

Youngkin's recent visit reenergizes NCI

Gov. Glenn Youngkin toured the New College Institute on Friday, meeting with local and state officials and perhaps more importantly, potential students, some of whom are in the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Junior Chapter.

The NSBE is among several agencies housed at NCI, and according to Helen Howell, head of the local chapter, Youngkin's visit "was wonderful. He got down there on the floor with the kids and strictly talked with the students about their projects and their competition going to Atlanta in March."

Youngkin also told the youngsters about "Legos and a big (Lego) factory opening in Virginia," Howell said and added that getting



During a tour of the New College Institute last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin met with students in the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Junior Chapter, and learned about their robotics project.

youngsters exposed and accustomed to STEM learning while they are young is crucial to pre-

Kent. Deputy Secretary of Finance Jason Pow-

paring them for higher education.

Currently, she said, there are "more and more things technology-wise, and if we want to keep up, we're going to have to do these kinds of things and our kids need to be introduced to these things much, much earlier."

NCI is an important component to achieving that goal, as well as several other areas of study. Youngkin's visit last week, as well as two pieces of legislation, are intended to help address the institute's path forward.

The governor, along with Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera, and Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas

(See Youngkin p. 2)



Entrepreneurial students involved with Stitchify presented information about their undertaking. From left to right are Niikko Dews, Bryan Amaya, Jonathan Sanavia, and Nevaeh Norman.



Members of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Martinsville City Council, and Martinsville City Public Schools celebrated the official opening of Stitchify with a ribbon cutting.

Stitchify celebrates opening with a ribbon-cutting

By Taylor Boyd

Martinsville High School (MHS) celebrated the official opening of its first student-run small business, Stitchify, with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, January 31.

Stitchify is a graphic design printing business that sells t-shirts, hoodies, hats, beanies, and other items.

This is the second student-run business in the Martinsville City School division. The first, the Kennel, a café at Martinsville Middle School, opened earlier this school year.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley said the division is excited to have student entrepreneurs.

"This is student-driven, it's student-made, and they have a very professional taste with it. So, needless to say, we are very proud of them and

what it will bring to the Martinsville community," he said.

Student Niikko Dews said Stitchify's vision is to create a student-run clothing business that gives young entrepreneurs the ability to express their skills.

"Our mission is to engage more creativity, and confidence into our students and guide our students through making ideas for different people," student Bryan Amaya said.

Dews said Stitchify students completed the goal of turning a classroom into a well-run store that opened in January.

"We wanted to be able to run a business without adult supervision. Coming together, we fulfilled multiple orders, including MHS cheer-leading hoodies, the Martinsville City Robotics

(See Stitchify p. 8)

Reward offered for information in animal cruelty case

A \$1,500 reward is available for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for an animal cruelty incident that ended with the death of a dog, according to a release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

Around 9:50 a.m. on January 25, the Martinsville/Henry County 911 Center received a call about a dog that was abandoned at Jaycee Park, located at 475 Parkwood Ct. in Collinsville.

The caller stated that a tan and black colored dog had been left in a porta-potty and was in poor health condition, according to the release. The caller also reported that a traffic cone had been placed in front of the porta-potty door, preventing the dog from getting out.

A Henry County Sheriff's deputy with the Animal Control Division responded to the call, and once at the scene, found the dog inside the porta-potty. The canine was in poor health, and the deputy immediately took the dog to a local veterinarian clinic. Unfortunately, the dog's poor health condition required the dog to be humanely euthanized.

Authorities are seeking help to determine who may have abandoned the dog at the park or for any information about the incident.

Two residents and the Crimestoppers Program are offering a \$1,500 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible.

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751, or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463).



Tonya Wilson (seated) and Ashley Mundy work in Henry County's Senior Services Office. The two are planning a May golf tournament to raise funds that will benefit a transportation service that is provided to seniors.

A golf tournament will raise funds to transport seniors

By Barbara Waldron

Funds raised during the first Henry County Parks and Recreation Senior Golf Tournament on May 18 will help provide transportation for

the area's senior citizens who need assistance getting to doctor's appointments, pharmacies, and grocery stores.

(See Golf p. 3)

Griffith made an unexpected stop in the county



Henry County was among several surprise stops 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, made last week. Most of the stops coincided with the congressional staff office hours in various localities. In addition to constituents, Griffith (right), also met with local officials including Henry County Administrator Dale Wagoner (left), and County Attorney George Lyle (center).

VISIT 

[HTTP://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)

FOR MORE UPDATES






Everything You Need In One Convenient Location!

- Climate Controlled
- Indoor Units
- Outdoor Drive Up Units
- Small & Large Sizes
- City Center Location
- Tractor Trailer Access
- Business & Commercial Sizes
- Boxes & Moving Supplies
- U-Haul Trucks
- 24/7 Access

• Keypad Security with Personal PIN Code

10 E. Market St., Martinsville, VA • 276-670-7867




Youngkin

(cont. from page 1)



Gov. Glenn Youngkin autographs the Wendell Scott mural at New College Institute (NCI).



Gov. Glenn Youngkin exits the lecture hall led by Olivia Garrett, NCI Director of Institutional Advancement, after speaking with students on a field trip with the Wendell Scott Foundation.



GoFar Fiber Optics Instructor Lee Renfroe shows Gov. Glenn Youngkin a fiber section that has been spliced.



Robert 'Rob' Spilman Jr., a director of Dominion Energy and president and CEO of Bassett Furniture, talks to Gov. Glenn Youngkin about NCI's role in training energy workers.

ell and others toured NCI for an hour, then met with key NCI staff and board members to discuss the institute's business plan.

Youngkin's proposed budget, released in December, would allocate \$4.69 million to NCI in fiscal 2025 but provides nothing in the 2026 fiscal year.

After Youngkin's proposed budget was released, Sen. Bill Stanley – who also is chairman of NCI's board, met with the governor and invited him to tour the institute's programs and meet its partners.

In addition to the proposed budget, NCI must present a business plan to the state by October. That plan was already in the works, with a final version expected to be completed and presented within the month.

The business plan was discussed with the governor and his staff during Friday's meeting, according to Stanley, R-Moneta, Richard Hall, a board member, and Joe Sumner, the agency's executive director.

Meanwhile, legislation is moving through the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates to support NCI's continued operations and evolution.

SB 62, introduced by Stanley, would require NCI to work with the state Department of Education and Labor and Industry, as well as the Community College System, the State Council for Higher Education, the Board of Workforce Development, and other agencies on workforce development programs which support Youngkin's workforce initiatives. After passing the Senate Education and Health Committee with a vote of 14-1 and as of Jan. 18, the bill is sitting with Finance and Appropriations.

HB 1445, introduced by Del. Eric Phillips, R-Henry County, mirrors Stanley's proposal. It was referred to the Committee on Education for consideration.

"The purpose of the bill is to streamline our ability to track what we deliver in our workforce development programs," Stanley said on Saturday.

"A lot of things have changed in education" since 2006, Phillips said, including the fact that a lot of traditional 4-year education "is being done online now. The bill is for more money and development for workforce training while still having and offering a 4-year degree education."

The NCI Code, created in 2006, includes six pillars: work with other agencies and institutions to diversify the region's economy; use resources to support economic diversity; develop a trained workforce; provide access to degree programs; focus degree programs on areas of critical shortage; and serve as a resource and referral center.

Stanley, Del. Betsy Carr, D-Richmond, and Phillips introduced budget amendments to reinstate NCI's second-year (FY26) funding of \$4,686,850.

Workforce Development

After the meeting with Youngkin, Hall said the governor "arrived prepared and ready to help. He offered his guidance and expertise on how we can better fit within the workforce development and educational systems within the Commonwealth while functioning as an impactful community resource to Martinsville and Henry County.

"It was a very constructive meeting," with attention to the development of workforce development training programs that can be completed in "a very short time, so workers can get certification and get a job very quickly," Hall said. "We hired Joe Sumner in the winter of 2023 to better align NCI's workforce development ef-

orts to local and statewide employment needs. Workforce training that is strategically aligned with the rest of the Commonwealth's initiatives in a cost-effective manner is at the core of NCI's renaissance."

"They talked about how NCI's plan is to supplement the Commonwealth's workforce offerings without duplication of existing programs," Sumner said after the meeting.

"Developing relationships with different organizations at the state level will enhance NCI's efforts statewide," said Sumner, "and continuing to build and improve on existing partnerships was encouraged."

That includes working with programs that cultivate extracurricular learning in K-12 to cultivate a student base primed to continue education on higher levels. "There's a significant role we play in the community that's sometimes hard to quantify," Sumner said.

Between the talk about increased workforce training "and offering all the community things they (NCI) do, there's a whole lot of dots there," Phillips said. "With the governor's guidance, NCI can connect those dots together and make sense out of it. That way, there's a clear direction."

"Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am that Gov. Youngkin would take time out of his busy schedule to visit with New College, our dedicated staff, our community leaders, and education programming partners who are committed to the future success of our region," Stanley said. "He was clearly impressed with what we are doing here at NCI, and he provided us with great insight and new ideas on how we can be better every day for the people that we serve."

"In the end, this may be the best thing that ever happened to NCI," Phillips said.

The governor's tour

In addition to the NSBE, Youngkin visited several programs and talked with many of the institute's partners while at NCI. In those conversations, he was provided a description of many areas of study, including:

Dominion Energy/Wind Energy Program: Robert "Rob" Spilman Jr., a Dominion lead director (and president and CEO of Bassett Furniture), told the governor about a partnership Dominion is developing with NCI to support Dominion's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project.

"This is going to be the largest offshore wind installation in America, with 176 turbines, and it's going to take quite a few people to operate and maintain, so we certainly need trained workers," Spilman said.

The way NCI has "architected the curriculum and various facets of it, including safety and sea survival training at a quarry in Thomasville (N.C.), they've done some clever things, and I was proud of those guys for coming up with all that. This is such a high profile project in the Commonwealth and Richmond, a \$9.8 billion project," Spilman said, adding that Youngkin "asked me a few questions about it. ... NCI is offering as comprehensive a program as any that's available today."

NCI's wind energy program is the only one in the state to offer full certification and one of few facilities to replicate the actual outdoor conditions.

Fiber Broadband Academy. Instructor Lee Renfroe of the GoFar fiber optic training school showed the governor the training equipment and a fiber line that had been spliced. On Friday, Renfroe was giving demonstrations with

the mobile fiber instruction training unit to students from GW High School in Danville. The basic fiber optics training lasts a week and is offered one week each month; the Feb. 12-16 class is fully booked. The program can be taught at NCI or other locations upon request.

Eastman Performance Films, a partner along with Patrick & Henry Community College for NCI's Advance Manufacturing program. In the High Bay area, surrounded by technical equipment, Eastman HR Director Chris Coyne and Hall described the training for producing plastics, coatings, adhesives, safety documents, and brands.

Longwood University offers bachelor's degrees in elementary education and early childhood education. Drs. Pam Randall and Stephanie Watts described the program to Youngkin.

"I stressed how many students have graduated from this program and the high rate of retention in education and that need has not dwindled. If anything, it has gotten more dire," Randall said, adding that she told Youngkin the national teacher shortage hits heavy in the Southside area and needs "his support to be sure legislation incentivizes finishing those degrees."

Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, which serves 13 criminal justice agencies, totaling about 850 personnel. PRCJTA staff and cadets demonstrated the Situational Response Training Simulator that is housed at NCI and described the program.

Wendell Scott Foundation, established to commemorate the memory of NASCAR's first Black Grand National champion. The Foundation provides services and programs to at-risk youth. WSF President and CEO Warrick Scott was presenting a program to students from five high schools and a community college when the governor arrived. The governor addressed the students and later autographed the Wendell Scott mural.

STAGS Team 1262 Robotics and Magna Vista High School's MagnaFlux Robotics. Students of both teams demonstrated the robots they had created.

The governor "seemed to appreciate everything he saw with K-12 programming" at NCI, Sumner said.

Many of the other program partners at NCI or their representatives met the governor, including:

The Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, which with NCI helps cultivate employment opportunities for differently able people.

The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. (EDC), which aims to create new job opportunities, support and develop local industry, and market the area, with Executive Director Mark Heath.

City of Martinsville Fire & EMS, which uses NCI classrooms for meetings.

Boys & Girls Club of the Blue Ridge, which is headquartered at NCI; its executive director, Joanie Petty, talked about the program with the governor.

Just Call Granny, in which trained volunteers assist grandparents raising children with resources and support.

Also meeting with the governor during his visit at NCI were Martinsville Mayor LC Jones and Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls, Henry County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis, Martinsville City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley, NCI Deputy Director Christina Reed, NCI Director of Institutional Advancement Olivia Garrett, and others.

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

Tuesday, February 6

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hold its planning session starting at 3:30 p.m. in the Henry County Adult Detention Center, 800 DuPont Road, Martinsville.

Events

Friday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 3

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Regional Library host a book sale in the basement of the main branch, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville. The Members Only sale is from 2-5 p.m. (you can join at the door). The sale on Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., is open to the public. Offerings include books on wars; lots of children's books (Easy Readers); decorating; DIY crafts; hobbies; fiction; romance; religious/spiritual and many other genres. Multiple computer systems will be for sale as well, from \$50-150 (Saturday only). All paperback books are 50¢ and hardback books are \$1, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds go back into the library system. The next sale is April 13.

Friday, February 2

The Martinsville 7 Initiative and the New College Institute will present The Movement, a documentary showing, from 6 to 8 p.m., at 191 Fayette St. in Martinsville. The event is free. It includes a panel discussion. Refreshments are available. RSVP by calling (276) 734-7213 or email kphillips@newcollegeinstitute.org.

Saturday, February 3

Join the SPCA for a walk-in animal Wellness Clinic, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., no appointments! Please be prepared to wait. There have been some changes to the prices and the offerings; low-cost vaccines, dewormer, microchip, and so much more to help you keep your pet healthy. For pricing information, visit www.spcamhc.org/services/wellness-clinic. Note: clinic staff cannot treat sick or injured animals.

Brunswick Stew, Figsboro Ruritan Club, 599 Hidden Valley Dr., Martinsville, 8 – 10 a.m. or until sold out, \$10 per quart, preorders accepted by contacting club member. Proceeds to benefit the club's community service and scholarship programs.

Free Estate Planning 101 with Sarah Bridwell, 10 a.m., at the Spencer Penn Centre. Call (276) 957-5757 to pre-register.

Storytime! at the Spencer Penn Centre. This monthly program will include special readers, crafts, and other fun activities related to 'I love my Smile!' Come out and join this free program, fit for all ages! No registration needed.

Thursday, February 8

Make Some Noise: After Hours Open-Mic Series, 7 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Grab the mic and express yourself through music, poetry, comedy or spoken word. October's event will be hosted by Monique Holland, a prolific writer from Martinsville. Performers should sign up for a five-minute (max) spot upon arrival. Free to performers and audience. Cash bar.

Friday, February 9

Music Night at the Spencer Penn Centre. Hard driving old-time string band, Nobody's Business, will play in Alumni Hall. Gate opens at 5 p.m. with the band starting at 6:15 p.m. Admission is a \$5 cash donation. Concessions, including the ever-popular Spencer Penn hot-dogs, will be sold.

Saturday, February 10

African American Read-In and Family Day, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. The museum's annual celebration of African American artists, performers and writers with story time, a musical act, crafts, and a public read-aloud. In addition, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Artmobile will be set up for the public in the Piedmont Arts parking lot. Participation in Family Day and the Artmobile are both free.

Wednesday, February 14

The SPCA will host a walk-in animal Wellness Clinic from noon to 3 p.m. No appointments. Please be prepared for a wait. There have been some changes to the prices and the offerings; low-cost vaccines, dewormer, microchip, and so much more to help you keep your pet healthy! For pricing information, visit www.spcamhc.org/services/wellness-clinic. NOTE: Clinic staff cannot treat sick or injured animals.

ONGOING

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.

AWANA meets at Blackberry Baptist Church on Sundays, from 4-6 p.m.

TOPS FIELDALE VA 0626 meets each Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Rangeley Ruritan Building on 134 Calloway Drive, Fieldale, VA. New members are welcome. For more information, call Patti at (276) 358-0489.

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, 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.

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 p.m. 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.

Golf

(cont. from page 1)

According to Tonya Wilson, who works with the county's Senior Services, demand for free transportation is increasing and cannot be met with current grant funds designated for the service.

Senior Services provides transportation to about 15,000 seniors in Henry County and offers transportation to life and medically necessary appointments.

Participants are not charged for the service; however, donations are appreciated. When received, donations go towards the cost of fuel and maintenance for the vehicles.

County residents must call the Senior Services office at least five days before their intended appointment to make arrangements and ensure they qualify for the service. If approved, seniors would let department staff know the day and time of the appointment, and call when they're finished to be picked up and returned home. Transportation runs Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"Senior Services is funded through a federal grant called the "Older Americans Act,"

(OAA) Wilson said.

The OAA was founded in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "Great Society," and has continued to expand services that enable older adults to enjoy healthy, productive, and independence in their homes and communities. Funding is shared through the Southern Area Agency on Aging and varies from year to year.

"Funding runs out pretty quickly," Wilson said. "Once that grant runs out, we do different fundraisers" to raise money for the program.

"This year we decided to take on a golf tournament," she said, adding that the goal is to raise \$10,000 to support the program. So far, more than \$9,000 has been raised thanks to the response to a solicitation letter sent to local businesses and organizations.

The tournament is set for Saturday, May 18 at Forest Park Country Club. Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. This will be Captain's Choice for \$300 per team and includes a round of golf for four golfers, one mulligan and one red tee for each golfer; lunch and water throughout

the day; and various prize opportunities.

Three teams are currently registered, with availability for a total of 30 teams. The tournament is open to all ages and is not limited to area residents.

To register, or to volunteer to help work the tournament, call Wilson or Ashley Mundy at (276) 634-4644.

The county's Senior Services department offers a variety of programs and activities to local seniors. The minimal activity fees also are used to help to defray the cost of free transportation.

Pickleball, yoga, and beginning line dance are included in a sampling of the activities, as well as a movie day, walks on the Dick and Willie Trail, and a Senior Café, where seniors meet at a different local café each month.

Although the transportation service is only available to county residents, all other activities are open to seniors in Martinsville as well.

For a full list of activities, visit the website at <https://www.henrycountyva.gov/196/Seniors>.

Billups Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser announced

The Martinsville High School Band Boosters have created a scholarship in memory of Ms. Latanya Billups.

To raise money for the scholarship, the Boosters are hosting an Adult Field Day on March 16, from 12 noon - 2 p.m. in the football stadium at Martinsville High School.

Billups was part of the MCPS family for much of her life. A graduate of Martinsville High School, Billups eventually returned to work for the school division. She was a fixture at Friday night football games, and was deeply devoted to her work with the MAVAHI Marching Band.

In March 2023, she travelled with the band to Orlando, FL where they were scheduled to perform in a parade at Disney World. While on the trip, she passed away unexpectedly. The students and band directors chose to remain and march in the parade in her honor, dedicating their performance to her memory.

With this scholarship, Bil-

lups legacy and dedication to the MAVAHI band will continue. Funds will be given each year to support one or more graduating members of the band as they begin the next chapter of their life. The Adult Field Day will be the first fundraising event for this new scholarship.

Field Day teams will consist of 10 members (must include 4 males, 4 females, and 2 extra). Tickets for the event will be \$10 at the door. Students will be \$5.

Games include:
*Relay Races
*Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes
*Dodge Ball
*Tug- Of-War
*Balloon Pop
*Potato Sack Race
*Egg Spoon Race

The cost for each team is \$100 (\$10 per team member). Team registration can be found on the band's website at <http://www.thebulldogband.com/>.




Find more information, register your team, food truck or vending table, volunteer as a referee: www.thebulldogband.com

Team Competitions at MAVAHI with a DJ, Food Trucks & Vendors

Tickets: \$10.00, Students: \$5.00
Food Truck/Vendor: \$50

Teams: \$100
10 Adults, 18+ to compete on a team
See complete team requirements at www.thebulldogband.com

Scholarship Donations may be delivered to the Martinsville High School front office or mailed to 351 Commonwealth Blvd. E. Martinsville, VA 24112
Please designate the Latanya Billups Memorial Scholarship Fund, attention Brian Joyce for your donation.

Organized by the MAVAHI Band Boosters and Band Director, Brian Joyce
FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR REGULAR BAND UPDATES! @mavahi_band @mavahiband

Field Day Games

- RELAY RACES
- HEAD, SHOULDER, KNEES & TOES
- DODGE BALL
- TUG-OF-WAR
- BALLOON POP
- POTATO SACK RACE
- EGG SPOON RACE

OPINION

Rules of the 'Two Hands and an EZ-pass' game

Oh! Finally! I can use the EZ-Pass I bought in a grocery store and registered from my phone in the parking lot 600 miles and 10 months ago.

Most Henry County residents, it would be safe to say, have very few opportunities to use an EZ-Pass. That's a little device you stick to your windshield, and when you go onto a toll road, you can drive through most lanes rather than stop and pay an attendant or, worse, have to drop cash into a machine, when you might not be prepared with the right amount of change.

It's amazing how it works: First, you buy the device, which is a plastic block about the size of a small hotel sample hand lotion, for about \$35. You register that device on their website, putting in the tag numbers of the vehicles you want to use it for, and your bank account information. Then you stick it on your dashboard up high. A camera posted well above the height of cars and trucks reads from your device on your windshield a UPC code no bigger than what you'd find on groceries. When you use up the money you've paid on it, the EZ-Pass gets more money out of your account to keep you stocked up on toll fees.

Optimistically, I registered my EZ-Pass to both my car and my sweetheart's pickup truck. We could bring my EZ-Pass in his truck on all of the many fun little getaways we'd be taking.

Since I bought it, we've been on exactly one fun little getaway total, and I totally forgot about bringing along the EZ-Pass.

Then last week as I was driving into Richmond, I saw signs that a toll road was coming ahead.

The EZ-Pass! I remembered it! It's supposed to be in my glove box! I never had stuck it to my windshield because I wanted it to be easy to swap between the car and the truck.

While driving, I opened the glove box and started riffling through it. Things started dropping to the floor of the car — ChapStick, tissue packet, school supplies, a little notebook.

I felt around some more. I was approaching the EZ-Pass lane and couldn't find the EZ-Pass. I shoved the car manual out and then shoved out something else big and then another thing and suddenly things were cascading down to the



Holly Kozelsky

floor of the car, but no EZ-Pass.

Carefully, heart heavy with disappointment because I had wasted my one chance, I changed over a few lanes to get into the cash payment lane.

I arrived at my destination with an embarrassingly messy car. I was going to an event hosted by fancy garden club ladies, and I am a garden club lady myself, but I sure wasn't going to drive up looking like one. I parked far away from everyone else.

Later, I got the car back right. The EZ-Pass was right there in the glovebox.

I sure hoped I'd go through another toll road on my way back and get to use it!

The next day, I was prepared with the EZ-Pass in the cupholder at my side. My heart thrilled a little when I spied the sign for toll road ahead.

The car slowed as I approached the EZ-Pass lane. I held up the EZ-Pass against the windshield — and fumbled. The windshield is sloped, so the EZ-Pass fell inwards.

It was too late to switch lanes to get into the cash payment lane, so I had to retrieve the EZ-Pass. I slowed down and grappled for the device. However, I had been going in third gear but had to slow down to first gear level to avoid running through the reader without my EZ-Pass. That combination of actions required three hands, but I only had two.

I held up the device, and the car sputtered through the lane reader in the nick of time, the line of cars behind me all jammed up together.

Shortly later I came across another toll lane.

I was ready! I held up the EZ-Pass and slid right through.

The third time is the charm.

Now I feel like a sophisticated big city traveler. I've used my EZ-Pass for the first time. That's a start from a little ole gal from Henry County.

Next, I just have to figure out how to take an Uber, take a Lyft, catch a taxi ride ...

Sweden Set to Join NATO

The Kingdom of Sweden was a great power in Europe, controlling much of the Baltic region during the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Its decline was marked by Sweden's loss at the Battle of Poltava. In July 1709, King Charles XII and the Swedish army lost to a superior Russian force.

The Battle of Poltava was Sweden's greatest military disaster and began the rise of Russia as a European power.

The Russian Empire continued to expand over the next 200 years and during World War I, communists took over the country and formed the Soviet Union.

After World War II it was clear the Soviet Union was going to attempt to continue to expand their empire and control over puppet governments. To counter that, many countries in Europe and the United States formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Once the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, many countries in Eastern Europe (Estonia to Bulgaria) joined NATO in an effort to prevent future Soviet (now Russian) control.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, both Finland and Sweden formally submitted applications for membership to NATO.

In order for a new country to join NATO each of the existing members must vote in favor of the new members. While almost all of the NATO member countries voted in favor of both Finland and Sweden in 2022, Hungary and Turkey did not.

Turkey initially opposed both countries joining NATO as they had provided support to Kurdish groups seeking a Kurdish homeland (deemed as terrorist organizations by Turkey).

While Finland did eventually receive approval by all member countries, and formally joined NATO in April 2023, it is taking a bit more negotiation for Turkey to approve Sweden's membership.

This included Sweden tightening their anti-terror legislation and agreeing to work closely with Turkey on concerns of national security. Separately, the United States must also approve the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

Now that Turkey's Parliament has voted in favor of Sweden's membership, the last step is for Turkey's President Erdogan to sign the protocols.

Though Hungary technically has not yet ratified Sweden, Hungary's Prime Minister released a statement saying the government supports Sweden's membership.

Russia's rhetoric towards Ukraine prior to invasion is very similar to Russia's rhetoric regarding NATO members Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. This rhetoric



Morgan Griffith

Representative

creates a concern they want to reconquer these NATO countries and a Russian versus NATO war in the region would destabilize Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Further the border between Poland and Lithuania, known as the Suwalki Gap, is another flashpoint between Russia and NATO countries. While Belarus is to the east, there is a Russian enclave to the west of the Gap, the Kaliningrad Oblast, created after World War II when Russia took the territory from Germany, which formally was East Prussia. Today, it is heavily militarized by the Russians, including warships, warplanes, and nuclear weapons.

Sweden's membership in NATO could prove to greatly benefit the alliance as Sweden's military strength significantly increases NATO's capabilities in Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Sweden's defense industry is one of Europe's largest, producing some of the best defense equipment on the market. One example of this is the Saab JAS 39 Gripen, a supersonic fighter aircraft, produced by Swedish aerospace and defense company Saab AB. The Gripen is designed to take off and land on short runways and can be refueled and armed in a matter of minutes.

As a result, Sweden's Air Force is one of the largest in Europe, which possesses at least 100 fighter jets. These fighter jets provide critical support to Army and Navy forces as they conduct operations in the Baltic and Arctic regions.

Sweden's strategic position in Northern Europe and powerful submarine force are also key to keeping waters navigable in the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is a shared waterway with Russia, and it bottlenecks, limiting access to ports in eight countries. Sweden's knowledge of navigating the Baltic Sea and their submarines which work well in the Sea's shallow water, could all prove to be important for NATO's future success.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought into sharp focus Russia's desire to expand far into Europe once again. The importance of the NATO alliance, and bolstering its capabilities, has become clear and with Sweden in the alliance, it looks to become stronger than ever.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671 or via email at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Super Crossword

THE SILVER SCREEN

- ACROSS**
- 1 Guy in the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus"
- 7 Brand of bottled water
- 13 Holy places
- 20 Yacht basin
- 21 Old Missouri natives
- 22 Arranged, as a page for printing
- 23 2001 Josh Hartnett war film
- 25 Not macho
- 26 "— little!" ("Have some fun!")
- 27 Vegas action
- 28 Darkens in the sun
- 30 Hammer, e.g.
- 31 Yalie
- 32 1971 Malcolm McDowell crime film
- 37 They're fed after parking
- 40 "Energy healing" technique
- 41 Artist Neiman and Jim Croce's Brown
- 42 1973 Charlton Heston thriller
- 46 Beginner, in gaming lingo
- 47 Use sandpaper on, informally
- 48 Ed. supporter
- 50 Brain wave tests, in brief
- 54 — -Ball (carnival game)
- 57 Lubbock-to-Laredo dir.
- 58 1986 Isabella Rossellini neo-noir film
- 61 WWW page
- 64 Musical inaptitude
- 67 Having arrived tardily
- 68 Choose (to)
- 69 1984 Gene Wilder romantic comedy
- 72 "— said before ..."
- 73 "The Lion in Winter" actor
- 75 Dawned
- 76 Certain English student
- 78 1984 Prince musical film
- 80 Psychic "gift"
- 82 Table scraps
- 83 Graf — (German warship)
- 84 Potent compound in marijuana: Abbr.
- 85 Sequence of episodes on the tube
- 89 Test of speed
- 92 1986 Molly Ringwald Cinderella story
- 96 6x9-inch book
- 99 Attach with cord, e.g.
- 101 Actor Patrick
- 102 1992 Wesley Snipes sports film
- 107 ABA mem.
- 108 Sol-do linkup
- 109 Meat spread
- 110 "Starpeace" singer Yoko
- 111 — voice (quietly)
- 113 Smart speaker from Amazon
- 115 Photos not in shades of gray ... or what eight answers in this puzzle are?
- 120 Precisely, with "on"
- 121 Retaliate
- 122 Czar called "the Great"
- 123 More impertinent
- 124 Actor Dick Van —
- 125 Evaluate
- DOWN**
- 1 Tokens
- 2 Telescope pioneer
- 3 Newton topic
- 4 Rats' relatives
- 5 Crooner Paul
- 6 "Probly not"
- 7 Carpentry rod
- 8 Invite out for
- 9 Hardly happy
- 10 Of yore
- 11 Unfamiliar
- 12 Fails to be satisfactory
- 13 Skulked
- 14 Sci-fi role for Harrison Ford
- 15 Cup edge
- 16 Muckraker who took on Standard Oil
- 17 "That's all wrong!"
- 18 Funeral speech
- 19 Fashion trends
- 24 Jackson 5 hit
- 29 Meyers of "Dutch"
- 32 Comes — surprise
- 33 Tribe of Canada
- 34 Piercing
- 35 Come in first
- 36 Vintage auto
- 38 Someone — problem
- 39 Sleep stage
- 43 "I fail — the humor"
- 44 Some sporty autos
- 45 Orating skill
- 46 No, in Selkirk
- 48 Least ornate
- 49 Zig or zag
- 51 Major Taiwanese carrier
- 52 Implies
- 53 Pub mugs
- 54 Nosy sorts
- 55 Sustained
- 56 Automaker Bugatti
- 58 Part of N.B.
- 59 Lead-in to Cong or Minh
- 60 Lead-in to skeleton
- 62 "— cost you!"
- 63 You, quaintly
- 65 "Sign me up!"
- 66 Rapper Lil — X
- 70 Infant's cry
- 71 Reimburse
- 74 Surgeries
- 77 Like sexist jokes
- 79 Road map abbr.
- 81 Tennis unit
- 85 1982 film and arcade game
- 86 Steam hole
- 87 Ninny
- 88 Bump — log
- 90 Road map abbr.
- 91 Write music
- 92 Pod veggie
- 93 Like Charlie Brown's kite, inevitably
- 94 E.g. users, e.g.
- 95 Result of a very-low-carb diet
- 96 Hooting baby birds
- 97 Latin dance
- 98 Gives 10%
- 99 Blast creator
- 100 Polar topper
- 103 Diner patron
- 104 1995-2011 Yankee Posada
- 105 Release, as from a coral
- 106 "Excusez—!"
- 111 Holy Milles.
- 112 Excuses
- 114 "— have to?"
- 116 Female gametes
- 117 Allow to
- 118 Ottawa loc.
- 119 1040 pro

Letter To The Editor

Think before you vote

Voting is important. There is no doubt about that. You have good and bad in both parties. Stop and think before you cast a vote. Don't vote for a party just because that's what you've always done. Neither party is what it used to be. Legal does not mean that its moral or right. Vote for Godly values, morality, common decency and common sense.

With all this being said, why would anyone vote for a party that condones unlimited abortion, that is soft on crime, that takes away our policing powers, that leaves our borders open for any and everything to enter our country, that allows

any type of gambling no matter what it does to some families, that wants to establish a legal market for marijuana knowing what it can lead to.

This part is for gay rights such as marriage and adoption and other things. As I said before, legal does not make it morally right. Making some things legal can impact a lot of families in ways we'll never know. I suspect that God frowns on a lot of this. I think that this nation is already paying the price for a lot of these things. Just look around you and think about it.

James Joyce, Collinsville

Belk named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President's List

Bridget Belk, of Martinsville, was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President's List (Highly Distinguished). Belk is majoring in Marketing.

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students

must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

To qualify for Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

OPINION

Del. Eric J. Phillips, 48th House District

It is hard to believe but the second full week of the 2024 General Assembly session has wrapped up. There have been more than 1,500 bills filed and assigned to committees for hearings.

My first vote as a Freshman Delegate, to elect a Speaker of the House. It was a historic vote and the first time the House of Delegates has elected a black Speaker, Don Scott of Portsmouth. It was a remarkable occasion to witness.

I had my ceremonial swearing-in, and it was an amazing experience. My family and friends joined me in the House of Delegates Chamber while the Clerk recited the remarkable history of the House of Delegates and my wife, Rebecca, held the Bible while I took the oath of office. It was a joyous day and I thank everyone for their support.

Even though I stepped foot in Richmond the day session began, I was still able to introduce four pieces of legislation and three budget amendments. The legislation I patroned is: HB1445 - New College Institute Duties; HB 1451 - SOL Assessment Retakes; HB 1522 - City of Martinsville Referendum; and HB 1512 - City of Martinsville Charter Changes. The budget amendments I introduced and spoke to in House Appropriations Committee are: New College Institute to restore second year funding; May River State Park for startup operations, staff, and equipment; and Pittsylvania County Library for the Gretna Branch to complete its renovation project. To learn more about my legislation and to track as it works its way through the session, please visit the Virginia General Assembly's website at <https://virginia-generalassembly.gov/>.

I have been appointed to serve on the Public Safety and the Privileges and Elections Committees, as well as the Campaign Finance and gubernatorial appointments subcommittees. So far, public safety and firearms are at the forefront in Richmond. There are a significant number of bills that have been filed that would impact our Second Amendment rights, including bans on certain types of firearms. I look forward to working with my colleagues and Governor Youngkin, and remain committed to keeping secure our God-given liberties.

My Republican colleagues and I have introduced legislation that will hold fentanyl dealers accountable for the lives they take with their poison.



Under our legislation, anyone who gives or sells a lethal dose of fentanyl is liable for murder. The Senate has already voted down one version of this legislation, but this problem is too significant and important, and we will continue to fight.

We are also working to end the destructive mandate Democrats put in place in 2020, requiring that all new cars sold in Virginia be electric vehicles by 2035. We have heard from local and statewide auto dealers that this is impossible for them to implement. Virginians do not want cars that take forever to charge, work poorly in cold weather, and are more expensive than gas powered cars.

Another concern is the legislation passed by the House last week that makes significant changes to the way our family farms will conduct business. The legislation puts politicians in the middle of how farmers and their employees work out the terms of employment. I trust our farmers to handle their own employee working relationships and will continue to oppose this legislation and protect the farms and farmers who put food on our tables.

There have been many visitors who have taken the time to travel to Richmond from the district over the last few weeks and I have enjoyed seeing each and every one. We met with sheriffs, commissioners of the revenue, treasurers, school boards, community service organizations, chambers of commerce, dentist, bankers, FFA students and teachers from Tunstall High School and Chatham High School, and many more. I encourage you to come to Richmond to visit and tour the Capitol and see the House of Delegates Chamber in action.

To reach Phillips, call (804) 698-1028 or email delephillips@house.virginia.gov.

Letter To The Editor

On Black History Month

On January 23, 2024, a Facebook post was made from the city's official page stating that Martinsville City Council issued a proclamation to the Fayette Area Historical Initiative, recognizing February 2024 as Black History Month in the City of Martinsville. The post went on to say, "Council urges all citizens to join in celebrating the significance of African American culture in its past, present, and future."

I'm white so what am I supposed to say? It's "BLACK History Month", but then it's "AFRICAN American culture." Last year I went to Grace Presbyterian on Fayette St. to hear Jimmie Hawkins lecture on "The History of Black Protest in America" in which he said, "We used to be called 'negroes', then we were called 'colored', then we were called 'black', and now we are called 'African American'. Truth be told: we still call ourselves black."

What is "African American culture"? I think it's safe to say that the majority of black citizens in Martinsville, VA have never been to Africa, and I imagine they'd decline permanently relocating to Africa. Do African tribal conflicts carry over into African American culture? Are there any Tutsis fighting Hutus in Martinsville? Any Fulanis fighting Dogons in Henry County?

I just don't think it's beneficial to American unity. Am I trying to put the black man down? No, but creating the term "black history" clearly implies every other kinds of history: White History, Jewish History, etc., ... So, in an integrated modern America we have segregated history? Do black citizens get

to appreciate Jack and Bobby Kennedy? That's "White History" after all. Should white citizens ignore MLK Day since that's "Black History" which has nothing to do with "us"? See? It just creates "us" versus "them" thinking.

Not only do I think it unbeneficial, but I find it pandering. Every February, America acts like they only know five black people: MLK, Rosa Parks, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, and Malcolm X. Have no other black people done anything noteworthy? Do you know how many times I've heard Douglas Wilder be mentioned in past "Black History Months"? Not once. I've never heard Thurgood Marshall mentioned either. Maybe I live under a rock or maybe it's because they're both light skinned.

I don't believe in white or black culture; I believe in Christian culture. No matter what your skin color, the Bible says you ought to be honest (Eph. 4:25), a hard worker (Eph. 4:28), well and clean spoken (Eph. 4:29), and kind and forgiving (Eph. 4:32). If you marry, you ought to honor that covenant till death (Rom. 1:31; 7:1-4). If in marriage you make babies, you ought to give education, affection, and discipline to them (Eph. 6:1-4). While making your way through this tough life, respect your neighbor as he makes his way too: Matthew 7:12.

Don't forget what we learned in Sunday School: "red, and yellow, black or white they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

Regarding the Patrick County hospital

Back in February 2018 when I was a full-time journalist, I found myself inside the former Pioneer Community Hospital in Stuart, Virginia.

It was a red-letter day for Patrick County. Governor Ralph Northam was in town along with numerous state and local politicians and an audience of about 200 people. After filing for bankruptcy in 2016, the hospital had closed its doors the previous September. Northam had arrived at the hospital to sign Senate Bill 866 into law, the first bill of his governorship. Authored by Sen. Bill Stanley, the bill was designed to keep Pioneer's certifications and licenses current so that when a new owner purchased the hospital, they would have significantly fewer hoops to jump through to get it up and running again.

It was a hopeful day. I talked to a whole lot of folks that afternoon — only a fraction of the quotes made it into the story I wrote — and I remember the overwhelming sense that surely, sometime very soon, the hospital would reopen. It HAD to reopen. How could the entire county go even a few months without a hospital?

What I remember most vividly from that day, however, is that somewhere within the hospital, there was a humidity sensor alarm that kept ringing. No one could figure out how to completely turn it off, only silence it temporarily. It lent a distinctly "Tell-Tale Heart" sort of vibe to the proceedings.

It's been six years since that day, and the hospital is no closer to opening its doors. If anything, the goalposts have moved even further.

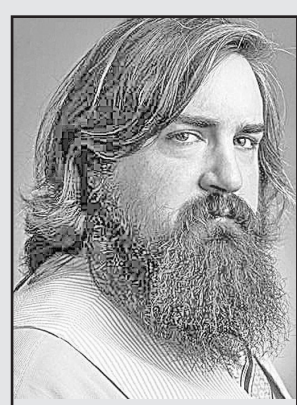
I read with great interest Debbie Hall's article in the last edition of The Enterprise, "Board chairman says hospital will not reopen." On Jan. 22, Patrick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Brandon Simmons announced that despite being purchased by Foresight Health Group in 2022, the hospital would not be reopening. There was no reason given and no additional information provided. In a related story, Foresight apparently hasn't paid taxes on the property in two years and the county is in the early stages of the collection process for a total of \$33,101.12.

The story added that the town is trying to get Foresight to take down the "Opening in 2023" banner in front of the hospital.

I drive past that banner a couple of times per week, and every time I see, it serves as a grim confirmation of my long-held belief that Foresight's big promises were never going to materialize.

I don't want to come across as Mr. I Told You So, but every time I heard a new update on Foresight's ambitious plans for the county hospital, I felt like I was watching a depressing reboot of "The Music Man" without the musical numbers or romance. Maybe I'm just cynical. Maybe it's the fact that a cursory Google search revealed that Dr. Sameer Suhail, President and CEO of Foresight, has been embroiled in multiple well-documented legal probes involving millions of dollars of insider contracts received from Chicago's Loretto Hospital. Who can say?

I would never, ever suggest that an enterprising individual with less than stellar intentions might come into a community and provide an easy answer to a need so desperate that local officials would be



By Ben R. Williams

willing to overlook more red flags than you'd see at a Chinese military parade. I'm sure that Dr. Suhail is well-intentioned and that his various Chicago legal problems can easily be explained away. I say this both because it is my deeply-held belief and also for legal purposes.

However, the root of the problem that Patrick County faces has nothing to do with Foresight. It has to do with the reason Pioneer closed in the first place.

According to the article in The Enterprise, Joseph Hyak-Reinholt, COO of Foresight, issued a statement regarding Foresight's failure to reopen the hospital.

"As 2023 turns into 2024, we have yet to develop a plan that makes sense both clinically and financially," he wrote. "That is, we have to develop a plan that we believe can provide an adequate scope of services while also being profitable."

And there's the problem. If your house catches fire, you don't have to pay the firefighters to come put it out. If your car gets stolen, you don't have to institute a payment plan with the police so that they'll go out and look for it. And yet I've never heard anyone complain about "socialized firefighting" or "socialized law enforcement."

When I was inside Pioneer back in 2018, I heard several people say that if no one was willing to reopen the hospital, the government needed to step in and do it. I had a feeling that if I said to those same folks that that would be socialized medicine, they would not have been pleased.

The situation with the Patrick County hospital is a prime example of why we need universal healthcare in this country. If an underserved community desperately needs a hospital, it shouldn't have to wait until someone can figure out how to do it while still turning a profit. I would much rather have my healthcare paid for by my taxes rather than the current system of paying a bloated hive of insurance company leeches even MORE money so that they can occasionally tell me that after consulting some soulless corporate ghoul, they have decided that I don't actually need the medical procedure that my doctor recommended.

The old joke is that universal healthcare is such a complex problem that only 32 out of the world's 33 developed nations have managed to make it work. Until this country figures out that healthcare is a human right, I don't know that the Patrick County hospital will ever reopen.

I realize that "socialized medicine" is a scary concept, but I imagine that it becomes a lot less scary when you're in the back of an ambulance on the long road to Carilion Franklin in Rocky Mount.

Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON

Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES

Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

HELP WANTED

Sawmill Help
Serious workers only need to apply \$500 sign on bonus with stipulations. Previous employees need not apply. Apply in person at Wilderness 14747 Job Stuart Hwy Stuart VA 24171

If you've read this far, you can see how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work. Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week. Call 276-694-3101 or email submissions@theenterprise.net for more information.

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net.

Thomas Land Solutions LLC
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates.

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



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

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISE!

Benefit set for teens injured in crash

A benefit for two teens who were injured in a December crash will be held on Saturday, February 24 at the Woolwine Elementary School, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Funds raised at the event will benefit Lauren Worley, of Patrick County, and Micah Underwood, of Floyd County. The two were injured on December 16.

One person was charged with felony counts of permanent maiming another while driving while intoxicated and driving while intoxicated maiming serious injury and several misdemeanor charges in connection with the incident.

Underwood was treated for his injuries and has since been released.

Worley was recently transported from a hospital in

Roanoke to a facility in Charlotte, N.C., for rehabilitation.

The event will include live music- bluegrass, gospel and country, as well as a plated meal of BBQ or chicken. The cost is \$12 per plate, and a drive-thru option is available.

A Cut-A-Thon by Cricket's Country Salon and Jessica Belcher, a basket raffle, 50/50 drawing and a bake sale. The benefit begins at 2 p.m. with welcome and prayer. Michael Ray Fain will perform at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mike Hall, Allison Harris & Jackie Belcher at 3 p.m.

The Revelators are scheduled to perform at 3:15 p.m., with the first round of raffles set for 3:45 p.m., followed by Voices of Praise at 4 p.m., Fresh Harvest

Praise Team at 4:30 p.m., and a second round of raffles at 4:45 p.m.

The Alum Ridge Boys and Ashlee with Chris Prillaman are scheduled to perform at 5 p.m., with a third round of raffles at 6 p.m., followed by PCHS Praise and Worship at 6:15, and the fourth round of raffles at 6:45 p.m.

The final performers – Jordan T. Morrison and The Foothill Boys – will perform at 7 p.m., with a 50/50 drawing and auction items scheduled for 8 p.m.

The benefit is not sponsored or endorsed by the Patrick County School Board. It is being sponsored by the communities of Woolwine, Stuart and Floyd communities. Organizers express a special thanks to

the Ruritan clubs, Woolwine Fire and Rescue and Woolwine Elementary School. Email questions to gen-try.turner@patrick.k12.va.us.

Advertise With Us!

What we offer: • Flexible pricing • Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both • Deeply discounted rates • Seasonal Specials

What we have: • A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals • A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

LEGAL

Notice of Unsafe Structures
To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Properties*:
1113 W Fayette Street - condemned 12/18/2023
Sussie Hairston
201 First Street - condemned 12/13/2021
Keishawn Niblett - Conservator of Estate of Josephine Niblett, Josephine Niblett
30 1/2 (rear) High Street - condemned 1/29/2024
Frances H Richardson
807 Pipe Street - condemned 12/29/2023
Mae Hairston & Jobie King, Mary Penn, Jobie King, Bernida Hairston, Lucy Biltoft, Mary Standfield, Elizabeth Harber, John H. Harber, Jr., and Any Unknown Heirs
208 Askin Street - condemned 7/17/2023
Richard M. & Patricia I. Watts
1217 Lawson Street - condemned 11/29/2022
William Thomas Collier, Robert Nixon Collier & Cheryl Lynn Collier, Sole Devises of Barbara Collier, dec'd
All unknown/unidentified Heirs, Lien Holders and Trustees for the above properties

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. The violations are listed below:

- 1113 W Fayette Street**
- PM -106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.
- PM -304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair (excessive vegetative overgrowth)
- PM -304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM -304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM -304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM -702.1 - Safe and continuous path not maintained to the building
- 201 First Street**
- PM -106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect.
- PM -301.3 - Vacant structure, not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM -304.1 - Exterior not maintained in state of good repair.
- PM -304.4 - Exterior wall structural members deteriorated.
- PM -304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM -305.2 - Structural members not capable of supporting the imposed loads.
- PM -501.1 - Plumbing and water service not maintained as approved.
- PM -601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.
- 30 1/2 (rear) High Street**
- PM -106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.
- PM -301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and secure.
- PM -302.3 - Walkway not kept in good repair.
- PM -302.5 - Structure not kept free from rodent harborage.
- PM -304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM -304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM -304.7 - Roof not sound and tight to admit water.
- PM -304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound.
- PM -304.13 - Windows not kept in sound condition.
- PM -501.1 - Plumbing service not in compliance.
- PM -604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance
- 807 Pipe Street**
- PM -106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.
- PM -304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair (excessive vegetative overgrowth)
- PM -304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM -304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM -304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM -702.1 - Safe and continuous path not maintained to the building.
- 208 Askin Street**
- PM -106 - Unfit for human occupancy, due to neglect.
- PM -305.1 - Interior of structure not maintained in good sanitary condition.
- PM -305.2 - Structural members not capable of supporting the imposed loads.
- PM -305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained clean and sanitary.
- PM -308.1 - Structure not free from excessive accumulation of rubbish or garbage.
- PM -501.1 - Plumbing and water service not maintained as approved.
- PM -601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.
- 1217 Lawson Street**
- PM -106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.
- PM -304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.
- PM -304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM -304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM -304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM -304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
- PM -702.1 - Safe, continuous path of travel not provided.

ORDER
The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

Right of Appeal
You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church Street., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

LEGAL

Public Notice of Intent

Henry County Parks and recreation, Senior Transportation Services proposes to provide flex-fixed route and demand response transportation throughout Henry County. Funds are being requested from the Commonwealth of Virginia to purchase one (1) 9 Passenger raised roof van with wheelchair lift through the FTA Section 5310 Program to replace one (1) older, high mileage vehicle currently being used in Henry County.

We invite any interested public or private transit or Para-transit operators in Henry County to comment on the proposed services by sending a written notice by February 3, 2024 to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation - Public Transportation Division, 600 E. Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 and to Henry County Parks and Recreation, Senior Services, Post Office Box 7, Collinsville, Virginia 24078.

LEGAL

COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia. Following this public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the following application on **February 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd, Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearing.

Case R-24-01 Christy L. Harbour

The property is located at 74 Seminole Dr, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 28.6/312,312A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Neighborhood Commercial District B-2. The applicant wishes to move her existing business providing wellness based spa services to this property.

The application for this request 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

See more at www.henrycountyenterprise.com

Sports Schedule

Following are the dates and times of local high school teams and their games for the week of Feb. 5-10:

2/5 7pm Girls Basketball Mecklenburg County at Bassett
7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at George Washington (at Bonner M.S.)
7pm Boys Basketball Bassett at Mecklenburg County
7pm Boys Basketball George Washington at Magna Vista

2/6 TBA Swim & Dive Magna Vista at Christiansburg (Christiansburg Aquatic Center)
6pm Boys Basketball Carlisle at North Cross
7pm Girls Basketball Bassett at Mecklenburg County
7pm Girls Basketball Martinsville at Magna Vista
7pm Boys Basketball Mecklenburg County at Bassett
7pm Boys Basketball Magna Vista at Martinsville

2/7 4pm Indoor Track Meet at Bassett
7pm Boys Basketball Halifax County at Magna Vista
2/8 7pm Girls Basketball Magna Vista at Halifax County
7pm Girls Basketball Carlisle at SVA
7pm Boys Basketball Tunstall at Martinsville (at Martinsville M.S.)
2/9 6:30p Boys Basketball Lynchburg Home School at Carlisle
2/10 9am Wrestling Region Tournament at Abingdon H.S.

First semester student achievements at P&HCC

Dean's List

Students named to the Dean's List have earned a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher for the semester and who are enrolled for 12 or more college credits.

Axton: Carlos Carrillo-Hernandez, Emiliano Carrillo-Juarez, Dakota Carter, Angel Gil-Reyes, Joselinne Hernandez-Romero, Cameron Landaverde, Jane Lavea, Reagan McMillon, Mariah Moyer, Jessica Ortiz-Espana, Jovany Ramirez Devora, Amber Smith.

Bassett: Joshua Alverson, Morgan Cassell, Dakota Clark, Michael Clark, Jacquelyn Coronilla-Ortega, Landen Davis, Cloe Fackler, Cassidy Foley, Nakota Gallimore, Sandra George, Lauren Griffith, Autumn Handy-Harrell, Mari Haynes, September Irizarry, Kiera Kennedy, Alexa Martell-Rios, Shannon Mitchell, Grace Naff, Kreg O'Hara, Alheli Ramos-Garcia, Dylan Rigney, Jacob Sebastian, Logan Surber, Kaylee Towler, Seth Turner, Emily Vaught, Taya Wingfield, Alan Zuniga Marban.

Callands: Paige Barbour.

Collinsville: Steven Cruz-Juarez, Gabriel Daughtry, Brendon Easley, Karen Ferguson, Michael Foley, Joao Victor Gomes, Tony Gomzalez Santiago, Donna Hairfield, Janeka Hairston, Baylan Harizi, Abigail Haskew, Annamarie Hodnett, Teegan James, Elizabeth Joyce, Caleb Maggerman, Scott Manning, Jasiyah Moss, Emiliano Nolla Maldonado, Bradley Pegram, Leslie Perez-Leal, Blake Petersen, Sherman Roberts, Laila Rodriguez, Jose Sanchez, Lindsay Sandoval-Campuzano, Khamari Tatum, Bradlee Vasconcelo, Emily Warren, Ethan Yates.

Fieldale: Sommer Carter, Jasmine Hiatt, Rikyah Mitchell-Hairston, William Shilling IV, Hunter Spencer, Cole Wilkinson, Reagan Wright.

Henry: Breanna Foster, Sydney Foster, Leah Jordan.

Martinsville: Anastasia Adams, Adam Aguilar Jr, Naun Andrade Paredes, Carina Aquilo, Darius Beal, Latoya Blackwell, Brianna Board, Kyrsten Boardwine, Jolie Bowyer, Kaylee Brooks, Patricia Campbell, Yadira Carrillo Tamayo, Esmeralda Castillo-Ocampo, Morgan Clark, Bayliss Coleman, Karli Compton, Jazmine Dabbs, Sontrell Daniels, Caroline Davis, Kaitlyn Denny, Brandon DeShazo, Blake Dillon, Ryan Dimingo, Xavier Dunham, Madison Emmerson, Marissa Espinosa, Abdullah Farooq, Tracey Fitzgerald, Paris Fulp, Mychal Gallop, Briana Garcia,

Kendra Gill, Matthew Gilley, William Goodman, Ava Grant, Breona Gravely, Trevion Gravely, Aleisha Hagwood, Angel Hairston, Briana Hairston, Chelsea Hairston, Sanaa Hairston, Tamier Hairston, Holden Hendricks, Deniyah Hightower, Emily Holland, Jonathan Holt Sr, Aidan Hood, Isabella Hood, Audrey Hundley, Krystal Ingram, Maria Jacob, Arlette Jaramillo-Mata, Racheal Jones, Teniah Jones, Jordan Katnis, Roderickus Kelly, Damya Kidd, Shane Kruse, Nicholas Kurczewski, Austin Lamkin, Kaleigh Lawson, Candice Lucas, Gavin Luther, Alondra MacHuca Tiznado, Monserrat MacHuca Tiznado, Haylee McBride, Porisha McDonald, Kennedy McPherson, Emma Metzger, Nellie Mize, Kinya Moore, Nicholas Moore, John Nguyen, Nathaniel Overton, Nathaniel Pearson, Michalin Penn, Elijah Pickett, Kamari Preston, Kayla Preston, Joshua Price, Veronica Ramey, Alyssa Ramsey, John Ratliff II, Latisha Ray, Adam Reed, Terriah Roberts, Cameron Robertson, Caleb Royal, Crystal Santacruz-Sanchez, Bradley Shields, Karlee Shivley, Jariyah Smith, Mekhi Stockton, McKenzie Tate, Kurstin Tucker, Brooke Turner, Shanesia Turner, Isabella Vega, Malachi Wade, Jalyn Waller, Braden Webb, Peiton Whorley, Whitney Williams, Owen Wilson, Catherine Woods, Tyasia Wright.

Ridgeway: Lyndon Brannock, Cole Burgess, Kailyn Carter, Alex Clark, Matthew Davis, Jasmine Diaz-Trinidad, Danielle Draper, Wesley Eggleston, Callie Ferguson, Ian Ferguson, Luke Gardner, Kyndal Handy, Bryan Hird, Lynasshia King, Ava Knight, Emily Lemons, Joshua Luther, Maegan Mabe, Chandler Motley, David Romero-Reyes, Brianna Scales, Shaley Shreve, Christyn Spencer, Mikayla Thomas, Michael Thompson, Natalie Tollison, Khailey Toney, Destiny Walker, Andrew Wheeler.

Spencer: LeAndra Carson, Kansas Cutchins, Hayley DeShazo, Karlyn Hall, Raegan Lane, Kaci Meade, Sadie Perry, Qualeak Pride, Le-stat Sink, Mary Williams.

Stanleytown: Olivia Dillard.

Honors List

Those students who have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and who have completed 30 or more credits and who are enrolled for 12 or more college credits are recognized with placement on the Honors List.

Axton: Stephanie Altamirano, Carlee Ashworth, Elizabeth Caro Tamayo, Ingrid Carrillo-Juarez, Lakyn Cochran, Perla Contreras,

Cristian Espinosa, Mario Garcia Ramierz, Mallori Lowe, Hannah Moxley, Liam Nies, Chandler Norman, Yulisa Salinas, Alexis Tiznado, Chevon Trotter, Hannah Young.

Bassett: Kiara Brown, Nicole Cockram, David Craig, Lani Craig, Aleeyah Galloway, Emily Gilley, Savannah Gravely, Anne Catherine Harris, Elisha Helms, Paulo Hernandez, Kaitlyn Hooper, Zachary Johnson, Olivia Keaton, Allison Kitzmiller, Logan Manley, Eunela Manzano, Daniel Marshall, Kevin Martel-Rios, Nolan Poperowitz, Cortay Price.

Callands: Andrea Holley.

Collinsville: Lauren Carter, Laken Collins, Ethan Duke, Noah Keeler, Isaac McKissick, Gustavo Moreira, Kyndall Nelson, Timothy Rakes, Kylan Roberts, Sergio Traitel, Perla Vasconcelos Martinez, Sara Wall, Kayla Wood.

Fieldale: Eling Cheng, Katie Fulcher, Matthew Hendrix, Candice Lockard, Jonathan Nolen.

Henry: Tyler Carr, Taylor Dake, Hunter Koger.

Martinsville: Shania Adams, Andrea Amaya-Lopez, Karli Barker, Laiken Barnes, Nicholas Bokman, Peighton Boone, Nicholas Carter, Leah Chacha, Johnny Clerc, Javaron Cox-Stockton, Zachary Craddock, Preston Davis, Jonathan English, Justin Ford, Heaven Garten, Ariana Gravely, Gabriel Hagwood, Colby Hairfield, Ashton Hairston, Dakota Hairston, Omarion Hairston, Gabriel Haley, Kaylee Hall, Austin Harding, David Hernandez, Maria Jennings, Sienna King, Jazmyn Lafollette, Kailea Martin, America Mendoza-Sanchez, William Morrison, Adam Mounkaila, Emma Nester, RG Olea, Nayti Patel, Andrew Pietz, Tyrese Perkins, Elizabeth Poe, Kristian Preston, Melissa Preston, Kaylee Rea, Ailyn Rivera Hernandez, Laura Lee Robinson, Alan Rodriguez Rosas, David Root, Mason Rorrer, Madison Ross, Olivia Ross, Caden Shively, Skyler Spence, JaLena Spikes, Ryan Stewart, Sydney Stimpert, Christopher Talley, Eva Underwood, Destiny Witcher, Chloe Wray, Kinza Yasar.

Ridgeway: Saige Adams, Jordan Caldwell-McGhee, Danielle Edwards, Grace Edwards, Joseph Fincher, Jakob Foley, Taylor Holland, Zachary Jones, Anne Laine, Tahlia Machuca, Maeve McCulloch, Kylie Minter, Kailee Newcomb, Thomas Powell, Carlie Pritchett, James Smith, Khamren Toney.

Spencer: Luke Cutchins, Alexander Doyle, Joshua Graham, William Marshall, Hunter Meade.

Nonprofit expands FREE TEACH Program to include Black History Month curriculum

A national nonprofit, Wreaths Across America (WAA), is providing free access to educators with lesson plans highlighting Black History Month (February) curriculum. The WAA TEACH program, spearheaded by retired educator and Gold Star Mother Cindy Tatum, aims to equip educators with a service-based curriculum to instill the values of freedom and honor in students nationwide.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." In honor of Black History Month, the Wreaths Across America TEACH Program has developed lesson plans that honor the con-

tributions and lasting legacies of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sojourner Truth, Ruby Bridges, the Buffalo Soldiers, and many others.

"Our lesson plans offer a comprehensive curriculum designed to engage students of all ages in stories of courage and character," said Cindy Tatum, WAA Curriculum Developer. "As with all of our free lesson plans, we focus on character development and service projects, and the curriculum is tailored for kindergarten through high school, catering to diverse learning abilities."

Lesson plans are available for free download at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/teach and accessible on Teachers Pay Teachers. Educators and homeschoolers are encouraged to explore and incorporate the materials into their lesson

plans for Black History Month and beyond.

The TEACH program encompasses materials from philanthropic and patriotic organizations, including the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and The Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

For more information about Wreaths Across America and how to participate in National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 14, 2024, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

To learn more about The "TEACH" program, read the blog post at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/Home/News/1085

Wet weather saturates fields, lifts drought advisories

A torrent of wet weather has lifted drought advisories in several Virginia localities—and saturated some farmers' fields.

After a dry summer and fall, several areas in Virginia received above-average rainfall over the past few weeks, prompting the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to remove drought advisories in 49 counties.

One of those counties was New Kent, where Paul Davis grows wheat, grains and other crops. He said his community received 9 inches of rain in December, followed by another 4 in January.

"We're plenty wet," said Davis, a Virginia Farm Bureau member. "We've had ponding of water in the fields that probably drowned out some cover crops, but we won't know until spring how that's going to go."

According to the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop Progress Report, 77% of topsoil moisture and 58% of subsoil moisture was adequate as of Jan. 2, with

some fields seeing standing water. The report also noted 58% of the state's barley and 78% of winter wheat are in good condition.

Despite the frequent rains making it difficult to work outside, Davis was able to apply nitrogen and weed killer to his wheat on time. And while things "don't look too bad" from all the rain, he's concerned about the recent cold snap.

"It was 15 degrees in the mornings, so it's tough on the cover crops and the hard red winter wheat, or any wheat that you're growing," he said. "Any winter annual doesn't like wet feet and sub-15 degree weather."

While rains lifted several counties out of drought, a DEQ advisory stated that 15 counties in the Big Sandy and Upper James areas remain under a drought watch. Seven counties in the Shenandoah region, which includes Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren counties, are under a drought warning—

where significant drought is imminent.

"The recent rains have helped a lot with soil moisture, especially since they were pretty slow, all-day type rains," explained Matt Booher, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Rockingham County. "From a cropping standpoint, we are back to normal."

But, he added, "our groundwater reserves that wells depend on are still below average for this time of year. This can impact irrigation water, water for poultry houses and rural homes."

The DEQ noted long-term precipitation deficits persist, and more rain is needed to increase stream flows and groundwater reserves. It urges residents to conserve water resources by minimizing water use, monitoring drought conditions and detecting and repairing any leaks.

For more information on the current drought status, visit bit.ly/4bm70An.

Stitchify

(cont. from page 1)

Team, and we also have a 255 T-shirt order to a college," he said.

Dews said a goal was for Stitchify to earn \$3,000 by the end of the second semester. Its starting budget was \$720.

"Right now, we have a current balance of \$15,670," he said.

Amaya said future goals include getting more students involved in the program, expanding the business to include a website, and collecting \$25,000 this year.

Amaya said he decided to join Stitchify because it's different from the regular study in which students are in class with a teacher.

"And it's more fun than bookwork. I'm not reading a book and doing a paper on it, I'm ac-

tually getting involved" in the business, he said.

Nevaeh Norman said she wanted to get involved because she wants to start her own clothing business in the future.

Amaya said the students had to learn everything to start the business.

"Obviously, we learned how to print designs, designing as well, (and) pricing. We also learned how to stay motivated when others aren't," he said.

In addition to meeting with customers to work on designs, Amaya said Stitchify also creates its own custom designs using their designs. The most popular design is a bulldog shirt of the MHS mascot.

MHS business teacher Christopher Talley

said Stitchify is two blocks, or half the day, for students. Eligible students can take it each semester.

Amaya said the first semester of Stitchify focused on planning the business while the current semester is more practical.

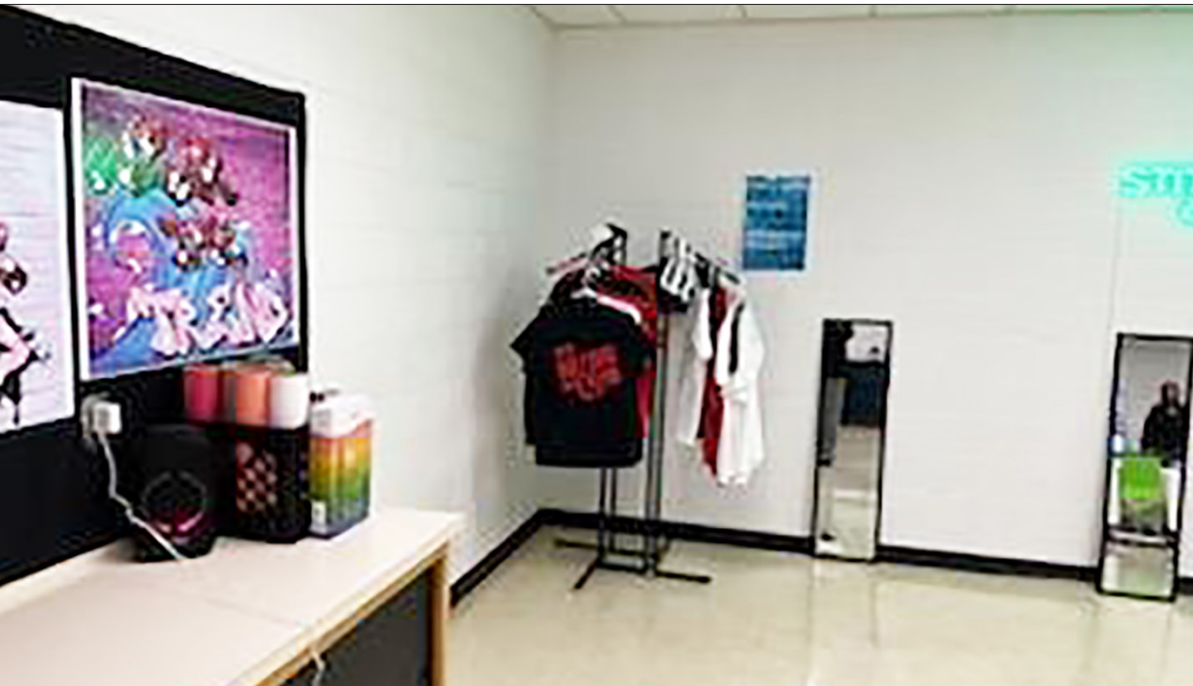
There are no hours for customers to come in and shop. "Its order based," Amaya said.

Christopher Talley said there are no current plans to start a third student-run business at this time.

"I think I want to do an expansion on this business before I open another one," he said. "More products, and we're actually looking into maybe embroidery, monogramming. We just want to expand more."



MHS business teacher Christopher Talley helps students prepare orders.



Student entrepreneurs work on various parts of the Stitchify business they are cultivating. A website is planned, along with goals of expansion and generating more funds than initially anticipated.

Partners sought for Summer Meals Program

The Virginia Department of Education-Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs is seeking partners to participate in the Commonwealth's Summer Food Service Program this year to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals during months when school is not in session.

The SFSP Program — funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the VDOE Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs provides the opportunity for organizations to combine a meal program with another activity in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible

for free and reduced-price meals.

Approved organizations are reimbursed for meals served and associated administrative costs. In addition, all participating organizations receive training and technical assistance from the VDOE-SNP.

The Program can operate at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks, and churches. Organizations that qualify to participate in the program include public and private schools, local governments, public and nonprofit private residential summer camps, and faith-based and community-based non-profit orga-

nizations.

Organizations in areas designated as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be eligible to serve multiple days' worth of take-home meals at once.

Approximately 125 summer meals partner organizations served almost 3 million meals to Virginia's children between June-August last year.

Information for organizations interested in applying to participate in the Program — including details on application deadlines — is available on the VDOE website.

LeGrant, Frazier tapped to join Harvest board

The Harvest Foundation announced the addition of two new members joining its 15-member Board of Directors this year, Martinsville residents DelShana LeGrant and Laura Frazier.

"We are fortunate to have DelShana and Laura onboard to share their expertise and leadership with Harvest and the greater community," said Kate Keller, president of The Harvest Foundation. "Their strengths will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and growth of the foundation, which will enable us to make an even greater impact toward a positive future for all individuals who call Martinsville-Henry County home."

LeGrant has a strong background in early childhood education and special education. When asked to serve on the board, she said she was "honored, humbled, and excited" for the opportunity.

"The time-honored work of The Harvest Foundation aligns with my value system and my commitment to lifelong community service and engagement," LeGrant said. "I will use my voice, experience, expertise, and networks to protect the reputation, support the vision, and promote the mission of The Harvest Foundation so that it remains a sustainable and viable force contributing to the growth, health and development of our community."

LeGrant previously served on the 2023 Project Hope Committee, a program designed to distribute small grants for grassroots,



DelShana LeGrant

neighborhood projects that bring hope to communities. She said she loved connecting with her neighbors throughout the process and hearing the creative and ambitious ideas emerging from those conversations.

"My passion lies in community service and social justice-based initiatives," LeGrant said. "The sharing of my talents and service, accompanied with what I have learned as a result of my professional and personal experiences, allows me to contribute to the collective responsibility that we all have in promoting and preserving the beauty, hope, progress, and resilience of our MHC community."

LeGrant serves as an early childhood exceptional children regional consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.



Laura Frazier

She also serves as an early childhood educational consultant for Kaplan Early Learning Company and owner of LeGrant Education Services, LLC.

She is a member of the Virginia Department of Health - West Piedmont District Equity Collaborative and serves on the boards of Piedmont Arts and Patrick & Henry Community College. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Council for Exceptional Children, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children — NC Chapter.

Frazier is an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Child Support Enforcement Section. She said accepting the nomination to serve on the Harvest Board of Directors is one more way she can give back to the

community she and her family call home.

"I've always been an admirer of Harvest's projects and mission, especially since so many of them align with my personal and professional background," she said. "My background in education, public health and law has provided me with experiences that I hope to use and share during my tenure with the board. I am especially grateful for the years I served as a guardian ad litem in this community as it gave me first-hand insight into the homes and lives of local families and helped me to better understand their needs."

While she doesn't have any specific goals in mind, Frazier said she is looking forward to meeting and working with other service-minded individuals who want to make the world a better place.

"When my husband and I moved to Martinsville," Frazier said, "I don't think either of us planned to be here long. But that was fifteen years (and two sons) ago, and we are here to stay. We have chosen the Martinsville-Henry County community to be our family's permanent home, and we are invested in making it a great place to live and raise our kids."

Frazier is a member of the Martinsville-Henry County Bar Association and president of the Mt. Olivet Elementary School PTO. She formerly served as a member of the Charity League of Martinsville-Henry County and the Martinsville City Schools Endowment.

Visitor spending in MHC exceeded \$70 million in 2022

Visitor spending for Martinsville – Henry County reached \$70.4 million, a 5.1 percent change over 2021. Tourism-supported jobs in Martinsville – Henry County totaled 787 while local tourism-related taxes were \$2.8 million.

According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), tourism in Virginia generated \$30.3 billion in visitor spending in 2022, an increase of 20.3% from 2021, exceeding 2019 levels by 4.4%. The tourism industry in Virginia

directly supported 210,721 jobs in 2022, an increase of more than 25,000 jobs relative to 2021, but still down about 30,000 jobs relative to 2019. All data is from Tourism Economics and is based on visitor spending from trips taken 50 miles or more away from home.

"Tourism in Martinsville – Henry County is certainly rebounding," said Kelly Rowland, the Tourism Marketing and Client Relations Manager. "Martinsville – Henry County is not just a place, it's an experience. With our

diverse venues and attractions, we are crafting a destination that inspires curiosity and leaves lasting memories for all who visit."

The leading tourism sectors in Virginia are recreation and food & beverage, which have exceeded 2019 levels by 10%. Transportation, specifically air travel, has had a slower rebound but was the fastest growing tourism sector in 2022, aiding the Commonwealth's regions that are more dependent on-air travel. With the additional marketing dollars that came

through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Virginia and its localities continued to see growth in visitor spending.

VTC's annual economic impact of travel study covering 2022 was conducted by Tourism Economics, in partnership with the US Travel Association.

To view the full study, visit <https://vatc.org/research/economicimpact/>.

To learn more about Martinsville – Henry County, visit www.VisitMartinsville.com.

Alzheimer's Commission releases Dementia State Plan

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission released the Virginia Dementia State Plan 2024-2027: Building a Dementia-Capable Virginia.

The updated plan has six goals addressing:

- state coordination of services
- data collection
- workforce and caregiver training
- care coordination
- research
- brain health and dementia risk reduction

"The plan lays out how the Commonwealth can help individuals navigate care resources while supporting preventive efforts to reduce the future impact of this terrible condition," said Lana Sargent, chair of the ADRD. "It is the culmination of nearly two years of work by the commission, including consulting with a wide range of stakeholders such as families living with dementia, care providers and other advocates."

The ADRD Commission made changes in 2023 that addressed the state coordination of services. This effort brought to the table the

five state agencies essential to supporting individuals and families living with dementia, including the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, Department of Social Services and Virginia Department of Health.

"With a focus on compassion, innovation and community collaboration, Virginia leads the way in fostering dementia-friendly communities that prioritize awareness, caregiver support and a better quality of life for those impacted by dementia," said DARS Commissioner Kathy Hayfield.

Based on feedback from the 2023 Virginia Dementia Capable Summit and other stakeholders, the commission elevated brain health and dementia risk reduction as a new goal. The plan directly ties in some of its objectives with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap.

Since 2021, the CDC has granted VDH funding under the BOLD Infrastructure Act to ensure that Virginia's public health system is

increasing awareness of brain health and dementia risk reduction.

"A key element of VDH's Healthy Brain Virginia initiative is educating and partnering with the public," said State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton, MD. "As with other organs, brain health is affected by many factors and there are things we can do as individuals and communities to reduce risk factors for dementia. Our work with state, federal, and community partners is focused on sharing these important messages."

For more information on the Dementia State Plan or other dementia-related initiatives, contact dementia@dars.virginia.gov or the Dementia Services Coordinator at (804) 662-9154.

www.henrycountyenterprise.com

HUGE SELECTION OF LIFT CHAIRS



Small, Medium and Large size chairs available

Starting at
Only
\$795

Riverside Furniture
1580 Greensboro Road
Martinsville VA
276-632-1286

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm • Saturday 9am - 2pm



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Movie Town 276-638-4040



NOW PLAYING:
Argylle(PG-13),
Beekeeper(R),
Barbie(PG-13),
Mean Girls(PG-13),
Migration(PG),
and Wonka(PG)

<http://www.movietowntheatre.com>
or call for showtimes (276) 632-7400



WE ARE HIRING
WILDERNESS STUART INC.

OPEN POSITION :

- Sawmill Machine Operator
- Lumber Packers

LOOKING FOR GOOD DEPENDABLE WORKERS.
PREVIOUS WORKERS NEED NOT APPLY.
\$500 SIGN ON BONUS WITH STIPULATIONS.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
14747 JEB STUART HWY
STUART VA, 24171

When That Hot Ticket is a Fake

Getting tickets to must-see concerts is becoming harder than ever. From presale signup to waiting hours online and still missing out on the tickets you want, criminals have a solution – and it's costing consumers a lot of money in fraudulent ticket purchases. With most concert venues switching to digital tickets only, it is easier than ever to produce counterfeit tickets. And with many of the top shows selling out instantly the market for resale tickets is larger than ever. Here are three tips to avoid buying a worthless ticket.

First, stick to known ticket sales sites or visit the National Association of Ticket Brokers (natb.org) to ensure that you are dealing with a verified reseller. Always type the web address of the site you want to

visit into your browser vs. clicking a link that could take you to a copy-cat site.

Second, beware of offers on social media and online marketplaces where this scam flourishes.

Third, never pay with a peer-to-peer payment app unless you are getting tickets from someone you know. You don't have the same consumer protections with these methods that you have with a credit card.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

To learn more about AARP Virginia, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia and follow @AARPVa on Twitter.

Health district receives 'Project Public Health Ready' recognition

The West Piedmont Health District (WPHD) is being recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

WPHD demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. WPHD joins a cohort of more than 550 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region, according to NACCHO.

"We are pleased that WPHD has received this recognition," said Dr. Kerry Gateley, WPHD Director. "A team representing all aspects of public health worked very hard over the course of nearly a year to document the health district's strengths in all required areas."

Gateley added that the WPHD's response to the COVID-19 pandemic provided opportunities to test existing emergency response efforts. Some processes were strengthened and streamlined as a result, he said.

"Public health preparedness planning, response, and recovery begins at the local level. Local health departments play an essential role in creating healthy, resilient communities that can respond to and recover from disasters," said Lori T. Freeman, NACCHO Chief Executive Officer. "NACCHO commends the West Piedmont Health District for being a model of public health emergency preparedness."

PPHR recognition confirms that the WPHD has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency. Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices, according to NACCHO.

PPHR recognition also requires health departments to collaborate with state, local and community partners to develop plans that account for all the constituents in their jurisdictions.

NACCHO, the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country, provides resources to help local health department leaders develop public health policies and programs to ensure that communities have access to vital programs and services that people need to keep them protected from disease and disaster. Its mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

The West Piedmont Health District covers the counties of Franklin, Henry and Patrick and the City of Martinsville, Virginia.

For more information on Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR>.

Manufacturing sector leads overall increase

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims rose in the latest filing week to 2,576 but remained slightly below typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA) announced last week.

The department noted that the manufacturing sector was the leading industry for claims.

For the filing week ending January 20, seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia were 2,576, which was a decrease of 307 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 13,999, which was an increase of 584 claimants from the previous week and an increase of 23 percent from the 11,371 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (57 percent) of continued claims were from administrative and support and waste management (1,944), professional, scientific, and technical services (1,771), construction (1,359), manufacturing (1,220), and health care and social assistance (1,184) Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so

not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending January 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 214,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 187,000 to 189,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 248,955 in the week ending January 20, a decrease of 42,375 (or -14.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 225,228 initial claims in the comparable week in 2023.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-5,988) was the largest decrease. California's preliminary weekly change (-4,182) was the second largest decrease. New York's preliminary weekly change (-4,120) was the third largest decrease. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-3,679) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 32nd largest decrease (-342).

Pine Hall Housing Rehabilitation

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 7

at Albert Harris Elementary
6:00 P.M.

Community
Block Grant

Topic of Discussion: As the Pine Hall Housing project's goal is to rehabilitate 16 homes in the Pine Hall Community, the City needs 3 more homes to complete the project.

More information:
(276)403-5169
kholland@ci.martinsville.va.us

M Martinsville
A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS

Three more homes needed for Pine Hall project

The City of Martinsville will host a Pine Hall Housing Rehabilitation Project community meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, at Albert Harris Elementary School.

The hearing is being held because additional participants are needed for the project.

In 2021, Martinsville was awarded a \$1.6 million Housing Rehabilitation Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VD-HCD) to substantially reconstruct

and rehabilitate homes within the Pine Hall Neighborhood.

Because the project's goal is to rehabilitate 16 homes in the Pine Hall Community, the city needs three additional homes to complete the project.

Homeowners or renters living in the area and meeting the minimum requirements are encouraged to attend the community meeting on Wednesday or contact the Martinsville Office of Community Development at (276) 403-5159 for more information.

Legal advocates look to defend VA Fairness in Lending Act

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

Virginia legal advocates are on the lookout for attempts to subvert the state's Fairness in Lending Act.

The 2020 law establishes a fair regulatory framework for lending in the state - but it seems some lenders are finding ways around it, such as referring to different types of loans as an "advance."

A Consumer Reports investigation has found some "advances" have been offered at an interest rate of 490%.

Jay Speer - executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center - said despite the name change, it's still a loan.

"They're giving you money now and you've got to pay it back later for a fee," said Speer. "But again, they don't want to come under the Fairness in Lending Act. They don't want to give people loan disclosures - like the Truth in Lending Act disclosures - to see how much you're being charged, so they try to pretend they're not a loan."

Legislation has been introduced to protect Virginians from these loans. House Bill 648 doesn't ban probate advances, but it clarifies that they are loans under Virginia law.

While Speer said the goal isn't to ban these loan products, his group wants to see

better consumer protections for them.

He said he thinks House Bill 648 can make it through the session with little opposition.

But probate advances are only one concern. House Bill 330 regulates so-called "puppy loans," by requiring pet shops to comply with the federal Truth in Lending Act.

Like probate advances, they include high interest rates and nonspecific terms. Yet, Speer noted that what they're doing isn't unfamiliar.

"They're doing the same thing the payday lenders did over 20 years ago, which is claim they're not actually loaning you money," said Speer. "That it's a bank somewhere out of state - and in this case, probably Utah - making the loan to you and therefore, they're not subject to our usury laws."

Transportation Alliance Bank or "TAB Bank" has backed these loans.

A National Consumer Law Center report finds TAB Bank helped noted predatory lender EasyPay Finance make pet loans at 130% to 188% interest, which is illegal in most states.

Speer said since TAB is chartered in Utah and supervised by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, EasyPay Finance can "launder" its loan through the bank.

City man charged with arson in Wednesday blaze

The Martinsville Fire and Police departments on Wednesday, January 31, responded at 1 a.m. to a reported structure fire at 1207 Hickory Street.

Upon arrival, police officers found the home fully involved, and then assisted the Martinsville Fire Marshal Andy Powers with traffic control and investigating the cause of the fire.

Evidence was collected at the scene, according to a release from the city. The police department and Powers processed the scene and investigated the incident.

Cameron Deandre Johns, 21, of Martinsville, was charged with arson in connection with the blaze.

He is being held with no bond in the Martinsville City Jail.



Cameron Deandre Johns

The case remains under investigation, and anyone with information is asked to call Powers at (276) 403-5325.

Be sure to like
the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

Study shows P&HCC adds \$75.1 million to economy

A review of the economic value of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), Lightcast EIS determined that for every \$1 received by the college, society gains \$4.10 in added income and social savings.

The results of the analysis (reflecting fiscal year 2021-2022) demonstrate that P&HCC is a strong investment for all three of its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Students receive a substantial return for their investments in education from P&HCC, gaining \$3.80 in lifetime earnings for every \$1 invested. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in P&HCC returns more to government budgets than it costs (\$1.70 in added tax revenue and public sector savings for every dollar) and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout Virginia.

The results of this study indicate that P&HCC creates value from multiple perspectives. The college benefits regional businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce - one of every 37 jobs in the service region is supported by the activities of P&HCC and its students. P&HCC enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The college benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Ultimately, P&HCC benefits society as a whole by creating a more prosperous economy and

generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges briefed the P&HCC Board on the study at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, highlighting the following:

- * P&HCC plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The college draws students to the region, generating new dollars and opportunities for the P&HCC Service Region. P&HCC provides students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, P&HCC is a place for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

- * Approximately 14% of students attending P&HCC originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the P&HCC Service Region. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the P&HCC Service Region for other educational opportunities if not for P&HCC. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at regional businesses. The expenditures of relocated and retained students in FY 2021-22 added \$1.4 million in income to the P&HCC Service Region economy.

- * In FY 2021-22, P&HCC added \$75.1 million in income to the P&HCC Service Region economy, a value approximately equal to 1.7% of the region's total gross

regional product (GRP). The net impact of the college's operations spending added \$17.6 million in income to the regional economy in FY 2021-22.

Over the years, students have studied at P&HCC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the P&HCC Service Region. The net impact of P&HCC's former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to \$56.1 million in added income in FY 2021-22.

- * Taxpayers provided P&HCC with \$8.9 million of funding in FY 2021-22. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to \$13.4 million. A reduced demand for government-funded services in Virginia will add another \$1.9 million in benefits to taxpayers.

- * Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$15.2 million, the present value sum of the added tax revenue and public sector savings. For every dollar of public money invested in P&HCC, taxpayers will receive \$1.70 in return, over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is 3.7%.

In FY 2021-22, Virginia invested \$37 million to support P&HCC. In turn, the Virginia economy will grow by \$145.7 million, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from \$5 million of public and private sector savings. For every dollar invested in P&HCC in FY 2021-22, people

in Virginia will receive \$4.10 in return, for as long as P&HCC's FY 2021-22 students remain active in the Virginia workforce.

"This report reinforces the critical role P&HCC plays in our regional economy, and the ripple effect our programs have in making our community an excellent place to live, work and learn," Hodges said.

- By the numbers FY 2021-2022:
 - * 3,360: Number of students at the institution
 - * 483: Number of full-time and part-time employees
 - * 1,530: Jobs directly and indirectly supported
 - * \$17.6 million: Operations spending
 - * \$1.4 million: Amount spent by students who relocated or stayed in the region and who wouldn't be here if not for the institution
 - * \$56.1 million: Spending by alumni currently working in the region
 - * \$75.1 million: Total economic impact

Data and assumptions used in the Lightcast study are based on several sources, including the FY 2021-22 academic and financial reports from P&HCC, VCCS, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness.

Warner, others push to preserve telehealth for seniors

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, joined several bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers to urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with Congress to ensure Medicare beneficiaries maintain access to telehealth. Current pandemic-era flexibilities will expire on Dec. 31, without further action, forcing seniors to adapt to new care routines.

In a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, the lawmakers underscored the urgent need to make pandemic-era telehealth

flexibilities permanent.

"We urge you to work with Congress to ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries have permanent access to telehealth services before the temporary waivers expire on December 31, 2024," the lawmakers wrote. "Enacting permanent telehealth legislation will require collaboration between HHS and Congress in the year ahead. We urge you to communicate to Congress and the public the authorities, appropriations, resources, and other supports needed to achieve this goal."

"Telehealth is a cost-effective way to improve access to care, especially for rural and underserved communities," the lawmakers added. "Telehealth also allows patients to choose a medical provider that best suits their personal medical needs. Medicare beneficiaries have come to rely on expanded access to telehealth and are satisfied with the care they have received."

Warner has consistently led efforts to expand telehealth accessibility. He is an original cosponsor and a tireless advocate for

the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act, legislation that would expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities. He has also introduced bipartisan legislation to increase access to telehealth services for individuals with substance use disorder and repeatedly pushed on the DEA to institute long-term flexibilities for the prescription of controlled substances via telehealth.

Youngkin says bold policy measures must continue after December jobs data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS" or "the household survey"), the labor force participation rate, which measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work, remained unchanged at 66.9 percent in December.

"Coming into office, Virginia was bottom third in the nation in job growth, and for our first 22 months we outpaced national job growth trends, rising to third in the nation in job growth, and it wasn't by accident," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "I hope that my general assembly colleagues understand the tone that is set, and the policies being

pursued directly impact job growth and opportunity for Virginians.

"Therefore, we must continue to advance bold policy measures as I outlined in our Unleashing Opportunity budget to continue moving the Commonwealth forward. Reducing taxes, lowering the cost of living and cost of doing business for Virginians, strengthening our business-friendly environment and improving pathways from the classroom to the workforce must be our focus," he said. "To be clear, if we're not moving forward, we're falling behind."

According to BLS LAUS, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December increased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.0

percent, which is 0.7 percentage points below the national rate. The labor force decreased by 1,763 to 4,623,066; and the number of employed Virginians decreased by 8,395 to 4,484,295 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 6,632 to 138,771.

BLS publishes an additional employment figure from its Current Employment Statistics Survey ("CES" or "establishment survey"). The CES survey uses payroll records of establishment employers and is designed to provide a count of jobs under which the employer pays unemployment insurance. The LAUS survey is based on household interviews conducted each month for the Bureau of La-

bor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force, including those who are employed and unemployed. Establishment survey data reflects changes for updated seasonal adjustment factors, and industry classification conversions (NAICS), as part of the annual benchmarking process.

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

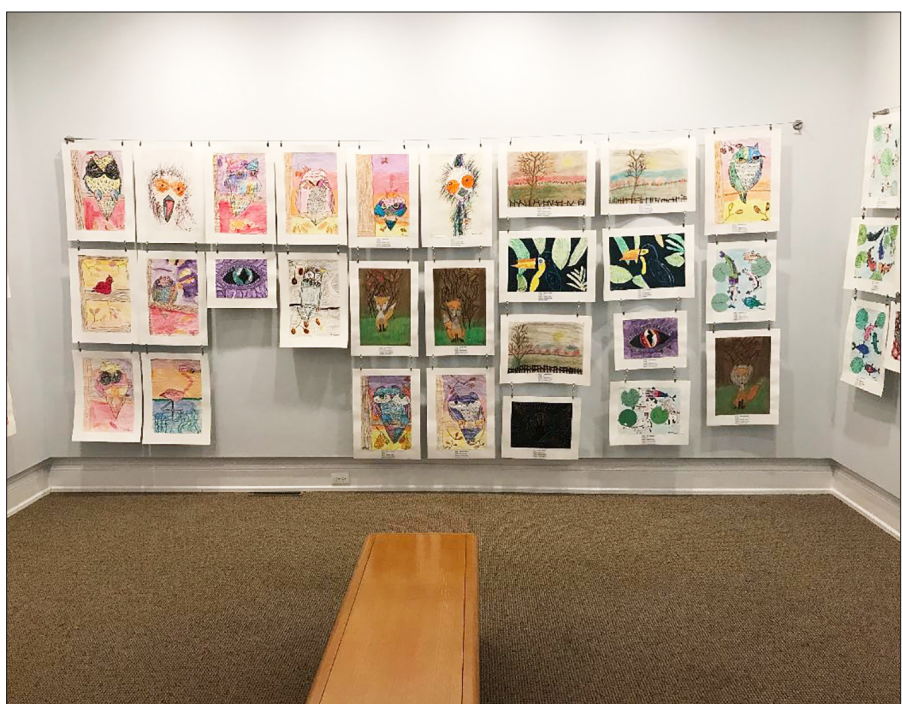
Artwork from local elementary students to be displayed at Piedmont Arts

Artwork by students from Drewry Mason Elementary School, G.W. Carver Elementary School, Rich Acres Elementary School, and Carlisle Lower School 1 will be on display through Feb. 28 in Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery. A reception will be held for exhibiting students and their families, Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 4-6 p.m. at the museum. Piedmont Arts is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Piedmont Arts is known for hosting amazing and innovative exhibits. Nowhere is that truer than in the Foster Gallery. Exhibits are curated every six to eight weeks, allowing work by students from all 19 schools in Martinsville-Henry County to be displayed during the year.

Curated by Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County, the Foster Gallery is an important part of Piedmont Arts' community programming, encouraging young people to participate in the arts and giving the public the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent in the area. Piedmont Arts and Charity League believe that the arts are a vital part of an excellent education, and both are pleased to take an active role in arts education in the community.

Piedmont Arts, a nonprofit art museum, is located at 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Learn more at PiedmontArts.org.



The Foster Gallery showcases artwork created by students from all 19 local schools.

P&HCC to host second annual NJCAA/JUCO Jamboree

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) softball invites the community to attend the second annual National Junior College Athletic Association (JUCO) Softball Jamboree February 22-25, 2024 at Southside Park in Martinsville. The pre-season national tournament will feature 2023 nationally ranked Division II and Division III softball teams from around the country, including the eighth ranked Lady Pats of P&HCC.

"It is so important to us to be able to host in our area so the community can be involved and see the talent both here locally and nationally. Our team is ex-

cited to participate in an event of this scale to get the P&H name out there and to play outside of our conference and region. We moved up in the ranks last year following the jamboree - we started about 500 and moved up to 8," said P&H softball coach Robbi Campbell.

The public is encouraged to support P&HCC's team, which includes local student athletes from Bassett, Danville, Henry, and South Boston, as well as from Virginia Beach, North Carolina and Texas, during their Saturday (2:15) and Sunday (2:15) games. "Our student athletes are definitely students first - for the

last four years our team has won the GPA award for the college - but they're also outstanding athletes. We're excited to see where we go this year," said Campbell.

Admission for the Jamboree is \$7 for a single day pass, \$10 for a 2-day pass, \$15 for a 3-day pass, and \$20 for an all-access pass, which includes admission to all 26 games played over the four-day event.

For more information, contact P&HCC softball Campbell at rcampbell@patrickhenry.edu.

The 2024 Jamboree will include the following teams:
 NJCAA Division II (D2)
 NR #18 - Potomac State College

(WV)
 Lackawanna College (PA)
 Community College of Baltimore County (MD)
 Richard Bland College (VA)
 NJCAA Division III (D3)
 NR #1 - Caldwell Community College (NC)
 NR #4 - Corning Community College (NY)
 NR #5 - Brookdale Community College (NJ)
 NR #7 - Surry Community College (NC)
 NR #8 - Patrick & Henry (VA)
 NR #9 - Herkimer Community College (NY)
 Camp Community College (VA)



JUCO JAMBOREE

DATE / TIME	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3
THURSDAY FEB. 22ND 3:00P 2:00P	CHAMBERLAIN VS P&HCC CAMP CC VS SURRY	BRUNSWICK VS SURRY CC BRUNSWICK VS CCJC	CCJC VS BRUNSWICK
FRIDAY FEB. 23RD 3:00P 2:00P 4:00P	CAMPBELL VS BRUNSWICK CAMPBELL VS CHAMBERLAIN	CHAMBERLAIN VS BRUNSWICK CAMP CC VS BRUNSWICK	CAMP CC VS CCJC LACKAWANNA VS CCJC LACKAWANNA VS P&HCC
SATURDAY FEB. 24TH 3:00P 2:00P 4:00P	SURRY VS BRUNSWICK SURRY VS LACKAWANNA LACKAWANNA VS POTOMAC STATE	BRUNSWICK VS CCJC CHAMBERLAIN VS POTOMAC STATE	CAMP CC VS CHAMBERLAIN BRUNSWICK VS P&HCC P&HCC VS BRUNSWICK
SUNDAY FEB. 25TH 3:00P 2:00P	POTOMAC STATE VS BRUNSWICK POTOMAC STATE VS BRUNSWICK	BRUNSWICK VS LACKAWANNA CCJC VS P&HCC	CHAMBERLAIN VS CCJC LACKAWANNA VS CHAMBERLAIN



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

Meet Our Providers

Patti P. Snead, PT, DPT

PELVIC HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPIST

FORMAL EDUCATION : Old Dominion University, Doctor of Physical Therapy, 2007 • Chowan University Bachelor of Science Biology, 2003. **CONTINUING EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS:** Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 1: Introduction to Pelvic Floor Function, Dysfunction, and Treatment • American Physical Therapy Association Level 1: Pelvic Health Physical Therapy • Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 2A: Function, Dysfunction and Treatment: Colorectal and Coccyx Conditions, Male Pelvic Floor, Pudendal Nerve Dysfunction • American Physical Therapy Association, Fundamental Topics of Pregnancy and Post-partum Physical Therapy • Herman and Wallace, Pelvic Floor Level 2B: Function, Dysfunction and Treatment: Urogynecologic Examination and Treatment Interventions • Herman and Wallace, Dry Needling and Pelvic Health • Herman and Wallace, Biofeedback for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction.

PELVIC HEALTH PHYSICAL THERAPY

The pelvic floor is a group of muscle, tendons, and ligaments in your pelvis which provide support for your pelvic organs, aide in bowel and bladder control, and contribute to sexual function. These structures coordinate with the bony structure of your hips and spine and the muscles of your back, abdomen, and diaphragm to provide your trunk with stability. Your pelvic floor must be able to contract and relax fully as well as respond to forces transmitted through your extremities. Injury to the pelvic floor may occur but is not always the cause of dysfunction.

WE OFFER
The full
SPECTRUM of
Musculoskeletal services in
an integrated system...
offering the **FUTURE** of
Healthcare today.

- ORTHOPEDICS
- RHEUMATOLOGY
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- FAMILY MEDICINE
- SPINE CARE
- CLINICAL RESEARCH
- SPORTS MEDICINE OUTREACH
- PHYSICAL THERAPY

SAME DAY X-RAYS

- ORTHOPEDIC WALK-INS ACCEPTED
- SHORTER WAIT TIMES
- CASH PAY OPTION AVAILABLE

NO REFERRAL NEEDED

UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE

DANVILLE

109 Bridge Street • 4th Floor
434-793-4711

MARTINSVILLE

1075 Spruce Street
276-790-3233

MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM