917	1,425,655	4.61%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,362,664	2,699,382	(1,336,718)	-49.52%
Net Position				
Net investment in capital assets	50,874,608	51,711,247	(836,639)	-1.62%
Restricted for debt	2,394,268	2,344,251	50,017	2.13%
Unrestricted	20,045,100	18,806,617	1,238,483	6.59%
Total Net Position	73,313,976	72,862,115	451,861	0.62%
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position	\$ 107,008,212	\$ 106,467,414	\$ 540,798	0.51%

The purpose of the Authority is to provide water and sewer services to communities in Henry County, Virginia. Total assets consist of cash and capital assets including land, buildings, and work in process utilized to improve water and sewer facilities. The liabilities included accounts payable related to improvements to the Authority’s capital assets. A copy of a detailed financial statement may be obtained by contacting the General Manager, Henry County Public Service Authority, P. O. Box 7, Collinsville, Virginia 24078.

HENRY COUNTY
HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DICK AND WILLIE PASSAGE - PHASE 6A
BID # 23-11303-3108

Sealed Bids for the construction of the extension of the **Dick and Willie Passage** will be received at the Henry County Administration Building, Purchasing Department, PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24112 (Postal), 3330 Kings Mountain Road Room 210 (UPS & FedEx), Martinsville, VA 24112, until **3:00 PM** local prevailing time on **Thursday, November 30, 2023** at which time the Bids received will be **publicly** opened and read aloud in the 1st floor Summerlin Board Room. The Project consists of constructing **0.3 miles of paved trail, 0.3 miles of concrete sidewalk, prefabricated pedestrian bridge, drainage improvements, retaining walls, and associated appurtenances.**

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is **Hurt & Proffitt, Inc.**, 1881 Pratt Drive, Suite 1100, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, Attn: J. Michael Johnson, PE (mjohanson@handp.com), 540-552-5592. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at:
Henry County Engineering, Room 208 or Purchasing, Room 210, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112
DODGE Data, 3315 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71913
Valley Construction News Plan Room, 426 Campbell Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24016

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the Issuing Office upon nonrefundable payment of \$200 for each 22 x 34 set, \$100 for each 11 x 17 set, or downloaded free of charge at <https://www.handp.com/bidinfo/>.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 AM** local time on **Wednesday, November 8, 2023** at 3330 Kings Mountain Road, **Summerlin Board Room, Martinsville, VA 24112.**

- Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
- The procedure for withdrawal of bids shall be in accordance with procedure set out in Section 2.2-4330(B)(1) of the Code of Virginia

BIDDER’S attention is invited to the requirements of Section 54.1 of the Code of Virginia pertaining to registration which specifies the following with regard to contractor licensure and registration by definition:

“Class A contractors” perform or manage construction, removal, repair, or improvements when (i) the total value referred to in a single contract or project is \$120,000 or more, or (ii) the total value of all such construction, removal, repair, or improvements undertaken by such person within any 12-month period is \$750,000 or more.

“Class B contractors” perform or manage construction, removal, repair, or improvements when (i) the total value referred to in a single contract or project is \$10,000 or more, but less than \$ 120,000, or (ii) the total value of all such construction, removal, repair or improvements undertaken by such person within any 12-month period is \$150,000 or more, but less than \$750,000.

The successful bidder must comply with; the Presidents Executive Order #11246 as amended by Executive Order #11375, prohibiting discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, sex, or national origin; Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; Copeland Anti-Kickback Act; Contract Work hours and Safety Standards Act; Executive Orders #12138 and 11625 regarding utilization of MBE/WBE subcontractors in the performance of this contract; provide certification that they do not or will not maintain or provide for their employees facilities that are segregated on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin; comply with the provisions of Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; and comply with the Davis-Bacon Act and Virginia state minimum wage.

Consistent with Executive Order 13858, “Strengthening Buy-American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects,” the Contractor is encouraged to use, to the greatest extent practicable, iron and aluminum as well as steel, cement, and other manufactured products produced in the United States in every contract, subcontract, purchase order, or sub-award that is chargeable under this Award.

Owner: **Henry County**
By: **Dale Wagoner**
Title: **County Administrator**
Date: **2023 October 21**

Be sure to like the
Henry County Enterprise
on Facebook

Land Transfers

According to records in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the following land transfers were recorded in September:

Faye H. Abshire to Robyn M. Rogers, Lots, Ridgeway District.
 Vernon Acevedo to Crowne Properties, Inc., Lots, Blackberry District.
 Alopawaws, LTD to Russell Karl Felts, 1.56 acres, Blackberry District.
 Brenda Baliles to Tierra D. Dillard, Lots, Reed Creek District.
 Annette Jones Belcher to Christopher Dean Janey, 1.1 and 1.024 acres, Blackberry District.
 BKC Properties, Inc. to Mikayla J. Thomas, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 BKC Properties, Inc. to Randy Beaumier, 0.455 acres, Collinsville District.
 Elisha Lankford Bradshaw to Efrain Lopez Garcia, Lot, Collinsville District.
 James R. Brooks to Christopher E. Roethken, 7.40 acres, Reed Creek District.
 Howard E. Bruster III to Scott Vernon, 0.506 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Lewis D. Campbell, Jr. to Hannah M. Scaletta, 5.034 acres, Reed Creek District.
 Randolph C. Campbell, Sr. to Virginia W. Horsley, .476 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Tammy Cardwell to Ricky A. Heath, Lot, Reed Creek District.
 Ricky Wayne Carter to Douglas J. Decker, Lot, Reed Creek District.
 Choudhery Brothers, LLC to Prabin Pun, 0.826 acres, Iriswood District.
 CMH Homes Inc.,

to JMB Investment Company LLC, lot, no district listed.
 Brian K. Cochran; Executor to Travis Cassell, 113 and 39 acres, Ridgeway District.
 Shirley H. Coleman to Mark A. Crowe, 15.245 acres, Blackberry District.
 Lorri Harris Coniglio to Joshua Roupe, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Ronald Corbett to Paul Griffin, 1.994 acres, no district given.
 Countryside Land Company LLC to Christopher M. Hicks, 15.4 and 5.0 acres, Iriswood District.
 Liliana Dominguez to Nancy Castilo Borda, Parcels, Collinsville District.
 Done Deal Buyers, LLC to Teddy L. Ratcliff, .95 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Edelen Property Holdings, LLC to Lester Group, Inc., 7.957 acres, Collinsville District.
 Ernest Nathaniel Smith Family to Ian Harbour, 0.46 acres, Ridgeway District.
 David G. Evans to Marsha D. Evans, 1.144 acres, Iriswood District.
 Farmingdale Limited Liability to Linda C. Hodges Revocable Trust, 0.6026 acres, Ridgeway District.
 Earl E. Finley, Jr., to Walter Joel Vasquez Perez, Lot, Collinsville District.
 First Baptist Church of Bassett to Angela Marie Wohner, Lot, Reed Creek District.
 Roanne M. Flora to P & T Assets LLC, parcels, Reed Creek District.
 Douglas L. Foley to Kevin L. Beschler, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 Ford Construction,

Inc., to Henry Pyron Long, Jr., 0.511 acres, Ridgeway District.
 Chad Everett Ford to Hussey Leslie, 0.471 and 1.614 acres, Ridgeway District.
 Jimme Ray Ford to Devin L. Gravely, 1.040 acres, Iriswood District.
 Darris Richard Gerlach, Jr., to Kimberly Shenise Fuller, parcels, Reed Creek District.
 Kenneth D. Gill, Sr. to Mark Edward Shaffer, 0.534 acres, Reed Creek District.
 Sean M. Gillen to Gina Lovell Collins, Lot, Iriswood District.
 William Michael Gilley to Joseph Kurk, 6.178 acres, Blackberry District.
 Joe Russell Harbour to Danny Kendrick, Lot, Blackberry District.
 Ted Conway Harris to Adam W. Adkins, Lots, Reed Creek District.
 Renee Hart to Frank N. Bullock, Jr., Lots, Iriswood District.
 Herbert P. Helms to Kimberly Coleman Noe, .344 acres, Blackberry District.
 Thomas F. Hensley to Gloria Ruth Ratcliff, Lot, Reed Creek District.
 Alehandro Corona Hernandez to Nicholas D. Chase, 1.352 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Hilda's House, LLC to Norman L. Muscat, 1.4, 0.6 and 0.12 acres, Reed Creek District.
 Gordon Pettie Hodge to Crystal L. Rudd, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Laverne L. Irwin to Charlie D. Roy, Jr., 0.060 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Mark N. Ivey, Jr. to Suzanne Paige Terry, Lot, Reed Creek District.

Michael Alan Johnson to Smith River Properties LLC, Lots, Horsepasture District.
 Shirley G. Jones to Jennifer Pope Daughtry, Lot, no district given.
 Logan A Joyce, AKA to Autum Delanie Farmer, +/-1 acre, Ridgeway District.
 Edward R. Kasten to Piedmont Timber, Inc, 29.688 acres Iriswood District.
 Carol P Kauffman: FKA to Calvin L. Payne, 71.031 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Jerry M. Keffer to Dominique Divens, 0.378 acres, Collinsville District.
 John Chad Kessman to Brandon Lee Spencer, 3.142 acres, Iriswood District.
 Richard Lam to Julia Hearp, Lot, Blackberry District.
 Michael D. Lawson to Lewis Junior Evans, parcel, Iriswood District.
 Ottie J. Leffel to Jennifer Thorne, 10.120 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Minnie Ruth Lemons to Katherine Perez Navarrete, tracts, Reed Creek District.
 Lenox Title Trustee Services to Carrington Mortgage Services, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Gary Terrell Martin to Marshall A. Dunn, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 Marlene G. McCraw to James W. Irvin, Lots, no district given.
 Henriette S. McGee to Katherine C. Dodson, 1.779 acres, Iriswood District.
 Gayle C. Meadors to Judith A. Whitener Clark TR, 0.305 acres, no district given.

Narciso Medrano to Jose Cruz Lovo Telles, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Valeria Medvinsky to Maryellen Longeill, Lot, Horsepasture District.
 Cathy J. Merriman; Devisee to Jesse D. Cahill, Sr., 31.497, Reed Creek District.
 Jamie R. Moxley to David Moxley, Lot, Iriswood District.
 Joshua Adam Newman to Chadwick Lee Pilson, 0.459 and 27.771 acres, Blackberry District.
 Robert L. Niblett to Abdul Jabbar Graham, 1.37 acres, Iriswood District.
 Lionel Arko Nolen to Lisha Nolen Cassell, 40.403 acres, Reed Creek District.
 William W. Pack to Russell Allan Pack, Lots, Collinsville District.
 Sylvia L. Painter to Clyde E. Keffer, Lots, Horsepasture District.
 Timothy Charles Porter to Bradley R. Cahill, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Christopher B. Ramey to Selena Faucette, 3.941 acres, Horsepasture District.
 Harrison Redd, Jr., to Kevin O. Dillard, 1.163 and 1.342 acres, Iriswood District.
 Russell Thomas Reynolds to Donnie Minter, 1.126 acres, Iriswood District.
 Katherine Yvonne Rippy to Jesse D. Cahill, Sr., Parcel, Martinsville District.
 Rachel Hensley Ross to Cailyn Arrington Bouldin, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Secretary of Housing and Urban to Manning Investments, LLC, Lot, Martinsville District.

Billy G. Shelton to McKenzie B. Fuller, 0.242 & lot, Reed Creek District.
 Bobby Hicks Sims to John M. Turner II, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 Robert S. Stowe to Kenneth M. Hopkins, Parcels, Blackberry District.
 SU&P Property Management Inc., to Ruben Edgardo Umana, 2.088 acs, Horsepasture District.
 Bobby C. Tatum to Michael Wagner, Lots, Ridgeway District.
 Lonnie R. Tatum to Michael Martin, Parcel, no district given.
 Titan Industries, LLC, to Eric David Dorsey, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Charles D. Trent to Michael Alan Johnson, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 Glenwood R. Turner to Edward Stephens, Lot, Collinsville District.
 Pecolia Denise Washington to B.A.B. Enterprises, LLC, Lot, no district given.
 Stuart Hayden West to Smith River Properties LLC, Lot, no district given.
 Marilon Wilkins to Reyes Galvan Bravo, 1 ¼ acres, Ridgeway District.
 Cynthia Williams to Joshua E. Moyer, 4 acres, Iriswood District.
 Gina D. Williams to Alan Gregory Guzzo, Lot, Ridgeway District.
 Wanda C. Winn to Helen Elizabeth Norman, Lots, Martinsville District.
 James D. Witt to Loy C. Harvey, Lot, Reed Creek District.
 Ronald D. Yeatts to MAA Vedai Properties, LLC, Blackberry District.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Project Hope grantees awarded \$91,287 in funding



Rev. Charles Whitfield gives remarks to the crowd on behalf of The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors.

The Harvest Foundation's Project Hope grants program awarded nine recipients a total of \$91,287 at a grantee celebration last week at The TAD Space in Uptown Martinsville.

Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation, welcomed around 50 grant recipients and guests at today's event. Hope is the north star of the foundation's mission to serve Martinsville-Henry County and its vision for the future. Keller said hope drives us to take action and use our talents to grow our community.

"Hope is at the core of what we do at Harvest — it drives us to serve our community, and it motivated today's grant recipients to put their hope into action," Keller said. "We are excited to see the hope that builds in our community from this year's Project Hope grantees, and we anticipate today's announcements will inspire others to share their hopes and dreams with us."

This year's theme for awarded grants and initiatives was "Community Pride and Engagement," encompassing beautification, intergenerational involvement, and spotlighting the diverse communities in MHC.

A 13-member committee comprising local "hope builders" reviews grant applications and allocates funding for the program. Members of the 2023 Project Hope Committee include Beverly Lyle, DeShanta Hairston, Autumn Morris, Maite Arroyo-Torres, Callie Hietala, DelShana LeGrant, Robbie Knight, Beth Marshall, Teresa Fontaine, Chloe Mayhew, Kendall Davis, Cameron Brummitt, and Wayne Moore.

Autumn Morris, a financial adviser at Edward Jones, served on the Project Hope Committee for the past

two years. Morris said, "On behalf of the other Project Hope committee members, we thank the applicants and recipients for making the effort to work toward solutions and initiatives to build our community. We thank The Harvest Foundation for providing not only financial support but also the invitation to the community to act in ways that bring about hope. I am thankful to be in a room filled with people who are cheering for Martinsville-Henry County, and excited to see how these grant recipients will inspire hope for all of us."

As a 2022 Project Hope grant recipient, Brenell Thomas, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the "Rooting for the Same Hope" mural, located in the Broad Street parking lot in Uptown Martinsville. She encouraged everyone to stay hopeful and to make a difference in their community.

"Let's all embrace the idea that hope exists in MHC and that we have control over the narrative that we share," Thomas said. "If it doesn't offer hope, then it serves no purpose. We have challenges, but we also have people like you (Project Hope grantees) who meet those challenges head-on to create opportunities for others."

On behalf of The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors, Rev. Charles Whitfield encouraged Project Hope grant recipients to keep dreaming and grow their hope for Martinsville and Henry County.

Project Hope is an annual grants program designed to fund small projects that involve volunteers to build hope in MHC communities. The Harvest Foundation releases an RFP (request for proposals) annually for applicants to submit

grant applications. The application period will open in the summer of 2024.

Call (276) 632-3329 or visit www.theharvestfoundation.org/project-hope for updates and to learn more.

List of Project Hope 2023 Grantees:

1. The City of Martinsville received \$5,000 for "Arts & Cultural Community Projects."

The Arts & Cultural Committee of the City of Martinsville will work with volunteers (estimated 15) to focus on crosswalk design and painting projects.

2. Bee City USA - Martinsville, VA received \$4,000 for its project "Bee City Martinsville's Bee Flight/Earth Day Festival."

To honor and celebrate Martinsville Bee City Month (April), Earth Day (4/22), and the beginning of Virginia Historic Garden Week (4/20), the Martinsville Bee City Committee is partnering with other business and nonprofit organizations along Starling Avenue to host a "Bee Flight Festival" from Friday, April 19 to Saturday, April 20, 2024.

3. Henry County Food Pantry received \$9,750 for its project "Treatment Team Integration."

The project will expand services to include a separate hygiene and clothes closet for referrals and provide part-time job opportunities for CRP participants as they work through recovery.

4. Hope Box Builders received \$15,000 for its project "The Hope Box."

"Pantry-like" boxes will be placed in strategic spots throughout the community that include non-perishable food items, hygiene products, job postings, and other information about resources in the community.

5. Just Call Granny received \$4,450 for its



Pictured are recipients of this year's Project Hope grant awards.

project "Grandfamilies Common Table"

The project will sponsor events for grand families to connect and share resources, as well as promote the program and recruit new volunteers.

6. Spencer Penn School Org. received \$15,000 for its project "Spencer Penn Community Garden."

Spencer-Penn's Community Garden would provide two large 8'x24' garden beds for anyone in the community to work and harvest from. Included in the garden would be four ADA-compliant raised garden beds that could be used by a single individual for a growing season each year or shared among a group of people.

7. Uptown Partnership received \$12,000 for its project "Revitalizing Uptown - A Blossoming Endeavor to Eradicate Blight & Cultivate Community Serenity."

The project will rejuvenate the uptown planters, remove decaying trees, and incorporate new seating options in uptown. It will also include volunteer-led power washing and sprucing projects in uptown.

8. Carver Road Ruritan Club received \$11,087 for its project "Carver Road Neighborhood Gateway Sign."

The grant will fund three gateway signs into the Carver Community



Brenell Thomas, president of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, received a Project Hope award in 2022 for the "Rooting for the Same Hope" mural.



Autumn Morris, a financial adviser at Edward Jones, served on the Project Hope Committee for the past two years. She spoke to the crowd at today's grantee celebration event.

to welcome visitors and residents.

9. Hope Center Ministries will receive \$15,000 for its project "Heightened Hope."

Grant funding will revitalize the baseball/softball field on Compassion

Church property in Axton (formerly Irisburg Elementary School). They will use the facility for youth and families to come together for safe and healthy activities, including tournaments, jamborees, potlucks, and outdoor services.



Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation, welcomed around 50 grant recipients and guests at today's event.



Around 50 grant recipients and guests celebrated this year's Project Hope award recipients at The TAD Space in Uptown Martinsville.



Pictured are members of this year's Project Hope Committee. From right to left (front) Beverly Lyle, DeShanta Hairston, Autumn Morris, Maite Arroyo-Torres, Callie Hietala, DelShana LeGrant, (back) Robbie Knight, Beth Marshall, Teresa Fontaine, Chloe Mayhew, and Kendall Davis.

Two local organizations awarded Tobacco Commission grants

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Foundation and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) were among local organizations to receive grant funds from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

The Tobacco Commission awarded several grants at its October 12 meeting in Blackstone, including \$149,140 to P&HCC's Foundation to aid P&HCC in expanding healthcare training capacity including Nurse Aide, Clinical Medical Assistant, Medication Aide, and Phlebotomy Technician training.

These programs lead to short term credentials that quickly allow students to enter healthcare careers in high demand in the region. Commission funds will support a portion of the funds for an additional instructor.

The WPPDC was awarded a \$118,000 grant for a Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy Program to help in the development of a regional outdoor economy recreation program that will collectively market and brand the West Piedmont region's outdoor recreation sites and activities as a noteworthy tourism destination. The project builds on current WPPDC programming in agritourism and the "Life in SOVA" brand in partnership with local and regional partners such as Friends of Southwest Virginia. The project will result in the creation of an outdoor recreation

economy master plan and impact study for Western Piedmont PDC service region, providing an asset inventory and a marketing strategy with brand and logo.

The Commission approved a total of 22 funding requests in support of a variety of organizations and initiatives across Southern and Southwest Virginia, including 11 awards to community colleges, and other educational organizations, to support workforce training in areas such as nursing, automotive and welding. Other awards will support a variety of economic development projects ranging from industrial site improvements, establishing new meat processing capacity and supporting regional tourism initiatives. The awards approved at this meeting build on the Commission's nearly 25 years of work helping to rebuild the economies of Southern and Southwest Virginia. The Commission also approved extensions and modifications for a number of projects.

Commission Chairman, Sen. Frank Ruff said, "I am delighted that we could hold the Tobacco Commission meeting in Blackstone at the recently opened Inn at Blackstone. From supporting our agricultural community, to attracting top businesses and ensuring we have the sites and assets to be competitive, the work the Commission has done here will have a long-lasting impact on the regions it serves."

VA group sets record straight on substance-use disorder

By Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

During National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, a Virginia group is working to help those dealing with substance abuse.

The state's Department of Health reported deaths from drug overdoses rose 29% between 2020 and 2021. Virginia increased its investment in substance-abuse services to almost \$3.5 million in the 2024 budget, up from around \$2 million in the previous budget.

Victor McKenzie Jr., executive director of the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia, said once the stigmas surrounding addiction are gone, additional resources will follow.

"So many people think of addiction as a moral failing versus a complex disease that it is," McKenzie stressed. "When we can break down that stigma and treat (substance use disorder) as a disease, that means we will lead with resources first. And judgment and punitive response, we will move that out of the way."

He pointed out some unexplored areas of substance abuse are how interconnected it is to other issues such as homelessness and mental health. The state's Department of Housing and Community Development finds 14% of the state's homeless population in 2021 were dealing with substance use disorder.

While challenges dog the path for bolstering substance use disorder services,

McKenzie noted misconceptions are just as plentiful. Aside from the notion willpower is all it takes to beat addiction, he emphasized another misconception is what people think substance use disorder looks like.

"It happens to our family members and people we don't even expect," McKenzie observed. "That high school football player that got hurt but was overly prescribed some opioids to deal with the pain. It could be that friend who's drinking at 11 o'clock on a Tuesday."

Substance and drug use has been on the rise for youths, not only in Virginia but across the U.S. The latest America's Health Rankings report showed 7% of the state's youths have used drugs in the past month, slightly under the national average of 8%.

'Access and hesitancy': Why vaccine fatigue is increasing

By Hollyann Purvis
Capital News Service

The majority of Virginians are not up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 vaccine due to vaccine fatigue, something that has medical experts concerned with a looming triple threat of respiratory viruses.

Less than 20% of Virginians are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, according to the Virginia Department of Health. This number is a large decrease from the 74% of individuals vaccinated with the primary series of shots. The vaccine is updated, like the flu shot, to handle new variants.

Vaccine fatigue occurs when the public loses interest in vaccines in general, according to Gonzalo Bearman, chief of infectious diseases at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I'm seeing that in the clinic, with fewer people interested in discussing vaccines at times, and whether it's COVID vaccines, flu vaccines, or even RSV vaccines," Bearman said.

People whose vaccines have lapsed are more susceptible to current strains that are circulating, according to Bearman.

"This is a particularly alarming trend because we have increasing COVID-19 activity in the community right now," Bearman said.

Vaccine fatigue can be attributed to many factors, including a mistrust of science and misinformation on the internet, according to Bearman.

"Maybe there's less fear of contagion or adverse consequences for COVID-19," Bearman said. There's been messaging and re-messaging, which can lead to some fatigue."

The virus has also entered its commercialization phase, meaning it is no longer 100% controlled by the U.S. government, according to Christy Gray, director of the VDH Division of Immunization.

The COVID-19 vaccine has entered into the "traditional health care marketplace," according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

There are now more ways to distribute, acquire and pay for the vaccine, including private and public pay.

"You have a lot more moving pieces when the U.S. government isn't controlling the entire process," Gray said. "Now you have a lot more different points of failure that can happen."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established the Bridge Access Program to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to uninsured or underinsured adults at no cost, according to their website. The CDC estimated this number to be 25 to 30 million adults.

Other factors that could help drive the decreased vaccination rate are the increased availability of COVID-19 testing and treatments, along with an increase in the number of people who have had the virus, according to Gray.

Over 90% of adults received at least one monovalent COVID-19 vaccine in the first year after its rollout, according to Gray. However, that was followed by a decreased number of people who

got the bivalent vaccine in 2022.

Groups who are most vulnerable to severe illnesses of COVID are still getting their vaccines, Gray said.

"Fatigue makes sense because society wants to go back to normal everyday life before the pandemic," Gray said. "And we can — this is just another vaccine that we want to consider in our going into respiratory season."

Respiratory viruses spread more in the fall and winter due to colder weather, more time spent indoors and increased socialization, Gray said.

Decreased vaccination rates can also be attributed to a lack of accessibility, according to Bel Kelly-Russo, a program associate at ImmunizeVA, a project of the Institute for Public Health and Innovation.

It boils down to access: securing an appointment and affording the shot, Kelly-Russo said.

"I would say that there's fatigue, kind of, on the system itself," Kelly-Russo said, including confusion around vaccine billing and distribution.

For example, pediatric offices face high costs to store vaccines for those under the age of 5 years old, which have lower COVID-19 vaccination rates, according to Kelly-Russo.

"If the vaccines are not used, they go to waste, and then that creates the impression that there isn't a demand for those vaccines," Kelly-Russo said. "When in reality, there is a demand, but it's just hard for parents to locate the vaccines because not everyone's stocking it."

There is also just personal hesitancy at play, according to Kelly-Russo. She tries to understand the root cause and concerns.

"I try to come from a place of understanding," Kelly-Russo said. "A lot of times those fears feel very real to people, and so just validating the way that people are feeling in the moment."

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

Vietnam Bench project delayed

Recently, the Bassett Historical Center collected 105 names, all with Martinsville-Henry County ties, to be included on a Vietnam bench, which will be placed on the grounds of the Center in "Military Square." The bench is an extension of the Vietnam Monument which was dedicated in 2018.

Fran Snead, director of the center, said "It was our hope that the bench would be ready and be able to be dedicated" November 11, this Veterans Day. Unfortunately, that will not be the case.

The committee that is made up of the center's military advisor, several veterans, and board members and staff members of the center want this bench to reflect the significance of the contributions that each of these men and their families have made to our country and our community, she said.

At this time, "we have not received a final draft of the bench and therefore, we do not feel that the bench will be ready by our target date," Snead said. At this point, the committee would rather wait longer for the bench to be done correctly as opposed to having mistakes made and disappointing veterans and their families.

"We will continue to keep everyone posted on the status of the bench and a dedication

will be planned at a later date," Snead said. "We appreciate your patience and understanding of a project of this importance and of our wanting it to be done right. Thank you to our veterans and their families for your service."

If you have any questions about this project, please call the Bassett Historical Center (276) 629-9191 and ask for Fran.

The deadline for names to be included on the bench was Wednesday, March 1. Below is a list of the 105 names that met the deadline to be included:

BUDDY RODGERS ADKINS
ALBERT ARTHUR KITTREDGE
WESLEY GRAY ASHLEY
RONALD EUGENE KODENSKI
JAMES ROCKER BARROW
GEORGE ATHUS KOGER
JOSHUA WILLIAM BELCHER
CLYDE DOUGLESS LAVINDER
BINFORD MICHAEL BELTON
JACK EUGENE LAWSON
WILLIAM LAWRENCE
BLANKENSHIP
JAMES WALKER LIPFORD
ALLEN ASA BOULDIN
DARRYL LEWIS MABE
JOHN DELPHIA BRAZIEL, JR.
TEAFORD MARTIN
ROBERT WAYNE BREWER
DONALD TAYLOR MASSEY
JOHNNIE EUGENE BROGAN
THOMAS FRANKLIN MAYES
RONALD DAVID BRYANT
RONALD GLENWOOD MCNEELY
HAROLD DAVID BUSH

STANLEY BRUCE MCPHERSON
JAMES WILLIAM CLARK
TONY HARRISON MILES
PAUL MELVIN CLARK
CECIL THOMAS MYERS
THOMAS BLANTON COBLER
ROGER ALLEN NESTER
TRUMAN HERSEL COLE
JAMES RUSSELL NEWMAN
GARY CLAYTON COMBS
EDWARD SAMUEL OWENS, JR.
JACKIE MACON COOPER
ROBERT LEE PARNELL
EDWARD PETE CRAIG, JR.
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VERNICE WILLIAM CROUSE
RANDOLPH GOLD PRILLAMAN, JR.
THOMAS MATHIS CROWDER
ROBERT JOSEPH QUESINBERRY
ALBERT KEITH DAVIDSON
JERRY KEITH RAINES
BENNY HOWARD DODSON
LYNWOOD CARROLL RAMSEY
CLETUS RAY EARLES
RAYMOND MARSHALL RAMSEY
PHILLIP SWANSON EARLES
ROGER PATTERSON RAY
THOMAS LEE EMERSON
DENNIS EARL REEVES
CLYDE RAY EVANS
STEVEN RANDY RIGGS
RONALD WAYNE FERGUSON
MORRIS BENTON ROGERS
TOMMY LEE FLORA
DONALD STANLEY SHACKETT
CLYDE MCCOY FOLEY
JACK WAYNE SHIVELY
GEORGE WILLIAM FOSTER, JR.
PAUL CHARLES SHIVLEY
THOMAS IRVIN FRITH
LARRY DANIEL SHUPE

JOHN GILES, JR.
RONALD GILFORD SHUPE
DRADART IPLANE GREER
CHARLES THOMS SMITH
EDDIE HAROLD GUNTER
ARTHUR TEAFORD SPENCER
PHILIP EDWARD HAGAN, SR.
JAN BURNETTE STOCKTON
LEROY DALLAS HAIRSTON, SR.
REUBEN WOODROW STONE, JR.
MICHAEL MARVIN HARRIS
ROBERT EUGENE THOMAS, JR.
MILTON DAVIS HATCHER
HAROLD JAMES TRIMPEY
JOE MARION HODGE
STACEY ODELL TRIPLETT
JOHNNY MONROE HOGAN
LEWIS TAYLOR TURNER
HENRY EARL HOPKINS
MICHAEL LEE TURNER
HAROLD DEAN HORTON
WILBER JUNE TURNER
RONALD EUGENE HORTON
JOHN LEE URREA
DONALD KEARNS HOWE, JR.
CHARLES MELVIN WHITE
SAMUEL ALLEN HUBBARD
EVERETT WAYNE WILSON
CARL MAYNARD HURD
CHARLES WININGHAM
LEONARD GLENWOOD INGRAM
ALFRED LUTHER WRIGHT
ROY DANIEL JANEY, JR.
STANFORD LAYNE WRIGHT
NORMAN LEE JOYCE
WALTER MONROE WRIGHT
JOHN WAYNE KALLAM
WILLIAM WRIGHT
CHARLES ELWOOD KANODE
SAMMY DAVID YOUNG
ROY PAUL KIPFINGER, JR.



Deadline to share acorns with Department of Forestry is Oct. 16

By Brian Fritz
Capital News Service

Residents can help the state's reforestation efforts by collecting acorns and dropping them off at Virginia Department of Forestry locations. The last day to drop off acorns is Monday, Oct. 16.

The Augusta Nursery just outside of Charlottesville will plant the acorns.

VDOF Augusta Nursery manager Joshua McLaughlin oversees the selection and planting of millions of seedlings every year.

"I never thought I had a green thumb," McLaughlin said. "I come here, start planting seeds, start growing things like, 'Oh my gosh, I actually enjoy this.'"

Acorns from healthy trees can be delivered to the VDOF in a paper or burlap bag. Public efforts were so great last year that the VDOF was able to cancel orders from suppliers.

"The public saved us a bunch of money last year," McLaughlin said.

Chris Cough, associate professor of biology at VCU, said the benefits of the program go beyond restoring Virginia's natural landscape.

"Just broadly, the idea of engaging citizens for the purpose of understanding and appreciating the science and the environment around them, and that's important," Gough said.

The VDOF has a higher need for acorns from the white, black and chestnut oak species.

It also needs species from:

- *black walnut
- *Chinese chestnut
- *Northern red oak
- *pin oak
- *Shumard oak
- *Southern red oak
- *swamp chestnut oak
- *swamp white oak
- *water oak
- *willow oak

The VDOF also asked acorn collectors, if possible, to identify the type of tree by including a leaf with the collection. Different species should be separated.

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

Cyber tip prompts arrest of Stuart man

A Stuart man was charged on Wednesday with possession and distribution of child pornography, Patrick County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Austin wrote in a release authorized by Sheriff Dan Smith.

Scottie Andrew Cassell II, 29, of 15019 Jeb Stuart Highway, was arrested during the execution of an early morning search warrant at his home.

The incident began when investigator Jason Kruse received a cyber tip from ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children), that an email - allegedly containing a video



Scottie Andrew Cassell II

of child pornography - had been intercepted. After numerous digital search warrants, authorities developed a suspect.

Cassell is currently being held in the

Patrick County Jail under a \$5,000 secured bond.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to call Kruse at (276) 692-5123.

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Oct. 21-27:

10/25

4pm Cross Country Bassett at District Tournament; Smith River Sports Complex

4pm Cross Country Magna Vista at District Tournament; Smith River Sports Complex

4pm Cross Country Martinsville at District Tournament; Smith River Sports Complex

10/27

7pm Football Bassett at Martinsville

7pm Football Halifax at Magna Vista

Kennel from page 1



The Kennel, a café at Martinsville Middle School, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting on October 12.



Martinsville City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley purchased an armful of sodas.

of STEAM, CTE, and Fine Arts Administration, recommended Watkins to join.

Davis, who joined on the suggestion of Chris Talley, MHS business teacher, said the Kennel was supposed to start last year around this time at the high school.

"We had to move it here because it was a better space here. We have more opportunities here, and we didn't want students to mess it up or any type of thing," he said.

Since opening, Watkins said she's learned how to count money and keep inventory.

"Inventory is a big thing because if you run out of one thing you need to go get that. We have people that come in as our regulars, and they come in here and we know exactly what they want," Davis said. "They'll come in and get the same thing, so it's like you actually have your own customers."

Watkins said she loves working at the Kennel.

"It's really not that hard. It's also like we also kind of get peace of mind being here from school if we're stressed because just the vibe of the room," she said.

"We get to see all the teachers that we grew up having through middle

school," Davis said. "So, it's really a good experience catching up with them."

Watkins said the students conducted a survey and asked the teachers what they would want to see available at the Kennel.

"We got a list of things we thought we should do, and we asked them what they would like. Would you prefer this instead of this over that," she said.

When deciding on the Kennel's smoothies, Davis said samples of a variety of different flavors were given to teachers to see which ones they would like best. The most popular ones were chosen as stock.

"We're very grateful for the opportunity that it provides to our students to get work-based experience," she said.

Martinsville City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley said the school division wants to always offer its students an opportunity to have career opportunities, whether on the collegiate level or in CTE.

"This is just another great opportunity" for our students, Talley said. "Business encompasses math, social skills, and partnerships and cooperations. We want this to be an incubator, something the students can do



The Kennel includes a snack bar, massage chairs, couches, relaxing lighting, and more.

in school and then bring it out to the wonderful, expanding community that is Martinsville."

The café also offers candy, bagels, sodas, popcorn, smoothies, breakfast sandwiches, and other items for purchase. It also has several couches, chairs, relaxing lighting, music, and massage chairs.

Proceeds from the café go towards the high school's entrepreneurial program.

Martinsville Middle School Principal Ama Waller said the school is fortunate to have the space for staff to come to relax, have a good, quick, snack, and enjoy the atmosphere.

Windy Ridge from page 1



Stables with the Corral



Stables with sunset



Stables with chairs



Stable porch with table for 2

Carter, who is co-owner of the new venue.

She added that couples do not have to attend the grand opening to receive the special.

Carter, who also is the director and wedding coordinator of Forever and Always Premier Weddings, Inc., said, "All couples who book a wedding for 2024 will receive a free 5-night honeymoon in an oceanfront cabana in the Caribbean as a thank you for allowing us to share in their custom designed dream wedding."

Ernest Carter, who co-owns the center with his wife, Jeanette Carter, said he got the idea to start the wedding venue after the two started a special needs program at

their farm in 2000.

"We did a couple of weddings back then, about four or five of them. Back at that time, a lot of people were getting married in churches and outdoor venues weren't that popular. So, we stopped doing that and continued with our special needs ministry," he said.

About a year and a half ago, Carter said they decided to start remodeling the property to get it ready and try it again as a wedding venue because a lot of people seemed to be interested in wedding venues across the country.

Jeanette Carter said whenever anyone came to the facility, they commented about its beauty and how it would be a wonderful place to get



Wide angle view of the arbor and benches on hill

married.

"We know there's really not that many places around in Martinsville, I don't know really know if there's any actually in Martinsville, so we thought this would be a good thing for the community, and our area," she

said.

Jeanette Carter said some weddings are already scheduled for next year. Many people book 9 to 12 months in advance, she added.

"We've had a lot of responses, a lot of interest so far, and we're very excited about it," she said, adding many people are excited about the Caribbean honeymoon.

"They really seem to like that," she said.

"We're on 42 acres, so there's a lot of different areas that they can choose from. If they don't want to get married inside, they can get married in many

of the different areas that we have," she said.

Jeanette Carter said the property includes five different locations where couples can get married, with most preferring to tie the knot on the so-called "Wedding Hill," which overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains. Others include the corral or the gazebo.

"Everybody's different in what they like. This way they have a variety to choose from," she said.

Jeanette Carter believes another unique offering is the variety of places a couple can be photographed, such as a rustic

stable with a cathedral ceiling, two ponds, and a lodge that can do double duty - for receptions or weddings.

A bridal suite is also available for wedding day preparations. It comes with four salon stations, a lounge area, a full bath, and an outdoor porch with views of the ranch.

The groom's room is also onsite. It is equipped with a pool table, lounge area, and dressing room.

Jeanette Carter said the event center also offers add-ons like day of, week of, and month of coordinating for the wedding.

A rehearsal dinner venue rental and a horse-drawn carriage ride are also available.

"We had a Cinderella-themed wedding out here a few years back, and she used the horse-drawn carriage, and it was really pretty," she said.

She estimates the cost ranges anywhere from \$1,595 to \$6,500 depending on the day of the week, the package, and any additional add-ons.

For more information, visit www.windyridgeeventcenter.com, or [Facebook.com/WindyRidgeEventCenter](https://www.facebook.com/WindyRidgeEventCenter). Call the center at (276) 638-0768 to schedule a tour or email windyridgeeventcenter@gmail.com.



PRESENTS

Holiday Havoc



©CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE



NICW
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
THE DRAGON SCOTT LEE vs YELA MAN



JOHN HEARTBREAK
vs **LANCE ERIKSON**



MID-ATLANTIC HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP
ADAM HEX vs THE DUSTMAN MARK ANTHONY



THE HANGMAN
LARRY COOTER vs TONY RAY



CUBAN ASSASSIN
vs **TONY RAY**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023
DOORS OPEN 6PM, BELL 7PM

TICKETS:

KIDS 6-12:	13-ADULT:
\$10 ADVANCED	\$12 ADVANCED
\$12 AT THE DOOR	\$15 AT THE DOOR
KIDS 5 & UNDER: FREE!	

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OCTOBER 31, 6-9PM

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MUSIC BY **dj r.seay** BOUNCY HOUSE BY **KING KIDZ**

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